

# YOUTH MEETING

CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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## Lesson 1:

### THE MISSIONARY'S SPIRITUAL LIFE

#### I. SPIRITUAL LIFE DETERMINES THE SET OF THE SOUL.

- A. Spiritual life is a broad term covering whole range of man's faculties.
  - 1. Particularly the intellect, affections, conscience and the will.
  - 2. All have some sort of spiritual life, but we are to stress the phases of it necessary to a well balanced spiritual life conducive to excellence as a missionary.
- B. Ethics of Socrates and Plato.
  - 1. Socrates —all sin is ignorance.
  - 2. Plato — virtue only for a few.
- C. So today many varying concepts of what is right and what is wrong.
  - 1. Depends on background.
  - 2. Spiritual life.
- D. However, destiny is decided by spiritual life.
  - 1. Standards, concepts and values established.
  - 2. God looks on heart and judges works.

#### II. SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MISSIONARY'S SPIRITUAL LIFE.

- A. Missionary is a leader.
  - 1. Molding and shaping destiny of souls.
  - 2. Shallow teaching begets shallowness.
  - 3. Test of work is lives of pupils.
- B. Missionary must excel as leader over the led. He is first of all a teacher.
  - 1. Can't lead if you are blind.
  - 2. Must know more than those who are being taught.

#### III. FEATURES OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE.

- A. Prayer.
- B. Bible study.
  - 1. Hindrances to Bible study.
    - a. Laziness.
    - b. Preconceived opinions. Ezek. 14:4; Num. 22:19.
    - c. Fragmentary, haphazard methods.
    - d. Others to be named by class.
  - 2. Requisites of effective study.
    - a. Love of truth.
      - 1.) People seek after what they love. Error or truth. 2 Thess. 2:10, 11; Mt. 13:10-15; Mt. 5:6; John 7:17.
      - 2.) Love of truth eliminates prejudice. Rom. 3:4.
      - 3.) Otherwise won't learn. 2 Tim. 3:7.
      - 4.) Results of not loving truth. Acts 13:44-48; 1 Sam. 8:4.
      - 5.) But, what is truth? John 17:17.
    - b. Desire to obey truth. John 7:17; Acts 7:51.
    - c. Must handle truth aright.
      - 1.) Footnote RSV "Holding a straight course in the truth."
      - 2.) Rules of handling it aright.
        - a.) Recognize divisions of the Bible.
        - b.) Consider the context.
        - c.) Determine who is speaking.
        - d.) Ascertain to whom he is speaking.
        - e.) Know the subject.
        - f.) Take into account the circumstances.
        - g.) Compare other passages dealing with the same subject.
        - h.) Distinguish between figurative and literal. Mt. 5:39

Lesson 1: (Cont'd)

THE MISSIONARY'S SPIRITUAL LIFE

- C. Worship.
- D. Fellowship.
- E. General reading. 2 Tim. 4:13; 1 Tim. 4:13. Literature, history, psychology, theological works, logic, knowledge, religions of world, etc.
- F. Meditation.
- G. Cultural and aesthetic experience as sculpture, painting, music, literature and appreciation of nature.

IV. THE DUTY OF PRESSING ON.

- A. Paul an example. Phil. 3:12-14.
  - 1. He was not perfect.
    - a. An old man rich and ripe in many graces.
    - b. Not perfect in fullest sense. Had not attained unto the resurrection.
    - c. Much less can we be satisfied today.
  - 2. He pressed toward the mark.
    - a. Figure of an athlete.
    - b. Christ is the goal.
- B. Let us go on unto perfection.
  - 1. To maturity of Bible knowledge. "All men by nature desire to know." So said Aristotle.
    - a. Not simply a means to an end.
    - b. Knowledge alone is worthless. 1 Cor. 8:2.
  - 2. Maturity of Christian experience.
    - a. Truth apprehended by intellect must be assimilated by heart and soul.
    - b. Mental perceptions must become spiritual convictions.
  - 3. Maturity of Christian conduct.
    - a. Truth apprehended by intellect and written on heart must be expressed in the life.
    - b. Manifested by words and actions of ever-increasing conformity to will of God.

V. MARKS OF MATURITY.

- A. Decisive as opposed to fickleness of a child.
- B. Courageous. Psa. 27:14.
- C. Discerning. Heb. 5:14; Rom. 14:2-4.
- D. Strong.
  - 1. David's exhortation. 1 Kings 2:2.
    - a. "God, give us men! A time like this demands strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands." Josiah Holland.
    - b. Source of strength. Zech. 4:6; Phil 4:13.
    - c. Reward is great. 1 Peter 1:4.

## Lesson 2:

### THE MISSIONARY AS A PERSONAL WORKER

Introduction: In this study we shall deal more with qualifications than with methods. However, we shall briefly amalgamate some methods with the study of qualifications.

#### I. A POWERFUL FAITH.

- A. Where we need the faith.
  - 1. Faith that God will help us do a job.
  - 2. Faith that the church will ever succeed over all opposition.
- B. Scriptures teaching the lesson of faith.
  - 1. Numbers 13 and 14.
  - 2. Hebrews 11.
  - 3. If we don't have the faith that we can take the gospel to every creature in our community, and the world, we will sit until we die. If we have the faith, the field is before us. The faith that can command blessings from God is the faith that will win conquest for Him.

#### II. A PERSISTENT EFFORT.

- A. First of all there has to be an effort. We have to work to be saved. 1 Cor. 15:10, 58; James 2:19-26.
- B. It has to be a persistent effort. Repetition is the law of learning and persistency is the law of success.
- C. Gal. 6:7, 8; Phil. 3:10-16.

#### III. A PIERCING DESIRE.

- A. A desire to preach the gospel and save souls the majority of us have.
- B. But we need more than just a desire. I have called it a piercing desire. It must be a piercing desire in two ways:
  - 1. It must pierce and destroy the desire that we have to do other things in place of preaching the gospel.
  - 2. It must be a piercing desire in the sense that it pierces us to the core. In this sense, we might speak of it as an all-consuming desire.
- C. The piercing desire will have with it a great zeal and enthusiasm. John 2:17.

#### IV. A PREVAILING PRAYER.

- A. James 5:16-18; 1 Thess 5:17.
- B. We should pray that the Lord will send laborers into his vineyard. Mt. 9:37, 38.
- C. It would be well to pray before and after each call.
  - 1. Before: That the Lord will be with you and help you do your best.
  - 2. After: That He will give you wisdom to see your mistakes, wisdom to help you prepare for the next time, and strength so that you will never quit.

#### V. A PERFECT WORD.

- A. The gospel is God's power to salvation. Psalms 19:7; Romans 1:16; James 1:21. As much as possible, we should use Scriptures when we teach, answer questions, or answer excuses.
- B. Rev. 22:18, 19. Be sure that what you teach is God's word. If you are not sure about something, do not teach it as God's word until you are sure. If you express an opinion, be sure and label it as your opinion.

## Lesson 2: (Cont'd)

### THE MISSIONARY AS A PERSONAL WORKER

#### VI. A PRIVATE STUDY.

- A. It is a law of teaching that before you teach anybody anything, you have to know as much and preferably more than they do. If you are going to teach a puppy dog, you have to know at least as much as the dog does.
- B. A study of the Bible.
  - 1. Isa. 34:16.
  - 2. 2 Peter 3:18.
  - 3. 2 Tim. 2:15.
- C. A study of helps.
  - 1. The "help category" includes a number of things; but a few of them are: Word Dictionaries, Bible Dictionaries, Concordances, Atlases, Greek Lexicons, Commentaries, Histories, Debates, and written sermons.
  - 2. Everything that man has learned about is contained in books. Not everything in books is right; but a great many things are.
  - 3. The preacher is not the only one that should have these books. The church should have and maintain a good library. The individual Christian should also do it.

#### VII. A PERSONAL LOVE.

- A. 1 Peter 1:22.
- B. Duty performed with love is a blessing.
  - 1. Because Christ performed His duty with love, He was exalted. 2 Cor. 5:14; Heb. 5:8, 9.
  - 2. When we preach the gospel with love, we shall be exalted. 1 Cor. 13:1-3.
  - 3. Eph. 4:15.

#### VIII. A PERFECT COOPERATION.

- A. 1 Cor. 12:12-31. Here the Apostle Paul compared the church of the Lord Jesus to a human body with many members.
- B. Preaching the gospel is not a matter that one individual accomplishes alone.
- C. Have cooperation at all times. If you need someone to go with you—get him! If someone needs you—go with him!

#### XI. A PERMANENT JOY.

- A. Psa. 51:12, 13. When we have the joy of our salvation, we will teach transgressors the way of the Lord.
- B. When you baptize a person, or are instrumental in doing so, there is a great and permanent joy that comes to you.
- C. When you are teaching, the joy at the opportunity to teach should be a strong force compelling you to put everything you have into the teaching.
- D. An alien sinner can spot very, very easily a person who is teaching them just because he wanted to be considered by all a good church-member rather than because he loved that person's soul and because he had the joy of his salvation.
- E. God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7. This would be true in teaching the gospel as well as it would be of giving of our material means.

## Lesson 3:

### METHODS FOR MISSIONS

#### Introduction:

- A. In the parable of the sower Jesus represents the work of soul-saving under the figure of a field into which seed is sown by the farmer (Luke 8:4-15). We are here alerted to the task of setting out the best methods of planting the seed, God's word, into human hearts.
- B. We have discovered no model whose methods of missionary activity are more worthy of imitation than Paul, the pioneer missionary. This earnest exponent of Christ traveled approximately 10,000 miles on his preaching tours, in a day when travel was slow and hazardous. His journeys took him into many nations. It was largely through his own spirit of evangelism that no frontier was left untouched in the first century (Col. 1:23). Paul was a spiritual imperialist—determined to lay the world at the feet of his Master.
- C. What was the missionary strategy of Paul? What method did he follow to win the people of the world to his Christ quickly and permanently? One insurance company advertises its agents as "the man with a plan." Paul was such a man. His work was not haphazard.
- D. A Junior High School student can easily trace the steps of Paul during his travels with the aid of the book of Acts. We seek to do more than this. It is our purpose to delve deeper and unearth the principles which governed his evangelism.

#### I. PAUL SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH A CHAIN OF CHURCHES IN THE GREAT METROPOLITAN AREAS: IN SHORT, HE WAS A CITY PREACHER.

- A. Paul's aim appears to have been the capture of the Roman Empire for Christ. Win the cities and the Empire is won. He knew the value of cities. Hence, he preached in Jerusalem, the heart of the Jewish world; at Antioch, the heart of Syria; at Ephesus, the heart of Asia Minor; at Rome, the heart of the Roman Empire.
- B. He expected churches in great cities to evangelize the surrounding territory.
- C. In order to materialize congregations in the great cities of the world Paul worked primarily in virgin territory. Paul was a pioneer who delighted to invade unconquered frontiers and firmly set the banner of Prince Emmanuel.
  - 1. Every preacher should taste this experience at least once in life.
  - 2. There is no sweeter, more satisfying or inspirational task to which your hand could be turned than that of harvesting in golden grain yet untouched by the gospel scythe.
- D. In saying that Paul was a city preacher we do not mean to imply that he was not effective in smaller communities. The point is clear: begin where you are and get as far as you can.

#### II. EVEN IN GREAT CITIES PAUL WAS NOT DEFEATED BY SMALL BEGINNINGS.

- A. Paul despised not "the day of small beginnings or things" though his goal was lofty.
- B. If the missionary should be prepared for small beginnings, the sending church by all means should accept this possibility. To overcome the serious blunder of not anticipating the snail pace of a new work, and thereby becoming discouraged and pulling the preacher back home leaving the fruit on the vine, a sending church should take these precautions:
  - 1. First, let the church count the cost of seeing a work to fruition. Jesus strongly urged men to count the cost before attempting any program (Luke 14:28-32).

## Lesson 3: (Cont'd)

### METHODS FOR MISSIONS

2. Second, let elders assume the leadership in mission work.
3. Third, if elders would make personal visits to the mission field regularly the flame for the work would not flicker and die.

#### III. PAUL ENLISTED THE AID OF TALENTED CHRISTIANS.

- A. On his first tour John Mark was an "assistant" preacher (Acts 13:5). Timothy, "well reported of by the brethren," joined Paul's second crusade for Christ. Luke, the beloved physician, was associated with the preaching tours of the apostle. Likewise, with Barnabas and other talented Christians.
- B. There is wisdom in taking a party when opening a new field.
  1. To prevent discouragement. Paul became despondent (Acts 18:10).
  2. Such policy makes possible a division of labor.

#### IV. PAUL BEGAN WHERE HE THOUGHT THE OPPORTUNITY WAS THE RIPEST.

- A. He visited religious services, made contacts, and secured invitations to preach.
- B. When synagogue preaching failed, Paul, without wasting any time, turned from a hopeless situation to the Gentiles.
- C. If Paul's rule of missionary action is followed today it will find us doing several important things:
  1. First, we must concentrate much of our fire on young people from whom most converts are made.
    - a. Bible encampments.
    - b. Vacation Bible Schools
    - c. Regular Bible classes.
    - d. Class name others.
  2. Second, the fertile field provided through friendship and kinship should demand much time.
  3. Third, visitors should be visited.
  4. Fourth, the harvest from mass evangelism should be reaped.
    - a. Graduates of Bible correspondence courses.
    - b. Sermons read in daily newspapers or heard over radio or TV.
    - c. Prospects for personal teaching are everywhere.

#### V. PAUL MADE THE PULPIT AN EFFECTIVE TOOL OF EVANGELISM.

- A. Paul once referred to his evangelistic technique by saying that he taught "publicly and from house to house" (Acts 20:20). Notice Acts 17.
- B. Public preaching—including Sunday sermons, gospel meetings, radio and television—is not outdated. A planter of churches will seek to do effective pulpit work today. He knows that if you will fill the pulpit you will fill the pew.

#### VI. PAUL WAS A POWERFUL, PERSISTENT, PERSONAL WORKER.

- A. He who would imitate the most successful of all missionaries must balance public and private teaching (Acts 20:20). Paul knew that to reach the lost man, the least man, and the last man personal work was necessary.
- B. Personal evangelism must characterize the missionary today.
- C. There is a tendency on our part to give up too easily on a prospect.

#### VII. SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- A. First, methods will vary with circumstances.

Lesson 3: (Cont'd)

METHODS FOR MISSIONS

- B. Second, selectivity must characterize your work. Stan Musial cannot use two bats at one time. A preacher cannot possibly tell all he knows in one sermon. Hence, a selection must be made.
- C. Third, whatever method you choose prosecute it with vigor. Paul was a hard hitter at anything he did.
- D. Fourth, lean heavily on the arm of God.
  - 1. No method without the Lord works.
  - 2. Pray much; be prayed for much!

Conclusion:

- A. Paul's success was not wholly due to his inspiration or miracles.
- B. Paul, with a burning passion for souls, followed a plan.
- C. His strategy should be our strategy.

## Lesson 4:

### THE MISSIONARY'S ATTITUDES

#### Introduction:

- A. People are greatly influenced by the attitudes of Christians.
  - 1. Attitude toward God is often the product of carry-overs from childhood conceptions of God.
    - a. Some think of God as a resident policeman and, to them, God is about the same as the conscience.
    - b. Some think of God as "The Grand Old Man." To a child God may be a very old person. Old, and therefore behind the times.
    - c. Perfectionist. God is perfect; so they think he could have nothing to do with us unless we become perfect.
    - d. Sectarian dimensions.
  - 2. Likewise students are taught by the attitude of the teacher.
- B. The ancients had marked ways of declaring attitudes, but we just as surely declare ours.
  - 1. They by kissing the hand, standing with bowed heads in the synagogue, kneeling, bowing, prostration, sackcloth and ashes, etc.
  - 2. Attitudes betray the heart.

#### I. THE MAIN THING IS THE HEART.

- A. It is the inner man which God wants.
  - 1. Great price. 1 Peter 3:4.
  - 2. Strengthened by Spirit. Eph. 3:16.
- B. The inner man is the heart.
  - 1. The spirit. Psa. 51:17.
  - 2. The soul. 1 Peter 1:22.
  - 3. The mind. Jer. 31:31.
- C. Further analysis of the heart.
  - 1. Intellect.
    - a. Knows. Prov. 14:10.
    - b. Thinks. Mt. 9:4.
    - c. Reasons. Mk. 2:8.
    - d. Imagines. Gen. 6:5.
    - e. Understands. Mt. 13:15.
    - f. Studies. Prov. 15:28.
    - g. Meditates. Psa. 19:14.
    - h. Believes. Rom. 10:9, 10.
  - 2. Emotions.
    - a. Loves. Mt. 22:37.
    - b. Suffers. 2 Cor. 2:4.
    - c. Desires. Rom. 10:1.
    - d. Sorrows. John 16:6.
  - 3. Will.
    - a. Intends. Heb. 4:12.
    - b. Purposes. 2 Cor. 9:7.
    - c. Determines. 1 Cor. 7:37.
    - d. Obeys. Rom. 6:17, 18.
  - 4. Conscience. Acts 2:37; 1 John 3:20, 21.
- D. Heart must be captured by Christ.
  - 1. Believes. Rom. 10:10.
  - 2. Repents. Rom. 2:4, 5.
  - 3. Obeys. Rom. 6:17, 18; Heb. 10:22.
  - 4. Get the heart and you have the life. "He hath a heart as sound as a bell, and his tongue is the clapper; for what the heart thinks his tongue speaks." Much Ado About Nothing, act 3, scene 2 (Shakespeare).

Lesson 4: (Cont'd)

THE MISSIONARY'S ATTITUDES

II. CONDITION OF HEART DETERMINES THE LIFE.

- A. Issues of life settled there. Prov. 4:23.
- B. The attitudes are but reflections of the heart.

III. PROPER ATTITUDES OF MISSIONARIES.

- A. Humility.
  - 1. Not think too highly of self. Generally those who have most gifts are most humble. So those boughs and branches of trees which are most richly laden with fruit bend downwards and hang lowest.
  - 2. By pride comes contention. Prov. 13:10.
    - a. Disputings grow out of pride and ignorance. 1 Tim. 6:4.
    - b. Charity towards others and pride don't go together.
- B. Love.
  - 1. Love seen in conduct.
  - 2. Love for people.
  - 3. Love of souls.
  - 4. Love of truth.
  - 5. Love of peace. 1 Cor. 13:14.
  - 6. Love of teaching.
- C. Sympathy.
  - 1. With other's problems.
  - 2. With other's weakness.
- D. Tolerance.
  - 1. Strong propensity among us to be contentious.
    - a. Seize small differences.
    - b. So anxious to be orthodox we forget to be holy.
    - c. Unable to rejoice over good works of others. Phil. 1:15-18.
    - d. More zealous in opinions than in gospel.
    - e. Would make over church in own image.
- E. Docile.
  - 1. Always studying.
  - 2. Willing to learn.
- F. Self control.
  - 1. Tongue.
  - 2. Emotions.
- G. Open minded.
  - 1. Marks of educated man by Edward Wiggam: First: He keeps his mind open on every question until the evidence is all in.
  - 2. Cross examines his day dreams.
  - 3. Knows value of good habits and how to form them.
  - 4. Lives forward-looking, outward-looking life.
  - 5. Cultivates a love for the beautiful.

## Lesson 5:

### THE MISSIONARY'S MESSAGE

#### Introduction:

- A. Certainly methods are important in teaching.
  - 1. We need proficiency in the art of teaching.
  - 2. Many courses have been given emphasizing this.
- B. You can't teach what you don't know.
  - 1. Many are teaching the wrong thing very effectively!
  - 2. What is my message?
- I. THE PREEMINENT MESSAGE IS CHRIST.
  - A. One thing we must teach is Christ.
    - 1. Must make Christ known.
    - 2. Apostolic examples.
      - a. Peter. Acts 2:14-26.
      - b. Paul. Acts 13:16-41; 1 Cor. 2:2.
  - B. Subservient things must be kept secondary.
    - 1. All should be taught in its relative importance.
      - a. Judaizers denied truths which Paul defended.
      - b. Paul's attitude. Phil. 1:15-18.
- II. THE VEHICLE BY WHICH CHRIST IS TAUGHT IS THE WORD.
  - A. Commanded to teach this.
    - 1. Not our opinions.
    - 2. What does the Bible say?
      - a. Abuses of "Show me chapter and verse."
      - b. Distinguishing between faith and indifference.
    - 3. Teach the word in its context.
    - 4. Don't handle it deceitfully. 2 Cor. 4:2.
- III. RELATING THE BIBLE TO LIFE.
  - A. Christians must order their lives according to the gospel. Phil. 1:27.
    - 1. As citizens of kingdom of heaven.
      - a. Must be good citizens of the state.
      - b. Here refers to deportment as Christians.
      - c. Citizenship in Christ's kingdom involves the whole life.
      - d. Practice must accord with profession.
  - B. Much easier to teach facts than to teach how to use them.
    - 1. Superficial teaching has stressed forms to neglect of principles.
      - a. Argue about Lord's Supper every Sunday yet miss it for no reason.
      - b. Recite Scriptures but unable to make ethical judgments.
    - 2. Like scientific knowledge without morals and ethics; it is dangerous.
    - 3. Lead those you are teaching on toward perfection! Heb. 6:1.
    - 4. Can't grow on husks.
  - C. You have the only message able to save the world; teach it well!