

Single Bible Study Lessons Sampler 2017

This collection contains fifteen Bible study lessons that are offered as pick-and-choose possibilities for Bible study lessons. The objective is to offer a variety of topics in a format that offers maximum flexibility. Some of the lessons have been submitted by congregations and some come from Bible study books that have been used some years ago.

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Sample Lesson for Bible Study

Accepting People Who Are Different from Me

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“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

People are born and raised in many different settings. There are many different nationalities and physical features in the world around us. Some people are rich and some are poor. God blesses some with intelligence and some with a strong body. There are those with disabilities such as missing limbs or blindness, and dear children may be born with health problems that affect their mental or physical development.

Many people in the world are quite content in their condition regardless of what others think of it. How do we as Christians accept and interact with people of different circumstances and preferences? Do we expect everyone to change to our standard of living? Should we expect them to bend the customs they grew up with to meet ours? Do our neighbors feel comfortable enough to visit our church services and school programs?

“Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:17).

We live in a world where political correctness rules the day. The acceptance of people with different ethnicity, religious beliefs, or traditions is mandatory to fit in to society. Christ spent much of His time on earth teaching how to love each other. He taught valuable lessons in human relations. We have a true reason to love and accept all men whether or not they are like us. God's kingdom on earth and heaven is large enough for any born again believer, regardless of their status in life.

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Micah 6:8)

Pride may be a factor in our treatment of others. If we think we have it all figured out and our way is right, then how can we see it any other way? Through God's grace, may we open our viewpoint and try to see life through another set of eyes other than our own. Do I love others or do I judge them?

Verses:

Acts 10:34	James 2:9
Mark 12:29-31	John 13:34
Romans 13:8-10	Deuteronomy 24:14-15
Colossians 3:14	

Questions:

1. Is it okay to have less than my peers, or do we feel pressured to live up to a certain standard?
2. How does racism affect our church today? Is that acceptable?
3. How can we better teach our children to accept others with handicaps?
4. Should brothers or sisters who have never married feel left out of social settings?
5. If we run a business or manage people, are we above our workers as lords?

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Activities Which Are Becoming to a Child of God

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The inspiration for this lesson comes from a conversation I once had with a brother. I mentioned to him that I had been taught that snow skiing and snowboarding at resorts were discouraged activities. This was a new thought to him. He did not disagree, but he asked for a clarification on this teaching. This prompted a desire in me for a better footing and conviction on this and other church guidelines. I wished to discern which activities are appropriate for a Christian and would leave a good witness.

The intention of this lesson is not to say certain things are wrong or right but rather that we may gain more understanding for our Christian life. Can we find our way through by attempting to discern whether or not Jesus would take part in a certain activity? Will we be in unity with our brethren this way?

Local Community Activities:

These activities have been cautioned against, or discouraged, by our local leaders in the past. Do we feel comfortable in attendance at such places? What is the reason we are cautioned not to attend?

- Parades and festivals
- State and county fairs
- Fourth of July fireworks shows
- Racing events such as drag racing, motocross, horse racing, etc.
- Thrill parks, theme parks, roller coasters, Ferris wheels, etc.
- Collegiate or professional sports events
- Swimming at hotels and public pools
- IMAX theaters
- Extreme sports
- Public tennis and basketball courts and softball diamonds. [Is this still relative to our day? We use the trails for biking and walking.]

Local activities we frequently do or support:

These activities seem to be upbuilding to attend. Can we identify why these activities do not appear to hinder us?

- Going to the zoo
- Living history museums
- Planetariums
- Farm auctions
- Firefighter benefit meals

Vacationing and Recreation

Types of vacations or recreational activities which have been cautioned or discouraged by our local leaders in the past include the following:

- Watersports, owning of boats

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- Vacationing in tourist hotspots
- Snow skiing or snowboarding at resorts

Family vacations are important and the window to enjoy these times together is so small. Do we feel that these are wholesome activities we can do together on a vacation?

- Fishing
- Camping
- Winter sports such as ice hockey, tobogganing
- State and county parks—for family gatherings, picnics, etc.
- Historic sites and museums.
- The Creation Museum or the Ark Encounter theme park

Proving Our Activities by the Word of God

2 Timothy 3:14. “This know also, that in the last days perilous time shall come.”

Romans 12: 1-2. “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

Philippians 3:19. “Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things”. What is the end of the things we do for entertainment? Do these things bring a certain distraction to the “mind that is in Christ”?

1 Corinthians 13:11. “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

Proverbs 21:17. “He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man.”

Isaiah 47:8. “Therefore hear thou this, thou that are given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.”

Titus 3:3. “Serving divers lusts and pleasures.”

Galatians 5:16-17. “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

Philippians 4:5 “Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.”

1 Peter 2:21. “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.”

General Conference Decisions:

Article 14, 1956 General Conference

Resolved, We strengthen our attitude in objection to photography by adding the following scripture references:

“Then shall ye drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures.” Exodus 20:4; Numbers 33:52; Deuteronomy 5:8; Isaiah 2:11-16. [Read also Article 15, 1967 General Conference.]

Article 11, 1993 General Conference

Resolved, that we adopt the following statement:

We recognize that playing is necessary for children's development. However, professional and collegiate sports are one of the gods of this world, and we should refrain from being in attendance at such events and from following them in the news media.

We discourage regularly scheduled or preplanned sports and games. We should rather exercise ourselves in spiritual activities that will help brothers and sisters to mature properly in Christian life. Further, be it resolved that no sports or games be played in public parks, game courts, diamonds, etc. Sundays should especially be respected as the Lord's Day for worship and spiritual activities.

Article 5, 2003 General Conference:

So we may take a stand by discipline and fearless teaching against all lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and pride of life. Sports involvement, love of luxury, and general permissiveness are issues we must face in the consecration God is asking of us.

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Charity

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Background Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13; 2 Peter 1: 3-10

Charity is that pure love for others that fills the heart when we have been purged from sin. It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit living within. Humans possess a certain natural love by virtue of creation. But charity only comes from God. It is one with “the wisdom that is from above.” This wisdom is “pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy” (James 3:17).

As fallen creatures, we easily deceive ourselves. We may feel that we love someone, but , this love can actually be tainted with selfishness, pride, or carnality. But it is never so with charity. Charity is always pure, always true, and always free of ulterior motives.

Charity seeks to understand the other person's desires and to see things from the other's point of view. It is neither permissive nor too stringent. It is God's kind of love. The only way to be filled with charity is to be near to the heart of God.

It has been said that charity is love in action. It is not content to only remain a warm feeling inside. Charity causes one to gladly spend and be spent for others and for the cause of Christ. But when a heart of pure love is motivating someone, the desire for recognition or acclaim is not there. Humility and charity go hand in hand.

Love can be felt as an emotion, which is good. But true love is also a decision—a choice. In many challenging situations, charity will cause us to act in a loving way, trusting that God will then bless with the emotion of love.

Human reasoning tells us just the opposite. It says that we must feel loving, and then we can act in a loving way. But if I do not feel loving, I am relieved of responsibility to live charitably. This is not Biblical. It is not the way of reconciliation. This thought is not of God.

Scriptures and comments:

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering (Col. 3:12).

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye (Col. 3:13).

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness (Col. 3:14).

Charity is connected with mercy toward others, kindness, a proper estimation of ourselves, and a meek outlook. A charitable heart will bear long with another person's weaknesses or failings; it will not be exacting or draw a line in the sand in matters affecting the relationship (as long as it does not involve a breach of sound doctrine). We are to forgive “as Christ forgave us.”

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8).

With this kind of charity in the heart, it will not be a question whether we love or not; it will just shine forth in the way we live. I will understand that my brethren are made of the same flesh with sinful tendencies as I am. Most sins, failings, and irritations are unintentional and are covered under the blood of Christ. When I also cover these with charity, we can move on in a smooth relationship. Failings are not told to others or laughed about behind one's back.

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Fervent charity does not prevent reproof, it opens the door for it. Reproof will not be harsh; it will be permeated with respect and an attitude of proving the matter together.

It is understood that covering sins does not apply to death sins or other willful sins of a serious nature. But even in that case, charity moves us to deal only through the proper channels, with respect, and with genuine care for the fallen one.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up (1 Cor. 13:4).

Envy has no place in a charitable heart, for envy is selfish. Instead of rejoicing in another's good circumstances or talents, I am thinking of myself and wishing I was the favored one. To vaunt oneself is to make a vain display of one's own worth or attainments. Charity in the heart moves us to an honest evaluation of ourselves.

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil (1 Cor. 13:5).

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth (1 Cor. 13:6).

When filled with charity, I am happy to be one of the group. I desire the good of the whole. To have an agenda and seek my own way is unseemly. A little selfishness or pride can cause problems for the whole group and promote uncharitableness all around.

Charity thinketh no evil. It wants to believe the best of others. Charity will put the best possible construction on things we hear, and will believe the best unless proven otherwise. Gossip is not of charity. If charity is really alive in my heart, I will not delight to pass on derogatory comments about others. I will not secretly rejoice in another being brought low.

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things (1 Cor. 13:7).

How deep is my love? Can I bear with an irritation even though I have borne with it many times before? Can I endure all things for the Lord's sake?

Perhaps a loved one has not been sincere or has left the narrow way. Perhaps they have come about so far, only to turn and go back to their old ways. Can I believe that this time they really want to change and help them from that standpoint, or do I hold back? Am I afraid of a disappointment—not daring to hope? Charity hopes for the best in all things. Charity endures and is not put off by rough going, but hopes and loves and believes until the end.

Discuss:

1. How does charity "suffer long?" What kind of things should we just bear with without complaint? Are there some circumstances when it is best to just be open about the problem?
2. Charity is not easily provoked. If I notice that I am edgy or easily irritated, what is wrong? Could it at times be a root of bitterness that goes deeper than the surface irritations?
3. Give practical examples of when "charity shall cover a multitude of sins" applies.
4. How can I prove if my love is pure, or if there is an ulterior motive involved?
5. Romans 5:5 says, "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost." Yet in Colossians we are told to "put on charity." Are we filled with charity at conversion? What is our part in "putting on?"
6. How should I handle a juicy bit of gossip that comes my way?

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A Christian Life of Joy and Purpose

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Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb. 12:2).

How full is my cup of joy? Is it the same joy and willingness that my Savior experienced before He gave His life for my sins? We face many challenges and discouragements in life. You hear complaints escape your lips from time to time: "Is life fair?" "Is my load too great?"

Do I serve from willingness or duty? We sometimes view Christian life as a narrow way, restricted of nice things the world enjoys. Do we miss the blessings? Do we "ask amiss, because we may consume it upon our own lusts"? (James 4:3).

Is this life about God or me? Our existence is to glorify Him alone. Even when we get to heaven, our purpose will be to glorify God; it was not designed for our pleasure.

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28).

How much do I give back to God, or to my brethren? Paul said, "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved" (2 Cor. 12:15). It is easy to follow my own agenda and not find time to help others. How much is taught by our parents or caught by watching our brethren? Have we learned when it is proper to visit the sick, give to the poor, or write a letter of encouragement? Are the widow's lawn mowed and the house gutters cleaned? What about the forgotten uncle who used to come to church but now is living a lonely life in a nursing home? Who is responsible for such things?

An impression comes and may be discarded because of a busy week. Sad hearts cry in solitude for a friend or listening ear. The Holy Spirit prompts; am I willing?

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can" (Unknown).

Verses:

Ephesians 5:2	Philippians 3:20
Psalms 16:9-11	2 Timothy 4:8
Micah 7:7	John 4:14

Questions:

1. Does it matter if I smile or frown when I am in public?
2. What does inspired volunteer service look like?
3. Discuss inspiration versus preparation.
4. How do I gauge the purpose of my life?
5. How does pride hinder my openness?
6. How do I minister to the poor?
7. What is the duty of the deacon versus that of the laity?
8. Do we ever grow weary of the work? (Gal. 6:9).

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Christian Unity

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This topic is one that seems to have been close to the Lord. He spoke often about it and the apostles followed with much teaching as well. We know from experience that this is something that needs to be strengthened from time to time in our own heart. Questions arise as we interact with one another. What does the Lord expect of His children? He knows that we came from different homes, backgrounds, and even different cultures. Does He only want us to get along? What does true humility do for us? How does it affect our relationships with one another? The Bible tells us that the contention between Paul and Barnabus was so sharp, that “they departed asunder one from another” (Acts 15:39). How do we reconcile this with the scriptures that teach unity? As we give ourselves to prayer and study, the Spirit and the Word will have answers for us.

Scriptures

John 17:21. That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Romans 12:5. So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

1 Corinthians 10:17. For we being many are one bread and one body: for we are all partakers of that bread.

Galatians 3:28. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:13. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

1 Corinthians 1:10. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you: but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement.

1 Peter 5:5. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Proverbs 13:10. Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

Questions

1. If my practice is different from the convictions of my brother, what is my responsibility?
2. Sometimes we may have rubs among us. What is realistic to expect in Christian life?
3. In regards to committees, what does working together mean?
4. Is there ever room for intimidation or control of one another?
5. How can we encourage unity and togetherness?

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Confronting the Challenge of Materialism

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Lesson Focus

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Cor. 4:18).

Introduction

It has become commonly accepted among God’s people that we are living in a materialistic age. Materialism has been defined as “the theory that physical matter is the only reality,” that “physical well-being and worldly possessions constitute the greatest good and highest value in life,” and as “a great or excessive regard for worldly concerns.”

As God’s children, we do not question the existence of the spiritual realm. Nevertheless, would our lifestyles indicate that spiritual things do not occupy the place in our lives that God intends? When material things become uppermost in our thinking, then for all practical purposes we have become materialists.

Is our knowledge of God’s plan for our lives a knowledge of intellect alone, or is it of the hidden man of the heart? Do our actions line up with what we know, or do they speak something different from our words?

The Sadducees of Jesus’ day were materialistic in the strictest sense of the word. They didn’t believe in an afterlife, angels, the resurrection of the dead, or the intervention of God in the affairs of men. We would not claim affinity with the Sadducees; we know that God is the God of the living and not of the dead. But in spite of all our knowledge and understanding, would the Spirit of Christ tell us the same thing that Jesus told them? “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God” (Matt. 22:29).

May we earnestly ask ourselves exactly who or what has control of our hearts and minds.

Our Lord warns about the peril and deceitfulness of material riches

Matthew 6:19. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

25. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Matthew 13:3. And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

7. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them.

22. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

Luke 12:16. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man

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brought forth plentifully:

17. And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18. And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

20. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21. So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Our Savior points us to the true riches

John 4:14. But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 6:26. Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

27. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

35. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

47. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

58. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

63. It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

God's children are to be strangers and pilgrims on earth

Matthew 6:31. Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32. (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Hebrews 11:13. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

15. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 13:13. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

14. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

1 Peter 2:11. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

For further study

Isaiah 2:5-9

Think and discuss

1. Do our lifestyles reflect our pilgrim and stranger status, or would someone looking on mistake us for materialists?
2. If we see that spiritual things are not as important to us as they should be, what steps should be taken to correct the situation?
3. Does God speak to His people in special ways to warn them against the dangers of materialism?
4. How much should we consult our spiritual brethren concerning our material decisions and involvements (such as the houses we build, the extent of our business and farming operations, the vehicles we buy, etc.)?
5. If the cares of life creep up on us, how can we tell when they have become a danger to us?
6. Do our material involvements keep us from being ready to go to the mission?
7. Does our standard of living make it hard for someone to scale down their business operation?
8. Is debt becoming a way of life for us? Whatever happened to “pay as you go”?
9. Is it out of place to teach our children to save? Does the fact that we don’t believe in receiving interest make it hard for us to practice a regular savings program?
10. Romans 13:8 instructs us, “Owe no man anything, but to love one another.” What does this mean?
11. Luke 16:14 indicates that a covetous spirit led the Pharisees to scoff at Christ’s message. Does covetousness affect us in the same way?
12. How does God look at our busy lives? How busy is too busy?

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The Depravity of Man

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Man was created pure, holy, and immortal. He was created in the image of God and had no experience with evil. At that point man had no need of a savior or redeemer. All the rest of creation was for man's benefit, and he was in perfect daily communion with God.

Man lost his purity, holiness, and immortality in the fall. He lost fellowship with God and the rights of sonship and became a depraved creature. Depravity is the innate corruption of human nature due to original sin. In the fall, man departed from his original state of soundness and conformity to the laws of his Creator.

Through the voluntary transgression of divine law, man departed from his first state of perfection. Man is held responsible for this voluntary action. Because of his depravity, man's heart has become a conflict of desires, emotions, and passions. His mind has become carnal, corrupt from the inside out. He sins because he is a sinner, standing guilty and condemned before a holy God.

God has given man the power to choose. God deals with him for willful transgressions of His moral law. Moral law, as set forth in the Bible, requires love to God and to man. Instead man chooses self-indulgence and self-gratification, a spirit of self-seeking. Man has a will to do as he pleases and does not want anyone to rule over him. While he thinks he is doing as he pleases, he is in bondage, a captive, and a slave to Satan.

The will is responsible for our good or evil actions. Once the will is activated, good or evil will be made manifest in the body. Satan injects the poisonous thought of self-gratification, a selfishness that displeases God. Through man's depravity he aspires to be as God, or at least a smaller god for his own gratification. Without Christ, man is without hope and a stranger to the promises of God (Eph. 2:12).

Regeneration is man's only hope to keep his will in accord with the will of God. After this experience, God looks at us through the blood of Christ and sees us as pure, sinless, innocent beings. We are perfect as He has commanded in His Word, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). As long as our sins are under the blood, we remain in this blessed condition. It is God's will, and He has made it possible, that we can live our entire lifetime and die in this sanctified condition.

When a sinner becomes converted, he still carries the inherited seed of sin in his flesh. He has the characteristics and inclination within to sin. Sin not willfully committed is not imputed to him. Nevertheless, if the perpetual, atoning blood of Christ were removed from him, he would stand before God a condemned sinner. Therefore, a Christian is a sinner saved by grace. He is saved because he humbly came to the foot of the cross, acknowledged who he really was, and with a penitent heart and spirit accepted Christ by faith.

Study Text

Genesis 3:1-24	The fall
Jeremiah 17:9	Heart deceitful
Mark 7:21-22	From heart proceeds evil
Romans 6:23	Wages of sin

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Romans 7:18	No good thing
Romans 8:7-8	Carnal mind
Hebrews 3:12	Evil heart of unbelief
2 Timothy 2:26	Taken captive

Discuss

1. Is an innocent child depraved?
2. Does a shallow repentance indicate a lack in understanding our depravity?
3. If a person spends a lot of time dwelling on his depravity, can he live a joyful life?
4. Do humility and depravity go hand in hand?
5. If my struggles are few, or none, is something wrong?
6. What do you think of a Christian who capitalizes on "Jesus did it all and all I must do is believe"?

Youth

1. When does a youth first become aware that his heart is depraved?
2. Does the degree of depravity vary from one individual to another?
3. How do we explain why there seems to be some good in unconverted people?
4. If it is difficult to accept or admit my depravity, what does this indicate?
5. Does our depravity need to hinder our walk with God?
6. Will God give us grace to overcome our depraved nature? If so, how do we receive this grace?

Taken from *The Church and the Faith*, Gospel Publishers

Sample Lesson for Bible Study

Faithful Stewards?

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It is difficult in our day to find a way through all the obstacles and distractions of life. God certainly has a way for us. Oftentimes, it is different than the preconceived way or plan I had in mind. God would have us walk with our hope and security totally in Him. Usually self is very uneasy about this approach to life. Let us be honest, open, and prayerful as we study this lesson. God only has rich blessings in store for us.

“Make no mistake, every good gift comes from God, not money” (Luke Weaver).

Scriptures for study:

Psalms 31:15

Psalms 24:1

Genesis 15:1

1 Corinthians 10:26

Psalms 127, 128

1 Timothy 6:17–18

Questions:

1. Is giving much easier when I am a steward and not an owner?
2. How do I prove if I have an insurance mindset or if we think like the world does about insurance?

Think and Discuss

1. God is a God of order. It is pleasing to Him if we do our best, take our responsibilities seriously, perform timely maintenance and updates, etc., and this all is done for His honor and glory. Is that the motivation in your life?
2. Being stewards takes tremendous stress out of our life. It places the management into God's hands. Does this work? Is this correct thinking?
3. Christ is the Head of the church, and the government is upon His shoulders. If I'm only a steward, I acknowledge that God delegates to His children the gifts that please Him. I, therefore, am at peace whether I have many or few possessions, talents, and abilities? True or false? Can I rejoice with others whom He chooses to give much more than He has placed in my care? Read 1 Corinthians 12:18.
4. It is very hard to admit that I don't trust God. It sounds so foolish to say that. We use lots of different terminology to make our distrust sound legitimate. How can I see clearly if this root of unbelief is in my life?
5. An employer never requires his employees to insure his (the employer's) property. Why would I need to insure that which was given from God and belongs to Him?
6. Independence is a weakness. True or false? If true, I should not feel guilty or inferior if I need my brethren, neighbors, and friends to help me financially, materially, or spiritually at times. True or false?
7. Is there any way to overcome worries and fears of the future—for example, storms, accidents, nursing home expenses, sickness? If I have no plan, am I being a foolish and unwise steward? Am I being realistic?
8. CHA, MUA and BAA are not insurances, but are plans to help “the worthy poor” among us.

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Is non-participation in these programs unwillingness to help my brethren?

9. The early believers rejoiced when their goods were taken from them (Heb. 10:34). Why do we struggle and find our losses so difficult to accept?
10. The children of Israel were told they would not need to borrow from their worldly neighbors (Deut. 28). Did this principle carry over into the gospel era? Would it be better if we would borrow money from our brethren?
11. Is borrowing much money (therefore paying much interest) poor stewardship? Where is the will of God in this?
12. One brother was having serious financial troubles. He sought counsel and was advised to stop balancing his checkbook. Due to this, he became totally dependent on the Holy Spirit's leading. He was able to overcome his financial failures. It worked. The Holy Spirit is a faithful guide. Is this for anyone? Share your experiences in this matter.

Sample Lesson for Bible Study

Integrity

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When someone has integrity, we view that person as being complete and sound in all aspects. A building has integrity when it is designed and built properly. Buildings may collapse due to a lack of integrity, although externally they appeared sound.

Personal Christian integrity is the Holy Spirit inspired building of character. The basic building material of Christian integrity is an unfeigned love of the truth. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can Christian character be built. The world around us proclaims its sincerity, honesty, and uprightness, yet the Christian realizes that not all that is said and done is the truth (Matt. 5:37).

Integrity demands that truth be maintained at all cost. Integrity is often compromised when the opportunity to make money quickly and easily presents itself. Man is inclined to use his tongue to accomplish his selfish ends, thus misleading and deceiving his fellowmen. "Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight" (Prov. 12:22).

Integrity demands that we present ourselves before God and man just as we are. We need to cleanse ourselves continually of all that is false, deceitful, and pretentious.

The man of integrity will live the golden rule (Matt. 7:12). He will guard the interests of others conscientiously. His monetary calculations will correspond with reality. He will be an example in all temporal and spiritual matters. Whether in the eyes of the public or in the privacy of his office figuring income tax, the man of integrity does not compromise truth.

Parents who are filled with the spirit of truth are in a position to nurture integrity in their children. Christian parents who say what they mean and mean what they say provide their children with a basis of trust and confidence. Integrity can be maintained throughout life by a continual acceptance of revealed truth and continued spiritual growth.

We have biblical examples of young men and women who stood with unshakable integrity. The roll call of faith is also one of integrity. Without faith toward God, man looks to himself and his own devices to deliver and satisfy.

The world may not appreciate the life-style of a humble Christian, but they know they can depend on his honesty. In domestic jobs as well as in industry and business, the true Christian is trusted because of his integrity.

Study Text

Isaiah 59:14	Equity based on truth
John 1:16-17	Source of truth and grace
Proverbs 3:3-4	Truth obtains favor
Malachi 2:6	Peace and equity
Proverbs 20:6-7	Children blessed
Luke 16:10	Faithfulness in the least
Philippians 4:8	Think on these things
1 Peter 2:12	An honest conversation
2 Thessalonians 2:10	Loved not the truth

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Discuss

1. Should absolute integrity get more emphasis in our homes?
2. Do we have two standards of integrity—one seen by man and one seen only by God?
3. Can our thought life receive little discipline while our outward life conforms to an acceptable standard of integrity?
4. Can I retain my integrity when by my silence I allow a questionable deal to be completed?
5. What is the full implication of this statement: “Unfaithful in that which is least, unjust also in much”?

Youth

1. Can I retain my integrity and never appear judgmental?
2. Does the principle of integrity mean more to me than approval from my peers?
3. Does Daniel’s high standard of moral integrity present an unobtainable standard?
4. What is the relationship between integrity and being punctual?

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Sample Lesson for Bible Study

Laying Up Treasures

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Background Scriptures:

Matthew 6:19-34; 1 Timothy 6:6-12, 17-20; Psalm 37:23-25

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matt. 6:19-21).

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matt. 6:33).

The above passage is Jesus's own words. He says we should not take thought for food or raiment. He used the example of how He cares for the birds and the flowers. Is this outdated, or is it still for us today? It seems that so much of our time is spent working to buy the necessary things of life. How do we find our way through all this and still "seek first the kingdom of God" like Jesus says in verse 33?

John Holdeman, in an article about covetousness in *Mirror of Truth*, says that covetousness is desiring more than we have. Do we not all wish for a little more money so that life would be a little easier?

The scripture in 1 Timothy 6 speaks of being content with food and raiment. Verse 6 says, "Godliness with contentment is great gain." What is godliness? In Psalm 37:23 we read, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." Timothy goes on to instruct us to pursue righteous living, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness and to "fight the good fight of faith."

We need to be diligent in our work. The material things of life are necessary, but they should never be our primary goal.

May our discussion help us to have a better understanding of a proper balance in our lives.

Questions:

1. How do we teach diligence in our work without promoting treasures on earth?
2. Are all things that we consider precious here on earth treasures and therefore wrong?
3. How do we know if we have treasures in heaven?
4. How can we seek the kingdom of God first?
5. What does Jesus mean in Matthew 6:33 when He says, "All these things shall be added unto you"?
6. Discuss the best way to "fight the good fight of faith, [and] lay hold on eternal life" (1 Tim. 6:12).

Sample Lesson for Bible Study

Purity

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Jesus pronounced a blessing on those who are pure in heart. This promise is that “they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8). Jesus was speaking about the very seat of man’s affections. “For as he think-eth in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7). The thought patterns and meditations of an individual reveal the heart. Jesus emphasized this when He said, “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts . . .” (Matthew 15:18-19).

A heart that has been washed clean by the blood of the Lamb is pure. This heart will find victory over discontentment, covetousness, and idolatry. When no sin is imputed to the heart, it is pure. When the heart is pure, the love of God dwells in it. The Holy Spirit is given to lead the believer into all truth. As we obey and do not grieve Him, we are sealed unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).

Purity affects every area of life. Satan has many pitfalls to cause us to become impure. His objective is to cause us to leave our first love. He does this by enticing us to love and covet the things of this world.

Impurity may lead to questionable practices. In 1 Peter 1:22, we read that we should “love one another with a pure heart fervently.” When there is a small difference of opinion or conviction, impurity in the heart will strain the fervency of our love for the brotherhood. Impatience with my family, neighbor, or brother indicates that my heart needs purification. Jesus warned against moral impurity. He taught that the problem is in the heart (Matthew 5:28).

God would like to cleanse all impurity from our hearts. Jesus gave Himself that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify us (Titus 2:14). If we walk close to the Lord we will have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

A pure heart is essential to receive a vision of the Father (Matthew 5:8). Recurring difficulties with the teachings and doctrines of the Bible or the church indicate impurity of heart,

Purity causes one to see things in their proper perspective. Pure thoughts need to be cultivated in order to maintain a clean heart. The Apostle Paul teaches us that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but through God we are able to pull down strongholds. Great battles are fought in the heart to maintain purity. These battles require the help of God so we can overcome and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). The Apostle Paul challenges us to pureness of heart: “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

Study Text

Jeremiah 17:9	Impure heart
Proverbs 4:23	Keep the heart
Psalms 24:3-4	Who is accepted
Mark 7:14-23	Evil from heart

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2 Corinthians 7:1	Cleansed from filthiness
1 Timothy 1:5	Pure heart
Titus 1:15	All things pure
James 1:26-27	Pure religion
James 4:8	Double mindedness
1 John 3:2-3	Hope purifies

Discuss

1. Can a person be pure in some things and not be pure in heart?
2. Is it possible to attain the standard of purity which Jesus portrays in His teachings?
3. What is our concept of morality? What does it include?
4. Are the standards of the world bringing pressure upon the church to lower her standards?
5. Can someone maintain a pure heart while reading questionable material?
6. How can I tell if a thought has become an impurity or if Satan is only tempting me?
7. How is impatience related to impurity?

Youth

1. How do we recognize purity or impurity of heart? What is the evidence?
2. When we are convicted and convinced of an impurity in our lives, what are the steps we need to take for cleansing?
4. Is an impure thought or imagination sinful as long as there is no wrong word or action?
5. Make a list (with brief comments) of people from the Scriptures who went through a process of purification. List some who refused to be purified.

Taken from *Studying the Gospel*, Gospel Publishers

Sample Lesson for Bible Study

Repentance

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Repentance is one of the most essential parts of God's plan of salvation and a fundamental doctrine of His Church. "Repent and believe the gospel" is the first commandment to sinners

No one is exempt from the requirement of repentance. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). It is imperative that a person realizes he is a sinner and feels an abhorrence for sin. He has a sorrow of the "godly sort" for his past transgressions (2 Corinthians 7:11). The publican felt this need and saw his wretchedness. He did not as much as lift his eyes to heaven, but smote his breast and begged God for mercy. This sorrow is a sincere reply to God's call—a cry of the soul to be one with its Maker.

Repentance goes deeper than outward reform. In genuine repentance there is a realization that it is not in man's power to change his own nature. Only a complete surrender to the Almighty can bring about the transformation sought. In a genuine repentance, the sinner opens his heart so God's love and mercy can change him into a new creature. He has actually been restored to a complete relationship with God.

In this new relationship we feel a need of God. We are teachable and desire to know His will. There is a carefulness that we do not fall back into former sins. This new relationship leads to freedom. Conscientious, sincere obedience brings about an overcoming Christian life.

A partial surrender may bring an emotional relief from our burdens. While emotions are affected in a repentance experience, emotions without a change in everyday life can be misleading. The new life lived for Christ is the proof of repentance, rather than an emotion or feeling.

Study Text

Matthew 3:2; 4:17	Repent ye (requirement)
Acts 2:38	Repent and be baptized
Luke 24:47	Repentance and remission of sins
Luke 15:11-21	The prodigal son
Matthew 21:28-31	Two sons

Discuss

1. What brings about a repentance experience?
2. Does a consecrated, victorious life hinge on the extent or thoroughness of our repentance experience?
3. We should always be ready to repent, yet we do not always need to be repenting.
4. Repentance does not take the place of self-denial.
5. Discuss 2 Corinthians 7:10-11.
6. Is there significance in the fact that repentance is mentioned as the first requirement in Luke 24:47 and Acts 2:38?
7. Is there such a thing as partial repentance?

Youth

1. What can we learn from the parable in Luke 15:11-21?

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2. In the light of Matthew 21:28-31, can we be disobedient, planning to repent later?
3. How do we determine that someone has truly repented?
4. Is outward change a part of true repentance?
5. How can we experience more hatred of sin?
6. Why are some sins harder to repent of than others?

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Sample Lesson for Bible Study

The Moral Law

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God's law, as given to the Israelites, included three divisions: moral, ceremonial, and civil. Their first appearance as a unit was the giving of the law to Moses on Mount Sinai. The moral law has its origin in God Himself.

The Ten Commandments are a basic, yet inclusive, outline of God's will for man. The commandments deal with matters of right and wrong, holding before man the absolute submission and obedience which God requires of everyone. These instructions in righteousness were given on two tablets of stone. The first four commandments addressed man's allegiance to God; the second table taught the moral duties which man owes to his fellowman.

In asking for man's complete devotion, God made no allowance for other gods. He did not allow the making of any object of devotion or worship or the rendering of service to any other than Himself. His name was not to be used irreverently or vainly, lest man's concept of a holy, righteous, and just God should degenerate into something less than that which deserved utmost reverence and respect. To preserve continuity in their worship order, He strengthened the ordinance of their day of worship.

The instructions given for relating one to another were necessary for purity and unity. God realized that it was essential for them to maintain the proper respect for the sanctity of life and property. In order for them to prosper, it was necessary to safeguard their homes and marriages. By being truthful and keeping themselves from covetousness, the harmony and welfare of the people would be preserved.

The moral law was given for the well-being, happiness, and fulfillment of man according to God's original plan. It is strengthened in the New Testament by the Lawgiver, Jesus Christ, and is made more penetrating in its demands than in the Old Testament. It examines the very thoughts and intents of the heart.

Any nation, church, home, or individual who willfully breaks the moral law is headed for destruction. The standard of morality is not set by man, but by God. Though many people disregard this standard, it does not become right in the sight of God. Only through Christ can we keep the moral law in its fullness (Romans 8:4).

Study Text

Malachi 4:4	Law through Moses
Exodus 20:2-17	Law's foundation
Deuteronomy 6:4-5	Love for God
Leviticus 19:18	Love for others
Deuteronomy 18:15	Moses's appeal
John 1:17	Gospel through Christ
Matthew 5:3-11	Gospel's foundation
Luke 6:31	Golden rule
Acts 3:22	Paul's appeal
Matthew 5:17	Jesus came to fulfill
Galatians 3:19-24	Purpose of the law

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Galatians 5:4

Law does not justify

Romans 10:4

Christ our righteousness

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Discuss

1. What is the basis of the moral law?
2. Discuss the golden rule as it relates to the following situations:
 - Business dealings (Is it easy to see the other side?)
 - Debts (Psalm 37:21)
 - Borrowing (Exodus 22:14)
 - Lending to the poor (Exodus 22:25)
 - Employee and employer responsibility (Colossians 3:22)
3. Discuss being delinquent in returning borrowed items. Does this delinquency come from a lack of respect, consideration, or honesty?
4. What is sometimes called the new morality is only a self-justified version of the old immorality. Discuss.
5. What caused those who were under the law to do what is stated in Matthew 23:24? Do we sometimes justify wrongdoing in one area by being strict in another?
6. Covetousness is very elusive and adapts itself to many areas of life—money, possessions, status, etc. Discuss.

Youth

1. Morality does not make a Christian, but can anyone be a Christian without it?
2. We owe our parents reverence and respect. How sinful is disrespect and disobedience (Exodus 21:15-17)?
3. How much of our unhappiness comes from covetousness?

Taken from *Understanding the Old Testament*, Gospel Publishers

Sample Lesson for Bible Study

Our Thought Patterns

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For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he (Prov. 23:7).

In Hebrews 4:12 we read, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” This teaches us that the Lord is keenly aware of what and how we think. Our very intent, and why we do what we do is open and exposed to an all-knowing God. Transgression can take place in our thought patterns as in the example given in Proverbs 24:9: “The thought of foolishness is sin.”

Thought patterns are sometimes formed and continue to grow with the individual hardly realizing the direction they are taking. We live in a day and age where more attention should be given to why we think the way we do. We need to have every thought within the Lord’s control. “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5).

How we think and what we think have a large bearing on our spirit and attitude toward life, our relationships with our families, our spiritual brothers and sisters, and the world in general. Our mental health and our care for it have a great effect on our physical and spiritual well-being. May we give more serious attention to healthy, upbuilding, and carefully nurtured thought patterns.

Scriptures to study:

1 Corinthians 13:5, 11	Genesis 6:5
Psalms 94:19	Romans 12:3
Luke 12:17	Psalms 139:23

Discuss:

1. Where do your thoughts most often wander when you are alone and all is quiet?
2. When things go wrong in the home or our personal life, how can we cultivate constructive thought patterns?
3. A multitude of thoughts present themselves when we attend worship services; some are distracting thoughts. Discuss.
4. In congregational life, many decisions are made, discipline is administered, we have disappointments, sadness, and blessings. Can we always have pure, impartial, and healthy thought patterns?
5. What are your thoughts
 - when your brother is successful and does well?
 - when your brother stumbles and falls again?
 - when things do not go as you thought they should?
 - toward others when they do you wrong or do not meet your standards?

Sample Lesson for Bible Study

Withstanding Deception

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Lesson focus

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

Introduction

The Scriptures speak of the power that is available to us to withstand deception—power that is found in the blood of Christ, the Spirit of Truth, and the Word of God. Love of the truth will cause us to submit ourselves to God, thereby gaining the grace to resist the devil, who will then flee. That is God’s promise of victory and our hope of eternal life. We can depend on it.

May this lesson renew our vision of our human weakness. We need God’s strength to withstand this dangerous peril—strength that is found in Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Word, and the church. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

Power in the blood

Revelation 12:9. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Power in the Spirit

John 16:13. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.

Ephesians 1:13. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

Power in the Word

1 Thessalonians 2:13. For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God.

James 1:21. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Power in the brotherhood

Matthew 16:18. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

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19. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

1 Timothy 3:15. That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Receiving the love of the truth

Proverbs 23:23. Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.

Romans 1:18. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.

Ephesians 4:14. That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15. But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:10. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12. That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2 Timothy 3:5. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

7. Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

The necessity of submission to God

Psalms 40:8. I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Matthew 6:10. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Romans 6:13. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Resisting the devil

Proverbs 4:14. Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

Ephesians 4:26. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27. Neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 6:11. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

1 Peter 5:8. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9. Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in

your brethren that are in the world.

Leave not the old paths

Jeremiah 6:16. Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.

Philippians 3:16. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

17. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

Colossians 2:6. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7. Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

8. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

2 Timothy 3:13. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

14. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.

Titus 1:9. Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

God's promises to His children

Luke 10:19. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 22:31. And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Romans 16:20. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

1 Corinthians 10:13. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Revelation 3:21. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

For further study

Proverbs 11:14; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5

Think and discuss

1. How do we receive the love of the truth? What are the marks of its presence?

2. Why is submission a requirement?
3. Why can submission seem so difficult?
4. How are the individual members of the church responsible for protecting the young and the weak from deception?
5. How do we “try the spirits” (1 John 4:1)?

Taken from *The Challenge of Christian Living*, Gospel Publishers