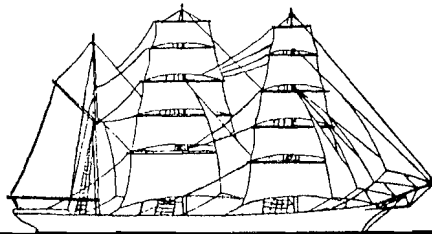
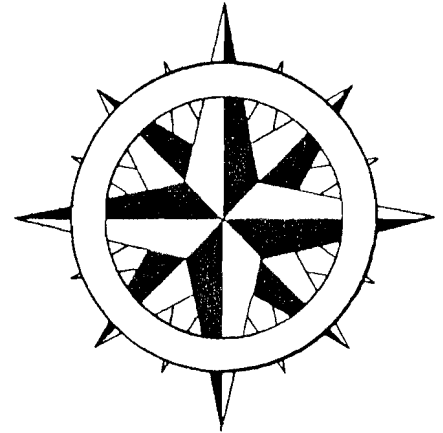


CHART

THE

GOSPEL



Vol. 2

by
WENDELL H. WATTS

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FOUR STEPS TO APOSTASY

INTRODUCTION: Many would be opposed to the title of this lesson because they contend that it is impossible to apostatize, or fall from grace. Their argument is "once saved, always saved." Many church members live as if they believe that it is impossible to "fall from grace." However, the verses of our text show beyond a shadow of a doubt that one can, and will, fall if he is not constantly on guard. In studying this lesson let us first notice that:

I. ONE MUST HAVE REACHED A POSITION FROM WHICH TO FALL.

- A. One becomes a child of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
- B. The Bible is our only source of faith.
- C. To please God we must walk by faith.
- D. Those who walk by faith remain free from the guilt of sin. Those who don't fall from grace.

II. THERE ARE FOUR STEPS TO APOSTASY.

- A. The first step is a wrong attitude. This is the beginning place of apostasy.
 1. A compromising attitude toward the preaching of the gospel will lead to unfaithfulness.
 2. Some say, "Preach the Bible and let everybody else alone." This is impossible.
 3. Others say, "Don't preach a negative gospel. Don't tell us what not to do. Preach a positive gospel." To do this would be a failure to preach the "whole council of God."
 4. Many today will not endure sound doctrine. They will even become mad and angry at it.
- B. The second step in apostasy, false teachers, quickly follows step one.
 1. When the preaching of the truth angers church members they often run the gospel preacher off and bring in one who will "tickple" their ears.
 2. During the days of the inspired prophets those claiming to be children of God heaped to themselves false teachers. In every age false teachers have been in great demand.
 3. Many congregations have been led into apostasy because the preachers tried to please the people instead of save the people.
- C. The next step in apostasy is to turn from the truth.
 1. When the understanding and heart have no desire for the truth, they are not going to listen to it.
 2. To turn from the truth is to turn away from God's power to save us from sin.
- D. The final step to apostasy is the acceptance of every false doctrine.
 1. When men do not find the truth agreeable, they often accept the wildest fancies or the most childish beliefs imaginable for doctrines.
 2. What a waste of soul! Profitless fables taken in exchange for soul-saving truth!

III. THE END RESULT IS COMPLETE APOSTASY.

- A. The Bible warns in numerous places of apostasy coming in the "last days" and the difficulty of restoring those who fall away. Let us remain faithful to God and His Word.

FOUR STEPS TO APOSTASY

2 Tim. 4:3-4

F
A
I
T
H

Rom. 1:17

2 Cor. 5:7

Rom. 10:17

WRONG
ATTITUDE

"will not endure sound doctrine" - 2 Thess. 2:10; Prov. 23:23; Mt. 5:6

FALSE
TEACHERS

"heap to themselves teachers" - Isa. 30:10; Jer. 5:31; Tit. 1:11; Mt. 7:15

"turn away their ears from the truth" - Jn. 8:32; 1 Pet. 1:22; Heb. 10:26

TURN FROM
TRUTH

"shall be turned unto fables" - 2 Thess. 2:11-12; Gal. 5:4; Jn. 12:48

TURN TO
FABLES

1 Tim. 4:1
2 Pet. 3:17

A
P
O
S
T
A
S
Y

ATTITUDES TOWARD ERROR AND SIN

INTRODUCTION: In 2 Tim. 4:3-4 Paul warns that the time would come when sin and error would have free course in the lives and hearts of men. The same writer also tells us that the wages of sin is death. The big question to consider during this study is, "What is our attitude toward sin and error?" There are four possibilities.

I. WE CAN DENY THEM.

- A. The Pharisee would admit that he was guilty of sin.
 - 1. He was quick to see sin in the lives of others, but not in his own life.
 - 2. Outwardly he appeared righteous, but his heart was not right. His attitude was wrong.
 - 3. John tells us that we lie if we deny that we are sinners.
- B. Ahab was not about to admit his wrong. He blamed the trouble on someone else.
 - 1. Many today, when asked for book, chapter and verse for what they practice, get mad and angry and admit no wrong, but brand others as trouble-makers and church-splitters.
 - 2. James admonishes all sinners to confess their sins.

II. WE CAN IGNORE THEM. (Pretend they don't exist.)

- A. Belshazzar ignored the fate which his father had suffered because of sin and was overcome by sin himself. His life was taken and his kingdom given to another.
 - 1. We can ignore sin now but we will face it in the Judgment.
- B. Some of the Jews of Christ's day ignored their sins and closed their eyes and ears to truth.
 - 1. Paul instructed Timothy to take heed unto himself. This is good advice for all children of God. We need to continually examine our lives to see if we are living in sin.
 - 2. We can't just ignore our sins and pretend they are not there. We must seek forgiveness.

III. WE CAN LIVE WITH THEM.

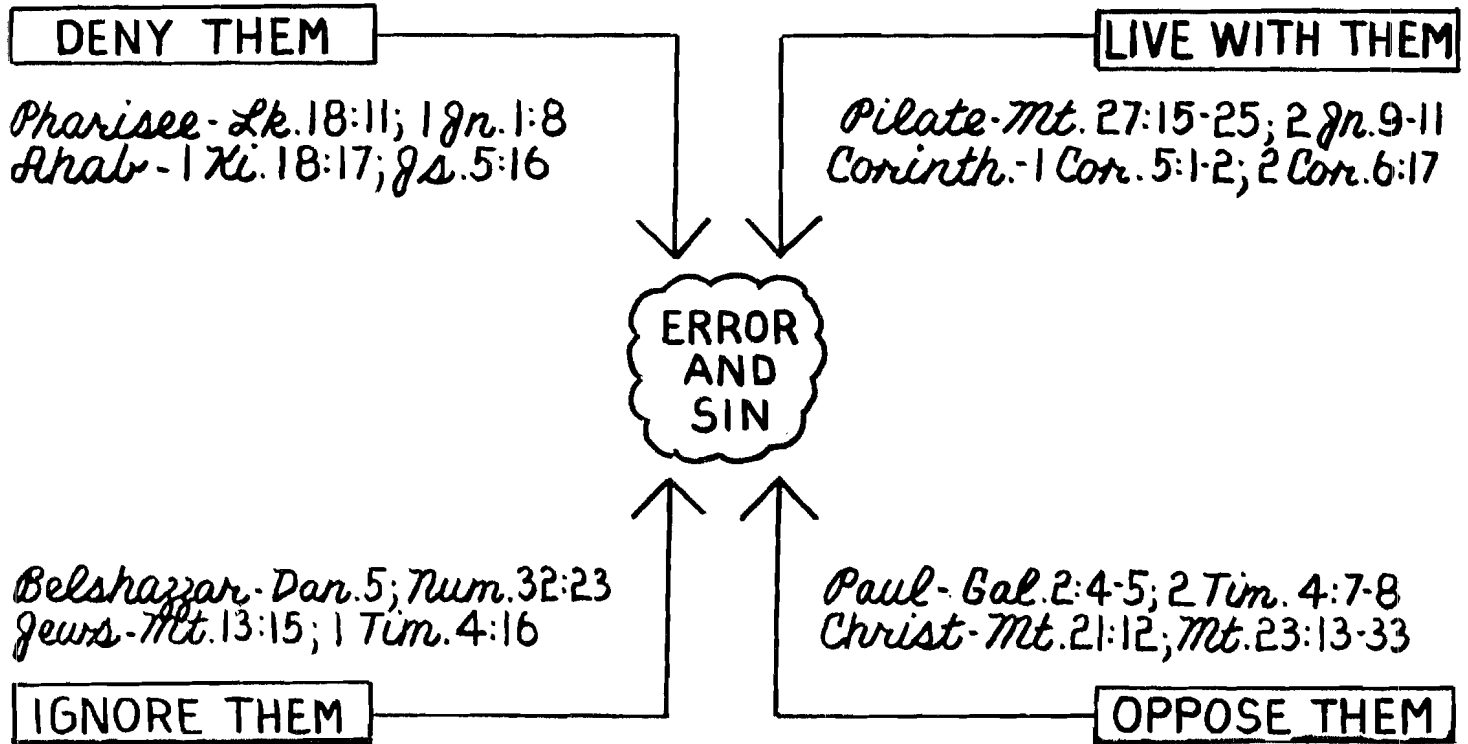
- A. Pilate knew he was guilty of sin when he refused to free the sinless Christ.
 - 1. This attitude and practice reflects a greater desire to please men than God.
 - 2. To live with sin and error is to become a party with them.
- B. Members of the church at Corinth were unconcerned about the sin among them. They lived with it.
 - 1. Many in congregations today do the same. They do not approve of the things being done, but like Pilate, they don't have the courage to resist evil.
 - 2. Many congregations have members who need to be withdrawn from, but no action is taken.
 - 3. We cannot live with sin in this fashion and please God.

IV. WE CAN OPPOSE THEM.

- A. Paul was never afraid to stand for truth and oppose sin and error.
 - 1. At the close of life Paul could truthfully say he had fought the good fight of faith.
 - 2. We can, and should, have the attitude that we are going to fight against sin and error with all our being. This is God's way.
- B. Christ, the greatest champion of truth and righteousness was constantly opposed to all evil.
 - 1. He "pulled no punches" when dealing with the Pharisees or any other sin or sinners.
 - 2. We must oppose sin in our lives, in the lives of others and within the church.

#2 ATTITUDES TOWARD ERROR & SIN

2 Tim. 4:3-4; Rom. 3:23



SOME OF GOD'S ATTRIBUTES & MAN'S SIN

INTRODUCTION: Our God is a wonderful Being Who is blessed with many attributes far beyond our power to understand. He is all-powerful, all-knowing and present in every place. Weak sinful man stands in awe when he attempt to comprehend God. In this study we will consider some of God's attributes as they relate to man and his sin.

I. GOD IS A GOD OF HOLINESS.

- A. God is a Being of sinless perfection, absolute purity.
- B. Man is a creature of sin and all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.
- C. Sin is offensive to God because it is offensive to His nature, dignity, and holiness.
- D. Sin is offensive to God because when one sins, he "defies" God, turns his back on God and rebels against God. We cannot oppose God and remain in His fellowship.
- E. Because of God's nature and man's sin, man is separated from God.

II. GOD IS A GOD OF JUSTICE.

- A. We can depend on God to deal fairly and justly with all men---to reward the righteous and to punish the wicked.
- B. Since sin is so offensive to God and results in such terrible conditions, it merits infinite punishment. Ezekial warns, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die."
- C. New Testament writers plainly teach that sin deserves to be, and will be, punished.
- D. Man justly deserves to be eternally punished for his sins. Salvation on the principle of justice alone is impossible.

III. GOD IS A GOD OF MERCY.

- A. The mercy of God is necessary in man salvation because pardon of guilt is an act of mercy, not of merit. Man cannot earn forgiveness apart from God's mercy.
- B. The mercy of God desires the salvation of all sinful men.
- C. How can God condemn the sinner and at the same time forgive the sinner? God's nature will not let man off until the penalty for sin has been paid, yet His mercy desires that all men be forgiven. There seems to be an unsolvable conflict between God's justice and mercy, but...

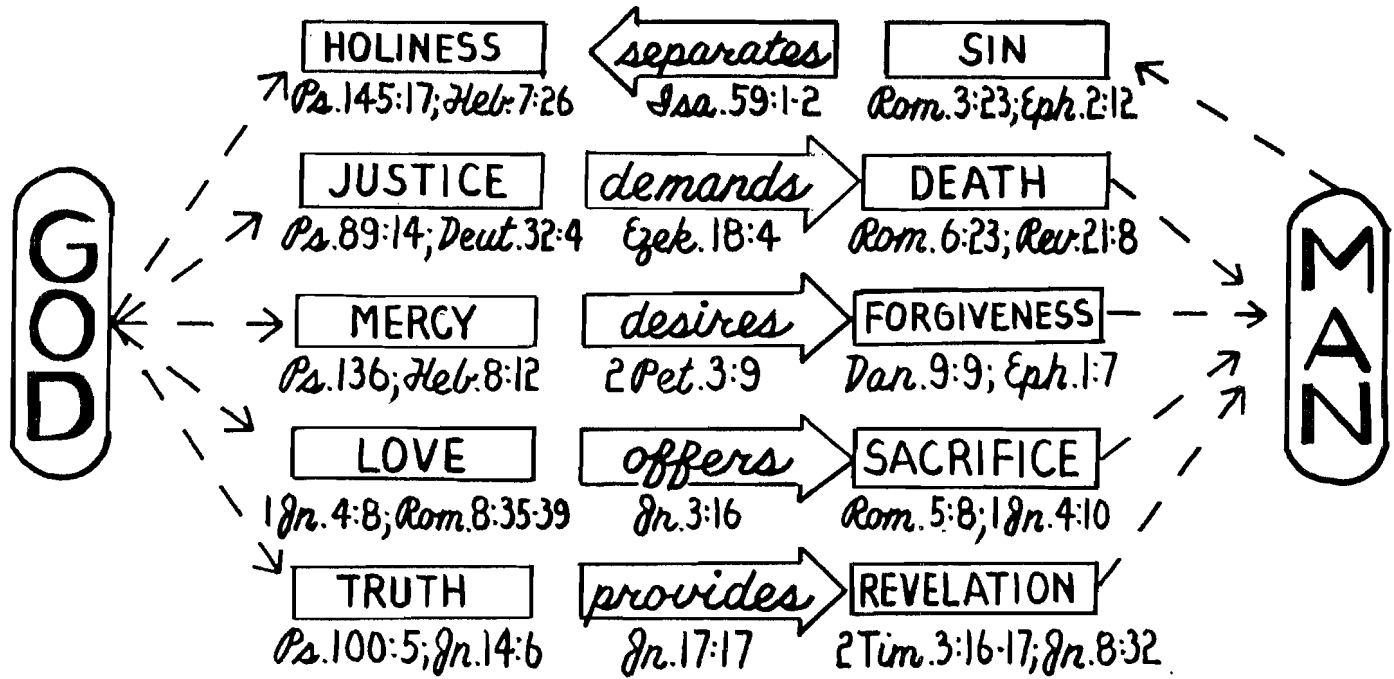
IV. GOD IS A GOD OF LOVE.

- A. At this point Love says to Justice, "I think I can solve this difficulty between you and Mercy. I will supply a substitute to die for man's sin that will satisfy Justice and allow Mercy to operate."
- B. Because of God's great love for man John was able to write the "Golden Text" of the Bible.
- C. As a "propitiation" for man's sin Christ satisfied God's penalty for sin and makes it possible for God to be able to forgive man and offer a way of salvation.

V. GOD IS A GOD OF TRUTH.

- A. Other factors in the plan of salvation would be in vain if God were not a God of truth.
- B. God reveals His truth to men today as He speaks to them through His Word.
- C. The Scriptures furnish man completely in every good work and obedience to the truth will make him free from sin.

SOME OF GOD'S ATTRIBUTES & MAN'S SIN



AUTHORITY IN RELIGION

INTRODUCTION: Standards and authorities are necessary in all walks of life. We have the laws of the land, standards of weights and measurements, standards of time, Etc. All of us are aware of the need of such and realize that confusion would reign without them. In the same fashion it is necessary that we have a standard of authority in the realm of religion. But the question is, "What can we use as a standard of authority in religion?" Let's consider a few that men use and see if any one of them can be relied upon.

I. CAN WE RELY UPON THE RELIGION OF OUR FATHERS?

- A. Many answer, "Yes," and follow the religion of their parents. Often their parents are divided.
- B. Paul learned that the religion of his fathers was wrong and gave it up.
- C. Peter told those to whom he wrote that they had been redeemed from their former way of life.
- D. Stephen told Jews of Jerusalem they were wrong in following in the footsteps of their fathers.
- E. Christ declares that those who love parents more than Him are not worthy to follow Him.

II. CAN WE RELY ON CONSCIENCE AS A SAFE GUIDE IN RELIGION?

- A. The Bible warns that a way may seem right to a man and yet lead to condemnation.
- B. Many would answer, "Let your conscience be your guide."
- C. Many idolators are conscientious when they offer their children to their "gods."
- D. Paul was honest and sincere when he led in the persecution against the Lord's church.
- E. If Paul could follow his conscience and be wrong, so can we.

III. SHALL WE FOLLOW THE DECISION OF THE MAJORITY?

- A. If so, we might be Communists, or Catholics, or idolators.
- B. Many like to be on the popular side and join themselves to the largest church in town.
- C. Following the majority could be wrong and sinful. The majority will be lost!
- D. The way of God has never been popular with the majority of the world.
- E. If God be with us, who can be against us?

IV. SHALL WE SUBMIT TO THE CREEDS OF MEN IN RELIGION?

- A. Millions have done so in times past and millions more are doing so today.
- B. Jeremiah warns that no man, or group of men, is wise enough to devise a plan of salvation.
- C. Following the doctrines and creeds of men causes one's religion to be in vain.
- D. Paul says our faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.
- E. The gospel is God's power to save; human creeds are divisive, deadly and destructive.

V. CAN WE ACCEPT THE BIBLE AS OUR AUTHORITY IN RELIGION?

- A. The Bible is divine, written by God. No other book can rightfully make this claim.
- B. The Bible furnishes a man unto every good work and will lead him to perfection.
- C. Paul said that the Bible is able to build us up and give us an inheritance among all them who are sanctified. The Bible is our "road map" to Heaven.
- D. The standard to be used at the Judgment will be the Bible and no other.

WHAT AUTHORITY DO YOU FOLLOW IN RELIGION? CAN YOU TRUST IT TO LEAD YOU TO ETERNAL SALVATION?

AUTHORITY IN RELIGION

?

RELIGION
OF FATHERS

Gal. 1:14
1 Pet. 1:18
Acts 7:51-52
Mt. 10:37

↓
NO!

MAN'S
CONSCIENCE

Prov. 16:25
Acts 23:1
Gal. 1:13
Acts 26:9-11

↓
NO!

DECISION OF
MAJORITY

Ex. 23:2
Mt. 7:13-14
Acts 4:19-20
Rom. 8:31

↓
NO!

CREEDS OF
MEN

Jer. 10:23
Mt. 15:9
1 Cor. 2:5
Gal. 1:8

↓
NO!

WORD OF
GOD

2 Pet. 1:21
2 Tim. 3:16-17
Acts 20:32
Jr. 12:48

↓
YES!

SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY

INTRODUCTION: No lesson of religion is more important than one on "scriptural authority". Authority means "the right or power to do or act". Scriptural means "according to the Bible". Scriptural authority, then, is doing or acting by the permission of God. In studying this lesson let us first consider:

I. HOW SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY CAN BE ESTABLISHED.

- A. By command. If God commands a thing, we have authority for doing it.
 - B. By approved example. If the church or early Christians did a certain thing during New Testament times under the guidance of the inspired apostles, we conclude that they had God's permission to so act and we use this method to establish authority.
 - C. By necessary inference. While a thing is not expressly stated, it may be necessarily implied by the import and meaning of the language used.
- * Illustrate by showing that we have authority for burying in water for the remission of sins.

II. DO WE HAVE SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY FOR THE CHURCH AND DENOMINATIONS IN THE RELIGIOUS REALM?

- A. Christ made the promise that He would build His church.
- B. Christ kept His promise, the church was established and the saved were added to her.
- C. Paul spoke of "churches of Christ" and wrote to the "church of God".
- D. God never demanded that a denomination be built.
- E. There is no record on the pages of the New Testament where a denomination ever existed.
- F. There is not the least bit of evidence that God authorizes their existence.

Conclusion: God authorizes the existence of His church, but denominations are unauthorized.

III. DO WE HAVE AUTHORITY FOR THE CHURCH AND HUMAN MISSIONARY SOCIETIES TO PREACH THE GOSPEL?

- A. Since the church has God's approval, we read about her work and activities in the N. T.
- B. As the pillar and ground of the truth the church is to preach and defend the gospel of Christ.
- C. The church is expected to grow and several churches supported Paul as he preached the gospel.
- D. Are human missionary societies scriptural? What command of God brings them into existence?
- E. What verse of Scripture tells of their existence during N. T. days?
- F. Where does the Bible even infer that God wanted or needed them? Where is the verse?

Conclusion: God authorizes the church to be His missionary society, human organizations operate contrary to God's will in the work of preaching the gospel.

IV. DOES GOD APPROVE OF THE CHURCH AND HUMAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES WORKING FOR HIM IN BENEVOLENCE?

- A. We know that the church can engage in benevolent work because it is recorded in the N. T.
- B. The local church was the only organization which functioned on each occasion when needy church members were assisted. No other organization was needed to do this work.
- C. Has God authorized any human benevolent society to do the work of the church? What verse?
- D. Where is the command to build human societies to do God's work?

Conclusion: The local church is the only organization authorized to engage in the work of God.

ANY ORGANIZATION, OTHER THAN THE LOCAL CHURCH, WHICH OPERATES IN THE RELIGIOUS REALM IS UNSCRIPTURAL

*5 28n.9-**SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY**-2 Tim.3:16-17

Col.3:17

ESTABLISHED BY:

COMMAND

Mt. 28:19

CHURCH

*Mt. 16:18; Acts 2:47;
Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:2*

DENOMINATION

????

APPROVED EXAMPLE

Acts 10:48; 22:16

CHURCH

*1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 4:12;
Phil. 4:15-16; Acts 13:3*

MISS. SOCIETY

????

NECESSARY INFERENCE

Acts 8:38

CHURCH

*Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-35;
Acts 6:1-3; 11:27-30*

BENEV. SOCIETY

????

BAPTISM-BEFORE AND AFTER

INTRODUCTION: In spite of the many verses of Scripture which point out the importance of baptism, there is much confusion, misunderstanding and false teaching on the subject. To point out the importance of baptism, let us consider what the Bible has to say about a person's spiritual condition, before and after baptism.

I. BEFORE BAPTISM

A. Lost in sin

1. Peter tell us we are saved by baptism-not by baptism alone, but certainly baptism is a part of God's plan of salvation.
2. Eternal punishment is preserved for those who die lost in sin-"the wages of sin is death."

B. Separated from God

1. Since one is lost in sin before baptism, he is separated from God because man's sin comes between him and God.
2. Paul describes the spiritual condition of the Ephesians before their salvation and pictures them as being without God and Christ.

C. Without hope

1. Separated from God man has no hope of salvation from sin-now and in eternity.
2. Some have a false hope (morality, universal salvation, various forms of religion) of salvation, but such a hope will prove vain at the day of judgment.

D. Must prepare

1. Some would snatch up almost anyone and baptize them. Not everyone is a fit subject for Bible baptism. Before one can be scripturally baptized, he must (1) be taught the gospel, (2) believe, (3) repent, (4) confess. These conditions would exclude infants and the mentally retarded. None but those who meet these requirements should be baptized.

II. AFTER BAPTISM

A. Sins washed away

1. Paul was not saved on the road to Damascus, even though he had seen and talked with Jesus. He had to be baptized and wash away his sins.
2. In referring to baptism, Paul speaks of the "washing of regeneration."

B. In Christ

1. Through baptism, in a spiritual sense, one gets into Christ.
2. One is baptized into the death of Christ where he contacts, in a spiritual sense, the blood of Christ.

C. In the church

1. Baptism puts one in the church which is the spiritual body of Christ.
2. In the church one can enjoy all the spiritual blessings which God has provided. (Eph. 1:3)

D. Hope of Heaven

1. Only those who have been baptized according to God's plan have the forgiveness of sin and the hope of Heaven. This hope provides comfort and strength during temptation and trials.

BAPTISM-BEFORE AND AFTER

BEFORE

LOST IN SIN

1 Pet. 3:21; Rom. 6:23

SEPARATED FROM GOD

Isa. 59:2; Eph. 2:11-12

WITHOUT HOPE

Eph. 2:12; 1 Thess. 4:13

MUST PREPARE

Must be taught-Mt. 28:19

Must believe-Mk. 16:16

Must repent-Acts 2:38

Must confess-Acts 8:37

B
A
P
T
I
S
M

AFTER

SINS WASHED AWAY

Acts 22:16; Titus 3:5

IN CHRIST

Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3

IN THE CHURCH

1 Cor. 12:13; Jn. 3:5; Col. 1:13

HOPE OF HEAVEN

Col. 1:5; 1 Cor. 15:19; Heb. 6:19

A MAN'S GREATEST BATTLE

INTRODUCTION: Every person who has ever lived upon this earth has fought battles of one kind or another. All of us battle against sickness and disease. Thousands have died fighting upon the battlefields in the world's great wars, and many others have engaged in battle in athletic and sporting events. In our text Paul speaks of man's greatest battle of all, the battle of good against evil, righteousness against sin. It is the greatest battle of all because man's eternal destiny is determined by the outcome. Let us now consider man's greatest battle.

I. THE BATTLEGROUND

- A. Man is a dual being---spirit and flesh.
- B. This battle takes place between the fleshly (outer man) and the spiritual (inner man).

II. SATAN'S PART

- A. Satan tempts man to sin through the flesh.
- B. The three avenues of temptation are: the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.
- C. Satan tempts man to sin in all three ways as seen in the case of Eve and Christ.

III. CHRIST'S PART

- A. Christ speaks to the inner man through the Word of God.
- B. God promises that even though the devil walketh about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, that man will not be tempted above that which he is able to endure.
- C. Whenever man is tempted to sin, God will provide a way to escape, or overcome, temptation.

IV. SOME PRESENT-DAY BATTLES

- A. The Christian must fight the battle of attending all the services of the church. Christ, through the Word of God, commands him to attend. Satan, through the three avenues of temptation, entices him to stay away.
- B. The Christian is commanded to give as he has been prospered on the first day of every week. The devil tempts the Christian to give little to the Lord and use his money on himself. Again the battle rages.
- C. Christ encourages the one lost in sin to obey the gospel, while the devil does everything within his power to keep the lost sinner from obeying. A great battle results.

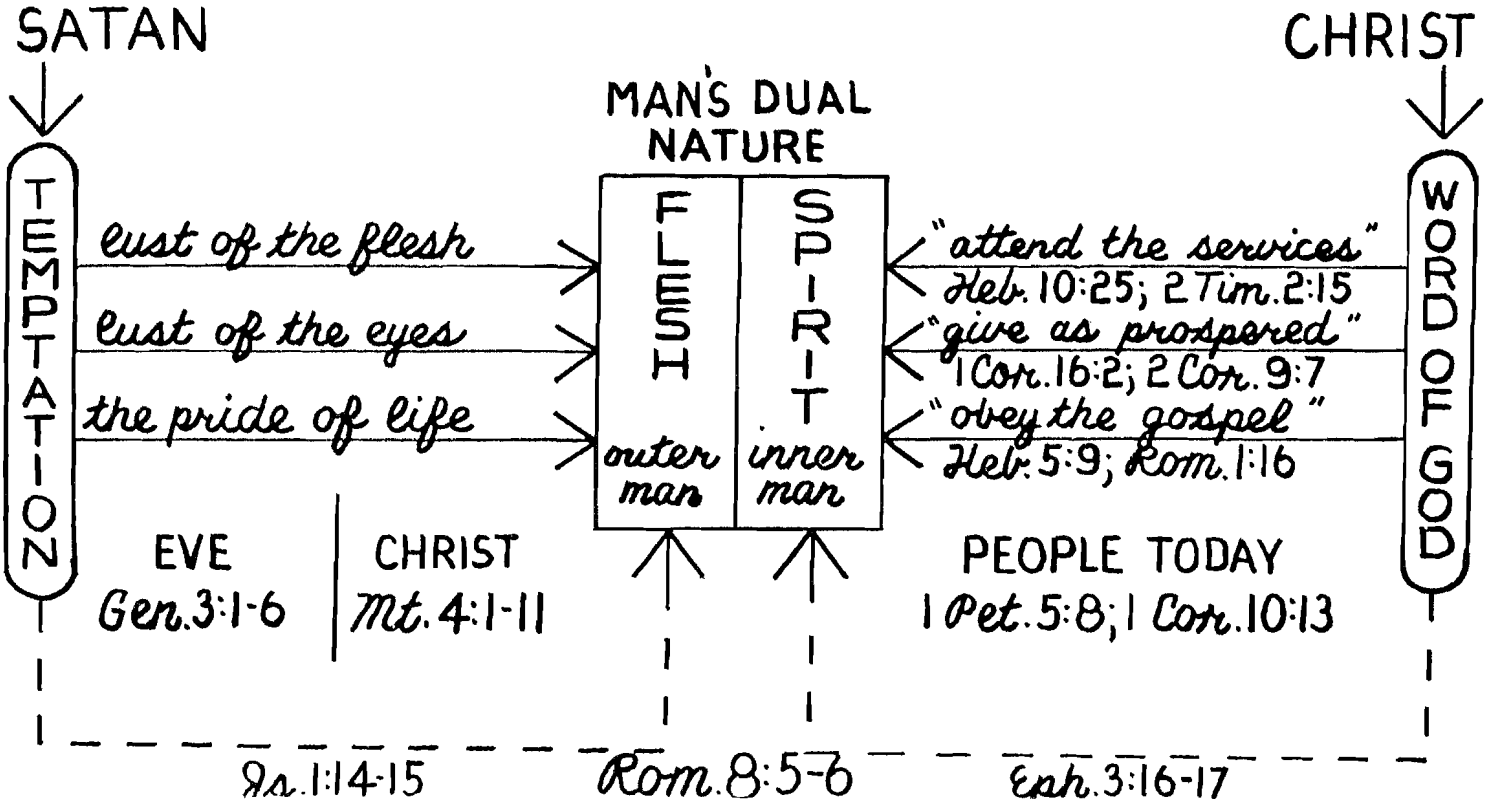
V. THE OUTCOME

- A. Man can yield to the temptations of Satan through the weakness of the flesh and sin.
- B. Man can obey the commands of the Lord and live righteously.
- C. The outcome of the battle depends upon the decision of the individual.
- D. To be carnally (fleshly) minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

ARE YOU A SOLDIER OF THE LORD? ARE YOU FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH?

A MANS GREATEST BATTLE

Rom. 7:22-23



THE BIBLE-GOD'S REVELATION TO MAN

INTRODUCTION: The Bible is the greatest book in all the world. It is God's revelation (uncovering, unveiling, making known that which was previously hidden) to man. Certain things, important things, which, once, were known only to God have been revealed to man, through the Bible. The importance of the Bible becomes evident when we consider that:

I. MAN NEEDS THE BIBLE.

- A. To know God.
 - 1. The Bible tells us about the great love, power, wisdom, mercy, etc., of God.
- B. To know self.
 - 1. Only from the Bible can man learn of his beginning, his nature and his purpose on earth.
- C. To know sin.
 - 1. Without the Bible man would be ignorant of what sin is, who tempts man to sin and the consequences of sin.
- D. To know truth.
 - 1. In the gospel of Christ God reveals the plan which enables man to overcome sin and save his soul.
- E. To know eternity.
 - 1. We all know we are going to die, but what then? Without the Bible we would be in the dark.

The Bible serves man's greatest need by enlightening him on the above subjects so that man can be saved.

II. MAN HAS A DUTY TOWARD THE BIBLE. (He cannot ignore it and please God.)

- A. Study it.
 - 1. Since the great truths of this life and the next are in the Bible, man ought to want to study it.
- B. Believe it.
 - 1. Man must accept it, believe it, if it is to accomplish its purpose.
- C. Obey it.
 - 1. If man is not willing to obey the commands of the gospel, he cannot be saved.
- D. Love it.
 - 1. The man who loves God will also love God's Word, the Bible.
- E. Teach it.
 - 1. If a man really loves the Bible and the souls of men, he will teach God's Word to others.

III. THE BIBLE IS A WONDERFUL GIFT FROM GOD TO MAN.

- A. How grateful we should be that God has given us this great book.
- B. Let us join with David, in praise to God, for this rich blessing.

CONCLUSION: "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

#8 THE BIBLE-GODS REVELATION TO MAN

MAN'S NEED OF IT

TO KNOW GOD
Acts 17:24-25; Jer. 10:10

TO KNOW SELF
Gen. 1:26-27; Ecc. 12:13

TO KNOW SIN
1 Jn. 3:4,8; Rom. 3:23

TO KNOW TRUTH
Jn. 8:32; 1 Pet. 1:22

TO KNOW ETERNITY
Rev. 21:8; Jn. 14:1-3

HOLY BIBLE
*Ps. 119:105; Ps. 19:7-8;
2 Tim. 3:16-17; Rev. 22:18-19*

Acts 20:32

MAN'S DUTY TO IT

STUDY IT
Ps. 1:1-2; 2 Tim. 2:15

BELIEVE IT
Rom. 10:10; 1 Thess. 2:13

OBEY IT
Jer. 7:23; Rom. 6:16-18

LOVE IT
Ps. 119:97; Mt. 13:23

TEACH IT
2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 3:15

THE NEW BIRTH

INTRODUCTION: It is difficult, if not impossible, to overestimate the importance of the new birth, when we consider what Jesus said about it in John 3:5--that without it no man can enter the kingdom of God. Into the kingdom he may desire to enter, may pray to enter, may even think he has entered, but into it he can never go without being born again. In this lesson let us learn what it means to experience the "new birth."

I. OF WHAT DOES THE NEW BIRTH CONSIST? WHAT PROCESSES ARE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE IT?

A. Born of water.

1. If "water" literal or figurative? Many say it is figurative, but don't know what it is a figure of. If we can't know what it is a figure of, how can we know what to do to be born again? Many, to accommodate themselves, reject the literal meaning of water because it stands against the doctrines of men and shuts them out of the kingdom of God. Others admit to the literal meaning of water, but apply it to the physical birth. (This was the mistake that Nicodemus made--thinking that to be "born again" was connected with a physical birth.) This new birth is a "spiritual birth", as Jesus shows in John 3:6-8.
2. If the water is used in a literal sense, what does it mean to be "born of water"? Water is never present in any act connected with the kingdom of God, except one. In that act it is always present and never absent. That act is baptism. Romans 6:4-5 is a good description of being "born of water". Heb. 10:22 and Titus 3:5 speak of the same act. One is baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27) and in Christ he is a new creature (born again). (2 Cor. 5:17)

B. Born of Spirit.

1. Does this mean that the Holy Spirit "operates directly" upon the individual? Hardly so. Well, how does He accomplish His work in the "new birth"? The instrument which He uses to accomplish His part in the "new birth" is revealed in Eph. 6:17. Jesus emphasizes that the word of God is the seed of the kingdom. (Lk. 8:11) Both Peter and James teach that we are born of the word of God. John teaches us that the seed is planted when one believes. The one who believes then has the power to become a son of God (be born again). When he has been "born again" of water and the Spirit, he enters the kingdom of God.

II. THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ARE ONE AND THE SAME INSTITUTION.

A. Jesus uses the two terms, interchangeably, in Mt. 16:18-19.

B. The fact that the Lord's Supper is enjoyed in both proves them to be the same organization.

III. JESUS TELLS WHO SHALL BE SAVED IN MARK 16:16

A. It is the one who believes and is baptized.

B. When one is saved, he is added to the church. (Acts 2:47)

CONCLUSION: Since the church of Christ and the kingdom of God are the same, one is added to the kingdom when he is saved, or enters the church when "born again." When Jesus told Nicodemus that he must "be born again, of water and the Spirit," He had in mind exactly the same thing that He did when He said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

THE NEW BIRTH

Jn. 3:3-5

BORN:
OF WATER

Rom. 6:4-5
Heb. 10:22
Titus 3:5
Gal. 3:27
2 Cor. 5:17

AND

OF SPIRIT

Eph. 6:17
Lk. 8:11
1 Pet. 1:23
Is. 1:18
Jn. 1:12-13

NEW BIRTH

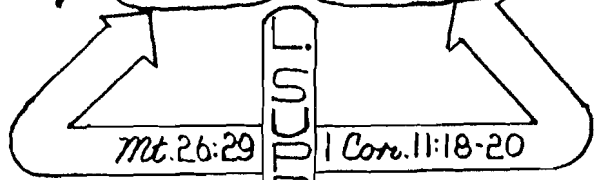
Jn. 3:5
enter into

KINGDOM OF GOD

Mt. 16:18-19

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Acts 2:47
added to



Mt. 26:29

1 Cor. 11:18-20

MOUNTAIN

SALVATION

HE THAT:
believeth

AND

is baptized

Mk. 16:16

JESUS CHRIST-PROPHET, PRIEST AND KING

INTRODUCTION: The inspired writers of the Bible use many titles when speaking of the works and offices of the Lord Jesus Christ. Among these titles of the Lord we find "prophet", "priest" and "king". In this lesson it will be our purpose to determine how Jesus functions in these capacities and what it means to the sinner.

I. JESUS AS PROPHET

- A. God has spoken through the mouths of prophets since the beginning of the world.
- B. Holy men of God speak as they are guided by the Holy Spirit.
- C. In former times God spoke through different prophets in various ways, but now He speaks to man through His son.
- D. Man must hear Christ or be destroyed from among the people.
- E. Christ, God's prophet for today, speaks to man, makes known God's will, through the gospel.

II. JESUS AS PRIEST

- A. One of the chief duties of the priest is to offer sacrifices to God for the people.
- B. Christ, as priest, must offer a sacrifice to God.
- C. Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.
- D. Since Christ is our High Priest, we can approach God for mercy and grace.
- E. By offering Himself as a sacrifice Christ shed His blood to redeem sinful man, once and for all time.

III. JESUS AS KING

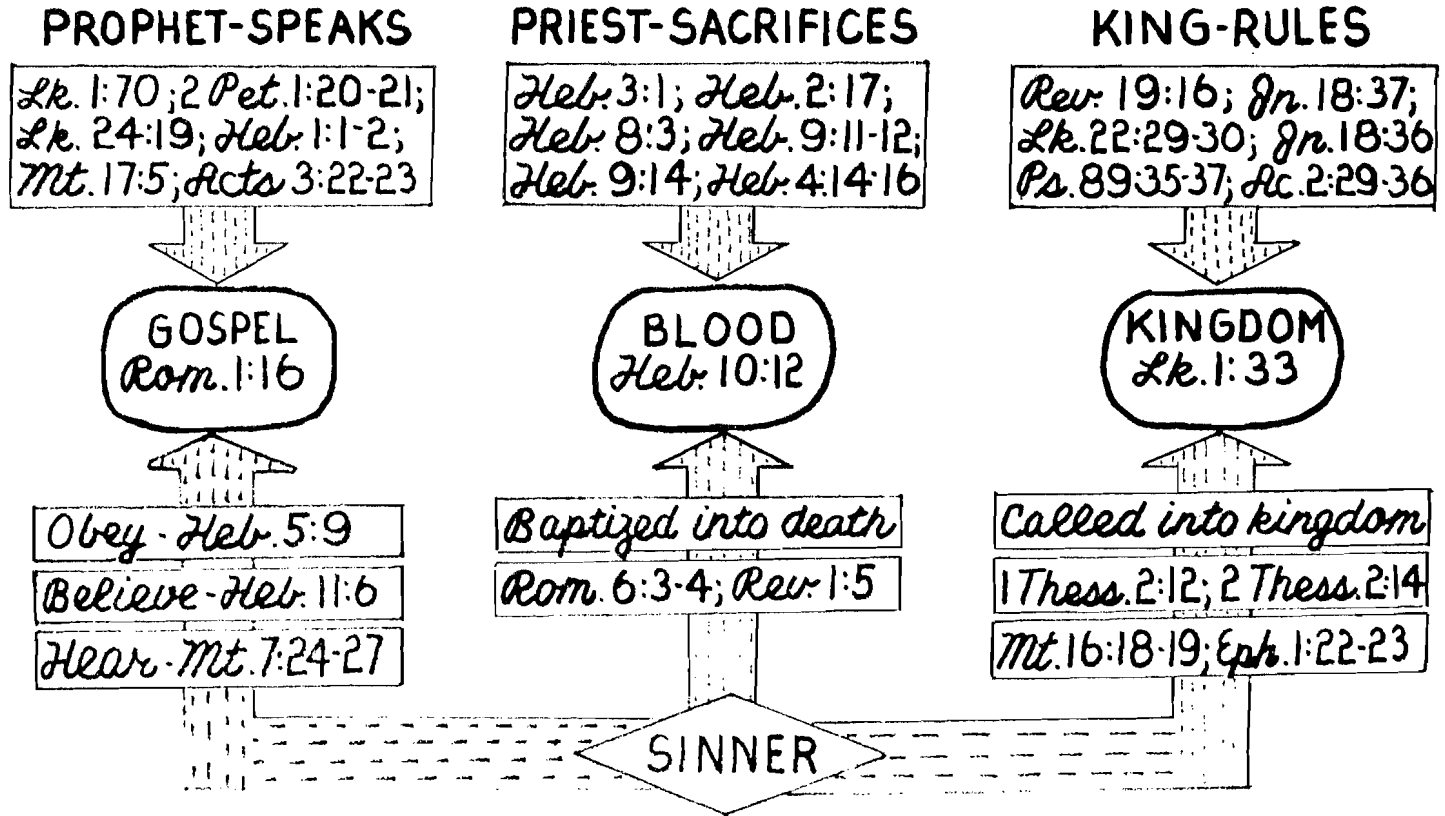
- A. Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- B. The Lord admitted to being a king and promised to establish His kingdom.
- C. His kingdom is not of this world.
- D. The Psalmist said that God would establish David's throne in Heaven and that David's seed would endure forever. Peter teaches that this prophecy of David was fulfilled in Christ.
- E. The kingdom of Christ is an everlasting kingdom. Christ rules on His throne from Heaven.

IV. WHAT THIS MEANS TO THE SINNER

- A. Since Christ, as a prophet, speaks through the gospel, the sinner can hear, believe and obey the gospel of Christ.
- B. Since Christ has shed His blood in His death on the cross, the sinner can be baptized into the death of Christ where he can contact the shed blood and have his sins washed away.
- C. Since Christ is king and rules over His kingdom, the church, the sinner can submit to the authority of the King and become a member of His kingdom. God calls the sinner into the kingdom through the gospel.

CONCLUSION: One cannot be saved without hearing and obeying the gospel of Christ, being washed in the blood of the Lamb and becoming a member of the Lord's church because Christ is Prophet, Priest and King.

#10 JESUS CHRIST-PROPHET, PRIEST, KING



THE LORD'S CHURCH AND DENOMINATIONS

INTRODUCTION: The Bible is God's revelation to man. Through a study of the Bible man learns how to serve God acceptably while on this earth that he might save his **soul** in Heaven. Since God has given man all things that pertain to life and godliness and has completely furnished him unto all good works in the Bible, each accountable being needs to be sure and certain that he teaches and upholds only those things which are authorized by God. In this lesson we will consider what the Bible has to say about the Lord's church and denominations.

I. WHICH CHURCH DID CHRIST BUILD?

- A. The Bible has much to say about the Lord's church and the fact that Christ built it.
- B. Paul tells us that the church was planned and purposed by God before the creation of the world.
- C. The inspired prophets of the Old Testament wrote about the coming kingdom, or church.
- D. Christ is promised to build His church and fulfilled that promise as recorded in Acts 2.
- E. There is not a single verse of Scripture that even hints that Christ built any denomination.

II. WHICH DID CHRIST DIE FOR?

- A. Paul had much to say about the Lord's church and wrote that Christ purchased the church with His blood and gave Himself for it.
- B. Paul told the Corinthians they had been bought with a price and Peter told Christians they had been redeemed with the precious blood of the Lamb.
- C. No person can find the verse of Scripture which teaches that Christ died for a denomination.

III. WHICH IS CHRIST THE HEAD OF?

- A. Since Jesus has all authority, God has given Him to be head over all things to the church.
- B. Because Christ is the head of the body, the church, Paul uses the figure of the physical body and its members working together to represent the members of the church working under Christ as the Head.
- C. Denominations all have "heads" but not a one of them is blessed with Christ as head.

IV. WHICH DOES CHRIST LOVE?

- A. The church is a special object of Christ's love and He gave Himself for it, sanctifies and cleanses it as He nourishes and cherishes it.
- B. Perhaps the chief reason why Christ so loves the church is that God is glorified through it.
- C. If there is a single denomination that the Lord loves, the Bible doesn't tell us about it.

V. WHICH WILL CHRIST SAVE?

- A. In using the figure of a sheepfold to represent the church Christ said that one must enter in (into the church) to be saved, and we are told that the Lord added the saved to the church.
- B. Paul speaks of Christ as the Savior of the body (church) and pictures her as a glorious church.
- C. From the beginning to the end of the Bible it is silent concerning the salvation of a single, solitary denomination.

WARNING: The Bible says that "every plant which God has not planted shall be rooted up." This warning is too clear and the penalty too severe to be ignored.

THE LORD'S CHURCH & DENOMINATIONS

2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17

THE LORD'S CHURCH

*Eph. 3:10-11; Dan. 2:44;
Mt. 16:18; Acts 2:1-47* ←

*Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25;
1 Cor. 7:23; 1 Pet. 1:18-19* ←

*Mt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22-23;
Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:12-27* ←

*Eph. 5:25; Eph. 5:26;
Eph. 5:29; Eph. 3:21* ←

*Jn. 10:9; Acts 2:47;
Eph. 5:23; Eph. 5:27* ←

HOLY BIBLE

Christ built it.

Christ died for it.

Christ is its head.

Christ loves it.

Christ will save it.

DENOMINATIONS

? ? ?

? ? ?

? ? ?

? ? ?

? ? ?

Mt. 15:13

IDENTIFYING THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION: In the text the Lord promises to build His church. Most people are agreed that the Lord has fulfilled that promise, but there is much confusion as to which church, of the many in existence, is the one church that the Lord promised to build. In an effort to eliminate this confusion let us notice some marks of identification of the church as we study this lesson on "Identifying the Church."

I. ALL IDENTIFYING MARKS OF THE CHURCH ARE REVEALED IN THE BIBLE.

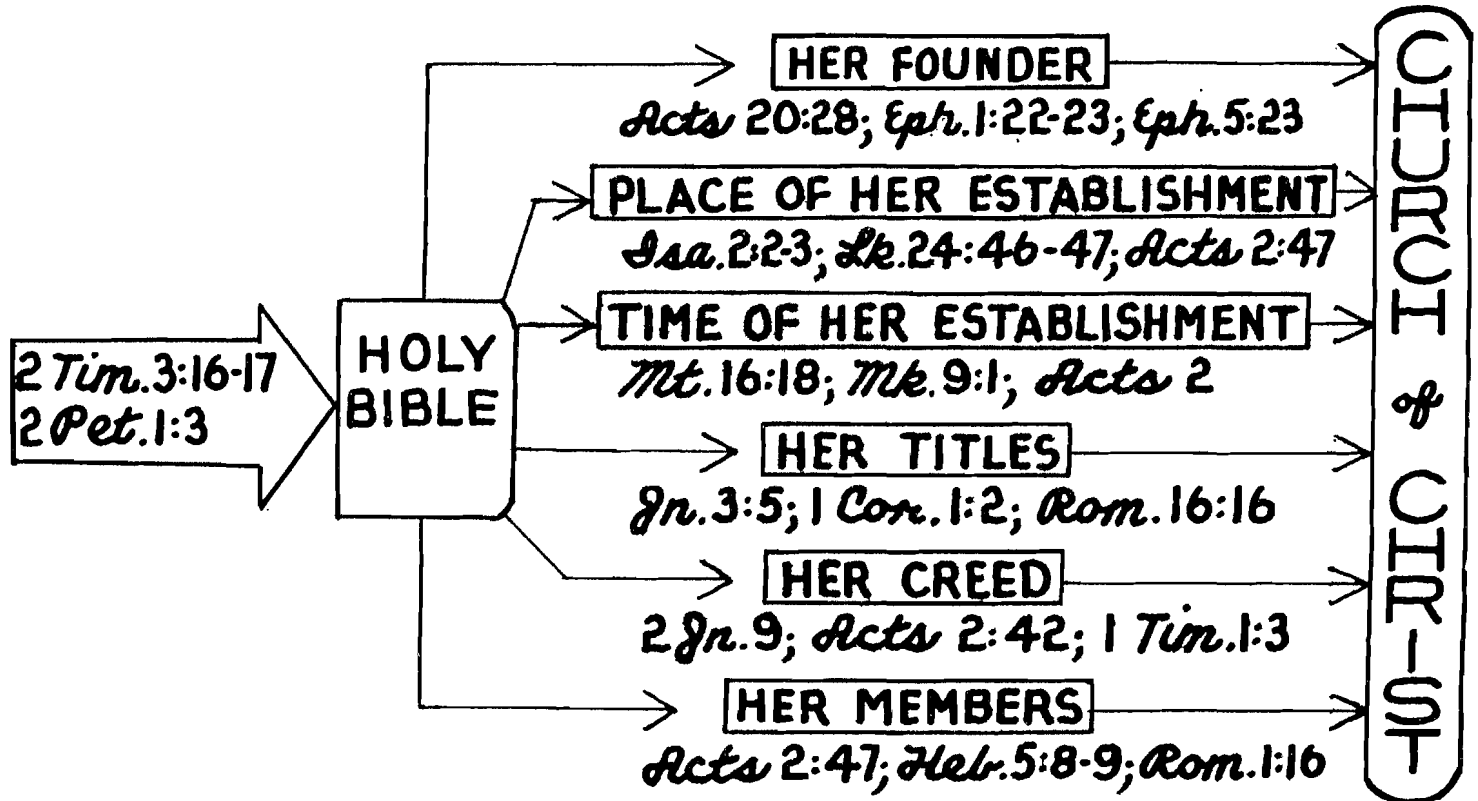
- A. This is so because the Bible is from God and is a complete and perfect revelation of the mind of God to sinful man. It contains all that pertains to life and godliness.
B. We cannot depend, then, on man's ideas and opinions as we seek to identify the church.

II. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE IDENTIFYING MARKS OF THE CHURCH THAT ARE FOUND IN THE BIBLE?

- A. The founder of the church is one of the distinctive marks of the church.
1. Every organization in existence today has someone who is responsible for its beginning.
2. The Bible speaks of Christ as purchasing the church with His blood, and being her head and her Saviour. No church can be the true church that was not founded by Christ.
- B. The place of her beginning is another identifying mark of the church.
1. Prophets of the Old Testament period had foretold the beginning of the church.
2. Their prophecies were fulfilled; the Lord's church had her beginning in Jerusalem.
3. A church founded in Rome, London, Geneva, or any other place cannot be the Lord's church.
- C. The time of her beginning also helps to identify the Lord's church.
1. In Mt. 16:18, Christ said, "I will build my church." This was to be done in the future. John the Baptist was already dead. He could not have built the Lord's church. Was not a member.
2. The church was established during the days of the Apostles. Any church established since then is not the church of the living God.
- D. The name worn by the church of the living God.
1. Everything has a name, or names, by which it is known. And so it is with the church. God has given her certain names that she can wear that serve to identify her.
2. Any religious body labeled with a name foreign to the Word of God must be a new and strange body. It must be different from the original church to wear a new name or title.
- E. The distinctive creed, or doctrine, of the church furnishes another mark of identification.
1. Every church has a doctrine that is peculiar to it, and it alone. So does the Lord's church.
2. To be the Lord's church a church must teach the same doctrine that the Apostles taught.
3. The Lord never authorized any man to alter His law, by either addition or subtraction.
4. Those formed into other parties, under other laws, are not indorsed by the Lord of glory.
- F. Requirements for membership distinguish the Lord's church from all other institutions.
1. No other organization on earth has the same requirements for membership. The Bible reveals what one must do to become a member of the Lord's church. Christ is the Saviour of those who obey.
2. All of the saved are in the Lord's church. No saved person is outside the church.
3. Only those who hear, believe and obey the gospel of Christ become members of the one church.

IDENTIFYING THE CHURCH

Mt.16:18



WHAT THIS CHURCH NEEDS

INTRODUCTION: The text informs us that Jesus has a special love and concern for the church. His great love for the church led Him to die for her and His concern for the church is such that He wants her to be a glorious church. While the church is used in the "universal" sense in the text, it follows that every local church must be a glorious church if all her members are to be included among those who are eternally saved. In this lesson let us notice what this church needs to be a glorious church in the sight of our Lord.

I. THIS CHURCH NEEDS GOSPEL PREACHING.

- A. Many churches are being starved to death, spiritually, because the preachers are preaching a "watered-down" gospel and the opinions, doctrines and creeds of men.
- B. Paul told Timothy to preach the word and declares that the gospel of Christ is God's power to save. He warns against preaching any other.
- C. The Word of God will be the standard by which we will be judged at the last day.

II. THIS CHURCH NEEDS UNITY.

- A. The glory of many churches is destroyed because there is strife and discord among members.
- B. Jesus prayed for the unity of His followers and Paul spoke out against division.
- C. The only basis for religious unity is the Word of God.

III. THIS CHURCH NEEDS CAPABLE ELDERS.

- A. Capable elders are not forced into the work, but desire the work to better serve God.
- B. Capable elders know their duties and understand that their authority is limited to the local church where they are members.
- C. Capable elders, as they live the Christian life and lead the church in God's work, are entitled to respect and obedience.

IV. THIS CHURCH NEEDS CONSECRATED MEMBERS.

- A. This church needs "hungry" members; those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.
- B. Many members are hungry for worldly things and are not laying up treasures in Heaven.
- C. Every church needs members who will sacrifice for the Lord and will put the church "first."

V. THIS CHURCH NEEDS DISCIPLINE.

- A. Many churches bring shame and dishonor to the Lord because of ungodly members.
- B. The Bible teaches that unfaithful and unruly members should be withdrawn from.
- C. Unfaithful church members who are not withdrawn from influence others to live in sin.

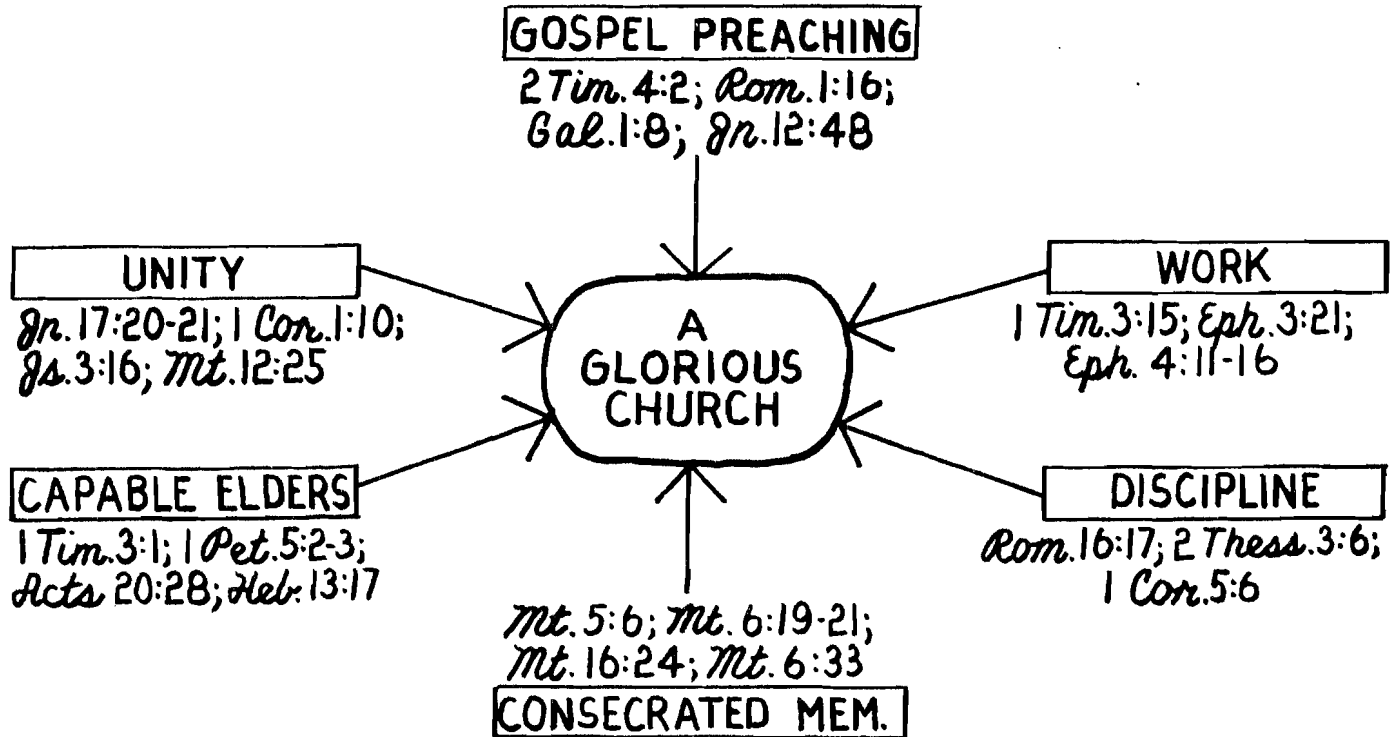
VI. THIS CHURCH NEEDS WORK.

- A. God planned, purposed and established the church that she might do God's work upon the earth.
- B. When human institutions are used to do the work God has given to the church, the church and God are robbed of the glory which belongs to them alone.
- C. Paul tells us that this work can be accomplished by all the members working together.

CONCLUSION: Each member should ask himself this question, "If all the members were just like me, what kind of church would this church be?" Would she be a glorious church?

WHAT THIS CHURCH NEEDS

Eph. 5:25-27



THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

INTRODUCTION: Surely, if there was ever a Christian upon the earth, Paul was one. In studying the conversion of Saul, later known as Paul, we will notice some things about his conversion which are required in most conversions of today.

I. SAUL PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST.

- A. Saul was so intent on doing the Lord's will that he neither ate nor drank for three days.
- B. Jesus teaches that man should lay up treasures in Heaven, rather than treasures upon the earth.
- C. Seeking the kingdom of God and doing God's will should be the chief desire of every man.
- D. Paul encourages us to set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth.
- E. Most today, unlike Paul, are more interested in money, worldly pleasures and worldly possessions. Most do not obey the gospel because they are unwilling to put first things first.

II. SAUL NEEDED DIVINE GUIDANCE TO BE SAVED.

- A. Jeremiah tells us that man is unable to direct his steps, cannot devise a plan of salvation.
- B. Saul, after learning that he was speaking with the Lord, asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Notice that he was not saved on the road to Damascus.)
- C. God did not leave Saul groping in the dark, but sent an inspired man to tell him what to do to be saved.
- D. God has revealed the plan of salvation for men today in the gospel of Christ.

III. SAUL NEEDED MORE THAN HONESTY.

- A. Saul had been honest and conscientious in everything he had ever done.
- B. He thought he was doing the right thing, even when he led in the persecution against the Lord and the Lord's church.
- C. A man may be deceived into believing a thing is right when all the time it is sinful.
- D. Many today suppose they please God because they are honest and sincere. This is not enough.
- E. Only by knowing and obeying the will of God can a man be saved from sin.

IV. SAUL CHANGED HIS RELIGION.

- A. This took a lot of courage on the part of Saul because he was one of the leaders among the Pharisees. His reputation was widely known.
- B. In becoming a Christian Saul had to separate himself from his immediate family and his kinsmen who were, perhaps, all members of the sect of the Pharisees. He offered no excuses.
- C. Many today have inherited their religion from their parents and are unwilling to make a change. They need to have the courage of Saul and be willing to do whatever the Lord requires.

V. SAUL CONFERRED NOT WITH MEN.

- A. He didn't run to high priest, or his father and mother, or some other person to get their opinion about the matter, but he obeyed the Lord immediately, without any delay or hesitation.
- B. Had Saul waited until he received the permission of men, he would have become a servant of men rather than a servant of the Lord.
- C. So many today refuse to obey the gospel of Christ because they do not have the approval of their parents, or some other human being. We ought to obey God, rather than man!

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Acts 9:9; Mt. 6:19-21
Mt. 6:33; Col. 3:1-2*

NEEDED DIVINE GUIDANCE

*Jer. 10:23; Acts 9:6;
Acts 9:10-17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*

CONFERRED NOT WITH MEN

*Gal. 1:15-16; Acts 26:19;
Rom. 6:16; Mt. 7:21*

SAUL

*Acts 9:1-18;
22:1-16; 26:9-18*

NEEDED MORE THAN HONESTY

*Acts 23:1; Acts 26:9;
Prov. 16:25; Jn. 8:32*

CHANGED HIS RELIGION

*Acts 26:5; Gal. 1:13-14;
Lk. 14:26; 1 Cor. 11:1*

CONVICTION OR CONVENIENCE??

INTRODUCTION: In religion men act from conviction, because they believe a thing with all their heart, or from convenience, because a thing is as easy to do as not to do and there is an advantage to be gained in doing it. In studying this lesson on Conviction or Convenience let us first consider:

I. SOME BIBLE CHARACTERS WHO HAD CONVICTIONS.

A. JOB

1. God allowed Satan to test Job by taking away all his possessions and sons and daughters.
2. Job's wife encouraged him to curse God and die.
3. Job had convictions and remained faithful to God through all his trials and temptations.

B. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

1. The king commanded that all in the kingdom fall down and worship the golden image.
2. They chose to be cast into the flaming furnace rather than become unfaithful to God.
3. Because of their convictions they were saved and God was glorified.

C. Paul

1. He had faith in God and trusted in the promises of God.
2. His great faith and strong convictions enabled him to endure much suffering as a Christian.
3. Because of his steadfastness, even to death, he was to be eternally rewarded.

II. SOME BIBLE CHARACTERS WHO ACTED BECAUSE OF CONVENIENCE.

A. Jeroboam

1. He made two golden calves to be worshipped, placing one in Dan, the other in Bethel.
2. He did this out of convenience for himself and the subjects of his kingdom.
3. This thing became a sin.

B. Judas Iscariot

1. He was privileged and honored to serve as an Apostle, had a great opportunity to do good.
2. His first love was money and not the Lord. He had no real convictions.
3. Because of his weakness he betrayed the Lord.

C. Pharisees

1. They only pretended to worship the Lord.
2. They loved the praises of men more than the praises of God.
3. Jesus identified them with the strongest language possible---hypocrites!!!

III. WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU SERVE BECAUSE OF CONVICTION OR CONVENIENCE??

- A. Do you attend church services to worship God in spirit and in truth? Do you really enjoy being able to worship God?
- B. What keeps you from obeying the gospel? Is it because you have not been convicted of your sins? Is it because you have not found a convenient time?
- C. Why did you obey the gospel? Did you obey from the heart? Or did you go through the pretense because you simply wanted to please some friend or love-one?

CONVICTION OR CONVENIENCE ?

JOB

Prosperity taken away - Job 1:13-19
 His wife tempts him - Job 2:9
 Job had convictions - Job 1:22, 2:10

JEROBOAM

Golden calves - 1 Kings 12:28-29
 For convenience - 1 Kings 12:26-27
 Resulted in sin - 1 Kings 12:30

SHADRACH, MESHACH, ABEDNEGO

Decree of king - Dan. 3:1-6
 Cast into furnace - Dan. 3:20-21
 Saved by God - Dan. 3:17, 25

JUDAS ISCARIOT

Listed as apostle - Mt. 10:2-4
 Loved money - Jn. 12:4-6
 Betrayed the Lord - Mt. 26:14-16

PAUL

Had convictions - 2 Tim. 1:12
 Willing to suffer - 2 Cor. 11:23-27
 To be rewarded - 2 Tim. 4:7-8

PHARISEES

Hearts not in religion - Mt. 15:8
 Loved men's praises - Mt. 23:5-7
 Hypocrites - Mt. 23:28

YOU ?

Why do you attend church services? - Jn. 4:24
 Why have you not obeyed God? - Acts 24:25
 Why did you obey the gospel? - Rom. 6:17

EVOLUTION VERSUS THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION: Evolution has many meanings and ideas attached to it. In this lesson we will consider evolution as taught by those who contend that man has evolved from the ape. We will first consider the basic ideas of the theory and then notice how this theory is in direct opposition with some of the eternal truths of the Word of God.

I. BASIC IDEAS OF THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION

- A. It begins something like this, "Lifeless matter, acted on by natural forces, gave life to one or more living organisms." This is "spontaneous generation", life from non-life. This is an impossibility and, actually, the doctrine is defeated before it even "gets off the ground."
- B. The theory continues and has the "original one-cell living organism" dividing and developing through millions of years, until it looked, perhaps, somewhat like a tadpole. The tadpole, in turn, changes and evolves until it resembles a partially developed fish. After becoming a full grown fish it continues to evolve and finally develops legs and feet which enable it to come out of the sea and dwell on land. This land animal continues to develop and evolve through many more changes, until, finally, after some 500 million years from its beginning, the original organism has evolved into an intelligent human being. Most evolutionists contend that all life, both animal and vegetable, evolved through this process. Needless to say, this theory is built on pure assumption, is filled with "loopholes" and cannot be proven.

II. SOME BIBLE TRUTHS THAT ARE IN CONFLICT WITH THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION

A. Creation

1. The Bible account of creation is that God created all life "full-grown."
2. The Bible account of creation leaves no room for the theory of evolution.
3. If the Bible account of creation is true, the theory of evolution must be false.

B. Law of Kinds

1. This is an unchangeable law of God, set in motion at creation, that every seed would produce after its kind.
2. There have been changes within the species but never a change from one species to another (for instance, a dog to a cat, a horse to an elephant). Again Evolution fails.

C. Sin

1. Evolution teaches that man had the lowliest of beginnings and has evolved to his present state. Some evolutionists teach that man will, eventually, evolve into perfection.
2. The Bible teaches that man began in perfection and fell by disobedience.

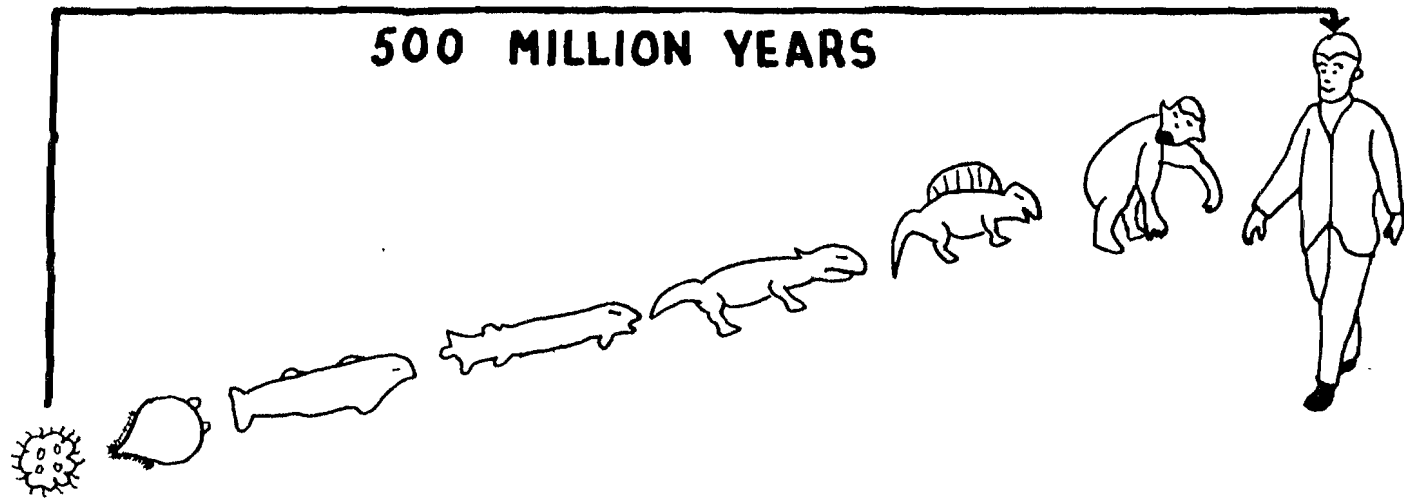
D. The Bible

1. The Bible claims to be the inspired Word of God. If its accounts of creation, the law of kinds and sin are not true, it becomes a fraud and cannot be relied upon.

E. God

1. If the Bible is not true, then, what about the One who claims to be its author?
2. The ultimate goal of evolution is to destroy faith in the God of Heaven and His Word. Many atheists and agnostics have been bold enough to admit that this is true.

EVOLUTION VERSUS THE BIBLE



CREATION

Gen. 1:11
Gen. 1:20
Gen. 1:24
Gen. 1:27

LAW of KINDS

Gen. 1:12
Gen. 1:21
Gen. 1:25
Gen. 1:28

SIN

Gen. 3:1-6
Rom. 3:23
Rom. 6:23
Rom. 5:8

THE BIBLE

Lk. 1:70
Heb. 1:1
2 Pet. 1:21
2 Tim. 3:16

GOD

Gen. 1:26
Jn. 1:1-3
Acts 17:26
Enh. 4:5-6

EXAMINE YOURSELF

INTRODUCTION: In the text Paul tells us, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith." Self-scrutiny is one of man's most neglected duties. Oh, we sometimes delight in examining others but the work is not nearly so pleasant when it comes to a self-examination. But, regardless of the difficulty of the task, we must do as Paul instructs. In studying this lesson let us first notice that:

I. THE EXAMINATION MUST BE PERSONAL.

- A. Each person will be responsible for his own sins.
- B. At the Judgment we will be judged on an individual basic.
- C. The question is not, "Am I physically strong?" or "Am I intellectually brilliant?" or "Am I popular among men?" but the question to be answered by this self-examination is, "Am I in the faith? Am I faithful to God?" This is the question of questions.

II. THE EXAMINATION MUST BE BY THE RIGHT STANDARD.

- A. One cannot examine himself by the standards and doctrines of men.
- B. It is foolish for one to trust in his own feelings during this self-examination.
- C. Comparing ourselves with other humans is not the right standard. Many compare themselves with spiritual weaklings and conclude they are spiritually strong. (Many church members are guilty.)
- D. The standard by which we examine ourselves should be the high and infallible Word of God.

III. THE EXAMINATION MUST BE THOROUGH.

- A. Whether you are in the faith is not to be assumed, but proven. Thus, the examination must be thorough. (Illustrate with desire for complete physical exam.)
- B. Our attitude should be that, as expressed by David in Ps. 139:23-24.
- C. We should seek to improve and grow stronger in the Lord, day by day.
- D. Solomon, after trying vainly to find happiness in worldly things, concluded that man never can be truly happy until he serves God faithfully. Therefore, this examination must be thorough, looking to our strong points, as well as our weak ones. We must make our good points better, while eliminating the bad points. We should strive to go on to perfection.

IV. THE EXAMINATION MUST BE HONEST.

- A. Most individuals are prone to apply to themselves easy and partial tests. Every man is tempted, in self-examination, to be biased in his own favor, dwelling on strong points, ignoring weak.
- B. Sooner, or later, our sins will catch up with us. If not now, certainly at Judgment. It is always best to admit our sins, confess them and obtain God's and man's forgiveness.
- C. Be honest in answering the following questions. Have I obeyed the gospel of Christ from the heart? Am I faithfully living the Christian life? Do I sacrifice to give to God?

V. THE EXAMINATION MUST BE CONTINUOUS.

- A. A favorable inventory for the business man one year does not automatically mean a favorable one every year. Many verses of Scripture show that this examination must be continuous.

CONCLUSION: The business man who finds errors in his management and fails to correct them will bankrupt himself. The person who finds cancer in his body and refuses to have it removed will surely die. The one who finds sin in his life and does not remove it will be lost!

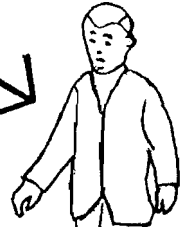
EXAMINE YOURSELF

MUST BE PERSONAL

*Ezek. 18:20; 2 Cor. 5:10;
Rom. 14:12; Mt. 25:31-32*

MUST BE CONTINUOUS

*1 Cor. 9:27; Jas. 1:25;
1 Jn. 1:7; Rev. 2:10*



BY RIGHT STANDARD

*Isa. 55:8-9; Prov. 14:12;
2 Cor. 10:12; Jn. 12:48*

MUST BE HONEST

*Num. 32:23; Jas. 5:16;
1 Jn. 1:8-10; Prov. 28:13*

2 Cor. 13:5

MUST BE THOROUGH

*Ps. 139:23-24; Heb. 6:1;
Ecc. 12:13-14; Jas. 1:4*

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

INTRODUCTION: The words of the text apply to every member of the church. If a man is to save his soul, he must fight the good fight of faith. In considering this important duty let us notice it in detail.

I. FIGHT

A. In fighting we have certain enemies against whom the battle must be waged.

1. The devil and his angels.
 - a. The fight is not against flesh and blood, but against wicked spiritual beings.
 - b. We must be on guard because the devil takes advantage of every opportunity to make us fall into sin.
2. The world.
 - a. To love the world is to be an enemy of God.
 - b. The things of the world are corruptible and cannot save man's soul.
3. Fleshly lusts and passions.
 - a. The flesh is weak and easily lead into sin.
 - b. He that sows to the flesh will lose his soul.

II. THE GOOD FIGHT

A. This is a good fight for the following reasons:

1. It is for a worthy cause.
 - a. This fight is in behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. The fight has to do with man's salvation and his gaining a heavenly home.
2. It is a stand for right.
 - a. It is in opposition to sin and the unfruitful works of darkness.
3. It glorifies God and defeats Satan.
 - a. When we resist sin and Satan we honor God and Christ Jesus.

III. FIGHT OF FAITH

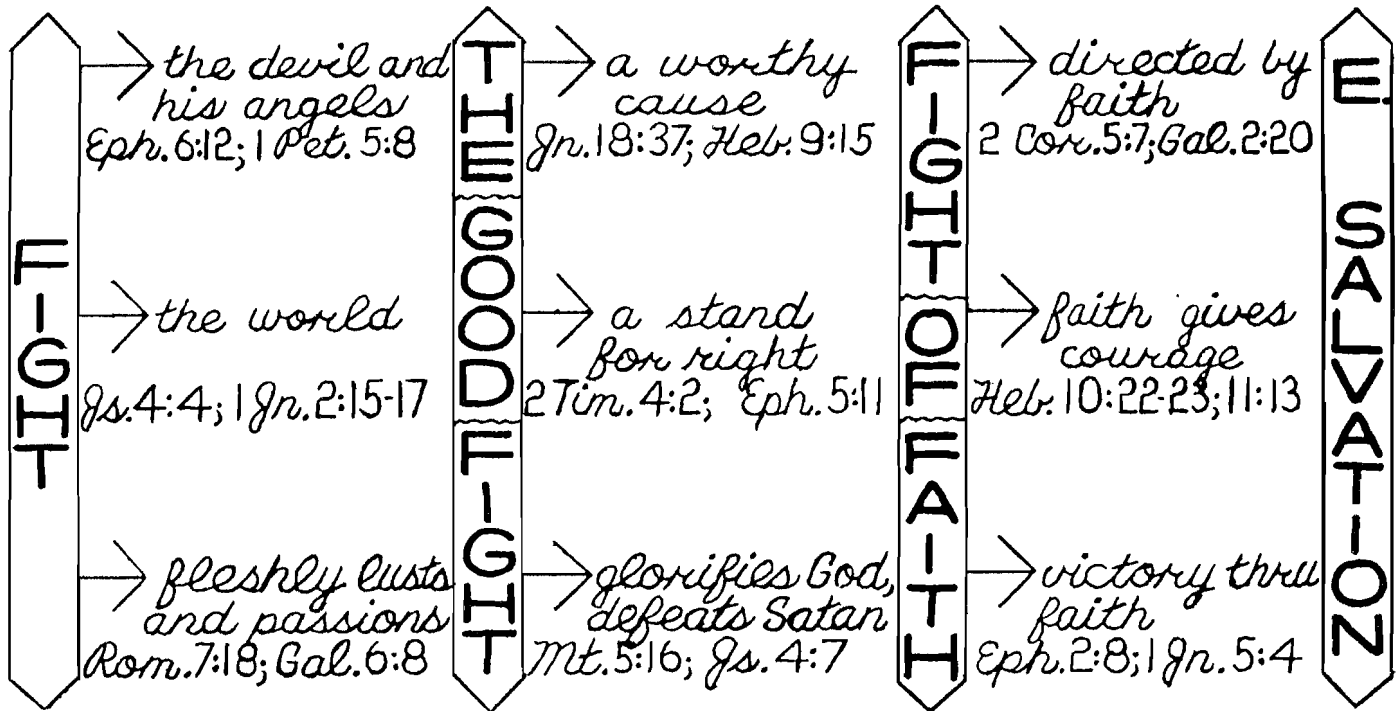
A. We must fight a fight of faith because:

1. We must walk by faith, as God directs us and guides us through His word.
 - a. Faith comes by hearing the word of God. (Rom. 10:17)
 - b. Walking by faith enabled Paul to live a dedicated life of service for Christ.
2. Faith gives us courage.
 - a. When we have the proper faith, it gives us strength to remain faithful and trust in God.
 - b. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is filled with the records of those who were courageous through faith in God.
3. Through faith we gain victory over sin and eternal condemnation.
 - a. Faith enables us to obey God and receive forgiveness of past sins.
 - b. Faith allows us to continue to serve God acceptably under all conditions and die in a saved condition.

WE MUST FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH IF HEAVEN IS TO BE OUR ETERNAL HOME!

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

1 Tim. 6:12



THE TRAGEDY OF FRUITLESSNESS

INTRODUCTION: In this parable of the barren fig tree the primary application has to do with the Jewish nation and Christ's efforts to lead them to repentance. Still, the basic principles of the story did not pass away with the Jewish nation, but would apply to all church members today. Let us consider the parable in this light, as it applies to Christians.

I. THE BARREN TREE WAS USELESS.

- A. Because it had no fruit, it was absolutely worthless to the owner.
- B. This is an apt description of many of today's church members.
- C. Church members are all expected to bear fruit, but many are barren.
- D. Most church members are not wicked; they are not lawbreakers. They are neither violent nor revengeful nor hateful. They simply are of no use. And this, in the eyes of Jesus, is the greatest of failures.
- E. Christ does not expect the impossible, but He does expect some fruit from every tree.
- F. Are you bearing fruit in the service of the Lord?

II. THE BARREN TREE WAS A HINDRANCE.

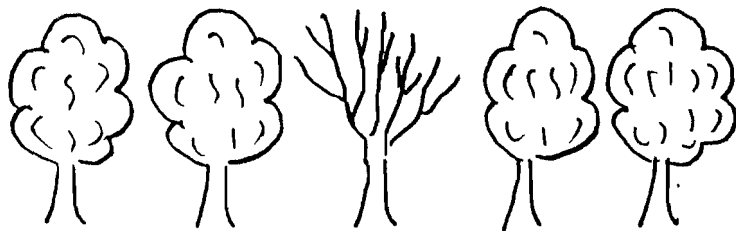
- A. It was in the way. It was not only doing no good, but it was hindering good from being done. Thus, the owner asked, "Why cumbereth it the ground?"
- B. Many church members are like this barren fig tree. Not only do they fail to do good themselves, but they keep others from serving the Lord faithfully.
- C. Unfaithful church members often discourage some who are trying to bear fruit and cause them to become unfruitful and unfaithful.
- D. Unfaithful church members often hinder others from obeying the gospel because of the evil influence which they yield.
- E. Each member should make daily investigation to determine if he is a help or a hindrance to the Lord's cause. Let each ask, "Am I standing in the way of doing good?"

III. THE BARREN TREE WAS TO BE DESTROYED.

- A. It was useless, in the way and had to be cut down.
- B. It is the law of nature that whatever does not reproduce itself must die. This is a universal law whether applied to the vegetable kingdom, the animal kingdom, or human beings.
- C. The barrenness of the tree was entirely the fault of the tree.
- D. God warns through the Bible that unfruitful church members will be eternally punished.
- E. Our Lord expects us to be fruitful in every good work. There is no place in the kingdom of Christ for non-producers. The lazy, indolent and indifferent need not entertain hope of reward in this life or that which is to come.
- F. Even though we live in homes where there is a Bible in almost every room, many of us bear no real fruit in the Lord's service.
- G. It is not an angry God that condemns us to eternal punishment. We condemn ourselves. Fruitlessness invites disaster now and in the Judgment to come.

THE TRAGEDY OF FRUITLESSNESS

Lk. 13: 6-9



IT WAS USELESS

It had no fruit - Lk. 13: 6
 Church members are expected to bear fruit - Jn. 15: 8; 2 Pet. 1: 5-9

Many church members are useless - Mt. 5: 13; Mt. 25: 1-46; 1 Cor. 15: 58

IT WAS A HINDRANCE

"Why cumbereth it the ground?" - Lk. 13: 7

Many church members are hindrances - 1 Cor. 5: 6; Mt. 18: 6

IT WAS TO BE DESTROYED

"Cut it down" - Lk. 13: 7

Unfruitful church members will be destroyed - Jn. 15: 6; Mt. 7: 19; 2 Pet. 3: 9

THE GOSPEL-GOD'S POWER TO SAVE

INTRODUCTION: The word "Gospel" literally means "good news" or "glad tidings." The text informs us that it is God's power to save. We ask, "To save whom?" and "From what?" We shall endeavor to answer these questions as we study this lesson.

I. MAN IS LOST IN SIN.

A. Paul tells us that all have sinned and in sin one is separated from God and Christ-without home. It is man, then, who is lost in sin and needs to be saved from eternal condemnation.

II. THERE IS BUT ONE GOSPEL THAT CAN SAVE US.

A. There are many perversions, but only one gospel that is perfect and complete.
B. Anyone who teaches that God is saving people apart from the gospel of Christ is perverting the gospel of Christ and the curse of God rests upon him.

III. WHY CAN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST SAVE US?

A. It is divine in origin. It comes from God. It is divine in inspiration. Its aim is divine. It is given for the salvation of man.
B. It is a power of God. God has all power and controls all things but God has chosen to put the power to save the souls of men in the gospel. There is no power to save in the immense force of the atom, the ocean currents, the tornadic winds, or anything else, but the gospel. The gospel of Christ is God's power to save. The power of God to preserve the physical body is physical food. The power of God to save sinful man is the gospel of Christ.
C. It contains the righteousness of God. In Ps. 119:172, we read that "all of God's commandments are righteousness." Vines defines righteousness as "the sum total of all that God requires." In containing the righteousness of God the gospel simply contains the plan of salvation for sinful man.

IV. WHAT GOES INTO THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL?

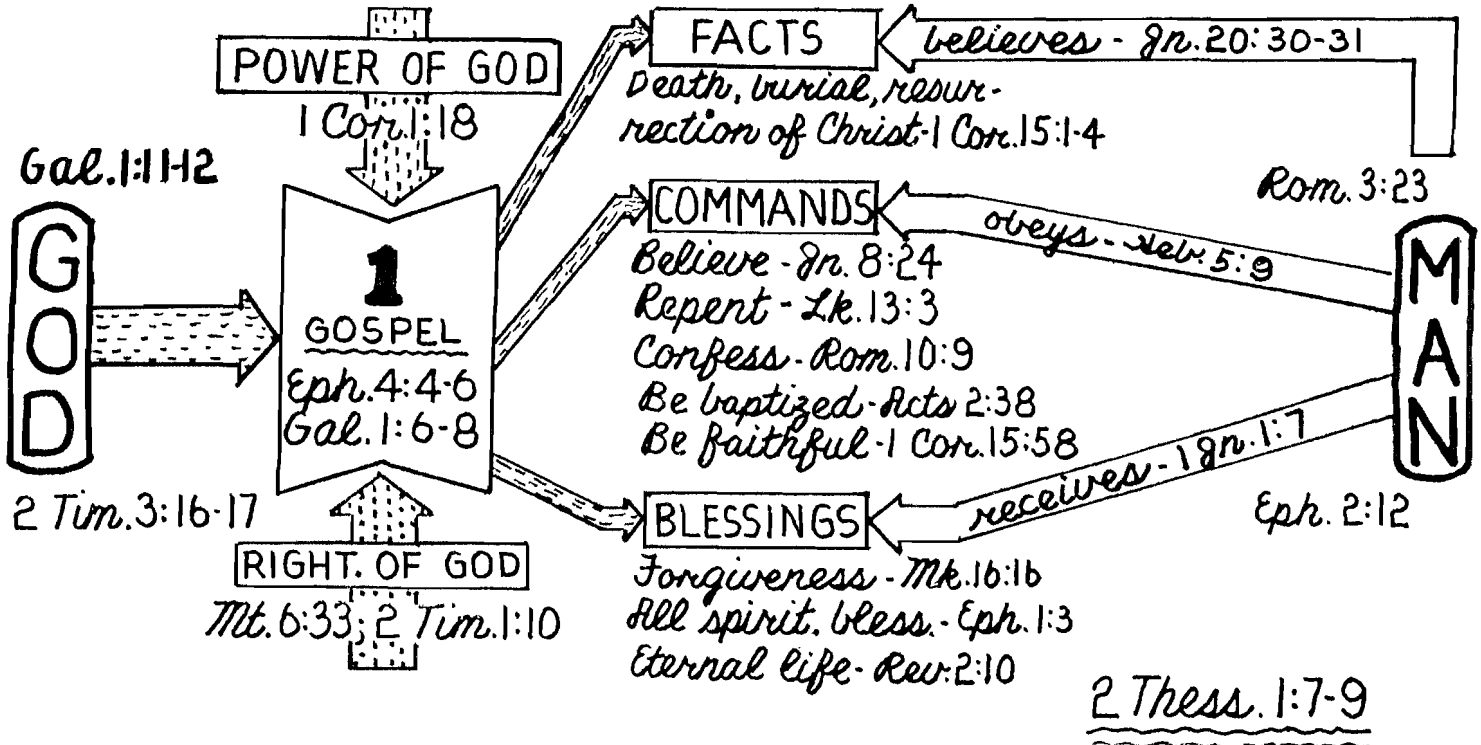
A. There are facts of the gospel. All of these revolve around the central theme of the gospel which has to do with the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord.
B. There are commands in the gospel. These include the commands to believe, repent, confess, be baptized for remission of sins and be faithful and zealous in the Lord's service.
C. There are promised blessings in the gospel. These blessings would include the forgiveness of sins, all spiritual blessings which are in Christ and finally eternal salvation in Heaven.

V. HOW DOES THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL SAVE A MAN?

A. Man must believe the facts of the gospel. He must come to have a strong belief in the fact that Jesus is the Son of God and Saviour of the world.
B. Man must obey every command of the gospel. If a man's faith in Christ is what it ought to be, he will not hesitate to do all that the Lord commands of him to save his soul.
C. Man will receive God's promised blessings when he obeys. When he obeys the gospel of Christ, he receives the forgiveness of all past sins and begins to enjoy all the spiritual blessings that are in Christ. If he remains faithful as a servant of God, all of his life upon this earth, Heaven will be his eternal home. In this manner the gospel is God's power to save man.

THE GOSPEL-GOD'S POWER TO SAVE

Rom. 1:16-17



THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION: The subject of this lesson is one about which there is much false teaching and misunderstanding. Even prominent "gospel" preachers are preaching false doctrines, in connection with this subject. While it is impossible for mere man to know about and understand all the workings of the Holy Spirit, the Bible does clearly reveal to man a great deal about the work of the Holy Spirit. In this lesson we will notice the work of the Holy Spirit as connected with the Apostles and with people of today.

I. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH THE APOSTLES

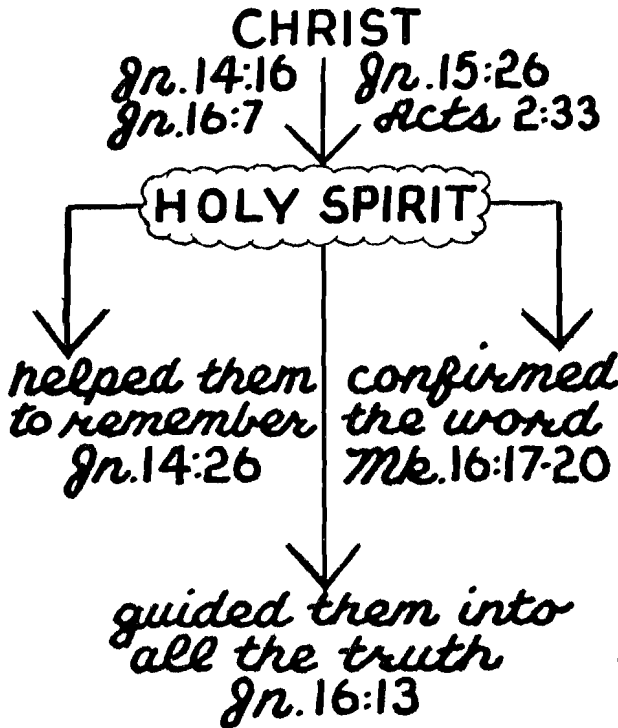
- A. The Holy Spirit was to be a Comforter (aide, assistant, helper) to the Apostles.
- B. Christ, before His death and after His resurrection, promised to send the Holy Spirit to the Apostles. Notice that this was a promise. God has never commanded anyone to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- C. On the first Pentecost after His resurrection from the grave, Christ, in fulfillment of His promise to the Apostles, sent the Holy Spirit upon them.
- D. The Holy Spirit worked with the Apostles in a special way—a miraculous way.
 1. He caused them to remember all the things that Christ had previously taught them that they might make the proper use of those things at the proper time.
 2. Through the power of the Holy Spirit the Apostles could perform miracles which were used to convince the people that they were men of God with the message of God.
 3. Christ, while on the earth, did not reveal all the truth to the Apostles. Even at that time the Apostles were not ready to receive all the truth. After Christ had ascended into Heaven, the Holy Spirit was sent to the Apostles to teach them new truths, things previously unknown to them. The Holy Spirit guided the Apostles, in a miraculous manner, as they both taught and wrote those truths, that no error or false doctrine be taught by them. It is for this reason that we can completely rely upon the Word of God as an infallible guide in all religious matters.
 4. The direct operation of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles was for a special purpose. It was not for their salvation but to enable them to do a special work for God. There is not a single, solitary instance in all the Bible where one had to be baptized in the Holy Spirit to be saved. With the age of the Apostles, the Holy Spirit ceased working directly on people.

II, THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH PEOPLE TODAY

- A. The Holy Spirit works with, and on, people today through the Bible. Many Scriptures teach this.
 1. The Holy Spirit speaks through the Word. No later revelations, dreams, visions. Word complete.
 2. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin through the Word. In Acts 2 the Holy Spirit did not act upon lost sinners in a direct way to save them, but they were pricked when they heard the word.
 3. The Holy Spirit plays a part in the new birth, but not in a direct manner. When one hears the gospel and obeys it, he has been born of water and the Spirit.
 4. The Holy Spirit sanctifies through the Word. One is sanctified when set apart to serve God.
 5. The Holy Spirit saves people as they hear the Word and obey.
 6. One can be lead by the Spirit or resist the Spirit. The Spirit says, "Come."

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WITH THE APOSTLES



WITH PEOPLE TODAY

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Eph. 6:17
Heb. 4:12
Col. 3:16
Gal. 3:2
Acts 5:32

Speaks
1 Tim. 4:1 *2 Pet. 1:20-21*

Reproves of sin
Jn. 16:8 *Acts 2:36-37*

Spiritual birth
Jn. 3:5 *1 Pet. 1:23*

Sanctification
2 Thess. 2:13 *Jn. 17:17*

Salvation
Titus 3:5 *Jas. 1:21*

Rom. 8:14
Acts 7:51
Rev. 22:17

THE LOVE OF MONEY

INTRODUCTION: Money, alone, is neither good or evil. It is one's attitude toward money and the use he makes of it that leads to sin. Paul warns about the danger of money and the love of it in the text. Let us now consider some characters of the Bible and the sins they became guilty of because of their love of money.

I. THE RICH MAN

- A. The rich man was selfish and thought only of himself. Notice all the personal pronouns he use.
- B. Heavenly treasures are the only ones that are lasting and enduring.
- C. Paul tells we brought nothing into the world and certainly won't take anything with us when we die.
- D. Jesus referred to the rich man as a fool and everyone else, too, who is not rich toward God.

II. ACHAN

- A. Achan became guilty of the sin of covetousness because of his love of money.
- B. Jesus warns us about covetousness and tells us that there are more important things than money.
- C. Covetousness must be eliminated because it will keep one out of Heaven.

III. JUDAS

- A. Judas loved money so much that he was willing to betray the Lord to get it.
- B. One who falls in love with money cannot be a faithful servant of God.
- C. The love of money also caused Judas to steal.
- D. To trust in uncertain riches, rather than God, is to cause one to lose his soul.

IV. THIEVES

- A. Because of their love of money the thieves beat and robbed a fellow human being.
- B. The Jews loved their money so much that they robbed God and failed to tithe.
- C. God instructs His children of today about the giving of their money for His use.
- D. Many today rob God because they fail to give as they have been prospered.

V. SOLOMON

- A. Solomon learned that money and worldly goods do not give lasting satisfaction.
- B. Great wealth and riches bring added troubles and worries to man.
- C. We should be satisfied with little and never be filled with an evil desire for wealth.
- D. Man's chief duty is to serve God and save his soul.

VI. OTHER SINNERS

- A. As the text warns, the love of money will lead a man into all kinds of evil works and sin.
- B. They who love money fall into temptation and endanger their eternal salvation.
- C. One church member (Ananias) and his wife were struck down dead by God because they loved money.
- D. If we are not careful we can become so involved in making money that we neglect to serve God acceptably and lose our souls.

JESUS SAYS, "LAY NOT UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES ON EARTH, BUT LAY UP FOR YOURSELF TREASURES IN HEAVEN."

THE LOVE OF MONEY

1 Tim. 6:10

RICH MAN



SELFISHNESS



Lk 12:16-20; Mt. 6:20;
1 Tim. 6:7; Lk. 12:21

ACHAN



COVETOUSNESS



Josh. 7:20-21; Lk. 12:15;
Col. 3:5; Eph. 5:5

JUDAS



BETRAYAL



Mt. 26:14-16; Lk. 16:13;
Jn. 12:6; 1 Tim. 6:17

THIEVES



ROBBERY



Lk. 10:30; Mal. 3:8;
1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7

SOLOMON



DISCONTENT



Ecc. 5:10; Ecc. 5:12;
1 Tim. 6:6; Ecc. 12:13

SINNER



EVIL WORKS



Jn. 7:7; 1 Tim. 6:9;
Acts 5:3; Lk. 8:14

Mt. 6:19-21

WHERE GOD HAS PLACED SALVATION

INTRODUCTION: Salvation is a most interesting subject. In some instances man is able to save himself from dangers and calamities. At other times man must depend on other men to save him. And in some instances man must rely upon God to save him. Some of these cases are recorded in the Word of God and we will consider them as we study this lesson.

I. WHERE DID GOD PLACE SALVATION AT THE FLOOD?

- A. Because of man the earth became filled with sin and wickedness and God decided to destroy all life from off the earth.
- B. Noah found grace in the eyes of God and God made known to Noah a way of salvation from the destructive waters of the flood.
- C. Noah followed God's instruction to the letter, made the ark, entered in as God commanded, and the flood came just as God had forewarned.
- D. Where did God place salvation at the flood? Were any saved outside the ark? Did others have the right to build another ark? Could they enter the ark of their choice and be saved?

II. WHERE DID GOD PLACE SALVATION AT THE PASSOVER?

- A. The children of Israel were in Egyptian bondage and God determined to send one last plague upon the land of Egypt. Again, the wrath of God came upon man because of sin.
- B. God, because of His love and concern for the Israelites, revealed a means of salvation to them.
- C. They killed the proper animal, sprinkled the blood on the door posts and waited in the houses, just as God had instructed them. God passed through the land that night, killing the first-born.
- D. Where did God place salvation at the Passover? Were any saved who were not under the blood? Many argue that man can do nothing to save himself. Who put the blood on the door posts?

III. WHERE DID GOD PLACE SALVATION IN THE WILDERNESS?

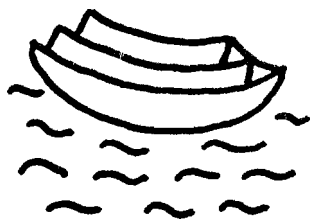
- A. The people grumbled and complained against God and Moses and were guilty of sin. (Reminds us of many church members of today.)
- B. Because of their sin God sent fiery serpents among the people and many were bitten and died.
- C. They confessed their sins and asked Moses to pray to God for them. This Moses did and God made possible a way of salvation.
- D. Where did God place salvation in the wilderness? Was this "snake salvation"? Were any healed who did not follow God's plan? Could a man look on the snake of his choice?

IV. WHERE HAS GOD PLACED SALVATION FOR MAN TODAY?

- A. The Bible plainly teaches that Christ will save only those who obey Him.
- B. The Bible is just as plain in teaching that God adds all the saved to the church that Christ built. God makes no mistakes—all who have been saved since the resurrection of Christ have been added to the same church. Anyone outside this church, who is accountable, is lost.
- C. In the New Testament Christ has promised to save no other church than His own.
- D. Man is lost in sin (Rom. 3:23), God has provided a way of salvation (Rom. 1:16-17) and those who refuse to obey will be eternally punished (2 Thess. 1:7-9). Can a man "join the church of his choice" and be saved? Who said so? We are agreed as to where God placed salvation, in the first three instances. Why not the fourth?

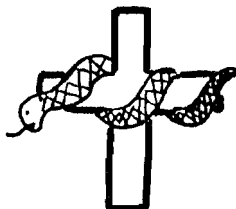
WHERE GOD HAS PLACED SALVATION

AT THE FLOOD?



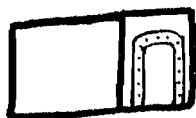
Gen. 6:5-7, 8
Gen. 6:13-14, 18
Gen. 7:7, 19, 21

IN THE WILDERNESS?



Num. 21:5-6
Num. 21:8
Num. 21:9

AT THE PASSOVER?



Ex. 11:1, 4-6
Ex. 12:7, 12-13
Ex. 12:29

TODAY?



Heb. 5:8-9
Acts 2:47
Eph. 5:23

SIN ITS RESULTS AND REMEDY

INTRODUCTION: The greatest problem among mankind is the problem of sin. If every human being would solve the problem of sin, we would live in a most wonderful world. In this lesson we will consider how we sin, the consequences of sin and how to overcome sin. Let us first consider:

I. HOW WE SIN

- A. Man sins either in thought, in word, or in deed. Many passages of Scripture illustrate this.
- B. One sins when he does evil (does what God forbids) or when he fails to do good (fails to do what God commands).
- C. Sin in an act, or a failure to act, on the part of an individual. It cannot be undone; it can only be forgiven. Since it is an act, it cannot be inherited. It can only be committed.
- D. The Bible clearly teaches that all accountable beings sin.

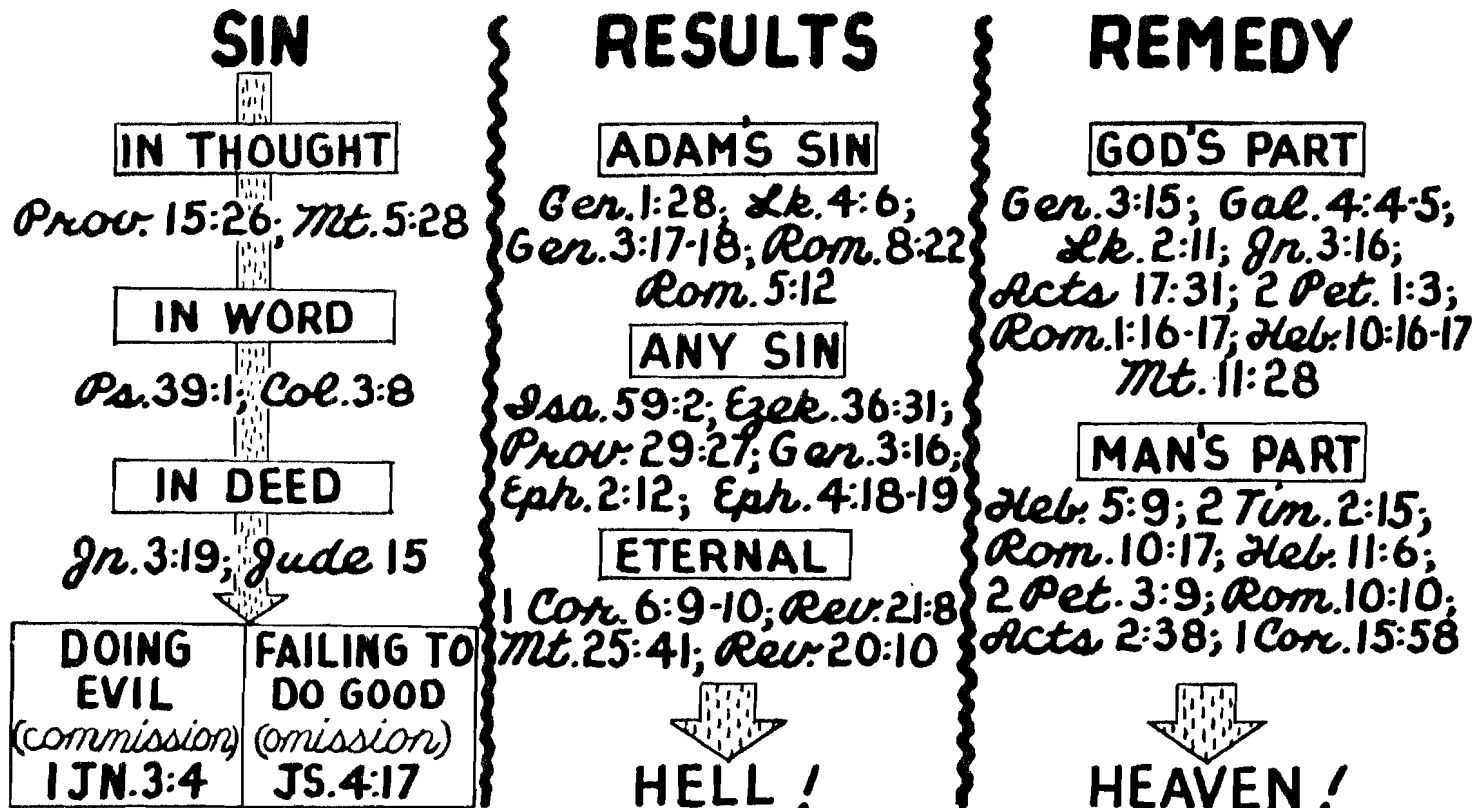
II. RESULTS OF SIN

- A. The curse and far-reaching results of sin we cannot fully know. These results are only fully known to God. However, the Bible does tell us somethings of the consequences of sin.
 1. Some consequences of Adam's sin
 - a. At creation man was given dominion over all things. Many think that when man sinned, he delivered his dominion to Satan and the devil became the god of this world.
 - b. The sin of Adam and Eve had an adverse effect upon the earth and the whole creation.
 - c. Physical death passed upon the whole human race because of the sin of Adam.
 - d. These consequences are peculiar to the sin of Adam.
 2. Some consequences of any sin
 - a. The immediate result of any sin is that man is spiritually separated from God.
 - b. Sin often brings shame and disgrace upon the guilty and wins the disfavor of the righteous. More often than not it brings sorrow to the guilty and the innocent. Sometimes hopelessness and hardening of the heart are the results of sin.
 3. The eternal consequences of sin.
 - a. Sin can cause us to miss Heaven and be cast into an eternal hell, with the devil and his angels.

III. REMEDY FOR SIN

- A. To be saved from sin man must cooperate with God. God has a part to perform as does man.
 1. God does for man what man cannot do for himself.
 - a. Immediately following the sin of Adam God promised to send a Saviour. Christ came, died upon the cross, was raised from the dead and became the author of eternal salvation. The plan of salvation has been revealed through the gospel and Christ invites all to come.
 2. Man must do his part to be saved; God will not force him to submit.
 - a. Man must obey God. He learns what God requires through a close study of the Bible. -The Bible teaches that man must (1)believe, (2)repent, (3)confess, (4)be baptized for remission of sins and (5)be faithful in God's service. Man can enjoy Heaven when he does this.

SIN, ITS RESULTS AND REMEDY



YOU CAN'T ESCAPE FROM GOD

INTRODUCTION: It seems that man has always had the mistaken idea that he could hide his sins from God. However, the verses of our text show conclusively that it is impossible for man to hide from God. We should forever remember this and always confess our sins and do what is necessary to obtain God's forgiveness. Man can't escape from God because:

I. THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ESCAPE.

- A. God is omnipotent-has all power and ability. Therefore, man cannot overpower God.
 - 1. Jeremiah was awed when he considered the power of God.
 - 2. Jesus stated that all things are possible with God.
- B. God is omniscient-all-wise, knows all things. Therefore, He cannot be outwitted by man.
 - 1. Man is the most intelligent creature on earth, some smarter than others, but no man begins to compare in intelligence with God.
- C. God is omnipresent-present everywhere. Therefore, man cannot go where God is not.
 - 1. Man cannot escape from the presence of God, even though he might travel to the farthest planet from the earth or descend into the deepest, darkest cave.

II. THE BIBLE RECORDS THE ATTEMPTS OF SOME WHO TRIED TO ESCAPE FROM GOD AND FAILED.

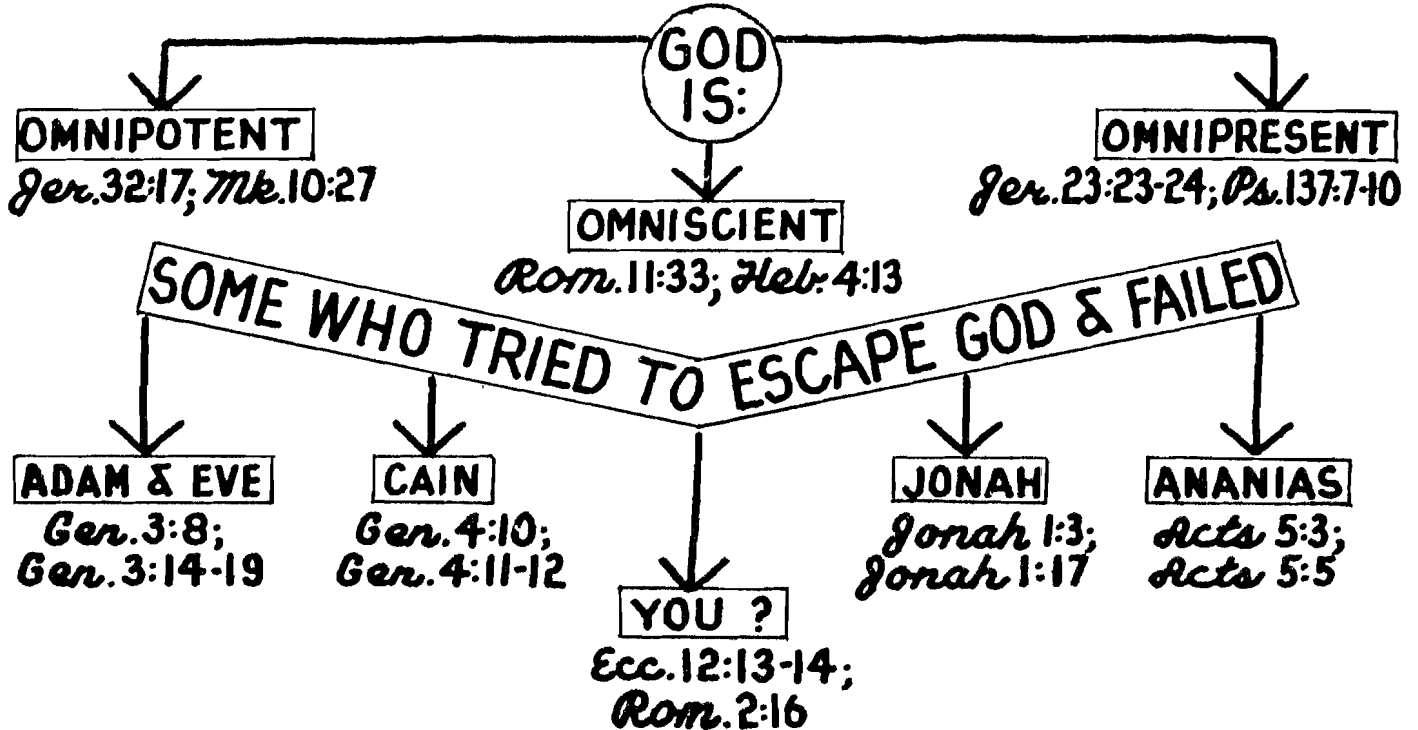
- A. Adam and Eve could not hide from God.
 - 1. They tried to hide among the trees of the garden after they had sinned against God.
 - 2. God was aware of their sin, even though they attempted to hide.
 - 3. They were punished for their sin and driven from the garden.
- B. Cain was unable to hide his sin from God.
 - 1. Because of jealousy Cain rose up and slew his brother Abel.
 - 2. When questioned by God about his brother, Cain lied and pretended not to know where his brother was. God was not deceived.
 - 3. Even though Cain attempted to hide his sin, he was unable to and God punished him for it.
- C. Jonah was a prophet of God who attempted the flee from God in the face of duty.
 - 1. God gave Jonah a work to do that Jonah found no pleasure in because the Ninevites were the enemies of God's people.
 - 2. Jonah learned, in a very unusual manner, that man cannot escape from God.
 - 3. Jonah, finally was, convinced that it is useless for man to try and get away from God and did the work which God required of him.
- D. A man and wife, Ananias and Sapphira, tried to sin secretly and failed.
 - 1. They had a possession and sold it and pretended to give all of the selling price, while withholding part of it. Evidently, they sought the praises of men in their giving.
 - 2. While they could fool men with their deceitfulness, they did not fool God.
 - 3. Their sin cost both of them their lives.

III. WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU ATTEMPTING TO HIDE FROM GOD?

- 1. The above examples should thoroughly convince each one that it is impossible to hide from God. Solomon and Paul tell us that all secret things will be revealed at the Judgment.

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE FROM GOD

Num. 32:23; Heb. 2:1-3



HELPFUL HINTS FOR CHART PAINTING

Anyone with normal ability can paint a chart if he really wants to. With a determined mind, a little patience and lots of practice, you can produce charts that you will be proud of. We preachers often tell other members of the church that they can preach a sermon if they really want to and will try. This is the way I feel about painting charts; you can, if you really want to and will try.

Having made up your mind to learn to paint charts, you need to obtain the proper materials. First, let me suggest that you buy a copy of a speedball text book. I have one written by Ross F. George. These can be obtained from an art supply store for about \$1. This book is very helpful because it shows you how to hold your brush and how to make the different strokes of each letter of the alphabet. Perhaps you would like to get a water-color brush and some water colors and practice making letters on lined paper before you actually start on a chart. This will give you some experience and help you to have confidence in yourself.

For actual chart painting you need brushes of different sizes, different colored paints and material to paint the chart on. There are different kinds of paints, and brushes, and materials that can be used, but I prefer the following. I use rubber base, latex paint such as is used to paint the walls and ceiling in a house (darker colors are best). This paint can be purchased almost anywhere. The best brushes which I have found to use are marked "signet by Robert Simmons." (There are other brands, too.) These can be purchased at a paint store or art supply store and come in different sizes or widths. I use a #8 for painting the titles on charts, a #5 for sub-headings, and a #4 for the remainder of the chart. You may prefer other sizes; it's just a matter of choice.

Your charts can be painted on bed sheets. You can buy these cheaper about twice a year when the department stores have their "white sales." Bed sheets come in different sizes but I prefer the 72" x 108" size. By cutting a sheet this size in half, you can paint two charts, 4½ ft. by 6 ft.

When painting charts, I thumbtack the bed sheet to a piece of wallboard which is attached to the wall in the study. It's best to thumbtack the sheet on all four sides, making it taut and removing all wrinkles. Next, I sketch in the chart with pencil. I begin with the title and draw off lines a certain distance apart, depending on how tall I wish to make the letters. (The title should always be larger than the rest of the chart.) After drawing the lines I sketch in the different letters of the title. This is the procedure which I follow for the entire chart unless there is a picture that is to be drawn on the chart. By sketching in the chart with pencil you can arrange your spacing correctly and eliminate mistakes in the actual painting of the chart. It's always easier to erase a small pencil mark than a stroke of the paint brush. I use different colored paints to illustrate the chart in different ways. (All the verses of Scripture in one color, for instance.)

You may consider this a long drawn-out process, but practically everyone that I talk to tell me they understand a gospel sermon better when it is preached in connection with a chart. I consider this to be important enough for me to devote a little extra time and effort in my preparation to preach.

By using these helpful hints and with a little patience and practice, I think you will discover that chart painting is not as hard as you imagined.

