

REQUIREMENTS OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH

GENERAL INFORMATION

DIVISION: Doctrinal

COURSE: Requirements of Christian Growth

COURSE NUMBER: Bible 101

WHEN OFFERED: Winter Quarter of 1969 on Wednesday Evening

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

(Ephesians 4:15,16)

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."

(I Peter 2:2)

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and forever. Amen."

(II Peter 3:18)

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8. Lesson Eight: "Bury Not Thy Talent"

- A. To show that we all have a talent(s) and that the use made of our talents determines our present happiness and future destiny.

9. Lesson Nine: "Members One of Another"

- A. To come to appreciate the fact that all Christians are members of the body of Christ and in turn members one of another, sustaining obligations each to the other.

10. Lesson Ten: "He That Winneth Souls is Wise"

- A. To convince us of the absolute necessity of personally winning others to Christ, showing the definite advantages of this type of evangelism, and pointing out some practical ways in which we can be personal soul winners for Christ.

11. Lesson Eleven: "Walk Circumspectly, Redeeming the Time"

- A. To learn the various aspects of the Christian's walk and what each involves, and to come to appreciate the value of time, learning ways of wasting it and ways in which we can use it wisely.

12. Lesson Twelve: "Be Not Conformed to This World and How You Can Tell If a Thing is Right or Wrong"

- A. To establish the Christian's relationship to the world, pointing out the manifestations, dangers, and consequences of worldliness of our time and to lay down some principles by which we can discriminate between things right and wrong.

13. Lesson Thirteen: "Take Heed Lest Ye Fall"

- A. To learn of the possibility, causes and remedies of backsliding and to instill in all a determination never to apostatize by noting the tragedy of backsliding and the destiny of the victim.

SUGGESTED BOOKS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS WHICH MAY BE CONSULTED
ON THE LESSONS IN THIS COURSE

Books

1. Teachers' Annual Lesson Commentary, 1946
2. Teachers' Annual Lesson Commentary, 1951
3. Teachers' Annual Lesson Commentary, 1953
4. The Supreme Beatitude, Pierce
5. Let's Go Fishing for Men, Halley
6. You Can Do Personal Work, Gatewood
7. The Glory of the Ordinary, Exum
8. From House to House, Stewart

Tracts

1. The Fine Art of Worship, North
2. Will a Man Rob God?, Shepherd
3. How Much Should I Give?, Rogers
4. How Much is Liberal?, Layton
5. How Shall I Use the Lord's Day?, Boyce
6. The Significance of the Lord's Day, Hazelip
7. Is Church Attendance Necessary?, Walker
8. Not Forsaking the Assembly, Hazelip
9. Why I Attend Every Service of the Church, Layton
10. The Christian and the Dance, Chumley
11. What is Gambling?, Pullias
12. Shall We Dance?, North

Booklets

1. After Baptism, What?, 20th Century Christian Special Issue
2. The Alcohol Problem, 20th Century Christian Special Issue
3. The Gambling Problem, 20th Century Christian Special Issue
4. In His Steps, 20th Century Christian Special Issue
5. Mature Christian, 20th Century Christian Special Issue
6. More Power Through Prayer, 20th Century Christian Special Issue
7. Restoring the Spirit of New Testament Christianity, 20th Century Christianity Special Issue
8. Stewardship, 20th Century Christian Special Issue

- I. As a child, you are to give your Father loving obedience. (Rev. 22:14). As a soldier you are to courageously fight the good fight of faith. (I Tim. 6:12). As a labourer, you are to diligently work. (I Cor. 15:58). As a branch, you are to bear fruit. (II Pet. 1:5-11). As a priest, you are to offer unto God spiritual sacrifices. (Heb. 13:15,16; Rom. 12:1; Phil. 4:18). As a stone, you are to bear your own weight (responsibility). (Gal. 6:5). As a member of Christ's bride, you are to maintain the purity of the church. (Jas. 1:27;4:4). As a member of the body, you are to maintain the unity of the Spirit. (I Cor. 12:13-27; Eph. 4:3-6). As a citizen, you are to submit unto the government of heaven. (Heb. 5:8,9). As a sheep, you are to follow the Lord wherever He goes. (I Pet. 2:21; Jn. 10:27).

CONCLUSION

- A. Becoming a Christian means we have received the greatest of blessings and that we have assumed the greatest of responsibilities.

STUDENT'S WORKSHEET

SCRIPTURES TO READ:

Acts 2:37-47

Romans 6:1-5

I Peter 1:22-2:3

MEMORY VERSES:

Romans 6:4

I Peter 2:2

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Grading: Each question is worth four points; therefore, for each question missed, subtract four points from the possible total 100 points) SCORE _____

True & False (Place a T for true and F for false in the blank just before each question)

1. _____ Paul was told to arise, having been saved, and be baptized.
2. _____ Christians are citizens in the kingdom of Christ.
3. _____ One must be in the Lord's church to be one of His sheep.
4. _____ Some members of the body of Christ are insignificant and have nothing they can contribute to the body.
5. _____ Paul waited quite some time after his conversion before starting to teach others of Christ.

Completion (Fill in the blanks)

1. Upon becoming a Christian, one receives, according to Mk. 16:15,16; I Pet. 3:21, _____; Acts 2:38; 3:19, _____; Acts 22:16; I Pet. 1:22,23, _____; Acts 2:38; Eph. 1:13,14; Rom. 8:26,27 _____; Rom. 6:16-18, _____; and Acts 8:36-39; 16:30-40, _____.
2. The _____ is the family of God as we read in _____; and, according to Jn. 3:3-5, we enter the family of God by _____; and as a child of God we are to give unto God _____.
3. A child in God's family enjoys p _____, p _____, and p _____.
4. The early church members continu'd in _____, _____, _____, and in _____; and we read this in _____.
5. As a soldier, we are to _____; as a labourer, we are to _____; as a branch, we are to _____; as a priest, we are to _____; as a stone, we are to _____; as a member of Christ's bride, we are to _____; as a member of the body of Christ, we are to _____; as a citizen, we are to _____; and as sheep, we are to _____.

Multiple Choice (Underscore the correct answer)

1. The body of Christ is (the Lord's church, composed of all the divergent denominations) and is entered by(a vote of the majority, only believing in Christ as one's personal Savior, baptism).
2. Branches in the vine are (individual Christians, denominations).
3. (The clergy, all Christians) are priests of God.
4. (Paul, James, Peter) said "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house..."
5. (Simon Peter, Simon the Canaanite, Simon formerly a sorcerer) sinned by desiring to buy the gift of God with money.

Matching, Identifying, and Locating (Draw a line from the statement to the correct passage location)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. "...the same commit thou to faithful men..." | Psa. 126:5,6 |
| 2. "...always abounding in the work of the Lord..." | II Tim. 4:6-8 |
| 3. "...the Spirit helpeth our infirmities..." | II Tim. 2:2 |
| 4. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy..." | I Cor. 15:58 |
| 5. "I have fought a good fight..." | Rom. 8:26,27 |

Answer in a Few Words

1. According to the etymology of the word what does the word "Christian mean and what must obtain in order for one to become such? _____
2. What does Psa. 23 mean to the child of God? _____
3. What will characterize one who walks in newness of life? _____
4. What will a Christian do who sincerely desires the Word of God? _____
5. Using the parable of the sower, what are the things which cause people to fall and apostatize? _____

Questions for Class Discussion

1. Make a list of the primary conditions of salvation one must obey to become a Christian and give a minimum of three passages for each.
2. Make a list of scriptural expressions used by divine writers to signify that one has obeyed the gospel and is a Christian. See I Pet. 1:22,23; Rom. 6:16-18;etc.
3. What does the Holy Spirit do for the child of God?
4. By means of a concordance, make a list of the blessings one enjoys (a) in Christ and (b) in the body of Christ.
5. Discuss some practical, workable programs and projects which congregations of the Lord could start and maintain to assist the new convert in growing in Christ and reaching spiritual maturity.

Let Us Mark Our Bibles (Important passages in today's lesson which each person would do well to note or mark in his Bible for ready reference)

1. Acts 2:42 -- Things in which the early disciples continued.
2. Eph. 4:15,16 -- Every member of the body of Christ is to contribute his part.
3. Col. 3:1,2 -- Seek the things above, set affections on things above.
4. I Pet. 2:2 -- We are to desire the sincere milk of the Word.
5. I Pet. 4:16 -- Glorify God in the name Christian.

TO BE STUDIED: December 23

STUDY OUTLINE

DIVISION: Doctrinal

COURSE: Requirements of Christian Growth

COURSE NUMBER: Bible 101

WHEN OFFERED: Winter Quarter
1969, Wednesday Evening

Lesson Two

ADD TO YOUR FAITH

AIM OF THIS LESSON: To come to know what the eight Christian graces are, and how they can and should be manifested in life, and to motivate us to incorporate them into our lives, noting the absolute necessity of possessing such.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In II Pet. 1:5-11 we have a list of virtues often called, "The Christian Graces." There are eight of these, forming a perfect spiritual octave; and, the individual who possess all of them (though not any one of them to perfection), to that extent is perfect and complete. This explains the harmony between I Jn. 1:8-10 and Matt. 5:48.
 - 1. Also, a possession of these qualities makes us "partakers of the divine nature" (verse 4).
- B. Notice in verse 5 that "all diligence" is to be given in adding these graces to our lives. Thus, no amount of effort, time, or money should be spared.
- C. Notice also that these virtues are to "abound" in our hearts and lives (v.8).
 - 1. See I Cor. 15:58; II Cor. 8:7; 9:6-11; Acts 6:3,5,8; 9:36; 11:24; Rom. 15:14 where the words "abound" and "full" appear, emphasizing the kind of lives we are to live.
 - 2. What about the attitude, "How little must I give or do?" Or, "How few of the services must I attend to get by?"
- D. The importance of cultivating these virtues.
 - 1. Positively, if (notice the "if" in verse 8) we cultivate them:
 - a. We will be fruitful (verse 8). See Jn. 15:1-8.
 - b. We will be making our calling and election sure (verse 10).
 - c. We will prevent our falling away (verse 10). See I Cor. 10:12.
 - d. We will receive an abundant entrance into heaven (verse 11).
 - 2. Negatively, if we fail to develop these:
 - a. We are spiritually blind (verse 9). See Matt. 13:15; Eph. 4:18; Rev. 3:17,18.
 - b. We have forgotten that we were purged from our old sins (verse 9); thus we are convicted as ingrates and, also, we will revert to our old practices, rather than walk in newness of life. Rom. 6:1-4; I Jn. 3:9.
- E. Let us now study each of these virtues.

I. FAITH

- A. Faith in God.
 - 1. Assent to the fact that He exists. Heb. 11:6; Ex. 3:14; Psa. 14:1.
 - 2. Trust in His promises and fear His threats. Rom. 11:22; 4:20-22; II Pet. 1:4; 3:9; II Cor. 7:1.
 - 3. Obey His every command. Heb. 11:8; Gal. 5:6; Jas. 2:14-26; Matt. 7:21; Rev. 22:14.

- B. Faith in Christ. Jn. 3:16; 20:30,31; Acts 10:43.
 - 1. Believe in Christ as the Redeemer of your soul (Matt. 1:21); as the examiner of your behavior (I Pet 1:22,23); as the Guide of your every step (Jn. 10:40); as the Protector and Provider of your lives (Matt. 6:24-34); and as the Judge of your spirit (II Cor. 5:10).
- C. Faith in the Bible. II Thess. 2:13; Jn. 17:17.
 - 1. Believe in the Bible as the divinely inspired Word of God (II Tim. 3:16,17) as the lamp and light for our guidance (Psa. 119:105); and as the standard of judgment on that great day (Jn. 12:48).
- D. Faith in others. Acts 9:26-28.
 - 1. Think of the faith Christ had in men when he left the success of His entire system in the hands of feeble men. Matt. 28:18-20.
- E. Faith in ourselves. Phil. 4:13.
 - 1. "He can, who thinks he can."
 - 2. Christians are to have a high estimate of what they can do through Christ. Rom. 12:3.
 - 3. Let us avoid this pseudo-humility of, "I can't do this," and "I can't do that; for, "I'm a nobody."

II. VIRTUE

- A. Today this word means "purity."
 - 1. We are to be pure in heart (thought, motive, attitude). Matt. 5:8.
 - 2. We are to be pure in word: Eph. 4:29.
 - 3. We are to be pure in deed. I Pet. 2:1,2.
- B. However, as used here in II Pet. 1:5 it means moral courage.
 - 1. See Josh. 1:9; I Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:10.
 - 2. Let us always have the courage to let people know we are Christians, to speak out for Christ, to endure persecution, to bear our own burdens, to stand for our convictions, to go against the crowd if necessary, and to die for Christ when called upon.
 - 3. Courage is contagious. Jud. 4:8.
 - 4. "Dare to be a Daniel!"

III. KNOWLEDGE

- A. Knowledge is most important: Phil. 3:8; Hos. 4:6; I Jn. 2:14; II Pet. 1:2; 2:20.
- B. Ignorance is tragic: Matt. 22:29; Lk. 23:34; Eph. 4:18; II Thess. 1:7-9.
- C. We can increase our knowledge by diligent personal study, attending all the classes and services, by using all means at our disposal (books, periodicals, etc.) and by asking God to help us.

IV. TEMPERANCE

- A. To go to heaven, we must be temperant. I Cor. 9:25-27.
- B. Notice and study these verses: Titus 1:8; Acts 24:25; Gal. 5:21,22.
- C. Intemperance causes drunkenness, immorality, gluttony, retaliation, angry words, and hasty deeds.

V. PATIENCE

- A. Patience is longsuffering, perserverance, forbearance, and endurance.

- B. Job is the outstanding example of this quality. Jas. 5:11.
- C. Notice and study carefully Lk. 21:19; Jas. 1:2-4; Heb. 12:1; Eccl. 7:8.
- D. Patience should be practiced on the job, in the home, in the church, and toward all men. I Thess. 5:14.

VI. GODLINESS

- A. This means, "God-like-ness."
 - 1. Jesus personified God. To have seen Him would have been to have seen God. Jn. 14:9.
 - 2. Thus, to be godly we must emulate the example left by Christ; and, in so doing, we will be transformed into His image and, thus, others will be able to see Christ through us. I Pet. 2:21,22; II Cor. 3:18; Phil. 2:5; Gal. 2:20.
- B. We are to live godly. I Tim. 2:2; 6:6,11; Titus 2:12.
- C. For a marvelous lesson on godliness and what it involves study the words to the song, "Oh, To Be Like Thee."

VII. BROTHERLY KINDNESS

- A. The church is God's family (I Tim. 3:15); being members of it, we are all brethren. Therefore, we should practice brotherliness.
 - 1. Notice, locate and study the repeated use of "brethren" in the New Testament.
- B. Read and study: Eph. 4:32; I Cor. 13:4; Rom. 12:10; Prov. 31:26.
- C. Kindness will express itself in kind speech, kind judgment, kind deeds, and in our overall appearance and demeanor.
- D. You would naturally expect kindness to emanate from brothers; therefore, when we are not kind we are not conducting ourselves as brethren. Gen.13:7-9.

VIII. CHARITY (LOVE)

- A. This is the crowning virtue. I Cor. 13:13.
- B. Study I Cor. 13 observing the importance (vs. 1-3), nature (vs. 4-8), permanency (vs. 8-12), and supremacy (v. 13) of love.
- C. We should love:
 - 1. God. Matt. 22:37.
 - 2. The church. Eph. 5:23.
 - 3. God's Word. II Thess. 2:10.
 - 4. Our families. Eph. 5:23-33; Titus 2:4.
 - 5. Our brethren. Heb. 13:1.
 - 6. The lost. Jn. 3:16.

CONCLUSION:

- A. A similar list of virtues appear in Gal. 5:22,23, the possession of which gives undeniable proof that the Holy Spirit dwells in us.
- B. Let us forever remember that the possession of the Christian graces, studied in this lesson, determines the difference between eternity in heaven or hell.

STUDENT'S WORKSHEET

SCRIPTURES TO READ:

II Pet. 1:1-12

MEMORY VERSES

II Peter 1:5-7

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Grading: Each question is worth four points; therefore, for each question missed, subtract four points from the possible total 100 points) SCORE _____

True & False (Place a T for true and F for false in the blank before each question).

1. _____ A Christian is both perfect and imperfect.
2. _____ Joash is the outstanding example of patience in the Bible.
3. _____ Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance and the judgment before Agrippa.
4. _____ It is impossible for a Christian to fall to the extent that he will be lost.
5. _____ Daniel was most courageous.

Completion (Fill in the blanks)

1. Faith in God implies _____, _____, and _____.
2. Christians are to be pure in _____, in _____ and in _____.
3. We are to be patient "_____"; and this patience is to be exercised on _____, in _____, and in _____.
4. Kindness will express itself in kind _____, kind _____, kind _____ and in _____.
5. We are to love _____ (Matt. 22:37); _____ (Eph. 5:25); _____ (II Thess. 2:10); _____ (Eph. 5:23-33; Titus 2:4); _____ (Heb. 13:1); and _____ (Jn. 3:16).

Multiple Choice (Underscore the correct answer)

1. We are to give (diligence, all diligence) to incorporate the Christian graces into our lives.
2. Christians operate at the (minimum, maximum) of their ability.
3. Christians are to (be suspicious of, believe in) other Christians.
4. Hosea says God's people were destroyed because of a lack of (meekness, knowledge, mercy).
5. True humility (involves self-degradation to the extent that we feel like we can do nothing, embraces the attitude that we can do all things through Christ).

Matching, Identifying and Locating (Draw a line from the statement to the correct passage location).

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|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. "Be ye kind one to another..." | Phil. 4:13 |
| 2. "...Is temperate in all things..." | Titus 2:11-13 |
| 3. "...We should live soberly, righteously and godly..." | Lk. 21:19 |
| 4. "I can do all things through Christ..." | Eph. 4:32 |
| 5. "In your patience possess ye your souls." | I Cor. 9:25-27 |

Answer in a Few Words

1. Show from both the positive and negative side that the Christian graces must be possessed. _____

2. Make a list of ways and occasions how and when Christians can demonstrate courage.

3. Using the scriptures, show the importance of knowledge and the tragedy of ignorance

4. How can we increase our knowledge? _____

5. Make a list of sins of intemperance, giving scriptures for each. _____

Questions for Class Discussion

1. By using your concordance, make a list of all the various things in which we are to abound and of which we are to be full.
2. Make a list of the "godly" or "Christ-like" characteristics mentioned in the song, "Oh, To Be Like Thee" and ask yourself if you really possess them.
3. Read I Cor. 13:4-8 using the word love where "charity" appears in the King James version; then read it again using the word "God" (I Jn. 4:8); then read it using the word "Christ" (Jn. 14:9); then read it using the word "Christian" (Gal. 2:20); and then read it with the word "I" since "I" claim to be a Christian.
4. Explain how genuine love for God and others will cure all of our spiritual ills.
5. Give illustrations from the life of Christ showing He possessed each and all of the Christian graces.

Let Us Mark Our Bibles

1. I Cor. 13:4-8 -- The holy qualities of love.
2. Gal. 2:20 -- Christ is to dwell in us and be shown to the world through us.
3. Gal. 5:22,23 -- The fruits of the Spirit.
4. Phil. 2:5 -- We are to have the mind of Christ.
5. II Pet 1:5-7 -- The list of the Christian graces.

STUDY OUTLINE

DIVISION: Doctrinal

COURSE: Requirements of Christian Growth

COURSE NUMBER: Bible 101

WHEN OFFERED: Winter Quarter,
1969, Wednesday Evening

Lesson Three

KEEP YOUR WINDOWS TOWARD JERUSLAM OPEN

INTRODUCTION

- A. In spite of the king's decree, Daniel opened his window toward Jerusalem and prayed three times daily. Dan. 6:10.
 - 1. "Keep your window toward Jerusalem open and you will not pitch your tent toward Sodom."
- B. Without prayer we fail to bring ourselves into the full enjoyment of the blessings of God's kingdom. For prayer, there is no substitute.

I. WHAT IS PRAYER

- A. Prayer is the sincere desire of the heart expressed in words unto God. Rom. 10:1; Matt. 14:30; Lk. 18:13.
 - 1. Prayer is not just meditation or an attitude: rather, the matter must be expressed. I Jn. 3:22; Jn. 14:13; I Sam. 1:13.
 - 2. Neither is prayer a memorized speech. It is rather a spontaneous expression of the heart, growing out of fellowship with God and out of a sense of deep need and/or thanksgiving.
- B. Revelation is God talking to man; prayer is man talking to God.

II. WHAT PRAYER IS NOT

- A. Not a means of informing God and scolding man. Acts 15:18; Lk. 18:9-14.
- B. Not a means of ministering to our selfishness. Jas. 4:1-4.
- C. Not a fire escape to be used only in times of disaster. Prov. 1:24-33.
- D. Not a means of getting out of what God requires. Matt. 7:21.
- E. Not an ultimatum issued to God.
- F. Prayer is rather a becoming acknowledgment of the all-sufficiency of God and our dependency upon Him.

III. THE ELEMENTS OF PRAYER

- A. Praise. Matt. 5:9.
- B. Thanksgiving. Eph. 5:20; I Thess. 5:18; I Tim. 4:3-5; Phil. 4:6,7.
- C. Confession. Jas. 5:16; I Jn. 1:9; Lk. 18:13.
- D. Petition, supplication and intercession. Matt. 7:7-11.

IV. WHEN SHOULD ONE PRAY

- A. "Petitions should be as often as our wants, and thanksgivings as often as our blessings."

B. Study these texts: Psa. 55:17; Lk. 18:1-4; Rom. 12:12; Col. 4:2.

C. Note especially I Thess. 5:17.

1. This text does not mean that one can never cease to pray. See Lk. 11:1. The text rather means that we should never get through praying; also, that we cannot pray too much. The verse also suggests that we should constantly be in a prayerful attitude and should pray to God regularly.

D. Study these practical suggestions on prayer.

1. Pray upon arising; pray before every meal; pray at set times; pray at odd times whenever you feel the desire; pray with your family; pray before retiring; pray when you feel discouraged; pray when you are happy; pray whenever you must suffer.
2. Pray until prayer becomes a habit.

V. EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO PRAYED

A. Jesus was a great man of prayer. Mk. 1:35; Lk. 6:12; Lk. 11:1; Jn. 17.

1. The following texts relate to us some of the occasions when the Lord prayed. Lk. 3:21-23; Lk. 5:16; Lk. 6:12; Matt. 11:25,26; Matt. 14:23; Lk. 9:28,29; Jn. 11:41,42; Lk. 11:1-4; Matt. 19:13; Jn. 12:27,28; Lk. 22:32; Matt. 26:36-44; Lk. 23:34,46; Lk. 24:50,51.
2. Christ's prayers are known for (a) simplicity; (b) directness; (c) profound reverence for God's will; (d) fervency; (e) spontaneity.

B. The early church. Acts 2:42; Acts 4:27-37 (notice the power of prayer in this text). Acts 6:4; Acts 12:5-12; Acts 16:25; Acts 20:36; Acts 21:4,5.

C. Study the prayer life of Abraham, David, Moses, Hannah, etc.

D. Make a special study of the prayer life of Paul.

VI. FOR WHOM SHOULD WE PRAY

A. All people. II Tim. 2:1,2.

B. Civil rulers. I Tim. 2:1,2.

C. Our brethren. Ex. 32:31,32.

D. Gospel preachers. II Thess. 3:1,2; Eph. 6:18,19; I Thess. 5:25.

E. The sick. Jas. 5:14,15.

F. The lost. Lk. 23:34; Rom. 10:1.

G. Our enemies. Matt. 5:44; Acts 7:60.

H. Elders, Bible school teachers, etc.

VII. FOR WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY

A. For strength in temptation. Matt. 26:41; Matt. 6:13.

B. Wisdom and understanding. Jas. 1:5-7; I Kgs. 3:9.

C. Unity. Jn. 17:20,21.

D. Physical blessings. Matt. 6:11.

E. Forgiveness. Matt. 6:12.

F. Peace. I Tim. 2:1,2.

G. For laborers to enter the Lord's harvest. Matt. 9:38; Lk. 10:2.

VIII. CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTABLE PRAYER

A. Properly addressed. Matt. 6:9; Eph. 5:20.

B. In Christ's name. Col. 3:17; Eph. 5:20; Jn. 14:13.

C. In faith. Jas. 1:5-7; Matt. 21:22.

D. According to God's will. I Jn. 5:14; Matt. 26:39-42.

E. Prompted by the right motive. Jas. 4:3.

F. Sincere, fervent, and earnest. I Thess. 3:10; Jas. 5:16; Matt. 7:7.

G. With the spirit and understanding. I Cor. 14:15.

IX. CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTABLE PRAYER RELATIVE TO THE ONE PRAYING

A. Righteous and holy. I Pet. 3:12; I Tim. 2:8.

B. Obedient. I Jn. 3:22.

C. Humble. Lk. 18:9-14; Jas. 4:6.

D. Forgiving. Matt. 6:12-15; Matt. 18:21-35.

E. Abiding in Christ and Christ abiding in the individual. Jn. 15:7.

F. Living as near God as possible.

X. HINDERANCES TO ACCEPTABLE PRAYER

A. Study these verses: Isa. 65:2,24; Psa. 118:5; Psa. 120:1; I Pet. 3:12.

B. Notice some examples in the Bible of God answering prayer. I Sam. 1; Acts 12; et

C. When we pray we should pray expecting God to answer, even giving us greater things than we can ask or think. Jer. 33:3; Eph. 3:20,21; Jas. 1:5-7; Matt. 21:22.

1. It is this attitude that brings peace to the heart. Phil. 4:6,7.

D. God answers prayer in five ways:

1. Yes. Jas. 5:17.

2. No. Heb. 5:7.

3. Wait awhile. Jer. 42:7.

4. Giving us something all together different. II Cor. 12:7-9.

5. Giving us more than we pray for. I Kgs. 3.

6. Giving us more than we pray for. I Kgs. 3.

XII. EFFICACY OF PRAYER IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

A. Prayer is a prohibitive of sin; prayer and evil do not exist in the same heart.

B. Prayer will prevent apostasy. Apostasy begins at the closet door. Backsliding begins in the knees.

C. Prayer puts Christians to work. We pray for the sick, for our bread, etc., and then administer and work. Apply this same point to praying for the lost, etc.

- D. Prayer brings peace. Phil. 4:6,7.
- E. Prayer changes things; also, prayer changes us. A prayer that does not change us will not affect God very much.

XIII. PRAYING IN PUBLIC

- A. Praying consistently in secret will assist immeasurably in praying successfully in public.
- B. Observe these suggestions concerning praying in public:
 - 1. Avoid uniformity in respect to subject matter.
 - 2. Avoid monotonous repetitions.
 - 3. Avoid rapidity of pronunciation.
 - 4. If possible, face the major portion of the audience so as to be better heard.
 - 5. Pronounce all words distinctly.
 - 6. Speak loudly.
- C. Concerning public prayer study I Cor. 14:14-16.

SCRIPTURES TO READ:

Matthew 6:5-15

Luke 18:1-4

Matthew 7:7-12

MEMORY VERSES

I Thessalonians 5:17

I Peter 3:12

James 1:5-7

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Grading: Each question is worth four points; therefore, for each question missed, subtract four points from the possible total 100 points) SCORE _____

True & False (Place a T for true and F for false in the blank before each question)

1. _____ David opened his window three times daily and prayed to God.
2. _____ Prayer is a meditation or mere attitude of heart.
3. _____ Revelation and prayer are the same thing.
4. _____ Praying without ceasing means we can never cease to pray.
5. _____ At least on one occasion our Lord prayed all night.

Completion (Fill in the blanks)

1. The elements of acceptable prayer are _____, _____, _____, and _____.
2. Our Lord's prayers are known for their _____, _____, _____, and _____.
3. We are to pray for _____ (Jas. 5:16); _____ (Lk. 23:34); _____ (I Tim. 2:1,2); _____ (Matt. 5:44); _____ (I Tim. 2:1,2); _____ (Jas. 5:14,15); and _____ (II Thess. 3:1,2).
4. As Christians we can pray for: Matt. 6:12, _____; Jn. 17:20,21, _____; Matt. 6:11, _____; Jas. 1:5-7, _____; I Tim. 2:1,2, _____; Matt. 9:38, _____; and Matt. 26:41, _____.
5. In order for our prayers to be heard we must abide in Christ and Christ must abide in us (Scripture: _____); be forgiving (Scripture: _____); obedient (Scripture: _____); righteous and holy (Scripture: _____); and humble (Scripture: _____).

Multiple Choice (Underscore the correct answer)

1. The disciples requested to Jesus that He would teach them to (preach, pray, sing).
2. We are to pray for (unity, union).
3. We are to pray (in Christ's name, for Christ's sake).
4. The Lord (did, did not) remove Paul's thron in the flesh.
5. It is (immeterial, important) that the one leading the public prayer be heard.

Matching, Identifying, and Locating (Draw a line from the correct passage location
passage location)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. "...Even his prayer shall be abomination." | I Sam. 12:23 |
| 2. "...That your prayers be not hindered." | Psa. 55:17 |
| 3. "...Rising up a great while before day...and there prayed." | Mk. 1:35 |
| 4. "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray..." | Prov. 28:9 |
| 5. "...Sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you..." | I Pet. 3:7 |

Answer in a Few Words

1. Define prayer. _____
List five things which prayer is not: _____

2. Make a list of the occasions when our Lord prayed and give illustrations of how these occasions of prayer can be duplicated in principle in our lives. _____

3. Make a list of the conditions of acceptable prayer. _____

4. The following things are hinderances to acceptable prayer:
(1) _____ Prov. 21:13
(2) _____ Ezk. 14:1-5
(3) _____ Jas. 4:3
(4) _____ Psa. 66:18
(5) _____ Matt. 6:14,15
(6) _____ I Pet. 3:7
(7) _____ Prov. 28:9
5. Give the five ways in which God answers prayer and give a Biblical example of each. _____

Questions for Class Discussion

1. If an individual prays to God in a period of deep affliction and God in His infinite will does not answer in the affirmative and the individual then denies the existence of God, did he really pray in the first place?
2. What are some practical suggestions that it would be good to remember as to when we should pray?
3. Outline Paul's prayer for the Philippians as recorded in Phil. 1:9-11.
4. What does it mean to pray "in faith"?
5. Discuss the efficacy of prayer in the life of the Christian.

Let Us Mark Our Bibles

1. Jn. 15:7 -- Abiding in Christ, a condition of acceptable prayer.
2. Jas. 1:5-7 -- We must pray in faith.
3. I Pet. 3:12 -- God hears when we pray.
4. I Thess. 5:17 -- Pray without ceasing.
5. I Jn. 3:22 -- God answers prayer when we obey.

TO BE STUDIED: January 7

STUDY OUTLINE

DIVISION: Doctrinal

COURSE: Requirements of Christian Growth

COURSE NUMBER: Bible 101

WHEN OFFERED: Winter Quarter,
1969, Wednesday Evening

Lesson Four

"GIVE ATTENDANCE TO READING...MEDITATE...STUDY"

INTRODUCTION:

A. See I Tim. 4:13-15; II Tim. 2:15.

B. Notice carefully Jn. 8:32. It is the known truth that makes us free. We are free only to the extent that we know the truth; therefore, we must read, meditate, and study.

I. GIVE ATTENDANCE TO READING

(Robert M. Hutchins said, "To destroy the Western tradition of independent thought it is not necessary to burn the books. All we have to do is to leave them unread for a couple of generations." The same thing can happen in religious matters.)

A. God wants His Word read.

1. This is obvious from the fact that it was put in written form.
2. Read carefully Isa. 34:16.
3. See Deut. 31:10-13. Notice who was to be gathered together and why, then, God's Word was to be read.
4. II Kgs. 22,23. In this text, notice the reforms that took place upon finding God's Word and the reading of it.
5. Ex. 24:3-8.
6. Read carefully Neh. 8:1-9:3, observing the matter of reading God's Word.
7. Jesus recognized that surely people would read God's law. Matt. 12:3; 19:4; 21:16; 22:31; Mk. 2:25; 12:10,26; Lk. 6:3.
8. Notice the wording of Paul in Eph. 3:4.
9. See Col. 4:16; I Thess. 5:27.
10. The Ethiopian read God's Word. Acts 8:30.
11. A blessing is placed upon those who read and obey. Rev. 1:3.
12. Jesus read God's Word. Lk. 4:16.
13. As we expect those we love to read the letters we write to them, God expects us, who profess to love Him, to read His Word.
14. In view of the preceding, what about our Bibles collecting dust; what about using them only for keep-sake albums?

B. Motives prompting our reading.

1. Do we read our Bibles for duty's sake only, to win an argument that we had on the job, to just get up a lesson, etc.?
2. We should read our Bibles because we love God and with the firm intent of doing what we read. Lk. 11:28; Matt. 7:24-27; Jas. 1:22.

C. Read your Bible under the following circumstances:

1. When away from home. (Take your Bible on your vacation). Acts 8:26-40.
2. When you are happy. Psa. 100.
3. When you are sad. Rom. 15:4.
4. When you are anxious. Phil. 4:6,7.
5. When you are tempted. Matt. 4:1-11.
6. When you are at church. Lk. 4:16.
7. When you are on the job, when such is possible, etc.

- D. You should read your Bible every day.
 1. "A chapter a day keeps Satan away."
 2. Acts 17:11.
 3. Just as our bodies need daily food, our souls need God's Word daily.
I Pet. 2:1,2; Matt. 5:6.
- E. Why you should read your Bible.
 1. God's Word saves. Rom. 1:16.
 2. Cleanses. Jn. 15:3.
 3. Guides. Prs. 119:105.
 4. Sanctifies. Jn. 17:17.
 5. Reconciles. II Cor. 5:19.
 6. Converts. Psalms. 19:7.
 7. Quickens. Psalms. 119:50.
 8. Gives understanding. Psalms. 119:150.
- F. Purchase for yourself a good Bible.
 1. A good Bible has both testaments, has clear readable type, is self-pronouncing, is one that you love to handle, and--if you prefer such--has a concordance, dictionary, and maps in the back of it.
- G. Reading the Bible in public. When reading in public, one should remember the following things:
 1. Stand erect; look at the audience as much as possible; read distinctly; read fast enough as to maintain the chain of thought; yet not so fast that one cannot understand; hold your Bible up; practice reading beforehand; avoid losing your place; read with emphasis; remember that you are reading God's Word and that this is an important part of the worship; and ask God to help you.
- H. Think upon the words of the children's song, "Read Your Bible Every Day."
- I. Notice the following suggestions from the pen of Bro. Frank L. Cox:
 1. "What should we read? The Master said, "Take heed what ye hear." When we read, we hear--"listen with the eyes."
 - a. The writings of inspired men--men who wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The writings of uninspired men--but men who know God, who know God's Word, who write as they are guided by God's Word.
 2. How should we read? The Master also said, "Take heed how ye hear." Much depends on the reader's attitude.
 - a. We should read eagerly. Matt. 13:45,46.
 - b. We should read discerningly.
 - c. We should read with hearty acceptance.
 3. Why should we read?
 - a. As we read, we think.
 - b. As we think, we live. The content of the mind determines the words we speak, and the deeds we do--the direction we go.
 - c. And the direction we go determines our destiny.

II. MEDITATE

- A. John Lock once wrote, "Reading furnishes the mind only with the material of knowledge; it is the thinking that makes what we read ours."
- B. Meditation will keep one from saying, "I don't get anything out of Bible reading or Bible study," or "I just can't understand the Bible," or "The Bible is just over my head."
- C. Study the characteristics of the blessed man of Psalms. 1:1,2.
- D. Notice carefully Psalms. 119:15,23,48,78,97,99,148.

III. STUDY

- A. If one expects to go to heaven, he must take the time and effort to study the route that will get him there.
- B. Helps in Bible study. (We will suggest a book or two under each of the following. It would be very fine to add these to our religious libraries).
1. Copies of the Bible. (King James Version, American Standard Version, Moffatt's Translation).
 2. An English dictionary. (Webster's Collegiate).
 3. A Bible dictionary. (Smith's or Peloubet's Bible Dictionary).
 4. A concordance. (Cruden's Complete Concordance or Young's Analytical Concordance).
 5. A Bible geography book. (Hurlbut's Bible Atlas).
 6. Some commentaries. (The Gospel Advocate series, McGarvey's Commentaries).
 7. A Bible encyclopedia. (The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia).
 8. A book on church history. (Church History by John D. Cox).
 9. A book on evidences. (All About the Bible by Collett; Christian Evidences by McGarvey).
 10. A book on religious errors exposed. (Why I Left and What is Wrong).
- C. Practical suggestions to remember in Bible study.
1. Ask who is the writer or speaker.
 2. Ask to whom the writing is addressed.
 3. Ask of whom the writer speaks.
 4. Ask what is the characteristic of the writing, or kind of composition.
 5. Ask when was the matter written.
 6. Ask what is the purpose or design of the writing.
 7. Ask what is the context of this passage.
- D. How one should study his Bible.
1. Reverently. This is God's book. See Neh. 8:5.
 2. Purposefully. Study to know God's will, understanding that the way of man is not in himself. Jer. 10:23.
 3. Study in view of eternity. Jn. 12:48.
 4. Study daily and thoroughly. Acts 17:11. (Notice the words "search" and "daily" in this verse).
 5. Intently. Study with the intent of obeying. (Jas. 1:22-25) and to teach such to others. II Tim. 2:2.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Keep your Bible open and you will not find the door of heaven shut.

STUDENT'S WORKSHEET

SCRIPTURES TO READ: I Tim. 4:13-15

MEMORY VERSES: Acts 17:11 and II Tim. 2:15

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

(Grading: Each question is worth four points; therefore, for each question missed, subtract four points from the possible total 100 points) SCORE _____

True & False (Place a T for true and F for false in the blank before each statement)

1. _____ Man is free only to the extent that he knows the truth.
2. _____ Jesus recognized that people surely read God's Word.
3. _____ It is not possible to understand the Bible.
4. _____ If we love God we will love to read His Word.
5. _____ The Thessalonians searched the scriptures daily.

Completion (Fill in the blanks)

1. Every _____ years Israel was to come together, at which time they were to _____ God's _____; _____, _____, and _____ were to be gathered together; and God's law was to be read "that they might _____, and that they may _____, and the Lord your God, and _____ to _____ all the words of this law."
2. We should make it a practice to read the Bible when we are _____ (Lk. 4:16), _____ (Phil. 4:6,7), _____ (Matt. 4:1-11), _____ (Acts 8:26-40), _____ (Psa. 100), and _____ (Rom. 15:4).
3. We should read God's Word and study it because it has the power to _____ (Psa. 19:7); _____ (Psa. 119:105); _____ (Rom. 1:16); _____ (Psa. 119:130); _____ (Jn. 17:17); _____ (Psa. 119:50); _____ (Jn. 15:3); and _____ (II Cor. 5:19).
4. _____ times in Psa. 119 David discusses and mentions meditating on God's Word.
5. We should study our Bibles r _____, p _____, in view of _____, d _____ and t _____ and i _____.

Multiple Choice (Underscore the correct answer)

1. We read in (Ex. 24:3-8; Psa. 19:4; Rev. 1:3) where a blessing will be placed upon one who reads God's book.
2. The wise man built his house upon the (rock, sand); and Jesus said this is the man who (hears, hears and does); and this story is recorded in (Matt. 13:45,46; Matt. 2:24-29).
3. In the list of Christ's beattitudes the (first, seventh, fourth) one pronounces a blessing upon one who hungers and thirsts after righteousness.
4. God's Word, our spiritual food, should be studied (weekly, daily, only when a special need is experienced).
5. (Jas. 1:22-25; Phil. 4:6,7; Jer. 10:23) teaches us that the way of man is not in himself.

Matching, Identifying and Locating (Draw a line from the passage to the correct scripture location).

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. "...delight is in the law...meditate..." | Col. 4:16 |
| 2. "...when this epistle is read..." | Lk. 4:16 |
| 3. "...have ye not read..." | Matt. 19:4 |
| 4. "...all the people stood up." | Neh. 8:5 |
| 5. "...and stood up for to read." | Psa. 1:1,2 |

Answer in a Few Words

1. What reformatations were effected, from a finding of, and a reading of, God's Word in the days of Josiah? _____

2. What lessons can we learn from observing that the Ethiopian read his Bible? _____

3. What are some proper and improper motives for reading God's Word? _____

4. What are some things which should be considered when one is purchasing a Bible. _____

5. List seven things one should constantly keep in mind and ask himself when he is reading the Bible in order to come to a correct understanding of the text. _____

Questions for Class Discussion

1. Make a list of lessons we can learn from Neh. 8.
2. What are some things which should be kept in mind and practiced by one who is to read the Bible in public?
3. Make a list of appropriate scriptures to be read under the following circumstances: when one is happy, has a death in the family, is sick, is tempted, is worried, starting on a journey, etc.
4. What are some workable plans by which a family may build a good home religious library, and what are some good, standard books which would be good to put in such a library.

Let Us Mark Our Bibles

1. Isa. 34:16 -- Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read.
2. Jn. 12:48 -- Will be judged by God's Word.
3. Acts 17:11 -- The noble Bereans searched the scriptures daily.
4. Eph. 3:4 -- Read and understand.
5. I Pet. 2:1,2 -- Desire the sincere milk of the Word.

TO BE STUDIED: January 14

STUDY OUTLINE

DIVISION: Doctrinal

COURSE NUMBER: Bible 101

COURSE: Requirements of Christian Growth

WHEN OFFERED: Winter Quarter,
1970, Wednesday Evening

Lesson Five

"KEEP THY HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE AND WATCH YOUR HABITS"

AIM OF THIS LESSON: To impress upon all the power of our thoughts and how we can control them; and since we are bundles of habits, to learn the good habits we should cultivate and the bad ones that should be broken and how this can be done.

INTRODUCTION:

"A penny for your thoughts." That is too cheap. Never sell your thoughts for a penny. A better expression would be, "Eternity for your thoughts."

I. OUR THOUGHTS MAKE US

A. You may not be what you think you think you are, but you are what you think.

B. Attitudes determine altitudes. Notice the emphasis that our Lord puts on the disposition

C. Prov. 4:23; 23:7.

1. Paul an example. Acts 26:9; Phil. 3:6; Acts 7:9.

D. Yes, our thoughts make us. They are the silent builders on the temple of character we are rearing. They give color and form to the whole building.

E. The inner and the outer life will always correspond.

1. The thought within makes the world without.

2. What is in the well of your heart will come up in the bucket of your speech.

3. Matt. 15:18-20; Mk. 7:21-23; Lk. 6:45.

4. This is why Jesus spake as He did in Matt. 5:21-28.

5. Words are the expression of thoughts; deeds are but thoughts in action.

F. Thoughts are so powerful that they even make their imprint on our countenance.

G. Sow a thought, reap an act. Sow an act, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a life. Sow a life, reap a destiny.

1. Therefore, the individual and collective thinking of nations and individuals determine their destinies.

H. Because our thoughts make us, we should give more attention to the inner man.

1. I Pet. 3:3-6.

2. We hear a lot today about outer space; we should be far more concerned with inner space.

3. What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny, tiny matters compared to what lies within us. Notice the emphasis that our Lord puts on the disposition

II. MUCH STRESS NEEDS TO BE PLACED ON THE DISPOSITION

A. The distance from earth to heaven is not so much a matter of altitude as it is a matter of attitude.

1. What is your attitude toward God, His church, your brethren, your family, etc.

2. Gal. 5:19-21. (17 sins catalogued, several of which are of the disposition variety)

C. Observe and study I Cor. 13:4-8.

D. Lk. 15 relates the story of the prodigal son.

1. Actually the story relates to us the lives of two prodigals, one in the far country and the other at home; one an alien from his father's love through sins of passion, the other through sins of the disposition. Yes, two prodigals: one eating the husks of fleshliness, the other the rancid food of a sour and sullen and envious mind.
2. Sins of passion have darkly crowned the list of transgressions, whereas jealousy, anger, pride, harsh judgment, etc. are hardly counted as sins. We speak of them as "faults" or "defects in temper" or "immature development"; but, notice how Jesus treated sins of the disposition. Matt. 23:27.
3. The elder brother in the parable was representative of the Pharisees, but all Pharisees are not dead!

III. WHAT ARE THE COLOR OF YOUR THOUGHTS?

A. This is important. The shades and hues of our thoughts leave their stamp upon us, tinting and staining our beings.

B. What is the color of your thoughts:

1. Black -- despair and defeat, nothing is ever right, no one can be trusted, every man has his price.
2. Red -- hate, anger, envy, malice, etc.
 - a. I Pet. 2:1; Gal. 5:19-21; I Cor. 3:1-3; Eph. 4:26,31; Col. 3:8.
3. Yellow -- cowardly thoughts, the thinking of spiritual weaklings.
 - a. Be strong and courageous. Observe the lives of Daniel and David. See I Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:10; II Tim. 4:6-8.
4. White -- memorize Phil. 4:8.

IV. WE NEED TO CONTROL OUR THOUGHTS

A. Evil thoughts come into the hearts of the best of people.

1. The sin is not in the coming of the thought but in the entertaining of it.
2. Illustrate this by birds flying over our heads and building nests in our hair.

B. We must drive evil thoughts out of our minds. II Cor. 10:5.

1. Study carefully Psalms 119:11. I Jn. 3:9.
2. Our thoughts are stimulated by what we (1) hear; (2) see; (3) read; therefore, to control our thoughts we must be most vigilant in these three areas.

C. Our prayer should be the one written in Psalms 139:23,24.

D. Concerning controlling our thoughts, let us heed the exhortation of Peter in I Pet. 1:13, girding up the loins of our minds.

V. HABITS AND THE CARE WE SHOULD EXERCISE

A. Webster on habit: "Custom or practice; especially an aptitude or inclination for some action, acquired by repetition and showing itself in facility of performance or in decreased power of resistance; as, the opium habit."

B. We must be extremely carefully as to the habits we cultivate for:

1. "Bad habits are like a comfortable bed; easy to get into, but hard to get out of." And...

2. "Good habits are like good porcelain and as easily broken. Bad habits are as indestructable as coarse crockery."

VI. SOME GOOD HABITS WE SHOULD CULTIVATE AND FORM

A. Daily Bible reading.

1. Psa. 1:1,2; I Tim. 4:13, 15; II Tim. 2:15.
2. Astounding indication of ignorance among members of the church.
3. Daily spiritual food. I Cor. 3:13-; Heb. 5:12-14; I Pet. 2:1-3.
4. President Garfield read Bible one hour every day.
5. Bible in some homes has become a safe or keepsake album.
 - a. Preacher asking question of new class, "Johnny, can you tell me some few things found in your Bible?" Reply: "Yes, Sir. A lock of my hair, when I was young, and the ticket for Pa's watch."
6. Read newspapers, etc. daily.
 - a. He who reads newspapers daily, but not his Bible, may be compared to a man who devours bread and crumbs and leavings in the garbage pail, and passes up the beef steak and mashed potatoes. Or, like the maiden who would throw away a box of precious jewels--diamonds, rubies, emeralds--and wears by preference some gilded imitation from the five and ten cent store.

B. Daily prayer.

1. Like Daniel and Jesus. Dan. 6:10; Mk. 1:35; Lk. 6:12; 18:1.
2. We are taught to pray daily. Matt. 6:11; see also Psa. 55:17; I Thess. 5:17; Col. 4:2; Rom. 12:12.
3. Your child going all day not speaking to you. Apply.
4. "Prayer: the key to the day, lock of the night." Apply.
5. "Hem in both ends of the day with a prayer, and it won't be so likely to unravel in the middle."
6. How many blessings we never receive because we neglect this cherished blessing.
7. But our lives must be consistent with our prayers.

C. Daily family devotion.

1. "The family that prays together stays together."
2. Old Testament example: Deut. 6:4-9.
3. Influence of such on children, father (public worship), etc.
4. Subscribe to, "Power for Today."

D. Regularity in attendance at church services.

1. Church services should be highlight of week. Psa. 122:1--not drudgery.
2. Taught by command. Heb. 10:25.
3. Taught by example. Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Cor. 14:23.
4. Taught by James. 4:17.
5. Be in subjection to elders. Heb. 13:7.

VII. SOME HABITS THAT OUGHT TO BE BROKEN

("To avoid old age, keep taking on new thoughts and throwing off old habits.")

A. Strong drink.

1. Discuss social drinking.
 - a. One out of every 15 who take the first drink will become an alcoholic--illustrate with taking 15 children across street with the knowledge one will be killed. How many would go?
 - b. Influence. Matt. 5:13-16.
 - c. No one to become a drunkard except by becoming a drinker.
2. Strong drink defiles (Dan. 1:8); causes nakedness (Gen. 9:20,21); mocks and deceives (Prov. 20:1); brings woe (Prov. 23:29); bites like a serpent, etc. (Prov. 23:31,32); compared to whoredom (Hos. 4:11), etc.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The history of the United States is a story of growth and change. It begins with the first settlers, who came to the Americas in search of new lands and opportunities. Over time, these small colonies grew into a powerful nation, shaped by the struggles and triumphs of its people. The American Revolution marked a turning point, as the colonies declared their independence from Britain and established a new government. This was followed by a period of rapid expansion and industrialization, which transformed the United States into a global superpower. The Civil War, a conflict over slavery, tested the nation's unity and led to the abolition of slavery. In the decades that followed, the United States continued to grow and evolve, facing new challenges and achieving new heights. Today, the United States remains a nation of great influence and innovation, a testament to the resilience and spirit of its people.

STUDENT'S WORKSHEET

Matthew 5:21-28

SCRIPTURES TO READ:

I Peter 3:1-6

I Corinthians 13:4-8

MEMORY VERSES

Psalms 1:1,2; Proverbs 4:23; 23:7

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Grading: Each question is worth four points; therefore, for each question missed, subtract four points from the possible total 100 points) SCORE _____

True & False (Place a T for true and F for false in the blank before each question)

1. _____ Paul did many things contrary to the name of Christ because he thought thusly.
2. _____ The inner and the outer life sometimes do not correspond.
3. _____ Sins of the disposition are not near so bad as sins of the flesh.
4. _____ Our spirits differ from our bodies in that they do not need daily food.
5. _____ Using God's name was prohibited under the Old Testament, but nothing is said concerning this in the New Testament.

Completion (Fill in the blanks)

1. A Christian should examine his attitude toward _____, _____, and _____.
2. When one's thinking is black he is thinking _____, _____, when he is thinking red he is thinking _____, _____; when he is thinking yellow he is thinking _____, _____; but when he is thinking white his thoughts are centered upon things that are _____, _____, _____.
3. Though we cannot keep evil thoughts from entering the mind we can keep from _____ them.
4. Our thoughts are stimulated by what we _____, _____, and _____; therefore, to control our thoughts we must be most _____ in these three areas.
5. Christians are to pray _____; this principle is taught in the following scriptures: _____, _____, _____, _____.

Multiple Choice (Underscore the correct answer)

1. In Rom. 1:29-31 (21, 23, 25) sins are cataloged, with (9, 10, 13) of these being sins of the disposition.
2. Lk. 15 relates the story of (the prodigal son, the two prodigals).
3. The attitudes that love will cause to dwell on the heart of an individual are found in (I Cor. 3:1-3; I Tim. 4:13,15; I Cor. 13:4-8).
4. (One out of fifteen, two out of thirteen, one out of twenty-five) who drink will become an alcoholic.
5. Anxiety (is, is not) a sin.

Matching, Identifying, and Locating (Draw a line from the correct passage location to the statement)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. "...bringing into captivity every thought..." | II Cor. 10:5 |
| 2. "...wherefore, gird up the loins of your mind..." | I Pet. 1:13 |
| 3. "...and thou shalt teach them diligently and thy children..." | Deut. 6:4-9 |
| 4. "...know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost..." | I Cor. 6:19 |
| 5. "...why beholdest thou the mote..." | Matt. 7:3-5 |

Answer in a Few Words

1. Why did Jesus speak as He did in Matt. 5:21-28? _____
2. Make a list of points which prove a necessity of attending church regularly. _____

3. Make a list of reasons why an individual should not partake of strong drink. _____

4. Make a list of reasons why an individual should not use tobacco. _____

5. List four things concerning "how to break a bad habit". _____

Questions for Class Discussion

1. Discuss how Jesus treats sins of the disposition.
2. Give an explanation of I Jn. 3:9.
3. Discuss the use some people make of their Bibles in their homes; also discuss the prominence given to newspapers, etc. compared to the Bible.
4. Make a list of helps in conducting and maintaining daily family devotions.
5. Discuss the definition, what prompts, and the results of gossip.

Let Us Mark Our Bibles

1. Prov. 4:23 -- Keep thy heart with all diligence.
2. Prov. 23:7 -- As we think we are.
3. I Pet. 3:3-6 -- Emphasis should be given to the inner man.
4. Phil. 4:8 -- A list of things upon which we should think.
5. Matt. 12:36 -- We shall give an account of the words we speak.

STUDY OUTLINE

DIVISION: Doctrinal
COURSE: Requirements of Christian Growth

COURSE NUMBER: Bible 101
WHEN OFFERED: Winter Quarter,
1970, Wednesday Evening

Lesson Six

"LET US GO INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD"

INTRODUCTION:

- A. David said, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." Psa. 122:1.
 - 1. May we ever cultivate and maintain the same noble attitude.
- B. However, when the saints assemble, oftentimes there are empty seats.
 - 1. I Sam. 20:18, 25, 27.

I. REASONS WHY WE SHOULD ATTEND SERVICES

- A. Because we love the Lord.
 - 1. The Lord is present when we assemble. Matt. 18:20.
 - 2. We love to be in the presence of those we love.
- B. To maintain our spiritual fervor.
 - 1. Like a coal of fire--alone on the hearth, it dies.
 - 2. One way to lose interest in the Lord's work is to be absent ourselves from the services. There is no exception to this.
- C. Because we feel that we need to go and we feel that we are needed.
 - 1. We need the association, the teaching, the prayers, the spiritual communion.
 - 2. Our brethren need our presence, our prayers, our interests, our participation.
- D. In order to satisfy our spiritual appetite.
 - 1. Matt. 5:6; I Pet. 2:1,2.
 - 2. Whenever we lose our physical appetite, this is a danger signal; apply this to the spiritual situation.
- E. Because of the example we would set and the advice we would give in our absenteeism,
 - 1. Look at the example we would be setting before our children.
 - 2. Look at the example we would be setting before our companion.
 - 3. Look at the example we would be setting before our non-Christian neighbors.
 - 4. Consider the advice we are consciously or unconsciously giving to a new babe in Christ by our absenteeism.
 - 5. Matt. 5:16; I Pet. 3:1-7.
- F. This is where we would want to be when the Lord comes.
 - 1. Matt. 13:32.
- G. We are no better than anyone else, yet we expect others to attend.
 - 1. Would we be willing to be a member of a congregation where the preachers, the elders, and the deacons consistently and unnecessarily absented themselves from the services?
 - 2. Can we rightly expect faithfulness in attendance from these and others and not from ourselves?
- H. Because we do not want to defile and sear our conscience.
 - 1. Titus 1:15; I Tim. 4:1,2.

2. The first time we miss a service we hurt our conscience. Isn't this true? A persistence in such will defile and sear it. How tragic!
 3. I Jn. 3:20,21.
- I. To be in subjection to the elders.
 1. Heb. 13:7-17.
 - J. To prevent backsliding.
 1. I Cor. 11:20-30.
 2. Absenteeism is one of the first indications of ultimate apostasy.
 3. Study II Pet. 2:20-22 and observe how awful it is to apostize.
 - K. To keep from sinning.
 1. It is a good thing to attend all of the services. Now, observe Jas. 4:17
 - L. Because Jesus is there.
 1. Matt. 18:20.
 2. Study closely Ex. 19:17. The Lord could have met with the Israelites in their separate tents but he had a given place where He was to meet them. Apply this principle to today.
 - M. To walk in the footsteps of the early saints.
 1. Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 14:23.
 - N. To keep from casting our vote to close the doors of the church.
 1. If we can miss a service, then every other member of the congregation can, too. If we all miss then why have a meeting house at all?
 - O. To prevent robbing God.
 1. The first day of the week is the Lord's (possession) day. Rev. 1:10.
 2. It is possible to rob God. Mal. 3:8. We can rob God of money and of time
 - P. To keep from disobeying.
 1. Heb. 10:25. The key word in this text is forsaking.
 - a. When one is away preaching, he has not forsaken the assembly. When one is ill, he has not forsaken. When one is out of town (but attending worship while out of town) (we should keep week-end trips to a bare minimum for the good of the local church) he has not forsaken the assembly. When one, but not by choice, must work during the time of one of the Sunday services, he is not forsaking the service.
 2. The meaning of the text is, then, that when a person misses services when he could be present, but because of unconcern and indifference he stays away, he has forsaken the assembly.

II. EXCUSES MADE FOR NOT ATTENDING THE SERVICES

- A. "I am too busy."
 1. If you are too busy to attend, you are too busy.
 2. Consider how little time it takes per week to attend all the services. How are you really too busy?
 3. Study carefully Matt. 6:33.
- B. "I am too tired."
 1. Again, study Matt. 6:33.
 2. Are you too tired to engage in recreation, etc.?
- C. "But company came in."
 1. Still put the Lord first. Matt. 6:33.
 2. What say the etiquette books concerning this situation?
 3. Bring your company. It may lead to their conversion.
 4. Would you want company to keep an elder from attending the service?
 5. "But I am afraid I will offend them." What about offending the Lord?

- D. "I am not feeling well."
 - 1. Sickness is a legitimate reason.
 - 2. Would this illness keep me from work or from engaging in my favorite past-time?
- E. "I don't have good enough clothes."
 - 1. See I Sam. 16:7.
 - 2. As long as our clothing is modest and clean, we are acceptable.
- F. "But the weather is too bad."
 - 1. Would the weather keep us from going to work, to school, to an athletic contest, etc.?
 - 2. Surely we are not "fair-weather Christians."
- G. "But I don't have a way."
 - 1. Someone would provide a way if they only knew it.
 - 2. How do you get to town, to the store, etc.?
- H. "But somebody mistreated me."
 - 1. Has the Lord mistreated you? Then, why take it out on Him?
 - 2. Study Matt. 5:23,24; 18:15-17.
- I. "But the people are too cold and unfriendly."
 - 1. Beware of judging.
 - 2. Discuss the real purpose of worship.
 - 3. Maybe the fault is with you.
- J. "The preacher preaches too long, too slow, too fast, etc."
 - 1. We can still always learn something.
 - 2. Emphasize the message and not so much the method.
 - 3. What about the other items of worship other than preaching?

III. WHAT YOUR EMPTY SEAT SAYS

- A. "My occupant found greater joy in something else."
- B. "My occupant is not concerned with building up the local church."
- D. "My occupant does not love God."
- E. To the preacher it says, "Your sermon is not worth very much, your preparations are useless and your efforts are not appreciated."
- F. To the visitor it says, "There is not much interest here."
- G. To the other members it says, "Someone found something more interesting than this service."
- H. To the nonmember it says, "Regular attendance is neither necessary or worthwhile."
- I. To the elders it says, "Some of the sheep are out of the fold."
- J. To God it says, "There is something more important than worshipping you."
- K. To Christ it says, "Someone does not appreciate your sacrifice."

IV. SOME WE CAN SURELY AND REASONABLY EXPECT TO ATTEND; BUT, CONCERNING WHOM WE ARE OFTEN DISAPPOINTED

- A. Members of the church who move into our community.
 - 1. Acts 9:26-28.

- B. Those who have been recently baptized and restored.
 - 1. Acts 2:41,42.
 - 2. Rom. 6:3,4. Emphasize "newness of life."
- C. Those who have escaped death, or serious illness.
 - 1. Study Lk. 17:11-19. Those who failed to return didn't appreciate the Lord.
- D. Children of Christians.
 - 1. Prov. 22:6.

V. THE CURE FOR ABSENTEEISM

- A. True conversion.
 - 1. Rom. 6:3,4.
 - 2. Acts 2:38-42.
- B. As much as we possibly can, prevent delinquents "slipping back into duty."
 - 1. Any lapse of time does not take care of any previous delinquency.
- C. Elders watching for the souls of the members.
 - 1. Heb. 13:7.
 - 2. This is the reason for our registration system.
- D. The cultivation and maintenance of genuine love for God.
 - 1. Matt. 22:37.
 - 2. Jn. 14:15; Heb. 10:25.
 - 3. If we really love God we will love to where God is. Now see Matt. 18:20.

VI. THOUGHTS OF WORSHIP -- THE ACTIVITY IN WHICH WE ENGAGE UPON ATTENDING SERVICES

- A. Worship is "courtesy and reverence paid to worth; hence, honor, respect. The act of paying divine honors to a deity; religious reverence and homage." (Webster) The original words from whence worship is translated carry with them the idea of doing homage, revering, standing in awe, venerating, adoring.
- B. The Bible mentions ignorant worship (Acts 17:23), vain worship (Matt. 15:8,9), will-worship (Col. 2:23), and spiritual worship (Jn. 4:23,24).
 - 1. Observe the "must" in Jn. 4:4.
 - 2. According to this same text the proper object to acceptable worship is "God."
 - 3. The proper attitude to acceptable worship is "in spirit."
 - 4. The proper standard of acceptable worship is "in truth." And, the truth authorizes the following items of worship:
 - a. Singing. Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19; I Cor. 14:15.
 - b. Prayer. Acts 2:42; I Cor. 14:15.
 - c. Teaching. Acts 2:42; 20:7.
 - d. Lord's Supper. Acts 2:42; 20:7.
 - e. Giving. Acts 2:42; I Cor. 16:2.
- C. We should avoid disturbing worship services by being late, laughing, talking, destroying church property, dropping song books, taking song books out of the racks at inopportune times, going to sleep, etc. Read carefully Psalms 89:7.
- D. We will worship God when we get to heaven. Rev. 4:8-11; 5:11-14; 7:9-12.

STUDENT'S WORKSHEET

SCRIPTURES TO READ: Psalms 122:1; Hebrews 13:7,12; Matthew 5:6; John 4:19-26;
Matthew 18:20

MEMORY VERSES: John 4:24; Hebrews 10:25

(Grading: Each question is worth four points; therefore, for each question missed, subtract four points from the possible total 100 points) SCORE _____

True & False (Place a T for true and F for false in the blank before each statement)

1. _____ Daivid said to Jonathan, "Thou shalt be missed, because they seat will be empty."
2. _____ One cannot truly love the Lord and absent himself from the worship services.
3. _____ It is reasonable and consistent to expect the elders and preachers to be present at all of the services and not expect the same from other members.
4. _____ Absenteeism is one of the first signs of apostasy.
5. _____ Our relationship to the elders has nothing to do with our attendance at the worship services.

Completion (Fill in the blanks)

1. We are to _____ and _____ after _____; when we lose our appetite for spiritual matters; this is a _____ signal.
2. The first day of the week is the _____ day; and if we take this day wholly for ourselves we are guilty of the sin of _____.
3. The cure for absenteeism is _____ and _____ and _____.
4. Concerning attendance, we are often disappointed by the following: _____, _____, _____, and _____.
5. The empty seat says to the preacher _____; it says to the visitor _____; it says to the other members _____; to the non-member it says _____; to the elders it says _____; to God it says _____ and to Christ it says _____.

Multiple Choice (Underscore the correct answer)

1. Worship is courtesy or reverence (paid, merely felt) to worth.
2. When David thought of going into the house of the Lord, he was (sad, mad, glad, indifferent).
3. When one absents himself from the Lord's work, he will (sometimes, always) lose interest in the Lord's work.
4. In heaven we will (cease, continue) to worship God.
5. There are (168, 140, 138) hours in a week; and if one attends all of the regular services of the congregation each week, he will spend approximately (15, 5, 2) hours a week in public worship to God.

Matching, Identifying, and Locating (Draw a line from the statement to the correct passage location)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. "...having their conscience seared..." | I Sam. 20:18. |
| 2. "...thou shalt be missed..." | I Tim. 4:1,2 |
| 3. "...with all thy heart, and withyall thy soul, and with all thy mind." | Matt. 6:33 |
| 4. "...seek ye first the kingdom of God..." | Matt. 22:37 |
| 5. "...must worship Him in spirit and in truth." | Ja. 4:24 |

Answer in a Few Words

1. List at least five definite reasons, substantiating the scripture, why we should attend the services of the church. _____
2. Give five of the more frequently used excuses for not attending the services and give an answer for each. _____

3. List the four kinds of worship the Bible mentions, listing scripture for each; also, concerning scriptural worship, list the five items of worship and a corresponding scripture for each.
4. Where did God meet the Israelites on the occasion of the giving of the law, and of what significance is this point?
5. What is the significance of the word "forsaking" in Heb. 10:25?

Questions for Class Discussion

1. Make a list of some of the things we can experience and gain from the services which we attend.
2. What are some of the things we can contribute to a service by being present?
3. Since we know not the time of our Lord's coming, what should be our constant practice?
4. Make a list of ways in which worship services are constantly disturbed and give a remedy for each.
5. What example are we setting and what advice are we giving when we absent ourselves from the services?

Let Us Mark Our Bibles

1. Psa. 122:1 -- "I was glad to go into the house of the Lord."
2. Matt. 19:20 -- Jesus is present when we worship.
3. Heb. 13:7,17 -- We are to be in subjection to the elders.
4. Jas. 4:17 -- If we know to do good and do it not, we have sinned.
5. Heb. 10:25 -- We are forbidden to forsake the assembly.

STUDY OUTLINEDIVISION: DoctrinalCOURSE NUMBER: Bible 101COURSE: Requirements of Christian GrowthWHEN OFFERED: Winter Quarter,
1970, Wednesday EveningLesson Seven"IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE"

AIM OF THIS LESSON: To instruct us and to convince us that God wants to bless us if we will open our hearts, hands, and pocketbooks, and to point out what some of these blessings are; also, to come to learn what the scriptural principles of giving are.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Jesus said more about money and giving than He did about repentance, regeneration, heaven or hell. In fact, almost half of His recorded sayings relate to money, directly or indirectly.
- B. Among His sayings is one of His beatitudes as spoken by the apostle Paul and recorded in Acts 20:35: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

I. THIS BEATITUDE HAS BEEN CALLED "THE SUPREME BEATITUDE"

- A. We learn from this verse that blessedness is predicted upon giving.
- B. The word "blessed" in this text indicates the sum total of a desirable life. It covers all we mean by our golden word "success"; in other words, Jesus is telling us that the key to a happy, challenging, successful life is to give.

II. THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF BEATITUDES

- A. How many beatitudes are in the Bible?
 - 1. Eight are found in the Sermon on the Mount.
 - 2. Psalms begins with one. The second psalm closes with one.
 - 3. Seven are found in Revelation, with two in the last chapter.
 - 4. A full 100 throughout the Bible.
 - 5. "Blessed", "Blessing", or similar words occur 600 times in the Bible; therefore, the Bible merits the title, "The Blessed Book." The Bible, truly, is a book of beatitudes.

III. THE BEATITUDE IN OUR LESSON TODAY IS A DISBELEIVED ONE

- A. Sin began on earth when Adam and Eve thought it was better to get something which looked good than to give to God trust in His wisdom and obedience to His will. This attitude brought blight instead of blessing.
- B. Because of this same false idea we can account for human misery today.
 - 1. Greed instead of generosity,
 - 2. Selfishness instead of service,
 - 3. Conflict instead of cooperation.
- C. Disbelief in this beatitude has penetrated the lives of saints. This can be seen in the following circumstances:
 - 1. What about the attitudes of some toward sermons on giving?
 - 2. Take a good realistic look at the contribution figures in the local congregation as compared with the individual income of the membership.
 - 3. It seems that many still think that we are to get all we can and keep all we get. Our coffers are full, our tables bounteous, our wardrobes enlarged, we travel worldwide, but still there is unhappiness.

- a. The most blessed word in the English language is "mother." This is true because of her devoted self-giving.
- b. The most happy people in the world are missionaries. Why? Because they give the most.
- c. Yes, the unhappiness apparent in the lives of so many is indicative of disbelief in this beatitude.

IV. WHY IS IT MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE?

- A. Giving is an investment in eternal securities. Matt. 6:19-21.
- B. Giving pays dividends unto one's very being, enlarging life itself.
 1. Scriptural giving enlarges one's capacities of sympathy, compassion, understanding, etc.
 2. Scriptural giving increases one's interest in the Lord's church. We are definitely interested in that in which we have something invested.
- C. Getting is animal-like, while giving is God-like.
 1. Jn. 3:16. Another way to spell love is "G-I-V-E".
- D. Giving insures one of a heavenly welcome. Lk. 16:9 (see Moffatt's).
- E. Giving brings great dividends even in this life.
 1. Lk. 6:38. In this text notice the following things:
 - a. The law of gain -- "give and it shall be given unto you."
 - b. The largeness of the gain -- "good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over."
 - c. The location of the gain -- "shall men give into your bosom." (Therefore, in this life).
 2. Mal. 3:8-10.

V. EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO PRACTICED THIS BLESSED BEATITUDE

- A. The wise men. Matt. 2:11.
- B. The Macedonians. II Cor. 8:1-5.
- C. Barnabas. Acts 4:36,37.
- D. The poor widow. Lk. 21:1-4.

VI. SOME GENERAL FACTS ON NEW TESTAMENT GIVING

- A. Our giving should be done regularly. I Cor. 16:2 -- "Upon the first day of the week."
 1. See Acts 20:7.
 2. Even if we are ill or out of town and, thus, unable to attend the services of the home church, we still have an obligation to it. Therefore, we will either send our contribution, leave it with someone, or "make it up."
- B. Our giving is a personal responsibility. I Cor. 16:2 -- "Let everyone of you."
 1. Notice the individuality in Acts 2:38.
 2. Study Acts 11:29,30; II Cor. 9:7; Deut. 16:16; Ex. 25:2.
 3. It is basically unfair for one to enjoy the benefits of a good, thriving, local program and not share in the responsibilities which makes such possible. Truly, we have an individual and personal obligation in the matter of giving. No amount of singing, praying, gospel preaching, etc. can be substituted for it.
- C. Our giving is to proportionate. I Cor. 16:2 -- "As he hath been prospered."
 1. Under the law the Jews gave 10%. This was proportionate giving. Lev. 27:30-

- a. When they gave less they robbed God. Mal. 3:8.
 - b. Jesus commended this practice.
 - c. He teaches us to exceed. Matt. 5:20.
- D. Our giving is to be liberal. Rom. 12:8 (American Standard Version).
1. II Cor. 8:7; 9:6; Prov. 11:25; 22:9.
 2. Examples of liberal giving:
 - a. God. Jn. 3:16.
 - b. His Son. II Cor. 8:9.
 - c. The early church. Acts 2:44,45; 4:31-37.
 - d. Macedonians. II Cor. 8:1-5.
 - e. The poor widow. Lk. 21:1-4.
 3. Under the law the Jews gave 10%. Lev. 27:30-33.
 - a. Today we live under a better covenant, established upon better promises. Heb. 8:6-13. Can we afford to do less under something better? Think this through.
 - b. Let us do a little arithmetic. What is your monthly or yearly income? How much are you giving at the present time? Now what percentage is this. What percentage of your income is now left to spend upon yourself? What about this?
- E. Our giving is to be done purposely. II Cor. 9:7.
1. The Glen Garden church follows the planned system of giving. A budget is set, purpose cards are given to every member upon which they are requested to indicate what their weekly contribution will be for the coming year, and boxes of collection envelopes are furnished to all.
 2. The value of this system has been proven many, many times.
 3. Every objection that has ever been presented against this great system has been successfully answered.
 4. This system is eminently scriptural. II Cor. 8:10, 11; 9:2-7; I Cor. 16:2.
- F. Our giving is to be done pleasantly. II Cor. 9:7.

STUDENT'S WORKSHEET

SCRIPTURES TO READ: II Corinthians 8, 9 MEMORY VERSES: Acts 20:35 I Cor. 16:2

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Grading: Each question is worth four points; therefore, for each question missed, subtract four points from the possible total 100 points) SCORE _____

True & False (Place a T for true and F for false in the blank before each statement)

1. _____ Jesus didn't speak too frequently about money, giving, and stewardship.
2. _____ Simon is an outstanding example of liberal giving in the early church.
3. _____ No man, in Israel's history, could appear before Jehovah empty handed.
4. _____ We must "determine before hand" what we will give into the Lord's treasury.
5. _____ Giving insures one of a heavenly welcome.

Completion (Fill in the blanks)

1. _____ is predicted upon giving; and the word "blessed" in Acts 20:35 suggests the sum total of _____ and covers all we mean by our word _____
2. According to I Cor. 16:2 our giving is to be done _____, is a _____ and is to be _____.
3. The Jews gave _____ % of their income, and when they gave less they were indicted for _____; Jesus exhorted us to _____ their liberality.
4. In Lk. 6:38 the law of gain is expressed in the following words: "a large _____", the largeness of the gain is expressed in the following words: "large _____"; and the location of the gain is expressed in the following words: "large _____."
5. _____, _____, and _____ are examples of those who practiced the blessed beatitude.

Multiple Choice (Underscore the correct answer)

1. We are to lay up our treasures in (earth, heaven) according to (Jn. 3:16; Acts 2:42; Matt. 6:19-21).
2. Christians are to give (just to the extent that they arbitrarily decide what they will give, liberally).
3. We read of some robbing God in (Deut. 16:16; Mal. 3:8-10; II Cor. 8:7).
4. We read of God's instruction to Israel concerning their financial responsibilities in erecting the tabernacle in (Lev. 27:30-32; Mal. 3-10; Ex. 25:2).
5. (The poor widow, the wise men) gave their all.

Matching, Identifying and Locating (Draw a line from the statement to the correct passage location)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. "The liberal soul shall be made fat..." | Prov. 11:25 |
| 2. "He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed..." | Prov. 22:9 |
| 3. "And all that tithe of the land..." | Lev. 27:30-33 |
| 4. "...but first gave their own selves to the Lord" | II Cor. 8:5 |
| 5. "...is the mediator of a better covenant..." | Heb. 8:6-13 |

Answer in a Few Words

1. Give at least three concrete evidences that Acts 20:35 is a disbelieved beatitude in the hearts of some. _____
2. What should one do, concerning his giving, if he must be away from the local church on Lord's day? _____
3. Give scriptural proof that God blesses materially His people who will give liberally unto Him. _____
4. From a study of Lev. 27:30-33; Heb. 8:6-13 and Matt. 23:23; 5:20, what logical deductions can we reach? _____
5. What is the planned giving system and what apostolic church practiced it in principle? _____

Questions for Class Discussion

1. Suppose a man could do far, far better but he only contributes \$1.00 per week. He then says, "I can give the \$1.00 to Christ cheerfully, but if I give \$10.00, though I could, I wouldn't give it cheerfully." Will God accept the \$1.00?
2. What outstanding things (make a list) characterize the Macedonians and their giving?
3. Why were many of the early Christians so liberal, and yet we have difficulty today stimulating many to be thus characterized?
4. What is wrong when we have increased our living income, but are still giving the same amount we did a number of years ago?
5. What lessons can we glean from the account of the poor widow's giving?

Let Us Mark Our Bibles

1. Lk. 6:38 -- Give and it shall be given to you.
2. Acts 20:35 -- It is more blessed to give than to receive.
3. Rom. 12:8 -- We are to give liberally.
4. I Cor. 16:2 -- We are to give regularly, personally, and proportionately.
5. II Cor. 9:7 -- We are to give according to purpose and cheerfully.

TO BE STUDIED: February 11

STUDY OUTLINE

DIVISION: Doctrinal
COURSE: Requirements of Christian Growth

COURSE NUMBER: Bible 101
WHEN OFFERED: Winter Quarter,
1970, Wednesday Evening

Lesson Eight

"BURY NOT THY TALENT"

AIM OF THIS LESSON: To show that we all have a talent(s) and that the use made of our talents determines our present happiness and future destiny.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Matt. 25:14-30.
 - 1. As the parable of the ten virgins taught watchfulness, the parable of the talents teaches the necessity of work. The parable of the ten virgins teaches the lesson of preparation and the parable of the talents teaches how preparation can be made.
 - 2. This parable is applicable to the church: "The kingdom of heaven is like..." Matt. 16:18,19.

B. Let us observe:

I. EVERY PERSON HAS A TALENT

- A. In the parable, none went away empty.
- B. I Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 4:7-16.

II. ALL DO NOT HAVE THE SAME TALENTS

- A. No two people are alike. Some have more ability than others.
 - 1. "...according to his several ability."
 - 2. Illustrate this by soils.
- B. The Lord is fair. In the parable he did not expect as much of the one talent man as of the two and five talent men.
 - 1. Although the Lord does not expect more of us than we are able to do, He does not accept less than we are able to do.
 - 2. A sobering question, "Am I really doing my best?"

III. THE LORD IS THE GIVER OF OUR TALENTS

- A. II Cor. 2:12.
- B. Since the Lord gave us our talents, we can consider this matter in the light of stewardship.
 - 1. This being true, we are made humble...we are nothing by ourselves.
 - 2. This being true, we are to be faithful. I Cor. 4:2.
 - 3. This being true, we know that there will be a reckoning.

IV. THE USE MADE OF OUR TALENTS

- A. This is the important question!
- B. A talent like any other piece of money had two sides: one side is written "endowment" and on the other side is written "responsibility."
 - 1. With every load of jewels comes a load of care. Gifts cannot be detached from their burdens.
 - 2. Being given talent(s) we have a responsibility!

- C. Like the five and two talent men we can go to work, shoulder our responsibilities and do our best.
1. I Cor. 15:58; Eph. 2:8-10; Matt. 20:1-19; Matt. 21:28; Jas. 1:25; Jn. 9:4; Eccl. 9:10.
- D. Or, like the one talent man, we can bury our talents beneath the earth of indifference, unconcern, slothfulness, etc.
1. The one talent man represents the majority. In every congregation where you have one, five, or two talent men who work and shoulder their responsibility, you will have several more one talent men who bury their talent.
 2. This one talent man was not a drunkard or a thief or an unmerciful person. He did not squander his master's talent. What was wrong with him? He buried his talent! This is a serious offense!
 3. What caused the one talent man to bury his talent and what causes people to so act today?
 - a. Wrong conception of God (vs. 24). He accused the Lord of being hard and unreasonable.
 - (1) People today think of Christ as a hard taskmaster and as being unreasonable. "Why go to church so much?" Or, "Why give so much?" Or, "Why deny ourselves of so many pleasures?" It is a mean spirit to accuse master, especially Jesus, after he has done so much for us.
 - (2) Matt. 11:28-30; I Jn. 5:3.
 - b. He was afraid. (v. 25).
 - (1) Sin of Israel (Deut. 1:29; Num. 13,14); Elijah (I Kgs. 17:19); Peter (Matt. 14:30).
 - (2) Lk. 12:4,5.
 - (3) Rev. 21:8.
 - (4) Phil. 4:13; Rom. 8:31.
 - (5) Of what was he afraid and what causes some to be afraid today?
 - (a) Was he afraid he could not make as big a show as others? "If I can't be the captain, won't play at all." "If I can't sing the solo, I won't sing at all." III Jn. 9.
 - (b) Afraid of work. He was lazy. Master called him slothful. Prov. 26:13; 15; 18:9; 24:30-34; 19:15; Eccl. 10:18; Rom. 12:11; 13:11; Heb. 6:12; Prov. 6:6-9.
 - (c) Afraid of his master.
 - (d) Some try to excuse themselves today by saying, "I am afraid I will make a mistake." Or, "Afraid someone can do it better than me," Or, "I am afraid that I will do more harm than good."
 - c. Failed to see that his talent was useful and needed.
 - (1) The master was angry because one talent not used--had fourteen! This proclaims, verily, that every talent needed in the divine economy.
 - (2) Building great things take fingers that are skilled, but also hands to lay the foundation. When every man's talent needed to build the temple, it is foolish to make distinction between "great" and "small" talents. One talent is no small sum!! Illustrate by blood cells, thumbs, etc. I Cor. 12:20-24.
 - (3) Poem:
 There is waiting a work where only your hands can avail;
 And so if you falter a chord in the music will fail."
 -Edward Markham.
 - d. Failed to see that every talent is precious. He depreciated his gift.
 - (1) Jesus insisted on the worth of something that seems obscure to us. Cup of cold water, jot of law, widow's mite, and Simeon carrying the cross.

V. THE LAW OF GAIN AND LOSS RELATIVE TO OUR TALENTS

- A. The two and five talent men use their talents and double them.
 - 1. By utilizing what we have we get that which we do not have. The horizon will widen as we climb the hill, but we must keep climbing.
 - 2. To make money we must invest money.
 - 3. Illustrate this sowing corn. We sow one grain but reap many others.
- B. The one talent man buried his talent and lost what he did have.
 - 1. If to use is to increase, it is equally sure that to neglect is to lose. If I want to lose all that books have to offer, I don't have to burn them; all I have to do is just to neglect them.
 - 2. A limb never exercised will soon deteriorate.
 - 3. Proverb: Drawn wells are seldom dry.
 - 4. To lose our knowledge of God's Word, all we need to do is to fail to teach what we do know. Apply this principle to other phases of Christian living.

VI. SINCE WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE TALENTS OF ANOTHER, IT IS CERTAIN THAT THERE WILL BE A RECKONING DAY.

- A. Yes, the day of reckoning is sure. We ought to live in constant recognition of this day. II Cor. 5:10; Acts 17:30,31.
- B. In the parable, notice the five and two talent men on the reckoning day:
 - 1. They were commended for their faithfulness. See I Cor. 4:2.
 - 2. They were called "good". Gal. 5:22,23; Acts 11:24; Lk. 23:50; Psa.37:23.
 - 3. They were called "faithful". I Cor. 4:2; Lk. 16:10; II Tim. 2:2; Rev.2:10.
 - 4. The Lord said "Well done." This means they had done their work well!
 - 5. Their reward for such faithfulness was entrance into the joys of the Lord.
 - a. Discuss the beauty and joys of heaven.
- C. The one talent man in the parable and the day of reckoning:
 - 1. He makes excuses but they do not relieve him of his responsibility, or atone for his neglect. Yes, even excuse making at judgment. See Matt. 7:21-23.
 - 2. The Lord called him "wicked". This was because he had failed to accept his responsibility.
 - 3. He was also called "slothful."

CONCLUSION:

At the judgment in which group will we stand? Sobering!

STUDENT'S WORKSHEET

SCRIPTURES TO READ: Matthew 25:14-30

MEMORY VERSES: Matthew 25:21

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Grading: Each question is worth four points; therefore, for each question missed, subtract four points from the possible total 100 points) SCORE _____

True & False (Place a T for true and F for false in the blank before each statement)

- 1. _____ Every person in God's kingdom has a talent.
- 2. _____ The one talent man was lost because he was a drunkard, a thief, and unmerciful.
- 3. _____ It is a sin to be fearful.
- 4. _____ In the divine economy, every talent is necessary.
- 5. _____ The one talent man was wicked.

Completion (Fill in the blanks)

1. The Lord does not expect _____ of us than we are able to do, and He does not accept _____ than we are able to do.
2. It is possible for men today to bury their talents beneath the earth of _____, _____, and _____.
3. Four things which caused the one talent man to act as he did were: _____, _____, _____, and _____.
4. We prove our faithfulness in much by proving our faithfulness in _____.
5. Jesus called the five and two talent men _____ and _____.

Multiple Choice (Underscore the correct answer)

1. We are taught that the church and the kingdom of heaven is one in the same thing in (Eph. 2:8-10; Matt. 21:28; Matt. 16:18,19).
2. The parable of the talents is located in (Matt. 20:1-19; Matt. 25:14-30; Matt. 13:3-9).
3. Largely speaking, the one talent man represents the (majority, minority).
4. The one talent man was guilty of sins of (omission, commission).
5. The Lord gives talents (arbitrarily, according to one's ability).

Matching, Identifying and Locating (Draw a line from the statement to the correct passage location)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. "...and the door was opened unto me of the Lord." | II Cor. 2:12 |
| 2. "...and His commandments are not grievous." | I Jn. 5:3 |
| 3. "I can do all things through Christ..." | Phil. 4:13 |
| 4. "...always abounding in the work of the Lord..." | I Cor. 15:58 |
| 5. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it..." | Eccl. 9:10 |

Answer in a Few Words

1. Show that the Lord takes note of small things and counts them as things of worth.

2. Show by this lesson and other illustrations the truthfulness of God's immutable law, "We lose what we do not use."

3. What is the major difference between the primary lessons taught in the parable of the ten virgins and the parable of the talents?

4. What is the significance of the statement, "The kingdom of heaven is like..."?

5. What is the meaning of, "...according to his several ability."

Questions for Class Discussion

1. What does a person have with every talent with which he is blessed?
2. Give some indications today that show that people think Christ is a hard taskmaster.
3. Discuss the importance of each individual member of the body of Christ, and present some ways in which each and every member can be put to work.
4. Give some excuses used by people today in which they affirm, "I am afraid."
5. Discuss the tragedy and results of the sin of doing nothing.

Let Us Mark Our Bibles

1. Eph. 4:16 -- Every member of the body is to contribute his part.
2. I Cor. 4:2 -- Faithfulness is required in stewards.
3. Matt. 11:28-30 -- The Lord's yoke is easy and His burden is light.
4. II Cor. 5:10 -- There will be a reckoning day.
5. Matt. 7:21-23 -- There will be excuse-making at the judgment.

STUDY OUTLINE

DIVISION: Doctrinal
COURSE: Requirements of Christian Growth

COURSE NUMBER: Bible 101
WHEN OFFERED: Winter Quarter,
1969, Wednesday Evenings

Lesson Nine

"MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER"

AIM OF THIS LESSON: To come to appreciate the fact that all Christians are members of the body of Christ and in turn members one of another, sustaining obligations each to the other.

INTRODUCTION:

A. The church is the body of Christ. Eph. 1:22,23. It is composed of many members. As members of this body we sustain mutual obligations each to the other.

1. 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Rom. 12:4,5.

B. Let us now study some of these responsibilities.

I. "USE HOSPITALITY ONE TO ANOTHER"

A. 1 Pet. 4:9.

B. See also Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2; 1 Tim. 5:10; 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8.

C. Examples:

1. Abraham. Gen. 18:1-8.

2. The Shunamite woman. 2 Kings 8:11.

3. Martha. Luke 10:38-42.

D. The practice of hospitality today.

1. Have various members of the church into your home.

2. Accommodate various guests who come our way.

3. Be host to some new members into the fellowship of the local church.

II. "LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

A. John 15:17.

B. See also 1 Pet. 1:22,23; Heb. 13:1; Eph. 4:31,32; etc.

C. The necessity of brotherly love.

1. A badge of discipleship. John 13:35.

2. A command. John 15:12; 13:34; 1 John 4:21.

a. 1 John 2:3,4; Rev. 22:14; 1 John 3:23,24.

3. It is supreme. 1 Peter 4:8.

4. A fulfillment of the law. Rom. 13:8-10.

5. The second greatest commandment. Matt. 22:37-40.

6. To prevent stumbling. 1 John 2:10.

7. To be in the light. 1 John 2:9,11.

8. A mark of divine Sonship. 1 John 3:10.

9. A mark of conversion and spiritual life. 1 John 3:14.

10. Without it we are murderers. 1 John 3:15.

11. To be of God, to be born of God, to know God. 1 John 4:7-8.
12. Because God loved us. 1 John 4:11.
13. For God to dwell in us and his love to be perfected in us. 1 John 4:12.
14. Cannot love God without it. 1 John 4:20; 5:1-2.

D. The action of brotherly love.

1. As the Lord loved us. John 13:34; 15:12.
 - a. He loved us enough to give his life. John 3:16.
 - b. What are we willing to give up for our brother in Christ?
2. "As we love ourselves." Matt. 22:39.
3. Fervently. 1 Pet. 1:22; 4:8.
 - a. The word "fervent" means intense, earnest, assiduous. The word "assiduous" means performed with constant diligence or attention; persistent, devoted, attentive, unremitting.
4. Genuinely. 1 Pet. 1:22,23.
5. With a pure heart. 1 Pet. 1:22,23.
 - a. Pure from envy, malice, hatred, animosity, jealousy, ill-will, etc.
6. In deed and not in word only. 1 John 3:18.
 - a. Administer assistance. 1 John 3:17.
 - b. Gal. 6:10; Lk. 10:30-37; Matt. 25:31-46; Acts 11:27-30.
7. Study carefully 1 Cor. 13:4-8.

III. "PRAY ONE FOR ANOTHER"

- A. James 5:16.
- B. Examples:
 1. Paul. Phil. 1:3-4; 9:11; Col. 1:3; 1 Thess. 1:3; 2 Tim. 1:3.
 2. Moses. Ex. 32:31-32.
 3. Christ. John 17.
- C. Let us pray for:
 1. Elders. Their responsibility is great. Heb. 13:17.
 2. Preachers. 1 Thess. 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1-2; Acts 12:5.
 3. Sick. James 5:13-15.
 4. Yea, for all members.
 5. Our families. Job 1:5.
- D. Avoid selfishness in prayer. Luke 18:10-14.
- E. Observe 1 Sam. 12:23.

IV. "CONFESS YOUR FAULTS ONE TO ANOTHER"

- A. James 5:16.
- B. This could mean confessing some weakness with the intent of receiving assistance from another brother in Christ to overcome such.
- C. It could mean confessing some offense and asking for forgiveness.
- D. It could mean making a public confession of some public offense and asking for the prayers of the church that one might be forgiven and receive strength.

V. "CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER"

- A. Heb. 10:24.
- B. We should consider one another's:
 - 1. Feelings.
 - a. Avoid being offensive.
 - 2. Reputation and influence.
 - a. Avoid any statement that might in any way harm another's reputation; for, his influence is predicated upon his reputation.
 - 3. Conscience.
 - a. Rom. 14:15, 21; 15:1-3.
 - b. 1 Cor. 8:13.

VI. "SERVE ONE ANOTHER"

- A. Gal. 5:13.
- B. See also 1 Pet. 4:10.
- C. Service is a mark of true greatness. Matt. 20:26-28
- D. In serving others we are serving the Lord. Matt. 25:31-46; Acts 9:1,4.

VII. "EXHORT ONE ANOTHER"

- A. Heb. 3:13.
- B. See also Heb. 10:2; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; 1 Tim. 4:13.
- C. Barnabas an example. Acts 4:36; 11:23.

VIII. "COMFORT ONE ANOTHER"

- A. 1 Thess. 4:18.
- B. We comfort one another during times of bereavement by:
 - 1. Attendance at the memorial service.
 - 2. Floral or other remembrances.
 - 3. Messages of consolation.
 - 4. Words of sympathy.
 - 5. Visitation.
- C. Rom. 12:15.

STUDENTS' WORK SHEET

SCRIPTURES TO READ: 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Rom. 12:4-5. MEMORY VERSES: Rom. 12:4-5.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Grading: Each question is worth four points; therefore, for each question missed subtract four points from the total 100 points which are possible).

SCORE: _____

TRUE & FALSE

- 1. _____ Hospitality is a virtue to be exercised by all Christians.
- 2. _____ It is a sin not to pray for each other.
- 3. _____ It is possible to love God even though we do not love one another.
- 4. _____ To be counted a murderer one must take the life of another.

5. _____ John repeatedly in his writing said that he ceased not to remember in prayer those to whom he was writing.

COMPLETION (Fill in the blanks)

1. We are to be considerate of each other's _____,
and _____.
2. _____ and _____ are examples
of those who exercised hospitality.
3. When we pray we should remember to pray for _____,
_____, and _____.
4. According to 1 Cor. 13:4-8, love _____,
_____, _____,
_____, _____,
_____, and _____.
5. We are to love one another as _____ and as _____;
also, our love one to another is to be _____ and _____.
We are to love our brethren with _____ and in _____
and not in _____.

MULTIPLE CHOICE (Underscore the correct answer).

1. (Crispus, Barnabas, Gaius) is an outstanding example of one who excelled in exhortation.
2. (Faith, hope, love) according to the apostle Peter, covers a multitude of sins.
3. (The Pharisee, the publican) manifested selfishness in his prayers.
4. (Serving, being served) is a mark of true greatness.
5. (The priest, the Levite, the Samaritan) loved in deed and not in word only.

MATCHING, IDENTIFYING AND LOCATING (Place the number of the correct passage in the blank just before each scripture location).

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------|
| 1. "...comfort one another..." | _____ | Heb. 10:24 |
| 2. "...consider one another..." | _____ | 1 Pet. 1:22-23 |
| 3. "...exhort one another daily..." | _____ | 1 Thess. 4:18 |
| 4. "...by love serve one another..." | _____ | Gal. 5:13 |
| 5. "...love one another with a pure heart fervently..." | _____ | Heb. 3:13 |

ANSWER IN A FEW WORDS

1. Concerning confessing faults each to the other, what three things could the writer have had in mind in James 5:16?

2. We are commanded to serve the Lord (Rom. 6:16-18); but how may this be done? See Matt. 25:31-46. _____
3. Make a list of practical ways in which we can comfort our brethren during times of sorrow. _____

4. Make a list of practical ways in which we can exercise the grace of hospitality. _____

5. List at least seven reasons why brotherly love is so important. _____

QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Using a concordance find other responsibilities we sustain to "one another."
2. Do we believe in practicing the principles sustained in "Am I my brother's keeper?"
3. Concerning the points in this lesson, in what area do you think we need to make the greatest improvement?
4. Locate every passage in the New Testament where the church is presented as the body.
5. Locate and mark every passage in 1 John which discusses brotherly love and read these as one paragraph.

LET US MARK OUR BIBLES

1. Eph. 1:22-23; Rom. 12:4-5 -- The church is the body with members and their obligations.
2. John 13:34; 15:17, 12-14 -- Brotherly love is commanded and is a badge of discipleship.
3. James 5:16 -- We are to pray one for another and to confess our faults one to another.
4. 1 Sam. 12:23 -- Sin not to pray one for another.
5. 1 Pet. 4:9,10 -- We are to serve and exercise hospitality toward one another.

STUDY OUTLINE

DIVISION: Doctrinal

COURSE: Requirements of Christian Growth

COURSE NUMBER: Bible 101

WHEN OFFERED: Winter Quarter,
1969, Wednesday Evenings

Lesson Ten

"WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, REDEEMING THE TIME"

AIM OF THIS LESSON: To learn the various aspects of the Christian's walk and what each involves, and to come to appreciate the value of time, learning ways of wasting it and ways in which we can use it wisely.

I. WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY

A. Walk in newness of life.

1. Rom. 6:4 (study carefully verses 1-3); 2 Cor. 5:17.
2. A Christian is to leave the old life of sin, characteristic of him before becoming a child of God. Repentance takes care of this. 1 Jn. 3:9.
 - a. This does not mean that a child of God will not stumble, falter, fall and sin. It rather means that he will not habitually, continually, persistently live in sin as he once did; but that, though he stumbles, he will be striving to the utmost to overcome, win the victory, and become perfect.

B. Walk after the spirit and not after the flesh.

1. Rom. 8:1-17 (especially v. 4); also Gal. 5:16,25.
2. The importance of walking after the spirit as seen in Rom. 8. The righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us, v. 4. To be carnally-minded is death (spiritual death, Eph. 2:1), but to be spiritually-minded is life, v. 6, 13, and to be of Christ, v. 9.
3. What is meant by walking after the spirit and after the flesh can be clearly seen after a study of Gal. 5:19-23.

C. Walk worthy of the vocation.

1. Eph. 4:1.
2. Discuss briefly the difference between vocation and avocation. This is seen from a study of Matt. 6:33.
3. To walk worthy of the vocation is to behave or conduct one's life becoming one who is a Christian. To do so, we must live so others can see Christ in us. Gal. 2:20.

D. Walk in the light.

1. 1 John 1:6-8. See also Eph. 5:2.
 - a. If we walk in the light, the blood of Christ continually (suggested in the original), keeps us clean. Also, this is the only basis of true Christian fellowship.
2. But what does it mean to walk in the light? This can be seen from studying Ps. 119:105, 130; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Lk. 1:16.

E. Walk as the word walked.

1. 1 John 2:6. See also Phil. 2:5 and 1 Pet. 2:21-22.
 2. Our Lord walked: Forgivingly, Lk. 23:34; Servingly, Jn. 13:1-17; Mk. 10:45; Obediently, Heb. 5:8-9; Prayerfully, Lk. 6:12; Mk. 1:35, Jn. 17; Courageously, Matt. 21:12-13; Matt. 5:17; Zealously, Jn. 2:17; 9:4; Lk. 2:49; Jn. 5:17; Unselfishly, 2 Cor. 8:9.
- F. For a further study of the Christian walk, see the following:
1. Micah 6:8. Walk humbly.
 2. Rom. 4:12. Walk in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham.
 3. 2 Cor. 5:7. Walk by faith.
 4. Eph. 2:10. Walk in good works.
 5. Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:12. Walk worthy of the Lord.
 6. 1 Thess. 4:12; Rom. 13:13. Walk honestly.
 7. Col. 4:5. Walk in wisdom.
 8. Eph. 5:2. Walk in love.
- G. The verb "walk" is coupled with various prepositions to indicate the multiple relationship we sustain to our God and His children.
1. Walk before God. Gen. 17:1. This means we are constantly subject to His inspection.
 2. Walk after God. Deut. 13:4. We are to recognize His leadership and follow the pattern He revealed through His Son. 1 Pet. 3:21.
 3. Walk in Him. Col. 2:6. We are to live in the sphere He has provided in the church.
 4. Walk with God. Gen. 5:24. Implied in walking with God: to walk by faith (Heb. 11:15-26; 2 Cor. 5:7); to be in agreement (Amos 3:3); communion and companionship; and keeping in step with God.

II. REDEEMING THE TIME

- A. The brevity of time.
1. Job 9:25; Job 9:26; Job 7:6; 14:1; Ps. 39:5; Ps. 90:10; 2 Cor. 4:17; Jas. 4:14; 1 Pet. 1:24.
 2. The most liberal estimate of the average life span is three score and ten. In view of this, how much time do you have left? Figure this out on the basis of days.
 3. When Raphael died at the early age of 37, they carried his half-finished painting, "The Transfiguration," in the funeral procession as a symbol of life's brevity.
 4. Because of the brevity of life, what our attitudes should be is seen in Ps. 90:12; 39:4.
- B. Wasting time
1. Thomas Edison said, "Time is the most important thing in the world." Yet, how we waste it!
 - a. "Marking time," "passing time of day," "killing time."
 - b. "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of."...Benjamin Franklin.
 - c. "Every moment you now lose is so much character and advantage lost, as, on the other hand, every moment you now employ usefully is so much time wisely laid out at a prodigious interest." ...Chesterfield.
 2. Tragedy of wasting time:
 - a. It is such a valuable thing.

(1) It is a precious gift of God, a section cut from the great circle of eternity and given to man.

(2) Valuable because of what it is.

(a) Effective detective -- uncovering error and bringing truth to light. Story of Joseph.

(b) Great builder -- passing of years, and great city built where cattle once roamed. Heb. 5:12.

(c) Best arbitrator -- time arbitrated the difference between Paul and Barnabas and restored Mark to Paul's confidence. Acts 15:37-39; 1 Cor. 9:6; Col. 4:10-11; 2 Tim. 4:11.

b. Could be used so profitable.

c. Lost time is irrecoverable.

3. Ways of wasting time.

a. Idleness. Matt. 20:6; Prov. 19:15; 23:21; 1 Tim. 5:13; Heb. 6:12; Rom. 12:11; 2 Thess. 3:10; 1 Thess. 4:11.

(1) Pity the man who has nothing to do when others are finding so much to do, so many opportunities for usefulness, so many pleas for help, so many mouths to feed, so many souls to save, and so much to learn.

b. Procrastination. Acts 24:24-27; Prov. 27:1.

(1) Great word of Bible is "today." Heb. 3:7,8,13; 2 Cor. 6:2. It would be well for all to engrave upon the tablets of their hearts, "Behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation."

(2) Urgency of the present hour! Time is right now. Moment just past is no longer time, has moved on to eternity, never to return. Moments that lie ahead, not time. Time is not yesterday or tomorrow, but today. "The past is a spent check; the future is a promissory note; the present is hard cash--spend it."

c. Sleeping or lounging. Prov. 20:13.

d. Loafing.

e. Unwholesome and worldly recreation, or excess of legitimate.

(1) Certain amount good and proper--even Jesus engaged in--but avoid making it "summum bonum" of life--living from day to day in remembrance of, or in actual participation, or in prospect, of some amusement. Beware of the Epicurean philosophy.

f. Meditating on fanciful injuries. Matt. 18:15.

g. Pondering and brooding over past mistakes. Phil. 3:13-14; Heb. 8:12.

h. Anxiety. Matt. 6:24-35; Phil. 4:6-7.

i. Long and unnecessary telephone conversations. Prov. 10:19.

j. Lack of organized time.

(1) Wives, students, farmers must. So must we. If we don't, we will not have time to read Bible, visit, etc. Budget time as we do money.

4. Baxter's advice: "Spend your time in nothing which you know must be repented of; in nothing on which you might not pray the blessing of God; in nothing which you could not review with a quiet conscience on your dying bed; in nothing which you might not safely and properly be found doing if death should surprise you in the act." (Baxter in Leaves of Gold)

C. Instead of wasting time, we should redeem it, we should use it wisely.

1. Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5.

a. Eph. 5:16 in margin of American Standard Version is "buying up the opportunity." Also same of Col. 4:5. A. S. R.: "making the most of time." Moffatt: "Make the very most of your time."

2. Why?

a. "Days are evil." (Acts 2:40).

(1) Like Noah's time, temptation everywhere. (Heb. 3:12ff; 1 John 2:15-17). So many temptations to waste it:

(a) Allurements to pleasures and amusements.

(b) Improper reading.

(c) Temptation of ambition, when so few gain the prize and when they do it soon vanishes or is not worth the effort.

(d) In dissipation in places of revelry.

(e) Wild and visionary plans.

(f) Etc.

b. If don't use wisely, won't get job done.

(1) Each has a job--if God plans flowers, birds, etc.--He plans our lives.

(2) Only I can do this work. You can win a soul no one else can, etc.

c. We pass this way but once. Heb. 9:27.

d. Wasted so much time already. 1 Pet. 4:3.

e. Don't know how much time remains. James 4:14.

f. Will give account of time and opportunities. Matt. 25:14-30.

g. Life short; duty great; claims of service many; wants of fellowman numerous.

h. Uncertainty of Lord's return. Mk. 13:32; 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10.

3. Ways to redeem time; ways to use it wisely.

a. In gaining useful knowledge--study! 2 Tim. 2:15.

b. Seize opportunities to do good to others. Gal. 6:10.

c. Employing it for purpose of honest livelihood for self and family. 1 Tim. 5:8.

d. Praying. 1 Thess. 5:17.

e. Self-examination. 2 Cor. 13:5.

f. Seeking the lost. Lk. 15:1 ff.

g. Spend some time with your family, and train children in Lord. Eph. 6:4; Prov. 22:6.

(1) Francis Waylord Parker, noted educator, was asked by a mother, "How early can I begin the education of my child?" He inquired, "When will he be born?" "Born?" she gasped, "Why, he is already five years old." Parker replied, "My, my, woman, don't stand there talking. Hurry home! Already you have lost the best five years."

h. Live each day as if it were the last.

4. "Don't have time."

a. Have time for other things--Matt. 6:33.
b. "Take time to be holy."

c. If doctor told you to stay in bed one hour a day or die in three months, suppose you could find the time? Physical life at stake. Told by good authority unless exercise your eyes 30 minutes by reading twice every day, go blind, could you find time? Vision in balance. If child came home from school with note saying unless you spend more time with him, going to fail. Find time? Then what about spiritual things being at stake and in balance? Therefore, let us cease saying, "I don't have time" or "When I have time," which usually means, "I'll never have time."

D. Will give account of our time.

1. "Whose business is it after all what I do with my time?" you may ask.

a. It is God's business! Your time is God's. You are the employee and He is the owner. Steward of time as well as money--we will give account. Sobering!

2. Will a man rob God? -- think!

a. Someone has said that in the average life of 70 years the time would be used somewhat as follows: Three years would be spent in education; eight years in amusements; 6 years at the dinner table; 5 years in transportation; 4 years in conversation; 14 years in work; 3 years in reading; 24 years in sleeping; and 3 years in convalescence. But how much time does man give to God? If he went to a 45 minute service every Sunday and prayed for five minutes every morning and evening, he would be giving FIVE MONTHS to God--Five months out of 70 years.

STUDENTS' WORK SHEET

SCRIPTURES TO READ: Ephesians 5

MEMORY VERSES: Eph. 5:15,16

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Grading: Each question is worth four points; therefore, for each question missed, subtract four points from the total 100 points which are possible.)

SCORE: _____

True & False

1. _____ The Christian's vocation is the occupation he pursues.
2. _____ If we waste time, we are wasting life.
3. _____ It is possible to make legitimate recreation wrong.
4. _____ We will give account of the way we have spent our time on the judgment day.
5. _____ It is not possible to rob God of time.

Completion (Fill in the blanks)

1. The fruit of the spirit is _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____.

2. Our Lord walked _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, and
_____.
3. It is such a tragedy to waste time since it is such a _____ thing,
when it could be used so _____, and since lost time is _____.
4. "Redeeming the time" is rendered _____
in the American Standard Version, and _____
in the American Standard Revised, and _____
according to Moffatt.
5. We can redeem the time by _____,
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, and
_____.

Multiple Choice (Underscore the correct answer)

1. A child of God is (perfect, striving always toward perfection).
2. Because of the brevity of life we should apply our hearts unto (having a good time, wisdom, the heaping up of riches).
3. (Felix, Festus, Agrippa), upon hearing Paul preach, wanted to wait for a more convenient time.
4. The Lord's coming is (imminent, uncertain, known by some).
5. Each week has (168, 150, 190) hours; if a person attends all of the services on the average church calendar he will spend approximately (1, 5, 15) hours per week in worship to God.

Matching, Identifying and Locating (Draw a line from the statement to the correct passage location).

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. "Train up a child in the way he should go..." | Amos 3:3 |
| 2. "Boast not thyself of tomorrow..." | Eph. 4:1 |
| 3. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed" | 1 Jn. 1:6-8 |
| 4. "...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light..." | Prov. 22:6 |
| 5. "....walk worthy of the vocation..." | Prov. 27:1 |

Answer In A Few Words

1. What is suggested by the statement, "Walk in newness of life?" _____

2. What prepositions are coupled with the word "walk" in the Bible which indicate our relationship to God, and what does each mean? _____

-
3. Make a list of ways in which time can be wasted. _____

 4. How does the sin of procrastination affect both the saint and the sinner? _____

 5. What is usually the case when people say, "I do not have time." ? _____

Questions For Class Discussion

1. Give a synopsis of Guy N. Woods' comment on 1 Jn. 1:6-8 in his commentary in the Gospel Advocate series.
2. Make a list of ways in which the Christian is to walk.
3. What are some of the Biblical metaphors used to describe the brevity of life?
4. Let the class figure how many days will be spent in the average life. Let each class member then, on this basis, determine how many days he has left. With this answer in mind, let each of the class members have a moment to contemplate the question, "What am I to do in the few days I have left?"
5. What is the Epicurean philosophy?

Let Us Mark Our Bibles (Important passages in today's lesson which each student will do well to note or mark in his Bible for ready reference)

1. Rom. 6:4 -- We are to walk in newness of life.
2. Rom. 8:6 -- To be carnally minded is death; to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
3. Gen. 5:24 -- Enoch walked with God.
4. 2 Cor. 6:2 -- Today is the day of salvation.
5. Eph. 5:16 -- We are to redeem the time.

