

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR SERVICE



**By Robert H. Martin
and
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DEDICATION

We would like to dedicate this book to our children and their companions and our grandchildren. We are blessed more than human words can express for the finest children, son-in-law and daughter-in-laws that anyone could find on the face of the earth. We dedicate this book to Steve, Janet, Andrew, and Kyle Martin; Mark, Kim Scout, and Seth Martin; Mel, Tonya, Kayla and Shelby Hurley; and Maria Martin. Our children have lived, worked and after their marriage supported us in our work for the Lord on the mission field. What we have accomplished for the Lord has been to a great part due to the love, support, and encouragement of our children and their families.

FORWARD

For many years Mary and I have been encouraged by Pacific Island Christians and other missionaries to make available a book of outlines that we have been using in training or equipping Pacific Island Christians over the past years. We sincerely hope that these outlines will be of use to all who use them.

The outlines in this book have been used by Mary and I over the past twenty-three years, and they have been shared with many people through the years. We pray that these outlines will be used to the honor and glory of God.

We are grateful and indebted to all teachers and writers whom we have known for their contribution to our life as teachers of God's word and as missionaries. In this work we hope to partially pay our debts of thanks to all from whom we have received so much. If we can be of assistance in helping to edify and equip others through this book we shall be more than repaid for the hours of labor necessary to produce this book.

These outlines are brief, right to the point and filled with Scriptures, because we believe that the Scriptures will edify and equip (Acts 20:32).

It is our earnest hope and sincere prayer that these outlines will be as much a joy and benefit to the reader and user as they have been to us.

Robert and Mary Martin

DEVELOPING CHRIST LIKE ATTITUDES

BY ROBERT H. MARTIN

- LESSON 1: BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT**
- LESSON 2: BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN**
- LESSON 3: BLESSED ARE THE MEEK**
- LESSON 4: BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**
- LESSON 5: BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL**
- LESSON 6: BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART**
- LESSON 7: BLESSED ARE THE PEACE MAKERS**
- LESSON 8: BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH ARE PERSECUTED**

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

LESSON 1

1. **A PROPER UNDERSTANDING WILL HELP US TO APPRECIATE THESE WONDERFUL TEACHINGS OF JESUS.**
 - A. The Beatitudes are expressions of proper attitudes with the results.
 - B. To possess these attitudes we must put them into action.
 - C. Rewards are connected with the attitudes.
 - D. The Beatitudes are attitudes a child of God must possess to be happy and pleasing to the Lord.
2. **THE ATTITUDE: THE POOR IN SPIRIT.**
 - A. "Poor in spirit" has no reference to what a person has, but rather what he is. IT IS AN ATTITUDE.
 - B. He is dependent in spirit, that is he realizes that he must depend on God for all his spiritual needs.
 - C. He knows that he cannot rely on self (Jeremiah 10:23)
 - D. We might describe a person who is "poor in spirit" as:
 1. One who is lowly in mind (Ephesians 4:2).
 2. One who is humble in his actions (Luke 14:11).
 3. One who is tender in his feelings (Isaiah 66:2).
 4. One who is respectful in approach (Matthew 6:9).
 - E. A good example of "poor in spirit" is the tax collector in Luke 18:9-14.
 - F. The "poor in spirit" are those who recognize their need for the Great Physician.
3. **THE REWARD: THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**
 - A. The kingdom with all its blessings is theirs.
 - B. It means that they gain all the benefits that come by being a citizen of heaven's kingdom.
 - C. The highest values of life belong to those who are "poor in spirit".

BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN

LESSON 2

1. **THE ATTITUDE: BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN.**
 - A. Again let me call your attention to the fact that Jesus is talking about attitudes and not actions.
 - B. This is an attitude of a deep sincere concern for a persons own condition and the condition of others around him.
 1. Those who mourn for their own sins and the sins of others are to be blessed.
 2. The mourning comes from the fact that man in his strongest hour is still weak and a sinner.
 - C. Let us observe a comparison found in Luke 6:21 (deeply concerned, and Luke 6:25 (not concerned).
 - D. When one looks deeper into the thought, "blessed are they that mourn" he sees that it describes:
 1. One who is concerned about his own needs, weakness, and sins.
 2. Also one who mourns for others as he sees them going into eternity unprepared to meet God.
 - E. Others may be unconcerned, but not the Christian who mourns.
 1. He sees so much that needs to be done and yet he is able to do so little.
 2. His soul cries out in grief.
 - F. He is so deeply concerned about himself, others and the world.
 - G. David is a good example of one who mourns (Psalm 51).
2. **THE REWARD: THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.**
 - A. Their grief shall be satisfied.
 - B. Their sins shall be forgiven.
 - C. Their works shall be rewarded.
 - D. The Christian may sow in sorrow but he shall rejoice in reaping.
 - E. No mourner described by Jesus has ever missed the blessings of divine comfort.

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

LESSON 3

1. **THE ATTITUDE: BLESSED ARE THE MEEK.**
 - A. The meek are the mild, the gentle, the lowly, the patient, and the tame.
 - B. Meekness is not weakness.
 1. When the Greek word was applied to an animal, it described a horse that was tame.
 2. A tame horse is gentle, holds no grudges, offers no resistance, even when under abuses, and works faithfully without resentment wherever he is put.
 - C. The meek are those who willingly and gladly accept God's will.
 1. They do whatever God gives them to do without complaining or disagreeing (1 Corinthians 10:10).
 2. They lose their own will by doing the will of God (Galatians 2:20).
 3. They are completely possessed by Christ and because of this they are in full possession of self (Galatians 2:20).
 - D. A good Bible example of meekness is Moses (Numbers 12:3).
 - E. The Christian is exhorted to be a meek person.
 1. Do all things in meekness (Ephesians 4:2).
 2. Put on meekness (Colossians 3:12).
 3. Follow after meekness (1 Timothy 6:11).
 4. Instruct in meekness (2 Timothy 2:25).
 5. Receive the word with meekness (James 1:21).
 6. Restore with meekness (Galatians 6:1).
 7. Show our works with meekness (James 3:13).
 8. Show meekness to all men (Titus 3:2).
2. **THE REWARD: THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.**
 - A. Keep in mind that to "inherit the earth" is a spiritual reward and not a physical one.
 - B. This simply means that the meek shall enjoy the benefits of the earth.
 1. It is theirs (1 Corinthians 3:21-23).
 2. God made the earth for His people and there is not a thing on it or in it, when used as God intended it to be used, that does not belong to them (Psalm 24:1).
 - C. It belongs to them, because they use it in the right way.
 1. They use it as God wants them to use it.
 2. They do not permit it to use them, they use it.
 - D. As we look around us we may think that the world belongs to selfish and arrogant-BUT NOT SO.
 1. The meek truly possess the earth.
 - E. God's servants are using God's things in God's ways and, because of this they are the Masters of the earth.
 - F. The earth is theirs, because God has given it to them to use.

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

LESSON 4

- 1. THE ATTITUDE: BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS.**
 - A. Hunger and thirst are two of the most pressing drives in the human body. Jesus used an example that man understands.
 1. Here they show how great our desire must be for righteousness.
 2. Righteousness is doing right or doing God's will.
 3. Righteousness can be described as **"the condition acceptable to God"**.
 - B. Righteousness results from doing right or doing God's will.
 1. God commands only that which is right, when we do what God commands, we are doing right.
 2. When we do right as God gives the right we are righteous.
 - C. The Christian and Righteousness.
 1. Those that are born of God practices righteousness (1 John 2:29).
 2. The new man is created in righteousness (Ephesians 4:24).
 3. Righteousness comes by faith (Hebrews 11:33; Philippians 3:9).
 4. God loves righteousness (Hebrews 1:9).
 5. The righteous shall inherit eternal life (Matthew 25:46).
 - D. A Christian must desire righteousness.
 1. That desire must be intense or great.
 2. A Christians **attitude** toward truth and right will determine the kind of character he will become.
 - E. The attitude which Jesus pronounces a blessing is that of hungering and thirsting for:
 1. A higher life.
 2. A spiritual life.
 3. A life that is in Christ.
- 2. THE REWARD: THEY SHALL BE FILLED.**
 - A. They shall be satisfied with righteousness.
 1. The needs of their soul shall be filled.
 - B. The righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel (Romans 1:16,17).
 1. God has a divine plan for bringing sinners to the state of righteousness (John 8:32).
 - C. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will find that the gospel supplies all their needs (2 Timothy 3:16,17; Revelation 22:17).

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

LESSON 5

- I. **THE ATTITUDE: BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL.**
 - A. The meaning of mercy is the combination of: fairness, kindness, pity, forbearance, sympathy, compassion, and forgiveness.
 - B. God is the Father of Mercies (2 Corinthians 1:3).
 - 1. And those who partake of the divine nature must be merciful (2 Peter 1:4).
 - C. We must be merciful to those who:
 - 1. Sin against us.
 - 2. Differ from us.
 - 3. Are hard to endure.
 - 4. Are in sorrow.
 - 5. Are in pain.
 - D. Being merciful is being concerned about the problem of others enough to give a helping hand.
 - 1. Being merciful is feeling for others and helping them bear the loads of life (Galatians 6:2).
 - 2. But we must not misunderstand mercy and this causes us to neglect giving a warning to the lost or unfaithful Christian.
 - 3. If one saw a train loaded with passengers headed for certain destruction it would be the farthest thing from mercy to withhold any warning or information that could be given to save lives.
 - 4. So it is with gospel and lost sinners, we must sound the warning if we are to be merciful.
 - E. Mercy must surely be a part of the Christians life.
 - 1. Received in salvation (1 Corinthians 7:25).
 - 2. Practiced in life (Romans 12:8).
 - 3. Shown in God's providence (Philippians 2:27).
 - 4. Obtained in prayer (Hebrews 4:16).
 - 5. Reason for our sacrifice (Romans 12:1).
 - 6. A ground/foundation for hope (Jude 21).
 - F. A good example of one opposite the merciful is found in Matthew 18:21-35.
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- 2. **THE REWARD: THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY.**
 - A. Mercy is like a boomerang, it is always caught on the rebound.
 - B. When we show mercy to others we receive it back from our fellow-man and always from God (Psalm 41:1; Proverbs 11:25; James 2:13).

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART

LESSON 6

1. **THE ATTITUDE: BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART.**
 - A. The "heart" is regarded as being the seat of the intellect, the feelings and the will.
 1. Out of the heart comes all the actions and issues of life (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:18,19).
 - B. An evil heart produces evil fruits; a good heart or a pure heart produces good or pure fruit (Matthew 34,35; Proverbs 23:7).
 - C. The Greek word for pure here means, **"clean, pure, free from corruption, sincere, genuine, blameless, innocent and guiltless"**
 - D. The pure in heart are those who have pure, sincere, genuine or right motives.
 1. Those who "obey from the heart" a pure heart, God's will (Romans 6:16-18).
 - E. Paul is a good example of one who always displayed this attitude (Acts 23:1).
 - F. The Christian must have a pure heart.
 1. Love God with the heart (Matthew 22:37).
 2. Believe with the heart (Romans 10:10).
 3. Honor God with your heart (1 Peter 3:15).
 4. Do God's will from the heart (Ephesians 6:6).
2. **THE REWARD: THEY SHALL SEE GOD.**
 - A. There is no doubt that the pure in heart will see God in the literal sense at the day of judgement and throughout eternity.
 1. But I do not think this is what Jesus here had in mind.
 2. In the literal sense no man can "see" God now (John 1:18).
 - B. To "see" means, **to possess, to enjoy, to experience, to receive the full benefits from.**
 - C. We often speak of someone seeing prosperity, good health, peace of mind and etc.
 1. In John 3:3 Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot **see** the kingdom of God".
 2. In John 3:5 Jesus presents the same idea but says, **".....enter** the kingdom of God".
 3. To **"see"** and to **"enter"** are used interchangeably mean the same thing.
 - D. It is in this way I am convinced that the pure in heart shall see God.
 1. To see, possess, enjoy, experience, enter into, gain the full benefit from God is the reward of the pure in heart.
 - E. A reward that is fully realized by the children of God here and now.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

LESSON 7

- 1. THE ATTITUDE: BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS.**
- A. There are many ways of being a peacemaker.
 1. One can make peace between himself and God.
 2. One can make peace between himself and family.
 3. One can make peace between himself and neighbors.
 4. One can make peace between himself and all he meets.
 5. One can make peace by helping others to obey God.
 6. One can make peace by serving as a go between of people having troubles.
 7. One can make peace by working for peace in the Church.
- B. All of which are probably included in this attitude.
- C. It seems to me that Jesus is emphasizing much more than peace among men and nations.
- D. When we consider the blessing that follows, the idea of the peacemaker most assuredly extends to the person who obeys the will of God.
 1. This will result in peace with self and with others.
- E. When a person obeys the Lord he is bringing about peace that is the highest.
 1. Being a Christian is the greatest "peace contribution" anyone can make (Philippians 4:7).
- F. The Christian and peace.
 1. The Christian should pursue peace (2 Timothy 2:22).
 2. The Christian should live in peace (2 Corinthians 13:11).
 3. The Christian must follow after things that make for peace (Romans 14:19).
- G. Things which make for peace are found in 1 Peter 3:8-13.
- H. Two good examples of peacemakers are Jesus (Isaiah 9:6) and Jonathan (1 Samuel 14-23).
- 2. THE REWARD: THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD.**
- A. Without question, to be the child of God is the greatest privilege ever granted to mankind.
- B. As a child of God, God is our Father and Jesus is our elder brother!
- C. God's whole plan for saving man was purposed, prepared, perfected and was accomplished to this end.
- D. Heaven has not richer gift than that of being a child of God.

BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH ARE PERSECUTED

LESSON 8

1. **THE ATTITUDE: BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE.**
 - A. One characteristic of a citizen of the Kingdom of God is that one must be ready and willing to endure persecutions (2 Timothy 3:12).
 1. This follows closely to the attitude of the peacemaker.
 2. In order to keep peace, many times one must be ready and willing to endure persecutions.
 3. The work of a peacemaker is not a light and easy one.
 4. It often carries with it persecutions of the world and even those who should be restored to God.
 - B. The blessing is received by those who are **"persecuted for righteousness sake"**, and not those who are persecuted for their opinions or their evil doings.
 1. Jesus was bitterly hated and reviled because he was seeking to please God (Mark 3:6; Luke 6:7,11).
 - C. Persecutions can be made in different ways:
 1. By misrepresenting a person.
 2. By slandering a persons character.
 3. Trying to make a persons motives look bad.
 4. By taking a persons property.
 - D. Persecutions are usually caused by:
 1. Hatred of God (John 15:20-23).
 2. Ignorance of God (John 16:1-3).
 3. Hatred for Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:14,15).
 4. For preaching the cross of Christ (Galatians 5:11; Galatians 6:12).
 5. For godly living (2 Timothy 3:12).
 - E. What should be the Christians attitude when persecutions come?
 1. Pray (Matthew 5:44).
 2. Be patient (1 Corinthians 4:12).
 3. Glorify God (1 Peter 4:16).
 4. Rejoice in it (Matthew 5:12).
 5. Flee from it (Matthew 10:23).
2. **THE REWARD: THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**
 - A. We are to rejoice and be very happy that we are counted worthy to suffer for the Kingdom of Heaven (Acts 5:41).
 - B. Jesus knew that those who would enter His kingdom and prove faithful would be persecuted.
 - C. He prepares us for this by telling us of the prophets and then He promises us that **"We shall reign with Him"** (2 Timothy 2:12).

**SERIES ON THE CHRISTIAN
GRACES FOR GROWTH**

BY: ROBERT H. MARTIN

LESSON 1: GOD'S WORD IS SUFFICIENT
LESSON 2: FAITH
LESSON 3: VIRTUE
LESSON 4: KNOWLEDGE
LESSON 5: SELF-CONTROL
LESSON 6: PERSEVERANCE
LESSON 7: GODLINESS
LESSON 8: BROTHERLY KINDNESS
LESSON 9: LOVE
LESSON 10: HE WHO LACKS THESE THINGS
LESSON 11: MAKE YOUR SALVATION SURE

GOD'S WORD IS SUFFICIENT

Lesson 1

1. PETER INTRODUCES THIS SUBJECT.

- A. By showing that God's word is sufficient to the Christian (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
- B. Verse 3 not only tells us that God's word is all we need, but it also tells us that God will supply our every need.
- C. This giving of all things needful is supplied through a knowledge of God and Christ (2 Peter 1:2; also see John 17:3).
- D. The way in which Christians are called by His glory and virtue is explained by Paul in Ephesians 1:17,18 and also 2 Thessalonians 2:14.

2. IT IS THROUGH A KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND CHRIST.

- A. The precious and exceeding great promises have been granted to us through a knowledge of God and Christ.
- B. They are great, because they include forgiveness, peace, the promise of eternal life, and a share in the divine nature.
- C. If we accept the guidance of God's word and accept His precious promises, we will become partners with God.
- D. When we accept God's word and follow it, we escape the corruption of the world that entices us by its lust.

3. MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE.

- A. Because the Lord has given us great and precious promises, we must make our calling and election sure.
- B. By giving all diligence-every effort-your very best.
- C. Be willing to add to your faith certain characteristics.
- D. Now let us look at what we must add to our faith.

FAITH
Lesson 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Faith leads the way of the Christian qualities.
- B. Because of the precious and great promises which are yours then be adding to your faith.
- C. FAITH IS THE FOUNDATION.

1. WHAT IS FAITH?

- A. Hebrews 11:1
- B. Faith is being sure of things that we cannot see.
- C. Faith is trusting and depending on the Lord.
- D. Faith is obedience.

2. IS FAITH NECESSARY?

- A. Hebrews 11:6
- B. If we do not believe in God, we cannot be pleasing to God.

3. HOW DOES FAITH COME?

- A. By studying the written Word of God (John 20:30,31).
- B. By studying the written spoken words of the Apostles (John 17:20).
- C. By hearing the Word of the gospel (Acts 15:7).
- D. By hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

4. FAITH IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

- A. Live by faith (Romans 1:17).
- B. Walk by faith (Romans 4:12).
- C. Pray by faith (Matthew 21:22).
- D. Overcome the world by faith (1 John 5:4,5).
- E. Die in faith (Hebrews 11:13).

VIRTUE
Lesson 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Virtue is supplied by faith.
- B. Virtue appears second on the list of Christian qualities.
- C. Virtue is faith's first test.
- D. Virtue is defined as, "**strength of mind and body. Moral excellence. Course and determination to do that which is right**".

1. EXAMPLES OF COURAGE AND DETERMINATION.

- A. Joseph refusing to be enticed by Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:7-12).
- B. Moses refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter and the riches of Egypt (Hebrews 11:24-27).
- C. David had virtue in fighting the lion and bear (1 Samuel 17:36). Also in fighting the giant Goliath (1 Samuel 17:37-50).

2. THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD THINK ON VIRTUE.

- A. Philippians 4:8,9
- B. Proverbs 23:7 tells us that we are what we think.
- C. We should not only think on virtue but should also practice it (James 1:22).
- D. The reward will be that God will be with us if we practice virtue.

3. CHRISTIANS ARE TO PRACTICE AND MAKE VIRTUE A PART OF THEIR LIFE.

- A. The Christian is to be brave and strong, this is virtue (1 Corinthians 16:13).
- B. The Christian is to think about virtue (Philippians 4:8).
- C. The Christian is to add it to his or her life and use it (2 Peter 1:5).

CONCLUSION:

- A. We as children of God must have the courage and determination to do that which is right in everything.
- B. So with courage we say, "**The Lord is my helper; I will not fear: what man shall do to me**" (Hebrews 13:5,6).
- C. Virtue will come only if we have FAITH in God and His word.

KNOWLEDGE
Lesson 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Knowledge is gained by and grows out of the practice of virtue.
- B. Knowledge comes third on the list of Christian qualities.
- C. Knowledge is faith's second test.
- D. Knowledge is defined as, "a seeking to know, inquiry, investigation. Knowledge of spiritual truth".

1. DESIRE TO KNOW SPIRITUAL TRUTH.

- A. Before one can have insight into truth, there must be a desire for the truth (1 Peter 2:2).
- B. A seeking, inquiring, investigation spirit is a must to gaining knowledge (Matthew 7:7).
- C. Only the courage and determination to know the truth can make us free (John 8:32).
- D. Knowing God's word is involved in the desire to obey the truth (John 17:17).

2. KNOWLEDGE IS.....

- A. Understanding the will of God (Ephesians 5:17).
- B. Having a knowledge of God's will (Colossians 1:9).
- C. Having the ability to decide between good and bad, right and wrong (Hebrews 5:14).
- D. Knowing and obeying the will of God. (Romans 12:1,2).

3. THE CHRISTIAN AND KNOWLEDGE.

- A. The Christian should be filled with knowledge (Philippians 1:9).
- B. The Christian should grow in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).
- C. The Christian should not be puffed up by knowledge (1 Corinthians 8:1).

CONCLUSION:

- A. We are to grow in knowledge to bring about a changed life (2 Peter 3:18; Colossians 3:10).
- B. So knowledge by itself is useless.

SELF-CONTROL

Lesson 5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Self-control is defined as, "one who hold himself in, self-government, discipline, the ability of one to control his own life".
- B. Self-control is secured through the exercise of deciding between right and wrong. It is an outgrowth of knowledge.
- C. When a Christian has the right kind of knowledge he is equipped to see evil and is able to avoid it.
- D. Do you see the necessity of possessing knowledge and self-control?
- E. If we do not possess it, the devil will have us in his camp.

1. THE BIBLE ILLUSTRATES SELF-CONTROL.

- A. Compared to an athlete (1 Corinthians 9:25-27).
 - 1. Like an athlete a Christian must practice self-denial, control of appetites, and refusal to follow one's feelings.
- B. Compared to crucifixion (Galatians 5:24).
 - 1. See Colossians 3:5 and also Luke 9:23.
- C. Compared to spiritual surgery (Matthew 5:29).
 - 1. Jesus uses figure of speech to emphasize self-control.

2. CHRISTIANS ARE TO PRACTICE SELF-CONTROL.

- A. Paul taught self-control in preparing for the judgement (Acts 24:25).
- B. Self-control is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25).
- C. Self-control is seen in a Christian disciplined life (1 Corinthians 9:23-27).
- D. Elders should have self-control (Titus 1:8).
- E. Self-control is sound Bible teaching (Titus 2:2).
- F. Others will see self-control in the Christians life (Philippians 4:5).

CONCLUSION:

- A. The wise man Solomon summarized the matter well when he wrote, "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit, than he that takes a city" (Proverbs 16:32).

PERSEVERANCE
Lesson 6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Perseverance is defined as, "steadfastness, endurance, patience bearing up under stress or strain, doing right regardless of the situation and never giving up".
- B. It is used 26 times in the New Testament.
- C. Self-control leads to and produces perseverance, endurance, patience, because only those who discipline themselves are able to endure patiently the trials of life.

1. PERSEVERANCE DESCRIBED.

- A. A Christian quality (2 Peter 1:6).
- B. Needed in temptations (James 1:2-4).
- C. Needed to do the will of God (Hebrews 1:36).
- D. Needed in tribulations (Romans 12:12).
- E. Needed to realize hope (1 Thessalonians 1:3).
- F. Needed to possess our soul (Luke 21:19).

2. PERSEVERANCE DEMONSTRATED.

- A. David wrote, "I waited patiently for the Lord" (Psalm 40:1).
- B. James referred to Old Testament prophets as "an example of suffering, affliction, and of patience (James 5:10).
- C. The farmer, with patience, waits for the fruits of the harvest (James 5:7).
- D. The Apostle John was in the "patience of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:9).
- E. "You have heard of the patience of Job" (James 5:11).

3. CHRISTIANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE PERSEVERANCE.

- A. To those who are patient God will give eternal life (Romans 2:7).
- B. Suffering produces patience (Romans 5:3,4).
- C. Christians are to be strengthened with patience (Colossians 1:11).
- D. Christians are encouraged to be patient toward all men (1 Thessalonians 5:14).
- E. Christians need patience (Hebrews 10:36).
- F. Testing of our faith develops patience (James 1:3,4).
- G. Patience is needed in waiting for the Lord (James 5:7,8,11).
- H. As Christians suffer they must take it patiently (1 Peter 2:20).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Those who practice real patience will always find themselves in the ranks of the minority.
- B. Oh, but with exalted company the patient walk.
- C. Would YOU grow? Patience is one of the important ingredients!

GODLINESS

Lesson 7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Godliness comes from the Greek word EUSEBEIA and it means "a proper religious attitude of respect, reverence and devotion toward God, parents or one's fellow man".
 - 1. Its main use pertains to the reverent fear at the superiority and holiness of Almighty God and His worship which results in a careful obedience and loyalty to His Word.
- B. EUSEBEIA gives God the right place, and worships and serves God in the right way.
- C. Patience/perseverance leads to a humble reverence and deep respect toward God.
- D. Godliness is such a powerful word.
- E. We must with all diligence, in our patience add GODLINESS (2 Peter 1:5,6).

1. THE BASIC IDEA.

- A. Proverbs 1:7 gives us the basic idea of Godliness.
- B. We see EUSEBEIA is basically:
 - 1. The right attitude toward God.
 - 2. The attitude of reverence, superiority, worship, and obedience.
- C. To please God we must get the meaning of this important word.
- D. This leads to a complete, continual, and cheerful obedience to God's commands.

2. CHRISTIANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GODLINESS.

- A. Lead a quiet life in all godliness (1 Timothy 2:2).
- B. Women professing godliness (1 Timothy 2:10).
- C. Great is the mystery of godliness (1 Timothy 3:16).
- D. Exercise yourself to godliness (1 Timothy 4:7).
- E. Godliness is profitable unto all things (1 Timothy 4:8).
- F. Doctrine which is according to godliness (1 Timothy 6:3).
- G. Godliness with contentment is gain (1 Timothy 6:5,6).
- H. Follow after godliness (1 Timothy 6:11).
- I. Some have a form of godliness (2 Timothy 3:5).
- J. The truth which is after godliness (Titus 1:1).

3. GODLINESS IS THE PRODUCT OF THE LIFE LIVED IN VIEW OF ETERNITY.

- A. 2 Peter 3:9-13
- B. Peter urges upon us all holy living and godliness as we consider a world that is going to be destroyed in fervent heat at the coming of Christ and the day of God.

BROTHERLY KINDNESS

Lesson 8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Brotherly kindness comes from the Greek word PHILADELPHIA.
- B. PHILADELPHIA is defined as, "**brotherly kindness, brother love, or love of the brethren**".
- C. Godliness produces brotherly kindness.

1. GOD IS OUR FATHER, HIS CHILDREN ARE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

- A. To love them is clear and plain (John 13:34,35).
- B. If we love God we will love the children of the Father (1 John 5:1).
- C. Love fulfills the law (Romans 13:8-10).

2. CHRISTIANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PRACTICE BROTHERLY KINDNESS.

- A. Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10).
- B. Brotherly kindness is taught by God (1 Thessalonians 4:9).
- C. Must continue in brotherly kindness (Hebrews 13:1).
- D. Must have a sincere love of the brethren (1 Peter 1:22).
- E. Love of the brethren explained (1 John 4:7-21).

3. HOW CAN WE GROW IN BROTHERLY KINDNESS?

- A. By asking God to help us (Matthew 7:7,8).
- B. By reading about the life of Christ (1 Peter 2:21).
- C. By carefully weighing our every thought and word (Proverbs 25:11).
- D. By observing the lives of mature Christians (1 Corinthians 11:1).
- E. By doing deeds of kindness for others.

LOVE
Lesson 9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Love here, comes from the Greek word AGAPE.
 - B. AGAPE means, "good will toward others, a warmhearted affection for all people, and most of all unselfish actions".
 - C. AGAPE is actions we show to others even when they do not like us, even when they hate us and seek to harm us.
-
- 1. **LOVE IS THE CROWN AND JEWEL OF THE CHRISTIAN GRACES (1 Corinthians 13:13; Colossians 3:14).**
 - A. Because it shows we are children of God (Matthew 5:43-45).
 - B. Because it gives the cross real meaning (John 3:16; Romans 5:8).
 - C. Because it shows the very nature of God, who is LOVE (1 John 4:8).
 - 2. **A BEAUTIFUL DESCRIPTION OF AGAPE LOVE (1 Corinthians 13:1-13).**
 - A. "Love suffers long"--to hold the mind long, be patient.
 - B. "Is kind"--good to everyone no matter what.
 - C. "Love does not envy"--is unselfish.
 - D. "Love does not parade itself"--is not boastful.
 - E. "Is not puffed up"--is not proud.
 - F. "Does not behave itself rudely"--is not rude.
 - G. "Does not seek its own"--does not have to have its own way.
 - H. "Is not provoked"--does not easily get angry, irritable, sour, or bitter".
 - I. "Thinks no evil"--does not suspect evil, does not keep records of wrongs".
 - J. "Does not rejoice in iniquity"--does not rejoice when hearing that another person has fallen into sin.
 - K. "Rejoices in the truth"--shares the joy of truth's victory over evil in any person.
 - L. "Bears all things"--Knows how to be silent, always slow to expose.
 - M. "Believes all things"--has much grace but no suspicion.
 - N. "Hopes all things"--always hopes for the best.
 - O. "Endures all things"--true love has the ability to endure in a patient spirit any and all the wrongs of others".
 - 3. **CHRISTIANS ARE COMMANDED TO LOVE GOD AND OUR FELLOWMAN.**
 - A. Matthew 22:36-40
 - B. John 13:34,35
 - C. 1 John 5:1-3

HE WHO LACKS THESE THINGS

Lesson 10

INTRODUCTION:

- A. 2 Peter 1:8,9
 - B. We see two different Christians here:
 - 1. One who possesses these Christian qualities and is increasing in them.
 - 2. The other who lacks these Christian qualities.
 - C. Why do some Christians not increase in these Christian qualities?
-
- 1. **THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CLEANSED FROM THEIR OLD SINS.**
 - A. The main reason that some Christians spiritual life falls apart is they have forgotten that they have been cleansed from their old sins.
 - B. They have forgotten that:
 - 1. God so love them (John 3:16).
 - 2. The gospel is the power to save (Romans 1:16).
 - 3. Christ died for their sins according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3,4).
 - 4. The Son of God, who loved them, and gave himself for them (1 John 1:7).
 - 5. By grace they have been saved through faith (Ephesians 2:8).
 - 6. According to His mercy He saved us (Titus 3:5).
 - C. To forget, is to die spiritually.
 - 2. **BLIND AND CANNOT SEE VERY FAR.**
 - A. When we do not possess these Christian qualities in increasing measure we cannot see far; we are spiritually blind.
 - B. Yes, we are blind, and cannot see:
 - 1. All the spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).
 - 2. A way of escape when temptations come (1 Corinthians 10:13).
 - 3. That evil people will ruin a good life (1 Corinthians 15:33).
 - 4. Pleasures are only for a moment (Hebrews 11:25).
 - 5. Heaven as truly mansions (John 14:1-3).
 - C. A good example of spiritual blindness is the Christians in the Church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-17).

CONCLUSION:

- A. God help us never to forget that we have been cleansed from our old sins.
- B. If we are to see beyond this life and its troubles to the mansions of heaven, we must possess these Christian qualities.

MAKE YOUR SALVATION SURE

Lesson 11

INTRODUCTION:

- A. 2 Peter 1:10,11
- B. How sad it is that so many baptized believers never feel secure in their salvation.
- C. Some Christians go through life never really knowing whether they will go to hell or heaven.

1. MAKE YOUR CALLING SURE.

- A. The word calling is from the Greek word KLESIS which means, **"a call, calling, invitation"**.
 - 1. The Greek word for election is EKLOGE which means, **"election, choice, the act of picking out, choosing"**.
 - 2. "Calling and election" is God's call and choice of you".
- B. See Matthew 22:14 and 1 Corinthians 1:9; James 2:5; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:14.
- C. The Christian can make sure his salvation by diligent work.

2. THE ASSURANCE OF THE BELIEVER.

- A. I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep which I have committed to Him (2 Timothy 1:12).
- B. Quietness and assurance forever (Isaiah 32:17).
- C. Full assurance of hope until the end (Hebrews 6:11).
- D. Assure our heart before Him (1 John 3:19).
- E. You may know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

3. HOW CAN WE KNOW WE HAVE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?

- A. Peter says, "If you do these things, you will never fall" (2 Peter 1:10).
- B. If you do these things. What things?
 - 1. The Christian qualities found in 2 Peter 1:5-7.
- C. We must possess these qualities and be growing in them (2 Peter 1:8).

4. THE GLORIOUS ENTRANCE.

- A. What is the end of a life of growing in these Christian qualities?
- B. You will be richly supplied with an entrance into the eternal kingdom (Romans 6:22; 2 Timothy 2:10-12; 1 Peter 1:3-9).
- C. Heaven is the reward of a life given to growing in these Christian qualities.

CONCLUSION:

- A. When this life is over and you stand in the presence of the blessed Lord. Will you hear the thrilling words: "Well done good and faithful servant.....enter into the joy of your lord... Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:21,34)?
- B. Will you be clothed in the beauty of Christ Himself, to live throughout eternity in perfect happiness and joy?

**A CHRISTIAN IS....
SERIES**

By Robert H. Martin

- LESSON 1: A CHRISTIAN BELONGS TO JESUS CHRIST
- LESSON 2: A CHRISTIAN IS A NEW PERSON
- LESSON 3: A CHRISTIAN IS A LEARNER
- LESSON 4: A CHRISTIAN IS A FOLLOWER
- LESSON 5: A CHRISTIAN IS A WORSHIPPER
- LESSON 6: A CHRISTIAN IS PART OF THE BODY
- LESSON 7: A CHRISTIAN IS A TEACHER
- LESSON 8: A CHRISTIAN IS A SERVANT
- LESSON 9: A CHRISTIAN IS TO BE HOLY

A CHRISTIAN BELONGS TO JESUS CHRIST

Lesson 1

1. WHO DOES THE CHRISTIAN BELONG TO?

- A. 1 Corinthians 3:23
- B. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20
- C. 1 Corinthians 7:23
- D. 2 Corinthians 5:14,15

2. HOW SHOULD THE CHRISTIAN ACT SINCE HE OR SHE BELONGS TO CHRIST?

- A. John 8:47-"Hears Gods word".
- B. James 1:22-"Doer of the Word".
- C. John 17:15,16-"No of the world".

3. SINCE THE CHRISTIAN BELONGS TO CHRIST HE OR SHE SHOULD NOT.

- A. Be unequally yoked together with unbelievers (2 Corinethian 6:14).
- B. Have fellowship with unrighteousness (2 Corinthians 6:14).
- C. Have communion with darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14).

4. SINCE THE CHRISTIAN BELONGS TO CHRIST HE OR SHE SHOULD.

- A. Come out from among them (2 Corinthians 6:17).
- B. Be separate (2 Corinthians 6:17).

CONCLUSION:

- A. 1 John 1:5,6
- B. The Christian cannot be part of evil, because God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- C. If we (Christians) say we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth.

A CHRISTIAN IS A NEW PERSON

Lesson 2

1. THE CHRISTIAN IS TO.

- A. Put off the former way of life (Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:5-9).
- B. Do not give place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27).
- C. Put off the old man with his deeds (Colossians 3:8,9).

2. THE CHRISTIAN IS A NEW PERSON.

- A. Put on the new man (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:12-16).
- B. Walk in the new life (Romans 6:4).
- C. Put on Christ (Galatians 3:27).

3. A LIST OF SINS THAT THE CHRISTIAN IS TO PUT OFF.

- A. Fornication.
- B. Uncleaness.
- C. Passion
- D. Evil desires.
- E. Covetousness.
- F. Anger.
- G. Wrath.
- H. Malice.
- I. Blasphemy.
- J. Filthy language.
- K. Lying.

4. A LIST OF THINGS THAT THE CHRISTIAN IS TO PUT ON.

- A. Tender mercies.
- B. Kindness.
- C. Humbleness of mind.
- D. Meekness.
- E. Longsuffering.
- F. Bearing with one another.
- G. Forgiving one another.
- H. Love.

CONCLUSION:

- A. We must learn this lesson when we become a Christian or as soon as we can in order to be happy as a Christian and please our Heavenly Father.
- B. Are YOU a NEW PERSON?

A CHRISTIAN IS A LEARNER

Lesson 3

1. THE CHRISTIAN IS INVITED TO LEARN OF JESUS.

- A. Matthew 11:28
- B. Matthew 28:19,20
- C. We are students in the school of Jesus and our text book is the Bible.

2. THE CHRISTIAN MUST DESIRE TO LEARN.

- A. New Christians are like babes (1 Peter 2:2).
- B. Babes drink milk in the beginning (1 Corinthians 3:1,2).
- C. But there comes a time when we must leave the milk and take stronger food - there must be growth (Hebrews 5:13,14).
- D. In order to grow and mature so that we can be strong and accept more and more responsibility we must **STUDY** (2 Timothy 2:15).
- E. We must study the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

CONCLUSION:

- A. 2 Peter 3:18 tells the Christian that they need to grow in knowledge and grace.
- B. YES, WE NEED TO LEARN!!!!

A CHRISTIAN IS A FOLLOWER

Lesson 4

I. A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.

- A. Follow in the steps of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:21).
- B. Take up the cross and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23).
- C. Follow Jesus, and He will make you fishers of men (Matthew 4:19,20).
- D. We must be willing to give up anything that stands in our way (Matthew 19:21).
- E. If we serve Jesus, we must follow Him (John 12:26).

2. THE CHRISTIAN FOLLOWS AFTER.

- A. Things which make for peace (Romans 14:19).
- B. That which is good (1 Thessalonians 5:15).
- C. The Christian follows after righteousness, faith, love and peace (2 Timothy 2:22).

3. ONE WHO FOLLOWS CHRIST MUST.

- A. Love others less than Christ (Luke 14:26).
- B. Bear his own cross (Luke 14:27).
- C. Be willing to give up anything for Jesus (Luke 14:33).

A CHRISTIAN IS A WORSHIPPER

Lesson 5

1. HOW SHOULD THE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP?

- A. In spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
- B. Spirit and understanding (1 Corinthians 14:15).

2. WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN WORSHIP TO GOD?

- A. Singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).
- B. Praying (Acts 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- C. Teaching (Acts 17:11; Acts 20:7).
- D. Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30).
- E. Giving (1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:7).

3. WHEN DO WE WORSHIP?

- A. First day of the week (Acts 20:7).
- B. Continually (Acts 2:42).
- C. We are not to forsake the assembly of the saints (Hebrews 10:25).

A CHRISTIAN IS PART OF THE BODY

Lesson 6

1. A CHRISTIAN IS PART OF THE BODY.

- A. Has been baptized into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- B. Into one body that has many members (1 Corinthians 12:12).
- C. Into one body where there are different people with different talents/functions (1 Corinthians 12:14-20).
- D. Into one body where one member cannot say to the other members, "we have no need of you" (1 Corinthians 12:21).
- E. Into one body where all members are necessary and have the same care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:22-26).

2. RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE ONE BODY.

- A. Deny self and follow Christ (Matthew 16:24).
- B. Love one another (John 13:34).
- C. Glorify God (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).
- D. Teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).
- E. Not forsake the assembling of the saints together (Hebrews 10:25).
- F. Keep yourself unspotted from the world (James 1:27).

3. BLESSINGS IN THE ONE BODY.

- A. Salvation (2 Timothy 2:10).
- B. No condemnation (Romans 8:1).
- C. All spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).
- D. Eternal life (1 John 5:11).

A CHRISTIAN IS A TEACHER

Lesson 7

1. THE CHRISTIAN IS A TEACHER.

- A. Go teach all nations and teach those who are baptized (Matthew 28:19,20).
- B. You ought to be teachers (Hebrews 5:12).
- C. Gave some to be teachers (Ephesians 4:11).

2. WHAT ARE WE TO TEACH?

- A. The gospel of Christ (Mark 16:15,16).
- B. What the Apostles teach (2 Timothy 2:2).
- C. Teaching others to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, that they should live soberly, righteously, and godly (Titus 2:11,12).

3. WHEN SHOULD WE TEACH?

- A. Continually (Acts 2:42).
- B. Daily (Acts 5:42).
- C. For longer periods of time (Acts 11:26).
- D. All the time and in all situations (2 Timothy 4:2).

4. WHY SHOULD WE TEACH?

- A. Because Jesus commands us (Matthew 28:19,20).
- B. Where others can be saved (Mark 16:15,16).
- C. So that Jesus will be with us to the end (Matthew 28:19,20).

A CHRISTIAN IS A SERVANT

Lesson 8

1. WHO SHOULD WE SERVE?

- A. We have been purged to serve the living God (Hebrews 9:14).
- B. Present yourselves slaves to obey (Romans 6:16).
- C. We have become slaves to God (Romans 6:22).
- D. The servant of Christ (Galatians 1:10).
- E. No person can serve two masters (Matthew 6:24).

2. WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF A SERVANT?

- A. A servant of the Lord must be able to teach (2 Timothy 2:24).
- B. A servant of the Lord must through love serve others (Galatians 5:13).
- C. A servant of the Lord must do his duty (Luke 17:10).

3. WHAT ARE THE BLESSINGS OF A SERVANT?

- A. We will be the greatest among men (Matthew 23:11).
- B. We will be blessed when the Lord comes (Matthew 24:46).
- C. We will hear the Lord say "well done". We will be made rulers. We will enter into the joy of the Lord (Matthew 25:23).
- D. We will be with Jesus and be honored by the Father (John 12:26).

A CHRISTIAN IS TO BE HOLY

Lesson 9

1. THE CHRISTIAN IS TO BE HOLY.

- A. The Christian is told to be holy (1 Peter 1:15).
- B. We should be holy before Him in love (Ephesians 1:4).
- C. We are to be slaves unto righteousness and holiness (Romans 6:13,19).

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HOLY?

- A. It means to be transformed (Romans 12:1,2).
- B. It means to be unspotted from the world (James 1:27).
- C. It means to abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

3. WHY SHOULD WE BE HOLY?

- A. Christ is coming again (1 Peter 1:13).
- B. Judgement day is coming (1 Peter 1:17).
- C. Christ died for our sins (1 Peter 1:18,19).

THE CHRISTIAN AND WORLDLINESS

BY ROBERT H. MARTIN

- LESSON 1: LOVE NOT THE WORLD**
- LESSON 2: THE CHRISTIAN AND UNCLEANNESS**
- LESSON 3: THE CHRISTIAN AND IMMODEST CLOTHING**
- LESSON 4: THE CHRISTIAN AND MODERN DANCING**
- LESSON 5: THE CHRISTIAN AND FORNICATION**
- LESSON 6: THE CHRISTIAN AND DRINKING**
- LESSON 7: THE CHRISTIAN AND GAMBLING**
- LESSON 8: THE CHRISTIAN AND SMOKING**
- LESSON 9: CHRISTIAN, DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THE WORLD**

LOVE NOT THE WORLD

Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Christian is told very plainly by God's word to "love not the world" (John 17:14,16; Romans 12:2; James 1:27; 1 John 5:4).
- B. If we love the world and the things of the world, we cannot love God.

1. THE CHRISTIAN IS TO OVERCOME THE WORLD.

- A. The lust of the flesh (Colossians 3:5; Galatians 5:19-21,24; Titus 2:12).
- B. The lust of the eyes (Matthew 5:28; Proverbs 6:25; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).
- C. The pride of life (Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 29:23; James 4:6).

2. REASONS WHY CHRISTIANS ARE NOT TO LOVE THE WORLD.

- A. Because it forces out the love of God (Matthew 6:24).
- B. Because the world is evil (1 John 5:19).
- C. Because the "kiss of death" is upon the world (1 John 2:17).
- D. Because there is something better we can do (1 John 2:17).

3. HOW CAN WE OVERCOME THE WORLD?

- A. By letting the Word of God continue in us (1 John 2:14).
- B. By our faith (1 John 5:4).
- C. By depending upon God's help (Romans 8:31,37).
- D. By looking for the way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).

THE CHRISTIAN AND UNCLEANNESS
Lesson 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The word uncleanness means, "to stain, contaminate, and defile".
- B. Uncleanness makes it impossible for a person to come into the presence of God.
- C. The child of God must guard himself or herself against uncleanness.

1. THE CHRISTIAN IS WARNED ABOUT UNCLEANNESS.

- A. God finally reaches a point where He will give up on a person with an unclean heart and life (Romans 1:24).
- B. It is sad when people will not repent of uncleanness (2 Corinthians 12:21).
- C. When people are past feeling they give themselves over to uncleanness (Ephesians 4:19).
- D. Uncleanness should never be found among saints, because it is not right (Ephesians 5:3).
- E. The child of God must put to death (kill) uncleanness in putting off the old person as baptism (Colossians 3:5).

2. THERE ARE THREE WAYS WE CAN BECOME UNCLEAN.

- A. **Thinking on certain things** and be made unclean.
 - 1. Look on a person with sex in mind (Matthew 5:28).
 - 2. Look on another with envy (Galatians 5:21).
 - 3. Look on another with hate in mind (1 John 3:15).
- B. **Can talk about certain things** and be made unclean.
 - 1. By telling dirty jokes (Ephesians 5:4).
 - 2. By using swear words (Ephesians 4:29).
 - 3. By loud quarreling (Ephesians 4:31).
- C. **Can touch a person in such a way** as to be made unclean.
 - 1. By touching a person with impure or sexual desires in mind (Ephesians 4:19).
 - 2. By touching a person to commit fornication or adultery (Ephesians 5:3-5).

3. THERE IS A WAY FOR THE UNCLEAN TO BECOME CLEAN.

- A. By being washed/baptized, sanctified and justified (1 Corinthians 6:11).
- B. By walking in the light (1 John 1:7).
- C. By confessing our sins and turning away from them (1 John 1:9).

THE CHRISTIAN AND IMMODEST CLOTHING
Lesson 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Many Christians today show little concern for the way they dress.
- B. Immodest clothing is over looked by the Church in many places.
- C. Very little teaching is done by preachers about the way a Christian is to dress.
- D. Many Christians are giving in to the way of the world.

1. WHAT IS IMMODESTY AND MODESTY?

- A. **Immodesty** is wearing clothing that reveals parts of the body that, when seen by the opposite sex, draws attention and creates evil desires.
- B. **Modesty** is dressing so that you will be free from drawing attention and creating evil desires by the opposite sex. It is dressing in such a way that others have pure thoughts and actions toward you.
- C. **To sum it up**-If a Christian dresses so as to invite sexual interest in them, they are immodest; if she or he does not, she or he is modest.

2. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MODESTY IN DRESS?

- A. 1 Timothy 2:9
 - 1. When a woman does not dress modestly she violates the Bible teaching of modesty.
- B. 1 Peter 3:1-5
 - 1. A woman is to live and act in such a way was to be pure and respectable before others.
- C. Galatians 5:19,20
 - 1. The word lascivious means "**to cause or produce lust**".
 - 2. Wearing immodest clothing will cause others to be guilty of the sin of lasciviousness.
 - 3. Jesus draws a terrible picture of a person who causes others to sin (Luke 17:1,2).

3. OUR ATTITUDE AS CHRISTIANS. ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS.

- A. "Is my clothing pleasing in God's eyes (Galatians 1:10)?"
- B. "Am I glorifying God in my body which is God's (1 Corinthians 6:20)?"
- C. "Am I letting my light shine before others (Matthew 5:16)?"
- D. "Am I dressing to make myself attractive to God, or am I seeking to please the world (Romans 12:1,2)?"

THE CHRISTIAN AND MODERN DANCING

Lesson 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. All Christians are called upon to make decisions concerning the practice which they will engage in.
 - B. Christians must make these decisions based on the instructions of the Bible.
 - C. A Christian is to accept and practice what the Bible approves and reject and oppose that which the Bible condemns.
-
- 1. **DANCING IS SINFUL, BECAUSE IT VIOLATES AT LEAST FOUR TEACHINGS OF CHRISTIAN CONDUCT.**
 - A. Dancing violates the teaching of "take care lest you fall into evil" (1 Corinthians 10:12).
 - B. Dancing violates the teaching of "evil companionship corrupts good living" (1 Corinthians 15:33).
 - C. Dancing violates the teaching "to abstain from every appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
 - D. Dancing violates the teaching that "Christians are to use their influence to glorify God" (1 Corinthians 6:20).
 - 2. **DANCING INVOLVES A CHRISTIAN IN SPECIFIC SINFUL ACTIVITIES.**
 - A. Galatians 5:19
 - 1. Lasciviousness or licentiousness comes from the Greek word ASELGEIA.
 - 2. It has reference to filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females.
 - B. Galatians 5:21
 - 1. Revellings comes from the Greek word KOMOS.
 - 2. It means excessive feasting and carousing, close relationship with music and dancing.
 - C. Galatians 5:21
 - 1. Such like comes from the Greek word HOMOIOS.
 - 2. It means things like or resembling lasciviousness or revelling.
 - 3. **WHAT IS THE CONCLUSION THEN?**
 - A. The modern dance involves one in the act of sin (Galatians 5:19).
 - B. The modern dance violates certain Bible teachings.
 - C. **"They who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21)."**

THE CHRISTIAN AND FORNICATION

Lesson 5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Fornications means, "prostitution, unchastity, every kind of unlawful sexual activities".
- B. It is a word that "refers to every kind of sexual activity outside of marriage".
- C. Our world is plagued with this great disease and we can see its terrible effects on every hand.

1. FORNICATION CONDEMNED BY GOD.

- A. Christians are to keep away from fornication and keep themselves pure and hold for the Lord's sake (1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 6:13).
- B. Christians are to run away from fornication the Bible tells us (1 Corinthians 6:18).
- C. Those who commit fornication shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven (Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-5).
- D. God will judge whoremongers and adulterers and cast them into the lake of fire (Hebrews 13:4; Revelation 21:8).

2. THE EVILS OF FORNICATION.

- A. Comes from the heart/mind (Matthew 15:19).
- B. Sin against the body (1 Corinthians 6:18).
- C. Corrupts a person (Revelation 19:2).
- D. Excludes from God's fellowship (1 Corinthians 6:9).
- E. Disrupts Christian fellowship (1 Corinthians 5:11-13).

3. WHAT SHOULD BE THE CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD FORNICATION.

- A. Run away from it (1 Corinthians 6:18).
- B. Abstain from it (1 Thessalonians 4:3).
- C. Should not exist among Christians (Ephesians 5:3).

THE CHRISTIAN AND DRINKING

Lesson 6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Drinking is a major problem in our world today.
- B. Places to buy beer out number church buildings.
- C. What does the Bible teach about drinking.

1. THE OLD TESTAMENT SPEAKS AGAINST DRINKING.

- A. Causes one to be a mocker, riotous brawler (Proverbs 20:1).
- B. Leads people to poverty (Proverbs 23:20,21).
- C. Cannot distinguish between right and wrong (Leviticus 10:8-10).
- D. It was punishable by death (Deuteronomy 21:18-21).

2. NEW TESTAMENT SPEAKS AGAINST DRINKING.

- A. Do not get drunk (Ephesians 5:18).
- B. Drunkards cannot go to heaven (Galatians 5:21).
- C. Don't live for the lust of the flesh (1 Peter 4:2,3).
- D. The deeds of darkness (Romans 13:12,13).
- E. Shall not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:10).

3. DRUNKENNESS BRINGS PUNISHMENT.

- A. Will separate/exclude us from Christian fellowship (1 Corinthians 5:11-13).
- B. Will separate/exclude us from heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9,10).

THE CHRISTIAN AND GAMBLING

Lesson 7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The New Testament is not a book of do's and do not's.
- B. There are some do's and do not's, but this is not the whole make-up of the New Testament.
- C. The Christian finds in the New Testament many teachings given by Jesus and the Apostles to help us build a good Christian life.
- D. There are teachings that we go against or violate when we gamble.
- E. The meaning of the word gamble is, "games of chance for money or stakes (prizes)".

1. THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF WORKING DOES NOT ALLOW THE "SOMETHING FOR NOTHING IDEA OF GAMBLING".

- A. Ephesians 4:28
- B. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

2. OUR COMMITMENT TO GOD KEEPS US FROM THE WORSHIP AND DESIRE TO GET THINGS BY GAMBLING.

- A. Matthew 6:19-21,24
- B. Luke 14:33
- C. 1 Timothy 6:10

3. THE COMMAND OF "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR" KEEPS US FROM THE PRACTICE OF GAMBLING.

- A. Romans 12:10
- B. Romans 13:10
- C. Philippians 2:3,4

4. THE TEACHING OF THE "GOLDEN RULE" FORBIDS THE CHRISTIAN FROM GAMBLING.

- A. Matthew 7:12

5. THE CHRISTIAN IS TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT HIS CONDUCT AND ACTIONS AND THIS TEACHING WOULD STOP US FROM GAMBLING.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 5:22
- B. Romans 12:9
- C. Romans 14:13-21

THE CHRISTIAN AND SMOKING

Lesson 8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The number of people smoking among the people of the world is easily recognizable.
- B. Smoking is looked upon as a socially acceptable practice which makes a person mature.
- C. The Christian has the responsibility of testing any practice by the Word of God (1 Thessalonians 5:21,22).
- D. Let each of us apply a Biblical test to the matter of smoking.
- E. Remember that the Christian finds many teachings given by Jesus and the Apostles to help us build a good Christian life.
- F. There are teachings we go against or violate when we smoke.

1. SMOKING HARMS OR RUINS THE BODY THE LORD HAS GIVEN US.

- A. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- B. Romans 6:13
- C. Romans 12:1,2

2. SMOKING CAUSES US TO BE A SLAVE TO THAT WHICH IS HARMFUL TO OUR BODY THE LORD HAS GIVEN US.

- A. 1 Corinthians 6:12
- B. Romans 6:13,16,19

3. SMOKING CAUSES US TO HAVE A BAD INFLUENCE, BECAUSE IT IS HARMFUL TO OUR BODY THE LORD HAS GIVEN US.

- A. Matthew 5:13-16
- B. Mark 9:42
- C. 1 Timothy 4:12
- D. Titus 2:7

CHRISTIAN, DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD

Lesson 9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We should not allow the world to set the standard for us.
- B. There is always pressure on us to conform to the ways of the world.
- C. Conforming to the ways of the world means sure defeat for Christianity.

1. DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THE WORLD.

- A. Love not the world (1 John 2:15-17).
- B. Cannot love God and the world (Matthew 6:24).
- C. Cannot be a friend to the world and God (James 4:4).
- D. Keep yourself from the world (James 1:27).

2. BE CONFORMED TO JESUS CHRIST.

- A. Conform to the likeness of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29).
- B. Christ must be formed in you (Galatians 4:19).
- C. Have the same mind as Christ (Philippians 2:5).
- D. Christ must live in you (Galatians 2:20).
- E. Must put on Christ in your life (Galatians 3:27).

A SERIES ON CHURCH GROWTH

BY ROBERT H. MARTIN

- LESSON 1: AN ACTIVE AND GROWING CHURCH**
- LESSON 2: WHAT IS A STRONG CHURCH?**
- LESSON 3: THINGS THAT ENCOURAGE CHURCH GROWTH**
- LESSON 4: A BETTER CHURCH BEGINS WITH ME**
- LESSON 5: THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH**

AN ACTIVE AND GROWING CHURCH
LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Church at Jerusalem is a good example for the Church today.
- B. The Church at Jerusalem is a good example of an active church.
- C. Let us take a look at what made them an active, multiplying and growing church.
- 1. **AN ACTIVE FELLOWSHIP.**
 - A. Acts 2:41-47
 - B. They were getting things done, because they were working together.
 - C. They devoted themselves to the Lord's work (1 Corinthians 15:58).
 - D. They were getting everyone involved together in the Lord's work.
- 2. **AN ACTIVE LEADERSHIP.**
 - A. Acts 6:1-7
 - B. The leadership recognized their problems, solved them, and went right on growing.
 - C. The leadership was getting everyone involved (Acts 8:5).
 - D. They were getting focussed in on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1,2).
- 3. **AN ACTIVE EVANGELISM.**
 - A. Acts 5:42
 - B. They were getting out to the people (Acts 8:4).
 - 1. They utilized every place as a teaching situation.
 - 2. The synagogues, on river banks, in schools, on streets, at work, in homes, in prison or jails, and in the market places.
 - C. They were getting out to the people daily.
- 4. **AN ACTIVE INDOCTRINATION.**
 - A. Acts 2:42
 - B. They were getting God's Word well known to the new converts.
 - C. 2 Timothy 2:2
- 5. **AN ACTIVE COMMITMENT.**
 - A. Acts 4:13
 - B. Being with Jesus shows up in ones life (Galatians 2:20).
 - C. They were offering their lives to Jesus (Romans 1:1).
- 6. **AN ACTIVE DETERMINATION.**
 - A. Acts 11:23
 - B. "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).
 - C. "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

CONCLUSION:

- A. It takes an active church to grow.
- B. To have an active church you must have active members.

WHAT IS A STRONG CHURCH?
LESSON 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Lord wants strong Christians.
- B. Of course, strong Christians will make strong churches.
- C. The strength of the Church is not determined by riches, the worldly wise, a big church building, or a fancy speaking preacher.
- D. THEN WHAT IS A STRONG CHURCH?

1. A CONVERTED MEMBERSHIP.

- A. The word converted means, "to turn to God from sin" (Mark 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:9).
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- C. Matthew 18:3

2. A FAITHFUL MEMBERSHIP.

- A. Matthew 25:21
- B. Matthew 6:33
- C. Revelation 2:10

3. A WORKING MEMBERSHIP.

- A. 1 Corinthians 15:58
- B. Titus 2:14
- C. Titus 3:1,8

4. A PRAYING MEMBERSHIP.

- A. Luke 18:1
- B. Acts 12:5
- C. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- D. 1 John 4:22
- E. 1 John 5:14

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let all of us help by doing our part to make the church strong.
- B. Strong churches will have a great impact on the community and will glorify the Father.

THINGS THAT ENCOURAGE CHURCH GROWTH
LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Church of Christ really grew in the first century (Acts 2:38; Acts 2:47; Acts 4:4; Acts 4:32; Acts 6:1).
- B. We can grow today like they did if certain things are found in the Church.
- C. CHURCH GROWTH COMES AS A RESULT OF.....

1. GOD'S WORD.

- A. Mark 16:15,16
- B. Acts 2:41
- C. Acts 4:4
- D. Acts 4:32
- E. Acts 5:42-Acts 6:1
- F. Acts 20:32

2. A REAL LOVE.

- A. John 13:34,35
- B. Ephesians 4:15,16
- C. Colossians 3:14
- D. Hebrews 13:1
- E. 1 Peter 1:22
- F. 1 John 4:11

3. UNITY OF THE BELIEVERS.

- A. 1 Corinthians 1:10
- B. 2 Corinthians 13:11
- C. Ephesians 4:1-3
- D. Ephesians 4:16
- E. 1 Peter 3:8

4. SERVICE AS A WAY OF LIFE.

- A. Romans 12:1
- B. Romans 12:11
- C. Acts 20:19
- D. Galatians 5:13
- E. Ephesians 4:16

CONCLUSION:

- A. Some things are not necessary for church growth.
- B. These things are very necessary for church growth.
- C. Are these things a part of your life?
- D. Let us really love the Church and do all we can to make it grow?

A BETTER CHURCH BEGINS WITH ME
LESSON 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Someone has said, "If you want good government, be a good citizen".
- B. If we want a better church, the place to start is with ourselves.
- C. Jesus died for the Church, that it would be a better church.
- D. IF YOU WANT THIS TO BE A BETTER CHURCH YOU MUST.....

1. REALIZE THAT YOU ARE IMPORTANT.

- A. You must realize that you are important, no matter what you can do (1 Corinthians 12:20-26).
- B. The Lord is depending on **you** to do your part (Ephesians 4:15,16).
- C. The Lord is depending on **you** to help the Church to grow and function.

2. YOU MUST DO SOMETHING FOR THE CHURCH.

- A. You can be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, and ready to help one another (Ephesians 4:31,32; Galatians 6:1,2).
- B. You can help the Church by building up the Church rather than criticizing what the Church is trying to do (1 Corinthians 10:10; Hebrews 12:1).
- C. One of the best ways **you** can help this church is to guard your life daily against doing or saying anything that would bring shame or reproach on the Church which Jesus died for (Ephesians 5:15).

3. YOU MUST INVITE OTHERS TO SHARE THE SAME BLESSINGS YOU ENJOY.

- A. The Christian life is the best life, the most rewarding life, that a person can live.
- B. A Christian is blessed spiritually and materially. A Christian is blessed in unlimited ways (Ephesians 1:3).
- C. When **you** bring a friend to Bible study and worship you are helping that friend understand that God has provided many blessings for those in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
- D. A church that grows is the Church that is concerned and really loves the lost (Mark 10:21).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Jesus died for the Church and He wants it to be the best.
- B. Do **you** love the Church and want it to be the best also?
- C. Then let us join together in mind and purpose.
- D. And hand in hand, let us march to gloryland!!!

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH
LESSON 5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Church is important (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25).
- B. We must as Christians be truly concerned about the future of the **CHURCH**.
- C. The future of the Church does not depend on American churches, missionaries, or money.
 - 1. It does not depend on the government, the economy, or a big nice church building.
- D. The future of the Church should be bright, but it all depends on.....

1. YOU LOVING, SUPPORTING AND DEFENDING GOD'S WORD.

- A. Psalm 119:97
- B. Psalm 1:1,2
- C. 1 Timothy 3:15
- D. Philippians 1:17

2. YOU WINNING SOULS FOR JESUS.

- A. Ephesians 4:15
- B. Acts 5:42
- C. Acts 8:1
- D. Acts 17:6

3. YOU EDIFYING AND TRAINING OTHERS.

- A. Romans 14:19
- B. 1 Corinthians 14:26
- C. Ephesians 4:16
- D. 2 Timothy 2:2

4. YOU LOVING THE LORD WITH YOUR ALL.

- A. Matthew 22:37
- B. Matthew 6:33

CONCLUSION:

- A. God wants the Church to grow!
- B. Christ wants the Church to grow!
- C. The Holy Spirit wants the Church to grow!
- D. **NOW WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU WANT THE CHURCH TO GROW?**

A SERIES ON CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS

BY ROBERT H. MARTIN

- LESSON 1: RELATIONSHIP OF MEMBERS TO CHRIST**
- LESSON 2: RELATIONSHIP OF MEMBERS TO THE CHURCH**
- LESSON 3: RELATIONSHIP OF MEMBERS TO ONE ANOTHER**
- LESSON 4: RELATIONSHIP OF TEACHERS TO MEMBERS**
- LESSON 5: RELATIONSHIP OF MEMBERS TO TEACHERS**

RELATIONSHIP OF MEMBERS TO CHRIST
LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Our relationship to Christ is very important.
- B. Our relationship to Christ will determine our relationship with others.
- C. What should be our relationship with Christ?

1. CHRIST IS THE HEAD - WE ARE SERVANTS.

- A. Ephesians 5:23
- B. Ephesians 4:15
- C. Romans 6:17,18,22
- D. Ephesians 6:6

2. CHRIST IS THE SHEPHERD - WE ARE THE SHEEP.

- A. John 10:10
- B. John 10:27
- C. Psalm 23:1-6

3. CHRIST IS THE HIGH PRIEST - WE ARE PRIEST.

- A. Hebrews 4:14
- B. Revelation 1:5,6
- C. 1 Peter 2:5,9

RELATIONSHIP OF MEMBERS TO THE CHURCH
LESSON 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Relationship of members to the Church can be compared to members to the human body.
- B. We must understand our purpose and function.
- C. What is our relationship to the body or the Church?

1. MUST BE JOINED AND KNIT TOGETHER.

- A. Ephesians 4:16
- B. 1 Corinthians 1:10
- C. Philippians 1:27

2. EVERY JOINT SUPPLIES SOMETHING.

- A. Ephesians 4:16
- B. Ephesians 4:11
- C. 1 Corinthians 3:5-10

3. EVERY PART DOES ITS SHARE.

- A. Ephesians 4:16
- B. Ephesians 2:21,22
- C. Colossians 2:2,19

RELATIONSHIP OF MEMBERS TO ONE ANOTHER
LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. It is important that we understand our relationship with one another.
- B. This will help us have more love and patience with one another.
- C. It will help us have peace and unity in the Body of Christ.
- D. What is our relationship with one another?

1. REALIZE THE BODY IS NOT ONE MEMBER.

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:14-19
- B. Ephesians 2:11-16
- C. Romans 12:4,5

2. REALIZE EVERY MEMBER IS NEEDED.

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:20-24
- B. Romans 12:6-8
- C. James 2:1-8

3. REALIZE WE MUST HAVE THE SAME CARE FOR EACH OTHER.

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:25-27
- B. Philippians 2:1-4
- C. Colossians 3:12-15

RELATIONSHIP OF TEACHERS TO MEMBERS
LESSON 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. It is important that members realize the teachers relationship to the members.
- B. It is important that teachers realize their relationship to the members.
- C. What is the relationship of teachers to members?

1. MUST BE A DISCIPLING TEACHER.

- A. 2 Timothy 2:1,2
- B. Matthew 28:19,20
- C. John 1:40-45

2. MUST BE A SINGLE-MINDED SOLDIER.

- A. 2 Timothy 2:3-5
- B. 1 Thessalonians 4:1
- C. John 8:29

3. MUST BE AN ENDURING FARMER.

- A. 2 Timothy 2:6,7
- B. Hebrews 12:1
- C. James 1:12

4. MUST BE A DILIGENT WORKER.

- A. 2 Timothy 2:15
- B. Hebrews 12:6
- C. 2 Peter 1:5,10

5. MUST BE A SANCTIFIED VESSEL.

- A. 2 Timothy 2:21
- B. 1 Peter 3:15
- C. 1 Peter 1:15

6. MUST BE A SERVANT OF THE LORD.

- A. 2 Timothy 2:24
- B. Romans 1:1
- C. Galatians 1:10

RELATIONSHIP OF MEMBERS TO TEACHERS
LESSON 5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. It is important that members realize that they have a relationship to their teachers.
- B. You must have the proper attitude toward your teachers.
- C. What is your relationship as a member to your teachers?

1. PRAY FOR THEM.

- A. Ephesians 6:18-20
- B. 1 Thessalonians 5:25
- C. 2 Thessalonians 3:1,2

2. FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE AS THEY FOLLOW CHRIST.

- A. 1 Corinthians 11:1
- B. 1 Timothy 4:12
- C. Hebrews 13:17

3. ESTEEM THEM HIGHLY.

- A. 1 Thessalonians 5:12,13
- B. Philippians 2:3
- C. 1 Timothy 5:17

4. PROVIDE FOR THEM.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:6-18
- B. 1 Timothy 5:18
- C. Philippians 4:15-17

THE CHURCH ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

BY ROBERT H. MARTIN

LESSON 1: IN EVANGELISM
LESSON 2: IN EDIFYING
LESSON 3: IN EQUIPPING
LESSON 4: IN SUPPORTING ITSELF
LESSON 5: IN GOVERNING ITSELF

IN EVANGELISM
LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Evangelism is taking the gospel to every person (Mark 16:15).
- B. Jesus gave us a command to make "disciples of every nation" (Matthew 28:19).
- C. We are to be sowers of the seed, the Word of God (Matthew 13:3; Luke 8:11).
- D. As sowers we must go out and sow the seed everywhere and in every place.

1. WE MUST SOW THE SEED (LUKE 8:5).

- A. Matthew 28:19
- B. Mark 16:15
- C. Acts 5:42
- D. Acts 8:4

2. WE MUST SOW THE RIGHT SEED (LUKE 8:11).

- A. Mark 16:15
- B. Acts 5:42
- C. Acts 8:4,5
- D. Romans 1:16

3. WE MUST SOW MUCH SEED (MATTHEW 13:38).

- A. Matthew 28:19
- B. Mark 16:15
- C. Acts 1:8
- D. 2 Corinthians 9:6

4. WE MUST REAP THE HARVEST (MATTHEW 9:37).

- A. John 4:35
- B. Matthew 9:37,38
- C. 1 Corinthians 3:6,9

CONCLUSION:

- A. We are to sow the seed.
- B. Let us use all our energies, time, and money in sowing much seed.
- C. Then as Christians let us go forth and reap the harvest.

IN EDIFYING
LESSON 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The word edify means "to instruct, enlighten, and improve".
- B. Literally means "to build up one's faith".
- C. The work of encouraging other Christians in the performance of their Christian duty.
- D. Edifying is just as important as baptizing.

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF EDIFYING.

- A. Acts 14:21-23
- B. Acts 15:32
- C. Acts 15:36-41

2. EDIFICATION IS WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY?

- A. Ephesians 4:12 - the body of Christ, the Church.
- B. Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11-Christians.

3. THINGS THAT HINDER EDIFICATION.

- A. 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 - carnal spirit.
- B. Revelation 3:14-19 - spiritual lukewarmness.

4. THINGS THAT WILL EDIFY.

- A. Acts 20:31 - the Word of God.
- B. Romans 14:17-19 - spiritual things.
- C. Ephesians 4:29 - good talk.
- D. 1 Corinthians 8:11 - love.

5. REASONS FOR EDIFYING.

- A. Matthew 28:20 - to know the teachings of Christ.
- B. Acts 14:22 - to continue faithful.
- C. Ephesians 6:10,11 - to be strong enough to stand against the devil.
- D. Acts 20:28 - to feed the Church so that it will grow and mature.

CONCLUSION:

- A. If we do not edify the babes in Christ, they will not grow, but they will die.
- B. Ephesians 4:11-15.

IN EQUIPPING
LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A disciple of Christ is a learner or student (Matthew 11:28,29).
- B. All Christians/disciples/learners should desire to be students always in the school of Jesus.
- C. We all understand the importance of training: our children, a doctor, a fisherman.
- D. Then we surely can understand the importance of training/equipping ourselves as workers in the Lord's church.

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING/EQUIPPING.

- A. In the warning God gave Israel (Hosea 4:6).
- B. In the great Commission (Matthew 28:19,20).
- C. In Paul's statement to Timothy (2 Timothy 2:2).

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING/ EQUIPPING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS.

- A. Acts 2:42-46
- B. Acts 14:21-23
- C. Acts 15:36-41
- D. Acts 16:5,15,40
- E. Acts 19:9,10

3. THE NEED FOR TRAINING/EQUIPPING.

- A. Better trained disciples have:
 - 1. More opportunities.
 - 2. More talents.
 - 3. Are more effective.
 - 4. Are more capable.
- B. The kind of training/equipping needed:
 - 1. Good doctrine training (1 Timothy 4:6).
 - 2. Weapon training (Ephesians 6:17).
 - 3. Communications training (2 Timothy 4:2).
 - 4. Life-saving training (Luke 19:10).
 - 5. How to get it done training (2 Timothy 2:2).
- C. The King's business requires the best we can offer.
- D. So that means we must be trained/equipped well.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The spreading of the gospel depends upon training/equipping Christians.
- B. When we do this the Lord's church will grow and spread.

IN SUPPORTING ITSELF
LESSON 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God has always commanded His people to give.
- B. New Testament Christianity is centered around giving.
- C. What does the New Testament teach about giving?

1. A LOOK AT THE EARLY CHURCH GIVING.

- A. Acts 2:44,45
- B. Acts 4:32-37
- C. Acts 6:1-3
- D. Acts 20:34,35

2. NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES US HOW TO GIVE.

- A. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2 - weekly.
- B. 2 Corinthians 9:7 - with purpose.
- C. 2 Corinthians 8:12 - willingly.
- D. 2 Corinthians 8:2-5 - liberally.

3. WHY SHOULD WE GIVE?

- A. So the local church can support itself
(1 Corinthians 16:1,2).
- B. For every good work of the Church
(2 Corinthians 9:6-8).
- C. To share in the spreading of the gospel
(Philippians 4:15-17).
- D. So that we do not rob other churches
(2 Corinthians 11:8).
- E. So that we will not be inferior to other churches
(2 Corinthians 12:13).

CONCLUSION:

- A. The local church can support itself.
- B. God wants the local church to support itself.
- C. If each Christian is giving as they should, the local church can support itself.
- D. Are YOU giving as YOU should? Malachi 3:8-10.

IN GOVERNING ITSELF
LESSON 5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Bible teaches that the church of Christ must be self governing.
- B. There can be no organization over and above the local congregation.
- C. This is God's plan!

1. THE LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNING ITSELF.

- A. Acts 6:1-3
- B. Acts 14:22,23
- C. Acts 20:28
- D. Titus 1:5

2. ACTS 14:22,23

- A. Elders were not appointed as soon as the churches were started; time must be taken so as to know what men are fitted for this work.
- B. Elders were not appointed to rule over a district, but IN EVERY CHURCH.
- C. There was ALWAYS more than one elder appointed.

3. ACTS 20:28; 1 PETER 5:1-3.

- A. Elders were to oversee the flock.
- B. Elders were to shepherd the Church of the Lord.
- C. Elders must be examples to the flock which they oversee.
- D. They were to "shepherd the flock of God which is among you".

4. 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-10; TITUS 1:5.

- A. Paul gives Timothy the young preacher the qualifications of an elder.
- B. Appointing elders in the Church was a common practice in the first century, because the Bible teaches it.
- C. If we are following the Word of God today and are seeking to restore the New Testament church, we too will appoint men as elders to oversee the Church. This is God's plan for governing His body, the Church.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The church Christ built must govern itself.
- B. Men must grow in the faith, and we must follow the Bible in appointing elders.
- C. God wants the local congregation to govern itself - IT IS GOD'S PLAN!

SERMON PREPARATION AND DELIVERY

BY ROBERT H. MARTIN

- LESSON 1: PREPARATION OF THE MAN**
- LESSON 2: SERMONS MUST BE PREPARED**
- LESSON 3: BIBLE REASONS FOR PREACHING THE WORD**
- LESSON 4: WHAT SHALL I PREACH?**
- LESSON 5: HOW TO PREPARE SERMON OUTLINES**
- LESSON 6: THE PREACHER - GOD'S MESSENGER**
- LESSON 7: EARNING THE RIGHT TO PREACH**

PREPARATION OF THE MAN

Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. It is very important to remember that sermon preparation begins with the life of the preacher.
- B. A good preacher must be a good man (2 Timothy 2:2).
- C. Many excellent sermons **have failed**, because the preacher forgot to prepare himself along with the sermon.

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF CHARACTER IN PREACHING

- A. A good Christian character is very necessary.
- B. There are three important things in the character of the preacher:
 - 1. Being spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:15; Galatians 6:1).
 - 2. Being righteous (Titus 2:12).
 - 3. Being the right example (1 Timothy 4:12).
- C. In order to preach well one must live right.

2. THE PREACHER MUST BE SPIRITUAL.

- A. To be spiritual is to set your mind on things above (Colossians 3:1-3).
- B. To be spiritual is to be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath (James 1:19).
- C. To be spiritual is to be merciful, patient with others, kind, forgiving, understanding, sympathetic and longsuffering (Colossians 3:10-14).
- D. To be spiritual is to practice what you preach (James 1:22).

3. SOME IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS.

- A. Very few people will listen with much respect to a preacher who refuses to listen to himself.
- B. The real sad thing about a preacher with a bad character is not the disgrace he brings upon himself.
- C. The real tragedy lies in the attitude many people will develop toward the Word of God.
- D. Show the people a sermon; do not just speak one to them.

SERMONS MUST BE PREPARED

Lesson 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Teachers and preachers must study God's word in order to get material for teaching and preaching.
- B. When a teacher or preacher takes short cuts it shows a lack of preparation.
- C. An important question - **"WHY SHOULD SERMONS BE PREPARED?"**

1. SHORT CUTS TO SERMON PREPARATION.

- A. One can take another persons sermons and do no work on it to make it his own sermon.
- B. One can simply point out the sins, shortcomings and weaknesses of the church members.
- C. One can substitute other things in order to take attention off his preaching in the pulpit.

2. THREE REASONS WHY SERMONS SHOULD BE PREPARED.

- A. Because people are called to God by the preaching of the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:13,14).
- B. Because a preacher is handling God's very power to save (Romans 1:16).
- C. The danger in leading someone to follow a false teaching (1 Timothy 4:16).

3. WHEN ARE SERMONS PREPARED?

- A. Sermons or lessons are prepared when the lesson has been developed scripturally.
- B. Sermons or lessons are prepared when each scripture used in the lesson has been studied and used in its context.
- C. Sermons or lessons are prepared when the preacher has read, written, organized, outlines and studied his sermon until **he knows it well.**
- D. Sermons or lessons are prepared when the teacher has prayed much about the lesson.
- E. Sermons or lessons are well prepared when the teacher longs for the time when he can share the gospel message with others.

BIBLE REASONS FOR PREACHING THE WORD
Lesson 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The one who reads, studies, loves and believes the Bible as God's message builds his sermons with the Scriptures.
- B. Any sermon or lesson that does not reveal God's message to mankind is a failure.
- C. The preacher or teacher must teach the Scriptures. He must be covered up in the Word of God.

1. THE PREACHER/TEACHER MUST SEEK TO UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURES.

- A. Then he will not be confused by what the scientists say about the Bible.
- B. He will not be confused by the troubled times we live in.
- C. He will not be confused by those who make fun of and criticize the Word of God.
- D. He will not be confused by religious Theologians.

2. FOUR REASONS WHY THE WORD OF GOD MUST BE PREACHED.

- A. Because wisdom for salvation comes from the Word (Romans 1:16,17).
- B. Because all the needs of people are supplied by the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
- C. Because the Bible is the standard of authority in doctrine and morality (2 Timothy 4:2).
- D. Because men shall be judged by the Word of God (John 12:48).

3. SOME IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS.

- A. Today much importance has been given to making the gospel suitable to our society.
- B. However, there must be something to make suitable and something worthwhile to communicate.
- C. The Word of God is suitable for all ages and all people.

WHAT SHALL I PREACH?

Lesson 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The selection of a proper subject is often "half the job" in sermon preparation.
- B. A proper subject is one which meets a real need of the people.
- C. The purpose of sermons is not just to fill a certain time.
- D. A sermon or lesson should be planned to fill the people's mind with God's word.

1. WHAT PLANNING YOUR SERMONS WILL DO.

- A. It will allow you time to put proper thought into your lesson.
- B. It will give you a well balanced diet of spiritual food to feed the people.
- C. It will give you plenty of material on the subject to be discussed.
- D. It will give you an opportunity to look over your lesson and see if you are preaching "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).

2. WHAT SHOULD I PREACH?

- A. Sermons of first principles (Hebrews 6:1-3).
- B. Sermons of Christian living and responsibilities (Matthew 28:19,20).
- C. Sermons about growing as a Christian (2 Peter 1:5-11).
- D. Sermons about the Hope of Eternal Life (1 Peter 1:3,4).
- E. And so many more.

3. THE KIND OF PREACHING THAT IS NEEDED.

- A. First and last is Bible preaching.
- B. Sermons that will build others up.
- C. Sermons that will encourage to greater service.
- D. Sermons that will give others courage and inspiration to be faithful to the Lord.

HOW TO PREPARE SERMON OUTLINES

Lesson 5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Sermons or lessons must be designed to: instruct, convince, motivate and encourage.
- B. Sermons or lesson outlines are very important because:
 - 1. It will enable the teacher to arrange his points.
 - 2. It will give confidence.
 - 3. It will give the teacher the ability to stay on his subject.
- C. A real sermon outline will enable the people to properly understand the lesson.

1. BASIC PARTS OF THE SERMON OUTLINE.

- A. **Title** - This is the name given to the sermon.
- B. **Text** - A scripture that relates to your lesson.
- C. **Introduction** - Introduces your lesson.
- D. **Body** - the main part of the subject.
- E. **Conclusion** - The summary of your lesson.

2. METHODS OF SERMON STRUCTURE.

- A. **Subject sermons** - are topical sermons.
- B. **Textual sermons** - The text provides the main parts.
- C. **Expository sermons** - are based on a Biblical passage, usually longer than a verse or two.

3. A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO SERMON OUTLINE.

- A. Select the subject.
- B. Start selecting scriptures that relate to the subject you have selected.
- C. Study each scripture and select the best ones.
- D. Study each scripture in light of its context.
- E. Study words in the passages that might give each scripture more meaning.
- F. You must know: By whom it was written, when and why was it written and to whom it was written.
- G. Look for three or four main points around which the sermon can be built.
- H. Make a rough draft outline the first time.
- I. Look over your outline and see if there are some places you can improve it.
- J. Now you are ready to make your preaching outline.

4. WHAT YOU NEED TO HELP YOUR IN YOUR STUDY.

- A. A good study Bible.
- B. A Bible Concordance.
- C. A Bible Dictionary.

THE PREACHER-GOD'S MESSENGER

Lesson 6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Bible is a message from God in human language.
 - B. God's message is taught by human beings who have obeyed the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:7).
 - C. Those who preach **must** share with others the message of God.
 - D. The preacher/teacher is God's spokesman.
- 1. GIVE THE MESSAGE.**
- A. But make sure it is God's Word.
 - B. Some preachers try to be big and use big words and speak beautiful words.
 - C. But the man of God must declare the Word of God and preach Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:1-4).
 - D. The man of God must preach the Word (2 Timothy 4:2).
- 2. THE PREACHER MUST SHOW THE FOLLOWING THINGS.**
- A. Zeal (Romans 12:11).
 - B. Earnestness (Jude 3).
 - C. Sincerity (2 Corinthians 2:17).
 - D. Enthusiasm-"put fire into the sermon" (2 Timothy 4:2).
- 3. THE PREACHER SHARES A MESSAGE WITH HIS AUDIENCE BY THESE THINGS.**
- A. The words which he speaks to his audience - his voice.
 - 1. Learn to vary the rate of speaking, the pitch, and the force or volume of your voice.
 - B. Effective body movements - especially use of hands.
 - C. Visual aids - something the hearer sees that relates to the sermon.
 - 1. Can be a chalkboard or object.

EARNING THE RIGHT TO PREACH

Lesson 7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Powerful sermons are not born, they are made by hard work.
- B. Good sermons do not just happen; they are the product of good and complete preparation.
- C. How does one earn the right to preach?

1. DEDICATION TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.

- A. The mind, heart, life, talents and every ounce of energy must be directed to the one purpose of serving God and man (Romans 12:1,2).
- B. Dedicated like a soldier (2 Timothy 2:1-4).
- C. Dedicated to the:
 - 1. Christian life.
 - 2. To the Truth.
 - 3. To the necessity of preaching the gospel.
 - 4. To defending the Truth of the gospel.
- D. A lack of dedication will:
 - 1. Lead to a life of misery and discouragement.
 - 2. Cause the pulpit to be useless and worthless.

2. THE WORK OF THE PREACHER.

- A. Loyal to proclaim God's word (2 Timothy 4:2).
- B. Loyal to the congregation where he preaches (Acts 6:2,4).
- C. Loyal to the brotherhood (1 Peter 2:17).
- D. Loyal to the community where he lives (Acts 2:47).

3. SPECIFIC SERMON PREPARATION.

- A. STUDY-STUDY-STUDY-STUDY-STUDY-STUDY-STUDY.
- B. Plan your sermons plenty of time ahead.
- C. Practice discipline in studying & sermon preparation.
- D. The mentally lazy, careless or indifferent preacher who wastes his time and depends on others is not earning the right to preach.

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

BY ROBERT H. MARTIN

LESSON 1: EVANGELISM
LESSON 2: EDIFICATION
LESSON 3: BENEVOLENCE

EVANGELISM

Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Bible tells us very clearly it is the responsibility of the Church to make known the Gospel (Ephesians 3:10).
- B. Our command is, "**as you are going preach the Gospel to every person**" (Mark 16:15).
- C. The Church will not grow and develop unless it is teaching the lost.
- D. To do our part in making known the Gospel we need:

1. A PASSION FOR SOULS.

- A. The seeking Saviour (Luke 19:10).
- B. The outstretched arms of the Saviour (Matthew 11:28).
- C. The tender words of the Saviour (Matthew 23:37).
- D. The touching words of the Saviour (Matthew 16:26).

2. THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.

- A. The attitude that I must be right with God (Isaiah 6:7).
- B. The attitude of responding to the command of the Lord (Isaiah 6:8).
- C. The attitude of being willing (Isaiah 6:8).
- D. The attitude that I owe others the chance to hear (Romans 1:14).
- E. The attitude that I am ready to go to others (Romans 1:15).
- F. The attitude that I am not ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16).

3. TO FOLLOW THE PATTERN OF THE EARLY CHURCH.

- A. Having favor with the people (Acts 2:47).
- B. Daily both publicly and privately (Acts 5:42).
- C. Went everywhere teaching the Word (Acts 8:4).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Will their blood be on our hands (Ezekiel 3:18,19)?
- B. "You never mentioned Him to me".

EDIFICATION

Lesson 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The word edify means, "to instruct, enlighten and improve".
- B. Literally the word edify means, "to build up one's faith".
- C. The work of encouraging other Christians in the performance of their Christian duty.

1. EDIFICATION IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF.

- A. The Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12).
- B. Of every Christian (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- C. Of the spiritual (Galatians 6:1).

2. THINGS THAT HINDER EDIFICATION.

- A. Carnal spirit (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).
- B. Spiritual lukewarmness (Revelation 3:14-19).

3. THINGS THAT WILL EDIFY.

- A. The Word of God (Acts 20:32).
- B. Spiritual things (Romans 14:17-19).
- C. Good words (Ephesians 4:29).
- D. Love (1 Corinthians 8:1).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Make disciples, edify and the church grows into maturity (Acts 14:21-23).
- B. Edifying the souls of the disciples causes growth of the body (Ephesians 4:16).

BENEVOLENCE

Lesson 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The word benevolence means, "to do good, an act of kindness showed to others".
- B. Benevolence or doing good is a work that shows that the Church cares about people, but the end result should be an opportunity to save their souls.
- C. Benevolence or doing good is a work of the Church (Galatians 6:10).

1. WHAT IS BENEVOLENCE?

- A. Helping the fatherless and widows (James 1:27).
- B. Doing good to others; this would include many things such as food, clothing and etc. (Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 4:28).
- C. Helping the poor, whatever the need may be (Galatians 2:9,10).

2. IMPORTANCE OF BENEVOLENCE.

- A. Equals "lending to the Lord" (Proverbs 19:17).
- B. Counted as "service given to Christ" (Matthew 25:40).
- C. Necessary "in order for one to be saved" (Matthew 25:45,46).

3. CHRISTIANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO.

- A. Do good to all men (Galatians 6:10).
- B. Work that we may give to those in need (Ephesians 4:28).
- C. To show pure and good religion (James 1:27).

CONCLUSION:

- A. We are to do good to all people as we have the opportunity.
- B. But we are to especially do good to those who are Christians.
- C. Let us show our religion and not just say we are religious (James 2:15,16).

THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER

BY ROBERT H. & MARY MARTIN

- LESSON 1: THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHER PRESENTATION**
- LESSON 2: A CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER**
- LESSON 3: TEACHING GOD'S WORD**
- LESSON 4: JESUS, THE MASTER TEACHER**
- LESSON 5: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE SCHOOL**
- LESSON 6: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD**
- LESSON 7: A CHRISTIAN TEACHER**
- LESSON 8: TEACHING PRE-SCHOOL AND PRIMARY CLASSES**
- LESSON 9: TEACHING TEENAGER AND ADULT CLASSES**
- LESSON 10: MAKING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE CLASSES**
- LESSON 11: VISUAL AIDS IN MOTIVATING BIBLE SCHOOL TEACHERS**

THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHER-PREACHER PRESENTATION

LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The waiter in a restaurant presented the menu to a customer as if it were a sheet of gold.
- B. In the waiter's hands was something that represented the owner, the establishment, and the product.
- C. The gospel which teachers-preachers present represents the gospel's owner, the gospel's establishment, and the gospel's product.
- D. For this reason we need to be concerned with our presentation.

1. THE GOSPEL'S OWNER.

- A. The New Testament was purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:28)
- B. This makes the gospel very expensive and precious.
- C. Because of this price, the "owner" paid for it - we should respect it.

2. THE ESTABLISHMENT WHICH IS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL-THE CHURCH.

- A. Wherever the gospel of Christ is believed and obeyed, there is established the Lord's church. (Acts 2:38,41)
- B. There is no such thing as having the Lord's church separate and apart from the gospel of Christ. (Acts 2:47)
 - 1. These were people who believed. (Acts 2:37)
 - 2. These were people who obeyed. (Acts 2:38)
 - 3. They did so gladly. (Acts 2:41)
- C. Therefore, we must show respect and reverence for God's Word, because of what it establishes.

3. CONSIDER THE PRODUCT OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST-ETERNAL LIFE.

- A. In the gospel of Christ lies the hope of mortal man.
- B. Without the gospel we would not know about this precious gift and precious hope.
- C. Romans 1:16; Hebrews 5:8,9

CONCLUSION:

- A. Fellow preachers-teachers let us show them, by our actions, we are handling the most precious "menu" on earth...the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- B. How can this be done? BY BEING PREPARED!

A CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER
LESSON 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Bible gives a number of traits that should be a part of every Christian Bible teacher.
- B. Let us consider the following:
 - 1. **A CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER LIVES A LIFE OF FAITHFULNESS TO THE LORD. (1 Timothy 4:12)**
 - 2. **A CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER IS A GOOD BIBLE STUDENT. (1 Timothy 4:13-16)**
 - 3. **A CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER BASES HIS TEACHING UPON THE WORD OF GOD. (1 Peter 4:11)**
 - 4. **A CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER TAKES A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THOSE HE TEACHES. (Philippians 1:7)**
 - 5. **A CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER IS PATIENT IN DEALING WITH THE MISTAKES OF HIS STUDENTS, FOR HE REMEMBERS THE MISTAKES OF HIS OWN PAST. (Titus 2:2,3)**
 - 6. **A CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER WILL TRY TO BE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO NEEDS HIS INSTRUCTIONS. (1 Peter 3:15)**
 - 7. **A CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER IS COURAGEOUS, BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENCE HE HAS IN THE WORD. (2 Timothy 1:7)**
 - 8. **A CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER WILL SHOW THE HAPPINESS THAT RESULTS FROM DOING AND TEACHING THE LORD'S WILL. (Philippians 4:4)**
 - 9. **A CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER WILL NEVER WITHHOLD THE TRUTH FROM THOSE HE TEACHES. (Acts 20:20)**
 - 10. **A CHRISTIAN BIBLE TEACHER WILL STRIVE FOR BALANCE IN HIS APPROACH TO OTHERS. (2 Timothy 4:2)**

TEACHING GOD'S WORD
LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Matthew 28:19,20 - The command Jesus gave His apostles extends to all Christians.
 - 1. **NOW WE THAT ARE CHRISTIANS WE NO LONGER LIVE TO OURSELVES, BUT TO CHRIST. (1 Corinthians 6:19,20)**
 - A. We need to grow as a Christian. We do this by studying God's word.
 - 1. Hebrews 5:12-14
 - 2. 2 Timothy 2:15
 - 2. **MATURE CHRISTIAN WOMEN HAVE A GREAT AND IMPORTANT WORK TO DO IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM, THE CHURCH.**
 - A. They may be limited in who we can teach, but are not limited in what we can teach from God's word, the Bible.
 - 1. They have a wonderful opportunity and responsibility to teach the younger women.
 - a. Titus 2:3-5
 - 1. To love their husband
 - 2. To love their children
 - 3. To be self-controlled
 - 4. To be pure
 - 5. To be workers at home
 - 6. To be kind
 - 7. To be subject to their own husband
 - 2. They have a wonderful opportunity and responsibility to teach their children. Not only their own children, but those children that come to worship and are not taught about Christ at home.
 - a. 1 Timothy 5:10; 2 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 3:15
 - 3. Children have a right to be feed spiritually.
 - a. Deuteronomy 6:6-7
 - b. Psalm 78:5,6
 - c. Judges 2:10
 - 4. Children need faith in God, based on Bible knowledge.
 - a. Romans 10:17
 - b. Proverbs 22:6
3. **WE NEED TO LEARN OUR STUDENTS.**
- A. We can better understand their background and their needs.
- B. We need to be aware of the changes in children as they grow.
 - 1. Ages 0 - 2 1/2 years
 - a. They need to be taught
 - b. Age of love and trust

2. Ages 2 1/2 - 6 years
 - a. Attitudes are being taught and caught
 - b. They see themselves as an individual
3. Ages 6 - 12 years
 - a. Keen (good) memory
 - b. Religious interests easily developed
4. Ages 12 - 16 years
 - a. A difficult time
 - b. They need our trust in their goodness
 - c. They need our guidance in good morals and spiritual values.

4. LET US BE ALL WE CAN BE AS A BIBLE TEACHER.

- A. Let young people see you -
 1. being kind
 2. studying your Bible
 3. praying
 4. being a good example
 5. teaching others
 6. interested in others
 7. smiling, because you are dedicated to God
- B. Children deserve a chance to grow as Jesus - Luke 2:52
 1. Mental -- "in wisdom"
 2. Physical -- "in stature"
 3. Religious -- "in favor with God"
 4. Social -- "in favor with man"

JESUS, THE MASTER TEACHER

LESSON 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A: When one speaks with authority it has a way of getting attention. (Matthew 7:28,29)
- B. When we consider the large amount of space given in the Gospel to the recorded sayings and teachings of our Lord, it makes it important that we study the characteristics and meaning of His teaching.
- C. Christ is the supreme Teacher.
 - 1. Unlike every other teacher, not only does His teaching still live, but He (the Teacher) lives!
 - 2. He is the truth, He came to teach.
 - 3. All that He ever taught is perfectly summed up in Him.
- D. As we notice the following characteristics of our Lord's teaching, let us consider how we can use them in making ourselves more effective teachers.

1. THE AUTHORITY WITH WHICH JESUS SPOKE.

- A. In Matthew 7:28,29 His teaching is contrasted with that of the scribes who basically had no message, preached about things that were not important, and never spoke with any conviction.
- B. One common mistake made today by teachers and students alike is the desire to listen to man's opinion and judgement.
- C. Speaking with authority is speaking where the scriptures speak and not human opinion. (1 Peter 4:11; 1 Corinthians 4:6)
- D. All teachers would do well to follow Micaiah's decision.
 - 1. In 1 Kings 22:14 we read, "As the Lord lives, what the Lord says unto me, that I will speak".

2. JESUS SPOKE WITH BOLDNESS.

- A. The people of Jesus' day said that He spoke openly, and none could successfully say anything to Him. (John 7:26)
- B. Jesus boldly exposed the sham of hypocrisy. (Matthew 23)
- C. Jesus corrected religious error. (Matthew 22:29)
- D. Jesus tenderly pointed out the sinfulness of others. (John 8:1-11)
- E. Christ is the perfect picture of a teacher with courage and love. What an attractive quality for all teachers to develop!

3. THE SIMPLICITY OF JESUS' TEACHING.

- A. Jesus was deep, yet "the common people heard him gladly".
(Mark 12:37)
- B. He often taught parables, illustrating great and supreme truths with very simple things.
- C. It should be the desire of every Bible teacher to teach simple Bible lessons so that everyone can understand.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The word of great teachers have long been forgotten; but the words of Christ will live forever. (1 Peter 1:24,25)
- B. No doubt our teaching will greatly affect the lives of others if we will also teach with authority, boldly, and simply.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE SCHOOL
LESSON 5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Great Commission that Jesus gave all disciples was to go teach all nations.
 - B. In this commission is contained the words, "TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE" (Matthew 28:19,20).
 - C. One way to accomplish our goal of "TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE" is through Bible classes.
 - 1. Bible classes are very important to the life of the church.
 - 2. Every Christian must be convinced of the importance of Bible classes.
 - 3. We all must be enthusiastic about Bible classes, in order to work for their success.
 - D. Let us notice some reasons why Bible classes are very important.
- 1. FIRST OF ALL, THEY ARE IMPORTANT, BECAUSE THEY HELP THE LOCAL CHURCH.**
- A. The church is "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15).
 - B. Bible classes help teach and ground people in the truth that will make them free (John 8:32).
 - C. Bible classes also involve the membership within the local congregation (1 Corinthians 15:58).
 - 1. Bible classes need teachers, helpers and also students who are involved.
 - 2. It is a great opportunity to grow and glorify God.
 - D. Bible classes help each congregation to become stronger.
 - 1. We are told we should be defenders of the faith (Jude 3).
 - 2. We are told we should stand against Satan and sin (Ephesians 6:11,17).
- 2. ANOTHER REASON BIBLE CLASSES ARE IMPORTANT IS THAT THEY HELP EACH INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN.**
- A. It will help each person to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18).
 - 1. The Bible classes will help each person to know God in a more personal way.
 - 2. The Bible classes will help each person to know God as a friend, helper, as well as a Father who loves them.
 - 3. The Bible classes will help each person make Christ the Master and pattern of their life.
 - 4. The Bible classes will help each person create an appreciation for the Word of God.
 - B. Bible study classes will help create an appreciation for the inspiration of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
 - 1. Bible classes will help students learn to trust the Word of God.
 - 2. Bible classes will help students see the examples found in the Word of God and help them meet life's problems.

- C. Bible study classes will create within the students a desire to study and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:11).
- D. Bible classes will help each student better desire the inheritance that is eternal (Acts 20:32).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Yes, truly, Bible classes are very important to the life and welfare of every congregation and individual Christian.
- B. How important is the Bible school to YOU?
- C. Important enough to get involved as a helper, teacher or encourager?

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD

LESSON 6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Word of God is of great importance.
 - 1. It is important to our own soul and the souls of those we teach (James 1:21).
- B. A person must come under the influence of the Word in order to be saved (Romans 1:16).
- C. The Word of God has various characteristics that show its importance.

1. THE WORD OF GOD IS THE WORD OF TRUTH.

- A. Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17).
- B. Indeed, the Word of God is truth (John 17:17).
- C. The truth will make us free (John 8:32).
- D. Only "the Truth" is the way to the Father (John 14:6).

2. THE WORD OF GOD IS THE WORD OF LIFE.

- A. God's word will enlighten the mind (Psalm 119:105).
- B. God's word will give understanding (Psalm 119:130).
- C. The Bible enlightens by telling us things God wants us to know (Ephesians 1:18).
- D. The things which pertain to eternal life are revealed to us in the Word of Christ (2 Timothy 1:8-10).

3. THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE.

- A. The Word of God is piercing, convincing and powerful (Hebrews 4:12; Acts 2:37).
- B. The Word of God is an important part of the armor of the Christian (Ephesians 6:17).
- C. When we receive the Word and use it daily in our lives, we become living and active (James 1:21).

4. THE WORD OF GOD IS AN ENDURING WORD

- A. The Word of God is not something that will be here for a while and will soon be gone (Psalm 117:2).
- B. The Word of God will last forever (1 Peter 1:25).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let us receive it.
- B. Let us believe it.
- C. Let us hold it fast.
- D. Let us hold it forth.
- E. Let us proclaim it.

A CHRISTIAN TEACHER
LESSON 7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Let us read Ephesians 4:11,12 and Hebrews 5:12.
- B. The Lord is looking for a certain kind of person to teach His word to others.
- C. A Christian teacher must be a person who is faithful and dedicated to the Lord.
- D. Your life as a teacher is important to your student, you can only teach others what you are living.
- E. As a Christian teacher you should be able to say to your students, **"follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."** (1 Corinthians 11:1).
- F. **WHAT KIND OF TEACHER IS THE LORD LOOKING FOR?**

1. ONE WHO IS AN OBEDIENT CHILD OF GOD (1 Peter 1:14).

- A. A true Christian will obey Christ in every way (James 1:22,25).
- B. A true Christian will walk in all the ways of the Lord (Luke 1:6).

2. ONE WHO IS HOLY (1 Peter 1:15,16).

- A. God has always demanded holiness of His people (Leviticus 20:7,26).
- B. The Christian is Holy, because he lives a life of separation from the world (2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1).

3. ONE WHO ABSTAINS FROM CERTAIN THINGS (1 Peter 2:11,12).

- A. A Christian abstains from lustful passions (Galatians 5:24).
- B. A Christian abstains from things that hurt their body (1 Corinthians 6:15-20).

4. ONE WHOSE LIFE IS A SERMON (1 Peter 2:12).

- A. The Christian abstains from fleshly lusts (1 Peter 2:11).
- B. The Christian's life is a sermon to others (2 Corinthians 3:2; Matthew 5:16).

CONCLUSION:

- A. You must be a Christian in every way in order to be a Christian teacher.
- B. As a Christian teacher your life is very important.

TEACHING PRE-SCHOOL AND PRIMARY CLASSES
LESSON 8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. How shall our children know God unless we teach them?
(John 6:45)
- B. Many parents fail to study the Bible with their children.
- C. We need to know God's word. We need to study if we are to teach our children. (2 Timothy 2:15)

1. OUR GOAL.

- A. To bring our children to God.
 - 1. Whether they are our own children or those in our worship services.
 - 2. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)
- B. To teach the Bible and apply it to our lives.
 - 1. We can never get tired of teaching our children God's word.
 - 2. If we do not teach them, they will grow up not knowing God.
(Judges 2:10)
 - 3. Our children need as much of God's word as they can get.
- C. To develop our children spiritually.
 - 1. Our children are given from the Lord. (Psalm 127:3)
 - 2. Timothy was taught by his mother and grandmother.
(2 Timothy 1:5)

2. OUR CHILDREN'S TRAINING IS VERY IMPORTANT.

- A. It is important for their salvation. (John 3:16)
- B. It is important for the future of the Lord's church.
(Psalm 78:5,6)

3. IMPORTANT STEPS IN TEACHING CHILDREN.

- A. Give children Bible knowledge
 - 1. The Bible needs to be the center of everything in our Bible class.
- B. Develop a Christian attitude.
 - 1. To teach children to have a Christ-like attitude is very important.
- C. To put in our children a desire to learn more about the Bible.

3. WE WANT TO UNDERSTAND OUR STUDENTS.

- A. Pre-school to primary usually ranges from ages 0 - 12 years of age.
- B. The learning process starts from the time children are born.
 - 1. We should never think that, because they are small children, that they cannot learn.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Teachers need to be excited about doing God's will.
- B. Teachers need a lesson plan for teaching with a desire to serve the Lord to the best of their ability

TEACHING TEENAGER AND ADULT CLASSES

LESSON 9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Teaching teenagers and adults in some ways are the same and in some ways they are really different.
- B. One of the most important things for the teacher to remember is to KNOW YOUR STUDENTS.
- C. Teaching teenagers and adults presents a great opportunity and challenge.
- D. The teachers attitude and the way he or she handles themselves in the class is clearly given in the Bible (Proverbs 15:1; 1 Peter 3:15).

1 SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT TEACHING TEENAGERS AND ADULTS.

- A. Teenagers.
 - 1. Remember that they are at the right age to remember their creator.
 - 2. Remember that they have a tender heart that can be touched and cultivated.
 - 3. Remember that they are at the crossroads of life.
 - 4. Remember to show them dedication, love faithfulness, patience and enthusiasm.
- B. Adults.
 - 1. Remember that they are different physically, mentally, and spiritually.
 - 2. Remember that they like to express themselves.
 - 3. Remember to get them involved in the class.
 - 4. Remember to use a variety of teaching methods to keep their attention.

2. GO TO CLASS PREPARED.

- A. Be sure to go to class spiritually prepared.
 - 1. Sanctify the Lord God in your heart (1 Peter 3:15).
 - 2. Be the prayerful servant who is not quarrelsome, but kind to everyone, able to teach, patient and humble (2 Timothy 2:24,25).
 - 3. Show yourself in every way a model of good deeds, and in your teaching show honesty, seriousness, and sound speech (Titus 2:7,8).
- B. Also be sure to go to class mentally/academically prepared.
 - 1. A good Bible teacher is one who reads and studies and is filled with God's word before he or she goes to class (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 1:2,3).
 - 2. The example of Jesus' preparation and understanding of the Scriptures shows how effectively He satisfied His disciples when He taught them. (Luke 2:40,52)
- C. Jesus example is worthy of every Bible teachers imitation.

3. METHODS OF TEACHING TEENAGERS AND ADULTS.

- A. Methods of teaching teenagers.
 - 1. Discussion type class.
 - 2. Question-answer type class.
 - 3. Use of visual aids to teach.
 - 4. Have Bible activities to keep their interest.
- B. Methods of teaching adults.
 - 1. Topic type studies.
 - 2. Expository type studies.
 - 3. Question-answer discussion type class.
 - 4. Use visual aids to keep their attention.

4. REMEMBER THEIR SPIRITUAL NEEDS.

- A. They need God (2 John 9).
- B. They need a personal relationship with God (Revelation 3:20).
- C. They need to grow spiritually (2 Peter 3:18).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Encourage the students TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.
- B. Encourage the students TO LOVE THE TRUTH OF GOD.
- C. Encourage the students TO LEARN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD FOR THEIR DAILY LIFE.

MAKING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE CLASSES

LESSON 10

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Making disciples is the way to make the Church of our Lord grow.
- B. Making disciples includes:
 - 1. Teaching the lost and baptizing believers (Matthew 28:19).
 - 2. Teaching/edifying those who are baptized believers (Matthew 28:20).
 - 3. And equipping the baptized believers so that they can make other disciples (2 Timothy 2:2).
- C. Let us use our Bible classes for not only edifying baptized believers, but also for teaching the lost.

1. USING THE BIBLE CLASS FOR TEACHING THE LOST.

- A. Teaching the lost through the Bible class will make disciples for Jesus (Matthew 28:19).
- B. It is **every person, every house, everyday, every member and every means**.
- C. Our Bible classes can be one of the effective means of reaching the lost if we will plan our Bible classes with this in mind.
- D. EVANGELISM OR SEEKING THE LOST should be the end result of Bible classes, benevolence, buildings, preaching or fellowship.
- E. Let us train our Bible school teachers that they can be "FISHER OF MEN" (Matthew 4:18,19).
- F. Our Bible classes are ideal for making disciples, because they provide a warm setting, friendly fellowship and careful examination of the Scriptures.

2. USING THE BIBLE CLASS FOR EDIFYING THOSE WHO BECOME BAPTIZED BELIEVERS.

- A. Jesus said, "teaching them to obey all that I commanded you" (Matthew 28:20).
- B. The process of "making disciples" includes teaching and training the new converts so that they will **"be able to teach others also"** (2 Timothy 2:2).
- C. In providing Bible classes we will be able to:
 - 1. Make strong the new converts (Acts 14:22).
 - 2. Encourage them in their new life as a Christian (Acts 14:22).
 - 3. Help the new converts to grow (2 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18).
- D. When we teach and train the new converts the way we should we will see more remain faithful to the Lord and the Church will grow.

- 3. THE BIBLE CLASS IS VALUABLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY CHURCH.**
- A. The Bible class can make the Church a teaching body (Ephesians 4:14-16).
 - B. The Bible class can play an important part in teaching the lost.
 - C. The Bible class gives wonderful opportunities for Christian fellowship.
 - D. The Bible class is an important tool in edifying and training the members of the body of Christ.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let us use our Bible classes to teach the lost and edify the baptized believers.
- B. Making disciples is the way to truly make the Church of our Lord to grow.

VISUAL AIDS IN MOTIVATING BIBLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

LESSON 11

1. THE BIBLE SCHOOL HOUR CAN BE WASTED!
2. BIBLE SCHOOL: THE TEACHER, THE SETTING, THE CURRICULUM AND THE STUDENT
3. I CAN: THEREFORE I TEACH
4. TEACHERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE
5. MAIN OBJECT OF A TEACHER IS TO DEVELOP A PERSON
6. TEACHERS PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE
7. HOW CAN I ? EXCEPT I BE GUIDED
8. GOD'S TEACHERS MUST THINK IN THE FUTURE TENSE!
9. TEACHERS HELP UNLOCK THE FUTURE
10. THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH IS LOCKED INSIDE THE PRIVATE FUTURE OF INDIVIDUALS
11. TEACHERS WHO ARE UNLEARNED AND UNTRAINED ARE DANGEROUS TO THE CHURCH
12. WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW CAN HURT YOU
13. DOING A GOOD JOB FOLLOWS TRAINING PERIODS
14. TO BUILD SOMETHING THAT LASTS - YOU NEED THE PROPER TOOLS. IN BUILDING PEOPLE WE NEED TOOLS
15. GOD GIVES NO TEACHER THE RIGHT TO BE AVERAGE
16. JESUS, THE MASTER TEACHER:
 - A. HE KNEW **WHO** HE WAS
 - B. HE KNEW HIS **MISSION**
 - C. HE KNEW HIS **MASTER**
 - D. HE KNEW HIS **DESTINY**
 - E. HE KNEW HIS **LESSON**
 - F. HE KNEW HIS **PUPIL**
17. APOLLOS, A GREAT TEACHER:
 - A. MIGHTY IN THE SCRIPTURES
 - B. INSTRUCTED IN THE WAY OF THE LORD
 - C. FERVENT IN SPIRIT
 - D. SPOKE AND TAUGHT ACCURATELY
 - E. RESPONDED IN A GOOD WAY TO CORRECTION
 - F. SPOKE OUT BOLDLY

18. TEACHER QUALITIES:

- A. COMMITMENT TO CHRIST
- B. DEDICATED TO TEACHING
- C. KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE
- D. GOOD LIFE
- E. ABLE TO CHANGE TO METHODS
- F. WILLING TO COOPERATE
- G. POSITIVE-WINNING PERSONALITY

19. LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT:

- A. YOUR PERSONALITY
- B. YOUR SPIRITUALITY
- C. YOUR ENTHUSIASM
- D. YOUR FEELINGS
- E. YOUR PRIORITIES

20. LADDER OF NEEDS - FOR CHILDREN:

- A. SELF-FULFILLMENT
- B. SELF-ESTEEM
- C. SOCIAL NEEDS
- D. SPIRITUAL NEEDS
- E. PHYSICAL NEEDS

21. WHAT TEACHING IS ALL ABOUT: "MAKING TRUTH CLEAR"

22. TEACHERS: "ARE TO OPEN UP THE SCRIPTURES"

23. TEACHING IS: "MOVING BLACK PRINT OFF WHITE PAGES INTO
THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF STUDENTS"

24. 4 P'S OF TEACHING:

- A. PROBE --- "DIG INTO"
- B. PROD --- "PUSH TO MOVE"
- C. PROVE --- "TO CHECK"
- D. PERMEATE- "TO PASS ON"

25. 3 THINGS TO SEE IF I AM DOING A GOOD JOB:

- A. DO I HAVE MY GOALS IN MIND?
- B. WILL THE ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY ME ACHIEVE THE GOAL?
- C. IS THE CLASS ROOM SET UP IN A WAY TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL?

NOW THAT I AM A CHRISTIAN

BY ROBERT H. MARTIN

- LESSON 1: A NEW RELATIONSHIP IN CHRIST**
- LESSON 2: GROWING IN CHRIST**
- LESSON 3: WORSHIP IN CHRIST**
- LESSON 4: FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST**
- LESSON 5: OVERCOMING TEMPTATIONS IN CHRIST**
- LESSON 6: LOVE OF BRETHREN IN CHRIST**
- LESSON 7: I AM IN GOD'S FAMILY - THE CHURCH**
- LESSON 8: STEWARDSHIP IN CHRIST**
- LESSON 9: PURITY IN CHRIST**
- LESSON 10: TRUE HAPPINESS IN CHRIST**

A NEW RELATIONSHIP IN CHRIST
LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. You were dead in sin, the old relationship out of Christ (Ephesians 2:1,2).
- B. Because of your trust in Jesus, you were baptized "into" Christ (Galatians 3:26,27).
- C. This new relationship in Christ.

1. A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IN CHRIST.

- A. 1 John 1:3
- B. 2 Corinthians 6:17,18
- C. Galatians 2:20

2. YOU NOW ENJOY ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS WHICH ARE "IN CHRIST".

- A. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- B. Ephesians 1:3
- C. 1 John 5:11

3. A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD.

- A. James 1:27
- B. James 4:4
- C. 1 John 2:15,16

4. A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS.

- A. Ephesians 5:22-24
- B. Ephesians 5:25-29
- C. Ephesians 6:1-4
- D. Ephesians 6:5-9

CONCLUSION:

- A. YOU ARE IN A NEW RELATIONSHIP TO EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING, BECAUSE OF YOUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

GROWING IN CHRIST
LESSON 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. You are a born again person, a babe in Christ (John 3:5).
- B. You must be patient with yourself as you grow in Christ (Philippians 3:13).
- C. God deals with you as a loving father treats his children (Matthew 7:11).
- D. He knows that you will sin, but you must always repent (1 John 1:7-9).

1. FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH, YOU ARE IN THE CHURCH, GOD'S FAMILY.

- A. Ephesians 2:19
- B. Hebrews 3:6
- C. 1 Timothy 3:15

2. YOU NEED FOOD, EXERCISE, AND FREEDOM FROM DISEASE.

- A. 1 Peter 2:1,2
- B. Acts 20:32
- C. Hebrews 5:14

3. YOU WILL GROW DAILY TO BE MORE LIKE GOD, YOUR FATHER.

- A. 2 Peter 3:18
- B. 2 Corinthians 3:18
- C. 1 Corinthians 13:11

CONCLUSION:

- A. GROWING IN CHRIST WILL TAKE TIME AND YOU MUST NOT BECOME DISCOURAGED.

WORSHIP IN CHRIST
LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God seeks your worship, because He made you for His companionship (John 4:23).
- B. Early Christian worship was steadfast, not irregular (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25).

1. WORSHIP BY TRADITION OR BY HUMAN THINKING IS VAIN.

- A. Jeremiah 10:3,23
- B. Matthew 15:3,6,9
- C. Mark 7:7,8,9

2. TRUE WORSHIP IS "IN SPIRIT".

- A. John 4:24
- B. Matthew 15:8
- C. 1 Corinthians 14:15

3. "IN TRUTH" MEANS WITHIN GOD'S TRUTH, THE SCRIPTURES.

- A. John 17:17
- B. 2 John 9
- C. Revelation 22:18,19

4. I WILL WORSHIP AS BIBLE CHRISTIANS DID IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. Acts 2:42; John 16:15
- B. Acts 20:7; Matthew 26:29; 1 Corinthians 10:16
- C. Colossians 3:16
- D. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:7,8; Acts 20:35
- E. Acts 12:5; John 14:13

CONCLUSION:

- A. WORSHIP IN CHRIST IS MY FOOD, MY STRENGTH, MY COMPANIONSHIP.

FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST
LESSON 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Because you are made in God's image, you long for His fellowship (Psalms 63:1; 1 John 1:3).
- B. Early Christians were strengthened by close fellowship together (Acts 2:44; Acts 4:32).

1. THEY WORSHIPPED TOGETHER IN A COMMON SPIRIT AND BOND OF LOVE.

- A. Acts 2:42
- B. 1 Corinthians 10:16,17
- C. Hebrews 10:24,25

2. THEY WORKED TOGETHER IN THE COMMON CAUSE OF THE GOSPEL.

- A. Philippians 1:3-7
- B. Philippians 4:3
- C. 3 John 8

3. THEY SHARED THEIR GOODS AND GAVE TO A COMMON NEED.

- A. Acts 11:29
- B. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- C. Philippians 4:15-17

4. THEY DID NOT FELLOWSHIP THOSE IN EVIL OR ERROR.

- A. 1 Corinthians 5:11
- B. Romans 16:17
- C. Ephesians 5:11

CONCLUSION:

- A. Fellowship in Christ means companionship with God and God's people.

OVERCOMING TEMPTATIONS IN CHRIST
LESSON 5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Jesus plainly warns that temptations will always entice you (James 1:2,13-15).
- B. Jesus is your Great High Priest, who knows all your temptations (Hebrews 2:17,18; Hebrews 4:14-16).

1. YOU NEED THE HELP OF YOUR CHRISTIAN BRETHREN.

- A. Acts 8:20-24
- B. Acts 19:18
- C. James 5:16

2. TEMPTATIONS WILL COME WHEN YOUR DESIRE IS STRONGEST AND I AM WEAKEST.

- A. Matthew 4:2
- B. 2 Corinthians 13:4
- C. 2 Corinthians 12:10

3. TEMPTATIONS IS DISGUISED AS SOMETHING GOOD. THE DEVIL EVEN TWISTS SCRIPTURE.

- A. Matthew 4:3
- B. Matthew 4:6
- C. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

4. YOU MUST ADMIT AND CONFESS YOUR SINS AND AVOID TEMPTATION AREAS.

- A. Matthew 6:13
- B. 1 John 1:7-10
- C. 1 Thessalonians 5:22

CONCLUSION:

- A. OVERCOMING TEMPTATIONS IN CHRIST YOU WILL NEED HELP FROM YOUR CHRISTIAN BRETHREN AND THE STRENGTH YOU WILL RECEIVE FROM WORSHIP.

LOVE OF BRETHREN IN CHRIST
LESSON 6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Because God loves you, you love others in the way He loves you (1 John 4:7-11).
- B. Love tops God's list. It does all He wants done. By love you are more like Him (Colossians 3:14; 1 Peter 4:8).

1. YOU ARE HAPPY TO OBEY CHRIST, BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU AND WANTS ONLY GOOD FOR YOU.

- A. John 14:15
- B. 1 John 5:3
- C. 1 John 2:3-5

2. LOVE IS WANTING GOOD FOR OTHERS.

- A. Matthew 5:44,45
- B. Romans 12:10
- C. 1 Corinthians 10:24

3. TO FAIL TO LOVE ANOTHER IS TO FAIL TO LOVE GOD.

- A. Matthew 25:40
- B. 1 John 3:10,14,15
- C. 1 John 4:20

4. YOU LOVE FORGIVINGLY, PATIENTLY, AND UNSELFISHLY WHEN YOU LOVE LIKE CHRIST.

- A. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- B. Colossians 3:12,13
- C. 1 John 3:17,18

CONCLUSION:

- A. LOVE OF BRETHREN IN CHRIST IS HOW I SHOW I LOVE GOD.

I AM IN GOD'S FAMILY - THE CHURCH
LESSON 7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God's family is the Church, His spiritual House made up of His children (1 Timothy 3:15).
 - B. Christianity is collective as well as individual; I cannot go it alone (Romans 14:7; 1 Corinthians 12:13,14,25-27).
-
- 1. **BY WORSHIPPING, WORKING, AND SHARING TOGETHER, WE GROW TOGETHER IN HIS BODY, THE CHURCH.**
 - A. Ephesians 2:19-22
 - B. Ephesians 4:16
 - C. 1 Peter 2:5
 - 2. **AS MEMBERS OR ORGANS IN HIS BODY, WE HONOR CHRIST, THE HEAD.**
 - A. Ephesians 1:22,23
 - B. Ephesians 4:15
 - C. Romans 12:4,5
 - 3. **THE LOCAL CONGREGATION IS GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT.**
 - A. Acts 14:21-23
 - B. 1 Corinthians 12:20-22
 - C. Philippians 1:1
 - 4. **YOUR LOCAL CHURCH RELATIONSHIP IS THE PRACTICAL WAY YOU SERVE CHRIST.**
 - A. Acts 9:26-29
 - B. Acts 11:26
 - C. Ephesians 3:10,11

CONCLUSION:

- A. YOU ARE IN GOD'S FAMILY, THE CHURCH AND WHAT A GREAT BLESSING TO HAVE SO MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

STEWARDSHIP IN CHRIST
LESSON 8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God owns me and all that is mine comes from Him (James 1:17).
- B. I am a steward (caretaker) of what God has given me (1 Peter 4:10).

1. I AM A STEWARD OF MY TIME.

- A. Ecclesiastes 11:2
- B. Ephesians 5:15,16
- C. Colossians 4:5

2. I AM A STEWARD OF THE GOSPEL.

- A. 1 Corinthians 4:1,2
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:18
- C. Ephesians 5:10
- D. 2 Timothy 2:2

3. I AM A STEWARD OF MY BODY, MIND AND TALENTS.

- A. Matthew 25:14,15
- B. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20
- C. Romans 12:1,2
- D. Romans 6:12,13

4. I AM A STEWARD OF MY MONEY

- A. Matthew 6:19-21
- B. Acts 4:32
- C. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

CONCLUSION:

- A. WE WILL GIVE ACCOUNT OF OUR STEWARDSHIP (Luke 16:1,2).

PURITY IN CHRIST
LESSON 9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Those who follow Christ want to be like Christ (Philippians 2:5).
- B. At the point of baptism a person starts to walk in a **new life** (Romans 6:4).
- C. A new life unmixed with evil.

1. NEW TESTAMENT COMMANDS PURITY OF LIFE.

- A. 1 Timothy 4:12
- B. 1 Timothy 5:22
- C. James 4:8

2. CHRIST PURIFIES TO HIMSELF HIS OWN SPECIAL PEOPLE.

- A. Titus 2:14
- B. Philippians 4:8
- C. 1 John 3:3

3. INWARD PURITY - OUTWARDLY SEEN BY OTHERS.

- A. Matthew 12:35
- B. 1 Timothy 1:5
- C. James 1:27

CONCLUSION:

- A. 1 John 3:3 - Hope comes from purity of life.
- B. Matthew 5:8 - The pure in heart shall see God.

TRUE HAPPINESS IN CHRIST
LESSON 10

INTRODUCTION:

- A. No one wants to be sad or even around sad people.
- B. All people seek true happiness.
- C. How can we have true happiness?

1. SIN IS THE SOURCE OF ALL UNHAPPINESS.

- A. Genesis 4:13
- B. Proverbs 13:15
- C. Ephesians 2:12

2. GOD IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF TRUE HAPPINESS.

- A. Psalms 42:2
- B. John 10:10
- C. John 17:3

3. SINS FORGIVEN IN CHRIST IS TRUE HAPPINESS.

- A. Acts 3:19
- B. Acts 8:39
- C. 1 John 1:3,7

CONCLUSION:

- A. True happiness can really be seen in Jesus teaching in Matthew 5:1-12.
- B. Philippians is God showing the joy of the redeemed (Philippians 4:4).

THE OFFICE AND WORK OF DEACONS

BY ROBERT H. MARTIN

LESSON 1: A STUDY OF THE OFFICE OF DEACONS
LESSON 2: QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS
LESSON 3: SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT DEACONS

A STUDY OF THE OFFICE OF DEACONS
LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The New Testament does not point out as clearly the duties of deacons as it does the duties of elders.
- B. Deacons are not appointed just to complete the scriptural organization of the Church.
- C. The work of deacons is very important and necessary.

1. THE MEANING OF THE WORD DEACON.

- A. The word deacon comes from the Greek word DIAKONOS.
- B. The word DIAKONOS means, **"waiter, attendant, servant, or minister"**.
- C. The usage of the word is found in Acts 6:1-6 in the words - **"ministration and serve"**.
- D. There was a need, and then deacons were appointed to take care of the work.
- E. The work of deacons is necessary and important.

2. THE WORK OF DEACONS.

- A. The work of deacons is a different work from elders.
 - 1. Deacons were servants of the church.
 - 2. Their work is not oversight, but assistance.
- B. Deacons are to cause the church work and worship to run smoothly and efficient.
 - 1. They assist the elders, who are spiritual overseers.
 - 2. Wherever possible they will relieve the elders to do more important work which only elders can do (Acts 6:1-6).
- C. There were always deacons and not a deacon in each in each church (Philippians 1:1).
 - 1. No deacon was more important than another deacon.
 - 2. They were all humble servants of the church helping the elders.

3. SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW THEY ASSIST THE ELDERS.

- A. They may assist the elders in the teaching and training.
- B. Assist the elders in keeping up with the members, encouraging them, rebuking them, restoring them and edifying them.
- C. Assist in teaching and preaching the gospel
- D. Assist in planning and carrying out the worship services.
- E. Take care of details of the benevolence work done by the Church.
- F. Assist in keeping records in all phases of the Church work.
- G. Assist in planning the finances, help in planning the budget, keep records, and handle details.
- H. Assist in visitation and personal work.

- I Assist in the teaching program, order Bible class materials and equipment, help train and appoint teachers.
- J. Help in looking after the physical properties of the church such as the building and grounds.
- K. Keeping in close touch with the elders.
 - 1. Being aware of the elders many duties.
 - 2. Being aware of the demands made on the elders time and talent.
 - 3. Being alert to step in and assist the elders in every possible way.

QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS
LESSON 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. All officers in the Lord's church must be examples.
- B. Therefore, a man must possess certain characteristics in order to be appointed.
- C. Let us take a look at the characteristics of deacons as recorded in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

1. MUST BE REVERENT (1 Timothy 3:8).

- A. The word reverent means, "worthy of respect, one who lives a holy life".
- B. A person with a good name and well spoken of in the Church and in the community (Acts 6:3).
- C. He is a man who is grave, sober-minded or serious.

2. NOT DOUBLE-TONGUED (1 Timothy 3:8).

- A. Truthful with all people in all things.
- B. Not talking two ways to suit the people he is with.

3. NOT GIVEN TO MUCH WINE (1 Timothy 3:8).

- A. Not given to drunkenness.
- B. He would not do anything to bring shame on the Lord's church.

4. NOT GREEDY FOR MONEY (1 Timothy 3:8).

- A. He must not be a lover of money.
- B. Money is not the most important thing in his life.

5. MUST BE HOLDING THE FAITH WITH A PURE CONSCIENCE (1 Timothy 3:9).

- A. This is to join a good and pure life together with gospel teaching.
- B. This will allow a person to have a clear conscience.

6. MUST BE PROVED (1 Timothy 3:10).

- A. Let them show that their lives are in keeping with the Word of God.
- B. Let them prove themselves by the life they live and the work they do for the Lord.

7. MUST BE BLAMELESS (1 Timothy 3:10).

- A. Without serious charge against him.
- B. His life brings honor and glory to the Lord.

8. HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE (1 Timothy 3:12).

- A. Must be a married man.
- B. Must have only one wife, cannot have been married before for any reason.

9. MUST BE RULING HIS CHILDREN AND HOME WELL (1 Timothy 3:12).

- A. He must be the head of his home.
- B. This must be seen in that his children and wife respect him as the head of his home.

SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT DEACONS
LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The office of deacons in the church is very important.
- B. Having deacons serve in the church is part of God's plan for scripturally organizing the church.
- C. We have covered the work and qualifications of deacons.
- D. But there are other questions that need to be answered.

1. CAN DEACONS BE APPOINTED IN A CONGREGATION WHERE THERE ARE NO ELDERS?

- A. The answer is NO.
- B. There is no Bible example of it.
- C. Elders were always appointed first (Acts 14:23).
- D. Deacons are always mentioned together with elders (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-13).
- E. Deacons are to assist elders, it is impossible to assist when there are no elders to assist.
- F. Deacons can serve only where elders have been appointed.
 - 1. But elders may serve where no deacons are yet qualified, because their work is not under the deacons (Hebrews 13:7,17).

2. WHAT ABOUT THE SELECTION OF DEACONS?

- A. They are selected by the church (Acts 6:1-6).
- B. The same guidelines for selecting elders may be used in selecting deacons.
- C. We should remember 1 Corinthians 14:40, "Let all things be done decently and in order".
- D. We should do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

CONCLUSION:

- A. The church needs men who can be given special responsibilities.
- B. They must be real dedicated Christian men who are willing to cooperate and work with the elders.
- C. They must be willing to serve.

A STUDY OF THE QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK OF ELDERS

BY ROBERT H. MARTIN

LESSON 1: A STUDY OF THE OFFICE OF ELDERS
LESSON 2: QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS
LESSON 3: DUTIES OF ELDERS
LESSON 4: OUR DUTIES TOWARD ELDERS

A STUDY OF THE OFFICE OF ELDERS
LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. There is a great need for studying the subject of the office of elders.
- B. This is God's plan for organizing the Church throughout all ages.
- C. In restoring the New Testament church we **must** restore the right organization of the Church.
- D. The success of the Church depends on following God's plan in every respect, and this includes appointing elders.

1. THE BIBLE COMMAND FOR ELDERS.

- A. In every Church (Acts 14:23).
 - 1. Jerusalem (Acts 15:23).
 - 2. Ephesus (Acts 20:17).
 - 3. Phillipi (Philippians 1:1).
 - 4. Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch (Acts 14:21,23).
- B. In every city (Titus 1:5).
- C. From these scriptures we must conclude that the Bible commands the Lord's church to have elders.

2. WORDS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THAT DENOTE THE ELDERS.

- A. Bishop (EPISKOPOS) means an overseer or superintendent.
 - 1. Philippians 1:1 - Bishops.
 - 2. Acts 20:28 ----- Overseers.
- B. Presbyter (PRESBUTEROS) means an elder, of age.
 - 1. Acts 14:23 ----- Elders.
 - 2. 1 Timothy 5:1 --- Entreat an elder as a father.
- C. Pastor (POIMAN) means a shepherd, herdsman.
 - 1. Ephesians 4:11 -- A feeder of God's Word.
 - 2. 1 Peter 5:2 ----- Feed the flock of God.

3. DOES THE BIBLE FURNISH US WITH THE NUMBER OF ELDERS A CHURCH MUST HAVE?

- A. The New Testament pattern was a plurality of elders.
 - 1. Acts 14:23
 - 2. Acts 15:2
 - 3. Acts 20:17
 - 4. Philippians 1:1
 - 5. Titus 1:5
- B. The New Testament always uses the word denoting an elder in a plural sense.
- C. So we must conclude that there must be more than one.

4. HOW ARE ELDERS TO BE APPOINTED?

- A. After a study of the qualifications and work of elders then a congregation is ready to start looking in the congregation for men who can serve as elders.
- B. There are no specific instructions, but wisdom and great care needs to be used.
- C. Here are some suggested guidelines to be used:
 - 1. After the congregation has studied the qualifications, work and relationship between elders and congregation (1 Timothy 3:1-7).
 - 2. The Church looks out to those men who desire the office and who are qualified (1 Timothy 3:1).
 - 3. Church leaders such as elders and deacons must first be proved (1 Timothy 3:10).
 - 4. The Church looks out to those men who are qualified and approaches them if they are interested in serving as elders (Acts 6:3).
 - 5. Their wives must also be considered and talked to (1 Timothy 3:11).
 - 6. Their names are then announced to the church.
 - 7. The congregation considers, reconsiders and prays.
 - 8. If there is no scriptural objections in the above period of time.
 - 9. Then the congregation appoints those who desire and are qualified (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5).

QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS
LESSON 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The qualifications of elders are given in 1 Timothy 3:1-10; Titus 1:5-11 and 1 Peter 5:1-4.
- B. We need to study carefully the qualifications so that men can prepare themselves and we can appoint elders like the Bible teaches.
- C. We need to understand that most all of the qualifications of elders are also characteristics that are required of all Christians who will be pleasing in the sight of God.
- D. Now let us look at the qualifications.

1. BLAMELESS (1 Timothy 3:2).

- A. No shame or embarrassment must be brought on the church by the conduct of its elders.
- B. They must have no irregular conduct in their social life.
- C. Questionable methods in dealing with the affairs of the Church will make him unfit for the work of an elder.
- D. All Christians are commanded to be blameless (1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Peter 3:14 and Titus 5:7).

2. THE HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE (1 Timothy 3:2).

- A. This requirement means that a man must be married, and that he must have only one wife.
- B. Neither a single man or a man with more than one wife can serve as an elder.
- C. An elder **must** be the husband of one wife.

3. TEMPERATE (1 Timothy 3:2).

- A. To be temperate means **"to be watchful and have self control"**.
- B. All Christians must be watchful and have self control in all things (1 Corinthians 9:25-27; 1 Peter 5:8).
- C. Elders must feel the responsibility to watch and be temperate in all things.

4. SOBER-MINDED (1 Timothy 3:2).

- A. To be sober-minded means **"to be sensible and serious"**.
- B. Must not act in a childish way or be feeling, but from a sober and serious mind.
- C. Christians must live soberly (Titus 2:12; 1 Peter 1:13; 1 Peter 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8).
- D. Elders must be serious-minded, thoughtful, and sensible in character.

5. OF GOOD BEHAVIOR (1 Timothy 3:2).

- A. To qualify as an elder a man's life must be well-disciplined and orderly.
- B. Christians must live a well-disciplined and orderly life (1 Thessalonians 2:10; 2 Thessalonians 3:7; 1 Peter 2:12).

- C. An elder's life must be upright and true as an example to all who know him.
- 6. GIVEN TO HOSPITALITY (1 Timothy 3:2).**
- A. This means to welcome into one's home those who are in need.
- B. Christians are to show hospitality to all, but especially toward fellow-Christians (Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2; 1 John 3:17; 1 Peter 4:9).
- C. An elder must be given to hospitality.
- 7. ABLE TO TEACH (1 Timothy 3:2).**
- A. The word means "qualified and willing"
- B. He must be able to feed the flock (Acts 20:28).
- C. He will be required to overcome error and sin in the church by strong teaching and guidance.
- D. He must be willing and able to teach.
- 8. NOT GIVEN TO WINE (1 Timothy 3:3).**
- A. This means that an elder must not practice drunkenness or anything which leads to drunkenness.
- B. All Christians must not practice drunkenness or anything which leads to drunkenness (Proverbs 23:21; Proverbs 23:29-35; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21).
- C. Wine may be used in communion or for medicine (Matthew 26:29; 1 Timothy 5:23).
- D. Elders must show a good example to the church in not being given to wine.
- 9. NOT VIOLENT (1 Timothy 3:3).**
- A. An elder is not one who desires to strike others.
- B. He is able to influence others without violent ways.
- C. All Christians should be gentle and not violent (2 Timothy 2:24).
- D. Elders are examples to other Christians by refusing to be violent.
- 10. NOT GREEDY FOR MONEY (1 Timothy 3:3).**
- A. An elder is not covetous, that is he is not greedy for money or worldly gain.
- B. Christians are encouraged not to be covetous (Luke 12:15; Luke 12:21; Matthew 6:24; Colossians 3:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9,10; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 1 Timothy 6:6-10).
- C. Christians do not seek to be rich.
- D. Elders must be men who have set a strong example in being free from the love of money and worldly things.
- 11. GENTLE.**
- A. An elder is gentle and patient.
- B. Gentleness or patience must be added to every Christians life (1 Thessalonians 2:7; 2 Peter 1:6).

- C. He is responsible, kind, bears burdens without anger, does not easily give up under discouragement; is steady and steadfast.
 - D. Because of an elder's patience, he becomes capable of encouraging others in their troubles.
 - E. Because he is gentle and reasonable, members depend on him for advice with their problems.
- 12. NOT QUARRELSOME (NOT QUICK-TEMPERED) (1 Timothy 3:3).**
- A. He controls his temper, he does not speak or act with anger.
 - B. Christians are to live peaceably with all men (Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18; James 1:19; James 3:17,18).
 - C. An elder is peaceable and is a peace maker.
 - D. An elder is selected as an example of peacefulness and gentleness.
- 13. ONE WHO RULES HIS OWN HOUSE WELL (1 Timothy 3:4).**
- A. An elder is a good husband and father.
 - B. His good character has influenced his family for godliness.
 - C. 1 Timothy 3:5 says, "if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God"
 - D. Men, therefore must first prove themselves in their own homes so as to qualify as overseers in God's family, the Church.
- 14. HAVE FAITHFUL CHILDREN (Titus 1:6).**
- A. This continues the requirement discussed above.
 - B. An elder's children must be "in submission with all reverence" (1 Timothy 3:4).
 - C. They must have faithful children not accused of riot or unruly (Titus 1:6).
 - D. Leadership as a father tests a man's leadership as an elder.
 - E. An elder must have faithful children in subjection with all reverence.
- 15. NOT A NOVICE (1 Timothy 3:6).**
- A. An elder cannot be a beginner.
 - B. A novice is one who is in-experienced and incapable because of immaturity.
 - C. A new convert or babe in Christ cannot be an elder.
 - D. A novice is in danger of being lifted up with pride and falling into the condemnation of the devil (1 Timothy 3:6).
 - E. An elder is not a novice or beginner.
- 16. GOOD REPORT FROM THOSE WHO ARE OUTSIDE (1 Timothy 3:7).**
- A. An elder must have a good name from non-members (1 Timothy 3:7).

- B. His character must be above reproach even from outsiders.
 - C. All Christians must let their light shine to glorify God (Matthew 5:14-16).
 - D. An elder will be known for his good life in the community where he lives.
- 17. A STEWARD OF GOD (1 Timothy 1:7).**
- A. A steward is one who is left in charge of valuables; he is a caretaker of precious possessions.
 - B. He has the responsibility of caring for the possessions of his Master (1 Corinthians 4:2).
 - C. The valuables left in an elder's charge are the precious souls of the members (Hebrews 13:17).
- 18. NOT SELF-WILLED (Titus 1:7).**
- A. An elder must not be selfish or stubborn; he is willing to give over his personal desires instead of demanding his own way.
 - B. All Christians are encouraged not to be self-willed (Romans 12:16; Philippians 2:3,4).
 - C. An elder is not one who loves to have the preeminence (3 John 9).
 - E. Elders must show the way of unselfishness and meekness.
- 19. A LOVER OF WHAT IS GOOD (Titus 1:8).**
- A. An elder loves all that is good and upright.
 - B. This should also be true of every Christian (Romans 12:9; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 Thessalonians 5:11).
 - C. An elder's delight is in doing what is good.
 - D. An elder must be a lover of good men and of things that are right.
- 20. JUST (Titus 1:8).**
- A. An elder is fair, honest and just.
 - B. His dealings are always upright.
 - C. He does not show partiality by favoring one member over another.
 - D. All Christians are to be just (Philippians 4:8).
- 21. HOLY (Titus 1:8).**
- A. An elder's life is pure and it is dedicated to the cause of God.
 - B. All Christians are to be holy (Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:20; Ephesians 5:27; 2 Timothy 1:9).
 - C. An elder leads others to holiness because he is holy.
- 22. SELF-CONTROLLED (Titus 1:8).**
- A. An elder has control of his life.
 - B. All Christians are commanded to practice self control (Acts 24:25; 1 Corinthians 9:25; 1 Corinthians 9:27).

- C. An elder is one who is capable with God's help of controlling his life.
- D. He does not allow himself to lose control of his life in any way.

23. HOLDING FAST THE WORD (Titus 1:9).

- A. An elder must hold fast to the faithful Word so that he will be able to show the false teacher where he is wrong.
- B. This is more instruction on being able to teach.
- C. An elder should be so well grounded in the Word of God (2 Timothy 1:13) that he is able to rightly divide the Word of Truth.
- D. He must be firm yet kind and a forceful teacher.

DUTIES OF ELDERS
LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Elders are the eyes of the congregation.
 - B. An elder must have the proper attitude toward the work of the eldership.
 - C. The work of the eldership is Holy Spirit made (Acts 20:28).
-
- 1. TAKE HEED TO SELF (Acts 20:28).**
 - A. The first duty belonging to elders is to keep a watchful eye on themselves.
 - B. An elder must be on guard and serious about his life and work.
 - C. Elders are to be examples to the Church (1 Peter 5:3).
-
- 2. FEED THE CHURCH (Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:7).**
 - A. "To feed the Church" is a duty placed upon the elders.
 - B. As shepherds they are to see that the flock receives proper food.
 - C. They are to tend and feed as shepherds.
-
- 3. TEND THE FLOCK (1 Peter 5:2).**
 - A. The word "tend" carries with it the idea of taking care of, not only feeding.
 - B. The elders must watch over and out for the Church.
 - C. They must guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28).
-
- 4. TAKE OVERSIGHT, DIRECT ALL ACTIVITIES (1 Peter 5:2,3).**
 - A. A group of elders must direct the affairs of the congregation committed to their care.
 - B. To fail to do so is to be careless in duty and afraid of the trust given to them by the Holy Spirit.
 - C. And for the congregation to refuse to recognize this oversight when properly exercised by qualified and appointed elders, is to be in rebellion against God.
 - D. Elders must direct in unity with the will of God, encouraging the members to serve willingly.
-
- 5. RULE WELL (1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:7).**
 - A. It should be the desire of every man who serves as an elder to do a good job in caring for and watching over the Church.
 - B. Paul says to the elders that rule or direct well is entitled to the respect and honor of the members of the Church.
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- 6. WATCH FOR SOULS (Hebrews 13:7).**
 - A. This is a charge of fearful responsibility.
 - B. They watch for your souls as they must give account.

- C. Elders must keep up with the flock and know the members and the kind of lives they are living.
- D. But how few elders are doing this as they should; and how few members of the flock have learned what it is to submit to the elders as overseers.
- E. We must submit to elders as they teach and rule as they teach and rule according to the Word of God.

OUR DUTY TOWARD THE ELDERS
LESSON 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We always find it easy to talk about what others owe us.
 - B. What does God desire and require in our relationship to the elders.
 - C. What is our duty as a congregation to the elders?
- 1. TO ESTEEM THEM VERY HIGHLY IN LOVE (1 Thessalonians 5:12,13).**
- A. To esteem them is to know them or respect them.
 - B. We are to esteem them highly in love for the work they do.
 - C. We should consider the work they are doing and love them for what they do.
- 2. WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR (1 Timothy 5:17,18).**
- A. We are to lift them up for the service they are doing for God.
 - B. We are to respect and honor them for the work they do.
 - C. We are to honor the elders, because the worthy work they do is important.
- 3. DO NOT HEAR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THEM (1 Timothy 5:19).**
- A. Accusations should not be accepted unless there are two or three witnesses.
 - B. Elders for the "work sake", should be safeguarded from malicious gossip.
- 4. OBEY AND SUBMIT TO THOSE WHO HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU (Hebrews 13:17).**
- A. Listen to, obey, yield to, comply with what the elders say.
 - B. Because of our trust in, our belief toward, and a desire to do what the Lord told us to do - we OBEY our elders.
 - C. When there is a conflict between our will and the elders will, we should obey their will unless they are disobedient to God's will
 - D. Co-operate and make their work easier.

THE ELDER'S WIFE

LESSON 1: THE LIFE OF THE ELDER'S WIFE
LESSON 2: THE ELDER'S WIFE - A HELPER
LESSON 3: THE WORK OF THE ELDER'S WIFE
LESSON 4: THE REWARD OF THE ELDER'S WIFE
LESSON 5: ELDER'S WIFE

By Mary A. Martin

THE LIFE OF THE ELDER'S WIFE
LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Being an elders wife is an honor. To have your husband chosen as an elder should be for you as a Christian, a great joy. Without the right kind of wife a husband cannot be an elder. I want to inspire you to be a source of encouragement to your husband that he might want to serve as an elder. Let us read 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9.
 - B. Sometimes Christian women think of it as a scary thing to be an elder's wife. Many of the qualifications of an elder and his wife are qualifications that are what all mature Christians should be. (Galatians 5:22,23; Colossians 3:8-10; Titus 2:2-8; 2 Peter 1:5-10) Just as Christians must grow and train themselves for the Christian life, so we must grow and train ourselves for the role of an elder's wife. (2 Peter 3:18)
 - C. We find in 1 Timothy 3:11 the qualifications of what seems to be for a deacon's wife. These qualifications must apply to the elder's wife also for these are characters of a mature Christian woman. As we look at each of these qualifications, we are going to look at other scriptures that will help us.
-
- 1. THE ELDER'S WIFE MUST BE REVERENT OR GRAVE.
(1 TIMOTHY 3:11)
 - A. Reverent/grave means: serious manner of behavior or having a quiet attitude.
 - B. Let us look at (1 Timothy 2:9-15; Hebrews 12:28).
 - C. An elder's wife has learned to control her thoughts, words and actions. She has learned to use her wisdom in giving advice to others. By having control in her life, she is able to help others.
 - 2. THE ELDER'S WIFE MUST NOT BE A SLANDERER.
(1 TIMOTHY 3:11)
 - A. A slanderer means: one that says false statements or makes false charges against a person.
 - B. How easy it is for each of us to fall into this trap. A slanderer goes about passing false reports, trying to hurt others. We find listed in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 qualities that we as Christians are not to possess. (Proverbs 10:18; Ephesians 4:31,32; Titus 3:2)
 - C. An elder's wife cannot be this kind of person. She must hold her tongue and not be caught in the sin of gossip. (James 1:26) James says if we claim to be religious and do not control (bridle) our tongue, our religion is useless.
 - 3. THE ELDER'S WIFE MUST BE TEMPERATE. (1 TIMOTHY 3:11)
 - A. Temperate means: to exercise self control; to hold within limits, sober.

- B. The devil is always there trying to get us to follow him. We must be sober to be able to stand against him. (1 Peter 5:8)
 - C. The fruit of the Spirit are things that the Christian must put on. (Galatians 5:23)
 - D. Let us look in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and see what Paul had to say about being temperate.
4. THE ELDER'S WIFE MUST BE FAITHFUL IN ALL THINGS.
(1 TIMOTHY 3:11)
- A. Faithful means: steadfast; firmly fixed in place, not subject to change.
 - B. We must stand for God's truth in our actions.
(Matthew 25:23)
 - C. An elder's wife must show to the people in the world that in her life she trusts in God and believes His word. (Romans 4:20-25)
 - D. Faith is what we should:
 - 1. Live by. (Romans 1:17)
 - 2. Walk by. (2 Corinthians 5:7)
 - 3. Resist evil by. (Ephesians 6:16)
 - 4. Overcome world by. (1 John 2:15-17, 25)
 - E. Do you believe God's promise? (2 Peter 1:3,4)
Philippians 4:8 gives us a true list of things that we as Christians need to follow in our lives.

CONCLUSION:

- A. We as wives must prepare ourselves as Christian women. If we do not, when the time comes for our husband to serve as an elder, we will be a stumbling block to him.
- B. Yes, the role of an elder's wife will place us in a role of more responsibilities and is a serious role.
- C. Yet, the qualifications for the role of an elder's wife that we have talked about in this lesson are what are common for all Christians.
- D. My prayer is for you to have the heart you should in wanting to be all you can be for God.

THE ELDER'S WIFE - A HELPER
LESSON 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God intended the woman to be a helper for man. This is why God made woman. (Genesis 2:18-22)
- B. As an elder's wife, we must be true helpers to our husband. We need to do this eagerly.
- C. Elders are to "shepherd the flock" or in other words they are to look after the needs of the Christians. They are to do this as a shepherd takes care of his sheep. (1 Peter 5:1-3) A wife is very important as a helper for a husband to be the kind of elder he should be.
- D. Jesus tells us in John 10:11 about a shepherd and his sheep.

1. THE ELDER'S WIFE SHARES THE LOVE HER HUSBAND HAS.

- A. Let us look at 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13 and see again what love really is.
- B. We as a wife have no room in our life for jealousy. Jealousy can only bring confusion and unhappiness and has no place in a Christian home. (Song of Solomon 8:6) We must be secure in the love our husband has for us. Then we are happy to see the love he has shine to other Christians.
- C. As an elder, our husband's work is to do all he can for the church.

2. AN ELDER'S WIFE MUST SHARE THE TIME OF HER HUSBAND.

- A. Many times this is not an easy thing to do. There are so many things taking place in your own family's life that need attention.
- B. We must know that our husband is doing the will of our Father when he goes about doing the work of an elder.
- C. We do not want to be selfish with his time. To share our husband is one way we can show our love to God. (Colossians 3:23)
- D. Each step we take as an elder's wife is a step to take with much prayer. God will surely help us to develop as we should. (Philippians 4:6)
- E. By desiring to know God's word, we as Christians can grow and be what God would have us be. (1 Peter 2:2)

3. AN ELDER'S WIFE REALIZES SHE IS A HELPER TO HER HUSBAND.

- A. As an elder's wife we must have wisdom in what we do. We must "redeem our time" (make the most of every opportunity we have) in doing what we can. (Colossians 4:5)
- B. A good wife will not be a hindrance to her husband. (Proverbs 12:4)
- C. The work of an elder requires a lot of time. There will be many hours of business meetings, times when he

has to meet long hours with members of the church. He may be called away in the middle of the night when someone is sick or suffering.

- D. For a husband to be an elder, his wife must encourage him in the work he will do. She will not spend her time complaining and grumbling about the time her husband is away from her. She will not always complain about the time her husband spends in the service of the Lord. (Proverbs 19:13; Proverbs 25:24)
- 4. AN ELDER'S WIFE WANTS TO BE A HELPER TO HER HUSBAND.
- A. In 1 Timothy 3:1 it says an elder must desire the work - so must a wife desire to be a helper to her husband in this wonderful work.
- B. To be a good helper to our husband is the kind of wife God wants us to be as women.
- C. How sad for a husband to desire the office of an elder, but should not do it, because his wife is not the helper she should be!
- D. Can we as women humble ourselves enough to be the kind of wife we should be so that our husband can do the work of God? (James 4:6)

CONCLUSION:

- A: Man was created so that he needed someone to share his life, his joys, his triumphs, his disappointments, his sorrows, and all other emotions.
- B. Man needed someone to love him that was capable of returning love. In creating a woman for man, all of those qualities were provided.
- C. In Luke 14:16-20 Jesus tells a parable. Will you be this excuse for your husband not being an elder?
- D. Let us make our hearts right remembering for what purpose we were made.
- E. By being a good helper for our husband, he will be able to serve as an elder and give glory to our heavenly Father.

THE WORK OF THE ELDER'S WIFE
LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. To be an elder's wife is a role that calls for many adjustments in your busy life.
 - B. When a congregation accepts a husband as an elder, they have also shown their trust in his wife to fulfill her place as his wife.
 - C. The attitude of the wife plays an important part of the husband having a desire to serve as an elder. If you have the desire of an elder's wife, you are desiring a good work. (1 Timothy 3:1)
-
- 1. AN ELDER'S WIFE MUST BE WILLING TO SERVE.
 - A. We find when God made woman, He took her from Adam's side. We are to be at our husband's side as he serves the Lord. We are one in marriage. (Genesis 2:22-24)
 - B. A wife must be willing to let her husband serve as an elder. She must be willing to support him in this important work. He cannot effectively serve as an elder without his wife's help and support.
 - C. An elder's wife can serve by being the trustworthy wife she should be. (Proverbs 31:11,12). Being an elder's wife demands complete trust.
 - 1. A elder needs to know that things discussed between husband and wife will not be discussed with others.
 - 2. Sometimes an elder shares certain problems of other families or individuals with his wife. The wife must keep those matters to herself only. Our tongue can cause many problems. (James 3:5)
 - 3. There will be times when an elder must bear certain burdens alone, because he cannot share them even with his wife. We need to have understanding and have complete trust in him in these cases.
 - 2. AN ELDER'S WIFE MUST BE HOSPITABLE.
 - A. One of the qualifications of an elder is to be hospitable. (1 Timothy 3:2)
 - B. Hospitable means: friendly and unselfishness with those that visit with you.
 - C. It would be almost impossible for a husband to fulfill these qualifications without the help of his wife. We need to be there for our husband to welcome others into our home.
 - D. Hospitality is commanded and we must not think of it as nothing. (Romans 12:9-13)
 - E. We must learn to show hospitality without grudging. It is so easy to be grumpy when your husband decides to bring someone for a meal. (1 Peter 4:9)

- F. In Hebrews 13:2 we see it says, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some did not know that they entertained angels".
 - G. We need to be careful and not just have some of the members of the church into our home and neglect others.
 - H. We can make our home a place of comfort for others and also for our husband. A husband who is an elder will deal with many problems of others and needs a home he can feel comfortable in.
3. AN ELDER'S WIFE SHOULD LOVE HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN.
- A. This principle does not change when a Christian husband becomes an elder. (Titus 2:4,5; Ephesians 4:32)
 - B. Let us look at 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13 and see what love really is.
 - C. As a mother our children must see that God is important to us - that He is first in our lives (Matthew 22:37,38)
 - D. Another qualification of an elder is that he rules his own house well. (1 Timothy 3:4,5). A father has a hard time having his children in subjection without the aid and support of his wife.
 - E. As a wife we must fulfill our role of subjection to our husband. (Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18) The Simple English Bible says, "Wives put yourselves under your husband's authority. This is what the Lord wants".
 - F. We as a wife cannot boss the home and control our husband or he will never qualify as an elder.
 - G. The attitude of the wife plays a most important part in the training of the children. We as a wife need to accept our responsibility of training and disciplining our children and helping our husband as he takes his part in the service of God.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Our influence as a Christian must shine through to others. (Matthew 5:13-16)
- B. The elder's wife must grow through learning to apply what God's word says to her. We do not compare ourselves to others for we all have different talents. We must compare our lives to what God's word tells us. (Philippians 4:8)
- C. There is so much to do for the Lord and we have no time to let anything in the world keep us from the goal of serving God in the best way that we can.

THE REWARDS OF THE ELDER'S WIFE
LESSON 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We want to remember that, we as women, are not born fully equipped to be an elder's wife.
- B. Neither are we fully equipped for the Christian life.
- C. We do have within us the ability to prepare ourselves to this Christian life as well as for the life of an elder's wife. (Ephesians 6:13-17)
- D. We must train for the goal we have chosen.
- E. With the role of an elder's wife comes many rewards.

1. PERSONAL JOY\HAPPINESS COMES FROM BEING AN ELDER'S WIFE.

- A. Joy means: gladness. (Philippians 4:4,5)
- B. We as wives should be happy to be one with our husband in Christ. (Genesis 2:24) We each have our own personality and ideas and hopes. We are together in our aim of helping each other to live this life faithfully in order to reach heaven.
- C. It brings us joy as a wife to be the best wife we can be. (Proverbs 12:4) Do you want to be something precious to your husband or a shame?!
- D. There will be times as an elder's wife when you will feel discouraged. You will face problems, because we are only human beings. God's word tells us how to face those times. (Philippians 4:13; James 1:2,3; 1 Peter 4:12,13)
- E. The joy of being a Christian and working with your husband in serving the Lord is truly joy and happiness. (Isaiah 61:10)

2. AN ELDER'S WIFE REJOICES AS THE CHURCH GROWS.

- A. We must be busy about the work of the Lord. We must realize that all people are made in God's image; because of this, their souls are very important and worth much. (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 16:26)
- B. We rejoice when we see people who have decided to obey the gospel. (Luke 15:7; Hebrews 5:9)
- C. I must keep my own soul for the Lord and seek to win others.

3. AN ELDER'S WIFE REJOICES WHEN CHRISTIANS GROW TO BE LIKE CHRIST.

- A. We rejoice when we see those Christians who are faithful to the Lord.
- B. To be an elder, one must love people, truly care about what happens to each person in the church. (1 Corinthians 15:58) An elder will be busy with the physical needs of others. (Titus 2:7; James 5:14)
- C. A wife's support can be the key to making a man a great elder. (1 Timothy 5:17)

- D. We can spend our time as an elder's wife in helping Christians grow in the Lord.
 - 1. We need to be there encouraging Christians to attend all services of the church.
 - 2. We need to be there expressing our care and concern for Christians.
 - 3. We need to, by our example, be there helping Christians grow in the Lord. (1 Peter 5:3)
- E. We will be busy as an elder's wife doing good to others. (Galatians 6:9,10)

- 4. AN ELDER'S WIFE CAN HAVE A CROWN OF LIFE.
 - A. Being an elder is one of the most demanding responsibilities on earth.
 - B. When Jesus, the Chief Shepherd appears, shepherds (elders) will receive an unfading crown of glory. (1 Peter 5:2-4)
 - C. An elder's wife who has served God beside her husband, will also be a partaker of this crown of life. (James 1:12)

CONCLUSION:

- A. God's word prepares us for our role as an elder's wife. (Psalm 119:105)
- B. Each Christian woman must find her role or her place in this life. It may be that an elder's wife is not the role you feel you can take. Each of us do have the responsibility to live our lives as God would have us to.
- C. We seek and find a role in our life, as a Christian, that is serving God everyday. (Colossians 3:24)
- D. I want to leave you with this thought:

"Living So Others Can See Jesus In Me"

I am trying to live a life
 so others will see Jesus in me.
 I will show others that God's word is true,
 I will do the best I can,
 because Jesus would expect no less of me.
 I will give my time so others can see
 the way that God wants them to be.
 I will study and pray for my reward
 is my hope to see all I meet in heaven with me.

ELDER'S WIFE
LESSON 5

E ndure: Matthew 10:22; Hebrews 10:36; Hebrews 12:1
L abor: Matthew 9:37; 1 Corinthians 15:58;
1 Timothy 5:17
D esire: 1 Timothy 3:1; 2 Timothy 3:12; Psalms 27:4
E dify: 1 Corinthians 8:1; 1 Corinthians 10:23;
1 Thessalonians 5:11
R everent: 1 Timothy 3:4; 1 Timothy 3:11; Hebrews 12:28
S erve: Matthew 25:23; Galatians 5:13; Colossians 3:24

W orker: 1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Timothy 2:15;
1 Thessalonians 1:3
I nfluence: Matthew 5:13-16; Acts 17:28; Philippians 4:8
F riend: Proverbs 17:17; Ephesians 4:31,32; James 2:23
E xample: Philippians 3:17; Colossians 3:8-10;
1 Peter 5:3

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

BY ROBERT H. MARTIN

- LESSON 1: WHAT MAKES ONE A LEADER FOR GOD?**
- LESSON 2: CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP**
- LESSON 3: CHARACTERISTICS OF CHURCH LEADERS**
- LESSON 4: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
- LESSON 5: SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP**
- LESSON 6: THE HEART OF THE STRONG LEADER**
- LESSON 7: AN ACTIVE LEADERSHIP**

WHAT MAKES ONE A LEADER FOR GOD?
LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Giant-killers made up David's army (1 Chronicles 20:4-8), but, in contrast, not one could be found in Saul's (1 Samuel 17:8-11).
 - 1. Ever wonder why?
- B. The ranks of David had many giant-killers, because David was a giant-killer himself.
- C. For today's church to be all that she can be, we need great men, leaders, who dare to dream, plan and do.
- D. Men who will set the pace and challenge us to march victoriously in the Lord's army.
- E. By spelling the word "L-E-A-D-E-R," let us consider several qualities which are very necessary to great leadership among God's people.

1. LOVE.

- A. The art of leadership can be demonstrated with a piece of string on a table.
 - 1. "Pull it, and it will follow wherever you wish. Push it, and it goes nowhere at all".
 - 2. It is just that way when it comes to leading people.
- B. John 13:35
- C. 1 Thessalonians 3:12
- D. Hebrews 13:1

2. ENTHUSIASM.

- A. Enthusiasm is very catching, it will spread throughout a congregation if it is found among the leadership.
- B. John 2:17
- C. Romans 12:11
- D. Titus 2:14

3. ASPIRATIONS.

- A. Aim at nothing and you will hit it with precision!
- B. Genesis 37:19
- C. Philippians 3:14

4. DETERMINATION.

- A. Long days and sleepless nights. If you do not want to pay the price, you had better not shop at the leadership counter.
- B. Daniel 1:8
- C. Philippians 4:13
- D. James 4:15

5. ENERGY.

- A. Congregations are full of Christians where the active ingredients have been removed.
- B. 1 Corinthians 12:15
- C. 1 Corinthians 15:58
- D. James 1:22

6. RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- A. The word righteousness comes from the word RIGHT.
 - 1. Let "R" stand for reputation.
 - 2. Let "I" stand for Influence.
 - 3. Let "G" stand for glorify.
 - 4. Let "H" stand for heaven.
 - 5. Let "T" stand for truth.
- B. Acts 10:35
- C. 1 Timothy 6:11

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
LESSON 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God has always recognized the need for LEADERS among his people.
- B. We need to know why we need to have leaders and what leaders are required to do.
- C. We need to know what God has said about leaders in His Church.

1. LEADERSHIP IS VERY IMPORTANT.

- A. God made man so that he needs a leader.
- B. People do not naturally cooperate. (Deuteronomy 12:8; Judges 17:6)
- C. Most of people's efforts are made in groups.
- D. Most people do not know how to cooperate, set and reach their goals.
- E. Many people don't know where they are going, or what they are looking for.
- F. People are different according to ability, desire, and need. Leaders are needed to organize all these into a united group.

2. WHY DO WE NEED LEADERS?

- A. God has always commanded them. (Exodus 18:21-23; Titus 1:5)
- B. God has planned them. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
- C. For the work of the Lord to be successful. (Nehemiah 4:14-16)
- D. People need a pattern to follow. (I Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 5:3; Philippians 4:9)
- E. Good leaders inspire others. (I Samuel 23:15-17)
- F. Few people will do things on their own - they are not self-starters.

3. WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?

- A. Christian leadership is the prayerful and skillful activity of getting people to work for the Lord through cooperation. THE ABILITY TO GET SELF AND OTHERS STARTED TO WORK FOR THE LORD.
- B. Leadership is getting self and others started so that a goal can be reached that has been set.

4. HOW AND WHY PEOPLE BECOME LEADERS.

- A. Leaders are not born.
- B. Some inherit it, as a vice-president, King's son. This is not true in the church.
- C. Some fill the need of the hour.
 - 1. As F.D. Roosevelt - right man, right time, and right place.
 - 2. As judges in Israel.
 - 3. The situation, not the person alone, determines who will be a leader.
 - 4. The man who fills the need becomes servant of the people helping them obtain desired goal.
 - 5. Bible class teacher, song leader and etc.

- D. Some push themselves up.
- E. Some chosen by the group.
- F. Some are appointed.
- G. Preparation is made long before one becomes a leader.
- H. A call to leadership.
 - 1. Moses (burning bush), Saul of Tarsus (light from heaven).
 - 2. Seeing and realizing a need.
 - 3. Letting God use you to fill that need.

5. LEADER'S RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THE WORK.

- A. Visualize.
 - 1. Goals that need to be set.
 - 2. A work for every member.
- B. Recognize.
 - 1. Talents that may lie hidden in individuals.
 - 2. Opportunities available for Christian service.
- C. Mobilize.
 - 1. Individuals for service in every area.
 - 2. Make plans for group activities.
- D. Organize.
 - 1. Every program of work.
 - 2. Put someone in charge of the work.
 - 3. Spell out the responsibilities that the person is to do.
- E. Supervise.
 - 1. Oversee work of every group leader.
 - 2. Make sure everyone understands their responsibilities.
 - 3. Have regular periods for reporting back to leaders.
- F. Analyze.
 - 1. Determine the strong and weak things of every worker.
 - 2. Check for good work and if the work has been completed that person is to do.
 - 3. Check instructions to worker for clearness and completeness.
- G. Stabilize.
 - 1. Keep worker encouraged.
 - 2. Hold to any work that is good.
 - 3. Assist worker in any area that is needed.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHURCH LEADERS
LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The progress and growth of the church depends on its leadership.
- B. No congregation will ever rise above its leadership.
- C. Any organization needs leaders.
- D. This is just as true in the spiritual as it is in the physical.
- E. Let us look at Nehemiah and see some good qualities that are necessary for good leadership.

1. LEADERSHIP MUST BE DESERVED AND NOT DEMANDED. (Nehemiah 1:3,4; 2:11-13,17).

- A. Nehemiah was successful as a leader of the Jews, because he was respected by them.
- B. Nehemiah was a man of prayer, patriotism, action, courage and perseverance.
- C. No man can be a good leader unless he is respected by the congregation. (1 Timothy 3:7)

2. LEADERS MUST BE MEN OF PRAYER. (Nehemiah 1:4)

- A. When Nehemiah heard of the condition of Jerusalem he fasted and prayed.
- B. Nehemiah prayed before he spoke. "So I prayed to the God of Heaven. And I said to the King". (Nehemiah 2:4,5,)
- C. Nehemiah prayed when others laughed at his work. (Nehemiah 4:1-5)
- D. Nehemiah prayed when the opposition tried to stop the work. (Nehemiah 4:8,9)
- E. Nehemiah prayed when Sanballat tried to get him to compromise. (Nehemiah 6:9)
- F. The leadership of the early church prayed. (Acts 6:1-7; Acts 13:1-4)
- G. We as leaders in the Lord's church today need to be men of prayer.

3. LEADERS MUST BE ABLE TO PLAN AND INSPIRE OTHERS TO ENGAGE IN WORK. (Nehemiah 2:12-16)

- A. Nehemiah had vision and foresight concerning the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.
- B. He was able to inspire the Jews to undertake the work of the Lord. (Nehemiah 2:17-19)
- C. It is not enough for leaders to see what needs to be done, they must be able to inspire others to want to carry out the plans.
- D. A good example of this is found in Acts chapter 6:1-7.

4. **LEADERS MUST BE ENTHUSIASTIC. (Nehemiah 2:17,20; 4:20,23)**
- A. Nehemiah was full of enthusiasm as we can see from the above scriptures in the book of Nehemiah.
 - B. Many good works of the church are killed by the do not care and indifferent attitude of the leaders who ought to be encouraging it.
 - C. A person may hinder a work and never open his mouth in opposition to it. Just remain indifferent to it.
 - D. We need leaders who are filled with enthusiasm. (Romans 12:11)
5. **LEADERS MUST BE WILLING TO GIVE TIME AND THOUGHT TO THE WORK OF THE LORD. (Nehemiah 2:11,12)**
- A. While other Jews were busy with their own affairs, Nehemiah spent three days looking over the condition of Jerusalem. (Nehemiah 2:11)
 - B. While others were sleeping, Nehemiah was working. (Nehemiah 2:12)
 - C. Since leaders, most of the time, have to make their living by working on a job, it just follows that if they do a good job, they will have to give time and thought, above and beyond that of others in the church.
 - D. A man who is not willing to sacrifice his time, ought not to accept the responsibility of being a leader.
6. **LEADERS MUST BE WILLING TO TAKE THE WORK OF THE LORD AT HEART. (Nehemiah 2:2)**
- A. Nehemiah's concern for Jerusalem showed in his face.
 - 1. "Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou are not sick?" (Nehemiah 2:2)
 - 2. This is nothing else but sorrow of heart.
 - B. The man who is a good leader must have deep concern for the church for which Christ died. (Acts 20:17-28)
 - C. We need men today who will take the work of the church at heart.
 - 1. Spending the necessary hours planning, working and building up the church.
 - D. When the church has leaders like this the church will surely grow.
7. **LEADERS SHOULD NOT SPEND ALL THEIR TIME MAKING PLANS. (Nehemiah 2:17,18; 4:21)**
- A. Nehemiah made plans, but he did not stop short of putting those plans into ACTION. (Nehemiah 2:17)
 - B. Some leaders are forever planning, but they never put their plans into actions.
 - C. Let us have leaders in the church that will be men of faith and action. (James 1:22; Acts 16:9,10)

8. LEADERS SHOULD HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE CAUSE. (Nehemiah 2:20)

- A. He believed that with God's help, it could be done.
- B. Joshua and Caleb versus the ten spies. This ten lacked confidence, caused multitudes of the Israelites to miss Canaan. If they had shown the confidence of Joshua and Caleb, they could have inspired the people to have gone over into the Promise Land. (Numbers 13:25,26 to 14:4; also see Psalms 78:41)
- C. We need good leaders who believe that with God's help any good work can be accomplished. (Romans 8:31; Philippians 4:13)

9. LEADERS MUST BE WILLING TO WORK. (Nehemiah 4:23)

- A. Nehemiah said, "LET US". (Nehemiah 2:17,18)
 - 1. He did not make the plans and forget to work.
 - 2. A good leader will not ask others to do what he will not do.
 - 3. People will follow a leader who they see involved himself in the work.
- B. Leaders today need to plan the work of the church, but they must be willing to work along side of others. (Nehemiah 4:23)
- C. When leaders are willing to work along side of others it shows them the proper example and encourages them to work harder.

CONCLUSION:

- A. We need men who will decide in their heart that they want to be a leader for the Lord.
- B. We need men who will dedicate themselves to being good leaders for the Lord.
- C. Remember, the Lord needs good leaders like Nehemiah to lead His people to greater service.
- D. WILL YOU BE A LEADER FOR THE LORD?

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
LESSON 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. One of the best lists of qualities of a leader is found in the Bible. Surprised?
 - 1. You really should not be, because God wants His people to be great leaders.
- B. This list is found in a story about Moses (Exodus 18:13-23).
 - 1. God's people had come out of the land of Egypt, and Moses was leading them to the promised land.
 - 2. Being their leader and God's representative, he had to sit as judge among the people.
 - 3. One day Jethro, his father-in-law, came to him and told him that the task was too heavy for him to do alone.
 - 4. Moses was told that if he continued alone, he would wear himself out and wear the people out also.
 - 5. He suggested that Moses "select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them, as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. And let them judge the people at all times..." (Exodus 18:21,22a).
- C. The leadership qualities that we find in these two verses are:
 - 1. **"ABLE MEN"**
 - A. Those chosen must have the ability to do the job.
 - B. God is always looking for those who have the ability to do the job (Judges 7:1-8).
 - C. God is looking for men of courage (I Corinthians 16:13).
 - D. God is looking for men of understanding (I Corinthians 14:20)
 - E. God is looking for men who are full of goodness, filled with knowledge, and who are able to admonish (Romans 15:14).
 - 2. **"WHO FEAR GOD"**
 - A. The leaders must recognize the authority of Jehovah God.
 - B. A leader is one who has learned to fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
 - C. A leader is one who serves the Lord with reverence and godly fear (Hebrews 12:28).
 - D. When a leader fears the Lord with reverence he will have a standard of authority and recognize where his authority comes from.
 - 3. **"MEN OF TRUTH"**
 - A. A leader must be a person of integrity - one who is totally honest.
 - B. A leader must think about being honest with himself and with others (Philippians 4:8).
 - C. A leader must be one who will always speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).
 - D. Leaders must recognize that the church is the pillar and support of the truth and take the lead in supporting the truth through the church (1 Timothy 3:15).

4. "THOSE WHO HATE DISHONEST GAIN"

- A. Leaders must be above taking a bribe or being influenced by personal gain in some way (1 Timothy 3:2,3).
- B. Leaders must make their decisions based on what is right - not on what they will gain (Titus 1:5-9).
- C. Leaders must have a good reputation (1 Timothy 3:1-7)
- D. Leaders must be honest and of a high integrity.

5. "YOU SHALL PLACE THESE OVER THEM"

- A. A good leader is able to delegate authority and duties.
- B. Good leaders are able to get others involved not by lording it over them, but by being examples to others (1 Peter 5:1-3).
- C. Leaders have the oversight serving as overseers (1 Peter 5:1,2).

6. "JUDGE THE PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES"

- A. Leaders must be available to do their work at all times (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- B. Leadership is not necessarily confined to a "40-hour week" (Titus 3:1).
- C. This is why the Bible says that a leader must DESIRE the work (1 Timothy 3:1).
- D. Leaders must be men who give their all to the work of the Lord all the time.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Yes, the Bible provides us with qualities that will develop great leaders.
- B. These are the qualities that each Christian man should be trying to develop in his life so that he can be a great leader for the Lord.
- C. We need great leaders in the church today; men who will rise to the cause of Christ.

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP
LESSON 5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The lack of spirituality of God's people during the Babylonian captivity is directly pointed to their lack of SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP.
- B. This is clearly seen by God's rebuke of the leaders in Ezekiel 34 and Jeremiah 23.
- C. To correct the problem God tells his people "I will give you shepherds after my own heart who will feed you on knowledge and understanding". (Jeremiah 3:15)
- D. We need leadership in the Lord's church today.
 - 1. "Elders in every church...in every city." (Acts 14:23 Titus 1:5)
 - 2. Men who will follow after the example set in Psalms 78:72, "He shepherded them according to the integrity of His heart, and guided them with His skillful hand".
- E. Not only are elders and deacons leaders, but every preacher, teacher, song leader and many others who take a leading part in some way are leaders too.
- F. Every leader needs to possess certain necessary qualities of character which will result in godliness among those they seek to lead.
 - 1. We need leaders today following the example of godly people of the past.
 - 2. We need leaders with:

1. THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

- A. Romans 4:21
- B. This passage about Abraham's faith explains to us why Abraham is the proper example for all of God's children.
 - 1. This explains why he left at God's command to go to Canaan. (Hebrews 11:8)
 - 2. Why he offered up His only son at God's command. (Hebrews 11:17-19)
 - 3. Why he died in faith although he had not received the complete fulfillment of God's promises. (Hebrews 11:13)
- C. We need this kind of unreserved faith among our leaders today. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

2. THE HUMILITY OF MOSES

- A. There are many examples of Moses' humility before God and his fellow man.
- B. One area of humility which we need to see much today is in the area of advice.
 - 1. In Exodus 18, Moses' father-in-law suggested a better way to judge the people.
 - 2. Some people would have been offended, or quit their work at any suggestion that their job could be done better.

- C. But Moses knew, "a wise man is he who listens to counsel... without consultation plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed". (Proverbs 12:15; 15:22)
- D. We need more leaders who can listen to, accept, and put good advice into action.

3. THE INTEGRITY OF DANIEL

- A. Daniel's enemies examined closely every area of his work for the government, "but they could find no ground of accusation". (Daniel 6:4,5)
- B. We need church leaders of this character today.
 - 1. People who are not for sale.
 - 2. People whose lives can be investigated very closely and nothing be found wrong.
- C. Daniel was also a man of such spiritual dedication that his enemies knew he would obey God rather than men. (Daniel 1:8; Daniel 6:10)
- D. We need leaders who will do right, even at the cost of their own lives.

4. THE PRIORITIES OF EZRA

- A. Ezra 7:10
- B. Notice he was seeking first to know and do, then to teach.
- C. We need leaders who study God's word. (Titus 1:9; 1 Timothy 4:12)
- D. Let the leaders do these first, then they will be a worthy teacher. Otherwise, they will be seen as a hypocrite.

5. THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF BARNABAS

- A. The person who is always negative, with not a good word, and who knows not how to encourage the good efforts of others is not going to be successful in promoting righteousness.
 - 1. Paul, in his letter, was always seeking to encourage whenever possible.
 - 2. Jesus also did the same thing. (Revelation 2 and 3)
- B. Barnabas was known as "THE SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT". (Acts 4:36)
 - 1. The church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to the newly established congregation at Antioch to encourage them. (Acts 11:23)
- C. We need leaders today who can encourage as well as rebuke. (2 Timothy 4:2)

6. THE LOYALTY OF DAVID

- A. Two times David could have easily slain King Saul and escaped, but refused to do so, saying, "The Lord forbid that I should lift up my hand against the Lord's anointed". (2 Samuel 26:11)
 - 1. Since King Saul was God's choice for king, David was satisfied to let the Lord choose the time and means for the King's removal. (1 Samuel 26:10)
 - 2. He chose to remain loyal to the King as long as the King lived.

- B. We need leaders in the church today who will remain loyal to the Lord. (Matthew 22:37)
 - C. We also need Christians in the church who will honor, support, and respect the leaders of the church. (1 Thessalonians 5:13)
- 7. THE MOTIVATION OF NEHEMIAH**
- A. Nehemiah 2:17
 - B. Notice how Nehemiah motivated the people, "COME LET US BUILD UP THE WALL".
 - C. I can do nothing, but WE can do great things for God.
 - D. US can cause ACTION but not I.
 - E. Team work is the answer.
 - F. We need leaders in the church today who can motivate others to greater service in the work of the Lord.

THE HEART OF THE STRONG LEADER
LESSON 6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. From the Scriptures we gain clear insight into the heart of a strong leader.
- B. It is the heart of a courageous leader for the Lord.
- C. Carefully consider the text and observe the strong and courageous heart which should beat within every leader of God's people.

1. THE HEART OF SERVICE.

- A. There was **WILLINGNESS** (2 Peter 1:12; 2 Corinthians 8:12).
 - 1. Peter's attitude in service was "I" am always ready.
 - 2. No matter what the task or the result.
 - 3. Peter was ready to serve!
- B. There was **COMMITMENT** (2 Peter 1:13,15; Romans 12:1,2).
 - 1. Peter felt a deep obligation to lead others.
 - 2. Peter knew that it was the right thing to do.
 - 3. He would be zealous and diligent.
- C. There was **COURAGE** (2 Peter 1:14; John 21:18,19).
 - 1. Peter knew that service to Christ would mean death.
 - 2. Peter refused to be afraid; he would still serve Christ.
- D. There was **CONSTANCY** (2 Peter 1:12-15; 1 Corinthians 15:58).
 - 1. Words like "always" and "diligence" tell us about Peter's service.

2. THE HEART OF THINKING ABOUT THE BRETHREN (2 Peter 1:13).

- A. We see how tender a leader's affection should be regarding those he guides.
- B. It should be as a father who wants nothing but the very best for his children.
- C. As a leader Peter would remind his brethren even if such reminders caused storms in their lives.
- D. As a leader Peter would gently, but consistently encourage spiritual growth.

3. THE HEART OF PURPOSE (2 Peter 1:15).

- A. The purpose for all Peter said and did was based on a future focal point.
- B. He wanted his brethren to be prepared for eternity.
- C. He wanted his labors to live on after death, so he was careful to build on the foundation of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:10).
- D. What is your supreme purpose in being a leader? If it is for personal glory, you would do yourself and those you lead a great service by removing yourself from leadership.
- E. Set your supreme purpose in being a leader on helping others prepare for heaven.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Strong and courageous leaders are needed to arise and hold high the banner of Christ.
- B. We need leaders who, like Peter, have a courageous heart toward their service, brethren, and purpose.
- C. May God continue to bless those who lead by setting a beautiful example as Peter did!
- D. "And when the Chief Shepherd shall be manifested, you shall receive the crown of glory that does not fade away".
(1 Peter 5:4)

AN ACTIVE LEADERSHIP
LESSON 7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Acts 6:1-7
- B. A congregation that is exciting and active will have an **active leadership.**
- C. An active leadership will.....

1. RECOGNIZE AND SOLVE CHURCH PROBLEMS.

- A. Acts 6:1-7
- B. 1 Corinthians 5:11-13
- C. Philippians 3:13,14

2. GET EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH INVOLVED.

- A. Acts 2:42-47
- B. Acts 6:2,3
- C. Acts 8:1,4,5

3. GET EVERYONE FOCUSED IN ON JESUS.

- A. Acts 4:13
- B. Acts 5:42
- C. Hebrews 12:1,2

CONCLUSION:

- A. When the Church has active leaders it will be active.
- B. When the Church has active leaders it will grow spiritually and numerically.
- C. When the Church has active leaders it is pleasing to the Lord.

MAKING DISCIPLES

BY ROBERT H. MARTIN

LESSON 1: MAKING DISCIPLES - THE BIBLE WAY
LESSON 2: WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?
LESSON 3: THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP
LESSON 4: WHAT ARE THE MARKS OF A DISCIPLE
LESSON 5: THE WORK OF A DISCIPLE

MAKING DISCIPLES - THE BIBLE WAY
LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. As New Testament Christians we should desire to "make disciples" - THE BIBLE WAY.
- B. Here is a way that has been tried, proven, and tested.
- C. The plan that was given by Jesus Christ himself was that of making disciples.

1. MAKING DISCIPLES WAS JESUS' PLAN.

- A. Luke 19:10
- B. Matthew 4:18-22
- C. John 1:43-45

2. THE GREAT COMMISSION BY MAKING DISCIPLES.

- A. Mark 16:15,16
- B. Matthew 28:19,20
- C. Acts 1:8

3. MAKING DISCIPLES PRODUCES GROWTH.

- A. Acts 2:41,47
- B. Acts 4:4
- C. Acts 5:14
- D. Acts 6:1

CONCLUSION:

- A. Those who are converted to Christ are to pass that same information on to others.
- B. We are to reproduce as children of God.
- C. We MUST GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES FOR JESUS.
- D. ARE YOU GOING AND MAKING DISCIPLES FOR JESUS?

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST?
LESSON 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The term is often used without knowing what it means and what is involved.
- B. How can we GO MAKE DISCIPLES if we do not know what one is or what one does?
- C. Let us look at Luke 9:23 and we will see what a DISCIPLE OF CHRIST IS.....

1. ONE MUST DENY HIMSELF.

- A. Luke 14:26
- B. Galatians 2:20
- C. Romans 12:1
- D. The word means to lose sight of self.

2. ONE IS TO TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY.

- A. Luke 14:27
- B. Galatians 5:24
- C. Colossians 3:5,6
- D. Baptism is the burial of a dead person.

3. ONE IS TO FOLLOW JESUS.

- A. Matthew 4:18-22
- B. Luke 5:27,28
- C. John 12:26

CONCLUSION:

- A. ARE YOU A DISCIPLE?
- B. ARE YOU MAKING DISCIPLES FOR JESUS?

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP
LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Our text is Luke 14:25-35
- B. The words of Jesus thinned the crowd.
- C. What was left were OBEDIENT DISCIPLES.
- D. In the text Jesus deals with the terms of commitment to Him.

1. JESUS DEALS WITH PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. (Luke 14:26)

- A. Jesus is talking about priority, what should be number one in your life.
- B. Realizing what is the most important thing in your life.
- C. Nothing should come between YOU and JESUS.

2. JESUS DEALS WITH PERSONAL DESIRES. (Luke 14:27)

- A. A cross meant DEATH in Christ's day.
- B. WE must DIE to ourselves (desires) and wishes.
- C. We should say, "YOUR WILL BE DONE FATHER, AND NOT MINE".

3. JESUS DEALS WITH PERSONAL POSSESSIONS. (Luke 14:33)

- A. Do not allow THINGS to own you.
- B. Hold everything loosely. Be ready to give them up.
- C. God may require you to give them up, or He may take them.
 - 1. Abraham had to give up Isaac.
 - 2. Job had to give up his possessions.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Decide now to pay the price.
- B. Commit and dedicate yourself to the Lord Jesus now.
- C. Giving all to Jesus and following Him has great benefits. (Mark 10:29,30)

WHAT ARE THE MARKS OF A DISCIPLE?
LESSON 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A disciple is a student, learner, and follower.
- B. A disciple conforms all of his mind, words, and actions to that of his teacher - Jesus. (Luke 6:40)
- C. Jesus lives in His disciples who conform to Him. (Galatians 2:20)
- D. It is the responsibility and privilege of the disciple to be like Jesus.
- E. WHAT ARE THE MARKS OF A DISCIPLE?

1. MUST ABIDE IN THE WORD.

- A. John 8:31
- B. John 14:15,23
- C. There are 3 things involved in abiding in the Word:
 - 1. ONE MUST RECEIVE IT. (Psalms 1:2)
 - 2. ONE MUST MEDIATE ON IT. (Colossians 3:16)
 - 3. ONE MUST APPLY IT. (James 1:22)

2. MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

- A. John 13:34,35
- B. Why is it a new commandment?
 - 1. NEW IN OBJECT (John 4:20)
 - 2. NEW IN MEASURE (Matthew 5:43-45)
 - 3. NEW IN PURPOSE (John 13:35)
- C. It is this love for one another that attracts others to become disciples of Jesus.

3. MUST BE BEARING FRUIT.

- A. John 15:5-10
- B. 1 Corinthians 3:6-9
- C. There are 3 things taught in John 15:
 - 1. Abiding in the Father's love (John 15:10).
 - 2. Keeping the Father's commandments (John 15:16).
 - 3. BEARING FRUIT (John 15:16).
- D. These three are like a three-legged stool. THEY ALL HELP SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Are YOU bearing the marks of a disciple?
- B. Is Jesus living IN YOU so that you will make other disciples for Him?
- C. ARE YOU TRULY A DISCIPLE OF JESUS?

THE WORK OF A DISCIPLE
LESSON 5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The work of a disciple can be described in the phrase, "GO MAKE DISCIPLES".
- B. Making disciples involves three things: EVANGELISM, EDIFICATION, AND EQUIPPING.
- C. Each one of these three are equally important in the work of a disciple.

1. EVANGELISM

- A. Matthew 28:19
- B. Mark 16:15
- C. Luke 19:10
- D. 1 Peter 2:21
- E. A disciple does not require a program or method, because his entire reason for living is to bring glory to God and people to Jesus.
- F. Therefore, EVANGELISM is as natural to a disciple as breathing.

2. EDIFYING

- A. Matthew 28:19,20
- B. Acts 14:21,22
- C. Acts 15:40,41
- D. Acts 16:5
- E. When someone is spiritually born, he cannot take care of himself.
- F. A new Christian needs guidance, encouragement and help continually.
- G. Edification is to bring the new Christian into maturity or "until Christ be formed in him" (Galatians 4:19).

3. EQUIPPING

- A. Ephesians 4:11,12
- B. 2 Timothy 2:2
- C. This is the process where a disciple is led from being convert to the point of his becoming a worker for Jesus.
- D. The disciple is equipped so that he can now teach others and edify other people.
- E. The disciple is trained in order that he will be able to reproduce himself in other people in the area of EVANGELISM, EDIFICATION, AND EQUIPPING.
- F. The process of EQUIPPING brings a disciple to the point of full maturity.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The complete PROCESS OF MAKING DISCIPLES is very much like the cycle of physical life:
 - 1. The first part (EVANGELISM) is very much like the birth of a child.
 - 2. The second part (EDIFICATION) is similar to the raising of the child.
 - 3. The third part (EQUIPPING) is like sending out the child who is now mature enough to reproduce and raise others.
- B. Let us realize that all three of these are equally important TO THE MAKING OF DISCIPLES.

LESSONS FROM A MISSIONARY'S WIFE

- LESSON 1: MISSIONARY WIFE AND HER WORK
- LESSON 2: HELPING YOUR FAMILY ON THE MISSION FIELD
- LESSON 3: WOMEN LET US RENEW OUR STRENGTH
- LESSON 4: WITH ALL BOLDNESS SPEAK

By Mary A. Martin

MISSIONARY WIFE AND HER WORK

INTRODUCTION:

- A. To be a missionary wife takes no great talent. It takes a desire to go or a wife that wants to please the Lord and her husband (Mark 16:15,16; 1 Corinthians 7:34).
 - B. Wives do not always feel so committed as husbands do to go to a foreign mission field. WHY - WHO KNOWS - except that usually we wives are so filled with caring for and being concerned for our children. Although our husband loves his children, he is more occupied with doing the Lord's work. His scope is the world and so many times we wives can only see our family.
 - C. There must be the going!
-
- 1. WIVES NEED MORE FAITH. (HEBREWS 11:1,6)
 - A. Faith is the foundation or the basis on which all our hopes for the future are built.
 - B. There is a great need for strong faith in God and Christ.
-
- 2. ABRAHAM LOVED GOD AND OBEYED HIM WHEN HE WAS CALLED TO GO OUT "UNTO A PLACE, NOT KNOWING WHITHER HE WENT". (HEBREWS 11:8).
 - A. Sarah must have loved God and her husband to go with him willingly.
 - B. We need faith on the field to carry and sustain us.
 - 1) Faith helps us to cope with the culture.
 - 2) Faith helps us to cope with the heavy load of our husband.
 - 3) Faith helps us to cope with being separated from family and friends.
 - 4) Faith helps us to cope with not having many physical things we are use to back in the States.
-
- 3. WOULD MANY WOMEN ENCOURAGE THEIR HUSBAND OUT OF LOVE FOR GOD AS SARAH DID?
 - A. By faith and love Abraham obeyed God!
 - B. Many of the verses in Hebrews 11 starts off with "BY FAITH".
 - 1. The characters of old obeyed God by faith.
 - C. We should want to develop our faith so that we can do more for God. (Romans 10:17)
 - D. Let us do more for the Lord. Find areas that you need improving on. We are not perfect, we have to work on our attitude. We need a mind to work.
 - E. People need to know that I care, not only what I know. A smile means the same in any language.

4. WHAT IS A MISSIONARY?
- A. A person with a mission. The greatest mission is one taking the Word of God. (Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16)
 - B. Whatever you do, do it heartily to the Lord whether it be here at home or overseas. (Colossians 3:23)
 - C. We women today are so much better off. When husbands have a deep desire to go they know where they are going. They know where their livelihood is coming from. Yet with all that knowledge too many times the faith is not strong enough
 - D. What can we experience that those before us have not already experienced worse. The apostles experienced hardship in order to teach lost souls. (Mark 16:15,16)
Desire: John 3:16 - souls need to hear God's word so they will not perish.

CONCLUSION:

- A. We must know that what we are doing for the Lord is going to make a difference in peoples lives.
- B. The joy of others putting on Christ is a joy that can hardly be described.
- C. If our husband is willing to go and teach the lost, who are we to stand in his way.

HELPING YOUR FAMILY BE HAPPY ON THE MISSION FIELD

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Happiness is something that we all have or should desire.
- B. Have you ever heard it said that we make our own happiness?
 - 1. WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT HEARTILY AS TO THE LORD.
(Colossians 3:23,24)
- A. Wherever we are, we should work for the Lord. We should be happy that we can serve him. Do it eagerly and happily.
- B. The book of Philippians is a book of encouragement. Paul talks about joy or rejoice in every chapter. Lets look at chapter 1:4 ; 2:17 ; 3:1 ; 4:4.
- C. We have so many things to be thankful for. Sometimes we think that we have all the problems and no one else has any. Do you feel that way sometimes?
- D. We must stop dwelling on the bad and look to the good. We need to learn to be joyful.
- 2. WE KNOW AND WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE MISSION FIELD IS THE WORLD AROUND US.
 - A. Wherever we live the people need the gospel. It is up to us to get it to them.
 - B. Many of us have a husband who wants to go to a foreign land to do mission work. Some of you may have a husband that will want to go to a foreign land in the future to do mission work.
 - C. We need to prepare ourselves for this task.
 - 1) We need first to prepare our minds. Why are we making such a trip so far away? Because there are people who are lost, and they deserve to hear the gospel. If we are going, we must make our minds up that we are going to be happy!!!
 - 2) If you listen to other people and their negativeness, we will never know what to do. For some people will tell you that you should not go overseas without starting your family first. Others will say you should not go overseas when your children are small. Others will say never take your pre-teens. Again, others will say you should not take your teenagers!! When are we to go??!! By what we have just heard there is never the right time. After much prayer and consideration only you and your husband can make that decision. The Lord will help you to make the right decision.
 - 3) As I said, we must prepare our mind. Take our children. Be a mother to them there as you are anywhere. Spend time with them, love them, make them happy. What does the Lord require of us? Deuteronomy 10:12,13 Let us look in Deuteronomy 6:5-7. This He requires of us to teach our children. Turn to Ephesians 6:4.

- 4) Our children need to know why we are in this strange land. Because we love the Lord. We need to teach our children to love others. (1 John 4:11; John 15:12) Our children need to learn that physical things are not the most important thing in life. Maybe we have not learned that ourselves! (1 John 2:15)
3. WE NEED TO LEARN WHAT LOVE IS.
 - A. We know that beautiful chapter of 1 Corinthians 13. Let us consider a few of these distributions of love.
 - 1) Love suffereth long - love is patient.
 - 2) Love is kind
 - 3) Love seeketh not her own - love is unselfish.
 - 4) Love endureth all things.
 - B. In verse 13 Paul goes on to say faith is great, hope is great, and love is great, but the greatest of these is love.
 - C. Do we love the Lord? Do we love the lost? Do we love our husband? Do we love our children? Do we love our fellow Christians?
 - 4 IF OUR FAMILY IS TO BE HAPPY ON THE MISSION FIELD, WE WIVES MUST BE HAPPY.
 - A. We are going to play a great part in making our family happy.
 - B. When we went up to South Carolina, at that time was a mission field, I was determined to be happy. It seemed so very far away from home! When we went to the islands that was even further away from home. I made up my mind that I was going to like it and it became home. Never expect too much and you want get disappointed!
 - C. Attitude plays a big part in our lives. A bad attitude rubs off on our children as well as a good one. We must realize that we will have good days and bad ones. Life is just ups and downs.
 5. IF WE ARE TO MAKE OUR FAMILY HAPPY ON THE MISSION FIELD, WE MUST LEARN TO BE CONTENT WHERE WE ARE.
 - A. Paul said in whatsoever state I am in I have learned to be content. (Philippians 4:11) We as Christians not only overseas, but wherever we are, need to be content with what we have.
 - B. If parents are happy, then the children will be happy. Let your children learn to mix with the local children. (going to villages) Do not worry about them. Children many times can be a great source to lead someone to Christ.
 - C. Help meet the needs of your family. If we have grown children that we have left behind, we need to keep a good line of communication open with them. I try to write our children once every week. We can call them. We do not have to feel that we are cut off from them.

I feel that we need to be understanding to the needs of the younger children that had to leave their older brother or sister behind. This is not an easy thing for them. I remember my sister telling me what a hard time her two younger sons had when they had to leave their two older brothers behind to go overseas. We experienced that with Maria when we left Mark behind. When we went back without Tonya that was really hard! If we think about it, we think we cannot make it. God sustains us.

- D. We as wives and mothers need to realize that our first and main role is that of a homemaker. Love our husband and our children.

CONCLUSION:

- A. We must trust in the Lord for His care. He is going to take care of us if we serve Him. After my surgery on the colon, I had a bowel blockage in Samoa. If you had ever seen the hospital there, you would say what I did, "Send me to Hawaii!" There was no time. It was surgery in Samoa or death the doctor said. I said, "Do it now!" God was with me and took care of me.
- B. Love the Lord with all your heart.
- C. Love the work you are doing for Him.
- D. With the Lord's help you will be happy and as a result of your happiness, your family will be happy.

WOMEN LET US RENEW OUR STRENGTH

ISAIAH 40:31

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Women let us renew our strength in serving the Lord.
The Lord is Lord of all.
 - B. Many times we feel weak and do not serve the Lord as we should.
 - C. Being a Christian means we never stop serving the Lord. His will must come first to us.
 - D. Christ is our example. (1 Peter 2:21; Matthew 26:39).
 - E. We can not live as we please. (2 Corinthians 5:14,15).
-
- 1. LET US RENEW OUR STRENGTH IN GROWING STRONGER AS A CHRISTIAN.
 - A. How to grow as a Christian is by growing spiritually.
 - 1. The key word is DESIRE.
 - 2. We must first have a desire to be a stronger Christian.
 - B. How sad to go through your life without wanting to be a better Christian! (2 Peter 3:18).
 - 1. What will make us grow! (1 Peter 2:2).
 - 2. There is that word desire. We must have that desire for God's word.
 - C. Many things in our lives can contribute to our being better Christians, but one thing we must do is study the word if we are to grow as a Christian. (Deuteronomy 5:1; Deuteronomy 31:12,13).
 - 1. How can we keep God's word if we do not know it?!
 - 2. The Bible is God's word. (Psalms 119:105).
 - 3. The word of God guides us in the right path...it lights our way each day.
 - D. I have heard so many people say that the scriptures give them such comfort.
 - 1. That before they start the day, they love to say different passages; one of my favorites is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
 - 2. God's word does give us comfort. (Romans 15:4)
 - E. If we do not have a deep desire for God's word, we must make ourselves develop it.
 - 1. Anything else we want to do we make sure we have time for it. James 4:8 says, "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you". We cannot be close to God if we do not keep His word in our heart. (Psalms 119:10-16).
 - 2. How can we go and teach others as Jesus said in Matthew 28:19,20 if we do not know what Jesus has taught?
 - 3. How can we teach our children when we do not even know what God's word says ourselves!
 - 4. If we know God's word, we are happy. (Proverbs 3:13).

5. We cannot live on physical things only.
(Matthew 4:4). If we feed our bodies for 100 years we will still die. The way we feed our spiritual soul depends on our spiritual life never dying. One way to commit spiritual suicide is do not study! The more we study the more we desire to study. (Matthew 5:6).
2. LET US RENEW OUR STRENGTH IN THE WORK FOR THE MASTER.
 - A. In living a Christian life we must work hard to be steadfast in living a life that will bring glory to the Master. (1 Corinthians 15:58)
 - B. As we journey through our lives we want to live in a way that we will win souls to the Lord.
 1. Sometimes when we talk of winning souls, we get afraid that we are not capable.
 2. Everyone we meet is a soul that needs God.
 3. There is no better way to win someone to Christ than being a good example in our lives before them.
 4. By our example we may cause others to sin or bring reproach on the church.
 - C. We want to show others what it is to be a Christian.
 1. Show them that being a Christian is living a life of devotion to God. Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you".
 2. Christianity is a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week living. It is a positive way of life not a negative.
 - D. We need to have positive goals in our lives. An important part of Christianity is to live a good life of service to the Lord. (Deuteronomy 10:12).
 1. So many times we want the church to be a certain way, but for the church to be what it should be - we must be the kind of Christian we should be. (1 Timothy 6:12; Matthew 6:33) Do you seek?
 2. There are so many things we can do. We should not stand back, but we should say here am I, what can I do. We need to do all we can for the Lord. Do not worry about making a mistake.
 3. Have you ever heard this?
SHE MADE NOT MISTAKES
TOOK NO WRONG ROAD
SHE NEVER FUMBLER OR FELL
NEATH THE WEIGHT OF A LOAD
SHE SIMPLY DID NOTHING AT ALL.
 - E. The Lord expects us to be busy fulfilling our roles as Christian women.
 1. Let us reach down and gain our strength and devote ourselves to our task as wives, mothers, and workers in the vineyard of the Lord and Master.
 2. Your talent may just be encouraging others, but oh what a great talent that is. There is so much to be done in the work of the Master.

3. LET US RENEW OUR STRENGTH IN HEAVEN.
- A. The purpose of living a Christian life is so that we can go to heaven. (Colossians 3:2)
1. We must have a deep desire for heaven. (2 Corinthians 5:1,2).
- B. People are dying everyday and leaving a will with their inheritance left to family or friends.
1. What better inheritance can a Christian have than that of heaven. (1 Peter 1:4; Hebrews 9:15).
 2. We need to put our treasures in heaven. (Matthew 6:19-21) Paul considered heaven a far better place when he said in Philippians 1:23 "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better".
- C. Some may say it is so hard to be strong and faithful in the Lord all the time!
- D. There are so many things that seem to stand in our way.
1. There seem to be so many temptations that seem to pull me down. Let us look at 1 Corinthians 10:13.
 2. We must learn that we are not the only ones that face temptations.
 3. But God will make a way for escape. Sometimes we fail to look for that escape.
 4. We must learn to depend more on the Lord. (Hebrews 2:18).
- E. Let us look at James 1:2-4 then verse 12 .
1. Heaven is promised to those that love God and stay faithful to Him for the rest of their lives.
 2. To gain heaven as our goal, we must live a faithful life of service to the Lord. (Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:8).
- F. Let heaven be your goal as a Christian. We can encourage each other and help each other to renew our strength in serving God.
1. I think that the whole verse of Isaiah 40:31 speaks it so clearly. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and faint not."

CONCLUSION:

- A. There is a song that sums up our lesson.
It is 480, "Soldiers of Christ, Arise"

WITH ALL BOLDNESS SPEAK

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Ladies, we can be bold for the Lord.
 - B. This is a wonderful time that we can take to really make a commitment to God.
 - C. Do you sometimes feel that you are not able to really be bold enough to share God's word with others?
-
- 1. OUR THEME IS WITH ALL BOLDNESS SPEAK.
 - A. Let us look at Ephesians 6:19,20.
 - B. Paul said in verse 18 "Praying always".
 - C. There is a key for us, pray to the Lord to give us the courage we may need to be bold for the Lord.
-
- 2. AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST.
 - A. We are either a good ambassador or a bad one.
 - B. An ambassador is an authorized representative or messenger.
 - C. We represent Christ and we have a message.
 - 1. The message is the gospel.
 - D. We must be bold and proudly carry that message to others.
 - E. We as Christians have a responsibility in teaching the lost.
 - 1. This responsibility is not just for the men, it is our responsibility as well.
 - F. We have many opportunities to bring someone to the Christ.
 - 1. Do we stop and use those opportunities that we do have?
 - 2. Let us look at Matthew 5:16.
 - 3. By doing good works people see our good works and the Father gets the glory.
 - G. Many times today it takes boldness to let our light shine with those around us.
 - 1. We are made fun of for being a Christian. (1 Corinthians 1:18).
 - 2. Now let us look at Acts 4:10-12. What better name to wear than the name Christian.
-
- 3. LET US LOOK AT ACTS 4:13-22.
 - A. Because of Peter and John's boldness to stand for God, the people realized that they had been with Jesus.
 - B. All men glorified God, because of the things that they had done.
 - C. We must stand for the Lord so that others can see Christ in us.
 - D. It is sad when we over hear someone telling someone else, "you know they are a Christian, and the answer that is given is, "I would never have known, because of how they live".
 - E. Let us look at Joshua 24:15. Joshua said, "you choose for yourself, but for me and my house we will serve the Lord".

- F. It is wonderful to stand for the Lord and not be ashamed. (Romans 1:16).

CONCLUSION

- A. In 1973 we packed up our worldly goods and headed for the Fiji Islands to work for the Lord. I was not very bold for the Lord. It did not take long for me to meet people that were willing to put Christ on in baptism. I saw many become very bold in standing for the truth of the gospel. Seeing their boldness helped me to try to be more bold in my willingness to share Christ.
- B. Let us be bold in being Christians.

WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

LESSON 1 RUTH, WHO WAS LOVED BECAUSE SHE WAS LOVABLE
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JEZEBAL

By Mary A. Martin

RUTH, WHO WAS LOVED, BECAUSE SHE WAS LOVABLE

INTRODUCTION:

- A. All the world loves a love story. This is one reason Ruth is near the top in every list of favorite Bible women. Another reason is that she possessed a rare combination of beauty, goodness and gentleness which caused her to be loved and respected by both men and women.
 - B. Let us read Ruth 1:1-18. I want to encourage you to read the four short chapters of Ruth. If you have read them, go back and read them again.
 - C. Try to imagine Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus and the city of David, four generations before David was born. There lived Elimelech and Naomi and their two sons. Famine caused them to go to Moab, a heathen nation, in search of food. "And Elimelech, Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons, and her sons took them wives of women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other was Ruth; and they dwelt there about ten years. And Mahlon and Chilion, Naomi's sons, died also, both of them." Three widows were left faced with having to provide for themselves in a difficult world.
 - D. The courage and devotion of the youthful widow, Ruth, and the older widow, Naomi, inspires us.
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- 1. A DECISION THAT DETERMINED RUTH'S FUTURE.
 - A. In sorrow after the loss of both her husband and sons, Naomi decided to return to her homeland. Ruth and Orpah started with her to Bethlehem, but she tries to get them to return to their homes in Moab. Orpah kissed Naomi and returned. Then came Ruth's decision - would she go with Orpah or stay with Naomi. Then we read these words of deep feeling in Ruth 1:16,17.
 - B. There are times when every woman has to make a decision which determines her life. When Ruth turned from idols to the living God and set her face toward Bethlehem, she made a decision which determined not only the remainder of her earthly life, but also her eternal welfare. The opposite decision would have led her back to idolatry, as it did Orpah.
 - C. Life is a series of decisions. We should consider carefully the choices which may effect us eternally. (Matthew 25:42-46) We need to take a stand like Ruth and as Joshua did in Joshua 24:15.
 - D. A decision to obey God may involve leaving dear things; family, friends, early training and manner of life. Ruth did this, and there is no hint that she ever looked back wanting her idols. So must it be with those who become Christians - a willingness to give up everything, if necessary, to reach the one pearl of great price. (Matthew 13:45,46)

2. WHAT IT TAKES FOR A LOVELY LIFE.
 - A. Ruth had true beauty that comes from the heart. Ruth's gentle goodness flowed from her heart. We will look at some things that belong to this lovely life.
 - B. Ruth was a hard worker. When she and Naomi reached Bethlehem, Ruth suggested. "Let me now go to the field and glean ears of corn." (Ruth 2:2) She was not lazy. She was willing to work hard to help not only herself but her mother-in-law. Slothfulness has always been condemned by God. (Ecclesiastes 9:10; 2 Thessalonians 3:10)
 - C. Ruth had a grateful heart. It so happened that in her search for food she went to the field of Boaz, who insisted that she glean in his fields and partake of every hospitality. "Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?" (Ruth 2:10) Ruth was able to express her gratitude. This should make us realize the need of expressing gratitude to others.
 - D. Faith in God was no doubt the basis of Ruth's lovely life. "Thy God shall be my God". The words that she said to Naomi. When one has completely given her heart to God, then beautiful characteristics start to come from the soul. (Hebrews 11:6)
 - E. Ruth was virtuous (had good morals or goodness). Boaz said, "All the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman". (Ruth 3:11) Ruth was a gem among women, for Proverbs 31:10 says, "A virtuous woman, her price is far above rubies". The light of good works extends far and continues to bless even after one's departure from this world. (Revelation 14:13)
3. THE REWARDS OF RUTH'S RIGHTEOUSNESS. When Ruth turned from idols to serve the living God, she made the right decision. Boaz wished for her a rich reward. (Ruth 2:12) After trying days of sorrow and poverty and hardship, the sun of God's love bathed her life with warmth and gladness.
 - A. Ruth had the reward of refuge under God's wings. Let us read Proverbs 5,6. We have to do our part. This is to trust in the Lord.
 - B. Ruth had the reward of a good husband. Boaz was wealthy, he was respected, he was honest, he was grateful and he was concerned about God's law.
 - C. Ruth had the reward of motherhood. After ten years and not having children, Ruth married Boaz and was blessed with a son. His name was Obed. (Ruth 4:13,17)

- D. Ruth had the reward of a place in the lineage of Christ. Obed was the grandfather of David. Ruth became the mother of Kings: David, Solomon, and the King of Kings, Jesus. What a blessing for Ruth to be a part of the lineage of Christ. Christians today have a relationship to Christ which is closer and more personal than any family tie. (Matthew. 12:46-50)

CONCLUSION:

- A. OH! THAT WE CAN BE THE KIND OF PERSON THAT RUTH WAS AND THAT OTHERS MIGHT SEE THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN US!
- B. What one decision determined the entire course of Ruth's life? (Ruth 1:16)
- C. Could Ruth have enjoyed the sweet relationship with Naomi, if she had allowed selfishness or jealousy to creep into her heart? NO.

SARAH, WIFE OF THE WORLD'S MOST HONORED MAN

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Abraham is respected and honored by more people than any man who has ever lived.
 - B. Sarah had the privilege of being his wife.
 - C. What made Sarah a servant of God?
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- 1. SARAH WAS A SERVANT, BECAUSE OF HER FAITH.
(Genesis 12:1-5)
 - A. Together with her husband she accepted this challenge to take a new step of faith and follow God into the unknown.
 - B. To separate themselves from worldly surroundings, families and friends.
 - 2. SARAH WAS A SERVANT, BECAUSE SHE OBEYED HER HUSBAND.
(1 Peter 3:1-6)
 - A. In the New Testament Sarah is commended for two things:
 - 1) Faith and 2) obedience to her husband. Woman was created to be man's helper, not his ruler (Genesis 2:18).
 - B. When we finally began to obey God by allowing our husband to be the head of the family, most of our disappointments will be done away with. His attitude toward being the head of the family will improve unbelievably, and we will be happier.
 - 3. SARAH WAS GODLY, BUT NOT PERFECT.
 - A. God does not attempt to make the characters in the Bible look all good, yet He reveals weakness, as well as strength. At times the most faithful men and women fall below the high standards of God.
 - B. Sarah deceived and lied concerning who she was. (Genesis 12:10-20). Fear led them to sin.
 - C. Sarah's faith weakened because of her great desire to have a child. God had promised Abraham seed meaning children. Sarah could not wait. (Genesis 16:1-6).
 - D. Sarah's faith weakened again for a moment when three angels told Abraham that she would give birth to a son. What did Sarah do, she laughed. (Genesis 18:9-15). Sarah's laughter of unbelief was rebuked by the angel. In verse 14 of chapter 18 he said, "Is anything too hard for the Lord"? What a statement, can we have that kind of faith, yes! Sarah's doubt soon faded and a strong faith lasted the rest of her life as far as we know.
 - E. Unbelief leaves more unanswered questions. It calls for more blind faith than does belief in God. We human beings have spiritual abilities not possessed by any other creature. There is the feeling to worship, love of beauty, reason, imagination, judgment, and conscience. Where did those feelings come from, yes from God! IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD!

4. SARAH WAS A SERVANT OF GOD, BECAUSE SHE WAS WILLING TO ENTERTAIN. (Genesis 18:1-8)
 - A. Three strangers came to their home, and no lesson in hospitality could be more plainly given.
 - B. They made them feel welcome, at ease, and were unselfish.
 - C. 1 PETER 4:9; ROMANS 12:13
5. SARAH WAS A SERVANT, BECAUSE SHE WAS A BLESSING TO OTHERS. (Genesis 12:2)
 - A. The faith of Sarah and her husband caused God to pour out blessings upon them, but in turn they were to bless others.
 - B. The righteous person is known by the whole world. (Luke 1:48)
 - C. Inspiring others, lifting others, setting in motion good influence in every direction that helps to lift others up.
 - D. Sarah and her husband were light and leaven in a world filled with spiritual darkness.
 - E. Sarah's most outstanding contribution to the world was made during her advanced years.
 - 1) She became the mother of Isaac.
 - 2) Through Isaac's lineage Christ was born and the whole world blessed above measure.
 - F. Older women in the Lord's church are free to do so many things that were not possible in their younger years when family responsibilities were so heavy.

CONCLUSION:

- A. What a great example Sarah is to us today!
- B. Does it speak well of Sarah that Abraham felt free to invite strangers in, confident that she would welcome them no matter how much work it involved?
(Colossians 3:23)

WOMANLY COURAGE IN DEBORAH

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We find Deborah in the book of Judges (Old Testament). Judges is a book that leads us through the fall of God's people into idolatry (worship of idols). Their backsliding into idolatry is followed by enemy armies forcing them to give in to their cruel control.
 - B. The book of Judges is centered on the personalities of heroic "judges" who were raised to deliver Israel (God's people), if they repented of their sin. (Judges 4:1,2)
 - C. It seemed that as long as Ehud was alive, he kept the people from idolatry. Israel became so evil that no man was righteous enough to judge Israel! (Judges 2:18,19)
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- 1. DEBORAH BECOMES JUDGE. (Judges 4:4,5)
 - A. Deborah was a wise, courageous, yet humble woman. She gave glory to God. (Judges 4:6; 5:2)
 - B. Together with Barak, Deborah saved Israel from the Canaanites.
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- 2. DEBORAH WAS COURAGEOUS (BRAVE).
 - A. God promises to give Israel victory over Jabins army. (Judges 4:6,7)
 - B. This victory God promised should have made Barak bold, but instead he does not feel brave enough to go by himself. (Judges 4:8) God had clearly stated, "I will deliver them into your hands" vs 7. Did Barak truly believe God would keep His promise? Did he believe God would be with him? God is not pleased with those who doubt. (James 1:6-8)
 - C. Would you have the courage to do what God tells you to do? We find in God's word all the instructions that we need to know God's will for us. God has commanded us to believe in Christ. (John 8:24) God tells us to repent of our sins. (Acts 17:30). God tells us to confess his Son. (Romans 10:9-10) God then tells us to be immersed or baptized in water for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38). Then we must live faithfully. (Revelation 2:10) The promise is eternal life. (1 John. 5:11; Titus 1:2)
 - D. There is no reason to hesitate in obeying God. (Deuteronomy 31:6; 2 Chronicles 19:11).
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- 3. DEBORAH WAS WISE.
 - A. Deborah knew that the battle would not be won without her. (Judges 4:9) Barak is told that he will get no glory from this battle, for Sisera will be delivered into the hands of a woman.
 - B. Deborah prophesied, the battle was won, and Sisera was slain by Jael. (Judges 4:17-21)

- C. Knowing God's word can make us wise. (2 Timothy 3:15)
 - D. We need to be wise in our lives as Christians.
(Matthew 10:16)
4. DEBORAH IS HUMBLE.
- A. Deborah writes a song praising God for deliverance.
(Judges 5:1)
 - B. Deborah and Barak sang together. (Judges 5:2-31)
(We will only read Judges 5:2-8)
 - C. Deborah's love for Israel is pictured as that of a mother's for her children as she protects them.
 - D. As a woman we are to love our children. (Titus 2:4)
It is not enough to love just our immediate (own) family.
 - 1. We must love our Christian family, the church. We must study and know what the church that Jesus died for is like.
 - 2. When or if we see of brothers our sisters fall into worldliness, we must say like Deborah, "I will do something".
 - 3. Christian women and men need to learn that when the church needs help, we need to be there to stand firm for the Lord. (Romans 15:1; Matthew 25:45)
 - E. We must humble ourselves as a Christian.
(James 4:6,10; 1 Peter 5:6)

CONCLUSION:

- A. Deborah's song of praise and thanksgiving to God reminds us: That when things we have to overcome in life, when things go from bad to good, when a trail is past, we need to praise and thank God of heaven for the victory.
- B. Can we be like Deborah in our lives?

WOMEN WHO HURT THEIR HUSBANDS: MICHAL AND JEZEBEL

INTRODUCTION:

- A. When we look at the life of Michal we do not see a pretty picture.
 - B. Michal was the younger daughter of Saul, king of Israel. When you remember after David had killed Goliath, he was, for a time, in good favor with king Saul.
 - C. David was not permitted to return to his father's house. King Saul sent him on special missions and set him over men of war. (1 Samuel 18:2,5)
 - D. Michal's brother, Jonathan, became good friends with David. David won the hearts of the people, and this caused the jealousy of Saul.
 - E. Saul promised David the hand of his elder daughter, Merab, in marriage. When the time came, she was given to another to wed. This was probably an act of revenge on Saul's part. Michal, the younger daughter, loved David. (1 Samuel 18:19,20) When Saul was told of Michal's feelings about David, this made him happy. Maybe Saul thought that his daughter could help him against David.
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- 1. Michal was given to David for his wife.
 - A. Saul tries to kill David, but Michal warns him and helps David escape. (1 Samuel 19:11-17)
 - B. It appeared that Michal's love for David was strong. No one should be able to come between the love and loyalty which exists between husband and wife. (Titus 2:4; 1 Corinthians 13:3-8)
 - C. Since Saul tried to kill David, he could no longer return home. It is not good for husbands and wives to be apart for long periods of time. (1 Corinthians 7:1-5)
 - D. With the long separation of David and Michal, Michal was given to another man (Palti). David also finds another wife, Abigail. (1 Samuel 25:39,44)
 - E. God does not approve of this kind of arrangement such as David and Michal had. (Matthew 19:7-9)
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- 2. DAVID BECOMES KING
 - A. When David becomes king, he demands that Michal be returned to him. Michal who had loved David, now learns to despise (hate) him. (2 Samuel 6:16)
 - B. No longer was Michal loyal to her husband. She became bitter, having hate in her heart.
 - C. Michal was jealous of her husband's relationship to the people. Marriage must be built on trust. (Proverbs 31:11,12)
 - D. Michal was a bad example for us. We as a wife do not want to follow her example. We must do good to our husband.

3. JEZEBEL, THE WICKED QUEEN. (1 KINGS 16:29-33)
- A. Jezebel was a strong minded, determined and wicked queen. She had decided to worship idols and do evil.
 - B. Jezebel not only kept her false gods with her, she worshiped and served Baal and got her husband Ahab to turn against the true and living God and serve Baal also.
 - C. Worshipers of Baal not only worshiped false gods, but they offered human sacrifices, especially small children. (Jeremiah 19:5) (Baal was the false male god of the Phoenicians, and Canaanites)
 - D. Jezebel was so evil. She brought her husband right into her evil deeds. (1 Kings 21:25)
 - E. Jezebel became a mother and her daughter followed her wickedness. (2 Kings 8:16-18) Jezebel's daughter's name was Athaliah.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Those that do evil will have their reward. Jezebel had hers. (2 Kings 9:30-37)
- B. The whole family of Ahab received their reward. (2 Kings 10:11)
- C. Jezebel was evil in her life and her family followed her example.
- D. We shall receive what we put out. (Galatians 6:7,8; Romans 12:17-19)
- E. We must love God and one another. (1 John 4: 7-11)
- F. Let us as Christian women do good to our husbands. (Romans 12:9) Let us help our husbands to live a Christian life so that we both may someday receive a crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)

WOMEN IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

LESSON 1	MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS
LESSON 2	SAPPHIRA, THE LYING WIFE
LESSON 3	DORCAS, THE BEAUTIIFUL WOMAN
LESSON 4	LYDIA, THE RELIGIOUS WOMAN
LESSON 5	PRISCILLA, THE HELPER

By Mary A. Martin

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Mary was an outstanding person. We know this, because God chose her to bring Jesus into the world. (Luke 1:26-33)
- B. In Luke 1:38 we see Mary's humble character.
- C. The first three months following the visit by the heavenly messenger, Mary was with Elizabeth. Elizabeth and Mary were related. (Luke 1:36,56)
- D. Joseph was chosen to be the husband of Mary. We know that Joseph must have been a good man for he was chosen by God to be Jesus' earthly caretaker (father). (Luke 2:48)
- E. We do not hear much of Joseph. He was with Mary when Jesus was 12 years old and they traveled to Jerusalem. (Luke 2:42,43)
- F. Joseph could have been dead by the time Jesus was crucified, because Jesus committed Mary to the care of John. (John 19:26-27)

1. MARY WAS MOST HONORED OF WOMEN (TO BE THE MOTHER OF JESUS).

- A. Jesus was Mary's firstborn son. (Luke 2:7)
- B. After the story of the birth of Jesus, and his visit to Jerusalem at the age of 12, very little is said of Mary.
- C. According to Matthew 13:55-56, Mary was the mother of at least six children besides Jesus.

2. MARY AS SEEN BY THE WORLD.

- A. Many people in the world want to set Mary up as one to be worshiped or one to reach God. (Matthew 4:10; I Timothy 2:5)
- B. We want to look at some scriptures that show that Mary had no special authority or place to fill other than bringing Jesus into the world. (Matthew 12:47-50; Luke 11:27,28;)

3. MARY SHARED IN THE CARES COMMON TO MOTHERHOOD.

- A. Mary's heart must have been heavy when she was concerned about Jesus' safety. Jesus was just a baby when the angel appeared to Joseph telling them to flee to Egypt for Herod was looking for baby Jesus to kill Him. (Matthew 2:13-15)
- B. Mary must have heard of the killing of the children by Herod. (Matthew 2:16)
- C. When Herod died, Jesus was safe. (Matthew 2:19-21)
Jesus was safe from Herod and grew.
- D. When Jesus was 12 years old the family traveled to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When everything was finished, they returned home. They had only gone a days journey when they found that Jesus was not with them. That must have been a frightful

thing for his mother. They returned for Him to find Him in the temple talking with the teachers. (Luke 2:41-52)

- E. Mary would have taught Jesus from early childhood the stories and precepts of the Old Testament. Since Jesus grew up under the Old Law, these scriptures were surely applied. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)
 - F. We as Christian mothers must do no less for our children.
 - G. We can never get tired of teaching our children God's word. (Proverbs 22:6)
 - H. We as mothers should never let anything stand in our way of training our children. It is our responsibility as parents to train our children in the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)
4. MARY PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN JESUS' MINISTRY.
- A. Mary encouraged Jesus' first miracle. (John 2:1-12)
 - B. Mary stayed with Jesus even to His death. (John 19:25-27)

CONCLUSION:

- A. We see Mary in the book of Acts after Jesus had been taken up into heaven.
- B. Mary was with the disciples in the upper room. (Acts 1:13-14)
- C. This was the last mention of Mary, the mother of Jesus.
- D. Mary is a great example for us as Christian women.

SAPPHIRA, THE LYING WIFE

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We want to start our lesson by going to Acts 4:32-37 and reading this Scripture.
- B. In our reading we can see that the believers in Christ shared.
- C. We can see some background to what was happening.

1. ACTS 5:1-11

- A. There was a man named Ananias and his wife was Sapphira.
 - 1. They thought they wanted to be followers of Jesus!
 - 2. They had a problem; they could not be truthful. (Revelation 22:14,15)
- B. The followers were selling their houses and fields and sharing with each other.
 - 1. The apostles were not commanding that they sale all they had and give it.
 - 2. Instead, they were showing that they were joined in their hearts by selling their things and sharing with each other.
- C. Ananias said that the money he gave was all that their land was sold for.
 - 1. Even Peter told him that the land was his to sell and the money was his to give. (vs 4)
 - 2. Instead, Ananias lied not only to man, but to God.
- D. To make matters worse Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, had already decided to lie.
 - 1. Sapphira would come in a few hours later and back up her husband's lie. (verse 2)
 - 2. Maybe Sapphira and her husband had not counted the cost of following Jesus.

2. MAKING A CHOICE.

- A. Following Jesus is our choice to make.
 - 1. When we choose the ways which be in Christ, we choose to seek Him out. (Acts 17:27-28)
- B. When we choose to follow Jesus, many other choices are automatically made.
 - 1. The decisions relating to our behavior are to be purposed in our hearts when we take that first step. (Colossians 3:8-10)
- C. When we choose Jesus, we choose freedom. (Romans 8:1,2; John 8:36)
 - 1. Sapphira and her husband did not love Jesus enough to be honest in following Him.
- D. When we choose Jesus, we know His love and we have power over circumstances and events around us.
 - 1. We have that power, because God gives us the strength. (Ephesians 3:19-20)

- E. Choosing Jesus is something that has to be done continuously.
 - 1. The world is always trying to put itself between us and Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:12)
 - 2. Could we say that Sapphira and her husband let the things of the world, physical things such as money and possession, block their minds?
- F. When we choose Jesus, we make ourselves different from the world. (John 15:19)
- 3. WE FIND EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE FOLLOWING JESUS.
 - A. One of those people was Peter.
 - B. Peter chose to listen to Jesus when Jesus told him to continue fishing in the lake (Luke 5:4-6).
 - C. We see that when Peter followed what Jesus said, they caught so many fish that the net was breaking.
 - D. When we follow Jesus, we will be successful just as Peter was.
 - E. In Acts 5:27-29 we see that Peter and the other apostles confirmed that they must obey God and not man.
- 4. LOVING JESUS AND OBEYING HIM.
 - A. Sapphira and her husband loved the things of the world more than Jesus.
 - B. The things of the world, whether it be money, clothes, houses, cars or anything, will not last. The one who does the will of God, follows Christ, abides forever. (1 John 2:15-17)
 - C. When we choose to do right, we are rewarded with the presence of Jesus in our lives. (John 14:21)
 - D. When we obey the gospel, when we choose "the way which be in Christ", Jesus does wonderful things for us. He loves us, He cleanses us, and He makes us kings and priests. (Revelations 1:5-6)

CONCLUSION:

- A. The husband of a friend of mine died at the age of 42 with leukemia.
- B. He had left letters behind for his wife, their children, and a friend.
- C. I want to share with you a small section of a letter. He wrote, "What a wonderful glorious thing God did by sending His son and giving His only son for us that we might have life with Him and that love, truth, and life might become the victor in the end. I am ready to meet God and His judgment for I know even though none are worthy of His mercy, that He is merciful. Do not ever depart from the faith and let love always abound in your life"...
- D. He was a dedicated Christian. It is wonderful to live a life so we could say these words as Paul did. Let us look at 2 Timothy 4:7-8.

DORCAS, THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INTRODUCTION:

- A. ACTS 9:36-42
 - B. The story of Dorcas in Acts 9 is one of those beautiful character stories that makes the Bible the best seller.
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- 1. LET US LOOK AT THE BACKGROUND OF DORCAS.
 - A. Dorcas was a woman from Joppa. Joppa was a seaport city. (2 Chronicles 2;16; Acts 10:5,6)
 - B. We find a woman named Tabitha translated into Greek, it was Dorcas. She was a woman "full of good works and charitable deeds. These things she did were entirely voluntary, because it was a way to serve the Lord. Dorcas was a dressmaker, but instead of enriching herself by sewing only for money, she enriched her soul by sewing for love. The garments she made for the poor, she really made for the Lord. Dorcas continually abounded with deeds of kindness and charity. (Acts 9:36) Dorcas was a Christian woman who had been a loving friend and assisted many people that were in need.
 - C. Is there anything you can do for the poor, the widow, the needy? There are many around you who are being neglected. There are those who have less than you who need your help.
 - D. "In those days" Dorcas died. God had given much to the church in Joppa when He gave Dorcas to it. Now, even in her death God is going to use Dorcas.
 - E. Her sorrowful friends sent for the apostle Peter. They asked that Peter not delay, but come quickly. Peter was in Lydda and could be there within five or six hours. They must have wanted Peter there before Dorcas could be buried. Peter did not delay, but went with the two men.
 - F. The widow friends of Dorcas displayed the garments she had made that were evidence of her kindness. (Acts 9:39) Peter raised her from the dead and presented her alive again to those who loved her. Why did he do that? To produce faith in the hearts of those who witnessed her resurrection (Acts 9:42).
 - 2. WHAT MADE DORCAS A SERVANT OF GOD?
 - A. She was a disciple which is a follower of Christ. (Acts 9:36)
 - 1. A disciple is a doer and not a hearer only. (James 1:22)
 - B. She was a working, serving disciple.
 - 1. She was full of good works.
 - 2. She had learned that faith without works is dead by itself. (James 2:26)

3. Do you talk of doing good and never do it?
We are told to abound in every good work.
(2 Corinthians 9:8; Ephesians 2:10)
- C. She was great because she was willing to serve her fellowman. (Matthew 20:26)
 1. She cared about helping mankind.
 2. She had pure religion. (James 1:27)
 3. She had learned that being good is doing good.
3. SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL PERSON.
 - A. Her name means "GAZELLE" or "DEER", BEAUTIFUL AND GRACEFUL.
 - B. Although we know nothing of her physical appearance yet, we know that she had "THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS". (1 Chronicles 16:29)

CONCLUSION:

- A. The Christian attitude is very important. How is one to be right before God when ones attitude is wrong? Keeping in mind that a Christian is to be zealous (eager) of good works (Titus 2:14). There will always be the poor to help, the sick to whom we can minister, the lonely to encourage, and the widow and orphan to assist.
- B. Let us look at a few things to consider in doing service.
 1. Is it good? (Romans 12:2)
 2. Will it truly glorify God and His Kingdom? (Ephesians 3:21; Colossians 3:17)
 3. Will it cause others to want to become children of God? (1 Timothy 4:12)
 4. Does it do good to others?
 5. Does it help me to grow as a Christian? (2 Peter 3:18)
 6. In the day of my death, will I be remembered for Christian good works like Dorcas?
- C. In the day of judgment will it help me receive the crown of life? (Revelation 2:10)
 1. Are your good works preparing you for an entrance into heaven in the day of judgment?
Dorcas is a good example to us; let us be good examples to others!
 2. Jesus gave the right formula for greatness (Matthew 23:11)
- D. Time to serve the Lord must be planned.
 1. Serving the Lord does not just happen without planning to do so.
 2. Does the devil care what we intend to do for the Lord? NO - just as long as we never get around to doing it!
- E. Would you want to be missed and to be remembered favorably when you die like Dorcas? How terrible it would be to slip from this world and never be missed by anyone!

LYDIA, THE RELIGIOUS WOMAN

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Let us start our lesson by going to Acts 16:14,15.
- B. Lydia was from the city of Thyatira.
 - 1. The waters of Thyatira were a thriving market for purple dye. This purple dye was obtained from a special shellfish. The dye itself was so costly, because only a drop of it was secured from a small vessel in the throat of each shellfish.
 - 2. Lydia being from Thyatira was now in Philippi. Purple cloth of all kinds would be in high demand in this colony with its many Romans. The rich wore purple. (Luke 16:19)
- C. Lydia was a seller of purple. We might say that Lydia was a business woman who came to the Lord.
 - 1. LYDIA WAS A WORSHIPER OF GOD. (Acts 16:14)
- A. Lydia did not let her business stand in her way of worshiping God. It was the custom of the women to meet for prayer by the riverside. (Acts 16:13)
- B. Lydia was religious; she had a desire to know God. (Psalm 100:3)
- C. We, like Lydia, must have a desire to know the Lord. (1 John 2:3; 1 John 5:2,3).
 - 2. LYDIA HEARD GOD'S WORD. (Acts 16:14)
- A. All the women at the prayer place heard Paul speak, but all did not heed (pay attention) as Lydia did. Perhaps at a later date the message they heard came back to them.
- B. Because Lydia heard the things spoken by Paul, she had faith. (Acts 16:14; Romans 10:17)
- C. We must have faith to please God. (Hebrews 11:6)
 - 1. We must believe God's word. (John 12:44-50)
 - 2. God's word will judge us. (2 Timothy 4:1)
 - 3. If we reject God's word, we reject Christ and the Father. (Luke 10:16)
 - 4. Our faith in God gives us so much comfort. (John 14:1-3)
- D. We must, like Lydia, receive with meekness the Word of God when we hear it (James 1:21).
 - 3. LYDIA OPENED HER HEART. (Acts 16:14)
- A. We must heed (pay attention) to God's word. (Proverbs 9:10)
- B. We have to put forth effort to know what God desires for us to do. (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - 1. It is important to have a desire to study God's word.
- C. We need to apply our hearts to God's knowledge. (Proverbs 22:17-18)
- D. The Colossians were told that Christ held all treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:2,3)

- E. God desires that all be saved, but it is up to us to open our hearts and accept the knowledge that leads us to salvation. (1 Timothy 2:3,4)
- F. Jesus said, where your treasure is, your heart will be. (Matthew 6:21)
 - 1. Do we treasure God's word? Do we open our hearts to it?
- 4. LYDIA HAD GOOD INFLUENCE OF IN HER HOUSEHOLD. (Acts 16:15)
 - A. Lydia set the good example to her family by obeying the Lord.
 - 1. She was baptized and her household followed her good example of doing likewise.
 - 2. The Bible does not say who of her household were baptized.
 - 3. Lydia was a good example of adult baptism.
 - 4. By Lydia hearing the gospel, she learned that there were certain things which she was required to do. Those things being believe (John 8:24), repent (Luke 13:3), confess (Romans 10:9,10), being baptized (Mark 16:16).
 - 5. Baptism puts us into a new life. (Romans 6:4)
 - B. Example of another household being baptized. (Acts 16:33)
 - C. Our life is an example to all. (2 Corinthians 3:2)
 - D. We need to be an example to others. (1 Timothy 4:12)
 - E. By letting our light shine before others, setting the right example we glorify our Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)
- 5. LYDIA OPENED HER HOUSE TO THE CHURCH. (Acts 16:15)
 - A. Lydia was very insistent. Verse 15 says "she constrained us"; constrain means to force. "And she constrained us" implying that she succeeded.
 - B. Lydia's hospitality is another trait that makes her character lovely.
 - C. Christian hospitality is one of the outstanding virtues of the early church. (1 Peter 4:9)
 - D. We see Lydia being an outstanding example of hospitality.

CONCLUSION:

- A. I feel that Lydia is a great example of what a Christian woman can be.
- B. We as women have different roles in life, but no matter what our role is, we must put the Lord and His church first in our lives. (Matthew 6:33)

PRISCILLA, THE HELPER

INTRODUCTION:

- A. If Priscilla was living today, everyone in the Church would know about her work for the Lord. Among the Christians of the early church, no woman is more well known. Her willingness to sacrifice and devote herself won her the gratitude of all the churches. (Romans 16:3)
- B. How wonderful it would be to serve the Lord faithfully as to get thanks of all God's people everywhere. We first meet Priscilla and her husband in Corinth where they had fled from the persecution of Claudius in Rome. (Acts 18:2)
- C. How did Priscilla work for the Lord?
 - 1. SHE WORKED WITH HER HUSBAND, AQUILA.
 - A. This is not unusual, because God's word teaches from the beginning that woman is to be a helper of man. (Genesis 2:18)
 - B. Many women today do not think of their responsibility in being a helper to their husband.
 - C. There are many Christian men who would be harder workers for the Lord if they only had the encouragement and help of their wives.
 - D. Aquila and Priscilla were mentioned together in many passages. (2 Timothy 4:19; 1 Corinthians 16:19)
 - E. They worked together in tent making and in teaching the gospel. (Acts 18:3)
 - 2. SHE LABORED WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL.
 - A. Paul met this hard working Christian couple in Corinth; their common interest of making tents and serving the Lord brought them into a fellowship that went on for years.
 - B. They loved Paul so much that they even risked their lives for him which caused Paul to have deep gratitude and devotion for them. (Romans 16:3,4)
 - C. By being associated with Paul, Priscilla was able to increase her own knowledge of the Word of God.
 - 3. THE CHURCH MET IN PRISCILLA'S HOME. (1 Corinthians 16:19)
 - A. Many of you know what that is like. This many times takes additional work.
 - B. We can feel sure that Priscilla willingly gave her home, because of her deep devotion to the Lord's cause.
 - C. We need to have that same kind of devotion to the Lord. Whatever we can do, do it gladly, because it is for the Lord. (Colossians 3:23)

4. PRISCILLA WAS A PERSONAL TEACHER WITH HER HUSBAND.
- A. Apollos is the only preacher described by God as eloquent (able to express himself well).
 - B. He was mighty in the scriptures. When he came to Ephesus, Priscilla heard him preach. He knew the way of the Lord, but only knew of the baptism of John. Priscilla and her husband took him unto them. (Acts 18:24-26)
 - C. Priscilla did not speak in the assembly to correct the preacher, for the Lord instructs that women are not to do so in the public worship. (1 Corinthians 14:34,35)
 - D. Of course women can teach and should, but the Lord placed restrictions on women's public teaching and Priscilla did not violate those teachings.
 - E. It makes no difference what one thinks, it is God's word that is right. If error is just as good as truth, there would have been no reason for Priscilla and Aquila to instruct Apollos. Many times we do not know many things that need to be learned.
 - F. Apollos accepted the truth when he realized his error. God never asked us to give up truth, but He does require us to give up all error and embrace truth when those errors are shown to us.
 - G. How can we know what is truth in spiritual matters? Christ said in John 17:17 "Thy word is truth". There is no source of spiritual truth except the Word of God. We must search always for truth. God's word is truth. Our responsibility is to get a fuller understanding of it. (Ephesians 5:17)
 - H. Every Christian should be a teacher of God's word. One of the most valuable lessons we can learn from Priscilla is to follow her example as a personal teacher. (Matthew 28:18-20) Teaching God's word is most important. God had only one Son, and He wanted Him to be a teacher of divine truth. Jesus is still regarded by His friends and enemies alike, as the master teacher of all times. Some say I cannot; have you tried? If you feel you could not on your own, you can always be beside your husband as Priscilla was.
 - I. Let us look at a few reasons for teaching God's word.
 - 1. The soul is valuable. Each person you meet is a soul that needs the Lord. This soul will spend eternity somewhere, it is heartbreaking to realize that most people are unprepared. (Matthew 7:13,14).
 - 2. Teaching others brings the joy of usefulness, which is necessary for happiness.
 - 3. Time is short and the judgment is certain. Romans 14:11,12. These sad words apply to so many. Matthew 25:41 Look back at verse 34.

CONCLUSION:

- A. May we be like Priscilla; be concerned enough about people to take them aside and "expound to them the way of God more perfectly" with our husbands.
- B. Be a strong co-worker with your husband.
- C. Priscilla risked her life and was willing to die so that her friend, Paul, might live and continue preaching God's word. (Romans 16:3-4)
- D. Let us as women be like Priscilla, who was willing to give so much that the gospel might be preached.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE AS A CHRISTIAN WOMAN

- LESSON 1 LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE AS A CHRISTIAN WOMAN
- LESSON 2 WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE JUST AND PURE
- LESSON 3 WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE LOVELY AND OF GOOD
REPORT
- LESSON 4 WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE AND HONEST

By Mary A. Martin

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE AS A CHRISTIAN WOMAN
"MEDITATE ON THESE THINGS"
Philippians 4:8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. To meditate is to think about with care. (Psalms 1:1,2; Psalm 119:97,98; 1 Timothy 4:13,15)
- B. The answer to becoming the Christian God would have us to be is found in the scriptures. (Philippians 4:8)
- C. Christian character is a transformation. This is a point that sometimes discourages new Christians to continue their growth as a Christian.
- D. So many people want the benefits of Christianity without being willing to endure its growing pains.
- E. We accept God's terms of salvation which are hear, believe, repent, and become His children through baptism. We then want to stop at the first climb of growth.
- F. We want to be baptized and let that be all that we have to do to get to heaven. Turning from sin and accepting baptism is only the beginning, not the final stage in our salvation.

1. WE MUST BE TRANSFORMED.

- A. We should transform or change from worldly things. (Romans 12:2)
- B. Ephesians 4:21-23
 - 1. Our minds are renewed, or changed and the results are a transformed person.
 - 2. This change may take years. It does not happen quickly.
 - 3. It can take a short time to learn Bible truths, but to apply them to our lives can take a lifetime.

2. CHRISTIANS ARE CHANGED INTO THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST.

- A. Romans 12:1 tells us how we are to present our bodies.
- B. We as Christians are to have the mind of Christ. (Philippians 2:3-5)
- C. When we fill our minds with the thoughts of our Lord, then we can change into his image. (1 Peter 4:1)
- D. Our lives need to show what true Christianity is like. (2 Corinthians 3:2)

3. THE TRUE NATURE OF CHRIST.

- A. Christ experienced sorrow over the death of His friend. (John 11:14,30-35)
- B. Christ experienced anger.
 - 1. Jesus was angry with those selling in the temple. (John 2:13-16)
 - 2. Jesus was angry with the Pharisees. (Mark 3:1-5)

- C. Our kind of anger is usually a personal nature. If someone insults or speaks against us, we may become angry.
 - D. Christ became angry when men failed to obey God. (John 2:13-16)
 - E. Christ accepted the mistreatment of others as we know when he was spit on, slapped, and mocked. (Mark 15:15-20; Luke 23:33,34)
 - F. There is a right way to be angry. We read that in Ephesians 4:26.
4. WHAT WE ARE TO DO.
- A. Galatians 5:22,23,24 we find the fruit we are to have as true Christians.
 - B. We know what a true Christian is to be, but it is not always easy to put into practice. It means we must put off these things in Galatians 5:19-21.
 - C. The control we must have comes from the inside. (Matthew 12:35; Matthew 15:17-20; Matthew 23:27,28)
 - D. God's answer - Philippians 4:8
 - E. We want to look at some things we need to add to our lives. (2 Peter 1:3-9)

CONCLUSION:

- A. We consist of what we let our mind dwell on. (Proverbs 23:7; Luke 6:45)
- B. The answer to a change in our lives as a Christian is letting God's word transform or change us into what God wants us to be.
- C. We want to let the Lord guide us in our lives. (Isaiah 58:11; Psalm 51:10)
- D. God's word is what will save us. (1 Timothy 4:16)

"WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE JUST AND PURE"

Philippians 4:8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. What does it mean to be just? Just is what is right, fair or righteous. (Romans 1:17)
- B. Christ is the highest example of the word just. (Acts 3:14; 1 John 2:1; Revelation 15:3,4)
- C. Even Pilate's wife realized Jesus as being a just man. (Matthew 27:17-19)

1. THE SHINING PATH.

- A. The just or righteous have a shining path. (Proverbs 4:18; Matthew 13:43)
- B. Our shining path will glorify God before others. (Matthew 5:14-16)
- C. God's word is a shine that lights our path. (Psalms 119:105)

2. CHRISTIANS ARE TO GO THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- A. The righteous are of God. (1 John 2:29; 1 John 3:7; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Psalms 11:7)
- B. To be strong in the Lord, we must put on righteousness. (Ephesians 6:10-17)
- C. We as Christians are to live righteously. (Titus 2:11-13; Proverbs 14:34; Proverbs 15:9)
- D. God hears the prayers of the righteous person. (James 5:16; Proverbs 15:29)
- E. Righteousness leads to life. (Proverbs 11:19,30; Proverbs 12:28)
- F. The inheritance of the righteous is forever. (Psalms 37:18)

3. A FEW JUST MEN.

- A. The New Testament gives us some examples of just men.
- B. NOAH -
 - 1. The first man we find mentioned in the Bible as being a just man is Noah. (Genesis 6:9)
 - a. Noah walked with God.
 - b. We know that Noah obeyed God in preparing an ark.
 - c. By doing what God said he and his family were saved from the flood.
- C. JOSEPH -
 - 1. Joseph was the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus.
 - a. The Bible says he was a just man. (Matthew 1:18,19)
 - b. We do not hear a lot about Joseph, but we know he was a good man.

- c. He first thought of keeping God's law. Under the old law Mary would have been guilty of adultery and should be put away. Joseph loved Mary and did not want her to be put to public shame.
- D. CORNELIUS -
 - 1. Here was a just man who feared God. (Acts 10:22)
 - a. Cornelius was a Gentile who was seeking the truth.
 - b. We can know that when Cornelius heard the gospel, he was willing to obey. (Acts 10:44-48)
 - 4. THE MEANING OF PURE.
 - A. To be pure means to be clean, or something that is not mixed.
 - B. Christians are to keep themselves pure. (1 Timothy 5:22; Titus 1:15)
 - C. Christians are to think pure thoughts. We cannot help having bad thoughts enter our mind, but as soon as they enter, we must get them out! Many people would not think of listening to rude or ugly stories or jokes, but they will read books or watch something on T.V. that is filled with things that cause bad thoughts which leads to actions. (Matthew 5:8)
Do you want to see God?

CONCLUSION:

- A. We as Christians want to be able to say like Paul, "I thank God whom I serve with a pure conscience". (1 Timothy 1:1,5; 2 Timothy 1:3)
- B. We must have the purity that is of God. Sometimes people do things with a pure conscience that is not right with God.
- C. The words just and pure are so much alike. If we as Christians can fill our thoughts with things that are just and pure, we can be the kind of Christian we should be. (James 3:17; James 1:27)

"WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE LOVELY AND OF GOOD REPORT"
Philippians 4:8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Lovely is that which is love, beautiful, pleasing and agreeable.
- B. What does it mean to be lovely? (1 Peter 3:1-6)
- C. It is not the outward person that God is seeking, but the godliness with good works. (1 Timothy 2:9,10)

- 1. WE MUST DO THE THINGS LOVELY AND PLEASING IN GOD'S SIGHT. (1 John 3:21,22; 1 Thessalonians 2:3,4)
 - A. The things that are lovely to one person may not be things that are lovely to another. Our standard is what is lovely to God.
 - B. We as Christians want to do what is lovely to God. (Colossians 1:9,10; Hebrews 13:20,21)

- 2. "WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE OF GOOD REPORT".
 - A. To be good is the highest of qualities. Report meaning to testify or bear witness to. We can say that a good report can mean a good reputation.
 - B. Let us read what Paul says about their ministry. (2 Corinthians 6:3-10)
 - C. Some examples of being well testified of.
 - 1. Seven men chosen to serve - (Acts 6:1-3)
 - 2. Cornelius - (Acts 10:22)
 - 3. Timothy - (Acts 16:1,2)
 - 4. Ananias - (Acts 22:12)
 - 5. Widow - (1 Timothy 5:3-10)
 - 6. Elders - (Hebrews 11:1,2)
 - 7. Demetrius - (3 John 12)
 - D. A good name is greater than riches. (Proverbs 22:1,2)

- 3. GOODNESS IS FOR CHRISTIANS.
 - A. It is not always easy to see the good in everything. We must look for the good when everything in life seems bad. (Romans 8:28)
 - B. We are not to dwell on the bad, but rather think on the good. Finding good in life depends on each individual. We can see rich people that never seem to be happy no matter what they have. Then there are those that have things in life that hinder them like blindness and being crippled. These people are able to find much joy in life, even with those hindrances. (Philippians 4:11-13; 2 Corinthians 12:5-10)
 - C. Good does not come from evil and evil cannot come from good. (Luke 6:43-45)

- D. We must not think on the bad, but we must think on the good which has virtue (good qualities) and what is praiseworthy (saying good things). (Philippians 4:8)
 - E. We talk of putting bad thoughts from our mind, but we must remember to replace those bad thoughts with good ones. If we do not fill that empty space with good thoughts, the devil can fill it again with those bad thoughts. (Matthew 12:43-45)
4. WHY MEDITATE ON THE THINGS OF PHILIPPIANS 4:8?
- A. So that the "peace of God" will be with us. (Philippians 4:9; Hebrews 13:20,21; 2 Corinthians 13:11)
 - B. For sure God knows our thoughts. We cannot hide anything from God. (Matthew 9:4; Hebrews 4:12,13; 1 John 3:20)

CONCLUSION:

- A. As Christians, Christ should be our way of life. (Philippians 1:20,21)
- B. Christ must mean everything to us or He means nothing at all. Sing "He Is My Everything".
 He is my everything
 He is my all
 He is my everything
 Both great and small
 He gave His life for me
 Made everything new.
 He is my everything
 Now how about you!

"WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE AND HONEST"
Philippians 4:8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. To be true is completely opposite from being false. Honesty is the complete opposite from deception. Honest is truth.
- B. We will look at a few scriptures that use the word true.
 - 1. John 8:14; John 10:41
 - 2. John 21:24; 1 John 2:8
 - 3. 3 John 12; Titus 1:13
- 1. WHAT WE AS CHRISTIANS ARE TO THINK ON.
 - A. Christians are to think on things that are true.
 - B. There is only one standard of truth - the word of God. (John 8:31,32; John 17:17)
- 2. WE MUST KEEP GOD'S WORD IN OUR HEARTS.
 - A. Let God's word dwell in you. (Colossians 3:16)
 - B. Hide God's word in your heart. (Psalms 119:11)
 - C. Life is very short. (James 4:13,14)
 - D. How much time do we take to meditate on God's word?
 - E. If we are to keep God's word in our hearts, we must spend time with God's word. How is the seed of God's word to grow in our mind, if we do not plant it? (Luke 8:5-8; Luke 8:9-15)
- 3. MAKE STUDYING GOD'S WORD A HABIT.
 - A. It is hard to make a habit of studying God's word. We are so busy with daily activities. We should not be discouraged, but find every chance we can to study God's word. Let us look at Deuteronomy 32:1,2. Even those short times we have to study helps us to plant God's word in our heart so that we can grow. (1 Peter 2:2)
 - B. By studying often, we can get into a habit that will help us with our desire to have more knowledge of the word of God. (Proverbs 10:14) Do you want to be wise?
 - C. We need to make it a joy to read or hear God's word. Many times we try to rush through with our studying or we feel it is our duty and do not really find joy in God's word. (Jeremiah 15:16)
 - D. Each person has their own way of studying God's word. Some people like studying by verses or chapters. Some people like studying by subject or topic, where others like studying individual people or characters in the Bible. It does not matter which way we study. The

main thing is that we find or make time to study. We as people make all kinds of appointments. We must give time for doctor appointments, job appointments, dentist appointments. We need to set aside some time in our busy day and keep that appointment faithfully of studying the word of God. (Hebrews 4:12) God's word is powerful.

4. WHAT IS IT TO BE HONEST OR NOBLE?

- A. To be honest is the complete opposite of dishonest or deceiving. Honest is what is truth, good, admirable. (Philippians 4:8)
- B. Honesty is a must for a Christian. (2 Corinthians 8:21; 2 Corinthians 13:7; Hebrews 13:18)
- C. We as Christians may have experienced times of thoughts that are not honest or truthful. When we have these thoughts that we know are not right, we must quickly get those thoughts from our mind. (Acts 8:22; Mark 7:20-23)
- D. Honesty and being noble starts in the heart. (Luke 8:11,15)
- E. An honorable conduct glorifies God. (1 Peter 2:12)

CONCLUSION:

- A. Christians have a goal. That goal is to prepare ourselves for heaven and take others with us.
- B. As Christians we are to think on whatsoever is true and honest. Love God's word and let it be what fills our mind.

THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN

- LESSON 1 WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?
- LESSON 2 INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN WOMEN
- LESSON 3 WOMEN ARE TO BE GOOD EXAMPLES OF THE FAITH
- LESSON 4 ORDINARY WOMEN GIVING EXTRA ORDINARY SERVICE
TO GOD
- LESSON 5 THE PURE CHRISTIAN
- LESSON 6 WIVES LOVE YOUR HUSBANDS
- LESSON 7 CHRISTIAN WIFE AND MOTHER
- LESSON 8 FACING DAILY PROBLEMS
- LESSON 9 CHRISTIANS TRAIN UP YOUR CHILDREN
- LESSON 10 MOTHERS/WOMEN/TRAIN UP A CHILD IN
- LESSON 11 SHALL I SPANK BY CHILD?
- LESSON 12 A VIRTUOUS WOMAN

By Mary A. Martin

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A Christian is a disciple or one that follows and obeys the teachings of Jesus Christ. (Acts 11:26)
 - B. In becoming a Christian, we are added to His church, His body. (Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:18)
 - C. We are members of the Lord's church, the church that belongs to Christ. (Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16)
 - D. When we become a Christian we are a new person, we have a new life. (Romans 6:4)
-
- 1. WHAT IS THIS NEW LIFE?
 - A. Have a new mind. (Philippians 2:5; Acts 17:11)
 - B. Have a new outlook on our body. (Romans 6:4-6; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20)
 - C. We are not to follow the world. (John 17:14-16; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17)
 - 2. WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS NEW LIFE.
 - A. Walk daily for Christ.
 - 1) Walk in love. (Ephesians 5:1,2)
 - a) A Christian must be filled with love. (Matthew 22:37-40)
 - 2) Walk in purity of life. (1 John 3:1-3; James 1:27)
 - a) As a Christian I must avoid sin as much as I can. The Bible is my guide. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)
 - B. Christians are to have knowledge of God's word. (Colossians 1:9; Ephesians 3:2-5; 2 Timothy 2:15)
 - 1) There is no substitute for Bible reading, study, and meditation.
 - 2) Key points in studying the Bible.
 - a) Our attitude toward the Bible should be as God speaking to us through His word.
 - b) Study with sincere desire to learn. (2 Thessalonians 2:10,11)
 - c) We must determine in our heart (which is our mind) that we will earnestly practice what the Bible tells us daily.
 - C. Christians must attend services of the church. (Hebrews 10:25)
 - 1) Worship is something that Christians must do. (John 4:23-24)
 - D. Christians must give to the Lord.
 - 1) In the Old Testament the Jews were commanded to give a tenth of their income. We as Christians are to give cheerfully.
 - 2) (2 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2)
 - E. Christians are to pray.
 - 1) Do not be selfish. (James 4:3)
 - 2) (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

- F. Christians are to sing.
 - 1) Not a thing is mentioned in the New Testament about playing an instrument in worship to God. (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16)
- G. Christians are to take the Lord's Supper.
 - 1) First day of the week. (Acts 20:7)
 - 2) In remembrance of Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:24,25)
- 3. IN THIS NEW LIFE WE HAVE AN INHERITANCE.
 - A. (1 Peter 1:4; Romans 8:17)
 - B. We will receive a crown (Revelation 2:10)

CONCLUSION:

- A. Our Christian life is just a response to God's great love for us. (John 3:16)
- B. By living a good life, acceptable to God, is only what is required of us as Christians. (Romans 12:1)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN WOMEN

INTRODUCTION:

- A. It is wonderful to be able to study about the role of a Christian woman.
 - B. As we study, we need to pray that we will let God's word be our guide.
 - C. This lesson is taken from Titus 2:1-5.
 - D. This is a very important subject for us Christians. When we become a Christian we have responsibilities. We must serve the Lord. To know how to do that we must study the Bible to know what we are to do. (2 Timothy 2:15).
 - E. Read Titus 2:1-5
-
- 1. PAUL GAVE INSTRUCTION TO THE OLDER WOMEN (verse 3).
 - A. They are to be in behavior as becomes holiness (1 Peter 3:3-5; 1 Timothy 2:9,10).
 - B. They are not to be false accusers (Colossians 3:9; Psalms 119:163; 1 Timothy 5:11-14).
 - C. Not given to much wine (Romans 13:12-14).
 - D. Teachers of good things (1 Samuel 12:23).
 - 1. Samuel was a man of God and he was teaching good things.
 - E. The older women are to have their lives right so that they can teach the younger women.
 - 1. This is a great work for women.
 - 2. This is a very neglected work.
 - 2. WHAT IS SHE TO TEACH THEM?
 - A. To be sober (self-control) (verse 4) (2 Peter 1:5-7; 1 Peter 1:13).
 - B. To love their husband (verse 4)
 - 1. Sometimes this is not easy. We have to learn to love them. Husbands are not always lovable!
 - 2. John 13:34; 1 Corinthians 13:3-8
 - C. To love their children (verse 4) (1 Corinthians 13:4; Deuteronomy 6:6,7).
 - D. To be discreet (careful) (verse 5) (Titus 3:8; Proverbs 31:26).
 - E. To be chaste (pure) (verse 5) (Proverbs 15:26; 1 Timothy 5:22; Philippians 4:8).
 - F. To be keepers at home (verse 5) (1 Timothy 5:14).
 - G. To be good (verse 5) (1 Thessalonians 5:15; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Ephesians 2:10).
 - H. Obedient to their own husband (verse 5) (Genesis 3:16; 1 Peter 3:1,5,6).

3. WHY TEACH THEM ALL THESE THINGS?
- A. So that the word of God will not be blasphemy (spoken against).
- B. Colossians 3:8; Mark 7:20-23

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let us look at the words from Solomon (Proverbs 3:5-7).
- B. We need to put the Lord first in our lives so that we can be able to teach others (Matthew 6:33; John 5:30).
- C. SING: SEEK YE FIRST

WOMEN ARE TO BE GOOD EXAMPLES OF THE FAITH

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The purpose of living a Christian life is basically two fold.
 - 1) One is so that we can go to heaven.
 - 2) So that we can win souls to the Lord.
 - B. As a Christian we live our lives so that we are on our way to heaven.
 - C. In going to heaven we want to take many others with us.
 - D. By our lives people will say there is something good and wonderful about being a child of God.
-
- 1. THE INSTRUCTION PAUL GAVE TO TITUS ABOUT SOUND DOCTRINE INCLUDED INSTRUCTION TO ALL AGES.
 - A. Titus 2:1-10
 - B. It is certainly in keeping with the thoughts of this passage to say that older women should be examples and teachers of younger women in every part of a Christian woman's work.
 - C. It does not only apply to physical age, but also older in the faith.
 - 2. A WEAK CHRISTIAN MAY SAY, "I HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING TO BRING REPROACH ON THE CHURCH".
 - A. She was able to go out and do all the things she enjoyed doing, but she never felt like visiting the sick, helping the needy or even going to worship at times.
 - B. Did some Christian fail to teach her that in becoming a Christian she is expected to live a life of devotion to God - to be a good example for the Christian faith?
 - C. Did we fail to live in a way that would show her what it means to be a Christian?
 - 3. IT WOULD KEEP US CLIMBING THE STEPS TOWARD CHRISTIAN MATURITY, IF WE WOULD TURN OFTEN TO TITUS 2 AND RE-READ PRAYERFULLY PAUL'S INSTRUCTION.
 - A. Notice that twice in the first 10 verses he points out the positive purpose for a Christian life.
 - B. We are told how women may discredit the gospel.
 - 1) In discussing with Timothy the care of widows, Paul shows quite plainly that by their lives women may lower the reputation of the church.
 - 2) He was discussing specifically young widows, but any woman without positive goals may fall into the same error. (1 Timothy 5:13,14).
 - C. We women need to keep busy in the work of the Lord.
 - 1) Women are to learn that they are expected to care for their children and to be good homemakers.
 - 2) This is a work of the Lord. We see too often children and homes neglected by young women and older women.

- 3) I have seen so many children with no discipline in the worship or at home.
- D. Young mothers do need us to criticize them, but they need our help and our teaching in love.
4. ALL FORMS OF EVIL SPEAKING ARE CONDEMNED BY PAUL IN WRITING THE EPHESIANS (Ephesians 4:29,31).
 - A. He urges Christians to let their speech be uplifting to the hearer.
 - B. What we say is very important, because it reveals what we really are inside. (Proverbs 23:7).
 - C. Those who use profane and vulgar speech are poor examples for the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:29,31,32).
 - 1) Those who gossip, talking about things they have no right to discuss or that although, it might be true, will cause harm to another.
 - 2) The busybody is mentioned along with the murders and thieves. (1 Peter 4:15)
- D. We as humans seem to think that the things that we do are just little things.
 - 1) The Lord expects us to be so busy fulfilling our roles as Christian women that we have no time to engage in activities that might lower the reputation of the church.
 - 2) We must include time for study so we might grow as a Christian.
 - 3) We must be devoted to our task as wives, mothers and workers in the vineyard of the Lord. There is much to do.
- E. There is a great need for Christian women to pull together for the Lord. Christ prayed for unity among His believers - why - so that the world might believe. (John 17:20,21).
 - 1) He knew that the world would not be attracted to a group of disciples who were fighting and criticizing one another.
 - 2) Our real affection for each other will unify our efforts for the Lord and bring glory to God. (Romans 15:5-7).
 - 3) No one can sincerely try to help another without it helping herself.
 - 4) LORD , HELP ME LOOK INTO MY LIFE,
AND FIND THE FAULTS THEREIN,
THEN GIVE ME STRENGTH TO WEED THEM OUT
AND KEEP ME PURE AND CLEAN

THY GUIDING HAND ALONE CAN LEAD
 ME ON TO DAILY LIVE
 A FULLER RICHER LIFE FOR THEE
 MY ALL TO OTHERS GIVE.

KEEP ME SO BUSY WITH THE TASK
OF KEEPING SELF IN LINE,
I'LL HAVE NO TIME FOR OTHER'S FAULTS
NOR WASTE OF PRECIOUS TIME.
IT'S MUCH TOO EASY TO OBSERVE
THE OTHER PERSON'S FAULTS,
WHEN ALL THE WHILE THE THINGS I NEED
IS TO HEED WHAT THOU HAST TAUGHT.

- F. Let us be strong, serve the Lord, Help the church to grow.
- 1) When others look at our lives they will say, there is a person who is really a Christian in every way.
 - 2) We represent Christ; if we do not live as we should, we put Christ to shame.

CONCLUSION:

- A. May I leave you with this thought:
JESUS, MAY I BE LIKE YOU,
KIND, GENTLE AND EVER TRUE
WHEN I AM HAPPY, WHEN I AM SAD
BEING CLOSE BESIDE YOU MAKES ME GLAD.

ORDINARY WOMEN GIVING EXTRA ORDINARY SERVICE TO GOD

INTRODUCTION:

- A. As women in the church, we are all very different. We have different talents.
- B. We as Christian women must look for ways of serving our Lord.
- C. We are going to look at a few ordinary women who gave extra ordinary service to God.

1. MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS.

- A. I believe we can start with Mary, the mother of Jesus, because she played an important role in our salvation. She played an important role, because she gave birth to our Lord.
- B. Mary was chosen to bring Jesus into this world. (Luke 1:26-33)
- C. We can see in the scriptures that Mary had no special authority or place to fill other than bringing Jesus into the world. (Matthew 12:47-50; Luke 11:27,28)
- D. Many people in the world want to set Mary up as one to be worshiped or one to reach God. (Matthew 4:10; 1 Timothy 2:5)
- E. Mary was only the wife of a carpenter. Her husband was Joseph who was of no real importance as far as wealth.
- F. We can know that Mary was a humble person. (Luke 1:38) She was willing to do what God wanted her to do.
- G. Mary was indeed an ordinary woman who gave extra ordinary service to God.

2. TABITHA, TRANSLATED FROM GREEK, DORCAS.

- A. Dorcas was a dressmaker or tailor we might call her. (Acts 9:39)
- B. Although Dorcas was a hard worker, she was a woman full of good works. (Acts 9:36)
- C. Dorcas was busy making garments for the poor. In helping the poor, she was serving the Lord.
- D. Dorcas was an ordinary woman who was a working, servant of God. She learned that faith without works is dead by itself. (James 2:14-18)
- E. Do you talk of doing good works and never do them? We as Christians are to abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8; Ephesians 2:10)
- F. Whatever we do, we should do it for the glory of God. (Colossians 3:17)
- G. Dorcas was so useful to God while she lived, but even in her death and being raised from death many people came to believe on the Lord. (Acts 9:36-42)
- H. Serving the Lord does not just happen without planning to do so. It would be wonderful to be remembered when you die like Dorcas was. (Acts 9:39)

3. PRISCILLA, A SERVANT OF GOD.
 - A. We find Priscilla in the book of Acts. Priscilla and her husband Aquila were in Corinth where they had fled from the persecution of Claudia in Rome. Paul became a friend to them. (Acts 18:1-2)
 - B. Priscilla was a worker for the Lord. Her devotion to God was recognized by all the churches of the Gentiles. (Romans 16:3,4)
Priscilla and Aquila even risked their own lives for Paul. (Romans 16:4)
 - C. Priscilla and her husband were tentmakers as was Paul. (Acts 18:3)
 - D. We find that the church meet in Priscilla's home. (1 Corinthians 16:19)
 - E. Priscilla worked with her husband in the service of the Lord. She was a true helper to her husband. In Genesis 2:18 we see that this is why women were made.
 - F. We find that Priscilla was involved with her husband in teaching Apollos the way of the Lord more perfectly. Apollos was mighty in the scriptures, but he only knew of the baptism of John. (Acts 18:24-26)
 - G. We can be workers, teachers for the Lord just like Priscilla. She was only a wife and a tentmaker, but she was able to do extra ordinary service to God.

4. LYDIA OPENS HER HEART.
 - A. Lydia was a business women. (Acts 16:14)
 - B. So you may say, "what is so ordinary about this woman". She was a woman who opened her heart to God's word and was baptized. Not only herself, but she brought her household to God. (Acts 16:15)
 - C. Lydia was willing to open her house to the missionaries like Paul and Timothy. (Acts 16:1-3, 15)
 - D. We as women have different occupations in life, but no matter what our occupation is, God must come first. Like Peter and the other apostles, we must obey God rather than man. (Acts 5:29)

5. OTHER WOMEN THAT DID EXTRA ORDINARY SERVICE.
 - A. MARTHA - She was the sister of Mary and Lazarus.
 - 1) Martha had great faith in our Lord. (John 11:20-27)
 - 2) Martha was one who seemed to enjoy serving others. (John 12:2; Luke 10:40-42)
 - B. MARY - This Mary is the sister of Martha and Lazarus.
 - 1) Mary was one that loved being near Jesus. She was even willing to use her own hair to anoint Jesus' feet with expensive oil. (John 12:3-8)
 - 2) Mary loved hearing the words of our Lord. (Luke 10:38-42)
 - 3) The examples of Mary and Martha show us that we should never let any physical things come in our way of serving the Lord.

- C. MARY MAGDALENE - Jesus had healed this women of seven demons. (Mark 16:9)
- 1) Mary Magdalene with the mother of Jesus watched as they laid Jesus in the tomb. (Mark 15:46,47; Matthew 13:55,56)
 - 2) Mary Magdalene had prepared and brought spices that they might anoint Jesus' body. She was willing to do all for Him even in His death. (Mark 16:1-2)
 - 3) Mary Magdalene was the first one that Jesus appeared to after His resurrection. She went quickly to tell the others that had been with Jesus. (Mark 16:9,10; John 20:1-18)
- D. THE POOR WIDOW - This widow was willing to give all that she had to the Lord. (Mark 12:41-44)

CONCLUSION:

- A. We women can do so much for the Lord.
- B. If we are staying busy as Christian women, we have no time to do anything but what is good for the Lord.
- C. We represent Christ as Christians. If we do not live as we should, we are saying Christ is not important. Is Christ important? He is our salvation. (Acts 4:10-12)

THE PURE CHRISTIAN

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God has always demanded purity of His people.
- B. Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount about how a Christian must be pure.
- C. Let us study carefully Matthew 5:8.

1. LET US TAKE A LOOK AT THE ATTITUDE.

- A. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart".
- B. The "heart" is regarded as being the seat of the intellect, the feelings and the will.
 - 1. Out of the heart comes all the actions and issues of life (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:18,19).
- C. An evil heart produces evil fruits; a good heart or a pure heart produces good or pure fruit (Proverbs 23:7; Matthew 12:34,35).
- D. The Greek word for pure here means, "clean, pure, free from corruption, sincere, genuine, blameless, innocent and guiltless".
- E. The pure in heart are those who have pure, sincere, genuine or right motives.
 - 1. Those who "obey from the heart", a pure heart, God's will (Romans 6:16-18).
 - 2. Paul is a good example of one who always displayed this attitude (Acts 23:1).
- F. The Christian must have a pure heart.
 - 1. Love God with the heart (Matthew 22:37).
 - 2. Believe with the heart (Romans 10:10).
 - 3. Honor God with your heart (1 Peter 3:15).
 - 4. Do God's will from the heart (Ephesians 6:6).

2. A PURE HEART WILL LEAD TO A PURE LIFE.

- A. The Christian must THINK on purity (Philippians 4:8).
- B. To the Christian all things must be pure (Titus 1:15).
- C. Christians must be an example in purity (1 Timothy 4:12).
- D. When the heart is pure, it will be seen outwardly (James 1:27).
- E. Purity gives the Christian hope (1 John 3:3).

3. THE REWARD OF PURITY OF HEART.

- A. There is no doubt that the pure in heart will see God (Matthew 5:8).
 - 1. See God in the literal sense at the day of judgement and throughout eternity.
 - 2. But this is not what Jesus here had in mind.
 - 3. In the literal sense no man can "see" God now (John 1:18).
- B. To "see" means, to possess, to enjoy, to experience, to receive the full benefits from.

- C. We often speak of someone seeing prosperity, good health, peace of mind and etc.
 - 1. In John 3:3 Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot SEE the kingdom of God".
 - 2. In John 3:5 Jesus presents the same idea but says, ".....ENTER the kingdom of God".
- D. It is in this way that the pure in heart shall see God.
 - 1. To see, possess, enjoy, experience, enter into, gain the full benefit from God is the reward of the pure in heart.
- E. A reward that is fully realized by the children of God here and now.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Do you want to see God? Our lives should be lived in a way that we will see God.
- B. We can work hard on our lives to be what we should be in God's sight.

WIVES LOVE YOUR HUSBANDS

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Satan wants our homes.
- B. God gave a pattern for the church.
- C. Satan also has a pattern for your home. He wants to change it from God's pattern.
- D. That is what the world did with the church. They added some and took some away. The result is thousands of religious groups in the world.
- E. The homes that are happy are the ones that follow God's pattern. God means for us to be happy in our homes.
- F. If our home is to be happy, we must learn to be good wives. We wives are only half of that home. The pattern for husband and wives are the same. When they are put together it gives us better homes.
- 1. LET US TALK ABOUT BEING A GOOD WIFE. (Proverbs 31:10; (finds a great prize) Proverbs 18:22)
- A. Your husband has either found a good thing or a bad thing with you.
- B. If you came in bad, we hope you will turn out to be a good thing! Be a good wife by being a good companion.
- C. In Genesis 2:18 God said it is not good for man to be alone.
 - 1. That was the first time God said anything of His creation was not good.
 - 2. Human nature does not like being alone. Why were we made? The man was lonely. God said, I will make for him a help meet (a help suited for his own needs).
 - 3. Everything the man lacks, the woman has.
 - 4. If we use what God has given us, we can have a happy home.
- D. Companionship means being together for a husband and wife.
 - 1. The husband and wife relationship is most important. (Genesis 2:24)
 - 2. Husbands and wives who are not mature enough to leave their parents and gladly follow mates to the ends of the earth, if necessary, are not ready for marriage.
 - 3. Leaving father and mother implies more than physical distance. It is leaving them emotionally to the extent that we stand upon on our own two feet.
- E. In the beginning God decreed that man and woman should become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)
 - 1. Christ repeated these words when he discussed divorce with the Pharisees "wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh". (Matthew 19:6)
 - 2. Husband and wife should function as one in many areas of life. No longer are they two separate individuals, each going their separate ways.

3. The desire of the other partner should be considered before making any decision so the two may act as one. We should not consider the two separate parts intertwined to make one whole. Then we feel that we have no personal identity. Compare it to a railroad track. Both rails have the same goal; one is no good without the other.
2. LOVE IS INVOLVED IN MARRIAGE - EVEN DURING A TIME WHEN MARRIAGES WERE OFTEN ARRANGED BY PARENTS, LOVE WAS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF MARRIAGE.
 - A. The aged women in the early church were to teach the younger women to "love their husbands" (Titus 2:4).
 - B. Husbands are told in Ephesians 5:25 how they should love their wives.
 - C. Let us consider 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 for what love is. What better phase of life can it be applied to than marriage.
 1. LOVE SUFFERETH LONG - LOVE IS PATIENT- Patience is really needed in a marriage relationship. Does your husband have little things that just seem to really get on your nerves? I believe there are a lot of things that we do that gets on our husband's nerves. Instead of looking for faults, search for the good points (he must have some somewhere!!).
 2. LOVE IS KIND - We all know what kindness is. Love does not shout angry words and try to hurt the feelings of another. Nagging is not kindness. Let us look in Proverbs 27:15 and see what it says. Make home a warm, inviting place it should be and the husband will want to be there. (Proverbs 21:9)
 3. LOVE DOES NOT ENVY. Love trusts - It is not jealous; Do you sometimes feel a little jealous of your husband? I do and then quickly get it out of my mind. Love is not possessive. A wife who loves her husband and is the right kind of wife trusts him wherever he is. She is not jealous of his relatives and friends. Her love is big enough to share. (Proverbs 31:11)
 4. LOVE DOES NOT PARADE ITSELF, IS NOT PUFFED UP. Marriage is no place for arrogance and conceit. I really do not like to see a wife or husband putting the other one down in public. Some people cannot feel important themselves so they make others around them seem less important.
 5. LOVE DOES NOT BEHAVE ITSELF UNSEEMLY. Love is courteous and polite - it has no place for rudeness. It does not pout, nor is it sullen. Did you ever give your husband the "ole" silent treatment without really telling him what is bothering you? We do not need to be moody or irritable.

6. LOVE DOES NOT SEEK ITS OWN - That is really a good one. Love is unselfish in little and big things. Love is doing something for others. Love does not insist on its own way. Even though we are tired after a day spent caring for our family, we can go that extra mile for our husband, because we love him. A good wife does not demand so many material things that her husband has to work a second job to pay bills.
7. LOVE IS NOT EASILY PROVOKED - Love has an even temper; A good wife realizes that every time her husband lashes out, it does not necessarily mean that he is angry with her personally. He has had a hard day and cannot release his irritation to anyone. It takes a mature wife to hold her tongue until he cools off. Let us look at Proverbs 15:1. We will all say things in anger that we would never say under normal circumstances.
8. LOVE THINKS NO EVIL - Love expects the best, not the worst in a person. Love does not store up grudges. What a waste when there is so much that is good and beautiful!
9. LOVE DOES NOT REJOICE IN INIQUITY, BUT REJOICES IN THE TRUTH. - Love is never glad when others go wrong. Each of us has some bad and some good within us. Your husband does, and so do you.
10. LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS. Love knows no limit to its endurance. Look around you and see women who have a much worse husband and living conditions than you. Let us count our blessings!
11. LOVE BELIEVES ALL THINGS. Love knows no end to its trust. If your love is as it should be, you have no reason to doubt your husband. You believe in your husband, that he can do whatever he needs to do.
12. LOVE HOPES ALL THINGS - Love expects the best of its partner. Even when a marriage has rough spots, things will usually work out for the best if the partners expect it to turn out that way. If divorce seems a possibility in the subconscious mind of each one, problems will be much more difficult to solve.
13. LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS. Love never fails. It lasts longer than anything else. The bond between man and woman is binding until death.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Marriage can either be torment on earth or a taste of heaven.
- B. You help to make it what it is. Do all that you can, be the kind of person you should be. Select the kind of person you should have as a partner, if you do not have one already. Work hard to make your marriage what it needs to be in God's sight.
- C. Love is a great need. There are many people in the world who need to be loved; your husband is one of them.
- D. LOVE WORKS!!

CHRISTIAN WIFE AND MOTHER

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Being a woman can bring much joy, happiness, contentment, and a feeling of self worth or it can bring a lot of unhappiness and discontentment.
- B. One thing for sure, it is up to us to decide how we will live our lives.
- C. If we live pleasing to God and have really made a firm commitment to our God, we have already made the decision to be a happy and contented woman.

1. WOMAN WAS MADE TO FILL A NEED, A NEED THAT NO OTHER CREATION COULD FILL. GOD HAD A PLAN FOR WOMAN. (Genesis 2:18-24)

- A. Genesis 2:18 tells us "and the Lord God said, it is not good that man should be alone, I will make him a helper for him".
- B. The first marriage took place in the Garden of Eden.
- C. Let us look at God's marriage as he explained it to Adam in Genesis 2:24.
 - 1) When we get married, the man and woman belong to each other.
 - 2) Our love, loyalty, time, and best we can give belong to our husband. This is before anyone, including our extended family. We must understand that Christ comes first over everyone including our husband.

2. THE CHRISTIAN WIFE

- A. Responsibilities of the Christian wife.
 - 1) Love and respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:33; Titus 2:4)
 - 2) Submit to her husband's authority. (Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:5)
 - 3) She must try very hard to be a good companion. (Proverbs 31:12; Proverbs 18:22; Proverbs 15:1)
- B. The Christian wife must avoid:
 - 1) Nagging her husband (Proverbs 19:13; Proverbs 25:24; Proverbs 25:11)
 - 2) Putting others before her husband (Genesis 2:24)
 - 3) Jealousy (Proverbs 3:5)
 - 4) Poor housekeeping
 - 5) Living above the husband's income
 - 6) Neglect of her husband
- C. Rewards of the Christian wife.
 - 1) Salvation of her husband (I Peter 3:1)
 - 2) Praise of her husband (Proverbs 31:28)

3. THE CHRISTIAN MOTHER

A. Responsibilities of the Christian mother.

- 1) Love her children. (Titus 2:4; Ephesians 4:32) We need to love our children. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 tells us what love is. LOVE IS PATIENT. It takes a lot of patience to be a mother. Answer your child's questions. It may seem foolish to you, but to your child it is not foolish. You may have to answer it over and over. Many times a child has to be told many, many times not to do things he should not be doing. Prayer helps us to have more patience! (James 1:5)
- 2) Instruct her children. (Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:6-9) There are many books written on how we are to raise our children. Many times we can get good ideas about our children from these books, but the rule book to follow is the Bible. We must not let customs interfere with what God's word teaches us on how we are to treat our children.
- 3) Discipline her children. (Proverbs 22:15; Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 19:18; Hebrews 12:6) Children cannot know what is expected of them or know their limits if they are not told. How do we know what God expects from us? Yes, from His words in the Bible. We must let our children know what we expect from them.

B. Rewards of a Christian mother

- 1) Salvation of her children (Proverbs 22:6; Proverbs 29:15)
- 2) Children are a delight to her (Proverbs 29:17)
- 3) Praise of her children and of God (Proverbs 31:28)

CONCLUSION:

- A. We as mothers should provide a home; a home is wherever we are as a united family. A home where our children can grow in God's way.
- B. Jesus grew in three ways - in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:52) These are the ways that we want to help our children to grow.

FACING DAILY PROBLEMS

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We as Christian women have needs in our lives.
- B. Through a knowledge of God's word we can know that God will be with us and he is our strength.
- C. Even when we feel weak the Lord is there to help us if we are able to let his word live in us.

1. IT IS FOOLISH TO WAIT UNTIL TROUBLE COMES ALONG BEFORE SEARCHING GOD'S WORD FOR AN ANSWER.

- A. Strength from God's word is available, but we have to plant it in our minds before trouble comes: seeds require time to germinate.
- B. The word is referred to as a seed. Matthew 13:1-23.
- C. If we are to grow stronger as a Christian, we must study God's word. Proverbs 24:3-5
- D. We need to be strong.

2. GOD'S WORD GIVES US COMFORT.

- A. It is good to begin a day by remembering a song or a scriptures from God's word.
 - 1) One of my favorite books is Philippians.
 - 2) I like to remember the song, "This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it".
 - 3) We trust in God through His word.
- B. The Scriptures abound with promises that God is with His children in their troubles. Let us look at a few of these scriptures.
 - 1) Joshua 1:9 "The Lord thy God is with you wherever you go". (Psalms 46:1; Psalms 55:22; Hebrews 13:5)
 - 2) One that is really great is 2 Corinthians 1:3-5.
- C. As a Christian, troubles will still come our way, but like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego; someone will walk with us through any fiery furnace we have to face. (Daniel 3:25).
- D. We will have to endure hardships, but the difference between the plight of a Christian and an unbeliever is that a child of God will never have to face anything alone. That is so wonderful!

3. WE NEED TO HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE ABOUT SUFFERING.

- A. Suffering when we take the right attitude toward it, will bring us a closer walk with God.
 - 1) Ruth surely suffered when she lost her husband. Yet, as well as following Naomi to Judah, she chose to follow Naomi's God. (Ruth 1:16).
 - 2) When Paul prayed three times that the thorn might be removed from his flesh, The Lord said "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:7-9). Then Paul replied in the last part of verse 9 and

- then 10. We do not know what Paul's thorn in the flesh was. Some say it could have been his bad eye sight and again others mention other things, but one thing we know he did have this problem that he did not desire to have.
3. Many of us may have a thorn in the flesh to us. No wonder Paul could write about trials and tribulations as blessings in Romans 5:3-5. Let us turn there and read.
- B. Never ask why - it never does any good. Faith will find a way in time to not ask why.
 - 1) Our part is not to understand or explain, but to overcome.
 - 2) We must allow our suffering to bring us to God.
 - 3) Faith is the only solution to the problems of pain.
 - C. But faith means to surrender our stubborn will to Christ and to say, "There are many things which I do not understand, but I trust thee always to do right; thy will be done".
 - 1) What an example Christ set for us when He prayed to the Father "not my will but thy will be done".
 - 2) Christ did not want to suffer on the cross in such pain, but he was willing to trust in the Father and know that it was right.
 - D. Our decision has to be either to grumble, to question or to accept!
 - 1) It is so hard at a time of suffering, whether it be a death or in illness, to have the strong faith that is needed to get you through.
 - 2) I know what a trying time we had when I had cancer. All the time I knew that the Lord was my strength and my only solution.
 - E. If we can have the faith in the Lord as we should, He can really carry us through our trial and suffering.
 - 1) Maybe you have read the writing that is called "Footprints". It is beautiful! It says that when you saw only one set of footprints instead of two it is when Jesus was carrying you.
4. AS A CHRISTIAN WE NEED TO BE HAPPY (Philippians 4:4).
- A. Paul is in prison and suffering yet he says rejoice!
 - 1) How wonderful to be a Christian! We will have valleys as well as mountain tops.
 - 2) You cannot know the joy of the mountain tops of glory, if you have never experienced the depth of the valley.
 - B. Most people are happy, because they want to be.
 - 1) Why be happy - because God made me. I am unique, I am different.
 - C. Be happy where you are.
 - 1) You can never be happy in another place, if you are not happy where you are!

- D. Have you ever seen people that no matter what they experience or no matter what illness they have - they seem content and happy.
- 1) I have known and I know right now a couple that have so many illnesses and they are fatal, but when you see them, there is always a smile and a word of encouragement to you.
 - 2) Those people always lift my spirits so.
- E. We have so much to be thankful for.
- 1) We can be thankful for being able to get up. How many people do you know that cannot even do that?
 - 2) Be thankful for people that do things for you or have done things for you.
- F. If we are going to truly be happy, we must keep God in our lives.
- 1) The way to do this is by staying with God's word.
 - 2) Prayer is very important. (Philippians 4:6) Communication is a two-way matter. We talk to God through prayer, and God speaks to us through His word.
 - 3) The only way we can remain close to God is by listening to what He has to say in His word.
 - 4) Have you heard it said that prayer is answered in one of three ways - yes, no, or wait awhile. Be careful what you pray for. Let God's will be done always.

CONCLUSION:

- A. I would like to leave you with this poem from Helen Steiner Rice.

Let me not live a life that's free
From THE THINGS that draw me close to THEE -
For how can I ever hope to heal
The wounds of others I do not feel -
If my eyes are dry and I never weep,
How do I know when the hurt is deep -
If my heart is cold and it never bleeds,
How can I tell what my brother needs -
For without "crosses to carry" and "burdens to bear"
We dance through a life that is frothy and fair,
And "chasing the rainbow" we have no desire
For "roads that are rough" and "realms that are
higher" -
So spare me no heartache or sorrow, dear Lord,
For the heart that is hurt reaps the richest reward
And God enters the heart that is broken with sorrow
As He opens the door to a BRIGHTER TOMORROW,
For only through tears can we recognize
The suffering that lies in another's eyes.

CHRISTIANS TRAIN UP YOUR CHILDREN
Proverbs 22:6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. As Christian parents our goal is to be like Mary and Joseph, to provide a home in which our children may grow as Jesus grew (Luke 2:52).
 - 1) Jesus grew in wisdom
 - 2) Jesus grew in stature
 - 3) Jesus grew in favor with God and men
- B. Jesus grew and developed in all ways of life. Each of these areas are the responsibility of the parents.

1. JESUS GREW MENTALLY (WISDOM).

- A. We are forced to send our children to school where they will certainly grow mentally. We as parents need to take an interest in our children's schooling. We need to help them with their school work. Make sure they do their school work. Make sure they do their studies so they can get knowledge that will translate to wisdom.
- B. Another step in our children growing mentally is the way that we treat them. We need to treat our children with love. They need discipline as well and we will talk about that later. If we always talk bad to our children, calling them bad names such as crazy or stupid, they will feel that they are stupid or crazy. They will grow up having a bad image of themselves and have a bad mental outlook. Our children are a part of us and we want to treat them kindly.
 - 1) 1 Corinthians 13:4
 - a) The whole chapter of 13 shows us what real love is, but now we just want to see that love is kind in verse 4. Our children need kindness as well we do.
 - 2) Ephesians 4:32
 - a) Is not our child a person! Our kindness needs to extend to our children.

2. JESUS GREW PHYSICALLY (IN STATURE).

- A. Physical development is our responsibility as a parent. The physical growth is determined largely by good nutrition or good foods that our children eat. There is no reason that our children should not eat. The only reason that they would not eat well is if we as parents are too lazy to provide for them. Laziness is condemned in the Bible. Our children are important.
 - 1) Matthew 18:1-5
 - a) Jesus explains how important little children are. We as Christians must be as humble as little children.

3. JESUS GREW SPIRITUALLY (IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN).
- A. Spiritual development is our responsibility as a parent. We cannot leave the spiritual development of our children to the church. We must train our children in God's word. Proverbs 22:6
 - 1) Psalm 127:3
 - a) Our children are given from the Lord.
 - 2) Deuteronomy 6:6-9
 - a) We can never get tired of teaching our children God's word, because if we do not teach them, they will grow up not knowing God.
4. OUR GUIDE FOR TRAINING OUR CHILDREN IS THE WORD OF GOD.
- A. There are many books written on how we are to raise our children. Many times we can get good ideas about our children from these books, but the rule book to follow is the Bible. We must learn God's word so that we can know what it teaches. We must not let customs interfere with what God's word teaches us on how we are to treat our children.
 - 1) Titus 2:4
 - a) We need to love our children. This verse says for the older women are to teach the younger women to love their children.
 - 2) 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
 - a) These verses tell us what love is. LOVE IS PATIENT. It takes a lot of patience to be a parent. Answer your child's questions. It may seem foolish to you, but to your child it is not foolish. You may have to answer it over and over. A child has to be told hundreds of times not to do things he should not be doing. Prayer can help us to have more patience!
5. IF PARENTS LOVE THEIR CHILDREN, THEY WILL DISCIPLINE THEM.
- A. Hebrews 12:6
 - 1) Children cannot know what is expected of them or know their limits if they are not told. How do we know what God expects from us? Yes, from His words in the Bible. We must instruct our children on what we expect from them.
- B. Many people can give advise, but let us look at what the wise man Solomon has to say.
 - 1) Proverbs 13:24
 - 2) Proverbs 19:18
 - 3) Proverbs 23:13,14
- C. The verses that we have covered told us what is good for the child. Now let us see some verses that show us what will help the mother.
 - 1) Proverbs 29:15
 - 2) Proverbs 29:17
- D. The important thing in disciplining our children is to let them know why they are being whipped or spanked.

They need to understand that you are correcting them, because you love them. If you did not love them, you would not care how unruly they are.

1) Proverbs 22:15

a) All children want to get their way. They are very smart even from a young age to find ways to get their way. They can be over active and do foolish things, but when we whip them it helps to drive some of that away.

E. Parents are expected to teach and train their children. If you wait until your child is 4 or 5 years old to start teaching it, you have waited 4 of 5 years too late. We must start when our children are small.

1) Proverbs 22:6

F. The New Testament writers point out that the responsibility is on the parents to raise children in God's way.

1) Ephesians 6:4

a) We are instructed to bring our children up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (The Simple English says "take care of them using the Lord's warning and discipline")

CONCLUSION:

A. There are countless rewards for parents who love their children according to God's pattern. Proverbs 31:28

MOTHERS

M ARY: LUKE 1:26-38, 2:8-19; 41-51; JOHN 2:1-2
O BED'S MOTHER: RUTH 4:17; 1:15-18; 2:2-3; 3:10-11
T IMOTHY'S MOTHER: ACTS 16:1-2; 2 TIMOTHY 1:5; 3:14-15
H ANNAH: 1 SAMUEL 1:1-28; 2:19-21
E VE: GENESIS 3:20; 1:27; 2:21-25; 3:1-21; 4:1,2,25
R EBEKAH: GENESIS 24; 25:28; 27:5-17, 46
S ARAH: GENESIS 12:5,14; 16:1-6; 18:9-15; 1 PETER 3:5-6

WOMEN

W ORTHY: PROVERBS 31:10-31; RUTH 3:11
O UTLANDISH: NEHEMIAH 13:26; 1 KINGS 11:1-4
M INISTERING: MATTHEW 27:55-56; ROMANS 16:1-15
E VIL: PROVERBS 6:24-25; 2 KINGS 24:7
N OBLE: ACTS 17:11-12; 16:14-15

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN -

T EMPERANCE

- A. CONTROL HIS TONGUE - EPHESIANS 4:25,29
- B. CONTROL HIS TEMPER - EPHESIANS 4:26
- C. CONTROL SELFISHNESS - ROMANS 12:3,10

R ESPECT

- A. FOR PARENTS - EPHESIANS 6:1-3
- B. FOR THE LAW OF THE LAND - ROMANS 13:1-7
- C. FOR OLDER PEOPLE - 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-2; 1 PETER 5:5

A SSOCIATIONS

- A. PLAYMATES - 1 CORINTHIANS 15:33
- B. BOOKS, RADIO, TELEVISION
- C. COURTSHIPS

I NDUSTRY

- A. HONEST LABOR - 2 THESSALONIANS 3:8-12
- B. STUDY AND PREPARE FOR FUTURE - PROVERBS 6:6-8
- C. SERVICE TO GOD IN EVERYTHING - MATTHEW 6:33

N EED

- A. NO ONE IS SELF-SUFFICIENT - ROMANS 14:7,8
- B. GOD IS ALWAYS PRESENT - PSALMS 46:1; HEBREWS 10:22
- C. HE WANTS TO BE YOUR FATHER - 2 CORINTHIANS 6:17-18

SHALL I SPANK MY CHILD?

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Parents often say, "I love my child too much to ever spank him".
 - B. But what does almighty God, the author of the home, have to say about the subject?
 - C. Does God think you should spank your child?
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- 1. WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?
 - A. "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly" (Proverbs 13:24).
 - B. "Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction" (Proverbs 19:18).
 - C. "Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell" (Proverbs 23:13,14).
 - D. "The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul" (Proverbs 29:15,17).
 - 2. SOME PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR SPANKING.
 - A. Remember the purpose of spanking.
 - 1) The purpose of spanking a child is not to let off anger by the parent.
 - 2) The purpose of spanking a child is to teach a better way of behaving.
 - 3) The purpose of discipline is to instruct a child what is right or wrong.
 - 4) A spanking should generally be reserved to punish deliberate disobedience and rebellion to instructions that have been given before.
 - 5) You must punish a child for deliberately ignoring your instruction and spanking is one way you can do so.
 - B. Remember to explain to your child the purpose of the spanking.
 - 1) The rod and reproof give wisdom (Proverbs 29:15).
 - 2) Help the child to make the connection between the pain they feel with a certain action.
 - 3) Soon they will avoid the action to avoid the pain.
 - 4) Our Heavenly Father has told us that in order to avoid hell we must avoid certain forms of action (Hebrews 12:6,9,11).
 - C. Remember to reassure your child of your great love for them.
 - 1) Explain to your child that the purpose of the spanking was not, because you don't love them, because you do love them.
 - 2. Hold them in your arms and explain how difficult it is for you to have to spank them.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Many people will not agree with spanking children today. Is this the way of the world or the way of God?
- B. The Bible is our guide in raising our children.

A VIRTUOUS WOMAN
Proverbs 31:10-31

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need to spoil.

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

She is like the merchant's ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

She layeth her hands to spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: **but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.**

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.