

LESSONS YOU CAN DEVELOP

(A SUPPLEMENT TO
"DOWN FRONT AND
READY!")

Forty-eight devotional outlines to aid
Christian men in preparation for
public speaking.

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THE SCOPE OF CHRIST'S AUTHORITY

Acts 2:36

- I. **DEFINITION OF AUTHORITY:** "The right to command and to enforce obedience" (Matt. 28:18-20).
 - 1. No philosopher, sage, human creed, or council has been given the right of authority over other men.
 - 2. They hold no right from Heaven to command and enforce obedience (Col. 2:14-19).

- II. **CHRIST HAS ALL AUTHORITY.**
 - 1. Given by God (Eph. 1:22-23).
 - 2. Above the scribes (Matt. 7:28-29).
 - 3. Above Moses and Elijah (Matt. 17:1-5).
 - 4. Above the laws of men (Acts 5:27-29).

- III. **WE SHOULD MAKE HIM THE AUTHORITY OF OUR LIFE.**
 - 1. By conviction (Jn. 20:27-28).
 - 2. By submission to His authority (Lk. 6:46).
 - 3. By conformity (Rom 12:1-2).

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

Matt. 11:28-30

- I. **CHRIST INVITES ALL INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.**

1. The great invitation includes all (Jn. 6:44-45).
 2. Acceptance is through our obedience (Mk. 16:15-16).
- II. ONLY IN HIM CAN MAN FIND REST (Heb. 4:1).
1. In Him our sins are washed away (Acts 22:16).
 2. In Him we are made acceptable to God (Acts 10:34-35).
 3. In Him we have the promises of Heaven (Jn. 14:1-6).
- III. ALL WHO COME TO CHRIST OBEY THE SAME PLAN (Acts 2:38).
1. All must have heard and believe His Word (Rom. 10:14).
 2. All must repent and confess His name (Matt. 10:32-33).
 3. All must be baptized to enter Him (Rom. 6:3,4).

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

Gal. 2:20

- I. WE HAVE THUS FAR SEEN THAT CHRIST HAS ALL AUTHORITY AND THAT ALL WHO WOULD BE SAVED MUST COME INTO COVENANT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM (Matt. 26:28).
1. Christ saves us by the Gospel (Rom. 1:16).
 2. But then all must embrace the teaching and life taught in the Gospel (Rom. 1:17).
- II. WE ARE RAISED FROM BAPTISM TO "WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE" (Rom. 6:3-4).
1. Baptism is the "form" of the facts of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Cor. 15:1-4).
 2. Paul said that at the point of obedience, men are changed from being servants of sin to being servants of

righteousness (Rom. 6:16-18).

3. In this manner, we are changed and “crucified with Christ” (Acts 22:16).

III. THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST GIVES MAN HOPE (Rev. 2:10).

1. This is the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 3:19; Jn. 6:63).
2. All of God’s promises terminate in Heaven (I Jn. 2:25).
3. Men must not be fearful to stand with Christ (Rev. 21:8).

LEARNING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Eph. 4:17-32

I. WE ARE NOT TO “WALK” OR LIVE IN “THE VANITY” OF OUR MIND (I Tim. 6:20; II Tim. 2:16).

1. Our thoughts and feelings about what pleases God are not safe guides (Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23).
2. We must walk in the Truth (III Jn. 3-4; I Jn. 1:7).

II. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SEARCH OR KNOW THE SCRIPTURES WITHOUT APPLYING THEM TO OUR LIVES (Jn. 5:39-40).

1. Paul instructed Timothy:
 - a. Read the Scripture (I Tim. 4:13).
 - b. Study the Scriptures (II Tim. 2:15).
 - c. Live by the Scriptures (II Tim. 3:14-17).
 - d. Teach the Scriptures (II Tim. 2:2).

III. LET US LEARN AND TEACH OTHERS TO:

1. Fear (reverence) the Lord (Deut. 31:13).
2. Obey the Lord (Heb. 5:8-9).
3. Be content in Christ and His teaching (Phil. 4:11).
4. Maintain good works (Tit. 3:14).

**LOVING THE KING OF KINGS
AND LORD OF LORDS**

I Tim. 6:12-15

I. LOVE IS THE MAINSPRING OF LIFE; IT IS THE ACTIVE POWER THAT PROMPTS SUCCESSFUL LIFE IN CHRIST (I Cor. 13:1-3).

1. Men fight for family, nation, and the King of kings because of love (Jn. 14:15, 21, 23; 15:14).
2. We are to follow Christ, who loved Truth and righteousness, and hated iniquity (Heb. 1:9; I Cor. 13:6).
3. We are commanded to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3).

II. TO LOVE THE KING OF KINGS, WE MUST LOVE HIS CHURCH.

1. His love for the church caused Him to shed his blood (Acts 20:28).
2. We are to rejoice in, be faithful in, and love the one body, the church (Heb. 10:25; Col. 1:18; 3:12-15).
3. Evangelism is an expression of the highest form of love (Matt. 28:19-20).

III. TO LOVE THE KING, WE MUST ALSO LOVE OUR BRETHREN IN CHRIST (Matt. 22:37-38; Jn. 13:34-35).

1. “Let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10).
2. We must be interested and concerned about our brethren and sisters in Christ (Rom. 12:9-10; I Thess. 4:9; I Jn. 3:14).

VESSELS UNTO HONOR

II Tim. 2:15-21

- I. IN THE "GREAT HOUSE" PAUL REFERS TO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, (Cf. Jer. 18:1-12).
 1. The church is built on the solid foundation of Truth (II Tim. 2:19; Heb. 12:28).
 2. Some fail to be vessels unto honor because they do not hold to the faith (I Tim. 1:19-20; II Tim. 3:1-8).
 3. This institution is the only one charged with carrying out His Will (I Tim. 3:14-15).

- II. "VESSELS" REFERS TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST (Acts 9:15).
 1. A "vessel" is a container; "earthen," frail, humble (II Cor. 4:7).
 2. Each Christian should be a vessel of beauty and usefulness who carries the Word to others (I Tim. 4:16; Matt. 25:14-30).

- III. "SANCTIFIED" MEANS SET APART, CONSECRATED, TO THE MASTER'S USE (Jn. 17:17).
 1. Our primary duty in life is to discover our power and possibilities in God's creation, and carry them out! (Col. 3:16-17)
 2. True happiness and success comes in finding our duties and doing them (Ecc. 12:13; Jas. 1:25).

OUR FULL ASSURANCE

Heb. 10:22

- I. The Christian has absolute assurance of pardon in obedience to the Gospel (Rom. 8:16-17; II Tim. 1:12).

1. This blessed assurance comes through keeping Christ's commands (I Jn. 2:3).
2. Through His Word, we know that we are "in Christ" (I Jn. 2:5).

II. FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD'S WORD IS STRONGER THAN MERE "FEELINGS" BY WHICH WE MAY BE MISTAKEN (Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23).

1. God's Word thoroughly furnishes (II Tim. 3:16-17).
2. Faith comes by hearing God's Word (Rom. 10:17).

III. THE "FULL ASSURANCE OF HOPE" DOES NOT DEPEND ON MAN'S THINKING, BUT ON OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD (Heb. 6:11).

1. Hope contains expectation and desire.
2. We should be thankful that we have the full assurance of hope, the full assurance of faith (Heb. 10:22), and a full assurance of understanding (Col. 2:2), as our standard in life!

IS CONSCIENCE A SAFE GUIDE?

I Cor. 4:4; I Tim. 4:1-3

I. MORAL JUDGEMENT IS TO BE TRAINED IN GOD'S WORD AND SUPPORTED BY OUR CONSCIENCE (II Tim. 2:15).

1. What we only think is right may not meet God's approval (Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17; Jn. 4:24).
2. For eternal life to be secure, we must search and obey God's Word (Jn. 5:39-40; 6:63; Rom. 6:23).

II. LIKE MANY TODAY, PAUL LIVED IN ALL GOOD CONSCIENCE, BUT WAS WRONG (Acts 23:1; 26:9; I Tim. 1:15).

1. He was taught to follow the wrong religion for his life (Gal. 1:13-14).
2. He followed what he learned from men, in honesty, but found conscience is not a safe guide!

III. ALL TODAY MUST HEAR, BELIEVE, AND OBEY CHRIST (Mk. 16:15-16; Heb. 5:8-9).

1. One enters into Christ to have a truly good conscience (I Pet. 3:21; Gal. 3:26-27; Col. 2:12).
2. One who is saved is also added to Christ's church (Acts 2:41,47).

CHRIST PLEASED NOT HIMSELF

Rom. 15:3

I. AS WITH THE PRODIGAL SONS (Lk. 15:11-32), PLEASING ONESELF MAY LEAD TO POVERTY OR RICHES, HONOR OR DISHONOR IN THIS LIFE, BUT ETERNAL DEATH IN THE NEXT (Jn. 8:24).

1. To please God is the highest calling in life (Acts 10:34-35; II Cor. 5:7).
2. Bearing the cross with Christ will bring eternal blessings (Lk. 9:23, 26; Rev. 22:14).

II. CHRIST SOUGHT THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE TO GLO-RIFY THE FATHER (Jn. 17:4).

1. He often said, "Thy will be done" (Matt. 26:39, 42, 44; Jn. 6:38).
2. The thrust of our lives must be the same (Jn. 9:4; Lk. 9:62; I Cor. 15:58).

III. IT IS NOT ACCORDING TO TRUTH NOR PLEASING TO GOD FOR MEN TO SPEAK OF "GETTING SAVED," "JOINING THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE," OR OF SAYING, "I SEE NO HARM IN PLAYING A MECHANICAL INSTRUMENT OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP."

1. We must walk and worship in Truth (Isa. 55:8-9; Rom. 2:13-16; Jn. 4:24).
2. We are not to add to God's Word, but seek to please Him and not ourselves (Rev. 22:18-19; II Jn. 9-11).

WHAT ABOUT THE TRADITIONS OF MEN?

I Cor. 11:1-2; I Jn. 4:1

I. "TRADITIONS" ARE TEACHINGS AND PRACTICES HANDED DOWN FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER.

1. Unlike the traditions of men, the traditions handed down by the apostles are inspired teaching (II Thess. 2:15; 3:6).
2. We are not to hold even to the traditions of father and mother, unless supported by Truth (Matt. 10:37).

II. JESUS SPOKE OF THE TRADITIONS OF MEN BEING SINFUL (Mk. 7:7-9).

1. Denominations say they simply have different traditions, but are united on all "essential" matters.
2. However, some of these traditions in which denominations differ today are: God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, redemption, justification, sanctification, Spirit, redemption, justification, sanctification, faith, repentance, confession, baptism, the name, origin, importance, and identity of the church, terms of membership, worship, work, organization!

III. JESUS AND PAUL PRAYED FOR AND TAUGHT THAT THERE WERE TO BE NO DIVISIONS UPON GOD'S WORD (Jn. 17:20; I Cor. 1:10).

1. Let us take heed to Truth for our own eternal benefit, and that of others (I Tim. 4:16; Amos 3:3; Jn. 15:1-6).
2. Let us "prove all things" taught (I Thess. 5:21; Acts 17:11; Col. 3:16-17).

**ARE ALL RELIGIOUS NAMES
PLEASING TO GOD?**

Acts 4:12

I. SOME CLAIM TODAY THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN A NAME.

1. "A rose is a rose" does not prove that there is nothing in a name religiously (Isa. 56:5; 62:2).
2. Though there were other religious names in the first century (Pharisees, Sadducees, etc.), the "new name" is the name *Christian* (Acts 11:26; I Pet. 4:16).

II. SOME TODAY WEAR FOR THEIR RELIGIOUS NAMES, THE NAMES OF MEN AND MOVEMENTS, SUCH AS "LUTHERAN," "METHODIST," ETC.

1. One name is (not) as good as another (Phil. 2:9; Acts 3:16).
2. We are to speak and work in the name of Christ, under His authority (Col. 3:17; Jn. 14:13; Matt. 18:20).

III. THE BIBLE SAYS SALVATION IS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, AND "IN NONE OTHER" (Acts 4:12).

1. Philip the evangelist preached about the right name by

- which men are saved (Acts 8:12).
2. We must wear the right name to please God (Acts 4:12; I Cor. 14:33).

SWEET PEACE, THE GIFT OF GOD'S LOVE

Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:11-13

I. MEN ARE CONTINUALLY SEEKING PEACE!

1. Most seek it in pleasure, fame, money; all of these fail our desires.
2. For those who enter Christ, His church, God supplies everything needful for man's contentment and well being by His grace (Phil 4:6-7; Gal. 5:22).

II. WHENCE COMETH THE PEACE OF GOD?

1. First, we must know Divine Love through our acceptance of God's grace (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; I Jn. 3:1-3).
2. Second, we must learn to love others "divinely" (I Jn. 4:8-11; Jas. 3:13-18).
3. Third, we must be Divinely (not directly) controlled (Psa. 119:10-11, 115; Jas. 1:25; Isa. 26:3).
4. Fourth, we must comply with the conditions of the Gospel to be Divinely forgiven (Acts 2:38, 41; Gal. 3:26-27).

III. SIN LEAVES US RESTLESS, CONFUSED, AND MISERABLE; HENCE, WE HAVE NO PEACE (Isa. 48:22; Prov. 28:1; Rom. 3:10-18).

1. Let us put away sin in the appointed way and fulfill our obligations to our God, with peace as the result (Matt. 7:21).

HOW INSPIRATION WORKS

(Isa. 45:22; Jn. 8:21-30)

I. GOD THE AUTHOR OF INSPIRATION FROM THE BEGINNING. HIS WORD IS AUTHORITY, THE STANDARD FOR RIGHT LIVING. (II Tim. 3:16-17)

1. All the righteous have submitted to His Will.
(Rom. 1:16-17; 10:1-3)

II. THE PROPHETS AND APOSTLES WERE ALL RESTRICTED TO SPEAK ONLY HIS WORDS. (Jn. 16:13; II Pet. 1:16-21)

1. New Testament gives all needed for today!
(II Pet. 1:3; Psa. 119:172)

III. GOD'S TRUTH IS GIVEN ONCE FOR ALL. (Jude 3; I Cor. 1:10)

1. Human creeds will not: Give all pertaining to life (unreliable), II Pet. 1:3; cannot meet man's needs (insufficient); continually revised (imperfect); disagree with Bible (wrong). II Jn. 9-11.

MEN AS GRASSHOPPERS

(Isa. 40:22)

I. BY COMPARISON, MAN IS SMALL IN GOD'S SIGHT! AGAIN, GRASSHOPPERS NEVER DICTATE TO GOD, AND NEITHER SHOULD WE! (Isa. 55:6-9)

1. Often, like jumping grasshoppers, we lack courage and avoid responsibility. (Num. 13:26; Phil. 4:13)

II. GRASSHOPPERS LIVE OFF THE PRODUCTION OF OTHERS! (II Thess. 3:10-15)

1. Life is short; let us accept our responsibilities, instead of being like grasshoppers who just ride and never pay. (I Cor. 16:1-2)

III. SOMETIMES GRASSHOPPERS GET CAUGHT IN NETS OF DESTRUCTION.

- a. We must be careful about nets of the world, lest we are caught and destroyed! (II Pet. 2:20-22; I Pet. 5:8)

MORALLY RIGHT, RELIGIOUSLY WRONG

(II Cor. 5:7)

I. SOME THINK IF WE ARE MORALLY RIGHT, IT DOES NOT MATTER IF WE ARE RELIGIOUSLY WRONG! (Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12)

1. We are commanded to try or prove all things. (I Thess. 5:21)

II. MORALITY IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT (Psa. 119:105); BUT WE MUST NOT OVERLOOK THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS LAW! (I Jn. 3:4)

1. We should not lie, cheat, steal, or curse.

III. BUT, WE MUST VIEW SPIRITUAL MATTERS FROM A SCRIPTURAL STANDPOINT (Lev. 10:1-2; Col. 2:14; Rom. 12:1-2).

1. Full obedience (Rom. 6:3-4); “sing,” not play (Eph. 5:19); Lord’s supper each first day (Acts 20:7).

MARRIED TO CHRIST

(Rom. 7:1-4)

- I. IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, GOD WAS MARRIED TO HIS PEOPLE AND THEY WORE HIS NAME (Jer. 3:14).
 1. “EL” is the original name for God; hence, Isra-EL-ites.
- II. TODAY, FOLLOWING HIS DEATH, WE WEAR THE NAME OF THE ONE TO WHOM WE ARE MARRIED, CHRIST! (Rom. 7:4; Acts 4:12).
 1. We were espoused to one husband (II Cor. 11:2).
 2. Christ has one bride. (Rev. 21:9)
 3. Paul spoke of “Christ and the church” (Eph. 5:22-32).
- III. FOR WHAT PURPOSE ARE WE MARRIED TO CHRIST? (Rom. 7:4; I Pet. 4:16).

HOW TO BE APPROVED OF GOD

(II Tim. 2:15)

- I. WE MUST STUDY AND HANDLE GOD’S WORD CORRECTLY!
 1. We must know the Old from the New (Jn. 1:17; Heb. 9:16-17).
 2. Today, Old Testament is for our “learning,” not Law (Gal. 3:24; Rom. 15:4).

- II. THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY! (Jas. 1:25; Heb. 9:16-17).
- III. WE ARE TO COLLECT, BY STUDY, ALL THAT REFERS TO EVERY SUBJECT. ILLUSTRATED BY MALCHUS' EAR:
1. Someone smote it off (Mk. 14:47);
 2. One of Jesus' disciples did it (Matt. 26:51).
 3. Whose ear? (Lk. 22:50).
 4. Which ear? (Lk. 22:50).
 5. Who cut it off? (Jn. 18:10).
 6. Who was the man who lost his ear? (Jn. 18:10).

GLADLY RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

(Acts 2:38-41)

- I. THE TIME: THE GREAT DAY OF PENTECOST; THE BEGINNING OF THE LORD'S CHURCH! (Matt. 16:18; Mk. 9:1).
1. Thousands gathered in Jerusalem for the annual feast of Pentecost.
- II. THIS WAS THE TIME, AND JERUSALEM WAS THE PLACE, TO BEGIN PREACHING SALVATION TO ALL THE WORLD! (Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:46-49).
1. After Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, salvation was offered to all! (Heb. 8:16-17; Eph. 2:13-16).
- III. THAT DAY, ABOUT 3,000 SAW THE TRUTH AND ACCEPTED IT! (Acts 2:41).

1. They gave up their own ideas and accepted God's teaching by being baptized into Christ!
2. This law was for all-time, thus all must do the same today to be saved (Acts 22:16; I Pet. 3:21; Gal. 3:27).

LET'S GO FISHING!

(Matt. 4:12-20)

I. FISHING IS A GREAT SPORT FOR THOSE WHO LOVE IT!

1. Spiritual usage of "fishing" has to do with seeking the lost with the Gospel (Lk. 19:10).
2. Every Christian must love "fishing for men" in soul winning! (Prov. 11:30).
3. Faithful disciples follow Christ today in definite service – to be "fishers of men" (Lk. 9:23).

II. BY THIS LIFE-SAVING SERVICE, THE LOST CAN BE SAVED (Mk. 16:15-16).

1. God's Word thoroughly furnishes (II Tim. 3:16-17).
2. Doing our part in winning a lost world to Christ is a good work! (Jas. 4:17).

III. LET US "RESCUE THE PERISHING" BY GOSPEL FISHING! (Jn. 3:16-17; 15:14; Jas. 1:22-25).

1. The place to "fish" is throughout the world (Matt. 13:38).
2. Opportunities abound on every hand! (Jn. 4:35).
3. Solemn thought! (Ezek. 3:18-19).

HOW TO FISH

(Matt. 28:18-20; I Tim. 4:16)

- I. **GETTING READY FOR A FISHING TRIP IS A HUGE PART OF THE ENJOYMENT! FISHING FOR THE LORD IS NOT A SPORT, BUT A VOCATION (Col. 4:1).**
 1. Can we refuse to “fish” for Him who gave His all for us? (Jn. 15:10-23; Rom. 6:16-18).
 2. Many want to “fish” but need to know how to start.
 3. We learn best by doing! “Practice makes perfect!”

- II. **APPROACH THE PERSON TO BE TAUGHT WITH QUIET QUESTIONS, TO OPEN DISCUSSION FOR TEACHING (Jn. 6:44-45).**
 1. “Are you a Christian?” (Gal. 3:26-28).
 2. “Do you realize all hope of eternal life is in Christ?” (II Cor. 5:17; Eph. 1:3).
 3. “Would you like to study the Bible and understand each individual’s duty?” (Psa. 119:115; Gal. 6:5).

- III. **BE READY TO GIVE THE ANSWER, FROM THE BIBLE, TO THE QUESTION, “WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?” (I Pet. 3:15).**
 1. Make it clear that all today must hear, believe, and obey Christ (Rom. 10:17; Mk. 16:15-16; Heb. 5:8-9).
 2. One enters into Christ by “the new birth” or baptism (Jn. 3:3-5; Eph. 5:25-27; Rom. 6:3-4; I Pet. 3:21).
 3. All who are saved are added to Christ’s church (Acts 2:38,41,47).

THE RIGHT "BAIT" FOR SUCCESS

(Rom. 1:14-17)

I. GOOD FISHERMEN REALIZE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES MAY DETERMINE WHICH BAIT IS THE RIGHT BAIT TO USE.

1. "Fishers of men" must be skillful, realizing that a great variety of texts may be necessary to be suitable for dealing with different classes (Jude 21-23).
2. Good "fishers" are not easily discouraged by the seeming indifference of the fish!
3. Be patient, kind, courteous, and thoroughly in earnest!

II. REMIND THE LOST THAT THE LORD HAS SET "TODAY" AS THE TIME OF SALVATION (II Cor. 6:2).

1. Remind these of the uncertainty of life (Jas. 4:13-15).
2. And, that death is certain for all (Heb. 9:27).
3. All preparation must be in this life (Tit. 2:11-12).

III. WHERE A PERSON IS WHEN APPROACHED, DETERMINES THE "BAIT" TO USE (Acts 8:29-38).

1. Sometimes we begin at belief (Acts 16:30-34).
2. Sometimes we begin at repentance (Acts 2:36-38).
3. Sometimes we begin at baptism (Acts 22:16).

A TIME OF REJOICING

(Jn. 4:31-38; Psa. 126:5-6)

I. TO THE TRUE FISHERMAN, THERE IS ONLY ONE GREATER JOY THAN BRINGING HOME A NICE STRING OF FISH...SEEING SOULS CONVERTED!

1. Though we do not think of the converted as being “caught” or “fish” in the literal sense, comparison is made.
2. There is great joy to the teacher in seeing believers baptized as the fruit of his work! (I Tim. 4:16).
3. There is also joy in Heaven! (Lk. 15:7, 10, 22-24).

II. WE, BY THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL, TAKE MEN OUT OF THE KINGDOM OF SATAN, AND BRING THEM INTO THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST! (Col. 1:13).

1. The kingdom and the church are the same (Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:22-23, 28-29).
2. All men must enter the Way in the same way (Jn. 14:6; Jn. 3:5; Matt. 7:21).
3. Those converted are placed under their great new Master, Jesus, by whose authority we have been saved (Acts 4:12; Eph. 1:22-23; Matt. 28:18).

III. REJOICING IS ALWAYS SEEN IN THOSE WHO TRULY OBEY!

1. The Jailor (Acts 16:30-34).
2. The Pentecostians (Acts 2:41-47).
3. The Eunuch (Acts 8:35-39).

PRIVILEGES IN CHRIST

(II Cor. 5:17; Eph. 1:3)

I. PRIVILEGES ARE FOUND "IN CHRIST" THAT CANNOT BE FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD! (II Cor. 5:7).

1. We receive the remission of sins and the new life in Christ, as we are added to the Lord's church (Acts 2:38, 47; 3:19).
2. We are given the "new name," the name "Christian" to wear and uphold (Acts 11:26; 26:28; I Pet. 4:16).
3. Our names are enrolled in Heaven, where our hope is found (Heb. 12:22-23; Tit. 1:2; II Tim. 1:9).

II. ONE OF THE GREATEST PRIVILEGES IS IN KNOWING OUR SOULS ARE SECURE! (II Pet. 1:5-11).

1. The Holy Spirit has perfectly delivered the mind of God (Deut. 29:29; I Cor. 2:9-11).
2. We know that God cannot lie (Heb. 6:16-19).
3. We know that by obedient faith, immortality is ours (I Cor. 15:50-58; II Cor. 5:1; Heb. 10:22-25).

III. IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO "FISH" FOR THE SOULS OF OTHERS, SO THAT THEY TOO CAN ENJOY HEAVEN'S BLESSINGS (II Tim. 2:2; I Tim. 4:16).

1. "The Spirit and the bride say come" (Rev. 22:17).

THE JOYS OF HEAVEN

(I Jn. 5:17-21)

I. THE SONGWRITER SAID, "WE READ OF A PLACE THAT'S CALLED HEAVEN!"

1. It is a place where all tears shall be wiped away (II Pet. 3:12-13; Rev. 21:4).
2. It is a new abode (Rev. 20:11-15).
3. Its description in beauty is beyond our ability to fully understand (Rev. 21:1, 9-16).

II. AS "FISHERS OF MEN," LET US TELL MEN WHAT HEAVEN IS LIKE!

1. We will be eternally in the presence of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and all of the redeemed (Jn. 14:1-3; Matt. 8:11; Heb. 9:11-12).
2. There will be singing and abounding happiness around God's throne! (Rev. 14:1-3).
3. There will be rest and peace (Heb. 4:1-2, 8-11; Rev. 14:13).

III. WHO MAY ENTER INTO HEAVEN? (Jn. 5:39-40).

1. Not murderers, drunkards, liars, fornicators, or adulterers (I Jn. 3:15; I Cor. 6:10; Rev. 21:8; Matt. 6:19-20; I Cor. 5:9-11).
2. But he that doeth God's will (Matt. 7:21-24), endureth temptation and tribulation (Rev. 7:13-17), and overcometh trials and difficulties (Rev. 3:4-5; 21:7).

CHRISTIAN DUTIES

I Corinthians 15:58

I. AFTER OBEYING THE FIRST PRINCIPLES OF THE GOSPEL, WE MUST LIVE THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST (Rom. 6:3-4).

1. As Christ commands, we are to live (Col. 3:16-17).
2. We are to be "seekers" of our Saviour's Will (Col.

3:1).

3. We are to set our hearts (affections) on going to Heaven (Col. 3:2-4).

II. THE WORLD ABOUT US DOES NOT RESPECT CHRIST NOR CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES (I Jn. 2:15-17).

1. We live in the world but are not to be of the world (Matt. 5:13-16).
2. Society faces many problems of crime, sexual immorality, drinking, divorce, gambling, pornography, drugs, etc.
3. Yet, Christians are to live transformed lives (Rom. 12:1-2).

III. CHRISTIANS MUST COUNT ALL THINGS THE WORLD HOLDS DEAR, BUT LOSS FOR CHRIST! (Phil. 3:7-9).

1. Our Christian duties will help us escape the defilements of the world! (Gal. 6:1-2).
2. We must be careful to live above the world, teach others to do the same, and not be entangled again (II Pet. 2:20-22).

“WATCH YE”

I Corinthians 16:13

- I. CORINTH WAS A LARGE, EDUCATED, RICH, AND LOST CITY WHEN PAUL ENTERED IT WITH THE GOSPEL (I Cor. 15:1-3).

1. It was not that religion and education did not exist there; they worshipped many different gods with various cults.
2. The moral climate of the city, even in their religion, was of a very depraved nature.
3. Corinth has been described as “a seaman’s paradise, a drunkard’s haven, and a virtuous woman’s hell.”

II. PAUL CONVERTED MANY TO CHRISTIANITY, OR TO THE LIFE THAT CHRISTIANS LIVE (Acts 18:8).

1. The church there had problems of division, immorality, lawsuits, the eating of idolatrous meats, abuses of the Lord’s Supper, false prophets, problems about marriage, and disorderly conduct in the assembly.
2. Paul wrote this letter to correct and eliminate wrongdoing in their spiritual lives (I Cor. 1:10).
3. Spiritual growth in the midst of worldliness is never easy, but the Gospel is powerful! (Rom. 1:16-17).

III. CORINTH WAS EXHORTED TO “WATCH” AGAINST ALL FORMS OF EVIL, LEST THE ENEMIES OF TRUTH AND HOLINESS SHOULD STEAL IN AND OVERTAKE THEM AS A SLEEPING ARMY (Matt. 7:15).

1. They were to keep awake, be vigilant, and be on guard (I Pet. 5:8-9).
2. They were to watch lest they fall into temptations, in their thoughts and words, and their associations (Matt. 26:41; Phil. 4:8-9; I Cor. 15:33).
3. So should we watch these things, as well as for opportunities to do good (Gal. 6:10; Jas. 1:27).

STAND FAST IN THE FAITH

I Corinthians 16:13

- I. WHAT BETTER PLACE IN THE SCRIPTURES COULD WE GO TO LEARN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE THAN TO PAUL'S SUMMARY TO THE CORINTHIANS.
 1. He had established this congregation and had their spiritual interest at heart (I Cor. 4:15).
 2. He knew if they sustained to the end, it would require determination and conviction!
 3. Error is not as good as Truth! We are to "stand fast" or uphold, live, and defend "the faith" for our own good and others! (II Tim. 2:2).

- II. "STAND FAST IN THE FAITH" DOES NOT INCLUDE OUR OPINIONS, HOBBIES, FABLES, VAIN PHILOSOPHY, OR WISDOM.
 1. We are to contend earnestly for the Gospel (Rom. 1:16; Jude 3).
 2. The attacks of error come fast and furious; we must be ready, steadfast, unyielding, uncompromising, and success will be ours (I Pet. 3:12-15).

- III. THE BIBLE SHOWS US HOW TO BE SUFFICIENTLY GROUNDED (II Tim. 2:15; 3:16; I Cor. 15:58; Eph. 4:14-15).
 1. Let us be ready unto every good work (Tit. 3:1).

“QUIT YE LIKE MEN”

I Corinthians 16:13

I. LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE DEPENDS ON GOD’S GRACE AND OUR CORRECT ACTIONS (Tit. 2:11-12).

1. “Quit” means “act.” We are to be mature in our spiritual life.
2. “Quit” is a continuous action verb, meaning always “act like men.”
3. Christians are to be bold, brave, and courageous in the hour of need...not timid or alarmed at the enemies!

II. CHRISTIANS ARE NOT TO ACT AS BABIES

(I Cor. 3:1-2; Matt. 18:3; I Cor. 14:20).

1. Babies, in the flesh and in the Spirit, must be taught not to be envious, selfish, changeable.
2. We are to study and grow spiritually (II Tim. 2:15; II Pet. 3:18).
3. The church needs those Christians who are mature.

III. WE MUST NOT SERVE MEN AS OPPOSED TO GOD

(Gal. 1:10).

1. We are not to seek the favor of the world (Rom. 12:1-2).
2. We must be bold and brave in the will of the Lord (Col. 3:16-17).
3. From men we may incur disapproval or contempt! But we must have courage to stand by the Word and our convictions (Mk. 8:38).

“BE STRONG”
I Corinthians 16:13

I. CHRISTIANITY DEMANDS THAT WE “BE STRONG IN THE LORD” (Eph. 6:10).

1. Being courageous in His cause is not always easy (Peter).
2. We must know that God is our strength (Heb. 11:6; Psa. 46:1-3).
3. Paul was strong by knowing that God was his strength (II Tim. 1:12).

II. MOSES, NOAH, ABRAHAM, ISAAC, ETC. HAD TO BE STRONG IN FAITH TO OBEY GOD (Heb. 11:13-16).

1. Joshua was told four times in Joshua 1 to “be strong and very courageous” (Josh. 1:6, 7, 9, 18).
2. Courage and hope of victory depend on firm and inflexible adherence to God’s Law.

III. HOW CAN WE BE STRONG? ASK ONE WHO IS PHYSICALLY STRONG:

1. Eat the right food (I Pet. 2:2; Acts 20:32).
2. Get proper exercise (Heb. 5:12-14; I Tim. 4:8).
3. Be free from disease (sin) (Rom. 6:23).

“LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE”

I Corinthians 16:14

I. LOVE IS THE SUMMATION OF ALL THAT WE DO IN CHRISTIANITY!

1. Jesus made love the badge of discipleship (Jn. 13:34-35).

2. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to be sure love was involved in all, for salvation to be secure (I Cor. 13:1-3).
3. Bible love is expressed in concern and interest for God, our fellowmen, and the lost.

II. WE NEED TO LIVE BY THIS RULE.

1. Even when opposing false doctrine and impure lives, love must be our motive (II Tim. 4:1-5).
2. Too often we do not reach others with the Gospel because we neglect this principle.
3. There is no room for hate in the Christian's heart, except toward evil (Heb. 1:9).

III. LOVE SHOULD REGULATE ALL THAT WE DO (Col. 3:17).

1. We are to love God and our neighbor supremely (Matt. 22:35-40; Rom. 13:10; Gal. 5:14; 6:2).
2. We must let love prompt us in teaching, preaching, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and faithfully attending the worship services (Matt. 25:31-46).

THE LORD'S CHURCH

Matt. 16:18

I. WE MUST BE ABLE TO PRESENT THE LORD'S CHURCH IN DISTINCTION FROM ALL OTHER RELIGIOUS BODIES.

1. It is the only one built and paid for by Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:13-18; Acts 20:28).
2. The teaching of Christ is the creed and only foundation upon which His church is built (I Cor. 13:11).

3. It was not built on Paul, Peter, Apollos, or any other man (I Cor. 1:12-13).

II. IT IS THE “EKKLESIA” OR CALLED-OUT BODY, BELONGING TO THE LORD.

1. We are called of God, a divine calling (I Pet. 5:10; II Tim. 1:7-9).
2. We are called into the fellowship and peace of Christ, in one body (I Cor. 1:9; Col. 3:15).
3. We are the children of God (Rom. 9:25-26; I Jn. 3:1).

III. THERE IS HOPE IN OUR CALLING!

1. It was made possible by the suffering of Christ (I Pet. 2:21).
2. We are called by the Gospel (II Thess. 2:13-14).
3. We are to make our calling sure to inherit the blessing (II Pet. 1:10; I Pet. 3:9).

THE LORD’S AUTHORITY

Matt. 28:18-20

I. THE GREAT SOURCE OF AUTHORITY IS GOD, WHO SPEAKS TODAY THROUGH CHRIST (Heb. 1:1-2; Jn. 1:17; 17:7-8)

1. Men are no longer to be governed by Moses and his law (Acts 3:19-23; Matt. 5:21-22; 19:8-9).
2. Christ’s authority is executed through His apostles (Matt. 16:17-19; II Cor. 5:18-20; I Jn. 4:6).

II. THE APOSTLES WERE GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PRESENTING THE WORD OF CHRIST

(Jn. 16:13).

1. The Holy Spirit's power was to be sent to the apostles, not to the world (Jn. 14:16-17; 20:22-23).
2. The Holy Spirit brought Jesus' teachings to their remembrance as they preached to the world (Jn. 14:26; 16:7).
3. His power came on the apostles on the day of Pentecost when Jesus' church was established (Acts 2:1-4, 43).

III. THE EARLY DISCIPLES, AND ALL TODAY, MUST CONTINUE IN THE "APOSTLES' DOCTRINE" (Acts 2:41-42; II Tim. 2:2).

1. Christ's teaching and authority was confirmed by miracles (Mk. 16:15-18).
2. We are to take heed to continue in the Lord's authority (I Tim. 4:16; Heb. 2:1-4).
3. The miracles of confirmation were removed when the completed revelation was given (I Cor. 13:8-10; Jas. 1:25).

THE LORD'S NAME

Acts 4:12

I. IN ORDER FOR CHRISTIANS TO LIVE WITH GOD ETERNALLY, ALL MUST BE DONE ACCORDING TO THE DIVINE PATTERN.

1. Individuals and the church are to be identified by God as found upon the pages of His Word (II Tim. 3:16-17).
2. Names given by men are wrong, divisive, and sepa-

rate professed believers, against the wishes of Christ (Jn. 17:20-21).

3. Some names exalt men (Lutheran), ordinances (Baptist), or forms of church government (Methodist).

II. GOD PROPHESED THAT HE WOULD GIVE THE NAME HE DESIRED INDIVIDUALS TO WEAR (Isa. 62:2).

1. It was to be borne by Paul (Acts 9:15).
2. This prophecy was fulfilled in Antioch of Syria (Acts 11:26).
3. All obedient souls are to glorify God in the worthy name "Christian" (I Pet. 4:14-16; Jas. 2:7).

III. THE NAME OF CHRIST IS TO BE WORN BY THE CHURCH (Rom. 16:16).

1. Names descriptive of the church's different phases of work are: Kingdom of God (Col. 1:13), Body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23), House of God (I Tim. 3:15-16).
2. Since the church is the bride of Christ, she should wear His name (II Cor. 11:2).
3. All of our words and works are to be done in His name (Col. 3:16-17).

THE LORD'S ORGANIZATION AND WORK

I Tim. 3:14-15

- I. TO RESPECT THE LORD'S AUTHORITY IS TO FOLLOW THE ESTABLISHED ORDER (Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5).

1. Each congregation was independent, a self-governing unit (Gal. 1:2, 22).
2. There were a plurality of elders in every church (Acts 14:23; 20:17).
3. Deacons were selected to assist the elders in carrying out Christ's Word and work (I Tim. 3:8-13; Phil. 1:1).

II. THE WORK OF THE LORD'S CHURCH IS SPIRITUAL, CARRYING THE GOSPEL TO THE LOST (Lk. 19:10; Mk. 16:15-16).

1. Teachers and preachers are to teach and preach the pure doctrine of Christ (I Thess. 1:8; II Tim. 4:1-2; I Cor. 1:21).
2. Every member is responsible to teach according to his or her ability (Matt. 28:19-20; I Tim. 4:16; Tit. 2:3-5).
3. All Christians are taught to be benevolent: to visit the sick, feed the hungry, and care for those in need (Matt. 25:34-40; Acts 6:1-5; Jas. 1:27).

III. THE NEW TESTAMENT MENTIONS NO OTHER ORGANIZATION THROUGH WHICH CHRISTIANS ARE TO WORK (Eph. 3:10).

1. The local church did mission work (Acts 13:1-3).
2. The local church extended charity (Acts 11:29-30).
3. Local churches cooperated with other local congregations in carrying out its work, under the eldership (Rom. 15:25-26; Acts 11:28-30).

THE LORD'S DAY

Rev. 1:9-10

I. THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S DAY FOR WORSHIP AND SERVICE TO THE LORD IS OF NEW TESTAMENT ORIGIN.

1. Under the Law of Moses, God's people kept the "Sabbath" or seventh day (Ex. 20:8).
2. It was observed because of Israel's deliverance from bondage (Deut. 5:3,15).
3. It was not commanded to be kept before or after the Law of Moses, which Law has been done away (Col. 2:14).

II. THE LORD'S DAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK.

1. Its significance is seen in:
 - A. Jesus was raised on the first day of the week (Mk. 16:9; Lk. 24:1, 13, 20-21, 46).
 - B. Jesus met His disciples on the first day of the week (Jn. 20:1, 19, 26).
 - C. The church of Christ was established on Pentecost, which always came on the first day of the week (Acts 2; Lev. 23:15-16).
 - D. The Holy Spirit empowered the apostles on the first day (Acts 2:1-4).
 - E. The Gospel in its fullness began to be preached on the first day of the week (Acts 2:22-36).
 - F. The apostle John called it "the Lord's Day" (Rev. 1:10).

III. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ASSEMBLED FOR WORSHIP ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2).

1. The times of assembling are not to be forsaken (Heb. 10:25-26).
2. "The first day of the week" implies every first day of the week, just as "the Sabbath day" meant every Sabbath day (Ex. 20:8; Acts 20:7).

THE LORD'S WORSHIP

Jn. 4:23-24

- I. ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP TO GOD INVOLVES: (1) THE PROPER ATTITUDE; (2) IN HARMONY WITH TRUTH (Col. 3:16).
 1. Members of the church of Christ make up a "royal priesthood" who offer worship to God (I Pet. 2:9).
 2. Certain acts are prescribed in the New Testament for acceptable worship (Matt. 28:20; Acts 2:42).
 3. We are to meet on the first day of the week to perform from the heart these items (Matt. 6:33; Heb. 10:25).
- II. THE ACTS OF WORSHIP PRACTICED BY THE EARLY CHURCH ARE TO BE PRACTICED TODAY (Jn. 16:13; Acts 2:42).
 1. These acts include:
 - A. Singing (Eph. 5:19; Heb. 2:12).
 - B. Prayer (Acts 2:42).
 - C. Edifying (I Cor. 14:15-27).
 - D. Communion (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-29).
 - E. Contribution (I Cor. 16:1-2)
- III. IN OUR WORSHIP, AS IN ALL OTHER MATTERS,

WE MUST BE GOVERNED BY DIVINE AUTHORITY.

1. We should examine each practice to be sure that we have a “thus saith the Lord” (Matt. 15:9; II Jn. 9-11).
2. We are commanded to “prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (I Thess. 5:21).

SEVEN THINGS THE LORD HATES

Proverbs 6:16-19

I. MOST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD KNOW THAT THE GOD OF OUR CREATION IS LOVE: (I Jn. 4:8).

1. However, most are not aware that the Bible teaches that God also has the capacity to hate as well as to love (Prov. 6:16; 15:3).
2. The word *hate* sometimes means to love less; other times, as here, to detest, to abhor, to find abominable (Rom. 11:22).
3. Abominable carries the idea of loathing, detesting, despising (Prov. 15:9).
4. Though there are more things the Lord hates, Solomon mentions seven in his book of wisdom.

II. IN ORDER TO PLEASE GOD WE MUST IMITATE HIS ATTRIBUTES: (Prov. 1:5-7)

1. Since God hates certain things, what should be our attitude toward the same? (Prov. 3:5-6)
2. The value of wise admonitions is attainment, in taking them into our own thinking (Prov. 4:23).
3. Reverence for God is displayed in the lives of His followers (Prov. 1:7; 9:10; Matt. 5:16).

III. SOLOMON MENTIONS SEVEN OF THE BASER THINGS GOD HATES:

1. The first is “a proud look.” This portrays one who thinks himself superior to others, even God!
2. Arrogance and a haughty spirit cannot help but show in the face! It is always condemned in the Bible (II Tim. 3:2; Jas. 4:6; I Pet. 5:5).
3. The Bible teaches that we should be humble to please God (Matt. 5:5).

THE TONGUE THAT LIES

Proverbs 6:16-19

I. THERE ARE SEVEN THINGS POINTED OUT BY SOLOMON THAT THE LORD HATES, AND IN WHICH WE SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE:

1. It is a fact that God loves the people of the world (Jn. 3:16).
2. Yet, there are things that He “hates” (II Pet. 3:9).
3. With the use of the Hebrews form of climax, Solomon states there are six qualities which the Lord finds detestable, and the seventh emphasized as worse than all (Prov. 6:12).

II. JEHOVAH HATES A PROUD LOOK:

1. “Haughty eyes,” or an exalted look are condemned in Bible (Psa. 18:27; 101:5).
2. We are not to think of ourselves above others or in an arrogant and haughty way (II Tim. 3:2; Jas. 4:6; I Pet. 5:5).

3. We are taught in the New Testament to be humble (Jas. 4:6).

III. JEHOVAH CONDEMNS A LYING TONGUE:

1. One who neither loves nor tells the truth is of little value to the world!
2. The practice of lying is prevalent in the world, but is not acceptable to God (Rev. 21:8).
3. One of the first sins in the church was lying. It was dealt with severely by the Lord (Acts 5:1-11).

WICKED HANDS AND HEART

Proverbs 6:16-19

I. IN OUR STUDY OF THE SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES, WE ARE LEARNING THE POSITIVE THINGS OF CHRISTIANITY BY THE NEGATIVE:

1. We are to strive to be holy as God is holy (I Pet. 1:13-16).
2. As obedient children we are to be completely submissive to God and His will (Rom. 6:16-18).
3. We are to be set apart from the world by the Lord's teaching, following Him in all things (Jn. 17:17; Col. 3:16-17).

II. GOD HATES HANDS THAT SHED INNOCENT BLOOD: Prov. 6:17

1. God has shown from the beginning of time His respect for the sanctity of life (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7).
2. The importance of human life before God is shown in the punishment for murder (Gen. 9:6).

3. If there were no sacredness of human life, the death of Christ would have been meaningless (Matt. 20:28; I Tim. 2:6).

III. THE MOTIVES THAT PRODUCE MURDER ARE AGAINST GOD'S WILL:

1. Since Cain killed Abel, envy, jealousy, hatred, revenge, and cruelty have caused many sorrows on the earth!
2. Murder is a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:21).
3. Impenitent murderers will be cast into hell (Rev. 21:8; Acts 2:22-23, 36-41).

SWIFT TO MISCHIEF

PROVERBS 6:16-19

I. OUR STUDY SHOWS SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES; FOR US TO ENGAGE IN SUCH PRACTICES TODAY IS TO BE OPPOSED TO GOD:

1. The fourth of these items is "a heart that deviseth wicked purposes" (:18).
2. The heart of this wicked person busies itself in thinking up evil!
3. It is filled with evil thoughts, intentions, and plans; it plots, schemes and develops evil against the happiness of others (Matt. 15:19-20).

II. ANOTHER OF THE THINGS WHICH GOD HATES IS "FEET THAT ARE SWIFT IN RUNNING TO MISCHIEF" (:18).

1. This refers to people who run about causing trouble by stirring up division and hatred (Isa. 59:7; Rom. 3:15).

2. This may be done through gossip, meddling in other people's affairs, etc. (Acts 13:6-12).
3. Anyone who fabricates such, lays the foundation, builds upon it, and completes a life of iniquity!

III. LET US LIVE WITHIN THE LORD'S COMMANDS; AND HIS PLEASURE:

1. The instruction of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount requires us to have a pure heart (Matt. 5:8).
2. Let us be sure that we do not allow our hearts to become corrupt (Jer. 17:9; Matt. 15:18-20).
3. To be faithful people of God, we must be peacemakers in obeying the Gospel and carrying it to the world (Matt. 5:9).

FALSE WITNESS SPEAKING LIES PROVERBS 6:16-19

I. WE HAVE BEEN STUDYING SEVEN OF THE THINGS WHICH GOD HATES:

1. Thus far we have learned that God hates a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, and feet that are swift in running to mischief.
2. Of Jesus it is said that He loved righteousness, and hated iniquity (Heb. 1:9).
3. We are to be like our Lord, approving what He approved, and hating what He hated (I Pet. 2:21-22; I Cor. 11:1).

II. THE SIXTH OF THESE ABOMINATIONS IN THE SIGHT OF GOD IS "A FALSE WITNESS THAT SPEAKETH LIES:"

1. This applies to one, whether in an official capacity or not, who bears a false report.
2. This is a violation of the ninth of the ten commandments (Ex. 20:16).
3. It is also a breaking of the commands of the New Testament (Matt. 19:18; Rev. 21:8)

III. A WITNESS IS ONE WHO GIVES EVIDENCE; WE SHOULD ALWAYS SPEAK THE TRUTH:

1. Christ teaches that this sin which God hates, comes from the heart of man (Matt. 15:19-20).
2. Surely we are to keep our hearts and tongues with all diligence (Prov. 4:23; 23:7; I Pet. 3:10-11).
3. To be the people of God, we must keep our word pure (Matt. 5:37; 12:33-37).

SOWING DISCORD

Proverbs 6:16-19

I. HERE IT IS SAID THAT GOD HATES THE MAN THAT SOWETH DISCORD AMONG BRETHREN:

1. When one unjustly troubles the peace of a family, of a city, or state, God does not look with approval upon that man!
2. This discord may be caused by lies on a man's character, or at the least misrepresentations in order to gain attention for oneself (III Jn. 9-11; Prov. 10:8).
3. Our tongues may be used for righteous purposes, or misused for wicked purposes (Jas. 1:26; 3:5-6).

II. SOME USE THEIR TONGUE TO MAKE MEN'S MINDS EVIL-AFFECTED TOWARDS THEIR BRETHREN:

1. Our Lord was very concerned that His disciples might be divided in teaching (Jn. 17:20-21).
2. Paul commanded that we all speak the same doctrine (I Cor. 1:10).
3. The wrong use of the tongue causes division, conflict, and many difficult problems.

III. WE ARE COMMANDED TO MARK THEM WHICH CAUSE DIVISION AMONG BRETHREN:

1. Paul commanded to mark them, avoid them, and if all else fails, withdraw from them (Rom. 16:17-18; II Thess. 3:6).
2. If God hates these things, we should not engage in such practices, lest we be found in opposition to God!
3. These will not be among the saved in the last day unless they repent (Lk. 13:3; II Pet. 3:9).
4. Let us break free and remain away from these evils, and hate them even as does God! (Jn. 8:31-32).

THINGS THE LORD LOVES

John 8:31-32

I. HAVING STUDIED SEVEN THINGS THE LORD HATES (PROV. 6:16-19), WE NOW NOTICE THINGS THE LORD LOVES:

1. These are things in which God has a special interest and concern for in the world.
2. Love is the sum of God's moral nature (I Jn. 4:8).
3. One who has true acquaintance and fellowship with God, must be like Him in loving the things which He loves, and imitating His attributes (I Jn. 4:7-12).

II. "GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD" (JOHN 3:16-17):

1. Though God loves all mankind, this does not mean that God approves the conduct of sinful man (Rom. 5:8).
2. He hates the sin, but loves the sinner (Heb. 2:9).
3. God loves the world, as parents love their children and desire their welfare, but is strongly opposed to their wrong conduct.

III. EACH INDIVIDUAL SHOULD REJOICE THAT GOD LOVES US:

1. Children need stability, warmth, and favor from approving parents (Eph. 6:1-4; I Jn. 3:1-3).
2. The love of God, like that of good parents, is pure, sacrificial, and enduring (I Cor. 13:4-7).

GOD LOVES THOSE WHO OBEY

Rom. 6:16-18

I. GOD HAS, BY HIS LOVE, PROVIDED THE WAY OF SALVATION FOR ALL SINNERS:

1. He gave His only begotten Son for our redemption (Eph. 1:6-7).
2. He did this though we were at that time His enemies (Rom. 5:10-12).
3. To be "reconciled" means to make friends again (II Cor. 5:17-20).

II. GOD HAS, BY HIS LOVE, INVITED ALL TO COME:

1. At the accepted time, the feast of salvation has been prepared (II Cor. 6:2).

2. God, through His Son, has graciously invited all to come (Matt. 28:18-20; 11:28-30).

III. GOD LOVES AND DELIGHTS IN THOSE WHO OBEY:

1. What parent does not love and delight in obedient children! (Gal. 3:26-27; I Pet. 1:22-23).
2. The disobedient increase in their depravity (Tit. 1:15-16).
3. God loves the life of the faithful child, and delights in giving them Heaven, even in their death (Rev. 14:13; Psa. 116:15).

GOD LOVES THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rom. 16:16; I Cor. 1:2-3

I. GOD'S LOVE IS SEEN IN HIS ETERNAL PURPOSE:

1. His eternal purpose is revealed in the New Testament (Eph. 3:1-5).
2. His wisdom is shown to the world through the church (Eph. 3:10-11).
3. It is His eternal purpose to save all who come into the body of Christ, the church (I Cor. 12:13; I Tim. 2:3-4).

II. GOD'S LOVE FOR THE CHURCH BRINGS GLORY TO HIMSELF:

1. His love surpasses our ability to comprehend (Eph. 3:19).
2. His providence provides our needs in Christ (Eph. 3:20).
3. He obtains glory from the services and those who

faithfully serve in the church (Eph. 3:21).

III. GOD'S LOVE OFFERED THE SUPREME PRICE FOR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST:

1. Our salvation has been brought into the world by His grace (Tit. 2:11-12).
2. The blood of bulls and goats required, in the Old Testament, could not obtain forgiveness or purchase the church (Heb. 9:11-17,22).
3. God, in His love, offered His only begotten Son to purchase the church (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:22-27).

GOD LOVES THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

II Cor. 9:7-8

I. GOD'S LOVE HAS SHOWN US HOW TO WORSHIP ACCEPTABLY:

1. Our worship is to be offered to God, no other (Rev. 19:6-10; 22:8-9).
2. "In spirit" means with the proper attitude of mind, offering the homage of the heart (Jn. 4:23-24).
3. "In truth" means in harmony with God's revelation (I Cor. 2:9-11; Jn. 16:13).

II. GOD'S LOVE HAS DICTATED THE TIME AND ACTS OF WORSHIP:

1. The apostles were to teach Christians to observe all things whatsoever Christ had commanded (Matt. 4:10; 28:19-20).
2. Worship was offered in this manner on the first Lord's day (Acts 2:41-42) (singing, prayer, preaching, giving,

partaking of the Lord's supper).

3. Early Christians "continued stedfastly" on the first day of the week, and so must we (Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25).

III. WORSHIP IS ONE OF THE MEANS THROUGH WHICH GOD GAINS GLORY:

1. The commands of men for worship, rather than those given by God, render it vain (Matt. 15:9; Col. 2:20-23).
2. God does not dwell in temples made with hands, neither is He to be worshipped with men's hands (Acts 7:48; 17:24-25).
3. Let us give glory to God by worship to our Father in spirit and in Truth (Eph. 3:10-11; Rev. 22:18-19).

GOD LOVES LITTLE CHILDREN

Matt. 19:13-15

I. JESUS SHOWED SPECIAL INTEREST TO LITTLE CHILDREN:

1. He rebuked the disciples for turning away little children from being near Him (Mk. 10:13-16).
2. When the disciples were asking who would be the greatest in the kingdom, Jesus called a little child into their midst (Matt. 18:1-3).
3. We must make our lives to be humble, teachable, pure, loving, and forgiving, like little children!

II. WE SHOULD HAVE PROFOUND INTEREST TO TEACH THEM:

1. The poet said: *"I saw tomorrow looking at me through little children's eyes; And I thought how diligently we would teach, if we were really wise."*
2. Children are the men and women of tomorrow; also the Christian's of tomorrow!
3. Let us first give the needed attention to our own children, and then to others (I Tim. 4:16; Eph. 6:1-4).

III. WE ARE TO LEARN FROM THEM AND BE LIKE THEM:

1. To keep our lives from a warped sense of values, let us be transformed by God's Word, and not conformed to the world's mold (Rom. 12:1-20).
2. To be loved by God and enter His home at last, we must become like little children (Matt. 18:1-3).
3. As they learn to trust their father, so we must trust our Heavenly Father (Heb. 11:6; Jn. 14:1-3).

GOD LOVES DOERS OF THE WORD

Jas. 1:21-25

I. GOD LOVES US WHEN WE CONTROL OUR TONGUE:

1. This is a part of pure religion (Jas. 1:26-27).
2. If we do not have God's love enough to rule this unruly member, we do not have enough religion for salvation (Jas. 3:2-6).
3. We will be judged by our words (Matt. 12:35-37).

II. GOD LOVES THOSE WHO ARE HELPFUL TO TEACH OTHERS:

1. We are to do good to all men, at every opportunity (Gal. 6:10).
2. God loves those who do kind and loving deeds, especially in helping the helpless, such as widows and orphans (Matt. 25:31-40).
3. The greatest good we can do to our fellowman is to teach him or her the saving Truth (Mk. 16:15-16; I Tim. 4:16).

III. GOD LOVES THOSE WHO LIVE PURE, UNSPOTTED LIVES:

1. Doing the Word keeps our lives unstained and unspotted by sin (I Jn. 3:4; Rom. 6:23).
2. The new life, provided by God's love in Christ, lifts us above the world (I Pet. 3:21; Rom. 6:3-4).
3. Being led by the sword of the Holy Spirit, will prepare us for Heaven, where we will enjoy God's boundless love through eternity (Rom. 8:1-2, 14; Eph. 6:10-17).

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