

Basic Biblical Discipleship

Guidance for Growth in God's Word

Lessons 20-22

*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be
glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

2 Peter 3:18

Printed by:

Cornerstone Bible Ministries

Mutare, Zimbabwe

+263 781 158 599

gospelforzim@gmail.com

Lesson Twenty: The Lost World

As a Christian, how do I relate to the lost world?

There can be no doubt from scripture that this world system is against the Lord Jesus Christ and His people. Nevertheless, He has left you here for a short time and He has called on you to be separate from this world at the same time that you engage it as a witness. The purpose of this lesson is to give you a balance of these responsibilities.

I. Expect Opposition and Persecution

- A. The world is opposed to Jesus Christ and He has told you to expect the same opposition when you follow him (John 15:18-21).
- B. If you never encounter persecution or opposition from the world, it may be an indication that you are not living for the Lord Jesus Christ (John 7:7, 2 Timothy 3:12).

II. Recognize Where this Opposition Will Come From

- A. The most difficult opposition that you will face is from those you are closest to. This is usually the first source from which a believer will encounter opposition and persecution (Matthew 10:35-36, Mark 6:4, John 1:11).
- B. This world is naturally opposed to the purposes of Jesus Christ (its entertainment, music, media, etc.). You must be prepared to judge these things alongside the word of God (1 John 2:15-17, James 4:4).

- C. The archenemy of your soul is the devil himself. He is working through the world system to cause you to sin and diminish your service for Christ (1 Peter 5:8, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

III. Learn How to Deal with the World's Opposition

- A. Give a soft answer (Proverbs 15:1, Romans 12:18).
- B. Please the Lord with your life (Proverbs 16:7).
- C. Have faith in God (1 John 5:4-5).
- D. Remember that the lost world is in bondage. Have compassion (Romans 12:14, 20-21).
- E. Pray for your enemies with pure motives (Matthew 5:44).
- F. Be careful to keep good company (Proverbs 13:20, 1 Corinthians 15:33).
- G. Immerse yourself in the word of God (Joshua 1:6-9).

IV. Learn How the Lost World Should View You

- A. They should know you love God by your actions (1 Corinthians 8:3, 1 John 3:18).
- B. They should recognize that you are different from them (1 Peter 2:9, Phil 2:14-16).
- C. They should view you as moderate in all things (Philippians 4:5, 1 Timothy 2:9, 1 Peter 4:3-4).
- D. They should view you as being honest and upright (2 Corinthians 8:21).

- E. They should see you as having a good testimony (Colossians 4:5-6).

V. Learn How You Should See Your Place in the World

- A. You are a pilgrim in a strange land (1 Peter 2:11, Hebrews 11:13). This world is not your home! See Hebrews 13:12-14.
- B. You are an ambassador representing your King, Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20, Philippians 3:20-21).

VI. What about My Responsibility to the Government?

Satan is presently ruling over the kingdoms of this world (Luke 4:5-6). Nevertheless, God is ultimately in control, even above the devil (Daniel 4:34-35). Civil government is a divinely appointed institution. Just because churches, homes, or governments are flawed does not mean that we should rid ourselves of the institution. A proper attitude toward governmental authority is very important.

- A. God has ordained the powers that be, and as such we should be subject to their authority (Romans 13:1-5).
- B. We are to render to the government what is due by law (Romans 13:6-7, Matthew 17:24-27, 22:15-22).
- C. We are to submit ourselves to their ordinances (1 Peter 2:13-15).
- D. We are to honor the office that our governmental leaders fill and be careful how we speak of them (1 Peter 2:17-23, 2 Peter 2:10).

- E.** Civil disobedience is only appropriate when the ordinance of human government is in opposition to the clear-teaching of the word of God (Acts 5:29).

- F.** We must recognize that spiritual character cannot be legislated. Political action is of limited spiritual value. The best thing we can do for men or nations is lead individuals to Jesus Christ (Titus 2:14).

Lesson Twenty Questions

1. Why does the believer's responsibility to the lost world demand balance?
2. What might it indicate if a believer never encounters persecution or opposition? Provide scripture.
3. How might maintaining spiritual company help you to deal with opposition?
4. How should we as believers see our place in this world?
5. Under what circumstances is civil disobedience justified according to the word of God?
6. Why is political action of limited value spiritually?

Memory Verses for Lesson Twenty

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. 1 John 2:15-17

Lesson Twenty-One: The Judgment Seat of Christ

As a Christian, will there be a judgment day for me, and for what will I be judged?

The hope of heaven is secure for every born-again child of God, but what awaits us beyond this life should certainly motivate our faithful service to God. The way we live after we are saved does matter to God, and the Bible tells us that there will be a day of accountability. As believers, taking our eyes off temporal matters and focusing on issues of eternal importance is a critical part of spiritual maturity. As we shall see in this lesson, there will be a day of account for every believer. This lesson is designed to get you acquainted with that final accounting and to get your eyes on eternal matters so that you will not have to be ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

I. What is the Judgment Seat of Christ?

There are a number of different judgments in the Bible. While the Christian will never be judged for his sins and wind up in hell, every person will be judged by God sometime after death (Hebrews 9:27). The believer's judgment is called the Judgment Seat of Christ and it is for saved people only (Romans 14:10).

- A.** You were judged as **a sinner** at the cross of Calvary, when Christ suffered your punishment in your place (2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8). In between your salvation and your death (or the rapture) God deals with each of us as **a son** through chastening (Hebrews 12:5-11). At the Judgment Seat of Christ we will be judged as

a servant for reward or loss (1 Corinthians 3:14-15).

- B.** The Judgment Seat of Christ is not to be confused with the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15). The Judgment Seat of Christ is not to determine if you will go to heaven or hell. It is exclusively for believers (2 Corinthians 5:10).
- C.** While you are eternally secure as a child of God, the way you live does matter to Him or else there would be no Judgment Seat of Christ.

II. What should I expect at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

It is a sobering thought to consider standing before the Lord Jesus Christ and having your conduct and service for him examined (Revelation 1:13-18). First Corinthians 3:9-15 provides us with insight into the Judgment Seat of Christ.

- A.** We will be judged for the methods (v. 10 - “how”) and motives (v. 13 – “what sort”) with which we served the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 9-13).
 - 1.** Service done for the Lord Jesus Christ will be purified (gold, silver, precious stones), while that done with impure motives will be burnt up (wood, hay, stubble).
 - 2.** If we serve the Lord with selfish motives or to please other men we can expect no heavenly reward for that service (Luke 16:15, Ephesians 6:6).

B. We will be rewarded for faithful service to the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 14). The New Testament mentions five “crowns”.

1. The Incorruptible Crown – For temperance (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).
2. The Crown of Rejoicing – For soul-winning (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20).
3. The Crown of Righteousness – For loving Christ’s return (2 Timothy 4:8).
4. The Crown of Life – For enduring temptation or dying for Christ (James 1:12, Revelation 2:10).
5. The Crown of Glory – For being a faithful elder (1 Peter 5:1-4).

C. We will suffer loss for a failure to serve our Savior acceptably (v. 15). Even though a believer may suffer loss, they will still be saved (“yet so as by fire”).

1. We can lose rewards that we had previously earned when we do not finish well (2 John 8, Revelation 3:11).
2. We will receive those things done in the body, including that which is bad (2 Corinthians 5:10). There is an element of “terror” to this (2 Corinthians 5:11).
3. To suffer loss at the Judgment Seat of Christ will bring about shame (1 John 2:28, Revelation 3:18).

III. How should the Judgment Seat of Christ affect me right now?

We should seek to live our lives in light of eternity. The Lord Jesus Christ has been so good to us and we should have a sincere desire to please him. The crowns that we earn by our service to Christ will be our gift to God when we stand before Him (Revelation 4:10-11). The doctrine of the Judgment Seat of Christ should have a profound impact on our perspective of what is important right now.

- A.** We should set our affection on things above (Colossians 3:1-4).
- B.** We should lay up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21).
- C.** We should recognize that earthly treasures and rewards are only temporal, but the rewards that Christ will bestow at the Judgment Seat will last forever (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

IV. Seven Judgments (For further study)

- A.** The sin of the world (Galatians 3:13, 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- B.** The prince of this world (John 12:31, 16:11).
- C.** The believer as a son (1 Corinthians 11:31-32, Hebrews 12:5-11).
- D.** The Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10).
- E.** The nation of Israel in the Great Tribulation (Ezekiel 20:20-28, Isaiah 4:2-4).
- F.** The principalities (Isaiah 24:21-22, Daniel 7:9-14).
- G.** The Gentile Nations (Matthew 25:31-46).
- H.** The Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

Lesson Twenty-One Questions

1. From the lesson, where and in what way does God judge a sinner? A son? A servant?
2. What is the difference between the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Great White Throne Judgment?
3. For what will we be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
4. What does it mean in First Corinthians 3:15 when it says “he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire”?
5. What is the practical effect on a believer’s life of really looking forward to the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Memory Verses for Lesson Twenty-One

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. 1 John 2:28

Lesson Twenty-Two: The Second Coming of Christ

What should be my attitude toward the return of Jesus Christ?

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ is the most often prophesied event in all of scripture and it is the believer's "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13). Unfortunately, this doctrine is often confused, neglected, or ignored. The return of Jesus Christ is an extremely practical subject when believed literally and applied personally. The purpose of this lesson is to give you an overview of what the Bible says about the end-times and to point out how the soon return of Jesus Christ should affect us practically as we wait for Him.

I. An Overview of the End-Times

While there may be different ideas about the details of the Second Coming of Christ and the events of the Last Days, a literal interpretation of scripture will provide us with a good idea of God's "big picture" for the end-times.

- A. The Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The next "big event" on God's prophetic calendar is the catching-away of the church.
 - 1. The Lord himself will come at this time *for* his saints.
 - 2. All believers will get their glorified body at this time (1 Corinthians 15:51-53).
 - 3. This will occur before the start of the tribulation (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

4. It is following the rapture that the church will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10) and ultimately marry her Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:7-9).
- B.** The Tribulation (Daniel 9:24-27, 12:1, Matthew 24:21). Following the rapture of the church the Lord will turn his attention to the nation of Israel (Jeremiah 30:7).
1. A personal antichrist comes to power at this time (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). He will mercilessly persecute Israel, attempting to destroy them (Revelation 12:17).
 2. There will be horrible, cataclysmic judgments in the earth including war, famine, and pestilence, such as has never been seen before (Matthew 24:22, Revelation 6).
- C.** The Revelation of Christ (Revelation 19:11-16). At the close of the Great Tribulation Jesus Christ will return to assume control of the earth. This is the most oft prophesied event in the Bible.
1. In connection with His coming, the Battle of Armageddon will take place (Revelation 16:14, 16).
 2. The Jewish remnant will be saved when they see Jesus Christ (Zechariah 12:10) and restored to the head of nations (Deuteronomy 28:13).

3. The Gentile nations of the earth will be judged at Christ's return based on how they treated the Jews (Matthew 25:31-46).
 4. The Devil will be put in the Bottomless Pit (Revelation 20:1-3).
- D.** The Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 11:15, 20:4). Jesus Christ will establish a kingdom of peace and righteousness on earth that will last one-thousand years.
1. At the end of this one-thousand years, Satan will be loosed briefly and lead a final rebellion against King Jesus (Revelation 20:7-10).
 2. This will result in the renovation of the earth by fire (2 Peter 3:8-10).
 3. The Great White Throne Judgment will take place and all the wicked dead from ages past will be cast out of hell and into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:11-15).
- E.** The Eternal Kingdom (Luke 1:31-32). With sin and rebellion eradicated, an eternal kingdom will commence.
1. This will begin with a new heaven, a new earth, and a New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-4).
 2. We will serve the Lord without interruption or temptation for ever and ever (Revelation 22:3).

II. The Difference the Promise of His Coming Makes Now

If a bride were expecting her Bridegroom to sweep in and carry her off to their home at any minute, she would be looking for him. If you expected a great King to visit your home you would make sure things were tidy and in order. If you were planning on moving to a new home a great distance away, you would make preparations for the move ahead of time. Jesus Christ is coming for his church and the hope of that coming should have a practical impact on our lives.

- A.** The hope of His coming will purify us (1 John 3:1-3, Titus 2:11-14).
- B.** The hope of His coming will give us confidence (Philippians 1:6, 1 John 2:28).
- C.** The hope of His coming will give us evangelistic urgency (John 9:4).
- D.** The hope of His coming will cause us to be faithful in our service (2 Timothy 4:1-8).
- E.** The hope of His coming will bring us comfort (1 Thessalonians 4:18).
- F.** The hope of His coming will give us encouragement in difficult times (1 Peter 1:5-7).
- G.** The hope of His coming will cause us to patiently wait for His return (James 5:7-8).

Lesson Twenty-Two Questions

1. What is the next big event on God's calendar of Bible Prophecy? When will this occur in relation to the Tribulation?
2. To whom does God specifically turn His attention to during the Tribulation? Provide scripture.
3. List four important prophetic events connected with the revelation of Jesus Christ at the Second Coming.
4. When does the Great White Throne Judgment take place?
5. List three "new things" connected with the Eternal Kingdom in Revelation 21.
6. Name at least three practical ways in which the believer's life will be impacted as he looks for the return of Jesus Christ.

Memory Verses for Lesson Twenty-Two

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

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