

GLAD TIDINGS BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

1888 Message Study Committee



Lesson 1

Jesus: Come and Meet Him!

Bewildered! That's how we are. We have not only missed our way, we have lost the address.

We are like the sad and lonely dog sitting bewildered in his cage on a London porter's baggage cart. A stranger passing by asked, "What's wrong with that dog?"

"Let me tell you," the porter confided, "That dog has chewed off his destination label and now doesn't know where he came from or where he is going."

Do you know where you are going? Is your life empty and meaningless? Do you find yourself staring into the TV screen with your mind locked in neutral gear, bored with your self and with all that the glitzy world can do to amuse you? Does your future seem like a gray and cloudy sky? You are not alone. Most of the world's five billion-plus

people feel as though they are riding a bus in a dreary fog destination unknown; most, but not all. All can read ordinary maps and find where they are, but some have discovered an inspired Map telling them what lies ahead for this world.

The Map they have found is a book called the Bible. They have discovered in it a key that unlocks its pages and displays its treasures of hope and joy. There is a light in their eyes because a heavenly light has shone in their hearts. They found it in the Bible.

This Book is different from any other in the world because it says, "Thus saith the Lord," not "thus man thinks or supposes." Sometimes the Bible message soothes like a caress, sometimes it stings like a sharp sword. It is hard as steel when it comes to telling the difference between right and wrong, soft as velvet when it assures you that wrong can be forgiven and you will be a new person. This Book will reveal Christ to you as he truly is. If you will do the looking, the Holy Spirit will do the showing.

How to Proceed

Read each question, using the references given to look up the texts in your Bible. Find the answer in the text; then write it in the blanks provided. If you have a question that you feel is not covered, write it in the outside margin as a reminder to discuss it later. The printed notes below the spaces indicated for your answers will help clarify parts that you may not understand. Each lesson will become easier, each step clearer. You are using the King James Version, but please use whatever version you have. You will see Happiness Digest quoted sometimes. This helpful book is available from the publishers of these lessons, or from the person who supplied them to you.

Pause a moment before each study and pray: "Father in heaven, thank You for Your Book. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to make it dear to me, I want to know You better and I choose to do Your will, In Jesus' precious name, Amen." That prayer will be answered.

The Book That Reveals a Person

1. What is the only true way to happiness? John 14:6.

ANSWER: Jesus says, "I am the _____, the _____, and the _____."

2. Does Jesus hide Himself from anyone? John 1:4, 9.

ANSWER: "In Him was _____; and the life was the _____ of men. That was the true Light, which lighteth _____ that cometh into the world."

3. No matter who you are or what your past mistakes may have been, if you come to Him what can you know He will not do? John 6:37.

ANSWER: "Him that cometh to Me I will

_____ _____
_____."

Nobody has fallen so low, but he/she can find deliverance in Christ, "If you see your sinfulness, do not wait to make yourself better, How many there are who think they are not good enough to come to Christ. Do you expect to become better through your own efforts? 'Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil' (Jeremiah 13:23). There is help for us only in God. We must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers. We can do nothing of ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are." Happiness Digest, p, 13. God has promised, "I will never turn away anyone who comes to Me." John 6:37, last part, Good News Bible).

4. What does Jesus promise to give to everyone who comes? Matthew 11:28, 29.

ANSWER: He gives _____, _____,
He says, " _____ of Me."

This rest is the actual peace of heart everyone longs for, but never finds in the world. The fact that you are willing to study this lesson is evidence that you indeed have chosen to come to Him, Now, He says, "Learn of Me." Be a student in His "school." He is a good Teacher, so good that every student who will learn of Him will get an "A" in the course--eternal life.

What Jesus Says About These Troubled Times

5. What does Jesus say our present days are like? Matthew 24:37.

ANSWER: "... As the days of _____
were, so shall also the _____
_____ _____
_____."

6. Turning to the Genesis story of the people in the "days of Noah," what population problem did they have that is similar to ours today? Genesis 6:1.

ANSWER: "... When men began to

_____ on the face of the earth."

This century began with 1.6 billion people and will probably end with nearly 7 billion, unless Christ returns sooner.

Feeding them will be more difficult than landing men on the moon, A mere 200 years from now there will be 150 billion scrambling for standing room, Alfred M. Rehwinkel, in his book, *The Flood*, estimates that the population in Noah's day could have been equal to ours today.

7. What moral problem corrupted the world in Noah's day? Genesis 6:2.

ANSWER: "... Took them _____ of which _____."

It was OK for them to marry. Marriage was God's plan, one of the first institutions which He established. He gave special directions about it, clothing it with sanctity and beauty. But these directions were forgotten, and marriage was

perverted and made to minister to selfish, lustful passion.

The Lord gave to Adam one wife. But after the Fall, people followed their own sinful desires; and as the result, crime and wretchedness rapidly increased. Neither marriage nor the rights of property were respected. Whoever coveted the wives or the possessions of his neighbor took them by force, and men exulted in their deeds of violence. Our modern world is fast becoming like that ancient world.

8. What kind of thinking filled their minds in Noah's day? Genesis 6:5.

ANSWER: "... Every imagination of the thoughts ... was only _____."

God gave these people before the flood many rich gifts; but they used them for selfish purposes. They turned them into a curse by worshipping the gifts instead of the Giver. They used gold and silver, precious stones, choice wood, in building

palaces for themselves, and tried to outdo one another in beautifying their dwelling with the most skillful workmanship. They revelled in scenes of pleasure and wickedness. Not desiring to retain God in their knowledge, they soon denied His existence. They adored nature in place of the God of nature. They glorified human genius, worshipped the works of their own hands, and taught their children to bow down to graven images. Jesus says our days are like those before the Flood.

9. Do you think the people in Noah's day had a pollution problem? Genesis 6:11.

ANSWER: "The earth also was _____ before God and the earth was filled with _____."

Every year, North Americans throw away millions of tons of precious paper and plastic at a cost of billions of dollars for garbage collection. Frightened scientists warn of the possible death of this planet. Some ask, "Will this be our last

decade?" And this has been the most bloody century in world history, Over 90 million people have died in wars. Over 1000 people, too bewildered to live, commit suicide every day. Many more attempt it. In recent years the rates of criminal homicide, forcible rape, aggravated assault and robbery have increased frighteningly.

10. What are God's feelings today about man polluting His once beautiful earth? Revelation 11:18

ANSWER: While nations are "_____", God sees that at last it will be necessary to "destroy them which _____".

11. Let us take another look at what Jesus said about the people in Noah's day. What was missing in their lives? Matthew 24:37-39.

ANSWER: "Before the flood they were _____ and _____, _____ and giving in _____, ... And until the flood came,

and took them all away. ..."

What they lacked was knowledge of the truth. The truth for today is that Jesus is coming back soon, and He is preparing a people for that event.

12. How did God prove His love for Noah's generation in those tragic days before the flood? Genesis 6:3.

ANSWER: His Spirit strove with man for _____ years.

Methuselah, Noah, and many others worked to keep alive the knowledge of the true God and to hold back the moral evil. A hundred and twenty years before the Flood, the Lord told Noah His purpose, and directed him to build an ark. He was to preach that God would bring a flood of water on the earth to destroy the wicked. Those who would believe, and prepare by repentance and reformation, would be saved.

13. How does the Lord prove His love to you

and me today? John 12:32.

ANSWER: Christ, by His Spirit, is drawing
_____ to Him.

"Jesus has said, 'I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me' (John 12:32). Christ must be revealed to the sinner as the Saviour dying for the sin of the world; and as we behold the Lamb of God upon the cross of Calvary, the mystery of redemption begins to unfold to our minds and the goodness of God leads us to repentance. In dying for sinners, Christ manifested a love that is incomprehensible; and as the sinner beholds this love, it softens the heart, impresses the mind, and inspires contrition in the soul. ...

"The sinner may resist this love, may refuse to be drawn to Christ; but if he does not resist he will be drawn to Jesus; a knowledge of the plan of salvation will lead him to the foot of the cross in repentance for his sins, which have caused the sufferings of God's dear Son.

"You who in heart long for something better than this world can give, recognize this longing as the voice of God to your soul. Ask Him to give you repentance, to reveal Christ to you in His infinite love, in His perfect purity." Happiness Digest, p. 11.

14. Did you find this lesson helpful and informative? _____

Lesson 2

Our Troubles: Does God Really Care?

God is all-powerful. That is why He is called God. But the world has many problems, heartaches, sorrows and tragedies. Why doesn't God do something about them?

For example, Christ is called the Great Physician. Why does He let so many people suffer and die of cancer? Why doesn't He stop it? He is also called the "Prince of Peace." Why does He let thousands of innocent people, even little children, suffer the tortures and horrors of war? Christ also says, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Why does He let millions suffer with never-ending poverty? These may not be pleasant questions to ask, but they need answers. Most people want answers now. The Bible does not evade these questions. Let us look and see! God made man

perfectly holy and happy. It is transgression of God's law—the law of love—that has brought woe and death. Yet even amid the suffering that results from sin, God's love is revealed.

When Bad Things Happen to Good People: Does God Care?

1. Does the Lord claim to be able to do everything? Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:17.

ANSWER: He says, "Is _____
_____ for the Lord?" "... There
is _____ for
Thee...."

2. Knowing this, why do we see injustice and cruelty and suffering on every hand? Psalm 10:1.

ANSWER: "Why _____
_____, O Lord? why
_____ in times
_____?"

3. Can we be sure that God really cares about each person? 1 Timothy 2:3, 4, 6; John 3:16.

ANSWER: "God our Saviour; _____ will have _____ _____ to be saved," and "... who gave Himself a ransom _____ _____."

4. Where can we see an example of the way God cares about all His creation? Matthew 6:26. (Read Matthew 10:29-31.)

ANSWER: "Behold the _____ _____: ... your heavenly Father _____."

Do the little birds work for a living? No! Yet our heavenly Father feeds them. Our job is to believe that God is our heavenly Father, and He will care for us.

What is the Real Cause of the World's Problems?

5. Who does Jesus say is the cause of all our human problems? Matthew 13:24-28.

ANSWER: "He said unto them, An _____ hath done this."

6. Who is this "enemy"? Matthew 13:38, 39.

ANSWER: "The enemy that sowed them is _____."

7. Where did the devil come from? Revelation 12:7-9; Luke 10:18.

ANSWER: _____.

8. What kind of being was he originally? Ezekiel 28:14, 15.

ANSWER: "Thou wast _____ in thy ways from the day that thou _____"

_____, till _____ was found in thee."

Sin began in heaven in the mind of Lucifer (who became Satan). No one can explain how sin could begin with a perfect being. It is "the mystery of iniquity." Although we can't tell how sin began, we can know how its power ends—by the sacrifice of Christ.

9. What led to Lucifer's sin and rebellion? Ezekiel 28:16,17.

ANSWER: "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy _____."

10. What was Lucifer's goal for himself? Isaiah 14:12-14. (Note all the 'I's.)

ANSWER: "I will be like the _____
_____."

Lucifer's sin was self-exaltation. Hence the love of self is the underlying principle of sin, in complete opposition to the principle of God's

government which is founded upon love (1 John 4:7, 8). Sin is rebellion against God. At the heart of every sin is selfishness. In heaven, Lucifer (who became Satan) coveted the place of Christ and therefore desired to murder Him so that he might get Him out of the way. (John 8:44)

11. When Satan's rebellion reached a crisis, what happened? Revelation 12:7-9.

ANSWER: "... Satan, which deceiveth _____: he was cast out _____, and _____ were _____ with him."

12. What is our defense against Satan's deceiving power? John 8:32, 36.

ANSWER: "And ye shall _____, and the _____ make you _____."

Knowing what the Bible says opens to our view

Satan's workings. They are unknown to most of mankind. It also reveals how God's love is at work, and its final triumph. There was no other way to put an end to rebellion than to let Satan show his evil character fully by crucifying Christ. Only in this way could God win the heart-loyalty of the entire universe. God will win the war, but it will be by love and not by force.

What is God Doing Now to Help?

13. We know that evil has come upon "all men." But how is God constantly trying to undo the evil Satan has done? Romans 5:20, 21, 18.

ANSWER: "Where sin abounded, _____

_____: That as sin hath reigned _____
_____, even so might _____
_____...." "... by the _____
_____ the free gift came upon
_____ unto justification of life."

The world may not know it, but they owe every

blessing and good thing they enjoy to Him. He has given that "free gift" of "justification of life" to every human being, lifting from the heart that terrible condemnation that would crush out our life, if Christ had not died for us.

14. Is God actually on the job to send this "good news" of the gospel to everyone, leaving no one out? Romans 10:12, 13, 17, 18.

ANSWER: The Lord "is rich _____
_____ that call upon him." The gospel news
"... went into _____
_____, and _____ unto
the _____
_____."

"The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation [sacrifice], but He provided the propitiation because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world. 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19). God suffered with His Son. In

the agony of Gethsemane, the death of Calvary, the heart of Infinite Love paid the price of our redemption." Happiness Digest, pp. 3, 4.

Wherever Satan is at work, there Christ is at work by His Spirit to cancel Satan's power. One may hate the Lord and desire to crucify Him afresh, but he owes his life, even all he has, to what Jesus did for him that day when He died on the cross.

5. As salt must penetrate and infuse in order to preserve, what are we to be to the world? Matthew 5:13, 16.

ANSWER: You are the _____
_____.

The salt represents the love of Jesus in the heart, the righteousness of Christ pervading the life. "Love to Jesus will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. It will lead to love, tenderness, and sympathy toward all the creatures of our heavenly

Father's care." Happiness Digest, p. 37.

16. Do you want to cooperate with God in His work to help others? _____

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7) "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Lesson 3

Great Assurance: The Nearness of the Saviour

Look at Jesus—Weak and Tempted As We Are, Yet He was Sinless

We all agree that Christ came to save the world. Why is it, then, that crime and evil in general are so rampant in the world? For example, Muslims and Buddhists ask why it is that "Christian" nations are so immoral, with so much selfishness.

There is no falsehood in Christ's gospel. But the problem is that "an enemy" (Satan) has thrown a smoke screen around Him and has hidden Him from view. And for many centuries Satan has tried to do this inside the church!

Part of this smoke screen is the idea that sin is stronger than God, that temptation to sin is so

strong that it's hopeless to say "No" to it. So, many give in. They do not realize what a powerful Saviour Jesus is, because they think He was so different from us that He doesn't understand how strong our temptations are. He belongs in dark cathedrals in stained glass windows, irrelevant to our real needs. But that's not true. Are sin and evil too difficult for Him to meet and conquer? The answer again is a resounding "No!"

This lesson contains great Good News: Christ is God in the highest sense, but He became man in the deepest sense. He is your Saviour. He is closer to you than you may have thought.

1. What prophecy in Matthew 1:21-23 was fulfilled when Jesus came? Isaiah 7:14.

ANSWER "A virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a _____, and they shall call His name _____."

Is Jesus Truly God?

2. What does the special name "Immanuel" mean? Matthew 1:23.

ANSWER: "Which being interpreted is, _____."

3. What did God the Father say about Jesus at His baptism? Matthew 3:16, 17.

ANSWER: "This is _____, in whom I am well pleased."

4. What did His followers say about Him, those who knew Him best? Matthew 16:13-16; John 20:27, 28.

ANSWER: "Thou art the _____, the _____." "And Thomas answered and said unto him, _____ and _____."

5. How did Jesus reveal divine love when His sufferings became almost unbearable? How does this prove His divinity? Luke 23:34; 1 Peter 2:20-23.

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his clothing, and cast lots.

ANSWER: While they were nailing Him to the cross, He said "Father, _____ ."
"When He was reviled, _____
_____; when He suffered, He _____
_____; but committed Himself _____
_____."
_____.

This unselfish love was the greatest miracle which proved that He was the Son of God!

6. Did He also become truly a man, fully human, as well as remaining fully God? Hebrews 2:14-18.

ANSWER: "As the children are partakers of _____, He also Himself _____."

Since Jesus came to dwell with us, we know that God is acquainted with our trials, and sympathizes with our griefs. Every one of us may understand that our Creator is the friend of sinners. In the Saviour's life on earth, we see "God with us." There is no pain or abuse we have known that He has not also known.

7. How close to us did Jesus come? Romans 8:3, 4.

ANSWER: God sent "His own Son _____". He did this in order "that the righteousness of the law might be _____".

He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh. But

we must not go too far. He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh, not in the likeness of sinful mind. Do not drag His mind into it. His flesh was our flesh; but the mind was "the mind of Christ Jesus," which is unselfish heavenly love. In Jesus Christ the mind of God is brought to us humans (a miracle), and sin is conquered. Satan reaches the mind through the flesh, God reaches the flesh through the mind.

8. How does Jesus feel toward our weaknesses? He says, "I know your weakness, I have carried your sorrows and borne your griefs, there is no need to let sin overcome you. Look to Me and I will save you from sin and set you free." Read Hebrews 2:18; 4:14-16.

ANSWER: "He is able to _____
_____ tempted."
["Succour" means to help, to lift up.] He is
"touched with the _____
_____"; but was in all points

_____."

Jesus was fully man, while still being divine. This text means that He was tempted in appetite, sex—"in all points ... like as we are"—yet without sin. He knows how we feel in our temptations. Although He was fully God, He laid aside His divine advantages and fought the battle as we must. How did He overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the Word of God, through faith. "He took man's nature, that He might reach man's wants." Happiness Digest, p. 3.

Temptation is resisted when one is powerfully influenced to do something wrong, and, knowing that he can do it, resists by faith, with a firm hold on divine power. This was what Christ passed through. He could not have been tempted in all points as we are tempted if there had been no possibility of His failing. In his closing hours, while hanging on the cross, Christ experienced to the fullest extent what we experience when striving against sin. He realized how bad a human being may become by yielding to sin. He realized the terrible result of the transgression of God's law; for

the iniquity of the whole world was laid on Him.

9. What does sin do to us? James 1:14, 15 and Romans 6:23.

ANSWER: "Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth _____." "The wages of sin is _____."

You can see that if God is love, and if sin brings death, then His big concern is to get us to let sin go. He can't wink at it, because it will kill us! "Sin pays its wages—death" (Good News Bible).

10. Take a good look at the cross. Ponder what really happened there. Matthew 27:39-46. Do you think Jesus really felt as though the Father had truly forsaken Him?

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

If we say "No," we make Jesus to be an actor saying something He did not really feel. The only true answer is "Yes." He did feel forsaken, but He

endured that agony in order to save us from having to feel forsaken. By faith He built a bridge for us over that dark chasm.

11. When Jesus laid aside His divine power to become a man, did He have a will of His own to struggle with, as we do? John 5:30; Luke 22:42.

ANSWER: "I seek _____
_____, but _____
_____ who hath sent Me."

This means that when Jesus did His "mighty works" and lived His perfect life, He lived His life entirely by faith, as we may live our lives. He is truly our example in righteousness (right-doing) by faith. But best of all, He is our Saviour! He does more than give us an example—He lived that perfect life for us, and He lives it in us when we believe truly in Him. "By faith you became Christ's, and by faith you are to grow up in Him—by giving and taking. You are to give all—your heart, your will, your service—give yourself to

Him to obey all His requirements; and you must—take all—Christ, the fullness of all blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting helper—to give you power to obey." Happiness Digest, p. 33.

12. How fully did Jesus have to surrender "self" in order to save us? Matthew 26:39; Romans 15:3.

ANSWER: He prayed, "Not _____ will, but _____ will." "Christ _____ Himself."

Before he fell, Adam in his unfallen state had no such struggle to endure! There was no need for him to "deny self or bear a cross on which self must be crucified. But Jesus took our nature, and had to say "No!" to His own will in order to follow His Father's will. Do you think it is difficult to say "No!" to your natural, selfish will? Look to Jesus Christ! His grace is sufficient to give you a glorious victory.

13. Does this truth encourage you to believe

that Jesus is very near to you? _____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7. "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

Lesson 4

Two Loves as Different as Night and Day

We have one word for "love" in English. It covers everything from what God is in heaven all the way down to the dismal depths of Hollywood immorality which they call "love." Such a word is so loose and fuzzy that it means almost nothing anymore. Yet no word is more important to understand.

When the apostles wrote the New Testament, their language was richer than ours. Eros was the common everyday word for love, such as we use love in our daily life. It meant love of husband for wife and vice-versa, love of parents for children and vice-versa, love of friends for each other, love of the noble and beautiful. Spiritual eros was Plato's great idea of an uplifting, spiritual love, the opposite of mere sensuality.

When the apostle John took his pen to write those glorious words, "God is love," he could not say "God is eros." He said, "God is agape." When the philosophers of the apostles' day heard this, they were annoyed. "Why not use our word, and say that 'God is eros?'" they demanded. Thus began a contest that has gone on for nearly two thousand years between these two opposite ideas of love. Actually they are two ideas about God— as far apart as day and night. Every man, woman and child on earth will someday accept one or the other as his ideal of life.

How Agape-love Shocks and Amazes Us

(In this portion of the lesson, we have used the word agape instead of love or charity as the King James Version gives it, because agape is the original word the apostles used.)

1. How useless are words to say if one does not have agape in his/her heart? 1 Corinthians 13:1.

ANSWER: "Though I speak with the tongues

of men and of angels, and have not agape, I am become as _____, or a _____."

2. How useless are your knowledge and your faith if you do not have agape? 1 Corinthians 13:2.

ANSWER: "I am _____."

3. If you give away all that you have to the poor and even die a martyr's death without having agape, what good does it do you in the end? 1 Corinthians 13:3.

ANSWER: "It profited me _____."

4. Out of all professing Christians in the world, who only really knows God? 1 John 4:7, 8.

ANSWER: "'Agape is of _____; and every one that _____ (with agape) is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not (with agape) _____; for _____ agape."

5. If one has agape how unafraid and courageous will he be in the day of judgment? 1 John 4:17.

ANSWER: "Herein is our agape made perfect, that we may have _____

_____."

6. Think of it! Walking boldly into the presence of God, past all the holy angels, with perfect confidence! This is amazing. What does agape do to our natural inborn fear of the judgment? 1 John 4:18.

ANSWER: "There is no _____ in agape; but perfect agape _____
_____."

7. Is it possible for a person to have agape and continue in transgressing God's holy law? Romans 13:10.

ANSWER: "Agape is the _____ of the law."

The apostle James says (James 2:10): "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." And John adds that the Lord's church in the last days will be distinguished by obedience to all God's commandments (Revelation 12:17; 14:12). This is shocking! Many people think they are true Christians, because they suppose they know how to love. But they will end up hearing the Lord say, Sorry, "I never knew you" (Matthew 7:22, 23). What they had was eros and not agape; and they never knew the difference.

Jesus Warns Us: Don't Mistake Eros for Agape

8. What does natural-born human love, as possessed by all (including the heathen), enable us to do quite easily? Matthew 5:46, 47.

ANSWER: "If ye love them _____
_____, _____, _____ reward

have ye? Do not even the _____
_____? ... what do ye more
_____?"

9. But what does agape love enable us to do?
Matthew 5:44.

ANSWER: _____
_____.

10. According to this, what does it mean to
become "perfect"? Matthew 5:45-48.

ANSWER: That you may be the _____
_____ who is in
heaven.

Love to man is the outward revealing of the
love of God in the heart. It was to implant this love
that the King of glory became one with us. And
when His parting words are fulfilled, "Love one
another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12), we will
love the world as He has loved it, then for us His
mission is done. We are fitted for heaven; for we

have heaven in our hearts.

11. Eros is a love dependent on the beauty or goodness of its object. This is the "ye-love-them-which-love-you" love. In complete contrast, what kind of people is agape directed to? Romans 5:7, 8,10.

ANSWER: "God commendeth His agape toward us, in that, while we were yet _____, Christ _____."
"When we were _____, we were _____ to God by the death of his Son."

12. Eros is a love that rests on a sense of need. A husband loves his wife because he needs her (and vice versa). Children love their parents because they need them (and vice versa). Two friends love each other because they need each other. Although this is not wrong, agape is in complete contrast. It does not rest on a sense of need. What was Jesus' motive in giving Himself for us? 2 Corinthians 8:8, 9.

ANSWER: "Though He was _____, yet for _____ He became _____."

13. Where do we see agape revealed most clearly? 1 John 4:9,10.

ANSWER: "Herein is agape, ... that He loved us, and _____ the propitiation for our sins."

"Propitiation" means a sacrifice made to heal us of our enmity against God. The Father loves us, but not because of the great sacrifice. He provided it, because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world.

14. Does your heart say, "Thank You, lord, for such love"? _____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1

Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 5

Learning About Agape (Real Love)

In our last study, we saw how much we need love:

1. Not one of us on our own has what the New Testament says is the real thing.
2. What we have in common with everybody (even the heathen) is the natural endowment of eros—the love that loves others because they are nice to us, or because they are beautiful, or valuable to us.
3. When the Bible says that "God is love," it says "God is agape." This kind of love loves the unlovable, even enemies. That's something beyond us unless we get help!
4. The Bible says that unless we have agape, even

if we can speak with "the tongues of angels," we are nothing but beating a gong. If we "understand all mysteries," and even have all faith so that we could remove mountains, and have not agape, we are nothing. We can even give everything to feed the poor, and give our bodies to be burned, yet it "pronteth ... nothing" without this wonderful gift of agape.

5. The common denominator of all humans is fear, but it is cast out by agape. This immediately lights up something within us that tells us: not one of us as yet has too much agape!
6. Our common love, eros, is dependent on the beauty or goodness of its object. Agape is a love which is free, and independent, and therefore it can love bad people, even enemies.
7. Eros is a love that rests on a sense of need. Agape, on the other hand, is so rich that it has no need, and loves with no thought or desire for reward of any kind. What a treasure! It makes

life worth living!

Can We Be Happy Without Agape-Love?

1. Even though agape is not natural to us, is it possible for us to receive it? John 13:34.

ANSWER: "A new commandment I give _____, _____; as I _____."

2. When will the world finally recognize God's true people? John 13:35.

ANSWER: "By this shall _____ that ye are my disciples, if ye _____."

3. List several of the seven characteristics of agape that you feel you need especially. (See those listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.)

YOUR LIST: _____

_____.

4. If one follows Christ because of an appreciation of His agape-love rather than from selfish fear or hope of reward, do you think he will ever fall away? Compare 1 Corinthians 13:8 with John 10:27-29.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? _____

_____.

It is not the fear of punishment, or the hope of everlasting reward, that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. They see the Saviour's matchless love revealed all His life, and the sight of Him attracts. Its oftens and subdues the soul. Love awakens in the hearts of the ones who look.

They hear His voice, and they follow Him.

More Contrasts Between Agape and Eros

5. Eros is a love that seeks after God. This is the foundation of most religions. This is why shrines and temples have been built. Eros is a noble search. But agape is the opposite: it is not man seeking after God but God seeking after man.

Read Luke 19:10, and fill in the blanks: "For the Son of Man is come _____

_____.

6. When we think of God's love as eros, we see Him playing "hide and seek" with us, making Himself difficult to find. That makes it hard work to search Him out, and we are never sure we are successful. In contrast, how near has God come to every one of us? Acts 17:27; John 1:9.

ANSWER: He is "not _____ from

_____." He is "the true Light, that
_____ into the world."

How near is the Lord to you? How earnestly is He seeking you? He is as near as this "word of faith" which this lesson proclaims to you right now! Through this word He has already found you. He is knocking on your door at this moment (see Revelation 3:20).

Lesson 6

"In Christ"—Why the Good News Is Better Than You Think

The Book of Revelation focuses like a spotlight on what happens in the last days. It shines brightest in chapter 14 where we see three special angels flying in the midst of heaven, who proclaim "the everlasting gospel... to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (verse 6). "Every kindred" means every family, and "gospel" means Good News.

But How Good is the Good News?

If it's not very good, it can't be the pure, true gospel of Jesus.

We can be sure that Christ's enemy, "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world" (Revelation 12:9) will

try to take out the "good" part so that it ends up as either bad news or as a confusing formula. Is it good advice, or Good News? There is a war behind all wars on earth—the great war between Christ and Satan. Revelation 12 describes it. All through the ages Satan has tried to defeat Him either by perverting His gospel or destroying His people. Now, in these very last days, Satan "knoweth that he hath but a short time" (verse 12). He tries harder to keep the Good News away from the world because he knows "the gospel of Christ... is the power of God [dynamite, in the original language!] unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1:16).

The news is so good that it would take us from now until the end of the world to learn it all. All we can do in this lesson is to shine the spotlight briefly on a few high points. So now, welcome to spending the rest of your life (and eternity!) in its exciting, joyous discovery. You'll never again be bored. Worldly novels, movies, sports, materialism, so-called thrills and amusements, will all become stale in comparison. Each day will be an adventure as

you find fresh insights into why the Good News is so good—you are a student in the Holy Spirit's classroom.

Learning Truths That We Have Never Understood Clearly

1. What is the heart of the gospel of Christ?
John 3:16-18.

ANSWER: "God _____ the world that He _____, that Whosoever _____ should ... have _____ life." "God sent not His Son into the world to _____ the world but that _____ through Him might be _____." "He that _____ is condemned."

Astounding as it may seem, the Good News is that (a) God requires only one thing from us—to "believe." And (b) He came to save, not condemn, "the world," and (c) the only way anyone can be

lost is through his own unbelief of this News. But what is that unbelief? Could that be our problem?

2. Describe this fatal "unbelief." John 3:18-21; Hebrews 3:12,15,18,19.

ANSWER: It's loving "_____ rather than light. ... Everyone that doeth _____ hateth the light. ... He that doeth _____ cometh to the light." "An evil heart of unbelief, _____ from the living God." Instead of softening the heart, unbelief _____ the heart.

3. How does an unbelieving (hard) heart become a believing heart? John 3:14,15; 12:32, 33.

ANSWER: When Christ is "_____ " on His cross, He "will draw _____ [and women] unto" Himself. He who responds to this drawing "_____ in Him, . . . [and will] have _____ life."

The Good News is astounding! (a) Christ came to save the world (that includes you); (b) the cross draws "all" (that also includes you); (c) Christ will not force you—you can choose to resist His drawing; but (d) if you do not resist, you will be drawn to eternal life. "He that believeth not" is the one who resists. "In dying for sinners, Christ manifested a love that is incomprehensible; and as the sinner beholds this love, it softens the heart, impresses the mind, and inspires contrition in the soul.... The sinner may resist this love, may refuse to be drawn to Christ; but if he does not resist he will be drawn to Jesus; a knowledge of the plan of salvation will lead him to the foot of the cross in repentance for his sins." Happiness Digest, p. 11.

The Love of Christ Is So Strong, We Must Resist In Order to Be Lost

4. If we permit the Holy Spirit to hold us by the hand, can we continue doing the evil things our sinful nature prompts us to do? Galatians 5:16-18.

ANSWER: "Walk in [with] the Spirit, and ye

shall _____ fulfil the _____.
_____. ... The Spirit [strives] _____ the flesh, ... so that ye _____ do the [evil] things that ye would."

Christ has sent the Holy Spirit, His vicar or representative, to sit down beside you and never leave you (John 14:16-18). The gospel again is great Good News! The light is stronger than darkness; Christ's love is stronger than hatred; His grace is stronger than sin; He is stronger than Satan; and (get this!) the Holy Spirit is stronger than "the flesh." The "but" in verse 18 (in the Greek) means "furthermore, moreover." To be "led of the Spirit" is deliverance from a self-centered motivation "under the law."

5. Is it easy or hard for us to believe Good News? How was it in Jesus' day? Matthew 13:58; 17:20; Mark 6:6.

ANSWER: "He did not many works there because _____."
His disciples even failed to cast out a demon

"because of _____." In His home town, Jesus "marvelled because _____".

Face it—we're all born in a state of alienation from God so that our "sinful mind is hostile" to Him (Colossians 1:21; Romans 8:7, NIV). It's easy for us to disbelieve Good News. Unbelief kept Israel out of the Promised Land for an entire generation. The only difficult thing in following Jesus is learning to believe how good the Good News is. The battle is not about works or even obedience—it is "the good fight of faith" (1 Timothy 6:12). Once we have the faith, all the devils in hell cannot stop the faith from bearing fruit in good works (Galatians 5:6, 22).

6. Is it hard to become converted? John 3:2-6; 1:12.

ANSWER: We are "born _____." "As many as _____ Him, to them gave He power to _____".

Conversion is not something we do. We don't "born" ourselves. Our parents brought us into the world without our cooperation, and the Holy Spirit is the initiator of our new birth. If we "receive" Christ, He will cause this miracle to take place. "Receive" is another word for "believe."

Worried About God Accepting You? Here's the Good News.

7. For how many people did Christ die? How many does He want to save? 1 Timothy 4:10; 2:3-6.

ANSWER: He "is the Saviour of _____
_____." "Our Saviour ... will have
_____ to be saved. ... [He] gave
Himself a _____ for _____."

This does not mean that all will be saved, eternally, for some can resist and reject, and many will disbelieve. But all could be saved if they would. Christ is already the "Saviour of all men,"

"the Saviour of the world" (see John 4:42). But how can this be true?

8. When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, how many people sinned "in him"? 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45; Romans 5:12.

ANSWER: "In Adam _____
_____." "Death passed upon _____
_____."

Adam was the human race. When he fell, the human race fell "in him." In the Bible, the name "Adam" means everyone. The Bible reckons the entire human race as "in Adam." An illustration: we can read how Levi was "in" his great-grandfather Abraham long before he was born (Hebrews 7:9, 10).

9. When Christ became the "last Adam" and died for the human race, how many people were redeemed and justified "in Him"? Romans 5:18. See Hebrews 2:9.

ANSWER: "As by the offence of one [Adam] _____ came upon all men to _____; even so by the righteousness of one [Christ] the _____ came upon _____ unto _____ of life." Christ was to "_____ death for every man."

The "death" that Christ "tasted" for us all was not what we call death—which the Bible calls merely a "sleep." It was the "second death," the final punishment for sin (see Revelation 2:11; 20:14). There is no need for any human being to die that "second death" except that he rebels and refuses to let Christ's death be that punishment.

10. How can this be true? Isaiah 53:6; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 John 2:2.

ANSWER: God "hath laid upon [Christ] the iniquity of _____." "God was in Christ, _____ unto Himself, not _____ their trespasses unto _____." "He is the propitiation [sacrifice] ... for the sins of the _____."

11. What is the "gift" which "the grace of God" has brought to "all men"? Romans 5:15,16.

ANSWER: "The free gift" "by grace" has "abounded unto _____. And ... the "free _____ is of _____ offences unto _____."

The original language says "the many," meaning the same "all" who in verse 15 "be dead." Christ gave His blood and paid the penalty of everyone's sin. God accepts the entire human race "in Christ" in the same way that the entire human race was condemned "in Adam." Christ is now the new Head of the human race! He has already died your "second death." God has accepted you "in Him;" stop worrying about whether He accepts you as His child. You are accepted "in Him." Hold your head high, "in Him."

That Nameless Deep Fear Is Taken Away

12. What burden of deep psychic fear is lifted

from your heart as soon as you understand and believe this Good News? Hebrews 2:14,15.

ANSWER: Christ died for us that He might "_____ ... And deliver them who through fear of _____ were all their lifetime subject to _____."

The ultimate fear of all fears is the fear of the "second death," the appalling prospect of final darkness and condemnation. It is too deep for words. It poisons our peace and happiness. We may try to forget it, but it is ineradicable, for as the Bible says, we stand on its threshold "all [our] lifetime." The Good News is that Christ has lifted that "condemnation" from all of us, and has restored to us peace.

13. What has Christ given "for the world," for everyone? John 6:33, 51, 53.

ANSWER: He "gives life _____, ... for the _____ of the world. ... Except ye eat the flesh of the Son

of man, and drink His blood, ye have _____
_____."

If Christ had not died for the world, the world would have died (2 Corinthians 5:14). Paul told the pagans at Athens that "in [Christ] we live, and move, and have our being"—all of us (Acts 17:28). We have literally been saved from the grave, "as those that are alive from the dead" (see Romans 6:13). Whether or not we believe, we are already in debt to the Son of God for every breath we have ever drawn. Even our daily food is the purchase of His sacrifice.

Isn't it time we should say "Thank You!" to Him?

"Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my heart, my life, my all!"
—Isaac Watts

14. What familiar illustration helps us

understand what Christ accomplished for "all men" on His cross?

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation which legally freed every slave in the Confederate Territories. Thus, on His cross, Christ legally bore the punishment of every person's sin and emancipated him from its penalty. But no slave in Civil War days experienced freedom, until (a) he heard the good news, and (b) believed it. And so, we must (a) hear the Good News of what Christ accomplished on His cross, and (b) believe it. Then we experience deliverance.

15. Do you choose to "stand fast" in your liberty "in Christ"? Galatians 5:1? _____.

Lesson 7

Getting Better Acquainted With Jesus

We begin to wonder, "Is it possible that any human being can have that true love, agape, in his/her heart?" Aren't we all selfish by nature? The answer is, We learn agape from Christ. In fact, He is trying to give it to us.

This is the real point of the Bible message. When Paul describes in seven steps that love of Christ in stepping down from His home in heaven even to "the death of the cross" for us (Philippians 2:5-8), he says, "Let this [same] mind be in you." We may say, "That's nice for Him; but I can't love like that!" But Paul says it's not impossible.

Jesus does not say, "Look at My great life of agape, and marvel, but you'll never make it yourself." No! He says, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love ... as I have loved you"

(John 13:34). This same love transforms our nature and recreates us in the image of God. Then happiness flows in. He has never told us to do the impossible. It is possible as we enter His "school" and let Him teach us as students. Oh, what joy it brings to us! Life becomes rich, right where you are today.

In this study we shall see how some people like we are have given demonstrations of agape in their lives. They "saw" Christ by faith; and the vision was completely successful! You are to share in it too.

The Heavenly Treasure Becomes Ours

1. How is self-love exposed in the Bible? Psalm 49:18.

ANSWER: "Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and _____, when thou _____ to thyself."

2. Is this self-love something that Jesus urges us to cultivate? Matthew 22:37-40.

ANSWER: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as _____."

Jesus did not teach that we should encourage a love of self, for that is contrary to His teaching, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself." He said in effect: "As by nature you find it easy to love yourself in your unconverted state, so now, as you are converted through faith in Me, love your neighbor."

3. What brings us real comfort and hope? Romans 15:1-5.

ANSWER: "For even Christ pleased _____." "Now the God of patience and consolation grant _____ according to _____."

4. What is the "joy of the Lord" that we will enter into? John 15:11; Matthew 25:21; John 6:38.

ANSWER: "I came down from heaven not _____, but the will of _____."

The Great Contrast Between the Two Loves

5. When Jesus died on the cross what was His true motive? What kind of death did He die? Compare Isaiah 53:11, 12 with Revelation 2:11.

ANSWER: "He shall see of the _____, and shall be _____ ... justify many; for He shall _____ iniquities. ... He was numbered with the _____; and He bore _____, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Jesus' only motive was agape--and He died the equivalent of the _____ for us (Revelation 2:11). "Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: ... But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4, 5).

6. What shows that Jesus suffered the same death as the lost will suffer in the second death? 2 Corinthians 5:21 (read also Psalm 22--the Crucifixion Psalm).

ANSWER: "For He [God] made Him [Christ] to be _____."

Jesus felt the supreme agony of being separated from His Father. This was the "death" that He became "obedient unto." You and I are the ones who would have had to go through that if He had not taken our place, and died our second death. This idea of agape has been dying out among many

professed followers of Christ because a pagan notion has infiltrated our thinking--the doctrine of the natural immortality of the soul. If there is no such thing as real death, then Christ did not really die. If He went to Paradise the day He was on the cross (as many mistakenly believe from reading a misplaced comma in Luke 23:43), then there was no true emptying of Himself, no true death on the cross. The idea of the natural immortality of the soul makes Christ's sacrifice out to be a sham, a pretended stage play. But when the darkness overtook Him on Calvary, the light of His Father's face was in fact completely withdrawn. His cry, "Why hast Thou forsaken me?" (Psalm 22) was no actor's wail. Isaiah was right: "He hath poured out His soul unto death" (Isaiah 53:12), even "the second death" (Revelation 2:11).

7. How far did Jesus go in searching for you and me? Psalm 139:7,8.

ANSWER: "If I make my bed in hell, behold _____."

As we saw earlier, eros is not evil. It is not wrong to desire a reward or to enjoy the contemplation of Heaven, and the rewards of those who enter at last. The point is that eros is a love no better than what the heathen have. As a motivation, it will not produce a true change of character. Paul says, "It profiteth me nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:3).

How Is Agape-love Possible for You and Me to Have?

8. When the Lord tried and tested Moses to see what kind of love he had, how did Moses show that he had agape? Exodus 32:7-10, 31, 32.

ANSWER: Moses challenged the Lord either to "forgive their sin" [Israel's] or "_____
_____, I pray Thee, out of Thy _____
which Thou hast written."

The only dash in the entire King James Version of the Bible is found in Exodus 32:32. Here Moses breaks down; he cannot finish the sentence. He

glimpses the horror of an eternal hell stretching before him if he shares Israel's fate. But he makes up his mind. He chooses to be lost with them: "and if not, blot me, I pray Thee, out of Thy book which Thou hast written" (Exodus 32:31, 32). Moses stood the test. I can imagine the Lord throwing His arms around His weeping servant. He had found a man after His own heart.

9. How did the Apostle Paul show that he had this same kind of love? Romans 9:1-3.

ANSWER: In order to save his own kinsmen, he "could wish that _____ from Christ _____, my kinsmen according to the flesh."

10. What kind of motive alone will make us beautiful, Christ-like Christians? 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15.

ANSWER: "For the _____ of _____; ... that

they which live _____
_____ live _____ but
unto Him, which died for them, and rose again."

Everyone who sees the cross as it truly is, and believes, finds the miracle of agape reproduced in his own heart. This is how the world will be turned upside down again, "for the love (agape) of Christ constraineth us" that we "should not henceforth live unto [ourselves], but unto Him which died for [us], and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15). We miss the point of the New Testament if we miss agape in it. We also stay in the dark about what faith is, for New Testament faith is a human heart-appreciation of that "breadth, and length, and depth, and height" of the agape of Christ (Ephesians 3:18,19).

11. Read Paul's prayer for you ("all saints"). Does your heart say, "Yes, Lord"? Ephesians 3:14-21.

ANSWER: If Christ dwells in our hearts "by faith," we are "rooted and grounded in

_____, May be able to comprehend
_____ what is the
_____, and _____, and _____,
and _____; And to know _____
_____ of Christ which passeth _____,
that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth
for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1
Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 8

True or False: It's Easy to Be Saved But Hard to Be Lost

In one of his stories of the early West, Mark Twain tells of the old-time preachers who told the people of "what a beautiful place Heaven is and how nearly impossible it is to get there, and ... what a dreary place hell is, and how easy it is to get there" (Mark Twain Tonight, p. 118).

This same idea lingers today, so much so that the very title of this lesson surprises people. "Didn't Jesus say that God has made the gate that goes to heaven difficult, and that the gate that leads to hell is easy?" they ask. "Isn't that why so few will be saved?"

You would be surprised how many youth (and adults who once were youth) have turned off Christianity completely because they say, "It's just too difficult! Why try so hard when it seems so

hopeless to make it anyway?"

Surely what Jesus said has been badly twisted when people today think that it is hard to be saved and easy to be lost! There is nothing "good" about such "news" as that, is there? When Jesus said we should preach the gospel to the world, He meant that we should give the world good news. (That's what the word means.) Our future happiness depends on understanding this clearly.

What Jesus Actually Said

1. What did Jesus say about this "true or false question"? Matthew 11:28-30.

ANSWER: "Ye shall find _____ unto your souls. For My yoke is _____, and My burden is _____."

2. Where does He say that it is "hard" to be lost? Acts 26:14, 15.

ANSWER: "Why _____ thou Me? It is

_____ for thee to _____
_____. "

The "pricks" were the goads used by an Eastern plowman to hasten the slow gait of his oxen. Saul was hurting himself by kicking against the "pricks" of his own conscience. He is not the only one who finds it hard to "kick against the pricks." Everyone who puts off surrendering to Jesus is persecuting Him as much as Saul did. He fights against Him. Nobody goes to hell without kicking like that all the way. In order to be lost, one has to fight against the Holy Spirit. Jesus is right--that's hard to do!

How It Becomes Easy to Be Saved?

3. Ever since you were born, what has the Lord been doing to you? Jeremiah 31:3.

ANSWER: "I have _____ thee with an _____ (agape): therefore with _____ have I drawn you."

4. What is another way of saying this same

thing? Romans 2:4.

ANSWER: "The goodness of God _____
_____."

How has He been doing this? In countless ways--either kindness of parents, friends, teachers, strangers; or favors bestowed; warnings and rebukes of friends who love us; or the impressions of God's Spirit; and the teachings of God's Word. Also Creation speaks to us daily of His everlasting love.

5. How many people are "students" in God's "school"? John 6:45.

ANSWER: "And they shall be _____
taught of God."

6. How many people does the Lord actually "draw" (or pull) towards Himself? John 12:32.

ANSWER: "I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
will _____

_____."

7. How extremely powerful is this pull the Lord draws us with? 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15.

ANSWER: "The love (agape) of Christ
_____."

The only reason some have made it seem hard to be saved is that they have not seen or believed this powerful truth of the love of Christ. Leave out this constraining love, and you will find it hard to be saved. In other words, when you see what happened when Christ died, you realize for the first time that you would be dead, you would have nothing even now if He had not died. You are alive today, and you have what you have now, because He died for you.

Once you see that--and believe it--you "henceforth" will find it impossible to live a selfish life as previously you have found it impossible to live a loving life. It's not a matter of trying hard to be a Christian--if you have "seen" the cross, you

can't be anything else! You will find you cannot do anything but serve the Lord. That is what it means for the "love of Christ" to "constrain us." (Remember, "restrain" means to hold back, but "constrain" means to push forward.) The path to Heaven may indeed be uphill, as so many people seem to think. But when you begin to see and appreciate the love of Christ, you will find that you have a power-pack that propels you in this upward way.

Why It's Hard to Be Lost

8. When one continues to fight against Christ, and to steel himself against His love, what is he actually doing? Romans 2:4, 5.

ANSWER: " _____ thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering? ... After thy _____ and _____ _____ [you] treasure up unto thyself _____."

This "wrath" is within yourself. Saul of Tarsus

had been steeling himself in hardness and an impenitent heart until he finally repented on the way to Damascus. He would have killed himself eventually, had he gone on as he was. "Kicking against the pricks" of one's own conscience is bad for one's health. Fighting the Holy Spirit causes even premature death. It's like heaven's glorious ladder is let down in every person's path, barring his/her way to ruin. One must trample upon a crucified Redeemer before one can pass onward to a life of sin.

9. What do impenitent people do? When Israel resisted Christ, what really happened? Hosea 13:9 (compare Hosea 11:1, 4 to see the setting).

ANSWER: "O Israel, thou hast _____
_____."

This is taught all through the Bible. "He that sinneth against Me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate Me love death" (Proverbs 8:36). "The sinner may resist this love, may refuse to be drawn to Christ; but if he does not resist he will be drawn

to Jesus; a knowledge of the plan of salvation will lead him to the foot of the cross in repentance for his sins, which have caused the sufferings of God's dear Son. ... "The same divine mind that is working upon the things of nature is speaking to the hearts of men and creating an inexpressible craving for something they have not. The things of the world cannot satisfy their longing. The Spirit of God is pleading with them to seek for those things that alone can give peace and rest--the grace of Christ, the joy of holiness." Happiness Digest, p. 11.

10. Does the Good News of Christ's much more abounding grace motivate you to serve Him?
_____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 9

Don't Be Confused: The True Christ Versus the False Christ

"I thought there was only one Christ!" many say. Yes, there is only one true Christ. But from the beginning, Lucifer's great ambition has been to be "like the most High," even to exalt his throne above Christ's (see Isaiah 14:12-14; Lucifer became Satan). He is learning how to make himself into a counterfeit christ!

As time has gone on for thousands of years, he has become very clever at his job. His great ambition is to masquerade as Christ. His satanic soul desires nothing so much as to see mankind bow before him, yielding to him the devotion that they would otherwise yield to his hated rival, Jesus.

Is it possible that he will succeed as the false christ? We all know how clever some human beings are at imitating others by voice,

mannerisms, even appearance. The vast movie industry is built on this technique. Are men more clever than Satan? Several scheming home-study enthusiasts have successfully masqueraded as qualified physicians for years, one forging the diploma and certificates of a genuine medical namesake thousands of miles away.

If Satan is so clever at teaching humans how to masquerade, how nearly perfect is he in pulling off his own grand scheme?

You might even find that Satan has already tried to work his deceptive schemes on you.

What the Bible Says About the False Christ?

1. Is Satan already beginning to succeed as a false christ? 1 John 2:18.

ANSWER: "Even now there are many _____; whereby we know that it is _____."

"Antichrist" is from a Greek word which means "one who takes the place of Christ." Obviously no one can truly take His place; therefore these are false christs.

2. Who did Jesus foresee would arise to try to deceive His people? Matthew 24:5, 23, 24.

ANSWER: "For there shall arise _____
_____ and _____."

3. What has always been Satan's great work? Revelation 20:8, 10 (compare John 8:44).

ANSWER (in one word): He _____
them.

4. Read how ancient Israel was terribly deceived by a false christ. What was the name of the false god they worshipped in Elijah's day? 1 Kings 16:30, 32 and 18:18, 19.

ANSWER: Ahab "reared up an altar for
_____. "Ye have _____ the

_____ of the Lord, and thou hast followed
_____."

"Baal" was a word that simply meant "husband" or "Lord." As the centuries went by, it was not easy for Israel to distinguish between the true worship of the Lord and that of the neighboring nations. Baal-worship was a clever counterfeit of the worship of the Lord of Israel. Temples looked much the same, and rituals were copied. The people gradually lost the distinction. Elijah was keen to grasp the significance of what was happening.

5. Where did Baal-worship rear its head in Jerusalem in Jeremiah's day? Jeremiah 7:9, 10, 30.

ANSWER: _____

_____ which is called by my name.

6. It is obvious that a false christ deceives people with false teachings long before he actually masquerades personally as a counterfeit. What tragic mistake did the Jews make without realizing

it? John 8:42-47.

ANSWER: Not believing the _____.

For centuries the Jews had been expecting the Messiah to come. When He finally came, they put Him to death because they did not know how to distinguish the true from the false! Paul warned the Corinthians to be careful, because to a careless observer there would be little apparent difference (see 1 Corinthians 10:20, 21).

How to Tell the Difference

7. The false christ represents Jesus dying on the cross in order to make the Father be nice to us. He represents God as being cold and indifferent to us, and Christ as satisfying His vengeance by suffering in our stead. What does the Bible teach about the true Christ and His atonement? John 3:16, 17.

ANSWER: The Father Himself "so loved the world, that He _____".

"This great sacrifice was not made in order to create in the Father's heart a love for man, not to make Him willing to save. No, no! 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.' John 3:16. The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation, but He provided the propitiation because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world. 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.' 2 Corinthians 5:19. God suffered with His Son. In the agony of Gethsemane, the death of Calvary, the heart of Infinite Love paid the price of our redemption." Happiness Digest, pp. 3, 4.

8. A false christ cannot be truly tempted as we are, and therefore does not know how we feel. He is represented as taking a different kind of human nature than we have. Thus the false christ cannot truly save us from our sins. He can only condone our sins or pardon them, while we continue in them. In contrast, what kind of human nature did the true Christ take? Romans 8:3, 4.

ANSWER: "God sending his own son in the _____
_____ ... that the _____ of the law
might be fulfilled in _____."

9. How fully was the true Christ tempted like us? Hebrews 4:15.

ANSWER: "[He] ... was _____
_____, yet without
sin."

When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, he lost his connection with God. His very nature became evil. When he fell, the human race fell; we were all "in Adam," we are Adam. That's the name that covers all of us. We have his sinful nature. But Christ came to redeem the human race. He did not come to redeem the unfallen, sinless Adam, but the fallen, sinful Adam--which means us.

Therefore He had to take upon Himself our

fallen, sinful nature, in order to reach us where we are. He came to conquer sin, to put an end to it. Therefore He had to meet the problem where it had taken root—in our fallen, sinful human nature. He could not redeem what He did not assume. In order to elevate fallen man, Christ must reach him where he was. He took human nature, and bore the infirmities and degeneracy of the race. He, who knew no sin, became sin for us. He humiliated Himself to the lowest depths of human woe, that He might be qualified to reach man, and bring him up from the degradation in which sin had plunged him.

10. A thought question: If there was any sin on which Christ had not been tempted, could He "succor" or help us overcome in that same temptation? Read Hebrews 2:17,18 carefully, and give your answer:

ANSWER: _____.

We have seen how the apostle John speaks of "Antichrist" as having come already. Here is an

example of how a "christ" who did not truly take our flesh darkens the truth of salvation by a confusing smog of false doctrine--the doctrine of the "immaculate conception." Millions of people believe that the Virgin Mary was not only conceived immaculate, but she was without the smallest actual sin throughout her life. She was incapable of sinning, they say. In this way, she gave her Son a sinless nature, different from ours.

But a "christ" who took a different kind of "flesh" or nature than what we have cannot save us from sin. Fulton Sheen (a Catholic bishop) shows why the dogma of the "immaculate conception" is so necessary for the Catholic "Christ." He cannot conceive how a Saviour could come, as Paul says, "in the likeness of sinful flesh," without giving in to temptation. Let us see what he says:

"Had Infinite Purity chosen any other port of entrance into humanity but that of human purity [Mary's so-called immaculate nature] it would have created a tremendous difficulty--namely, how could [Christ] be sinless, if He was born of sin-

laden humanity? If a brush dipped in black becomes black, and if cloth takes on the color of the dye, would not He, in the eyes of the world, have also partaken of the guilt in which all humanity shared? If He came to this earth through the wheat field of moral weakness, He certainly would have some chaff hanging on the garment of His human nature.

"In this lesson we see how the true Christ was born of sin-laden humanity, yet He never sinned; how this "brush" was "dipped in black, "yet never became in the least sullied with our sin; how this "cloth" was dipped in our human "dye," yet never took on the color of our sin; how He passed "through the wheat field of moral weakness," without the slightest amount of "chaff hanging "on the garment of His human nature." This truth of Christ's victory is the New Testament teaching of "righteousness of faith."

11. The idea that Christ could not sin is foreign to the Bible. If that were true, how could He have been truly tempted? How terribly did Jesus suffer

temptation? Hebrews 5:7-9. (The reason He did not sin is that He chose not to sin.)

ANSWER: He prayed with "strong _____ and _____ unto Him that was able _____
_____.

12. What shows that our Saviour suffered the same constant conflict with self that we suffer, yet was constantly victorious over self? John 5:30, last part: compare John 6:38.

ANSWER: "For I came down from heaven, _____, but the will of him that sent me."

13. What glorious good news does the gospel bring to us? Hebrews 7:25.

ANSWER: "Wherefore _____
_____ to save them to the _____ that come unto God by Him, seeing

He ever liveth to _____ for them."

Temptation is resisted when one is powerfully influenced to do a wrong action, and knowing that he/she can do it, resists by faith, with a firm hold on divine power. This was the ordeal through which Christ passed in order to save us from sin.

14. Do you invite Christ to save you from all sin? _____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 10

The Woman the World Can Never Forget

There is a story in the Gospel of Mark that is so beautiful that it charms everyone willing to listen. Like a precious jewel displayed in an ugly clay pot, it is set between two of the worst stories ever told, as the cross of Jesus was set between two wicked thieves.

The first of the three stories tells how "the chief priests and scribes" decided to put Jesus to death. The third tells of the even more shameful deed of one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, selling himself to the devil in order to betray Jesus to death. And in between is this exquisite story about the lady we can never forget.

No other woman has ever performed a deed like hers. And Jesus bespoke for her act a special remembrance "wherever the gospel is preached all

over the world" (Mark 14:9, GNB). That means it has to be an essential part of "the everlasting gospel" to be proclaimed by the three angels of Revelation 14. Therefore we must include in this series of lessons a special one about her! Although her story has shone with undimmed luster for nearly two thousand years, many people still do not know it.

All four of the Gospel writers tell about the incident, but each with different details. The full account emerges from the dust of ages like an ancient mosaic brightly tinted but freshly discovered.

This Lady Had Been a Basket Case

1. Read Mark 14:1-9. What gift did this woman bring to Jesus?

ANSWER: An _____ of _____ of _____. What was its monetary value? "_____ pence" (the Greek word is denarius, a silver coin equivalent to

a man's wage for a day; see Matthew 20:2).

2. How highly did Jesus praise this woman?
Mark 14:6,8.

ANSWER: "She hath wrought a _____
_____ for me. ... She hath done _____
_____ ... to anoint _____
_____ for _____."

The Greek word for "good" work means fantastic, neat, super, exactly right. If someday Jesus can say of you and me that we have done what we could, that will be the highest praise possible. He commands us to tell Mary's story "wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world" (Mark 14:9; Matthew 26:13). There must be something in it that makes the gospel clear.

3. What kind of unexpected opposition did she meet? Mark 14:4,5.

ANSWER: "Some ... had _____ within

themselves." Who were these mysterious "some"? Matthew 26:8: the _____. How does John 12:4, 5 pinpoint the source of this "indignation"? The man who started it was

Judas had fooled the Eleven into thinking he was right in condemning this woman. They lacked spiritual discernment. They had no inkling of how bad he was, or how good she was! In these last days, we need better vision or discernment than they had at that time!

4. This woman who anointed Jesus and evoked such praise from Him, was somebody! What kind of shameful past did she have? Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2; John 12:3.

ANSWER: Her name: _____. She had been possessed of seven _____, a terrible condition of lostness.

The anointing "woman" of Matthew 26:7, Mark 14:3, and Luke 7:37 is the same person named in John 12:3 as "Mary." No Gospel writer would dare

to tell the story of Jesus and not obey His command to include in his Gospel this story of her anointing.

Luke 7:37, 39 tells us that she "was a sinner," a tactful way of saying that she had lost her moral reputation (compare Matthew 21:31 and Luke 15:1, 2). With great delicacy Luke tells another part of the story (7:36-50), which reveals several astonishing facts: from his remark to himself, Simon the Pharisee discloses to us that he had private, intimate knowledge of Mary. And since Jesus clearly meant that he was the one ten times a worse sinner than she was, He indicated that Simon had originally been the one who seduced her and ruined her life.

Often when a self-respecting girl suffers such misfortune, she becomes a disheveled, psychological wreck. Mary could find no psychiatrist to help her. Feeling violated and polluted, she ran away in despair and took a nose-dive into an abyss of self-abandonment. Demons moved in to possess her heart and mind. This can

happen to any one who knows no hope, only despair.

Mary's Great Good Fortune in Meeting Jesus

5. Although she was lost in guilt, pollution, and despair, what did Jesus do for her? Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2.

ANSWER: He "cast out _____
_____." When Jesus prayed for someone to be delivered from Satan's grasp, how did He pray? Hebrews 5:7: "With _____ and _____ unto him."

Not once or twice, but seven times Jesus poured out His soul in prayer for this devil-possessed wreck of humanity. Acquaintance with human nature would suggest that the seventh devil that was finally "cast out" was Mary's deep resentment against the man who had polluted her soul and wrecked her life. A woman who has suffered incest will naturally harbor deep resentment against the one who abused her, a

bitterness which smolders beneath the surface of her conscious heart.

When that final root of hatred was eradicated, Mary's deliverance was complete. Many a person carries hidden scars of hateful resentment that only the voice of Jesus, "in strong crying and tears," can heal. Our appreciation of God's forgiving us makes possible our forgiving another who has deeply wronged us. Since Mary knew that her bitter heart at last was healed, she wanted somehow to say "Thank You."

6. Having heard Jesus mention His approaching death (which the disciples were too dull to hear), what bright idea came to her as a way to say "Thank You for saving my soul"? Mark 14:8.

ANSWER: To anoint His "_____ for _____." (a) What value of ointment or perfume did she buy? Verse 3: "_____." (b) How many silver coins did she spend for it? Verse 5: "Three _____." (c) How did she anoint Him? Verse

3, last part: She "_____ the _____, and _____ it on His head" (and feet, too; see Luke 7:38, 46; John 12:3). (d) What did she use to dry His feet in lieu of a towel? _____ of her _____.

No bargain-sale perfume was good enough for Mary's project, no ointment suitable for peasants or even nobles. This was fit for an emperor. Think of spending 300 silver coins for it--the wage of a working man for a year! Never mind; nothing was too valuable to be expended on the One who had saved her soul from hell.

She learned of Simon's dinner party and conceived a brilliant plan. If she waited until Jesus died He would know nothing of her deep gratitude. Simon's guest list excluded her, but she would come uninvited and anoint Him there, herself not knowing the deep significance of her deed.

A pent-up fountain in Mary's soul suddenly gushed forth. The hot tears bathed the Saviour's feet, and the "sinner" knelt to dry them with her

long hair. Here was the most sublime deed ever performed by a repentant sinner, but the hard-hearted Judas and the dull Eleven failed to appreciate the sight.

7. Jesus praised this woman's deed to the skies! Mark 14:6-8. What reasons can be given for His apparently extravagant words about her?

He saw something His disciples were too blind to see:

(a) In the broken alabaster flask He saw an emblem of His body soon to be broken for us.

(b) In the precious ointment running to waste on the floor, He saw His blood shed sufficient to save all of earth's billions of sinners, when only a few would appreciate its value.

(c) In the unselfish motive that prompted Mary to her deed He saw a reflection of His own motive of love in coming to die for us. Her sole desire was to express gratitude for salvation from the hell

which she had already known in part. So has Jesus redeemed us with no thought of reward for Himself. He "hath poured out His soul unto death," even the equivalent of the hopeless "second death" in His sacrifice for us (see Isaiah 53:12; Hebrews 2:9).

(d) In Mary's self-sacrifice in buying the most expensive ointment possible Jesus saw His giving all He had for us. A repentant sinner had anointed the soul of the Son of God to His cross.

(e) Her wild extravagance, pouring out its entire contents, even on His feet, touched Him. So must Jesus pour out a veritable Niagara-torrent of loving sacrifice, when only a cupful seems to have won human hearts. Yet the offering must be extravagant, for agape can give no less. He must sacrifice Himself for a world that wanted only to crucify Him.

Would We Agree With What Judas Iscariot Said?

8. What apparently noble purpose did Judas give as why he was angry with what Mary did? John 12:4,5.

ANSWER: "Why was not this ... three hundred pence [silver coins] ... given to the _____?" How much of it would have gotten through to the poor? Verse 6: _____. Did the Eleven know of his thieving?

Judas's reasoning sounds logical, and apparently in harmony with Jesus' reminders to feed and clothe the poor. If we had been there, would we have joined the Eleven in saying a hearty "Amen!" or "Bravo!" to Judas's cold, dry-eyed, "righteous indignation"?

Are we also blind and hard-hearted? God's greatest problem may not be with the "publicans and the harlots" of today but with the professedly religious people who despise agape when they see

it. The spiritual condition of modern "Laodicea" (Revelation 3:14-21) is like that of the Eleven who were blindly deceived by Judas. How often have Christ's professed followers lacked the "eyesalve" and had no more discernment than those disciples, within a few days of Calvary! And they were ordained ministers and apostles, leaders of the church!

Cold and Impenitent Simon Jesus Loved Him Too!

9. What disease had struck Simon the Pharisee?
Mark 14:3; Matthew 26:6.

ANSWER: _____. What did he conclude about Jesus? Luke 7:39: he thought He was not a _____.

Simon was one of the lepers whom the Saviour had healed. This was his proud, dignified, Pharisee-like way of saying, "Thanks for healing me." But when he saw Jesus accept Mary's offering, he was glad he had not made a fool of

himself by confessing Him to be the Messiah. If Mary had been troubled by "seven devils," Simon was worse off, for he was troubled with an eighth--pride and contempt for the faith which agape inspires.

10. In what kind and tactful way did Jesus reveal to Simon his true spiritual need? Read Luke 7:40-46:

ANSWER: He was the one who owed _____, rather than only _____.

11. What is the ratio between sin and forgiveness? Verse 47.

ANSWER: Those who have been forgiven for _____ sins, love _____; but those "to whom little is _____, _____ little."

Jesus' point is not that we must throw ourselves to the devil and commit "many sins" in order to learn to love as Mary loved (we might never find

our way back from that hell!). We must realize that we are guilty of "many sins," that we are the one who owes 500 silver coins, not a mere 50. The sins of others would be our sins but for the grace of Christ. No one of us is innately better than anyone else. As Luther said, we are all made of the same dough. Only through the realism of contrition and humbleness of mind can we have that eighth devil cast out.

12. Theologians and preachers have long debated--what is the meaning of faith. What simple definition did Jesus give to it? Luke 7:50.

ANSWER: What _____ had was genuine faith--a heart-appreciation of the love of _____. Nothing less is worthy of the name, "faith,"

13. Are you truly thankful for what you have learned in your study of that precious Book, the Bible? _____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth

for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1
Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 11

Why "Jesus Coming Again" Is Good News

"Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13, NKJV.

The Bible is full of promises concerning Jesus' coming (1,518 times). The New Testament alone contains 380 references to Christ's return. That's one verse in every twenty-five.

God's Word describes the condition of the world just before Jesus comes, and it reads like the daily newspaper. Time is running out:

"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without

self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. ..." (2 Timothy 3:1-5, NKJV).

"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ... But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:6, 7, NKJV).

1. What precious promise did Jesus leave for all His followers;' John 14:1-3.

ANSWER: "I go to prepare a place for _____, I will receive _____ unto Myself; that where I am, there _____ may be also."

What Happens When Christ Returns the Second Time?

2. In His last prayer, what did Jesus want for us? John 17:24-26.

ANSWER: "I will that they ... be _____
_____ I am."

3. Will Jesus Himself return, or will it be someone else? Acts 1:11.

ANSWER: "This _____
which is taken up from you ... shall _____
_____ in _____."

4. When He comes, how many people will know it? Revelation 1:7.

ANSWER: "Behold He cometh with
_____; and _____
_____."

5. How many will actually see the second

coming of Jesus? Matthew 24:27.

ANSWER: "As the _____ cometh out of the east, and shines even unto the _____."

6. Who will be with Him when He returns? Matthew 24:30, 31.

ANSWER: "And He shall send his _____ ... and they shall _____ his elect.

7. What wonderful thing happens when Jesus returns? 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

ANSWER: "The Lord himself shall descend ... and the _____ in _____ shall _____."

8. After the righteous dead are resurrected when Jesus comes, what happens to those living who are happy to see Him come? Verse 17.

ANSWER: "Then we who are alive and remain

shall be _____ up _____ with them in the clouds."

9. Who will God's people live with after the joyous return of Christ? Same verse, last part.

ANSWER: "To meet the _____ in the air: and so shall we ever be _____ the _____."

10. Having this hope, how may we cooperate with Jesus to prepare for His soon coming? 1 John 3:1-3.

ANSWER: "And every man that _____ this _____ in Him _____, even as He is pure."

11. How is this kind of character preparation possible? Matthew 19:26; John 6:29.

ANSWER: "With men this is _____; but with God _____ are _____." "This is the work of God,

whom He hath sent."

A very thoughtful writer has said: "The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horseraces, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut.

"Solemnly there come to us down through the centuries the warning words of our Lord from the Mount of Olives: 'Take heed to yourselves, lest at

any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.' 'Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.'" The Desire of Ages, p. 636 (we will speak of this book later in our study guides).

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 12

God Foretells the Future Truthfully

Foretelling the future fascinates people. To meet this hunger to see tomorrow today, astrology and all manners of forecasting the future have mushroomed. From less than 100 newspapers carrying horoscopes a few decades ago, the fad has grown to over 1200 newspapers now carrying them for 18,000,000 Americans to pore over daily.

Time magazine says that ancient Berosus, astrologer and high priest of Babylon, would feel at home with America's astrologers today. Their calculations "would be one of the few things he would find familiar in the modern world after 50 centuries. ... Babylon's mystic conceptions of the universe are being taken seriously ... by the most scientifically sophisticated generation of young adults in history, ... graduate students and assistant professors."

"Astrology is a guideline, a rope to hang on to in an insecure world," another popular magazine suggests. Another observer says, "Great civilizations in the past turned to the supernatural in their last hours, and this phenomenal increase in the urge to peer into the Zodiac is a sign of the imminent collapse of our civilization."

Astrology today is enriched by direct communications with spiritualism that make some of its predictions seem uncannily accurate. But a close look at astrology's "tomorrow" predictions and the "more sure word of prophecy" as found in the Bible, show a distinct difference. God alone truly knows the future, and He loves us so much that He will tell us all that will be good for us to know. Daniel 2 is a simple prophecy to begin with, the ABC of Bible prophecy. See how these prophecies relate to God's love for us all.

Why Does God Foretell the Future for Us?

1. What sets God apart from all other gods or

religions? Isaiah 46:9, 10.

ANSWER: "I am God, and there is _____, Declaring the _____ from the _____, and from ancient times the things that _____."

2. What does the Creator of the stars promise us He will do for us? Isaiah 42:5, 6, 7, 9.

ANSWER: "He that created the _____," says, "... I the Lord have called thee _____ To open the _____ eyes, to bring out the _____ from the _____, ... new things do I declare: _____ I tell _____ of _____."

3. What gift has God given to man that does reveal the future? 2 Peter 1:19-21.

ANSWER: "We have also a _____ of _____."

4. Are there some people to whom God reveals the secrets of the future? Who are they? Amos 3:7.

ANSWER: "Surely the Lord God _____
_____, but He _____ his
_____ unto His servants the _____."

5. In Matthew 24:15, what important title did Jesus give to Daniel?

ANSWER: "Daniel _____."

Read the second chapter of Daniel. God reveals to him the future of this world.

6. King Nebuchadnezzar was ruler of the ancient empire of Babylon, proud, cruel, and autocratic. What was the only way the Lord could get through to him? Daniel 2:1, 2.

ANSWER: "Nebuchadnezzar _____
_____, ... and his _____ brake from
him."

7. If the astrologers and spiritualists of his realm knew how to get in touch with God, surely they would know what the king had dreamed. What was his reasonable demand? Daniel 2:3-5.

ANSWER: "Make known unto me the _____, ... with its _____."

8. What shows that this intelligent but impatient king had already seen through the scam his astrologers were into? Daniel 2:8-12.

ANSWER: He said, "Ye have prepared _____ and _____ words to speak before me, till the _____: ... tell me the _____, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof."

Unable to come up with the dream or its interpretation, the astrologers were forced to admit that "there is none other that can show it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with

flesh." They had a dim concept of a true God whom they did not know.

9. How did Daniel receive an understanding of the dream? Daniel 2:19-22.

ANSWER: "Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a _____."

10. In brief, what was the king's strange dream? Daniel 2:31-35.

ANSWER: He saw an _____ whose head was of _____, his breast and arms of _____, his thighs of _____, his legs of _____, and his feet of _____ and _____.

11. What is God's interpretation of the dream? Daniel 2:36-42.

ANSWER: The head of _____ was [Babylon] to be followed by "another kingdom of _____" [Medo-Persia], and "another third

kingdom of _____" [Grecia]. "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as _____" [Rome]. "The feet and toes" meant that in the last days "the kingdom shall be part of _____, and part of _____." [modern Europe].

12. What next great event in world history will follow? Daniel 2:44, 45.

ANSWER: Then "... shall the God of heaven set up a _____, _____ never _____."

13. Whose kingdom will this be? Revelation 19:12, 16.

ANSWER: _____.

14. Who will feel at home in that kingdom? Revelation 7:13, 14.

ANSWER: Those who "... came out of the _____, and have _____ their _____, and _____ them

_____ in the _____ of the
_____"

Notes on Daniel, Chapter Two

Babylon, the empire which was the head of gold, was conquered by Medo-Persia, the breast and arms of silver Grecia came next, followed by the "iron monarchy of Rome" (the historian Gibbon's phrase). Rome fell in 476 A.D. and was divided into what became the modern nations of Europe.

Through the centuries various ambitious rulers have tried to unite them into one: Charlemagne, Charles V, Napoleon, Queen Victoria, Kaiser Wilhelm, and more recently, Adolph Hitler. All have failed. President Wilson of the USA dreamed of a successful League of Nations, which never came to be. We are living now in the time of the toes of iron, mixed with miry clay.

The nation's battlefields have been drenched with blood because of rulers who have tried to

break those seven powerful words, "They shall not cleave one to another." Napoleon said, "O God, You have been too strong for me."

Others have proudly imagined that their diplomacy will bring "peace in our generation" with eventual world government. But so long as human beings are still sinful, world government under enlightened, unselfish rule will be impossible, until that One comes whose "vesture was dipped in blood" at the cross of Calvary. Through love He has ascended the throne of people's hearts and won His kingdom of grace by His sacrifice. When He returns in His glory, He will establish His everlasting kingdom. Many will respond to His love. Such a response is what the Bible calls "faith." They will be those who "have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

"Every step in life may bring us closer to Jesus, may give us a deeper experience of His love, and may bring us one step nearer to the blessed home of peace. Then let us not cast away our confidence,

but have firm assurance, firmer than ever before. 'Hither to hath the Lord helped us,' and He will help us to the end." 1 Samuel 7:12. Happiness Digest, p. 61.

15. Do you thank the Lord for inviting you to be in His everlasting kingdom? _____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 13

Every Tired Heart Wants to Rest in His Love

People who come to Christ because they appreciate His love revealed at the cross do so not because they want a reward or because they are afraid of hell. They appreciate His sacrifice for them, and give themselves to Him with no selfish fear or even hope of reward.

In the early centuries after the death of the apostles, a pagan love gradually crept into the church. Paul warned that "after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock" (Acts 20:29). He said there would come a great "falling away" (2 Thessalonians 2:3). When the New Testament idea of love became obscured with fear-laden eros, all kinds of false doctrines crept into the church from heathenism.

Confusion came first on this matter of love;

then many other ideas not taught in the Bible followed, such as Sunday for the sabbath in place of the true Lord's Day, the seventh day; the reverence for images, the veneration and virtual worship of the Virgin Mary, and others.

God cares about which day we keep, not because of a legalistic concern for details, but because only through "keeping the truth" can we receive and rest in His love, and receive Christ fully. He has "blessed ... and hallowed" only one day as His holy sabbath (Exodus 20:11). There we find rest of soul. No salvation comes from any counterfeit, only in "keeping the truth" (Isaiah 26:2).

1. Which day of the week is God's appointed rest day? Exodus 20:8-11, and Genesis 2:1-3.

ANSWER: _____.

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Genesis tells how our week of seven days began: "And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made [creation of the world]; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all his work which God created and made" (Genesis 2:3, 4). Each day consists of "the evening and the morning" (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 23, 31), so that the sabbath, God's holy day, is "from even [sunset] unto even [sunset]" (Leviticus 23:32). This coincides with our Friday sunset to Saturday sunset (see Luke 23:54-56, The New English Bible, also the Good News Bible). Based on these Biblical facts, the weekly cycle has been handed down to us from Eden, with Sunday being the first day of the week and Saturday the seventh.

2. Every Christian wants to accept Jesus as his

true Example. Which day of the week did Jesus observe as the sabbath? Luke 4:16.

ANSWER: "As His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the _____."

3. Is there a day that New Testament Christians should observe as a rest day? Revelation 1:10.

ANSWER: "I was in the Spirit on the _____."

4. Which day does the Bible specifically designate as the "the Lord's" or "His day"? Isaiah 58:13, 14.

ANSWER: "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my _____ The mouth of the Lord hath spoken."

The sabbath is a day that belongs only to God Himself. It is referred to in Scripture as "My sabbaths" (Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:12 and

44:24), and "the sabbath of the LORD thy God" (Exodus 20:10; Leviticus 23:3; Deuteronomy 5:14). Christ, when accused by the Jews of breaking the sabbath, said that He was the Lord of the sabbath (Mark 2:23, 24, 27, 28).

5. According to Jesus, is it possible that human beings can call another day the Lord's Day? Mark 2:27, 28 and Matthew 12:8.

ANSWER: "The Son of man is Lord even of the _____."

The popular idea that Saturday is the Jewish sabbath and Sunday the Christian sabbath is a contradiction of the Scriptures. Men may choose one day in seven to rest or even worship God, designating it as the "Lord's day," but this must not be confused with the Scriptural sabbath or Lord's day. Man, for whom this world was created, played no part in the creation of this earth. It was all the work of God. Even though God's sole purpose in creating this world was for the benefit of man, in no way did our first parents contribute towards this

creation. When they first opened their eyes at the end of the sixth day, they saw a perfect and finished creation. All that they did and could do was to enter into the joy of a perfect and finished work done for them by God.

6. The book of Acts records a total of 84 seventh-day sabbaths observed by the apostle Paul. Look at a few examples in Acts 13:14, 44; 16:13; 17:2; 18:4, 11.

FILL IN THE BLANKS: "Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and _____
_____ reasoned with them out of the scriptures." (Acts 17:2) In the Gentile city of Philippi, "on the _____ we went out of the city by a riverside, where ..." (Acts 16:13).

Has time been lost? Is our seventh-day the same as the one that Jesus and His apostles so faithfully observed? History says there has never been the slightest change in the weekly cycle since the days of Christ. Astronomers can vouch for this. Neither was there any lost time before Christ, for

He and His apostles would not have been so confident about the true "Lord's Day" if the weekly cycle had been lost since the days of Adam.

Does the New Testament Say That Sunday Became the Lord's Day?

7. There are three days pinpointed in the story of Jesus' death and resurrection: "Good Friday" is observed by Roman Catholic and many Protestant churches in honor of Christ's death; and Sunday, they say, they observe in honor of His resurrection. According to Scripture, which day is the sabbath? Luke 23:54-56 and Luke 24:1.

ANSWER: "The sabbath drew on" as Friday drew to a close. Before "the first day of the week" dawned, Christ's followers "rested the _____ according to the _____."

Let us look at this passage as translated in the American Bible Society's Good News Bible: "It was Friday, and the Sabbath was about to begin. ... On the Sabbath they rested, as the Law

commanded. Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the grave. ..." The Lord's true rest day is the day that comes between Friday and Sunday.

The death of Christ on the cross brought to an end His atoning sacrifice on behalf of sinful men. When all was fulfilled He cried out, "It is finished" (John 19:30). By this He meant that the sacrifice that brings us salvation was finished. Christians generally recognize that the death of Christ took place on the afternoon of the sixth day (i.e. Friday), so that throughout the seventh day (i.e., Saturday) Christ rested from all His work.

8. Could Jesus change the Law, or move the sabbath to some other day? Matthew 5:17-19.

ANSWER: _____.

The Goodspeed translation reads: "I tell you, as long as heaven and earth endure, not one dotting of an 'i' or the crossing of a 't' will be dropped until it is all observed."

The righteousness that the law demands is beyond the reach of sinful man, and therefore our only hope is found in Christ and His righteousness. We can receive it only by faith when we put away all confidence in the flesh (our own ability) and rest entirely in His saving grace. This is the true meaning of the sabbath rest.

In Christ We Have--

Rest
Blessings
Sanctification
Holiness

**The Sabbath Shows
Us How We Receive--**

Rest
Blessings
Sanctification
Holiness

We see that the sabbath is a sign of our union with our loving Saviour, and that we are "accepted in the Beloved" (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Ezekiel 20:12, 20; Ephesians 1:6).

As we rest on the sabbath day, we testify to the world that we are on God's side, choosing to live in conformity to His commandments. Thus we recognize as our Sovereign the God who made the world in six days and rested on the seventh, and the

Saviour who has redeemed us, again resting on the sabbath day. The sabbath is the clasp which unites God and His people.

9. Did the apostles change the Law or move the sabbath to some other day? (There is no text that says they even dared to try to do so.) According to Paul, can we take tradition or the commandments of men as our guide? 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

ANSWER: "All _____ is given by _____ of God, ... That the man of God may be _____, throughly [thoroughly] furnished unto _____ good works."

Since Sunday-keeping is not a part of the "good works" that please the Lord, it is not "profitable for doctrine" or "instruction in righteousness," therefore, it is contrary to genuine "righteousness by faith."

10. Is there any hint of Sunday considered as holy in the New Testament? Here are the eight texts that mention the "first day of the week." See

if you can find such a hint: Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1, 2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2.

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

Most of these texts only mention that Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week. But the apostles taught that baptism, not the observance of the first day, is the true memorial of Christ's glorious resurrection (see Romans 6:3-7). The meeting mentioned in Acts 20 occurred on Saturday night, the dark part of the Bible "first day." The Good News Bible says: "On Saturday evening we gathered together for the fellowship meal." The "collection" mentioned in 1 Corinthians 16:1-3 had nothing to do with public meetings. It was a special collection: "Lay by him in store," Paul said. The GNB says, "On the first day of the week each of you must put aside some money, in proportion to what he has earned." They figured their accounts on Sunday, and laid something aside either at home or at their place of usual business, in preparation for Paul's special visit.

11. What sabbath blessing still remains for all who have faith in Jesus? Hebrews 4:9.

ANSWER: "There remaineth therefore a _____ to the people of God."

This verse should read, "There remains therefore a sabbath observance for the people of God."

12. What does true sabbath rest signify for those who believe in Jesus? Hebrews 4:3, 4.

ANSWER: "For we which have believed do _____ into _____, as He said, ... they shall _____ into my _____."

We must never confuse the term "rest" as applied to the sabbath, with the common idea of holidays. The latter has to do with sleeping or relaxing, while entering into God's rest has a spiritual meaning. It involves total dependence on

God's perfect and finished salvation. To be more specific, it means complete surrender to Christ our righteousness.

13. What does the Lord say about observing any customs such as Sunday observance, which are not taught in His Word? Matthew 15:3, 8, 9.

ANSWER: "Why do ye also _____ the _____ of God by your tradition. ... In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the _____ of _____." (Compare Matthew 7:21-23).

There is truth and there is falsehood; there is a true Christ and a false christ; there is a true Holy Spirit, and there is the counterfeit. There is a true sabbath, and there is a counterfeit.

14. Of what is the sabbath forever a sign? Ezekiel 20:12, 20.

ANSWER: "That they might know that I am the LORD that _____."

15. What kind of future lies before us "in Christ"? Isaiah 66:22, 23; Revelation 22:1-4.

ANSWER: _____.

Behind the sabbath rest for this sinful world lies the final goal of the gospel--a perfect and finished re-creation: "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before Me, saith the LORD, ... from one sabbath to another [weekly sabbath], shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the LORD" (Isaiah 66:22, 23, also Revelation 21:1-4).

This work of redemption was formed in the mind of God before the foundation of this world. It was fulfilled in Christ, and will be fully realized at the end of the millennium in the lives of those who believe. "Therefore if any man be in Christ [united to Him by faith], he is a new creature [creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Law of God in the New Testament

- I. "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10).
- II. "Little children, keep yourselves from idols."
"Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone graven by art and man's device" (1 John 5:21; Acts 17:29).
- III. "That the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed" (1 Timothy 6:1).
- IV. "Pray ye that your flight be not in winter, neither on the sabbath day." "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." "For He spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all His works." "There remaineth therefore a keeping of a sabbath to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His." "For by Him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth" (Matthew 24:20; Mark 2:27,

28; Hebrews 4:4, 9, 10 margin; Colossians 1:16).

V. "Honor thy father and thy mother" (Matthew 19:19).

VI. "Thou shalt not kill" (Romans 13:9).

VII. "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Matthew 19:18).

VIII. "Thou shalt not steal" (Romans 13:9).

IX. "Thou shalt not bear false witness" (Romans 13:9).

X. "Thou shalt not covet" (Romans 7:7).

16. Does your heart desire to respond to God's grace, and to "enter into His rest"?

ANSWER:_____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 14

The Beautiful Seal of God's Ownership

In summer, as we see the trees all clothed with a beautiful mantle of green, we may not distinguish between the evergreens and the other trees. But as the frost king encloses them in his icy embrace, stripping the other trees of their beautiful foliage, the evergreens emerge clearly seen.

This is how it will be with all who are walking in humility, clinging tremblingly to the hand of Christ. Those who are self-confident and trust in themselves will lose their false robe of "righteousness" when the storms of trial come. Those who sincerely love and fear God will wear the robe of Christ's righteousness in adversity as they once did in prosperity.

Self-denial, self-sacrifice, kindness, love, patience, fortitude, are daily fruits borne by those

who are truly connected with God. Their acts may not be published to the world, but they are daily wrestling with evil, and gaining precious victories over temptation. The eye of Him who seeth the secrets of the heart, notices every effort put forth in lowliness and meekness. It requires the testing time to reveal the pure gold of love and faith in the character.

That testing time is very near. God will place a precious seal of approval on all who believe in the true Christ and follow Him (the "Lamb") in these last days. What is that seal?

1. What Good News does the third angel give us? Revelation 14:9, 10.

ANSWER: He warns against the worship of "the beast," and receiving "his _____."

2. How many will worship the beast? Revelation 13:8.

ANSWER: "And _____ that dwell upon

the earth shall _____ him, whose names are _____ in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

We will study about this "mark of the beast" in a later lesson.

3. In contrast, what will those do whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life? Revelation 14:12.

ANSWER: "Here are they that _____ the _____ of _____, and the _____ of _____."

4. What special work of mercy are four angels in Revelation 7:1 told to do?

ANSWER: Hold "the _____ _____ of the _____."

The four angels are working in all the earth to keep God's work from being destroyed by terrible wars and disasters. The angels almost let go their

hold on the four winds during World Wars I and II. It is only by their constant restraint that a nuclear World War III has not come.

5. What blessed alternative to the "mark of the beast" does the other angel ascending "from the east" bring with him? Revelation 7:2.

ANSWER: "And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the _____ of the _____."

6. What command does he give to the four angels? Revelation 7:2, 3.

ANSWER: "And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we _____ the servants of our God in their _____."

This message is world wide. It comes at the end of time. It gives people something important to

choose instead of the "mark of the beast." Therefore, it is the same as the first angel's message of Revelation 14:6, 7, 12. The four angels are right now holding back this tornado of human passion. The present is a little lull in the storm; the four winds are satanic fury seething just below the surface, ready to break forth anytime. Thank God they are being held back! These lessons are one agency the Lord is using to place on you that precious "seal of God."

7. Where does Ezekiel say the sealing is to begin? Ezekiel 9:3, 4, 6.

ANSWER: "At my _____."

Those who will be sealed will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. More especially their prayers will rise in behalf of the church because its members are following the way of the world. They weep before God to see religion despised in the homes of fellow church members. They sorrow because of pride, selfishness, and covetousness and the deceptions

that have crept into the churches. The Spirit of God tries to convict of sin while the servants of Satan triumph. God is dishonored as His truth is trampled on. He says in Ezekiel 9:4, "Set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof."

8. In determining who is to receive the seal of the living God, inhere does God look? 1 Samuel 16:7.

ANSWER: "For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the _____ appearance, but the LORD looks on the _____."

9. What does God say He knows? 2 Timothy 2:19.

ANSWER: "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this _____, The Lord _____ that are _____, And, let every one that nameth the

name of Christ depart from _____."

This mark or seal is a sign of victory over all sin. "And they overcame him [the devil, the enemy] by the blood of the Lamb." (Revelation 12:11). In Egypt, as the destroying angel went through the land to slay all the firstborn of the Egyptians, he "passed over" those homes where the mark of blood was placed on the doorpost (Exodus 12:7, 12, 13). So, in the final destruction, the destroying angels are commanded, "... come not near any one upon whom is the mark" (Ezekiel 9:6). The "seal of God" is therefore the mark identifying God's people as His.

10. Who applies the seal? Ephesians 4:30.

ANSWER: "And grieve not the _____
_____ of _____, whereby ye are
_____ unto the day of redemption." (The Holy Spirit applies the seal, but is not the seal itself.)

11. Where does the Holy Spirit place the seal?

Revelation 14:1.

ANSWER: "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him a hundred forty and four thousand, having his _____ written in their _____."

The "Father's name" must represent His character of pure, unselfish love. When God's people learn to love like God loves, they will have His name in their foreheads. Their love for God is expressed in obedience to the first four commandments, their love to their fellow men, in the last six.

12. How is true love revealed? Romans 13:10.

ANSWER: "Love worketh _____ to his neighbor; therefore _____ is the _____ of the _____."

If we profess to love, but do not fulfil the law of God, we deny the seal of God. And if we profess to keep God's commandments, but do not reveal

love in our lives, we deny the Holy Spirit who impresses the seal upon God's people, because "the fruit of the Spirit is love" (Galatians 5:22).

13. A seal is a sign of authority associated with the laws of government. "The writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse" (Esther 8:8). Queen Esther knew that if King Ahasuerus sealed the writing of the Persian law, it could never again be changed. Where does God say His seal is to be found? Isaiah 8:16.

ANSWER: "Bind up the testimony,
_____ the _____ among my disciples."

14. A "seal" is the same as a personal signature. Where do you find the Lord's "signature" in His law? Exodus 20:8-11.



The Seal of God

ANSWER: "Remember the _____
_____, to keep it holy."

A seal must have three details in order to be legal: (1) The name of the law-giver; (2) his position, or authority; and (3) the territory over which he rules. For example, the Queen of England's seal would read, "Elizabeth (name) Queen (position or authority) of Great Britain, and the Commonwealth (territory)." Where can we find the seal of God in His law? Only the sabbath

commandment contains all three essentials:

(1) "The seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord your God" (name of the law-giver); (2) "in six days the Lord made" (His position or authority, He is the Creator); (3) "heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them" (the territory over which He rules). Note: A sign and a seal are the same (Romans 4:11).

15. What does Ezekiel say is the "signature" or "sign" ("seal") of the Lord? Ezekiel 20:12, 20.

ANSWER: "I gave them _____, to be a _____ between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that _____ . "And hallow my _____; and they shall be a _____ between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord _____ ."

True sabbath-keeping means deep conversion to Christ. To receive the seal of God is to receive the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart, a "rest"

from sin and self: "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His" (Hebrews 4:9, 10). Our own works are works of pride and love of self.

And as soon as one receives the "everlasting gospel" brought by the angel messenger, he begins to keep the sabbath, because he loves and worships his Creator and Redeemer.

The issue is loyalty to God. The appeal made by the "beast" is to the love of self. Those who choose to die to self and to bear the cross with Christ will gain the victory over the "beast" and his "image" and his "mark." The "mark of the beast" is opposed to the cross of Christ; and the true sabbath of the Lord is therefore the sign of bearing the cross.

16. Here is a list of the characteristics of the 144,000, those who receive the seal of the living God: Revelation 14:1-5.

(a) They were "_____ from among men."
(b) They "sung as it were a _____
_____ before the throne." (c) They "are
_____ before the throne of
God."(d) In "their mouths was _____
_____." (e) For "they are _____ [a
pure, true church, or people]."

This special group gain an experience not gained by any previous generation of God's people. They open their hearts fully to receive Christ's salvation from sin, so that it can be truthfully said of them, "They are without fault" (Revelation 14:5). They were born in sin just as everybody else in the world has been born in sin: yet they have permitted the great High Priest to cleanse their hearts of all evil.

They have become honest, because "in their mouths was found no guile." In their experience will be demonstrated the truth that He "is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him" (Hebrews 7:25). In their characters will be seen the practical results of Christ's closing work in

the heavenly sanctuary.

The 144,000 are a group who have joyfully received all the guidance that Christ has sent to His people. They have submitted to the Holy Spirit so that He could work a complete change in their lives. Even their habits of eating and drinking, dressing, amusements, their thoughts and purposes, have been brought into harmony with Jesus' example.

Whether it is a literal or symbolic number, they will be living when Jesus comes.

17. What glorious picture of triumph do we see at last? Revelation 15:2-4.

ANSWER: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the _____, and over his _____, and over his _____, and over the _____ of his _____, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God."

Ever before Him, Christ saw the result of His mission. His earthly life was full of toil and self-sacrifice, but He was cheered by the thought that He would not have all this travail for nothing. By giving His life for us, He stored in humanity the image of God. He would lift us up from the dust, reshape the character after the pattern of His own, and make it beautiful with His own glory.

18. Does your heart say, "Lord, I want that seal. Please cleanse me, prepare me to be loyal to Christ in earth's closing history"? _____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 15

The Counterfeit Lord's Day

In East Africa, a house may look to be perfectly solid when its foundation timbers and walls are eaten out by tropical termites. Sometimes a push is all that is needed to tumble the empty shell on its side.

The moral structure of our modern society is much the same. The frightening increases in crime are only the sound of the invisible termites of immorality and corruption at work. How many more people are actually lawless at heart we cannot know until opportunity comes to express itself.

An example is "decent people" to becoming looters when disasters like earthquakes, riots, and shortages of police let them walk off with someone else's property. People who appear law-abiding get into the act: "Everybody does it--why not I?" All their "righteousness" suddenly goes down the drain.

A very fragile fabric is all that holds our so-called civilized society together. For many, all that remains is a lingering fear of being caught--the outward shell that hides the termites within. But we all owe thanks to the Holy Spirit for restraining this about-to-break-forth universal lawlessness. It is He who is continuing to "strive" with lawless people until He completely withdraws from the human scene as He did in the days of Noah (see Genesis 6:3, 5; Matthew 24:37-39).

This raises a question: If Jesus Christ came to save the world, why is the world getting worse and worse? Especially in North America where we have the highest percentage of church attendance in the world, why is violence more acute than almost anywhere else? Religious liberty has provided Protestant churches with their greatest opportunities in history to preach the gospel. Why then does America give the world its worst example of lawlessness?

The Bible reveals the root of the cause:

religious leaders have weakened the authority of God's law in trying to get around the seventh-day sabbath which the Lord has set in the very heart of His law. If we say that God's sabbath commandment does not matter, we destroy the only force the other nine commandments can have! Let us see why.

1. What is the plain reason the Bible gives for the troubles that plague our modern world? Isaiah 24:5.

ANSWER: "Because they have transgressed the _____, changed the _____, broken the _____."

2. How have the Catholic and Protestant churches united in changing God's "ordinance," and breaking "the everlasting covenant"?

We will quote from The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, p.50, by the Rev. Peter Geiermann:

"Question: Which is the Sabbath day?

"Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day.

"Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

"Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."

Says the Manual of Christian Doctrine: or Catholic Belief and Practice by Daniel Ferris:

"Question: How do you prove that the [Catholic] Church has power to command Feast

and Holy-days?

"Answer: By this very act of changing the sabbath into the Sunday, which is admitted by Protestants, and therefore they contradict themselves by keeping Sunday so strictly, and breaking most other Feasts commanded by the same Church" (page 67).

"You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday."

James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 89.

3. Does "the Protestant world" admit that this is true?

(a) "'But,' say some, 'it [the sabbath] was changed from the seventh to the first day.' Where? When? And by whom? No man can tell. No, it never was changed, nor could it be, unless creation was to be gone through again. ... If it be changed, it was that august personage changed it who changes times and laws ex officio--I think his name is DOCTOR ANTICHRIST." Alexander Campbell, "Address to the Readers of The Christian Baptist," No. 111, The Christian Baptist, Feb. 2, 1824.

(b) "The Roman Church ... reversed the Fourth Commandment by doing away with the Sabbath of God's word, and instituting Sunday as a holiday." N. Summerbell, History of the Christian Church, p. 41.

4. Do Roman Catholics continue to challenge Protestants on this matter?

"Nothing is said in the Bible about the change of the Lord's day from Saturday to Sunday. ... That is why we find so illogical the attitude of many non-Catholics, who say that they will believe nothing unless they can find it in the Bible and yet will continue to keep Sunday as the Lord's day on the say-so of the Catholic Church." Leo J. Trese, Catholic priest, *The Faith Explained*, 1971 edition, p. 243.

History Tells How the Change Was Made

"Not long after the recognition of Christianity by Constantine, the observance of Sunday was required by law. In A.D. 321 all courts of justice, all city dwellers and artisans were required to rest 'on the venerable day of the Sun'--only farmers were exempted, whose work could not be interrupted or delayed." Encyclopedia Americana, 1969 edition, Vol. XXVI, article "Sunday," p. 32.

Emperor Constantine's Sunday law was not based upon Christ's teaching, but upon pagan philosophy. When his Sunday law was enforced, he spoke of it as "the venerable day of the sun"--a pagan custom. Historian Augustus Neander says, "The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals, was always only a human ordinance." The chief purpose of Constantine's edict was to enforce Sunday on Christians in order to fuse these two religions, paganism and Christianity. But gradually this pagan festival caused apostasy in the church and a departure from Bible truth. Through the centuries, the church at Rome, having set its seal of

approval on the change of the day of worship, commanded everyone to keep Sunday as a holy day instead of God's true holy sabbath.

"At the Council of Laodicea, A.D. 364, the following edict was issued: 'Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday (original Sabbath), but shall work on that day; but the Lord's day they shall especially honor, and, as being Christians, shall, if possible, do no work on that day. If, however, they are found Judaizing, they shall be shut out from Christ.'" Rev. Charles Hefele, History of the Councils of the Church, Vol. II, p. 316.

5. Have calendar changes disturbed the 'weekly sabbath?

No. The facts can be verified in any encyclopedia. The Julian Calendar was in use when Jesus was on the earth. The week in use in the Middle East at that time is the same as the week of our calendar today, which is the Gregorian. The days of the month are different, but the days of the week were never changed.

The Julian Calendar used for sixteen centuries was not quite accurate in the length of its year, being nearly one quarter of an hour too long. By 1582 the vernal equinox had receded, and fell on March 11, ten days earlier than the March 21 date to which the Catholic Church had, in A.D. 321, anchored the time of Easter.

Pope Gregory XIII led out, and the Gregorian Calendar began to function at Rome on Friday, the fifth of October, 1582. Friday the fifth was changed to Friday the fifteenth. The week remained untouched, and the days of the week likewise.

The seventh day of the week today is the same as when Christ was here, and calendar changes have not affected it. It is true that in connection with the French Revolution the French tried a ten-day week, but it did not endure. It is well known also that Soviet Russia introduced a five-day week, then a six-day week, and forbade the printing of a seven-day week calendar. All this was a modern attempt to banish the Lord's weekly rest day. But Soviet Russia failed.

1585 OCTOBER 1585						
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

6. You will remember our lesson on Daniel 2, where the great image symbolized the rise and fall of nations, and the end of "world history at the second coming of Jesus. Daniel was given another prophetic vision in chapter 7 with many more details included.



The Biblical Interpretations of Symbols Used in Prophecy

WINDS refer to warfare or strife (Jeremiah 49:36, 37). WATERS are people, multitudes, and nations (Revelation 17:15). BEASTS are kings or kingdoms (Daniel 7:17, 23).

With these symbols in mind, read Daniel, chapter 7. The dreadful fourth beast in the vision is pictured as having seven heads, ten horns.

7. What is the significance of the ten horns?
Daniel 7:23, 24.

ANSWER: "And the _____
out of this kingdom are _____
[or kingdoms] that shall arise."

We have already seen that the fourth kingdom, corresponding to the legs of iron of the image, was the kingdom of pagan Rome. Between the years 351 A.D. and 476 A.D. the empire of Rome was invaded by heathen tribes from the North. Ten

smaller kingdoms sprang up out of the ruins of pagan Rome.

8. Who is represented by the little horn and how does the Bible describe this power? Daniel 7:8.

ANSWER: "I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another _____, ... and, behold, in this horn were _____ like the _____ of _____, and a _____ _____."

(a) "Came up out of the fourth beast. "Daniel 7:7, 8, 23.

The fourth kingdom according to Daniel 2, the legs of iron, was Rome. The ten horns are the same as the ten toes of the image--ten kingdoms which arose out of the ruins of the pagan Roman empire. "The arms of the Republic, sometimes vanquished in battle, always victorious in war, advanced with rapid steps to the Euphrates, the Danube, the

Rhine, and the ocean; and the images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome." Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol. III, general observations following chapter 38, p. 634.

"Out of the ruins of political Rome, arose the great moral empire in the 'giant form' of the Roman Church." A. C. Flick, *The Rise of the Mediaeval Church*.

(b) "Came up among the ten horns or kingdoms." Verse 8.

Historian James Harvey Robinson declares: "Besides the Emperors at Constantinople, and the various German kings, there grew up in Europe a line of rulers far more powerful than any of these, namely, the popes." *Mediaeval and Modern Times*, p. 40.

(c) "Another shall rise after the ten horns."

Verse 24.

A crisis occurred in A.D. 476 causing the abdication of the Emperor. Barbarian invaders brought about the collapse of the old Roman Empire. In A.D. 533 Emperor Justinian passed a decree recognizing the Bishop of Rome as "Head of all the Holy Churches." In A.D. 538 this decree was put into effect. It was because of this that the papacy attained full political power after the division of Rome's territories by barbarian kingdoms.

(d) "Diverse [different] from the other horns."
Verse 24.

"Long before the fall of Rome, there had begun to grow up within the Roman Empire an ecclesiastical state. ... Another consequence of the fall of the Roman power in the west was the development of the papacy. In the absence of an Emperor in the west, the popes rapidly gained influence and power and soon built up an ecclesiastical empire that in some respects took the

place of the old empire." General History for Colleges, pp. 348, 316.

(e) "Whose look was more stout than his fellows." Verse 20.

"Besides the emperors at Constantinople and the various German Kings, there grew up in Europe a line of rulers far more powerful than any of these, namely, the popes. ... the longest and mightiest line of rulers that the world has ever seen." Medieval and Modern Times, pp. 40, 41.

The American Catholic Quarterly Review, April, 1911, said: "Long ages ago, when Rome through the neglect of the Western emperors was left to the mercy of the barbarous hordes, the Romans turned to one figure for aid and protection, and asked him to rule them; ... and thus ... commenced the temporal sovereignty of the popes. And meekly stepping to the throne of Caesar, the vicar of Christ took up the scepter to which the emperors and kings of Europe were to bow in reverence through so many ages."



The Ten Kingdoms

(f) "Plucked up three kingdoms." Verses 8, 20, 24.

The "little horn," in its fight for power, will subdue three kingdoms which oppose his ambition. What does history say? Edward B. Elliot writes:

"I might cite three [kingdoms] that were eradicated from before the pope out of the list first given, viz. the Heruli, under Odoacer, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths." *Horae Apocalypticae*, Vol.

111, p. 134, note 1.

In 533 A.D. the Emperor Justinian of the East made a decree in which he exalted the pope to be the head of all the churches. To make effective this new decree, he sent his general Belisarius with an army into Africa to crush the opposing Vandals. The same general then fought against the Ostrogoths, finally driving them out of Italy in 538 A.D. Thus the three kingdoms were uprooted from before the "little horn."

The seven kingdoms that remained were--

1. Saxons.....English
2. Franks.....French
3. Alemanni.....Germans
4. Burgundians ... Swiss
5. Lombards Italians
6. Visigoths..... Spanish
7. Suevi.....Portuguese

(g) "Shall speak great words against the most high." Verse 25.

"Some of the arrogant and blasphemous claims made by the papacy are quoted here from Ferraris' Ecclesiastical Dictionary:

"The pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not mere man, but as it were God, and the vicar of God. ... The pope is crowned with a triple crown, as king of heaven and of earth, and of the lower regions. ... The power of the Roman Pontiff by no means pertain(s) only to heavenly things, to earthly things and to things under the earth, but even over angels, than whom he is greater. ... For he is of so great dignity and power that he forms one and the same tribunal with Christ. ... The pope is as it were God on earth." Prompta Bibliotheca, Article "Papa" II, Vol. VI, pp. 26-29.

(h) "Shall wear out the saints of the Most High." Verse 25.

During the Dark Ages, which began in 538 A.D., some millions of Christians were persecuted to death by the papacy. This horrible record is one of the darkest stories of human history. We quote

now from a few historians:

"That the church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history." Lecky's History of Rationalism in Europe, Vol. II, p. 32.

Let a Roman Catholic author state the facts: "The church [Roman Catholic] has persecuted. Only a tyro [very ignorant person] in history will deny that. ... Protestants were persecuted in France and Spain with the full approval of the church authorities. We have always defended the persecution of the Huguenots [French Protestants], and the Spanish Inquisition. ... When she thinks it good to use physical force, she will use it. ... Will she give absolute freedom and equality of all churches and all faiths? [The] Catholic Church gives no bonds for her good behavior." The Western Watchman, December 24, 1908.

The Law of God

(i) Shall "think to change times and laws."
Verse 25.

The Roman Catholic Prompta Bibliotheca by Ferraris says: "The pope is of so great authority and power that he can modify [change], explain, or interpret divine laws." Vol. VI, p. 29.

In the Roman Catholic Catechisms used for teaching the common people, the law of God is modified, so that the second commandment forbidding the worship of images has been deleted. The fourth is shortened, so as to support the observance of the first day of the week (Sunday) in place of the true sabbath. The tenth is divided into two commandments.

(j) God's people "given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Verse 25.

A "time" is a year. "Times" would therefore be two years, and the "dividing of time" a half a year.

Thus altogether, the little horn power would continue in authority for three years and a half, prophetic time, with the saints delivered into his hand all that while.

This same period of time is mentioned in Revelation 12:14, and in Revelation 13:5 it is again spoken of as 42 months, counting twelve months to the year ($12 \times 3 \frac{1}{2} = 42$). Again we find the same time period in Revelation 12:6, as 1260 days, counting 30 days to the month for 42 months ($42 \times 30 = 1260$). The little horn, the papacy, would rule supreme in Europe, persecuting the saints of God, for 1260 literal years (the symbol of a day standing for a year).

History confirms this. Justinian made a decree in 533 A.D. giving the papacy unlimited power over all the churches. This decree went into effect in 538 A.D. when the last of the three kingdoms opposed to the papacy was pulled up by the roots. Thus the time for beginning the 1260 years of papal rule is 538 A.D.

Exactly 1260 years later, the papacy lost its temporal power. On February 20, 1798, Berthier, General of the French army under Napoleon, took the Pope prisoner in Rome, effectually putting an end to the papacy's temporal power in Europe. After that time there was virtually no persecution of the saints in Europe. They were free to worship God.

The kingdom will be given to those for whom it has been prepared since the foundation of the world. This vision of Daniel concerns us in these last days, lest we serve the little horn ignorantly, and share in its final destruction.

It's "good news" that the judgment of Heaven is even now taking away the "dominion" of the little horn, "to destroy it unto the end. Today we may know that this power has lost its hold over us. Not only in the world around us, but in our own hearts this dominion of evil is taken away, as we by faith follow Christ in His final work of judgment.

9. In the conflict between "the little horn " and

the Lord Jesus, where do you choose to stand ?
_____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 16

How to Talk With God and Know He Listens

"I feel as though I am talking on the telephone but there is nobody on the other end of the line." "I feel as though my prayers do not rise above my head." "What is the use of praying when God already knows what you need?" "I have tried prayer, and it does not work; I did not get any answer."

These are a few comments from people who have wrestled with the problem of prayer. There are also many others who have comments like these:

"I know God hears my prayers and I have perfect confidence that He answers." "The Lord has never let me down." "The Lord has always heard my cry, even when I know I am not worthy." "I would not be alive today if it were not for prayer."

One down-and-out girl testified that she was in the deepest despair when someone taught her to pray the simple Lord's Prayer, from her heart. In less than 24 hours she had found a TV program that led her to a study of the Bible and a rich, satisfying faith that changed her life. Today she is happy--and all because she knelt and prayed the Lord's Prayer with humility and sincerity.

Do not allow yourself to feel that prayer is useless. Follow the suggestions in the Bible. Learning to talk with God and to recognize His answers is the most important skill you can master.

What is God's Attitude Toward Us?

1. Read Hebrews 11:6, and answer the following questions:

(a) Before you can come to God, what must you first believe?

ANSWER: "For he that cometh to God must _____ that He is."

(b) After you have begun to believe that God is, what must you believe about His character?

ANSWER: "... That He is a _____ of them that _____."

There is no point in dialing a phone number unless you believe there is someone to talk to. If you believe that God is, and that He rewards those who come to Him, you are ready to talk with Him and know He listens.

2. How willing is our Father in heaven to give us anything that we really need? Matthew 7:9-11.

ANSWER: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give _____ unto your children, how much _____ shall your _____ which is in _____ give _____ to them that _____?"

3. How can you know if God will listen to you? John 9:31.

ANSWER: "If any man be a _____ of God, and _____ his _____, _____ he _____."

If "God heareth not sinners" at any time, we have no hope, for we are all sinners. But He listens to anyone who sincerely asks Him for forgiveness. "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). The man who prayed, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" was heard and forgiven (Luke 18:13, 14). Please don't ever stay away from God because you know you are a sinner! No matter how sinful you may feel, come to Him as you are. Don't wait to try to clean yourself up first. You can't. Get on your knees and say, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. I come to You because You invited me, and because You are my Saviour."

4. Where should we go in order to pray?
Matthew 6:6.

ANSWER: "When thou hast _____ thy

door, _____ to your Father who is in secret."

Jesus often went out to the forest or the mountains to pray (Luke 6:12; Mark 1:35). This was because He wanted to talk to God alone, where no curious ear could hear what He wanted to say. Many of us cannot now find such a place to pray; but we can usually find some spot or some time where we can be alone for a little while. Do you want to? You can!

5. Read Matthew 6:7, 8. Put an X before the correct statement:

_____ Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend, in simple words of our own choosing.

_____ God is pleased only with a set form of words, prepared by an expert.

6. Here is a promise Jesus made that we need to understand. Read John 15:7, and fill in these blanks:

(a) "If you _____ in _____, and my
_____ abide in you."

(b) "Ye shall ask what ye will, and it

_____."

7. Does this mean that we can ask for anything we may want selfishly? John 14:14.

ANSWER: "If ye shall ask anything
_____, I will do
it."

Suppose you are employed by a business firm. The manager sends you to the bank with a note asking for \$500,000.00 for the company payroll. You hand your letter to the bank in the name of the company. They give you the money without hesitation because they know you will use it for the payroll. If you asked for the money in your own name you would get nothing. So, to pray "in Jesus' name" is not a magic formula, but it is asking for

something to use in His work of helping others, in saving the world.

8. What secret will make anyone's prayers successful? Isaiah 58:6-9.

ANSWER: If we are willing to _____ people in need, when we call, the Lord will "_____" When we cry, He will say, "_____ I _____."

Simple Principles Anyone Can Learn

9. Do you know the Lord's Prayer? Learn it. Matthew 6:9-13. Answer these questions:

(a) To whom should prayer be addressed? To _____.

(b) What comes first, asking for things for ourselves, or asking that the Lord receive His reward? "Thy _____ come. Thy _____ be _____ in earth, as it is in _____."

(c) Do you think the word "daily bread" includes other necessities of life such as housing and clothes? _____.

(d) How does God forgive us our wrongs? "... As we _____ our _____."

(e) In whose name do we pray? John 15:16. "... Ye shall ask the _____ in _____ _____."

"Jesus said, 'Ye shall ask in My name: and I say unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: for the Father Himself loveth you.' 'I have chosen you: ... that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you.' John 16:26, 27; 15:16. But to pray in the name of Jesus is something more than a mere mention of that name at the beginning and the ending of a prayer. It is to pray in the mind and spirit of Jesus, while we believe His promises, rely upon His grace, and work His works." Happiness Digest, p. 48.

10. God is sometimes ready to give us

something when we are not ready to receive it. Before we can "receive from Him whatsoever we ask, "what is our duty? 1 John 3:21-23. List three things:

(a) "... _____ His commandments," and "do those things that are _____ in His sight."

(b) "... _____ on the name of his Son.," and

(c) "... _____ one another. ..."

Can We Short-Circuit Our Own Prayers?

11. If one stubbornly and contemptuously refuses to obey the Lord, what will happen to his prayers? Proverbs 28:9.

ANSWER: "Even his prayer shall be _____."

12. Why is it that sometimes our prayers are answered with a clear "No"? 1 John 5:14, 15.

ANSWER: "And this is the _____ that we have in _____, that, if we _____ anything _____ to _____, He _____: And if we know that He _____, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the _____ that we _____ of Him."

David says of our God, "No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." Psalm 84:11. No wise parent who loves his baby will give him a sharp knife because he cries for it. Don't forget that no matter how old you may be, you are still a child when it comes to knowing what is best for your future.

"When we do not receive the very things we asked for, at the time we ask, we are still to believe that the Lord hears and that He will answer our prayers. We are so erring and short sighted that we sometimes ask for things that would not be a blessing to us, and our heavenly Father in love answers our prayers by giving us that which will be

for our highest good--that which we ourselves would desire if with vision divinely enlightened we could see all things as they really are." Happiness Digest, pp. 45, 46.

13. What kind of prayers did Jesus pray? Hebrews 5:7, 8; Matthew 27:45, 46.

ANSWER: "... With _____ and _____ unto Him that was able to save Him from death, ..." On the cross, He felt that God had _____ Him.

During those dark hours on the cross Jesus drained the cup of human suffering to its dregs. All our tears and pain were upon Him.

"Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. 'The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy' (James 5:11). His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our

utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds. (See Happiness Digest, p.47 for practical suggestions on prayer.)

14. Do you join the disciples in their request, "Lord, teach us to pray"? _____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 17

God's Comforting Truth About Death: Are Some People Being Fooled?

Talking with the dead has become big business. Interested Americans have overwhelmed mediums with invitations, some even coming from churches. Universities offer courses in psychic phenomena and witchcraft, but cannot schedule enough to satisfy the demand of young students.

The long-dead Ralph Waldo Emerson was conjured up by a Ouija board enthusiast. He supposedly told her, "There is no such thing as death, only a 'transition' through which one's mind and soul leaves the body to 'pass on' to another world." Teenagers think they can contact the "dead" through Ouija boards, which have enjoyed boom sales.

Spiritualist mediums want to go high tech. If

they can figure out how and make money, they want to make it as easy to dial a dead person for a message as calling friends on the phone. What is the truth behind all this, according to the Bible? Where are the dead? What are they doing?

Millions of people in many lands are afraid to do anything to anger the spirits of their dead relatives. One thoughtful African in Zambia had a friendly uncle who adopted him when his parents died, and helped him get through school, even with the dowry for his marriage. At last the uncle died. Then the nephew began having misfortunes. The witch doctor said he could communicate with the dead uncle, who said that he was unhappy because the nephew had not erected as expensive a headstone on his grave as he wanted. The nephew went into debt for a series of exorbitant demands from the witch doctor, but still the misfortunes continued. Finally, the nephew stopped to think: his uncle was always kind and compassionate in life; how could he have suddenly become so cruel after his death? It was then that he began to read his Bible, and discovered the glorious truth you

will now find in this lesson.

Love (Agape) is the Key That Unlocks the Mystery of Death

1. The one great reason why God provides a life beyond death is simply this:

He loves us individually too much to let us stay dead forever. He wants us to be with Him. How does He feel toward us? Job 14:10-15.

ANSWER: "Thou shalt _____, and I will _____: thou wilt have a _____ to the _____ of thine hands."

2. What illustration has the Lord given to make us sure of the resurrection from the dead? Job 14:7-9, 14.

ANSWER: "It will _____."

If an artist paints a masterpiece that is destroyed by fire, he wants to re-create it. If an

author writes a book manuscript that disappears, he wants to re-write it. If an architect's masterpiece is destroyed, he wants to re-build it. Don't you think the Lord loves you too much to want you to drop out of sight forever? The answer to that question is yes.

3. What shows that Jesus firmly believed in a real life beyond the grave? Luke 20:34-36.

ANSWER: "They which shall be accounted worthy to obtain ... the _____ from the _____, ... they ... are the _____ of _____, being the children of the _____."

We do not know now what will replace marriage in the resurrection life. Some have said they would not want eternal life if there is no marriage in it. But they have not thought things through. The infinite God who created us will provide every means of happiness and companionship that will give perfect joy to all.

4. What must happen first before there is any life beyond the grave? John 5:28, 29.

ANSWER: "All that are in the graves shall _____ his _____, and shall come forth: , ... unto the _____ of _____."

5. How real will that new life be after the resurrection? Isaiah 65:17, 21-25.

ANSWER: "They shall build _____ , and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and _____ the fruit of them."

6. What shows how the Lord wants to be with you and His resurrected people forever? Revelation 21:1-5.

ANSWER: "The tabernacle [dwelling place] of God is with _____ ... and God Himself _____

_____."

Is It Possible for Anyone to Talk With the Dead?

7. How much do dead people know? Ecclesiastes 9:5; Psalm 146:3, 4; Job 14:14, 21.

ANSWER: Ecclesiastes 9:5 "But the _____ know _____."
Psalm 146:3, 4 "In that very day his _____."
Job 14:14, 21 "His sons come to honor, and he _____."

8. Can they praise God? Psalm 115:17.

ANSWER: "The dead _____
_____ the Lord, ..."

9. Can a dead man return to his house (or anywhere) as a "departed spirit," or ghost? Job 7:9, 10.

ANSWER: "He shall return _____
_____ to his house."

10. If the dead continue to live as "departed spirits," they don't need a resurrection. How does the Apostle Paul say this would contradict the resurrection of Christ, and the gospel itself? 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, 23.

ANSWER: "If there be no resurrection of the dead, then _____: ... then is our preaching _____, and your faith is also _____."

11. Who must return to earth before the resurrection can take place? 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

ANSWER: _____.

Paul says that the dead are "asleep." Jesus also told His disciples that when Lazarus died he "sleepeth" (John 11:11-14). Daniel said the dead "sleep in the dust of the earth" until they "awake" in the resurrection (Daniel 12:2). Job said the dead wait in the grave until the "set time" of the

resurrection (Job 14:13-15). Peter said that even "David is not yet ascended into the heavens" but is still "dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day" (Acts 2:29, 34).

With Whom Do Mediums Talk? Are the "Spirits" Actually Dead People?

12. Trying to talk with the dead is completely at war with Bible truth. What text accurately describes the final end of those who even try to contact the dead? Isaiah 8:19-22.

ANSWER: "Behold trouble and darkness, _____ of _____; and they shall be driven to _____."

13. Who is the archenemy of Bible truth and the gospel of Jesus Christ? Revelation 12:7-9.

ANSWER: The enemy and his cohorts are "The _____ and his _____."

14. How can Satan and his angels manage to

appear to people and fool them? 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

ANSWER: "For such are false apostles, _____, transforming themselves into the _____ of _____. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an _____ of _____."

The idea of the natural immortality of the soul has been inherited from heathenism, not the Bible. It has no place in a Christian church. Yet many churches blindly accept this false doctrine, and are preparing to be completely deceived by "the spirits of devils, working miracles" (Revelation 16:14). Unless they repent and believe Bible truth, Revelation says they will finally be so fully deceived that they will "become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit" (Revelation 18:1, 2).

Is something bothering you that you do not know? Do not contact spiritists, or even so-called "Christian mediums," to have evil angels tell you

mysteries they may know. Rather, go directly to the Lord who loves you so much that He gave His Son for you. He will tell you all you need to know! And it will always be Good News.

The One who died for you, who went to hell to save your soul, will not withhold anything good from you. Anyone whom Satan fools, he leads toward destruction. How much better to turn to the Lord! You can trust Him. God is love, and He will give you everything you need for happiness now and eternally.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 18

Light On the Millennium (The Thousand Years)

The General Electric Company has had 200 scientists working in Santa Barbara, California, on a seven-million-dollar-a-year budget trying to find out what will happen in 2000 A.D. The Air Force has been spending fifteen million dollars a year on the same kind of project. The scientists study the past and the present, and then draw a line to the future. They also gather a consensus of the forecasts of many scientists.

Some think that in the 21st century man will do away with the wheel, getting around by hovercraft. Planes carrying 1000 people will cruise at speeds just below that of sound. Ballistics will transport you anywhere in the world in 40 minutes. Bacterial diseases will be eliminated. Energy for the United States will come from a dozen stations, one of which, if placed on Mt. Wilson, could raise Los

Angeles' inversion layer to 19,000 feet and drive away its smog. Sea breezes could be sucked in, and rain make the desert a paradise all the way to Las Vegas. Just give us time, they say, and we'll make paradise on earth.

Only 10% of America's 330 million people will work as the other 90% will be paid the present equivalent of an annual dole of \$30,000 to \$40,000 just to keep idle. Harvard's Emmanuel Mesthene thinks man will by himself overcome his "original sin" and make his own godless heaven here on earth.

But some don't see this as too rosy a future. Herman Kahn foresees a pleasure-oriented society full of "wholesome degeneracy," a society run by a small elite with the rest existing as a mindless multitude on drugs, amused by circuses, half of them in prison. Some foresee the "have-not" nations warring against the super-rich U.S.

What does the Bible say about the future? We know this--what it says, we can trust!

1. Does the Bible say that modern man will solve our ecology-pollution problem and make this world beautiful and happy? See Revelation 11:15, 18.

ANSWER: Due to man's failure, "The kingdoms of this world are [will] become the _____ of our _____ and of his Christ. ..."... The nations were _____, and Thy _____ is come, ... and that Thou ... shouldest _____ which destroy the earth."

2. What picture does God give us of what sin will do to the future of our planet? Isaiah 24:3-6.

ANSWER: "The land shall be _____, and _____. ... The earth also is _____ under the _____ thereof. ... The curse _____ the earth."

3. What better hope has Jesus promised His people? John 14:1-3.

ANSWER (verse 3): "I _____
_____, and receive _____
unto Myself; that where _____,
there _____
_____."

4. What inheritance will come to those who respond to the love of Christ? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

ANSWER: "The dead in Christ shall _____: then we which are alive and remain _____ together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be _____ the _____."

5. What will happen to those who choose to keep on fighting against God? Jeremiah 25:30-33.

ANSWER: "The _____ of the Lord shall be at that day from _____ of the _____ even unto the other _____ of the _____..."

6. Some people appreciate the love of the Lord, and have given their hearts to Him in willing service. Where will they be taken when He returns? Revelation 20:4, 5.

ANSWER: "They lived and reigned with Christ a _____.



7. Why will Satan be "bound" a thousand years? Read Revelation 20:1-3, 5, and see the note below.

YOUR ANSWER: "That he should deceive the nations _____, till the thousand years should be fulfilled."

The "rest of the dead" are the lost people. The people who "live and reign with Christ" are the redeemed ones, taken to heaven when Christ returns. No one is left on earth alive. "The bottomless pit" is abyssos in the Greek, meaning a desolate, uninhabited place. (Read about it in the next question.)

8. What will the earth be like during these thousand years? Jeremiah 4:21-27.

ANSWER: "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was _____, and _____." (This is the same expression as abyssos in Greek.)

Satan will have nothing to do but to wander up and down this ruined planet to look at the results of his war against God. In the meantime the saints will be busy in judgment with Christ (see Revelation 20:4-6 and 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3). The

Father refuses to judge any of the lost without the full participation of the saints (see John 12:47-48).

What Happens at the End of The Thousand Years?

9. What wonderful city comes down from God out of heaven? Revelation 21:2.

ANSWER: "... The _____ .
..."

10. What did Jesus say about two resurrections? John 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15.

ANSWER: There is the resurrection of the " _____ " and the resurrection of the " _____ ." (These are the two resurrections which are one thousand years apart.) "There shall be a resurrection ... , both of the _____ and _____ ."

11. How does Satan deceive the lost into thinking they can do the impossible? Revelation

20:5, 7-9.

ANSWER: "Satan shall be _____ out of his _____. ... and _____ _____ to _____ the nations. ... And they went up ... and compassed the _____ of the _____ about, and the beloved _____: and _____ came down from God out of _____ and devoured them."

12. After the fire ends the misery of the lost and cleanses this polluted, sin-cursed earth, what happens next? Ezekiel 28:18, 19; Malachi 4:1; Proverbs 11:31; Revelation 21:1, 3-5.

ANSWER: "And I saw a _____ heaven and a _____ earth. ..." "The tabernacle of God is with _____, and He will _____ _____, and they shall be His _____, and _____ shall be _____, and be their God." "And _____ shall wipe away _____ from their eyes; and there shall be _____ Behold,

I make all things _____."

13. If you were God, could you think of a better way to bring an end to sin, and create a happy Kingdom? See Revelation 5:11-13. _____.

God has been patient with those who chose to rebel. At last, all will see that He has been both just and merciful. By his/her choice of lifestyle and character, each human being has cast a vote freely. The lost will judge themselves as unworthy of eternal life. The saved will ascribe all honor to their Saviour. Christ will win His kingdom by the overwhelming majority-vote of His universe.

In all ages God's people have been educated in the school of trial. They walked in narrow paths on earth; they were purified in the furnace of affliction. For Jesus' sake they endured opposition and hatred. They endured self-denial and experienced bitter disappointments. They learned the evil of sin, its power, its guilt, its woe. But now the days of pain are forever ended. The King of glory has wiped the tears from all faces; every

cause of grief has been removed. They pour forth a song of praise, sweet and harmonious; every voice takes up the strain until the anthem swells through the vaults of heaven: "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." And all the inhabitants of heaven respond: "Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever" (Revelation 7:10, 12).

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 19

The "Mark of the Beast": the Enemy's Mark of Ownership

The enemy's seal, or the "mark of the beast," is no trifling matter. The Lord seldom raises His voice and shouts; but He shouts His loudest, His most urgent warning, about this.

To be good all your life and then to accept the "mark of the beast" in the last hours of time--this would be a terrible tragedy. The "mark of the beast" is the final step in worship of self. Every person who chooses to be selfish will at last receive the "mark of the beast," unless something happens to change him in the meantime. "The third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God" (Revelation 14:9, 10).

The only thing that will make us immune to receiving that "mark" is to receive the "seal of God" (see Study Guide Fourteen). Revelation says that all who do not receive the "seal of God" will program themselves to receive the "mark of the beast." It is time to be sure that we understand what this is, and how to steer away from it.

1. To understand what is the mark of the beast, let us first identify the "beast" of Revelation 13.

The beast is the religio-political power that dominated history for 1260 years.

The books of Daniel and the Revelation fit together as a lock and key, each one explaining the other. For example, Daniel describes four great beasts he saw in vision--a lion, a bear, a leopard, and a strange one more like a dragon than anything else. The lion was a symbol of Babylon, rich and majestic; the bear was Medo-Persia, cruel and blood thirsty; the leopard was Greece, clever and swift--Daniel describes these three by name (Daniel 2:38; 8:20, 21); and the fourth beast, all-

powerful, was a symbol of the empire which followed Grecia, the pagan Roman Empire. The "beast" we see in Revelation 13 combines the characteristics of the four preceding world empires.

(a) "The dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." Revelation 13:2.

This is not difficult to understand. He receives his power, his seat, and great authority from "the dragon," a symbol of the devil, who worked through the Roman Empire.

But a new thing happened to the Roman Empire which had never before happened in history. Midstream in its history, it abandoned its official pagan religion, and its character changed from a political to a religious power. As the emperors became weaker and weaker, they moved their capital from Rome to Constantinople. This left an empty place which the Bishop of Rome was quick to fill. Soon he began to lord it over the other bishops, and to take to himself the prestige which the former emperors in Rome had exclusively

enjoyed. This is how the "dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority." One writer says, "Out of the ruins of political Rome, arose the great moral Empire in the 'giant form' of the Roman Church" (A. C. Flick, The Rise of the Mediaeval Church):

Dragon: Roman Empire used by Satan

Power: Army under Belisarius Seat: Rome

Great Authority: Letter of Justinian recognizing the authority of the Roman Bishop as pope--A.D. 533.

(b) One of its heads was "wounded to death." Revelation 13:3.

In the time of Napoleon, the French had come to believe that the Roman Catholic Church was their enemy. His army marched into Italy, determined to put an end to the papacy. Berthier took the pope prisoner in 1798. Thus the papacy which had led others into captivity was itself led into captivity.

(c) "His deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after ... and ... worshiped ... the beast." Revelation 13:3, 4, 7, 8.

The healing of the papacy's deadly wound has been a gradual one; but the most significant step was taken on February 11, 1929, when Premier Mussolini restored to the papacy its temporal power. The pope again became a king. An official who witnessed the signing of the agreement between Mussolini and the papacy said, "We are now witnessing the signing of this document. As the ink flows from these pens it is healing the wound of fifty-nine years."

Although the Roman Church once was "wounded," the wound is being healed today. Pope John Paul II's great popularity was seen in his unprecedented visits to America, visits "impossible" two or three decades earlier. A commission of Anglican and Roman Catholic theologians recommend the union of the two churches, to heal their 450-year separation. This plan would unite 760 million Roman Catholics and

65 million Anglicans, including 3 million American Episcopalians. Baptist Dr. Billy Graham has said that he sees the Pope of Rome as the one who should head up a union of all the churches.

Today the papacy is making a remarkable comeback in world power. Through all the new nations of the Third World and in the Western nations, her tremendous rising power is plain to be seen. In many countries she controls education. She is building lofty and massive cathedrals, opening her arms to welcome millions of converts to her faith.

And other churches outside the Roman fold are looking to her for leadership. The Rt. Rev. John Moorman, Anglican leader, said that if there is to be a final unity among the churches, "there will have to be a central head of the church, and that head will clearly have to be the bishop of Rome."

(d) The beast spoke "blasphemies." Revelation 13:5, 6; Daniel 7:25.

When Jesus forgave people their sins, the Jews accused Him of blasphemy, saying, "Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" (Luke 5:21). A Roman Catholic writer says, "The priest holds the place of the Saviour Himself who, by saying, 'Ego te absolvo'" [Latin, 'I absolve thee'], he absolves from sin. ... To pardon a single sin requires all the omnipotence of God. ... But what only God can do by His omnipotence, the priest can also do by saying, "Ego te absolvo a peccatis tuis."

The same writer says further: "But our wonder should be far greater when we find that in obedience to the words of His priests--HOC EST CORPUS MEUM [Latin, 'This is my body']--God Himself descends on the altar, that He comes whenever they call Him. ... They move Him as they please, from one place to another; they may, if they wish, shut Him up in the tabernacle, or expose Him on the altar, or carry Him outside the church; they may, if they choose, eat His flesh, and give Him for the food of others. ... The priest may, in a certain manner, be called the creator of his Creator" Alphonsus de Liguori, Dignity and Duties of the

Priest, pp. 26-36.

A Roman Catholic encyclopedia says: "The pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God, and the Vicar of God. ... The pope is as it were God on Earth" Prompta Bibliotheca, Article "Papa," Vol. VI, pp. 26-29. As late as 1894 Pope Leo XIII said: "We hold on this earth the place of God Almighty."

(e) The "beast" makes "war with the saints."
Revelation 13:7.

During the time when the papacy was supreme in Europe, historians tell us that millions of people were put to death because they would not acknowledge the papacy as God's true church on earth. Pope Martin (A.D.1417-1431) said to the king of Poland regarding the Christian followers of John Huss: "Make it a duty to exterminate the Hussites. Remember that these impious persons dare to proclaim the principles of liberty. ... They hold that Christ came on earth to abolish slavery; they call the people to liberty. ... Burn, massacre,

make deserts everywhere, for nothing could be more agreeable to God, or more useful to the cause of kings, than the extermination of the Hussites."

(f) "Power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. "Revelation 13:7; Daniel 7:25; Revelation 12:6. (A day in Bible prophecy = 1 year.)

The Roman Emperor Justinian made a decree that the bishop of Rome, the pope, should be the head of all the churches. This decree went into effect in the year A.D. 538 when the Arian Ostrogoths were driven from Rome. In that year began the temporal power of the papacy, which continued unabated through the struggles of 1260 years, until the fateful year A.D. 1798 when the French general, Berthier, entered Rome, proclaimed a republic, and took the pope prisoner.

2. How many shall worship the beast?
Revelation 13:8.

ANSWER: "And _____ that _____"

upon the _____ shall worship him, whose names are _____ written in the book of life of the Lamb. ..."

This time is very near. But as we see the great masses of people turning toward Rome, we must not imagine that everyone is following in that direction. God has a people who will remain loyal to Him. There will be only two classes on earth: those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, and those who yield to "the beast."

In recognizing these prophecies, we honor the many sincere adherents of the Roman Catholic Church. It is neither fault-finding nor bigotry to recognize the plain truth of God's word in the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. The prophecies identify the papacy as a system. But it is the outworking in history of a principle that operates in every human heart--the natural desire for exaltation and power over our fellows.

In case there may be some lingering doubt whether we have truly found the "beast" and his

"mark," God will give the "number" of the beast so that all can be as sure who he is, as though he had a passport or tax number.

3. To help us identify this power, what is the number of the "beast"? Revelation 13:18.

ANSWER: "His number is _____ (write it in figures)."

The Romans of John's day spoke and wrote Latin. This language uses Roman characters for numbers. The Roman Catholic Bible (Douay version) has a note on this verse: "Six hundred sixty-six. For centuries the title of the Pope of Rome has been understood to be Vicarius Filii Dei, which means, 'Vicar of the Son of God.' In view of the fact that the Son of God Himself declared the Holy Spirit to be His Vicar on earth (John 14:16-18), this title appears rather presumptuous."

"The letters inscribed in the Pope's miter are these: 'VICARIUS FILII DEI' which is the Latin for 'VICAR OF THE SON OF GOD' Catholics

hold that the church, which is a visible society, must have a visible head. Christ, before His ascension into heaven, appointed St. Peter to act as His representative. ... Hence was given the title, 'VICAR OF CHRIST.'" Our Sunday Visitor, (Catholic Weekly), "Bureau of Information," Huntington, Ind., April 18, 1915.

The papacy does claim to be the Vicar of the Son of God, "Vicarius Filii Dei," in her own language.

V	I	C	A	R	I	U	S	F	I	L	I	I	D	E	I
5	1	100	0	0	1	5*	0	0	1	50	1	1	500	0	1

Total = 666 (* U = V = 5).

4. The prophet John saw another beast in Revelation 13:11. Where did this beast come from?

ANSWER: "... Out of the _____."

The "sea" represents large populations of people. The "earth" must therefore be the opposite-an uninhabited part of the world out of which a

new nation was to "come up" about the time that the papacy was being led into captivity by its "deadly wound" in A.D. 1798.

What great nation was rising to prominence and power about the time when the 1260 years of papal supremacy ended in 1798? Only one arising in a largely uninhabited part of the world, and that was the United States of America, which declared its independence in 1776, and which was experiencing its early beginnings by 1798. This nation arose in the New World, a vast continent of largely uninhabited land.

5. Describe the beast that came out of the earth. Revelation 13:11, 12.

ANSWER: "He had _____
like a _____, and he _____ as a
_____. And he exerciseth _____ the
_____ of the _____
before him, and causeth the _____ and
_____ which dwell therein to _____
the _____, whose deadly wound

was healed."

"Two horns like a lamb" suggests the youthful and peaceful character of the young America, and its twin principles of civil and religious liberty which helped so much to develop the nation into a prosperous world power. (The United States is still a "young" nation.)

Unlike the horns on the other beasts or kingdoms, these two have no crowns on them. The founders of America determined to learn a lesson from Europe's past history, by creating a new nation without a king.

But what a pity that its character changes from that of a "lamb" to a "dragon [that] exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him. America will yet become a persecuting power, and will reach out to grasp the hand of the papacy. So close will be the union between the two that it will cause "the earth and those which dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."

6. What does this lamb-like beast say "to them that dwell on the earth"? Revelation 13:14.

ANSWER: "That they should make an _____ of the _____, which had the wound by a sword, and did live."

The image to the beast is a copy of what made the papacy supreme in the Dark Ages--a union of church and civil government, so that the church had power to enforce its dogmas through the magistrates and police.

The nations of the world have generally broken away from any form of domination by the church. Civil government should be free from religious control. Jesus commanded that church and state should be separate: "Render therefore unto Caesar [the government] the things that are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). The American Constitution guarantees the complete separation of church and state, enabling the people to obey this command of Jesus.

But Revelation says the time is coming when America will repudiate the principles which have brought her success, and will induce other nations to follow her example of enforcing religious belief and practice. Then will come a revival of the oppression and persecution that was so common during the Dark Ages.

Does this seem unlikely? Man's boasted progress is only skin-deep. Underneath, human nature is still evil. As wars, bloodshed, riots, and natural disasters increase, the world's rulers will be at their wits' end to know what to do. Very easily in crisis they can turn to the Roman Church for moral and spiritual leadership. The fulfillment of these closing verses of this chapter is only a step away from us.

7. The papacy claims that changing the "Lord's Day" from the seventh to the first day is the supreme sign of her authority, which Protestants are content to follow. How will almost "all that dwell upon the earth" become willing to accept "the mark of the beast"? Revelation 13:16-18.

ANSWER: "He causeth all, ... to receive a mark in their _____, or in their _____. ..." (New International Version: "... He forced everyone. ...").

The keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath distinguishes the "saints" who keep the commandments of God. The mark of the beast is the counterfeit of God's true mark, to deceive as many people as possible. Many may receive the mark of the beast while they presume that they are safe in following the majority in religious practice.

Daniel 7:25 reveals how the papacy tried to change God's law by substituting another Lord's day than the day chosen by God. It would not be fair to accuse the papacy of this crime unless she herself were willing to admit its truth. Catholic authorities openly admit that they alone are responsible for the change of God's holy sabbath.

"Question: Have you any other way of proving the [Roman] church has power to institute festivals

of precept?'

"Answer: Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her--she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority." Stephen Keenan, A Doctrinal Catechism, p. 174. "Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act... and the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things." Cardinal Gibbons, by Chancellor H. F. Thomas.

"There is no proof in Scripture that God willed the Sabbath to be changed from Saturday to Sunday, so that those non-Catholics who do not accept the value of (Catholic) Tradition as a source of Faith, should logically still observe Saturday as the Sabbath." Francis J. Ripley, This is the Faith, p.178.

"Nothing is said in the Bible about a change of the Lord's day from Saturday to Sunday. We know

of the change only from the tradition of the [Catholic] Church. ... That is why we find so illogical the attitude of many non-Catholics, who say they will believe nothing unless they can find it in the Bible and yet will continue to keep Sunday as the Lord's day on the say-so of the Catholic Church." Leo J. Trese, *The Faith Explained*, p. 243.

Those who receive "the mark" "in their foreheads" will believe that Sunday is the Lord's Day even though the Bible says differently. Those who receive the "mark in their right hand" will know fully that it is false, yet for fear and security will go along with the majority rather than stand on God's side.

8. How important will the Lord regard this matter of "the mark of the beast"? Revelation 14:9-12.

ANSWER: Those who line up with the enemy of the Ruler of the Universe, "The same shall drink of the _____ of the _____ of God, which is poured out _____ into

the cup of his _____"



The Mark of the Beast

Those who refuse the "mark of the beast" are in the minority. They endure the scorn and opposition of relatives and friends. Some have to lose a precious job because of the sabbath. But all the hardships they bear are nothing compared to the

assurance of God's favor upon them.

But please note: no one yet has received the mark of the beast. Not yet have the final issues been made plain to everyone. The Lord has many faithful people observing the false sabbath in ignorance, and they will be enlightened.

The issue is loyalty and obedience to God.

The "beast" appeals to the love of self. Those who bear the cross with Christ will gain the victory over the beast and his image and his mark, which is opposed to the cross of Christ; and the true sabbath of the Lord thus becomes the sign of bearing the cross.

9. This will be a severe test to "all that dwell upon the earth. "How only will we get strength to say "no" to this terrible pressure? Revelation 13:8.

ANSWER: Through faith, a heart-appreciation of the sacrifice of "the _____ slain from the _____ of the _____." And Revelation

12:11: We will overcome "by the _____ of their _____; and they loved not _____ unto the death."

10. Do we really "have to live" at the cost of rebelling against the Lord? Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:5.

ANSWER: "For if we have been planted together in the _____ of his _____, we shall be also in the likeness of his _____ "

11. Did Jesus plead "I have to live!" when He faced the cross where He died for us? Philippians 2:4, 5-8.

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

Now is the time to yield ourselves fully to the Lamb who was slain for us. The crisis that is fast developing will test to the utmost the patience and faith of the saints, but God will have a people who stand loyal to His truth in the face of the opposition of the world.

12. Do you ask for the grace of Christ to enable you to stand firm against the mark of the beast?

_____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 20

The Day I "Died" and Lived to Tell About It

Once in a while we hear of someone dying and by quick artificial respiration or heart massage being brought back to life. Usually such an experience helps us think more clearly about the true priorities of life.

I am one of those who have "died," and yet I still live. And the way I now live after this experience is entirely different from the way I lived before it happened. When I "died," I faced my own little moment of truth. It straightened out my priorities. In fact, it wouldn't be right to say that I ever truly "lived" before that time when I "died." I didn't know what life was all about until I discovered death to self.

After it happened, I began to see something I had never seen before: the world of nature teaches

this same grand truth--no real life is possible without our dying first. For example, take a towering forest giant: how did the tree come to be? A little seed fell in the ground and died. Each blade of grass tells the same story: "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" (John 12:24). Jesus was the first man on earth to see this truth so clearly taught in the things of nature.

Are you really alive, vibrant, happy, on top of the world? Not unless you have truly died first with Christ.

But just how do we go about having this experience? Right now we come face to face with a stupendous fact: the Bible is the only book in the world that gives us a step-by-step, how-to-do-it plan for life coming from death. The world of nature teaches this lesson, and the Bible is the handbook that agrees with nature's teaching. The book of nature and the Bible both come from the pen of the same Author! Let's start looking for this secret of life.

Real Living--Where You Least Expect to Find It!

1. Has real Life come knocking at your door? Are you sure? See John 1:1, 4, 9. (Compare John 14:6.)

ANSWER: Christ, the Life and the Light of the world, "lighteth every _____ that _____ into the _____."

The answer is "Yes!" That Light is what brings life. And it has already come to you.

2. Contrary to what probably 99% of the people think, what kind of "life" does Christ bring? John 10:10.

ANSWER: "I am come that they might have _____, and that they might have it _____."

3. Read the experience of one who truly died

and lived again. What kind of pleasures are his?
Psalm 16:10, 11.

ANSWER: "Thou wilt not leave my soul in _____; ... in Thy presence is _____ of _____; at Thy right hand there are _____ for _____."

In Acts 2:27 Peter quotes these words. Turning there you will read that this refers to Jesus (read verses 27-32). Jesus is the first man on this planet who ever truly lived and who began by dying. "Behold, I am alive forevermore," He says. When He said in John 12:24 that a common seed that "abideth alone" comes to nothing, He was talking about Himself. Friends had been urging Him to flee and to save Himself from His murderous enemies in Palestine. "The only way I can truly live," He answered in effect, "is to stay here and die."

4. What is the only way you will ever truly live, now or ever? Galatians 2:19, 20.

ANSWER: "... I through the law am

_____ to the _____, that I might
_____ unto _____. I am _____
with Christ: nevertheless I _____; yet
_____, but Christ _____
in _____: and the life which I now live in the
flesh I live by the _____ of the _____
of _____, who loved me, and gave Himself
for me."

Some like to think that "dead to the law" means "deaf to the law." No. One who is "dead to the law" no longer disobeys the law. He says, "The law commands me to do what self within me refuses to do. Therefore self shall die." The "I" which is "crucified with Christ" is self. We deny our own selfish will which is by nature at cross-purposes with God's will. The constant conflict rages in every person's heart--no compromise is ever possible. One or the other must be crucified--we must "crucify Christ afresh" or crucify self.

The Lord Jesus Himself fought the same battle in His own soul. He died not only once on the cross, but every moment of His life He denied self.

In His soul, as in our souls, self struggled for control: "I seek not Mine own will," He said, "but the will of the Father which hath sent Me" (John 5:30). That is how He died every day.

And the life of the apostle Paul was a constant conflict with self. He also said, I "die daily" (1 Corinthians 15:31). His will and his desires every day conflicted with duty and the will of God. Instead of following inclination, he did God's will, however crucifying to his nature. But the result was wonderful joy.

When he said, "I am crucified with Christ," he meant that he, too, was following Jesus' example. "Not as I will, but as Thou wilt" had now become his constant daily prayer.

5. Paul pricked the Christians of his day with a startling "Know-ye-not?" challenge. What was it? Romans 6:3-5.

ANSWER: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized

into his _____?"

6. See the "how" of this marvelous "path to life" in Romans 6:6, 7:

ANSWER: "Our _____ is crucified with Him, that the _____ of _____ might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not _____." Only "he that is _____ is freed from sin."

When in algebra, " $x + 2 = 4$," you know that $x = 2$. Who is the "old man" here? Galatians 2:20 has told us who the mysterious "Mr. X" is: he is self. When he dies, "the body of sin," the very substance of it, is destroyed. And not until self dies, is that root of sin eradicated. Clearly this is not a once-for-all thing; Paul uses the present tense. This constant surrender of the selfish will goes on all through our lives. The old man comes to life with each new day, and as often, we must kneel and permit self to die with Christ (see Luke 9:23, 24).

7. Take one more look at this "how" text: Can

anyone crucify self on his own? Galatians 2:20.

ANSWER: Our old man is crucified "
_____ Christ."

What Paul said (according to the original language) is that his ego is "crucified with Christ." That is, his selfish pride, his selfish will, that has been contrary to God, his selfish ambition, his glorying in his own achievements or abilities--this is the ego. It is impossible for any honest heart to "see" the cross of Christ, believe, and continue living selfishly. "The love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if One died for all, then were all dead [that is, all would be dead]: and that He died for all, that they which live should not [that is, will find it impossible] henceforth [to] live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15).

"Many are inquiring, 'How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?' You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of

your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him. ...

"Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By

yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith." Happiness Digest, p. 21.

8. When you die to self, what happens to your old fear? Psalm 27:1-3.

YOUR ANSWER: It's _____.

9. How can you describe the joy of your new life here and now after "dying" with Christ? Romans 8:13-21.

YOUR ANSWER: I shall _____.

There are indeed hard, stern battles with self, and endless conflicts. But the point is that the grace of Christ strengthens us. His cross must never be lost sight of! It actually makes our part easy.

Was His burden light in the Garden of

Gethsemane or on His cross? No. He sweat drops of blood, yes, even His very heart was ruptured in His final agony.

The burden He says is "light" is simply His burden that we carry. The faith that works by love makes it light for us to carry, for we appreciate the heaviness it was to Him.

The only difficult thing in being a true Christian therefore is the choice to surrender self to be crucified with Christ. We are never called to be crucified alone--only with Him.

But, thank God, it is a million times easier for us to be "crucified with Christ" than it was for Him to be crucified alone for us! Behold the Lamb of God, and it does indeed become easy.

'When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

"And even if this still seems hard, don't forget that it remains much harder to go on fighting against love like that and beating off the persistent ministry of the Holy Spirit, in order to be lost!

The "strait and narrow way" is not difficult--it is narrow, meaning that we cannot carry with us the world's baggage of selfishness. We must indeed "fight the good fight of faith," but it is precisely that--a fight of faith. While we continually "strive" and "pray without ceasing," we must also breathe without ceasing if we would live; but is that "difficult"? And we must eat, probably several times daily, as long as we expect to live--is that "difficult"? A healthy person breathes; "stretches" every muscle as a Christian "stretches every nerve." He eats because he's hungry, not because he has to. And he finds the constant exercise and activity to be joyous, much more so than being an inactive invalid.

10. Does your heart say "yes" to God's secret of life? _____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 21

The Joy of Joining One's Will to Jesus

Doing this or doing that does not earn salvation. The Bible teaches that people are saved only by faith in Christ. Knowing this is true, many wonder why it is so necessary to be baptized. If one is saved by faith, why is a "work" like baptism so important? Would God actually keep a repentant person out of His Kingdom if he/she were not baptized?

Could it be that baptism is an outmoded relic of a superstitious past? If we interpret Jesus' teachings in a more modern way, will we see that baptism is no longer necessary for Christians?

Can we invent an easier method of baptism than the old-fashioned way of being "buried" in the water? Is sprinkling a good substitute? Why not?

Is it ever right to be baptized a second time? Why is it that some people who are baptized never really become good Christians? What is the real reason behind Jesus' idea of baptism? Why did He command it? What lesson does it teach? What does baptism do for one? What change does it make? Perhaps you have never been baptized, and you want to know what it means. Perhaps you have already been baptized but you want to understand the "why" more clearly.

1. How did baptism begin? What was the real problem of John's hearers? Matthew 3:1-6.

ANSWER: " _____ : for the _____ of _____ is at _____."

These people saw that sin is a disease with very deep roots. They were common people who were honest and open, willing to confess their need.

2. Look at John's message in Matthew 3:7-12 and find the answers to these questions:

(a) What was the problem, these people also had (verse 8)?

ANSWER: "Bring forth therefore _____ meet for _____."

(b) Where does God begin to help with our sin problem? (verse 10).

ANSWER: "The axe is laid unto the _____ of the _____."

(c) What two kinds of baptism are mentioned? (verse 11).

ANSWER: "I ... baptize you with _____ ... with the _____ Ghost. ..."

3. Why do you think that the sinless Jesus submitted to be baptised? Doesn't baptism mean confession and repentance for sin? Matthew 3:13-15.

ANSWER: "And Jesus answering said unto

him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to _____."

It is true that Jesus had Himself done no sin (see 1 Peter 2:21-23). But the Sinless One mingled with sinners because He loved them and came to save them. We all deserve a cross ourselves, but He took our cross instead. He put Himself in our place and felt as we feel (compare 1 Peter 2:24). Have you felt guilty, polluted, "dirty" with sin? Jesus carried that burden for you, and knows how you feel. He took our sin upon Himself. He was baptized as an Example to us. "The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

4. What happiness came to Jesus after He was baptized? Matthew 3:16, 17.

ANSWER: He heard a voice from heaven saying, "This is my _____, in whom _____."

Everyone who will go through the same steps

will most surely hear the same voice from heaven saying: "This is My own dear son (or daughter)."

5. What three steps prepare one for baptism?

ANSWER:

(a) Mark 16:15, 16. "He that _____."

(b) Acts 2:37, 38. "Peter said unto them, _____."

(c) Matthew 28:19, 20. "_____ all things."

To "believe" means more than a mental assent, like saying $2 + 2 = 4$. It means to appreciate the sacrifice that Jesus made for us (see Romans 10:10 and Galatians 5:6). Faith is the same as believing. It is one's heart-response of appreciation for God's love. It brings a new life into one's soul. You say, "What is sin, that it should require such a sacrifice for the redemption of its victim? Was all this love,

all this suffering, all this humiliation {of Christ} demanded, that we might not perish, but have everlasting life?" Happiness Digest, p. 11.

This is true New Testament "faith," and leads one directly into repentance, the second step. One begins to learn to hate sin. Then one turns away from it because he does not wish to add to Christ's sufferings. This repentance is a gift of God (see Acts 5:31). It leads directly to the third step--obedience. Faith means the heart is reconciled to God; and since it is impossible to be reconciled to God and not at the same time be reconciled to His holy law, faith makes the believer obedient to all of God's commandments. When one invites the Holy Spirit into his heart, it becomes the easiest thing in the world to obey them. The Holy Spirit writes that holy law in the heart, and we actually delight to obey.

6. If one refuses to believe, what lies before him? Mark 16:16, last part; compare John 3:16-20.

ANSWER: "He that believeth not is

_____ already, because he hath not
_____ in the name of the only begotten Son
of God."

7. What do you believe is the right method of baptism? Matthew 3:6; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39.

ANSWER (check one): () To be infused (poured); () to be sprinkled; () to be "buried" in the water.

8. What is the deeper meaning of baptism? Romans 6:3, 4.

ANSWER: "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into _____ were _____ into _____ ? Therefore we are _____ with _____ by _____ into _____: that like as Christ was _____ up from the _____ by the glory of the Father, even so we also should _____ in _____ of _____."

9. But what does "death " mean here? How do

we share Christ's death? Romans 6:5-7.

ANSWER: "Knowing this, that _____ is _____, that the body of sin _____, that henceforth we should not _____ sin."

Here is the secret! The old sinful self is not to be beaten or punished, but is to die with Christ, and to be buried so no one sees it again. (This is why baptism is a symbol of burial--it must be immersion or it has no meaning.) No one can possibly live with Christ until he first surrenders himself to die with Him. This is how the power of the sinful self is destroyed. This is putting the axe at the root of the tree. To let "self die with Christ is the same thing as joining our will (or choice) to Him (Matthew 26:39; John 6:38).

10. Does this mean that any of us are perfect after we are baptized? Philippians 3:12-14.

ANSWER: "But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which _____, and reaching forth unto those things which are

_____, I press toward the _____ for the prize of the _____ of God in _____."

11. What is every newly baptized person in God's sight? 1 Peter 2:1, 2.

ANSWER: "As _____, desire the sincere milk of the _____, that ye may grow thereby."

12. Is a second baptism sometimes the right thing to do? Acts 19:1-5.

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

The thief on the cross could not be baptized, yet the Lord promised him that he would be in Paradise. But if one can be baptized, it is necessary (John 3:3-5). Nicodemus knew that Christ here referred to water baptism and the renewing of the heart by the Spirit of God. By nature the heart is evil, and "who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one" (Job 14:4). No human invention

can find a remedy for the sin-sick soul. "The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." "Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (Romans 8:7; Matthew 15:19). The fountain of the heart will be purified.

13. Are you willing to be baptized by immersion, as a sign of your union with Christ?
_____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 22

Talking in Tongues: A New Look at Bible Evidence

Everyone who responds to God's love wants one blessing above all else: the gift of the Holy Spirit. If one doesn't have the Holy Spirit, he is like a body without the breath of life. He is spiritually dead. Wherever the Holy Spirit of God is being poured out, that is where God's people should be.

There is harmony between Bible teaching and the true gift of the Holy Spirit. This study is devoted to the work of the Holy Spirit, how we can recognize Him. Especially we want to see what the Bible says about the gift of tongues as it was prominent in the New Testament church of the apostles. We want to look deeply into their actual words.

How do you understand the phenomenal growth of the tongues-speaking movements today?

They are uniting Roman Catholics, Baptists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, people of almost all denominations.

It's time to let the Bible shed some much-needed light on this phenomenon.

Should We Be Afraid of the Holy Spirit?

1. Here is a clear answer to that question. John 14:16, 17.

ANSWER: "The Father ... shall give you another _____, that he may _____ with you _____."

2. What is the real meaning of the word "comfortless" in John 14:18?

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

The real meaning of "Comforter" is one-who-is-called-to-sit-down-beside-you. The Holy Spirit is your constant Companion. Jesus said that He will

never leave you, for "He shall abide with you forever." You would be an orphan without Him.

3. See what Jesus said as to how the Holy Spirit will "comfort" us. John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:13.

ANSWER: "He shall teach you _____
_____." "The Spirit of truth ... shall testify
_____." "He will guide you into
_____. ... and he will shew you
_____ to _____."

4. How can you know whether or not you have already received the gift of the Holy Spirit? Read carefully John 16:7-11 and note the three things the Holy Spirit does for you.

ANSWER: "When He is come [to you], He will _____ the world of _____, and of _____, and of _____."

Have you begun to see your sinfulness? Then you have received the Holy Spirit. Only He can

give you that conviction. Have you begun to realize how high and pure is God's standard of righteousness? That is an evidence of His work! Have you begun to grasp the fact that Satan is "judged," condemned, cast out of your life? This is further evidence.

Some have not received this Heavenly Gift, for they are proud of their own righteousness and their hearts are as hard as concrete. According to Jesus, repentance and heart-sorrow for sin are the first evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit. See Luke 18:9-14.

"While the work of the Spirit is silent and imperceptible, its effects are manifest. If the heart has been renewed by the Spirit of God, the life will bear witness to the fact." Happiness Digest, p. 26.

What Was the Gift of Tongues On the Day of Pentecost?

5. Read the simple story of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-11. Did the people hear a babble of

unintelligent words, or did they hear actual languages?

ANSWER: "How hear we every man in our _____, wherein we were born?"

(Compare Revelation 14:6 to find the common meaning of "tongue" as a spoken language). There are two words translated "tongue" in Acts 2—*glossa* and *dialektos*.

We get "glossary" from the first and "dialect" from the second. *Glossa* is spoken languages, and *dialektos* is spoken dialects or mother-tongues. *Glossa* is used in Revelation 14:6. The miracle of Pentecost was the gift of genuine spoken language and dialects.

6. Is there any evidence that the gift of tongues spoken of later in the Book of Acts was the same? Acts 10:46 and 19:6. (*Glossa* is used in both texts.)

ANSWER: "They heard them speak with _____ and _____ God." ... They spake

with _____, and _____."

These instances were repetitions of Pentecost on a smaller scale. The miracle was the use of languages new to the speakers, but understood by the hearers. The great diversity of languages was a serious barrier to full communication in the days of the apostles, much as it is in undeveloped areas of the world today. The Holy Spirit enabled these men to express themselves freely.

7. As we read what Paul said to the Corinthians, is there any different kind of gift of "tongues" brought to view? 1 Corinthians 12:1, 28.

YOUR ANSWER: "God hath set some in the church with gifts of _____ of _____."

Again, glossa is used, with the modifier, "kinds of languages," clearly spoken languages. Glossa is never used of any but spoken languages in the New Testament, including those of angels (1 Corinthians 13:1).

What Are "Unknown" Tongues? (1 Corinthians 14)

8. Why is the word "unknown" in italics in the King James Bible? 1 Corinthians 14:2, 4, 13, 14, 19, 27.

YOUR ANSWER (see note below):

_____.

In the King James Version, italicized words have been supplied by the translators, who were honest enough to tell us that they are not in the original Greek or Hebrew. The translators thought the sense required the addition of these words, but sometimes the additional words bring confusion. The apostle Paul never once used the term "unknown tongue;" what he said in every instance was "language," meaning "foreign language." The church in Corinth was composed of many nationalities and cultures. Their sabbath meetings would be confusion unless Paul's counsel regarding translating was followed. His concern was not that they speak babble, but understand!

9. Should one ever speak in an unknown or foreign language in a public meeting--without someone translating for the benefit of all? 1 Corinthians 14:26-28, 33, 40.

ANSWER: "... If there be _____, let him keep _____ in the church. ..."

Mark in your Bible the many clear things Paul says about how important it is that every word spoken be clear and intelligible (1 Corinthians 14:5-20). He is clearly talking about languages (verses 21-25). He says that if you can show off your knowledge of foreign languages, all you do is dazzle the unbeliever; but if you communicate some sensible truth, you convict the unbeliever. Paul is in favor of the latter. If a preacher preaches to you in Chinese, the only one who understands him is God (unless you are Chinese). His soul may be stirred as he delivers a marvelous sermon, but it is all "Greek" to the listeners ("mysteries"). All he is doing is preaching to himself ("edifieth

himself").

The Gift That Is Better Than "Tongues"

10. Has God given you the gift of His Holy Spirit? 1 Corinthians 12:7-11.

ANSWER: "The manifestation of the Spirit is given to _____ to profit withal. ... The selfsame Spirit, dividing to _____ severally as _____."

11. The Holy Spirit gives to every one a different gift. We must never expect others to have the same gift we have, or make them feel that they must get a certain gift-experience in order to receive the Holy Spirit. What "more excellent way" is better than talking with all the languages of men and angels? 1 Corinthians 12:29-31 and 13:1-3.

ANSWER: It is to have "_____."

Whatever is your mother-tongue (dialektos), pray that the Holy Spirit will set you free from the timidity that has hindered you from telling someone what Christ has done for you. When you can convey to someone an uplifting spiritual truth that will turn him to everlasting life, you have done what Paul says you should do. "Follow after agape," he says, and desire "spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy." To prophesy in this sense means to help someone spiritually by communicating truth. "He that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification [building them up spiritually], and exhortation [encouraging them spiritually], and comfort" (1 Corinthians 14:3).

12. If one receives the Holy Spirit, what is the first fruit that he will receive in his life? Galatians 5:22.

ANSWER: "But the fruit of the Spirit is _____."

This is a fruit that can be received only as one follows Christ by faith in His work of cleansing the

heavenly sanctuary, in His final atonement. God's answer to the challenge posed by a false and counterfeit, so-called "holy ghost baptism" that is based on false doctrine and disobedience to the commandments of God is this gift of genuine love,—agape. It is priceless!

13. Do you ask the Lord to show you what "gift of the Spirit" He has already given you?
_____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 23

The Question Many Ask: What is Jesus Doing Now?

He is busy day and night performing a great work--preparing a people to be ready when He comes. It's the most important work being done in the world today.

He has an "office," a headquarters where this work is directed. It is the heavenly sanctuary. God directed Moses to build an earthly sanctuary, "that I may dwell among them" (Exodus 25:8). It was built according to a "pattern," a "shadow" or type of the heavenly one.

In the "holy place" was a gold table for special bread, the seven-branched candlestick or lamp stand, and a gold altar of incense. The table stood on the north, and on the south was the candlestick, with its seven lamps. Its branches were ornamented with exquisitely wrought gold flowers, resembling

lilies, and the whole was solid gold. There being no windows in the tabernacle, the lamps shed their light day and night. The gold altar of incense stood before the veil separating the holy place from the most holy place.

Beyond the inner veil was the solemn "holy of holies," where was centered the symbolic service of atonement and intercession. It formed the symbolic connecting link between heaven and earth. A chest, called "the ark of the covenant," was the only furniture there, a depository for the tables of stone on which God Himself had inscribed the Ten Commandments. Gold angels called "cherubim" covered it. Above it was the holy Shekinah--the visible manifestation of the divine presence. All this was but a dim reflection of the glories of the true sanctuary in heaven, the great center of the work for man's redemption. Jesus is there; but what is He doing?

1. We will focus on a verse in the prophetic book of Daniel. Jesus has set up an appointment with His people. Read Daniel 8:14, and note the

time, place, and the work to be accomplished.

ANSWER: "Unto _____
and _____ [time]
then shall the _____ [place] be _____
[work]."

2. What was God's purpose in telling Moses to build a sanctuary? Exodus 25:8.

ANSWER: "Let them make Me a _____;
that I _____
_____."

3. Moses was given a pattern (Exodus 25:9, apian) to follow. What did its priests represent? Hebrews 8:5.

ANSWER: "Who serve unto the _____
and _____ of _____."

The earthly sanctuary is a lesson book for us to learn what the heavenly sanctuary is like.

4. Who is our great High Priest? Hebrews 4:14.

ANSWER: "We have a great high priest ...,
_____ the _____ of _____."

5. Where does He minister? Hebrews 8:1, 2.

ANSWER: "Such an High Priest, who is
_____ on the _____ of
the _____ of the _____ in the
_____; ... a minister of the _____, and
of the _____."

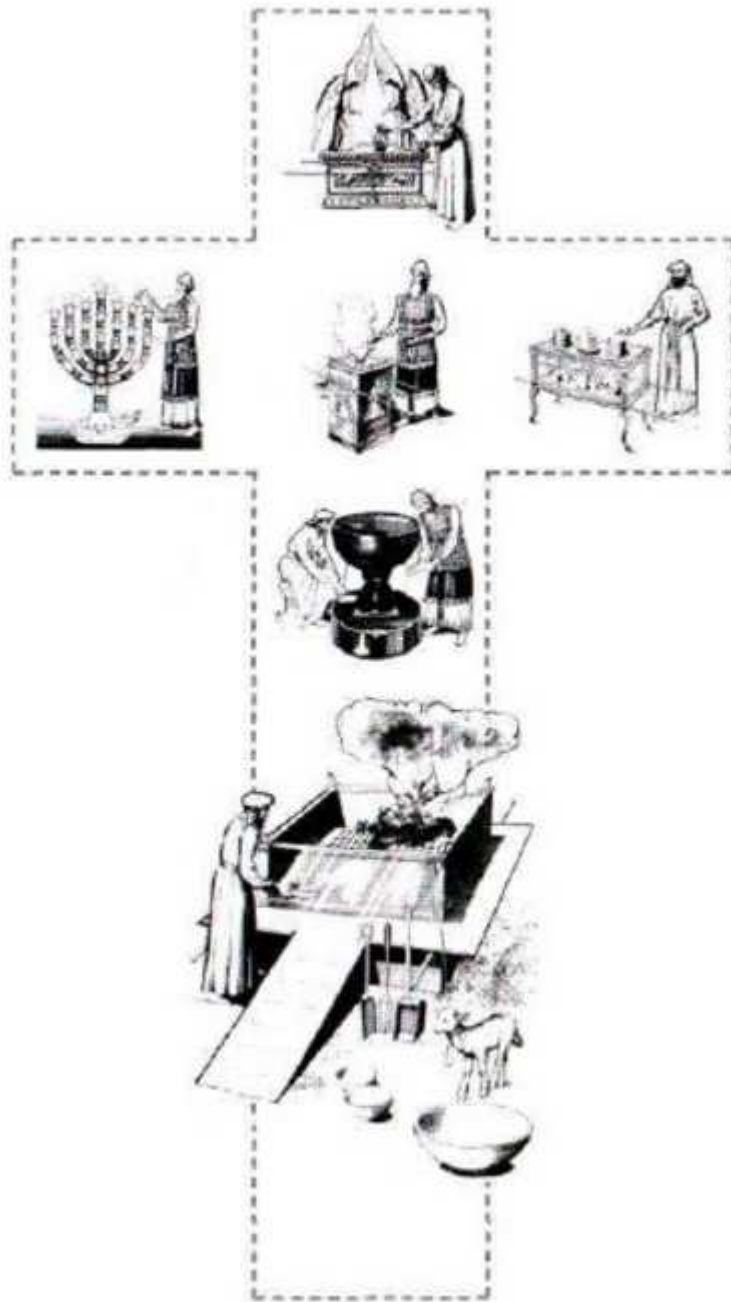
6. In Hebrews 9:1-5, Paul describes the earthly sanctuary. It was divided into two sections with veils at the entrance of each part. Write the different objects in each place:

FILL IN THE BLANKS: "... wherein was the
_____, and the _____, and the
_____; ... which had the _____
_____, and the _____ of the
_____ ..., wherein was the _____
_____ that had _____, and

_____ that budded, and the
_____ of the _____; and over it the
_____ of glory shadowing the _____.

7. As there was an ark containing God's law in the earthly sanctuary, what does John see in the heavenly? Revelation 11:19.

ANSWER: "And the temple of God
_____ in _____, and
there was seen in his _____ the _____
of his _____."

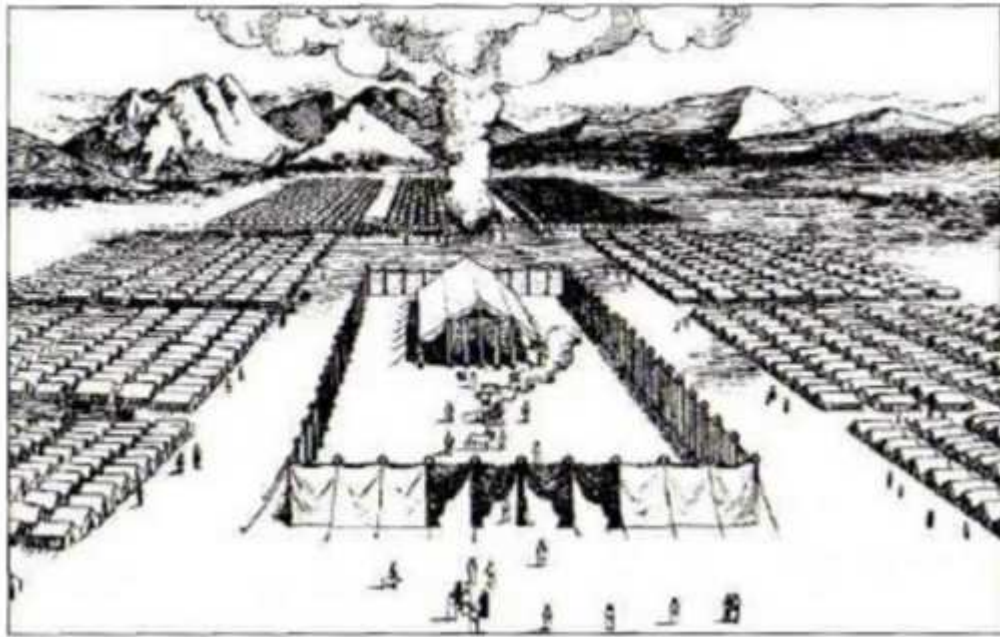


Since the earthly sanctuary was a type or shadow, we find in it many illustrations of Christ's work for us. In Leviticus 4 is the record of how by faith the people laid their sins on the lamb (see Leviticus 4:32, 33; compare John 1:29, Rev. 13:8).

"The cleansing of the sanctuary" is described in Leviticus 16 as the day of atonement.

8. The one day in the year when "the high priest alone" entered the second room or most holy place was the Day of Atonement. This was the cleansing of the sanctuary, and typified Christ's final work of disposing of the sin problem which has plagued God's universe like an open sore for thousands of years. Read about the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16. Note especially verses 29, 30, 33, 34:

FILL IN THE BLANKS: (Verse 29-30) "In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ... shall the priest make an _____ for you, to _____, that ye may be _____ from all your _____ before the Lord."



"Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them."

Even now the Jewish Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) symbolizes to pious Jews the Day of Judgment. In a beautiful and impressive drama, the ancient high priest would symbolically "cleanse" away all deeply buried roots of sin in the nation of Israel, and banish Satan the tempter from the congregation. This service typified the final extinction of Satan and sin from God's universe and directed the people's minds to the time when He will create "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13).

On the cross our Saviour offered Himself a perfect sacrifice, complete enough to save every sinner in the world. Yet without the work of the final "Day of Atonement" in the heavenly sanctuary, the sin-problem would never be completely solved. Without Christ's final ministry in the sanctuary, it would continue to run like an open sore, pardoned but never eradicated.

9. The Day of Atonement was a day of cleansing from sin. How are we cleansed today? 1 John 1:7, 9.

ANSWER: "If we _____ in the _____, as He is in the light, we _____ one with another. ..." "If we _____ our _____, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to _____ from _____."

Both confession and forsaking of sin, and following Christ daily, are a part of this special cleansing work (see also Hebrews 9:22, 23). But it

is the work of the High Priest that cleanses us. We do not "cleanse the sanctuary," He does; but it is our work to cooperate with Him, to let Him do it in our hearts as the record is cleansed in heaven.

10. What precious work is the Saviour doing for all who turn to Him in faith? 1 John 2:1.

ANSWER: "We have an _____ with the Father, _____ the righteous."

An "advocate" is a defense lawyer who pleads for the accused in a court trial. This is Christ's full-time job--to defend you and me from the condemnation that sin has brought upon us.

How does He defend us? Not by excusing us, nor by saying that sin is all right. He defends us by bearing our condemnation for us, suffering our punishment, dying our death for us, and removing the sin from us. He changes our selfish, sinful motivation so that we actually learn to hate sin and selfishness and to love righteousness. As our High Priest, Christ is our spiritual Physician, our divine

Psychiatrist, who heals our sin-sick souls.

Don't misunderstand: the Father is not our enemy who needs to be persuaded. Christ is an advocate with Him; our enemy is Satan who accuses us and says our case is hopeless. The important decision we must make is: will we believe our Saviour, or believe our enemy?

11. For how many people has Christ already paid the ransom price? 1 John 2:2.

ANSWER: "He is the _____ for our sins: ... for the sins of _____."

"The wages of sin is death," even the second death (Romans 6:23; Revelation 2:11). Christ has "tasted" that death "for every man" (Hebrews 2:9). Not one person needs ever to die that second death, unless he rejects what Christ has already done for him. "Propitiation" means ransom-price. We all owe even our physical life to that sacrifice of Christ. We are already infinitely in debt to Him. Every loaf of bread is stamped with His cross.

Whether or not we believe in Him, we owe everything to Him (see Romans 5:18; 6:15; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21).

12. What glorious new motivation fills the heart that is cleansed by Christ? Romans 6:14, 15.

ANSWER: "Ye are not under the _____, but under _____."

When the heart appreciates what it cost the Son of God to redeem us, we say "Thank You" by yielding all we are to Him. This "under grace" motivation is more powerful than the motivation to sin, because where sin "abounds" grace does "much more abound" (Romans 5:20). Light is stronger than darkness, love is stronger than hate, Christ is stronger than Satan, and grace is stronger than sin!

It is not the fear of punishment, or the hope of everlasting reward that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. They see the Saviour's matchless love revealed throughout His life on earth from the

manger of Bethlehem to Calvary's cross. The sight of Him attracts, it softens and subdues the soul. Love awakens in the heart of those who look. They hear His voice, and they follow Him. Do you want a happy life? That's it!

13. Do you choose this "happy life" of living in cooperation with Christ today? _____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 24

The Grand Truth of the Cleansing of the Sanctuary

When God Wins the Great War With Satan

In the Old Testament, the true worship of God was done in types and shadows, something like children playing with toys to teach them about grown-up life. A high priest, a sinner "chosen from among men," led out in the services. He was only a type of Jesus Christ, the true sinless High Priest in heaven; he couldn't save anyone.

Let's not forget that this earthly sanctuary came to an end at the cross of Christ. It was an object lesson, or a picture of the work of Jesus as Saviour of the world, a "shadow of good things to come" (Hebrews 10:1). Its services directed by the high priest were an example or shadow of heavenly things (Hebrews 8:5).

You cherish a picture of a loved one when he/she is absent. But when the loved one finally comes, you no longer look at the picture, for your beloved is with you. So, when Jesus the Great High Priest came in person, the picture, or "type" of the Hebrew sanctuary was no longer needed. The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, meaning that the earthly sanctuary had now come to an end (Matthew 27:51).

When Jesus ascended into heaven after His resurrection, He began His work as High Priest in a better sanctuary than the old one. His disciples followed Him by faith as He entered the sanctuary above (Hebrews 4:14).

Now "we have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Hebrews 8:2). Thus our minds are directed to the true one in heaven, of which the earthly was a mere pattern. Since the vision given to Daniel was for "the time of the end" (8:17, 19), he understood that

the sanctuary to be cleansed is the heavenly one and not the earthly one.

1. When does Christ begin the final phase of His ministry? Daniel 8:14.

ANSWER: "Unto _____ and _____ days; then shall the _____."

We have seen how the earthly had a service called "The Day of Atonement" in which the people and the sanctuary were cleansed from sin. This service typified the final extinction of Satan and sin from God's universe, and directed the people's minds to the time when He will create "new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13).

2. What all-important work does Daniel see taking place in the heavenly sanctuary? Daniel 7:9, 10.

ANSWER: "Ten thousand times ten thousand

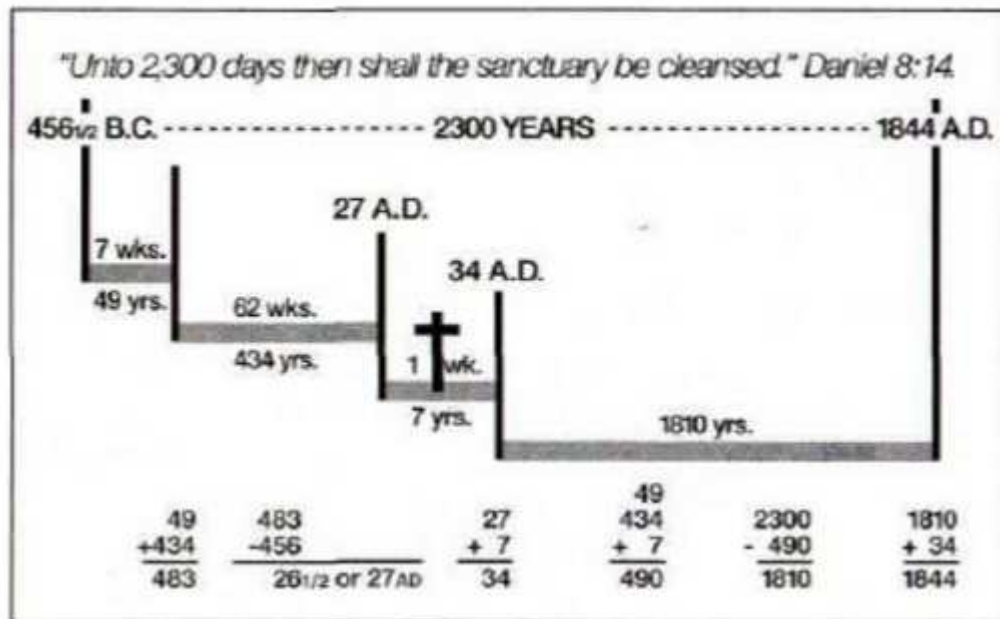
stood before him: the _____
_____, and the _____
_____." (See also Daniel 7:22, 26.)

3. Part of the cleansing of the sanctuary is a work of judgment. The broken law in the ark is the standard of judgment (see James 2:12). In Revelation 14:7 we see the judgment as part of the gospel message. Describe the people who hear and believe the message of Revelation 14:12:

ANSWER: "Here are they that _____ the
_____ of _____, and the _____
of _____."

4. Note Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6. What time element symbolizes 2300 prophetic days?

ANSWER: "Each day for a _____."



In the time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, a day symbolizes a literal year. This is attested by many fulfillments and applications of this principle.

5. In Daniel 9, the angel returns to give the prophet more understanding of the 2300 days (years). What portion of time is the angel now focusing on? Daniel 9:24.

ANSWER: " _____ are _____ upon thy people."

The verses following Daniel 9:24 are all an

explanation of this initial time period. Applying the year/day principle, how many years are we concerned with here? 70 weeks is " _____ days" or _____ years.

6. What is the starting point for this important prophecy? Daniel 9:25.

ANSWER: "Know therefore and understand, that _____ the _____ of the _____ to restore and to build Jerusalem."

We find this decree recorded in the seventh chapter of Ezra. The time there is given as the seventh year of the reign of King Artaxerxes. History tells us this was 457 B.C.

7. The Messiah and His ministry is the focal point of the 2300-day prophecy. What event occurs toward the end of the 70-week prophecy? Daniel 9:26, 27.

ANSWER: "After _____ and _____ weeks shall Messiah be _____"

_____."

The 70 weeks can only mean weeks of years. The prophecy was actually portraying a time period of 490 literal years, and not merely 490 days. Every detail of the time prophecy fits the life of Christ if the year/day principle is followed. Beginning with 457 B.C., the 69 weeks or 483 years bring us to 27 A.D. when Christ was anointed at His baptism. The seven years reached to the year 34 A.D., the year when Stephen was stoned and probation for the Jewish nation ended.

Three and a half years after beginning His ministry (in the middle of the last prophetic "week"), Jesus was "cut off or crucified. The sacrificial system had met its fulfillment. The prophecy states, "He shall cause the sacrifice ... to cease." For the remainder of the last prophetic "week," the gospel invitation was sent especially to the Jews. But with the stoning of Stephen in A.D. 34, the message of salvation was freely given to the world.

Subtracting the 490 years of Daniel 9:24 from the 2300 years leaves us with 1810 years. From A.D. 34, 1810 years extend to 1844. Consequently, the 2300 days of Daniel 8:14 end in 1844.

8. What would occur at the end of the 2300 days or years? Daniel 8:14.

ANSWER: "Then shall the _____
_____."

9. As the sanctuary is cleansed from sin, what else needs to be cleansed? Leviticus 16:30.

ANSWER: "The priest [shall] _____ an
_____ for _____, to _____
_____, that ye may _____
from all _____ before the
Lord."

The cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary requires also the cleansing of the hearts of God's people.

10. What were the people to do during this special time? Leviticus 23:28-32.

LIST some of God's commands to His people during the Day of Atonement: "Ye shall do _____ in that same day: ... your soul shall _____ in that same day."

While the earthly high priest made atonement, Israel was required to "afflict" their souls by repentance. So now, God's people humble their hearts by true repentance. There is deep, faithful searching of heart.

11. What is one of the gifts that Jesus gives us, according to Acts 5:31?

ANSWER: "A Prince and a Saviour, for to _____ to Israel, and _____ of _____."

"There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts

4:12). We receive the grace of God; but faith is not our Saviour. It earns nothing. It is the hand by which we lay hold upon Christ, and appropriate His merits, the remedy for sin. And we cannot repent without the help of the Spirit of God. Repentance comes from Christ as truly as does pardon.

The light shining from the cross reveals the love of God, drawing us to Himself. If we do not resist this drawing, we shall be led to the foot of the cross in repentance for the sins that have crucified the Saviour. Then the Spirit of God through faith produces new life in the soul. The thoughts and desires are brought into obedience to the will of Christ. The heart, the mind, are created anew. Then the law of God is written in the mind and heart, and we can say with Christ, "I delight to do Thy will, O my God" (Psalm 40:8). The cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary is the most important activity going on today! The world must hear the news.

12. Do you pray, "Lord, cleanse my heart"?

_____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 25

Jesus' Solution to Everybody's Money Problem

An innocent child shows no love for money. But before many years, a normal human being develops a love for money as strong as an alcoholic's craving for liquor. It is something we all have to contend with constantly.

This love of money corrupts the sweet innocence of childhood. An adult who loves money is generally an unhappy, selfish, grasping person. "The love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). Almost all crime stems from a passion for money or a passion for sex.

It is common knowledge that most millionaires who have more money than they or their family can possibly spend in a lifetime, are always seeking more. Why? A greediness sets in that can never be satisfied.

Why is the love of money "the root of all evil"? How can a follower of Jesus solve the problem of getting enough to meet his proper needs, and still avoid the trap of wanting more than he needs?

This problem of money is also the root of the world's conflict between communism and capitalism. It has been largely responsible for the ruinous military expenditures of many nations. The love of money leads the world's nations captive in the same way that a farmer leads a hot-tempered bull by a ring fastened in its nose. Satan uses the love of money to lead both individuals and the world itself to ruin.

The Bible provides a solution to the problem of money. It would end the conflict between the "haves" and the "have-nots," and ensure that the world's population never suffer want. Most people don't know what that solution is. But Christians who appreciate the love of God revealed at the cross discover the secret for themselves. Let us look!

Jesus and the Problem of Money

1. Did Jesus and His disciples have at least some money in their possession to meet their needs? John 13:29.

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

2. Did Jesus use money to pay taxes? Matthew 17:24-27.

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

The point is that money itself is not evil. Jesus Himself used it. As a carpenter in Nazareth doubtless He earned it. What is evil is the love of money. To possess money is not a sin; to be selfish with it--that's where the sin comes in and ruins us as it did Judas Iscariot.

Money Problems Must Be Solved Or We Cannot Be Saved

3. Most of us are considered rich by the rest of the poverty-stricken world. Read how Jesus met the problem of advising an unhappy rich man, and try to answer these questions: Mark 10:17-31.

(a) Does Jesus love rich people (verse 21)? "Then Jesus beholding him _____
_____."

(b) Suppose all rich people in the world would obey Jesus' advice to this man; would millions have to live in abject poverty? "Go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and _____ to the _____."

(c) Think carefully! Did Jesus say it is impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven (verses 23-25)? "How _____ shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God."

(d) What do you understand that Jesus means the rich person must do? "With men it is _____, but not with God: for with God all _____ are _____."

(e) What will happen "now" to the person who sacrifices his wealth for Christ (verses 29, 30)? "He shall receive an _____ now in this time."

(f) And what will he/she have "in the world to come? _____.

4. One of Jesus' stories tells what we can do with money to get present value out of it, and eternal value as well. Read Luke 16:1-8. (For further clarity, the story below is taken from the Good News Bible.)

"Jesus said to his disciples, "There was once a rich man who had a servant who managed his property. The rich man was told that the manager was wasting his master's money, so he called him in and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Turn in a complete account of your handling of my

property, because you cannot be my manager any longer."

The servant said to himself, 'My master is going to dismiss me from my job. What shall I do? I am not strong enough to dig ditches, and I am ashamed to beg. Now I know what I will do! Then when my job is gone, I shall have friends who will welcome me in their homes.'

"So he called in all the people who were in debt to his master. Pie asked the first one, 'How much do you owe my master?' 'One hundred barrels of olive oil,' he answered. 'Here is your account,' the manager told him; 'sit down and write fifty' Then he asked another one, 'And you--how much do you owe?' 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he answered. 'Here is your account,' the manager told him; 'write eight hundred.'

"As a result the master of this dishonest manager praised him for doing such a shrewd thing; because the people of this world are much more shrewd in handling their affairs than the

people who belong to the light."

Underline the correct answer:

(a) The "rich man" in this parable is: (the Emperor Caesar); (any millionaire); (the Lord Himself).

(b) The "servant" is (a criminal); (myself).

(c) The "property" represents (the money God permits to come into our possession); (Roman military stockpiles).

(d) The "master's debtors" represent (lazy, good-for-nothing people); (souls whom we have blessed with a wise use of our money).

5. Read Luke 16:9-12 from the Good News Bible:

"And Jesus went on to say, 'And so I tell you: make friends for yourselves with worldly wealth, so that when it gives out, you will be welcomed in

the eternal home. Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones; whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones. If, then, you have not been faithful in handling worldly wealth, how can you be trusted with true wealth? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you what belongs to you? No servant can be the slave of two masters; he will hate one and love the other; he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

(a) What do you think is the "worldly wealth " ("mammon of unrighteousness" KJV)?

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

(b) Wouldn't you be happy in Heaven to be welcomed as a guest in the homes of people whom you have helped here in this life?

ANSWER (read Daniel 12:2, 3): "And they that be wise shall _____ as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to

righteousness as the _____ for ever and ever."

(c) If you and I have not been faithful and loving in the use of the earthly money God entrusted to us here, can He trust us with the gift of eternal wealth?

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

6. Jesus told many stories about money. Read Luke 12:13-21 and answer these questions:

(a) What do you think "covetousness" is?

ANSWER: "The _____ of the _____ which he _____."

(b) Can you imagine any true Christian in these troublous times taking his "ease" to "eat, drink, and be merry" while the world plunges to ruin?

ANSWER: _____.

(c) What do you think it means to be "rich toward God"?

ANSWER: It is the opposite of someone "that layeth up _____ for _____."

The psalmist described this rich man when he wrote, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God (Psalm 14:1). This man has lived and planned for self. In living for self he has rejected that divine love which would have flowed out in mercy to his fellow men. Thus he has rejected life. For God is love, and love is life. To live for self is to perish. Covetousness, the desire of benefit for self sake, cuts the soul off from life. It is the spirit of Satan to get, to draw to self. It is the spirit of Christ to give, to sacrifice self for the good of others.

How to Handle Money but Overcome the Love of Money

7. What is the first principle for us to learn in handling our money? Deuteronomy 8:11-13, 17, 18.

ANSWER: "Beware that thou _____
_____ the _____ thy _____, ... it
is He _____ thee _____
to get _____."

8. In what practical, common-sense way does a Christian confess that all he has comes from God? Deuteronomy 14:22.

ANSWER: "Thou shalt truly _____ all
the _____ of thy _____, that the field
bringeth forth year by year."

9. What does the word "tithe" mean? Leviticus 27:30, 32.

ANSWER: "All the _____ ... is the
Lord's: it is _____ unto the Lord." "The
_____ shall be _____ unto the Lord."

We are to tithe the "increase," that is, our net income. For example, a grocery store owner takes in \$ 1,000 gross income in a week but has to pay

\$700 for rent, the cost of the goods he sold, and the salaries of his employees. His net income or "increase" would be the balance--\$300. That is what he pays tithe on. A farmer may sell his crop for \$10,000; but if he had expenses of \$8,500 in producing his crop, his "increase" would be \$1,500.

10. Is the principle of tithing upheld by Jesus? Matthew 23:23.

ANSWER: "Ye pay tithe of ...: these _____ ye to have done."

11. Speaking of the Old Testament tithing plan, what does Paul say is the Lord's plan now for supporting the work of preaching the gospel around the world? 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14.

ANSWER: "Even so hath the Lord ordained that _____ which _____ the _____ should _____ of the _____."

12. If we withhold our tithes and offerings, what sin are we guilty of? Malachi 3:7-9.

ANSWER: "Yet ye have _____ me."

13. Where should we bring the tithes? Malachi 3:10.

ANSWER: "Bring the _____ into the _____, that there may be meat in _____."

Just as one's body is "organized," coordinated, united, so the church is organized as the "body of Christ." The "storehouse" is the treasury of God's true church on earth. The work of the church is carried forward in an organized, orderly manner. Each minister receives equally from the "storehouse" or treasury a modest, living wage, so that the temptation to seek wealth by promotion is discouraged. The tithing plan benefits the church members in that it reminds them constantly that their wealth all comes from God. And in this way they are saved from the ruinous effects of human

selfishness. Their lives become more beautiful. They become better people and the cause of God around the world goes forward.

This is in harmony with God's plan: "I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for ... their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation" (Numbers 18:21). The words "service" and "ministry" mean the same. "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14).

14. Returning our tithe to the Lord demonstrates our honesty. How is our love demonstrated? Psalm 96:8, 9.

ANSWER: "Give unto the _____ the _____ unto his name: bring an _____ and come into his courts."

15. When God sees that you are overcoming the sinful, selfish love of money, what will He gladly do for you? 2 Corinthians 9:8.

ANSWER: "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always _____ all _____ in _____, may abound in every good work."

16. When Satan presses upon us the temptation to love money, what remembrance will always give us the victory? 2 Corinthians 8:9.

ANSWER: "For ye know the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for _____ He became _____, that ye through His _____ might be _____."

"We are brought into sympathy with Christ through the fellowship of His sufferings. Every act of self-sacrifice for the good of others strengthens the spirit of beneficence in the giver's heart, allying him more closely to the Redeemer of the world, who 'was rich, yet for your sakes ... became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.' 2 Corinthians 8:9. And it is only as we thus fulfill the

divine purpose in our creation that life can be a blessing to us." Happiness Digest, pp. 37, 38.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 26

Sharing the Joys of Heaven Even Now

The Lord inspired the apostle John to devote two entire chapters to descriptions of what heaven will be like--Revelation 21 and 22. Both are a joy to read.

But many have a wrong idea of heaven. They are right that its delights will be wonderful beyond one's rosiest imagination, and it will be a more wonderful place than the best vacation resort you can possibly think of. But there is something many forget. Maybe we can illustrate.

If you were offered an all-expenses-paid, permanent vacation in your choice of the world's luxurious vacation resorts, could you enjoy it alone, without your closest loved one or friend? If you will think about your answer, you will soon realize that even in Hawaii, Switzerland, the South

Seas, anywhere, you would soon be miserable even in the most marvelous surroundings if you were alone. And you would be especially unhappy there if your conscience hurt you. You couldn't enjoy the climate, the beaches, the mountains, the food, or the hotels. Physical delights do not make heaven!

What makes Heaven heaven is being with Jesus, one with Him. When you are supremely happy, your physical surroundings are not all that important. (Materialistic parents seldom understand why teenagers who have enjoyed every modern luxury at home still run away sometimes.)

Overflowing happiness is what heaven is made of. And the good news is that when we understand this, heaven actually begins here and now. You can start tasting the joys of heaven as you show the love of Christ to someone else. And like a parent enjoys his child forever, you will enjoy fellowship with those people whom you have won to Christ, not only for the rest of your life here, but in the ceaseless ages of eternity.

What's Most Important About Heaven

1. What makes Heaven to be heaven indeed?
Read John 14:3, last part; Revelation 7:17.

YOUR ANSWER: "God shall _____
_____ all tears from their eyes."

Heaven without Christ wouldn't be heaven. Suppose that you could knock at the gate of heaven and an angel voice said, "Come in. You're welcome. All the wonderful things you've always dreamed of are here. But not Jesus. He's in a hospital comforting the sick, or on the battlefield ministering to a wounded soldier, or taking food to the hungry, or comforting a discouraged teenager, or hanging on a cross; He's not here. "Would you go in?"

2. Many popular churches believe that the "saved" go straight to heaven when they die, in here they enjoy paradise while the rest of us here below have to carry on the battle with Satan, (a) Could someone who knows the love of Christ be happy

with such a reward? (b) Wouldn't he prefer to stay on the battlefield until the war is won?

YOUR ANSWER: (a) _____;
(b)_____.

3. Although the new earth is not yet, when do the joys of heaven really begin? John 15:11; 1 John 5:11, 12.

ANSWER: "God _____
unto us eternal life, and this life is in his
_____. He that hath the Son _____
_____."

4. What shows that the popular idea that the saved go to heaven as soon as they die is not true according to the Bible? Where is David still? Acts 2:29, 34; John 5:28, 29; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

ANSWER: "David is both _____ and
_____, and his sepulchre is _____
_____ unto this day. For David is
_____ into the heavens."

What must take place before the dead can become immortal?

YOUR ANSWER: The _____
_____ of _____.

The New Testament idea of love (agape) is based on the resurrection of the dead. The counterfeit idea of love is based on the unbiblical idea of the natural immortality of the soul. Unless the Lord converts us from our natural self-centered ways, we could never be happy in heaven. The true Christian will enjoy bearing the cross with Christ more than any amount of so-called fun without Him. In other words, as long as there are sick and suffering people whom Jesus wants to help, we would be happier working with Him to help them than we would be in heaven, just enjoying ourselves.

5. According to the Bible, what do the saved do from the time they die until the resurrection from the dead? Daniel 12:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16.

ANSWER: "Many that _____ in the _____ of the _____ shall awake, ..." "For the _____ shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the _____ in _____ shall _____ first."

During this time that they sleep, they know nothing (Ecclesiastes 9:5).

They are like tired soldiers who take a nap (Revelation 14:13, 14). In the meantime those who are left are fighting on Jesus' side in finishing the war with Satan (see Revelation 17:14).

6. Aside from meeting Jesus, what will be the greatest pleasure you will have after you are resurrected (or translated) when Jesus comes? Daniel 12:2, 3. Compare Proverbs 11:30.

ANSWER: Those who have won souls will "shine as the _____ of the _____; and

they that _____ to _____
as the stars for ever and ever."

Your greatest joy in heaven will not be eating delicious fruit, gazing on gorgeous scenery, or even listening to beautiful music. It will be meeting people who will be there as the result of what you did and said to invite them to be there! Then your face will shine like the sun.

The Story of the New Heaven And the New Earth

7. What shows that the eternal home of the saved will not be an unreal cloud out in space? Matthew 5:5; Revelation 21:1.

ANSWER: "The meek ... shall _____ the _____." "And I saw a _____ and a _____: ... and there was no more sea."

8. Why will there be a new heaven as well as a new earth? Revelation 21:3.

ANSWER: God will move His tabernacle (or throne) to be "_____," and He will "_____ with _____."

9. What will "dwell" in this new heaven and new earth? 2 Peter 3:10, 13 (notice last part).

ANSWER: "We ... look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth _____." (compare 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10). "Righteousness" means right-doing--love and true obedience to God's commandments.

"The redeemed will be welcomed to the home that Jesus is preparing for them. There their companions will not be the vile of earth, liars, idolaters, the impure, and unbelieving; but they will associate with those who have overcome Satan and through divine grace have formed perfect characters. Every sinful tendency, every imperfection that afflicts them here has been removed by the blood of Christ, and the excellence and brightness of His glory, far exceeding the

brightness of the sun, is imparted to them. And the moral beauty, the perfection of His character, shines through them, in worth far exceeding this outward splendor. They are without fault before the great white throne, sharing the dignity and the privileges of the angels.

"In view of the glorious inheritance that may be his, 'what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?' Matthew 16:26. He may be poor, yet he possesses in himself a wealth and dignity that the world could never bestow. The soul redeemed and cleansed from sin, with all its noble powers dedicated to the service of God, is of surpassing worth; and there is joy in heaven in the presence of God and the holy angels over one soul redeemed, a joy that is expressed in songs of holy triumph." Happiness Digest, p. 61.

10. Will there be animals there? Isaiah 11:6-9.

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

Who will play with them?

ANSWER: "A _____ shall lead them."

11. What are some of the things God's people will do in the new earth? Isaiah 65:17, 21-23, 25.

ANSWER: "They shall _____, and _____; and they shall _____, and _____ the _____ of them."

12. What city will be the beautiful capital of God's new earth? Revelation 21:2 (read on for as many verses as you have time for).

ANSWER: "The New _____."

13. What special food will be provided to ensure that death will never come again? Revelation 22:1-3 (as you have time, read further in this chapter).

ANSWER: The fruit from the "_____ of

_____."

14. When will all of God's people gather together regularly for fellowship together? Isaiah 66:22, 23.

ANSWER: "From _____ to _____, shall _____ come to _____ before me, saith the _____."

The redeemed will become one grand Sabbath School, and the glories of redemption in Christ will be our lesson. Sabbath School here and now is a foretaste of the joy of that one yet to come. Obviously, the "new moon" or monthly trip to trip capitol city, New Jerusalem, will be to partake of the monthly fruit of the tree of life.

15. The Lamb is a symbol of Christ as the Crucified One. When He is called by this name, it means we remember that He died for us. Count in your Bible and mark the times that "the Lamb" is mentioned in Revelation 21 and 22, and notice the emphasis. What will always remind us of Jesus'

cross?

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

One reminder alone remains: our Redeemer will forever bear the marks of His crucifixion. The sight of His wounded hands, His feet, His side, will keep ever fresh the memory of what it cost Him to save us. But sin and sinners will be no more--for ever and ever.

16. Are you as concerned about getting ready for heaven, as merely getting there? _____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 27

Having a Happy Home in an Unhappy World

There is a way to have heaven here on earth now--a happy home full of love. But when Jesus said that our days today are "as it was in the days of Noah" (see Study Guide One), He touched the sensitive nerve of our souls. Not many homes have that love.

Those people who lost everything in the Flood had become obsessed with sex. "They took them wives of all which they chose" and "every imagination of the thoughts ... was only evil continually." Today marriage and the home are breaking down alarmingly. We know that approximately half of modern marriages either end in divorce or are poisoned by infidelity. It did not used to be this way. In Western civilization for thousands of years the solid home was taken for granted. To children of bygone generations the

thought of their parents divorcing was as remote as Noah's Flood itself. When the children came home from school, mother and father were there. The home was expected to be like Gibraltar.

Then, suddenly, around 1844, came subtle changes, cracks that began to widen through each decade. The foundations of Western morality and integrity began to crumble. Moral rot set in. We have begun to see the significance of the date 1844, and we see how this phenomenon of infidelity is "on the map" of Bible prophecy as a sign of the soon coming of Christ.

Jesus will give to those who believe His Good News a very special grace--the ability to resist the infidelity and immorality that is flooding the world today. That means pure happiness here and now.

Does True Love Ever Die?

1. Did the Lord intend that love should ever die? Matthew 19:4, 5.

ANSWER: "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and _____ to his _____: and they _____ shall be one flesh."

2. But is it possible for love to die? Matthew 24:12.

ANSWER: Yes, "... because iniquity shall _____, the love of many shall _____."

3. According to Jesus, why did God ever allow divorce, even in extreme cases? Matthew 19:7, 8.

ANSWER: "Because of the _____ of your _____."

4. If there is no "iniquity," and if the heart is not hard, does love ever die? 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (as you read, remember that "charity" in the KJV is agape love).

ANSWER: "Charity (agape love) suffereth

_____, ... Beareth _____,
believeth _____, hopeth
_____, ... Charity [agape love]
never _____."

What Makes a Home Break Up?

5. Find the answer in Psalm 127:1.

YOUR ANSWER: "Except the Lord
_____ the _____, they _____ in
_____ that _____ it."

6. How important is the husband's part in building a happy home? Ephesians 5:23.

ANSWER: "The husband is the _____
of the _____."

The word "husband" means literally "house band," the hoops on the barrel, as it were. The Greek here says that it is the husband who preserves the home from breaking up just as Christ preserves the Church from breaking up. (The word

"saviour" means "preserver.")

7. Since the husband is the divinely appointed "preserver" of the home, is the wife to blame him for all that goes wrong? Proverbs 14:1.

ANSWER: "Every wise woman _____ her house: but the _____ plucketh it down with her hands."

If the husband were a perfect being as Adam was before his fall, the wife might well blame him if something goes wrong. But Scripture says, "all have sinned." A woman becomes wise when she realizes this, and can put herself in her husband's place and feel as he feels. Each partner will volunteer to bear perhaps even more than is justly his/her share of the blame. This may not be fair, but it may be wise. God will some day sort-out what is fair, and what is unfair. In the meantime, the "wise" woman "buildeth" her house, and leaves judgment to God. And the man builds his, too.

8. See if you can find out the one true reason

why the devil ever succeeds in breaking a home. Look carefully at James 4:7 (last part).

ANSWER: Somebody didn't "_____ the devil," to make him "_____ from _____."

9. If only one marriage partner is a true Christian, can the home be happy? 1 Corinthians 7:13, 14.

ANSWER: "The unbelieving husband is _____ by the [believing] wife, and the unbelieving wife is _____ by the [believing] husband."

"Sanctified" in this text means "strongly influenced towards holiness." The Jerusalem Bible translates it: "The unbelieving husband is made one with the saints through his wife." Don't forget Jesus' words about the "salt" in Matthew 5:13. A believing partner in marriage can preserve a home from spoiling just as salt anciently preserved fish from spoiling.

10. Here is a thought question: can you find out who it is that brings two people together in marriage? Read Genesis 24:1-14, 44, 50.

ANSWER: The Lord "_____ _____" this girl (Rebekah) to be Isaac's wife. Of their union, it was said, "The thing proceedeth from the _____."

If you choose not to believe this principle, your marriage can never truly endure. If you choose to believe it, the Lord "builds" your house, and it will endure.

11. Who joins two people together in marriage? Who separates them? Matthew 19:6.

ANSWER: "What therefore _____ hath joined together," _____ "put asunder."

The problem seldom begins with a third party. It is the man and wife themselves who first put

themselves "asunder" in mind and heart. The "triangle" problem almost always comes later.

12. In what practical way can you let Christ build your home so that it will never collapse? See how Christ handled the problem of a will that struggled to oppose His Father's will. Matthew 26:39.

ANSWER: Christ prayed, "Nevertheless _____ I will, but as _____."

"What you need to understand is the true force of the will. ... Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. ... You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ." Happiness Digest, p. 21.

How Miracles "Happen"

13. How does a husband become fortunate enough to have a wife? Proverbs 18:22 and 19:14.

ANSWER: "Whoso findeth a _____ findeth a _____" since a "_____ is from the Lord."

The love mentioned here is different than the selfish feeling the world calls love. Selfish love is dependent on the goodness or value of its object. No woman can do her best unless she is loved and appreciated.

14. Can a husband change his wife for the better? Ephesians 5:25, 33.

ANSWER: By _____ his wife as Christ "_____ the church, "and _____ for it."

15. How can a wise woman relate to her husband and change him for the better? Ephesians 5:22, 24, 33.

ANSWER: "Wives _____ yourselves unto your own husbands," "as the church is _____ unto Christ, so let the wives _____ to their own _____ in every thing." " ... And the wife see that she _____ her husband."

Impossible? Not if an all-wise Creator and Redeemer says this is the pattern of true happiness. The key is two-fold. Husbands can love their wives in this wonderful way only as they see how Christ has loved the church. And wives can respond like this only as they appreciate the response the church makes to Christ's love.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 28

God's Loving Call to Come Out of "Babylon"

"Jesus" is popular now. Even some motorcycle gangs have turned to "Jesus." Standing on top of their machines, they now preach "religion." "Jesus" signs replace peace symbols. One finger up--that means you are a "Jesus" person. Bibles are appearing on campuses nation wide. "Christian" underground newspapers outsell the radical undergrounds. Many have graduated from psychedelia into the "movement."

Hard rock has gone "Christian," and has invaded churches. "Holy Ghost" rock music stamps out its beat in close imitation of the frenzy of the high decibel professionals. Youth run away from home in their teens to join "Jesus" communes, training centers, monasteries, and farms where Bible study is their main pursuit. They interpret the Bible ultra-literally, and some see family-

renunciation as the only way to find the deeper things of Christ. The Christian far-Right has become a powerful political force, clamoring to tear down the historic American "wall of separation between church and state." They want the state to support the "Christian" religion as the only way the nation can be saved from moral ruin. Their program sounds plausible to millions; but can the majority regulate personal faith?

What is happening all around us? Is this what the Bible means when it talks about the long-awaited baptism of the Holy Spirit? This is a question of tremendous interest to all.

The Best Time to Live is Now!

1. What did the prophet Joel promise will come in the last days? Acts 2:16-18.

ANSWER: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my _____ upon _____: and your sons and daughters shall _____, and

your young men shall _____ ,
and your old men _____
_____." "... I will pour out in those days of
my _____; and they shall _____."

Many religious movements recognize that the Second Coming is near. Many see the year 2000 A.D. as the end.

2. Will everybody have a chance to hear the gospel before the end? Matthew 24:14; Habakkuk 2:14.

ANSWER: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be _____ in all the _____ for a witness unto _____; and then shall the end come."

3. Do you think Jesus foresaw the rise of a counterfeit movement in our days? Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 12, 24.

ANSWER: " ... Many shall come in my name, saying, _____; and

shall _____ many."

4. What kind of "Jesus" will a false revival present? 1 John 4:1-3.

ANSWER: They will not "confess," that is, understand that Jesus is truly "come _____ the _____."

This raises the solemn question: "Is the 'Christ' of this popular movement the real one?" The popular "Jesus" is one who did not conquer sin. At the other extreme the traditional "establishment" religionist says Christ could not have sinned and therefore could not be tempted as we are. Whichever way one looks at it, their Christ did not conquer sin in our human nature. Unless we understand John's words, we are in danger of joining the crowds who say "Lord, Lord!" but don't know Him.

5. What kind of spirit will control the popular religious movements of the last days? Revelation 18:1-3.

ANSWER: "Babylon the great is _____, is _____, and is become the _____ of _____, and the hold of every _____."

Babylon means confusion, and is a symbol of the churches that before their fall enjoyed the true Holy Spirit's presence, but by rejecting truth, they are "fallen." Babylon is not only one church--she is a "mother" with "daughters" (see Revelation 17:1-5). A woman in prophecy is a symbol of a church (2 Corinthians 11:2; Jeremiah 6:2; Revelation 12:1, 17). A pure woman represents the true church; and a fallen one, the church without the Holy Spirit. This prophecy in Revelation points to a time when the churches who refuse to accept the truth of God's word become so deceived that they will accept a counterfeit "holy spirit" and become the "habitation of devils" while they sincerely imagine they are receiving the Holy Ghost. We must know the truth!

6. When did it happen that many religious

people once went to "church" in vain? Matthew 23:37, 38.

ANSWER: Jesus said to those who rejected Him, "... Your house _____
_____ unto you _____."

7. What is the heart of the first angel's message? How widely is this message to be preached? Revelation 14:6, 7.

ANSWER: This "angel" has "the everlasting _____ to preach ... to every _____, and _____, and _____, and _____.
..."

This is God's last message to the world. It is not a new message--it is everlasting and is the same gospel that Jesus taught. It is a recovery of the original message which God has always wanted the whole world to hear.

8. Note that this message calls on people to worship the Lord as the Creator of heaven and

earth (verse 7). If you make Him Lord of your life, and truly accept Him as Creator, what obedience will you give to the Lord? Compare Revelation 14:7 with Exodus 20:8-11.

ANSWER: "Give _____ to _____."

9. Many will turn to the Lord in the last days. What will "every one" of them do? Isaiah 56:1-7.

ANSWER: If we "lay hold" on salvation, we will "_____ " the _____ from _____ it. ... Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, ... and to love the name of the Lord, ... every one that _____ the _____ from _____ it. ..."

10. When a church knows truth and yet clings to the "commandments of men," how does God look upon their worship? Matthew 15:9.

ANSWER: "But _____ they do worship me. ... "

11. What does the Lord say has really happened to any such church? Revelation 14:8 (this is the second angel's message).

ANSWER: "Babylon is _____, is _____, that great _____, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

When Christ said to the unbelieving Jews, "Your house is left unto you desolate," His Holy Spirit left. When the true Holy Spirit moves out because of the disobedience of ministers and people, a false "holy spirit" moves in. Eventually Revelation 18:1, 2 will be completely fulfilled. The entire gospel will be counterfeited, and people will imagine they are saved when in reality they are preparing to accept "the mark of the beast." Opposition to God's law becomes opposition to Christ Himself.

12. There are many sincere people in Babylon who do not yet see the truth clearly. "The times of

ignorance God winked at" (Acts 17:30). But when a person knows and continues to disregard the truth, what is his true relationship to the Lord? Proverbs 28:9.

ANSWER: "He that _____
his ear from hearing the _____, even his
prayer shall be _____."

13. Where is Jesus today, and what is He doing? Here are four Scripture texts--Hebrews 8:1, 2 and 7:25; Revelation 11:19; Revelation 14:12 (the fruitage of the "three angels' messages").

ANSWER: Christ is in the last phase of His ministry as High Priest, symbolized by the "temple" being "opened" where the "ark of His testament" is seen. Those who follow Jesus by faith "... keep the _____ of _____, and the _____ of _____."

According to the book of Hebrews, the only way one can come to Jesus truly is to come to Him

as High Priest, where He "saves to the uttermost." In other words, He never does a job halfway. We must give to Him all of our life. He must be permitted to cleanse every trace of selfishness and disobedience from our hearts. True love is not "getting high" on an emotional "trip," but fulfilling the law in a truly changed lifestyle. This includes keeping the sabbath. Thus a genuine revival that will prepare a people for Jesus' coming will include sabbath-keeping.

14. As you see the issues shaping up for the final conflict between Christ and Satan, is the Holy Spirit drawing you and encouraging you to stand with Christ, loyal to Him? John 6:37, 40, 44, 45.

ANSWER: (a) "All that the Father giveth Me shall _____ to _____ (b) "Every one which _____ the Son, and _____ on Him, may have _____ (c) "No man can come to _____, except the Father which hath sent Me _____: ..." (d) "And they shall be _____ of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath

learned of the _____, cometh _____
_____."

Jesus promised: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the [Holy] Spirit, who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive Him, because it cannot see Him or know Him. But you know Him because He remains with you and is in you" (John 14:16, 17, GNB). He constantly reminds you of what you need to know, and shows you the right path. He is as patient with you as if you were the only person on earth. "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you" (John 14:26, GNB). If you give the Holy Spirit your will and make your choice to walk in His way, you cannot be overcome by the evil one. The reason is simple enough: the Holy Spirit is stronger than the flesh (see Galatians 5:16, 17). The constraint of the love of Christ makes all the allurements of the world seem as pale as a street light in comparison with the pure brilliance of the sun.

15. Does your heart say, "Thank You Lord, for saving my soul, and for guiding me into all truth"?
_____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 29

Making the Sabbath the Happiest Day of Your Week

The keynote of Jesus' message to the world is joy: "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:11). "Your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you" (John 16:22). Who can resist a message like that?

There is a joy that perhaps you have missed all your life--the joy of keeping the Lord's Day in the happiest way. Sometimes when a man and woman discover each other and in love unite their hearts in marriage, one says to the other, "Where have you been all my life? I didn't know what life is until I met you! It seems as if you were made for me." When you begin to enjoy the sabbath as the Lord intends you to, it will be like a perfect wedding. Jesus says, "The sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27). The same Lord who made you, made the

sabbath. You and the sabbath were made for each other. If you haven't known it, you've missed what is vital to your happiness.

This study will help you discover how perfectly complementary you and the sabbath are. When you see what the Bible says and choose to follow Christ in the way He kept the sabbath, it will become for you the happiest day of your week. You will find yourself living from one sabbath to another. And that will make the six working days more enjoyable, too.

Why God Made the Sabbath For the Good of Man

1. What does Jesus give to all who are tired of carrying the world's heavy loads? Matthew 11:28, 29.

ANSWER: "I will give you _____."

2. What is this gift of rest connected with? Hebrews 4:4, 9, 10.

YOUR ANSWER: The _____
_____.

The word "sabbath" means rest. The New English Bible translates verse 9, "A sabbath rest still awaits the people of God." What is more refreshing to a tired body and soul than to rest after a long toilsome week? But the weariness Jesus spoke of is not merely physical fatigue. He is talking about the heavy loads of anxiety, the worry syndrome of "keeping up with the Joneses," and our daily tension. These rub our souls raw, like sandpaper.

3. What did the Lord make for the good of man? Mark 2:27.

ANSWER: "The _____ was made for man. ..."

Some have mistakenly thought that because the Lord made the sabbath "for man," man can do away with it if he desires. They reason, "If a friend

baked me a pie, I could thankfully eat it or throw it in the garbage, as I wish!" But when the Lord makes something for our good, it is because He knows we need it. The sabbath is not something to be kicked about at our convenience, kept if we want it, or discarded. To refuse it is like a dying patient refusing medicine the doctor knows can alone heal him. Sabbath-keeping is exactly what modern man needs to relieve his life-destroying tensions.

4. When does the sabbath begin and end? Leviticus 23:32, last part.

ANSWER: "From even unto _____."
What does "even" mean? Mark 1:32. "The _____."

The Bible day begins at sundown. Therefore the Bible sabbath begins at sundown Friday, and ends at sundown Saturday. Friday is called the "preparation day" (Luke 23:54). Jesus was crucified about 3 p.m. on Friday afternoon, and as the sun sank in the sky "the sabbath drew on,"

beginning at sunset.

Our Example: How Did Jesus Keep the Sabbath?

5. Mark gives us the story of a typical sabbath in the life of Jesus. Mark 1:21-35. Read it and then try to answer these questions:

(a) What was Jesus' main activity on the sabbath? Going to the _____.

(b) As the need arose, what else was He ready to do on the sabbath? _____ the _____.

(c) After the sabbath was over at sunset, what work did He find to do? _____ the _____.

(d) Although He probably did not get to bed until midnight that Saturday night, how early was He up the next morning? _____
"And in the morning, rising up a _____

_____ before day, he went out, and departed into a _____ place, and there _____."

6. Read the story of another typical sabbath in the life of Jesus. Matthew 12:1-14. Try to find an answer to these questions:

(a) Do you think the disciples really broke God's law about the sabbath or did they break only the man-made traditions of the Jews? The _____.

(b) Did Jesus say His disciples were guilty, or not guilty? _____.

(c) What does God's law tell us to do on the sabbath? To _____.

(d) How did the Pharisees really break the sabbath? "Then the Pharisees went out, and held a _____ him, how they might _____ him."

7. How did Jesus set the sabbath free from

these burdensome traditions of the Jews? John 5:5, 6, 8-10, 16.

ANSWER: "Jesus saith unto him, _____,
_____ thy bed, and
_____."

8. When Jesus was arrested and arraigned before the court, how did He answer His accusers? John 5:17, 18.

ANSWER: "My Father _____ hitherto, and I _____."

What Jesus meant by "work" is not worldly employment for a livelihood, but the work of relieving human suffering. The Jews falsely charged Him both with blasphemy and with sabbath-breaking. Some who do not yet understand the full truth think that Jesus really did break the sabbath, and they use this as an excuse for their not keeping the sabbath. But if the Jews were right in accusing Him of breaking the sabbath, they were also right in accusing Him of blasphemy. But this

cannot be true (compare John 10:33).

How the Lord Has Made It a Joy To Keep the Sabbath

9. What organization has the Lord raised up for the joyful fellowship of all who keep the sabbath? Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:27, 28; Acts 2:44, 46, 47.

ANSWER: "Upon this rock I will build my _____ ... the _____ of Christ." They will _____ God.

10. What regular habit should we not forsake? Hebrews 10:22-25.

ANSWER: "Not forsaking the _____ of _____."

The church is the "body of Christ" where each member finds his greatest pleasure in fellowship and service. The church "assembles together" and provides the fellowship that helps us grow up into

Christ. There, we can attain our potential in character and personality development. In the church, our individual "gifts" and abilities are set free. The Sabbath School (or church study hour) is the time when the Lord Jesus, by His Spirit, is present to teach more truths from His Word. In the worship service we attain to the highest point any human being can attain to--kneeling at the throne of God in worship with others of God's people. Here we meet friends who encourage us, and we in turn encourage others. All this is possible through the sabbath.

11. Where did Jesus go every sabbath? Luke 4:16.

ANSWER: "... And as his _____ was, he went into the _____ on the _____."

12. How should we prepare for the sabbath before it begins? Exodus 20:8; Exodus 16:22, 23.

ANSWER: "_____ that which ye will

_____ to day, and _____ (boil) that ye will _____."

We remember the sabbath all through the week, planning ahead so as not to break its sacred hours. On Friday we make all possible preparations so that the house can be ready, basic food preparation is done, clothes are in readiness, etc. Sabbath meals should be tasty and well prepared, but not at the expense of heavy cooking duties on the sabbath. The sabbath is the clasp that binds the week together. The week exists for the sabbath.

13. What about buying and selling on the sabbath? Nehemiah 10:31.

ANSWER: "We would not _____ it of them on the sabbath."

14. Does participation in worldly business and worldly conversation, and worldly pleasures make for happy sabbath-keeping? Isaiah 58:13, 14.

ANSWER: "You shalt Honor him, not

_____ thine _____, nor
finding thine _____, nor
_____ thine own words: Then shalt thou
_____ thyself in the _____."

15. As the sabbath is the world's birthday to commemorate creation, what other great work of creation does it commemorate? Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

ANSWER: "We are created in Christ Jesus unto _____. ..." "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new _____."

When Jesus finished His work of redeeming us on that last Friday afternoon before sabbath, He cried out, "It is finished" (John 19:30). So we see that the sabbath is the true sign of the cross, the memorial both of creation and of redemption from sin. In Christ we find rest; in Him we keep the sabbath, in Him we find rest from sin and self.

16. Do you say "yes" to Jesus' invitation to spend each holy sabbath day with Him?

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 30

Is There a Diet Chosen by Our Creator?

One's food is a very personal matter. When we get hungry, we naturally want to eat what we think is satisfying to us. Often personal, even selfish, prejudice dictates our diet.

But there are increasing numbers of people who are learning that one's choice of food largely determines health and therefore happiness. Some wait to change until they are forced by disease to do so. In those cases, appetite has had to give way to the demands of simple survival.

Others, more wise, learn to anticipate the possibility of disease and have voluntarily changed their eating habits. They sense the relation between food and health. And there are many of a different group--those who prefer a healthful diet because they frankly enjoy simple foods. Often these

people have become vegetarians.

Why vegetarianism? Who first thought of it? Why is it steadily increasing all around the world? There are several reasons: desire for health, economy (vegetarian food is usually cheaper than meat), and taste. But there is one reason that is surprising to many people: the Bible teaches that a vegetarian diet has been preferable in the past and that it will again become man's universal choice.

There's an even better reason why we should control appetite: only when we have healthy bodies and clear minds can we appreciate the present work of Christ our High Priest in His final ministry of cleansing the sanctuary, and preparing people for His second coming. God is interested in our health. This study will introduce the facts.

Does God Care What You Eat?

1. What shows that God is pleased when we enjoy the taste of delicious food? Psalm 103:2-5.

ANSWER: "Bless the Lord, [thank Him, appreciate His kindness] ... who _____ thy mouth with _____ things."

2. Some feel they have so little fun in life that they deserve the pleasure of eating. What shows that the Lord is not a kill-joy in this respect? Isaiah 55:2.

ANSWER: "Eat ye that which is _____, and let your soul delight itself in _____."

"Fatness" is from a Hebrew word that really has nothing to do with being overweight. It is used seven times in the Bible, and always refers to a satisfying, healthful, adequate diet. (According to this text, an overweight person is not properly nourished.) These texts show that the Lord has implanted hunger in our bodies, and delights to satisfy that hunger with really good food. And physical hunger becomes a symbol of spiritual and emotional hungers for which He also wants us to find complete satisfaction.

Does God Care About How Healthy You Are?

3. Read 3 John 2, and answer this question: What does God want for you personally "above all things?"

ANSWER: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou _____ and be in _____, even as thy _____."

4. When Christ bore the sins of the world, what else did He bear at the same time? Matthew 8:16, 17 (read this carefully, for it may be surprising to you).

ANSWER: He not only bore our sins, but "... Himself took our _____, and bare our _____."

This means that the Lord does not want us to be sick, any more than He wants us to sin. Salvation is not a reward to be enjoyed after death. Following Christ means a happier, healthier life here and now

as well.

5. Turn back to the beginning, the first chapter in your Bible. What food did God provide for us when He created us? Genesis 1:29.

ANSWER: "And God said, Behold, I have given you _____, _____, _____, _____, which is upon the face of all the earth, and _____, in the which is the fruit of a tree _____; to you it shall be for meat" (the word means food).

In order to know what are the best foods we must study God's original plan for man's diet. He who created man and who understands his needs appointed Adam his food.

6. After sin marred the perfect life that God intended us to enjoy, what did the Lord add to man's diet? Genesis 3:18.

ANSWER: "The _____ of the field"

Before sin came, the diet consisted of fruits, grains, and nuts. After sin came, the Lord added what we now call vegetables. But not a word is spoken about eating the flesh of animals. ("Meat" in the King James Bible is an old English word that means "food" and not necessarily flesh). For over a thousand years, mankind's diet was vegetarian.

7. During the time that man's diet was vegetarian, what kind of health and longevity did he enjoy? Genesis 5:3, 4, 5, 11, 27, etc.

YOUR ANSWER: _____
_____.

8. After the terrible flood destroyed the world in Noah's day, what permission did the Lord give to the survivors who emerged from the ark of Noah to start life anew in this ruined world? Genesis 9:1-4.

ANSWER: Meat was an emergency food after the _____.

9. After man began eating flesh food, what happened to his span of life? Genesis 11:23, 25, 32 and 25:7, 8.

YOUR ANSWER: _____
_____.

10. What is God's plan regarding the eternal home of His saved people? 2 Peter 3:12, 13; Rev. 21:1-4.

ANSWER: "We, according to his promise, look for _____ heavens and a _____, wherein dwelleth righteousness." "... And there shall be _____."
_____."

11. Do you think that in this earth made new the redeemed will kill animals to eat them? Isaiah 11:6-9.

ANSWER: "They shall not hurt nor _____ in _____ my holy mountain."

The first two chapters of the Bible tell of a new world where there was no sin, sickness, unhappiness, pain, or death. The last two chapters of the Bible tell of a ruined world being renewed again, recreated, where again there will be no sin, sickness, unhappiness, tears, pain, or death. In other words, God's plan of salvation includes the restoration of all things that were lost when Adam and Eve invited Satan to rule in place of God. It is unthinkable that there will be predatory hunting in that glorious, happy new earth, either by man or by animals.

Meat Eating--a Temporary, Emergency Diet

12. What does the Lord expressly forbid, if we do eat meat? Genesis 9:4.

ANSWER: "But the flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye _____
_____."

13. Is this command of God repeated in the New Testament, and is it applicable to all people?

Acts 15:19, 20, 28, 29.

ANSWER: "Abstain from ... things _____, and from _____." "That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from _____, and from things _____."

An example of how this command of God applies practically, is seen in the practice of the evil sons of Eli (read 1 Samuel 2:12-17). They would not eat the "sodden" or boiled flesh provided them, in which the blood was drained and boiled away. They insisted on roast flesh with the blood-taste in it. The story shows that God considered this a serious wrong.

14. When you think of the sacrifice Jesus made for you when He died on the cross, are you happy to yield yourself to Him? Romans 12:1, 2.

ANSWER: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye _____ your _____ a _____, holy, acceptable unto God."

What Jesus is doing for us and in us is important in our everyday life. It requires that our habits of eating, drinking, and dressing, become such as to secure the preservation of physical, mental, and moral health. We want to present to the Lord our bodies--not an offering corrupted by wrong habits but--"a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God."

15. What common substances does the word of God forbid us to use? Proverbs 23:29-35; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 2 Corinthians 6:17; Revelation 21:27.

Your ANSWER: "Touch not the _____
_____." "... any thing that _____."

The Lord tells us not to indulge any harmful habit, or use any habit-forming substance, because we harm ourselves when we defile our bodies in any way. Anything that enslaves us is contrary to the principles of the gospel of Christ (Galatians 5:1).

16. How can one gain the victory over any such evil habit? Philippians 4:13; Luke 4:18.

ANSWER: "I can do all things through _____ which strengthens _____." Christ came "to preach _____ to the captives, ... to set at _____ them that are _____."

That means you! Christ is our Saviour here and now! He won't force us against our will, but if we will to will, He will supply the power. Make your choice, then ask Him to set you free. Keep choosing--even if means a thousand times a day. You may wonder why He has allowed you to form some bad habit that you must overcome. The answer is--so you can know first-hand His power to save.

17. What reason is most important of all for living free and healthy in these last days? Luke 21:34, 35.

ANSWER: "Lest at any time your _____
be overcharged with _____, and _____
... and so that day come upon you _____."

We are living in the great final Day of Atonement. Jesus is performing a special work of preparing a people for His second coming. We must keep our minds clear in order to appreciate what He is doing! Only then can we know how to cooperate with His Holy Spirit. And clear minds are possible only when we are free from every "defiling" practice.

18. Is it your choice henceforth to live free in Him? _____

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 31

Discovering Hidden Diseases and Hidden Secrets of Healing

Where can you find a family that hasn't been touched by the dread plague of cancer? And too often we hear of friends who suddenly drop dead of heart attacks. Even women get them now, and sometimes youth. On every side we watch people busy in the process of killing themselves, some faster than others. It's all wrong because the Bible says, "Thou shalt not kill." That includes killing yourself. You have no right to shorten your life, or to ruin its quality.

Whether you do it fast with a bullet or slowly with cigarettes or stress, with a bad diet or with fear, it is still sin. Furthermore, it is just as wrong to kill your own spirit by inches, to lessen your or someone else's capacity to enjoy life. To destroy your own happiness is a form of suicide; to destroy someone else's is a form of murder.

Yet often parents do it to their children without thinking! As this study will reveal, parents often predispose their children toward cancer later in life by inducing emotional turmoil in them. (Yes,--it's true they learned it from their parents.)

What a vicious circle! Little children growing up sick from the very beginning, heading straight for asthma, alcoholism, drug addiction, stress diseases, early heart attacks, maybe even cancer--often because parents are uninformed. Even when parents begin to realize what is happening, they feel powerless to stop the vicious tide. Death comes by sin. Life comes by Christ (John 10:10). "Life" includes not only life beyond the resurrection, but life here and now, happy, free, healthy--body, soul, and spirit.

We search deeply into the Word to discover hidden secrets underlying sickness, roots where you least expect to find them. In the process, we also find healing where you least expect to find it. There is "faith-healing," but it is something far

greater than the sensational touch-your-TV type of fanaticism. When we learn to exercise pure New Testament faith, the healing process begins to act at once. Start it early enough in life, and you will enjoy better health all your days. No matter how old or sick you are, it is never too late to enjoy healing, at least to some extent.

A Hidden Cause of Cancer and Other Fatal Diseases

1. What was the hidden reason that some people in the church in Corinth were sick and some had died prematurely of illness? 1 Corinthians 11:27-30.

ANSWER: In regard to the Lord's Supper and the "bread and wine," some were eating and drinking _____." Such a person "eateth and drinketh _____ to himself, not discerning the _____ For this cause _____ are _____ and _____ among you, and many _____."

Bible students generally agree that this means physical sickness and death. Paul touched a raw, hidden nerve here. "Damnation" does not mean only burning up in the lake of fire. The original word is "judgment," or "punishment." One does it to himself. Though Paul is talking about the Lord's Supper, his words apply also to our common daily food. "Unworthily" means eating thoughtlessly, "not discerning the Lord's body" in our daily food. "Faith" in the New Testament is a heart-appreciation of Christ's love for us. In other words, "faith" is "discerning the Lord's body, "realizing that even our daily food was purchased for us by His sacrifice.

A wise writer has said: "To the death of Christ we owe even this earthly life. The bread we eat is the purchase of His broken body. The water we drink is bought by His spilled blood. Never one, saint or sinner, eats his daily food, but he is nourished by the body and the blood of Christ. The cross of Calvary is stamped on every loaf. It is reflected in every water spring. All this Christ has taught in appointing the emblems of His great

sacrifice." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 660.

To live "by faith" is the opposite of the way modern man lives--by stress or pride, striving to "keep up with others" trying to impress them; our heart beating fast within us while we are inwardly constantly on edge. Such stress and pride lead to disease. One cancer victim said: "It's very hard work. Every now and then there are ledges I can rest on for a little while and maybe enjoy myself even a little, but I have to keep climbing, and the mountain has no top." This is such a sad way to live! Yet millions are caught in this vice-like stress.

2. Is there medical evidence that fear, stress, tension, and restlessness of spirit do prepare the way for cancer and other diseases?

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

"Behavior Fatal? Anxiety Held to Be Real Cause of Most Heart Disease" (headline, *San Diego Union*).

"As the search for causes of the many diseases called cancer goes on ... a small but growing group of medical researchers are seeking a possible connection between cancer and psychology (emotional patterns). ... "Apparently most prone to cancer ... are persons who deny and repress their emotions after experiencing ... loss or tragedy. ... Such people ... channel their emotional response internally. ... This in turn upsets the body's hormone balances" (Time magazine).

3. What health-giving experience does Jesus give to every one who will come to Him? Matthew 11:28-30.

ANSWER: "... I will give you _____."

This spiritual rest relaxes your soul at the very root of your death-dealing stress--our natural self-centeredness. The yoke that Jesus offers us is the cross that we bear when we learn to appreciate in our hearts the cross that He bore. We are "crucified with Him."

4. How can we learn this precious secret of life and health in this stressful modern jungle-world? Exodus 20:8-11; Hebrews 4:9.

ANSWER: "There remaineth therefore a _____ to the _____ of God.

The margin for Hebrews 4:9 says, the "keeping of a sabbath." If we will keep the sabbath as the Lord intended, we will enter His life-long school where we learn to be happy like Jesus. Better health is almost sure to follow.

5. What can actually do a sick person more good than many medicines? Proverbs 17:22.

ANSWER: "A _____ like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." ("Merry" means happy, restful, contented, loving. A healthy soul means a healthful body as well!)

6. What does the Bible suggest may be a hidden cause of stomach ulcers and other similar

diseases? And what is the cure? Proverbs 15:17.

ANSWER: The cause is " _____;" the cure is to be "where _____."

The "hatred" is sometimes turned within, onto ourselves. "I'm no good!" we sometimes say, but this self-depreciation is bad for our health. Further, the "stalled ox" may give a hint of the serious problem of overeating, which often goes along with self-hatred.

7. What experience will cast out disease-producing fear? How can you have this relief? 1 John 4:18,19.

ANSWER: "... Perfect _____ casteth out _____. ..." We learn to love by appreciating how "He first _____."

The Place of Food in Causing and Preventing Sickness

8. What kinds of food has the Lord given us to

eat? Genesis 1:29; 3:18, 19.

ANSWER: (Please list the four kinds.)

(a) _____.

(b) _____.

(c) _____.

(d) _____.

9. When did the Lord give emergency (temporary) permission to eat the flesh of animals? Genesis 9:1-5.

YOUR ANSWER: After the _____.

This was after the Flood had destroyed all vegetation. When men began to eat flesh, there was an immediate shortening of the life-span. Before the Flood men lived nearly a thousand years. While it is true that long ago men were permitted to use flesh-food, there is now a change. Since 1844 the

Lord is at work to prepare a people for the second coming of Christ. He now calls for a change in our eating habits--to get back to His original plan. "Flesh was never the best food; but its use now is doubly objectionable, since diseases in animals are so rapidly increasing. Those who use flesh foods little know what they are eating. Often if they could see the animals when living and know the quality of the meat they eat, they would turn from it with loathing. People are continually eating flesh that is filled with tuberculous and cancerous germs. Tuberculosis, cancer, and other fatal diseases are thus communicated" (The Ministry of Healing, p. 313).

10. What is one very common mistake many Americans make in their diet and permit in the diet of their children? Proverbs 25:27, first part.

ANSWER: "It is _____ to eat _____."

"Honey," of course, means sugar and sweets, although our refined sugar was not known in

Solomon's day. Dr. Cecilia Rosenfeld reported that "in my own practice, I have found that a surprising number of 'broken marriage' spouses suffered from a blood-sugar imbalance. Many of these husbands and wives showed symptoms of irritability, violent temper, abnormal sensitivity and extreme fatigue" (New Materia Medica, August, 1962). Dr. Stephen P. Gyland, Sr. in an address to the American Medical Association said that blood sugar imbalance is a leading cause of suicides, schizophrenia, chronic fatigue, and depressions. This is amazing! Too much sugar can contribute towards divorce and tragedy, and juvenile emotional disorders.

11. What does the New Testament advise us to do in changing our diet? 2 Corinthians 6:17.

ANSWER: "Touch not the _____
_____."

The "unclean thing" is any harmful food or drink. It includes the unclean meats listed in Leviticus 11:1-24; tobacco in all its forms; harmful

drugs of all kinds; tea, coffee, and cola drinks that contain caffeine; and alcoholic drinks of all kinds. It also includes any unhealthful practice. Those who come close to Christ in His closing work as High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary gladly surrender all harmful habits. They recognize their bodies to be the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

12. What can the Lord do, and what is He anxious to do, for all who believe, who appreciate the love that led the Son of God to die for us? Exodus 15:26.

ANSWER: "... I will put _____ of these _____ upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord _____."

In Exodus 15: 23-25 we see that the "tree" brought healing to the bitter waters. When the waters of our life are bitter, then our life forces become weakened and we more easily fall prey to sickness. Take that "tree," the cross of Calvary,

into your "waters" and let it sweeten them for you. Then you will know these promises are true. The healing process is for every day of your life until Jesus comes again!

Scientists have found that lung cancer victims tend to have poor emotional outlets. Tests show that people who had adverse life situations and who repressed their feelings were more vulnerable to lung cancer than those who had good emotional outlets. Adverse life situations included disturbed marital relationships, poor relationships with children, failure to gain promotion at work, and sexual difficulties.

There are many physicians who believe that depression, frustration in personal relationships, bottling up problems, repressing emotions, can contribute to cancer. Often there is a tendency to paper over personal problems, putting on a cheerful looking front while hiding inner pain. Such emotional illness can stem from childhood.

But there is good news that psychiatrists and

physicians often do not know about--the love of Christ. Again--there is healing in that "tree"--the cross. A very perceptive writer has said, "Our Saviour's words, 'Come unto Me, ... and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28), are a prescription for the healing of physical, mental, and spiritual ills. Though men have brought suffering upon themselves by their own wrong doing, He regards them with pity. In Him they may find help. He will do great things for those who trust in Him." *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 115.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 32

The Gift of Prophecy: A Modern Miracle Revealed

Most Christian churches have understood that the gift of prophecy ceased with the death of the twelve apostles of Jesus. The New Testament is the last of God's revelations to man, they say.

But now a change has come. Millions of members of various churches have wondered about modern prophets and their prophecies. Every time some modern "prophet" makes a prediction that turns out right people wonder, "Has God restored the gift of prophecy to the Christian church again?"

"For decades, the claims of Mary Baker Eddy as a prophetess have been advocated by some, while others have maintained that Joseph Smith was a true prophet. Side by side with this tremendous modern interest in prophecies comes a revival of ancient astrology. People everywhere are

looking for a link with the supernatural. Astrology and the screaming tabloids have seemed to supply what is wanted.

We shall study first of all what the Bible says about the gift of prophecy--is it indeed a gift that ended with the apostles, or is it a gift that God will restore to us in the last days? Then we shall study how we may distinguish between a true prophet and a false prophet. Finally we shall consider how important this gift is, and how our eternal salvation depends on correctly relating ourselves to a true prophetic message that God sends.

Does the Lord Give the True Gift of Prophecy in These Last Days?

1. When Christ went to heaven after His resurrection, what different spiritual gifts did He give to His church? Ephesians 4:8, 11.

ANSWER: "He gave some, _____; and some, _____; and some, _____; and some, _____ and teachers."

2. What were the three reasons why He gave us these gifts? Ephesians 4:12.

ANSWER: (a) "For the _____ of the saints, (b) for the _____ of the _____, (c) for the _____ of the _____ of _____."

3. How long should these gifts remain in the church? Ephesians 4:13-15.

ANSWER: "Till we all come in the _____ of the _____, and of the _____ of the _____ of _____, unto a _____, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ ... [and] speaking the truth in _____, may grow up into Him in _____."

All Christians agree that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, teachers, and missionaries are necessary until the coming of the Lord. Why not also the gift of prophets? The text says that these

gifts are needed until "we all come in the unity of the faith ... unto a perfect man." We're certainly not there yet! The church still needs these gifts, including the gift of prophecy.

4. Read what Paul says about the Lord's people down in the end of time, "waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:4-8. What special gift will be confirmed or manifested among them?

ANSWER: "The testimony of _____ was confirmed in you."

5. What is this "testimony of Christ," according to the Bible? Revelation 19:10.

ANSWER: "The testimony of Jesus is the _____ of _____."

6. Now read Revelation 12:17 where John speaks of the true church as "the woman." What two clear characteristics mark this true church?

ANSWER: (a) "[They] keep the _____ of _____ and (b) have the _____ of _____."

If you are not as yet acquainted with the precious gift of prophecy, you have a blessing in store! The Lord never gives a gift unless He knows that we need it. If He says that this gift is necessary for you to be "blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ," you should waste no time in becoming acquainted with it. It brings us into "the unity of the faith."

How to Distinguish a True Prophet From a False Prophet

7. Read again what the Lord says about His gifts of the Spirit in Ephesians 4:11, 12, 16. Do you see the expression, "edifying," and to "grow up"? To "edify" means to "build up" (an edifice is a building). What does a true prophet do for the church, build it up or tear it to pieces? Now read Matthew 7:15-20, and answer: Does a true prophet [underline the correct answer]:

(a) Tear down or scatter the flock like a wolf; does he bear thorns, and produce thistles? --OR--

(b) Does he build up the church, strengthen the ministry, and bring Christ's followers into unity?

8. What test must be applied to a prophet's teaching and work? Isaiah 8:19, 20.

ANSWER: "To the _____ and to the _____: if they speak not according to this _____, it is because there is _____ in them."

One must apply the same acid test as he does to the true church (see Study Guide 33, "Does the Bible Pinpoint the True Church?"). If a so-called prophet denies even one clear Bible teaching, he cannot be a true prophet.

For example, many modern "prophets" believe in communication with the dead. Ruth Montgomery claimed that the dead Arthur Ford,

who had led Bishop Pike astray and who died in 1971, had "written" a book through her. According to Isaiah 8:19, 20, this is clear evidence that "there is no light" in her so-called prophetic revelations.

9. What can we expect to see many of in these last days? Matthew 24:24.

ANSWER: "For there shall arise ... _____ prophets, [which] shall shew _____ and _____; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall _____ the very elect."

10. If someone tried to deceive you with a counterfeit \$20 bill, would you ever after reject all genuine \$20 bills?

YOUR ANSWER: _____. (The existence of counterfeits proves that somewhere there is the genuine.)

The Miracle of the Genuine Gift of Prophecy in the Last Days

The time has at last come when a true prophet is being recognized publicly. You may have noticed in these lessons quotations from several helpful books such as Happiness Digest, The Desire of Ages, and The Ministry of Healing. These were written by Ellen G. White, who was called to the work of a prophet in 1844, the time when the 2300-year prophecy of Daniel 8:14 met its final fulfillment.

Until her death at 87 in 1915, this messenger of God did the work and bore the fruits of genuineness. Never did her teachings vary from the acid test of Holy Scripture. Her last words uttered in a large public meeting were: "I commend to you this Book [the Bible]." Her life and writings "edified" (built up) the church, strengthened the ministry, glorified Christ, led to the "perfecting of the saints." Millions testify to the value of her writings in leading them closer to the Lord. Also a vast worldwide movement embracing schools,

hospitals, universities, publishing houses, and even a medical school, are the direct fruit of her life of service and her revelations from the Lord. If we apply Jesus' test to her, "By their fruits ye shall know them," we find abundant evidence that her call was indeed a genuine one. But you need not take anyone's word for it. You can taste and see for yourself--read Happiness Digest, The Desire of Ages, The Great Controversy, The Ministry of Healing, Education, or any one of scores of books from her pen. You will discover on every page the unmistakable imprint of divine inspiration.

11. In these days of "women's lib" another question may be asked: does the Bible tell of women (as well as men) being called to the work of a prophet? Read Exodus 15:20; 2 Kings 22:14; Acts 21:8, 9.

ANSWER (list a few names): _____

_____.

12. You want to become a strong, happy Christian, one who will "grow up" into the Lord,

and be a help to others. What then will be your attitude toward the messages that come from God's genuine gift of prophecy? 2 Chronicles 20:20.

ANSWER: "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be _____; believe his _____, so shall ye _____."

Those who sincerely and humbly accept the message of the gift of prophecy (sometimes spoken of as "the Spirit of Prophecy") grow into happy, devoted Christians. Their lives and influence also build up the church. Even whole churches, as well as institutions, prosper amazingly when they follow the counsel the Lord has given through this gift.

13. When the genuine "testimony of Jesus" speaks to us, what kind of a message does He give us? Revelation 3:19.

ANSWER: "As many as I _____, I _____ and _____: be zealous therefore, and _____."

The writings of Ellen G. White, as the "testimony of Jesus," often bring reproof. But there is always healing as well. We are constantly pointed to the Lamb of God, who takes away sin. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1, 2 and see how this truth of the cross is uplifted in the Spirit of Prophecy writings:

"If sinners can be led to give one earnest look at the cross, if they can obtain a full view of the crucified Saviour, they will realize the depth of God's compassion and the sinfulness of sin.

"Christ's death proves God's great love for man. It is our pledge of salvation. To remove the cross from the Christian would be like blotting the sun from the sky. The cross brings us near to God, reconciling us to Him. With the relenting compassion of a father's love, Jehovah looks upon the suffering that His Son endured in order to save the race from eternal death, and accepts us in the Beloved." The Acts of the Apostles, p. 209.

14. Would you like to "taste" for yourself how

good is the message of the Spirit of Prophecy?
_____.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 33

Does the Bible Pinpoint the True Church?

A very popular word today is "ecumenical," which has to do with the joining of different denominations into one world church. The word "catholic" means "universal," and also reflects the conviction many people have that the church ought to be united into "one body."

"Did Jesus intend that His church should be split up into so many different groups? Is He pleased to see His professed followers quarreling among themselves? Does the Holy Spirit produce harmony and unity? Is it arrogant and proud to claim that one denomination is the "true church"? Is the Bible so clear on this subject that any sincere and honest person can find what is the true church today?

Most of us have had the experience of trying to

find a missing key for an important lock. Sometimes we try dozens of keys on a ring before we finally discover the one and only key that perfectly matches the shape of the lock and the tumblers fitted inside.

Let us liken the Bible standards for the one true church to a lock created by the Divine Craftsman, who founded His church in the beginning. Can we find the "key"? Where in the world today can we find the church that matches the Bible specifications?

When and How Was the True Church Founded by Jesus?

1. In what simple way did Jesus found His church? John 1:35-45.

ANSWER: "Jesus ... saith ... _____ me."

"With the calling of John and Andrew and Simon, of Philip and Nathaniel, began the foundation of the Christian church. John directed

two of his disciples to Christ. Then one of these, Andrew, found his brother, and called him to the Saviour. Philip was then called and he went in search of Nathaniel." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 141.

2. What is the true Foundation on which Jesus has built His church? Matthew 16:13-18.

ANSWER: "Upon this _____ I will _____ My church."

What is the "Rock"? It cannot be Peter, for he said that the Rock was Christ Himself (see 1 Peter 2:5-8). Many Scriptures say that Christ is the Rock-Deuteronomy 32:3, 4, 15, 18; 1 Corinthians 10:4; Psalm 71:1-3. Peter means a little stone that can be picked up and thrown around, "petros" in Greek. But the word for "Rock" on which Christ builds His church is *petra*, which means a great solid outcropping of bedrock.

How We Can Find the True Church

3. In seeking to find the true church, whom do

we simply follow? Mark 2:14; Mark 8:34; John 15:13-15.

ANSWER: "He passed by, ... and said unto him, "... whosoever will _____ after _____, let him _____, and take up his _____, and _____." (In other words, follow Jesus' footsteps).

4. Read these verses and then decide if the Lord has a true church in the world: Ephesians 4:4-6.

ANSWER: "There is _____."

When Paul says "there is one body," he means there is one church, because "body" means "church" (see 1 Corinthians 12:27, 28). That one church is worldwide, to be found among "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Revelation 14:6, 7).

Of all the different groups on earth who claim

to be saints, the Lord pinpoints one group and says, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). In other words, God's true church will be distinguished by her obedience to His commandments and by her living, powerful faith in Jesus. "Babylon" is a word that means "confusion," and refers to the vast conglomeration of conflicting, quarreling religions that do not follow Christ and do not keep His commandments. "Babylon is fallen" because by rejecting truth she no longer can lead people on the path to heaven.

The History of God's One True Church

5. Please read Revelation 12:1-6 and 12:13-17 and then answer these questions:

(a) What does this "pure woman" symbolize? 2 Corinthians 11:2.

ANSWER: The _____.

(b) What twelve men do the twelve stars

symbolize? Revelation 12:1.

ANSWER: The twelve _____.

(c) Who hates the true church? Revelation 12:9.

ANSWER: He is "called the _____, and _____."

(d) What did Satan try to do to God's people for the period of 1260 years? Revelation 12:6, 13.

ANSWER: "He _____ the _____.

This woman is not the Virgin Mary, for this is not literal, but symbolic language. God's church has always been understood as a "woman"(compare Jeremiah 6:2). The 1260 days symbolize years and began in 538 A.D. and ended in 1798 A.D.

6. Now read Revelation 12:17 again. After the 1260 years are ended and we have come to the last days symbolized by the "remnant of her seed,"

what two things reveal how God has pinpointed His true church?

ANSWER: (a) They "keep the _____ of _____, and (b) have the _____ of _____."

In seeking for the true "key" that fits God's lock of Bible prophecy, we look for a church that keeps the true sabbath, the seventh day, or Saturday. In pinpointing His true church, the Lord says, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God." This one fact alone will considerably narrow our search. Secondly, we look for a church that has the second characteristic pinpointed here--they have "the testimony of Jesus Christ," or "the Spirit of Prophecy" (see Revelation 19:10). In order for the "key" to fit the lock both characteristics must be evident.

There are churches that claim to keep the seventh day or Saturday but do not have the Spirit of Prophecy, nor do they proclaim the pure gospel of righteousness by faith. And there are churches

that claim to have a prophet but do not keep the Bible sabbath. None of them can fit the prophecy. And of course, the supreme must be evident in the church--Christlike love.

7. What wonderful experience is to pervade the hearts of God's people in His true church? John 13:34, 35.

ANSWER: "That ye _____ one _____: as I have _____ you." (This word is agape in the original.)

8. What test must be applied to all the teachings of the true church of God? 1 Timothy 3:15.

ANSWER: "The church of the living God," is "the pillar and _____ of the _____."

Applying the Test of the Word

In this brief study we cannot consider all the tests of truth that the true church must meet. But we can look at a few.

The true church:

(a) Believes the truth of the Godhead (Matthew 28:19, 20).

(b) Believes that Christ is the eternally pre-existent, divine Son of God (John 1:1-3, 10, 14; Hebrews 1:2; Micah 5:2).

(c) Believes that man is by nature mortal (Job 4:17; 1 Timothy 6:15, 16).

(d) Believes that the dead are asleep, unconscious, until the resurrection (John 11:11-14; Psalm 146:4; Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6).

(e) Keeps the true seventh-day sabbath as the sign of union and fellowship with the Lord and as a sign of true conversion and sanctification (Luke 4:16; Ezekiel 20:12, 20; Hebrews 4:9, 10, marginal reading; Revelation 1:10).

(f) Believes that sin and sinners will not

continue forever and ever but will come to an end (Malachi 4:1-3).

(g) Follows God's tithing plan (Leviticus 27:30, 32; 1 Corinthians 9:14; Malachi 3:8-10).

(h) Follows Christ's example of feet-washing (John 13:1-17).

(i) Lives healthfully (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17).

(j) Believes, experiences, and demonstrates salvation and righteousness by faith (Romans 3:20-31; 4:1-25; Ephesians 2:8).

(k) Believes in the true gifts of the Holy Spirit, the true baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the true gift of prophecy (1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; Ephesians 4:8).

(l) Follows Christ by faith in His ministry in the Most Holy apartment of the sanctuary in heaven, where He began His ministry of final atonement in 1844 (Daniel 8:14; Hebrews 6 to 10).

9. Where can one find a church that fulfills all of these Bible tests, except the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

YOUR ANSWER: _____.

10. What will enable the true church to complete her work of giving the gospel to all the world in this last generation? John 12:32, 33; 1 Corinthians 1:17, 18; 2:1, 2.

ANSWER: "And I, if _____
from the earth, will _____ all _____
unto Me. This He said, signifying what
_____ He should _____." "For I
determined not to know anything among you, save
_____, and Him _____."

"Looking upon the crucified Redeemer, we more fully comprehend the magnitude and meaning of the sacrifice made by the Majesty of heaven. The plan of salvation is glorified before us, and the thought of Calvary awakens living and

sacred emotions in our hearts and on our lips; for pride and self-worship cannot flourish in the soul that keeps fresh in memory the scenes of Calvary." *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 660, 661.

11. Is the true church on earth now "perfect"?
Philippians 3:12; 1 Corinthians 3:2, 3; Hebrews 5:11-14; 1 Peter 2:1-3; Revelation 3:14-21.

THE OBVIOUS ANSWER: _____.

The true church is not a museum or mausoleum for "perfect" saints. It's a hospital for the healing of sin-sick souls. In fact, no "perfect" person should join the church; he doesn't belong there; he belongs in heaven. Jesus rebukes and corrects His church. Laodicea is the "seventh" or last church of world history, and it is the one that is outstandingly "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked," says Jesus Himself. But He will cleanse and purify Laodicea and prepare her to be His holy Bride (Revelation 19:7-9). That's the work He accomplishes in His final atonement in the Most Holy Apartment of the heavenly sanctuary.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 34

Something Most Important: How to Make Jesus Happy

You want to be a Christian, the kind that God respects. You have seen so many profess to serve Jesus who fail to become beautiful Christians. You sometimes wonder if you can succeed. You ask: "Why start and then give up?"

Jesus is greatly embarrassed when someone starts to follow Him, and then gives up and lets the devil make him worldly again. Satan taunts Jesus, saying, "I've got people on my side better than that." And for one to begin and then quit always drags someone else back. A friend watching is bound to say, "So-and-so couldn't make it, so I'm sure I couldn't either. No use to even start." And for this reason many sincere people never become Christians.

You wouldn't have come this far in these

studies unless it is your deepest desire to follow Jesus all the way. This study distills into a few precious drops the essence of how to be a happy, faithful Christian all your life. No subject in our series can be more important. As a Christian, you are a link in God's chain let down to save the world. But no chain is stronger than its weakest link. If you fail, it is just the same as if the entire chain fails so far as somebody important somewhere is concerned. That person is depending on you; if you give up and sink, he goes down, too. So, you are not saving yourself; you are saving somebody else! Further, you are standing firm in order to honor and vindicate the Lord who died for you. These are the real reasons why we want to be faithful and happy Christians all the way. Here is the Bible how.

1. What is always the first step in becoming a happy Christian? John 3:16.

ANSWER: "That whosoever _____."

In other words, being a happy Christian does

not depend on doing good works, but on exercising faith. The first step is to believe that God loves you as though you were the only person in all the world for whom Christ died. You are the whole world with its sin; the sacrifice of the cross was made for you.

2. If you believe that God loves you like that, what will you also believe concerning your life? Romans 8:31, 32.

ANSWER: "If God be for us, who can _____?"

Here is the answer to our problem of getting discouraged. Whatever you are hungry for, whatever you need, God will provide. Believe this, and you will never make the mistake of messing up your life. The Lord wisely makes you wait before you get your hands on the gift you want, but He will not leave you to wait even one day longer than is necessary for your own eternal happiness. As an example of how one waited for the Lord to give him his heart's desires, read the story of Joseph in

Genesis 41:37-45.

3. What is the only gift we can give to our Lord? Proverbs 23:26 ; Matthew 11:28-30.

ANSWER: "My son, give me _____
_____, and let thine _____ observe my
ways." "Come _____, ... learn
of _____."

To give one's heart to the Lord is the same as taking up the yoke that Jesus mentions. A yoke is what joins two oxen together. Jesus won't force you. It's like getting married--it's a free will response. When you are young is the time to make the commitment, but if you have neglected to make it, it is not too late to do it now. Here is a suggested commitment you can make right now on your knees alone: "Father in heaven, thank You for thinking of me and loving me until today. I haven't always realized that You are my Friend but I believe it now. Thank you for giving Your only Son to suffer and die instead of me, and for suffering with Him. I choose to let You be my

Guide from now on. You have promised to accept, forgive, and cleanse me; and I believe You do. Now that I have made my choice and my commitment to be yours forever, keep me in your love. In Jesus' name, Amen."

4. When the going gets rough and you think of quitting, what is the one true reason for never giving up? 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15.

ANSWER: "The love of Christ _____ us." If Christ hadn't died for you, where would you be now? _____. This being so, whom do we choose "henceforth" to live for? "Not henceforth live _____, but _____ which died for them."

5. What has God promised to do when we are tempted? 1 Corinthians 10:13.

ANSWER: "God is faithful, who will _____ suffer you to be _____; but will with the temptation also make a way to _____."

Faith is the depending upon the word of God only, and expecting that word only, to do what the word says. We cannot please our Saviour more than by believing His promises.

6. What will always make the devil run away from you? James 4:7, 8.

ANSWER: "_____ yourselves therefore to God. _____ the devil, and he will _____ from _____, draw _____ to _____, and he will draw nigh to _____."

"Resist" here means to take your stand and say "No!"

7. Why is it that new and "old" Christians always have trials? James 1:2-4.

ANSWER: "That the trying of _____ _____ worketh patience. But let patience have her _____, that ye may be _____ and entire, wanting nothing."

8. When you appreciate God's love for you, how do even trials and troubles work to increase your happiness? Romans 5:1-5.

ANSWER: "We glory in _____ also: knowing that _____ worketh _____; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh _____; because the _____ of _____ is shed abroad in our _____ by the _____ which is given unto us."

9. What simple lesson shows us how to continue growing spiritually? 1 Peter 1:23 and 2:1-5.

ANSWER: We are "born again ..., by the _____ of _____, which liveth and abideth for ever." We "grow thereby," when we "desire the sincere milk of the _____." We are a living _____, "in His "spiritual _____."

You need spiritual food or you will starve.

Don't let a day go by without "eating" something from the Bible, no matter how busy you may be. When you get a chance, spend more time with the Bible, especially on sabbaths. Keep marking your Bible. Let it be your companion.

10. How did Jesus feel about prayer? John 5:30; Mark 1:35; Hebrews 5:7, 8.

ANSWER: "I can of mine own self _____
_____." "And in the morning, rising up a great
while before _____, He went out, and
departed into a _____ _____, and there
prayed." "Who in the days of His flesh, when He
had offered up _____ and _____ with
strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to
save Him from death, and was _____ ... yet
learned He _____ by the things which He
suffered."

If you do not pray, it is because (a) you don't realize your real need, your hunger; or (b) you may be spiritually angry with God about something. If the problem is (a), read Matthew 5:6. If it is (b),

read Romans 5:10, 11, and then talk to the Lord about it until you "receive the atonement." In other words, until you are reconciled once more to Him.

11. How often did David pray? Psalm 55:17.

ANSWER: "_____, and _____, and at _____, will I pray."

12. How did Daniel keep on praying even when friends or enemies tried to stop him? Daniel 6:7-10.

ANSWER: "He _____ upon his _____ three times a day, and prayed, and _____ before his God.

13. What is the secret of continually receiving good things from the Lord? Matthew 10:8.

ANSWER: "Freely _____, freely _____."

In other words, keep on giving and then you will keep on receiving. Each day, help someone

else come closer to the Lord. Then you will grow spiritually.

14. If a husband or wife or engaged person starts flirting with someone else, it makes the other one unhappy. How does Jesus feel when we start "flirting" with the enemy of God--the "world"? 2 Corinthians 11:2; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17.

ANSWER: "I am _____ over you with godly _____." "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a _____ of the _____ is the _____ of God." "If any man _____ the _____, the love of the Father is _____ in him. For all that is in the world, the _____ of the _____, and the _____ of the _____, and the _____ of _____, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world _____, and the lust _____: but he that _____ the _____ of God _____."

What would you think of a wife flirting with

the men who had murdered her husband? It is the world that crucified Christ; how can we be friends with the world? Look up what the Bible says about:

(a) Worldly dress (1 Timothy 2:9; 1 Peter 3:1-4; Isaiah 3:16-23).

(b) Worldly amusements and associations (Philippians 4:8; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

(c) Christian standards of happy living (Ephesians 5:1-11).

15. The Lord will not let us go easily and then forget about us. Some have no clear idea how strong His love is. This is why they fail. They think they must hold on to the Lord's hand and if they let go He won't really care. Who holds whose hand? Isaiah 41:10, 13.

ANSWER: "For I _____ with _____:
be not dismayed; for I _____ thy _____:
I will _____ thee; yea, I will _____ thee.
... For I the Lord thy God will _____ thy
_____, saying unto thee,
_____; I will _____ thee."

16. How strongly has He promised to hold you?
John 10:27-29.

ANSWER: "No man is _____ to
_____ of my
_____."

All who have put on the robe of Christ's righteousness will stand before Him as chosen, and faithful, and true. Satan cannot pluck them out of the hand of the Saviour. Not one soul who in penitence and faith has claimed His protection, will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power. His word is pledged: "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me."

17. We are not saved by making promises to God (that's the old covenant). We are saved by believing His promises to us (that's the new covenant). But sometimes we find it difficult to believe! Will you pray the prayer of the distraught father in Mark 9:24: "Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief? _____."

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17