

Basic Biblical Discipleship

Guidance for Growth in God's Word

Book Two: Lessons 11-22

*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

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Lesson Eleven: Other Christians

What is my responsibility to other Christians as a part of God's family?

When you received the Lord Jesus Christ, you were born again into God's family. This means that you have a new Father. It also means that you have brothers and sisters in Christ as a part of the household of faith. Just like with any earthly family, God's family comes with certain privileges and responsibilities for every different member. This lesson is designed to acquaint you with your role in God's family by addressing your relationship to other believers.

I. You Have a Spiritual and Eternal Relationship to Every Other Child of God

A. Other saved people are your brothers and sisters in Christ.

See the following passages that illustrate this point: John 1:12, Galatians 3:26, 4:5, 6:10, Ephesians 1:5, 2:19, 3:14-15, 1 John 3:1.

1. This means that lost people are not your spiritual brothers and sisters regardless of any other factors.
2. God puts even more emphasis on our eternal, spiritual relationships than he does upon our physical kinship (Mark 3:31-34, 1 John 3:16).
3. This also means that other genuine Christians, regardless of their denominational affiliation, are your brothers and sisters in Christ as well.

II. You Have Specific Responsibilities Toward Your Spiritual Family

If you study the words “one another” in the New Testament you will notice that there is a great deal of instruction on how the people of God are to treat other believers. Spiritual maturity demands interaction with others. If you can only get along with YOU, you are not spiritually mature! You will notice in most of the following areas that the standard for your treatment of others is God’s treatment of you – He certainly has set the bar high!

- A.** You should love God’s people (John 13:34-35, 1 Peter 3:8, 4:8, 1 John 3:14-16).
- B.** You should minister to God’s people, both spiritually and physically (Galatians 6:1-2, Rom 12:13, 1 John 3:17-18).
- C.** You should pray for God’s people (James 5:16, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3).
- D.** You should comfort, edify (build up), and encourage God’s people (Romans 15:1-2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 3:13).
- E.** You should serve God’s people with humility (Philippians 2:3-4).
- F.** You should be patient with God’s people (Romans 15:5-7, Ephesians 4:2).
- G.** You should be kind and forgiving toward God’s people (Ephesians 4:32).
- H.** You should be honest with God’s people (Ephesians 4:25).

III. You Have a Part in Biblical Fellowship with Other Saints

Christian fellowship is not based on food or common worldly interests. Christian fellowship is based on our common fellowship with Jesus Christ.

- A.** Biblical fellowship is the sharing of life and ministry with other believers (Philippians 1:3-6, 2:1-2, see also 2 Corinthians 1:11, 8:4).
- B.** Maintaining fellowship with God's people requires the exercise of spiritual character like humility (Philippians 2:3-8, Proverbs 13:10).
- C.** When we do not have fellowship with the saints, it is an indication that our fellowship with Christ is not where it should be (1 John 1:3-7, 1 Corinthians 1:9-10).

IV. The Bible Gives Instructions for Handling Offenses Among Other Believers

The time will come when you experience hurt, disagreement, and offense at the hands of God's children. Many believers let these experiences get them out of fellowship with God's people and ultimately neutralize their effectiveness for the Lord. You cannot let every little conflict offend you (Psalm 119:165). In the cases of serious offense, there is a definite Biblical pattern for dealing with it.

- A.** Address the offense with the party that has hurt you; this should be done personally and privately (Matthew 18:15). Most conflicts will be resolved at this stage.

- B.** If the matter is not solved privately, enlist a mature and objective mediator that both parties will respect (Matt 18:16, 1 Corinthians 6:1-5).

- C.** If the matter still cannot be resolved, take it to the church leadership so that the offending party might have the opportunity to submit to Biblical authority within the local church (Matthew 18:17).
 - 1.** In some cases, church discipline will be in order. Be prepared to support church discipline. There are certain offenses that demand the attention of church leadership.
 - a.** False doctrine (Romans 16:17)
 - b.** Fornication/Intemperance (1 Corinthians 5:9, 11)
 - c.** Refusal to work (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 11, 14)
 - d.** Greed and covetousness (1 Timothy 6:5)

 - 2.** The purpose of church discipline is repentance (Luke 17:3) and restoration (Galatians 6:1-2).

 - 3.** Commit these situations to the pastoral leadership of the church (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

- D.** Always guard yourself against a root of bitterness in your heart when facing conflict and offense (Galatians 5:14-15, Hebrews 12:14-15).

Lesson Eleven Questions

1. Why would God put more emphasis in his word on our spiritual relationships than physical kinship?
2. In what way has Jesus Christ established the standard by which we're to treat others? Give examples.
3. Give a few examples of how we should treat our brothers and sisters in Christ.
4. On what should our fellowship with other believers be based upon? When a man does not have fellowship with other believers what does that indicate about his fellowship with God?
5. What is the first step in resolving a serious offense with another believer?

Memory Verses for Lesson Eleven

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.

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Lesson Twelve:

The Will of God, Part One

How can I know the will of God for my life?

God does not measure a person's success in terms of wealth, education, or popularity. Our success in life is determined by knowing and doing the will of God. This lesson is designed to help you see what the will of God is for your life so that you can concentrate on fulfilling His will.

I. The Bible is Our Guide to Knowing God's Will

Much of God's will for our lives is clearly revealed in the pages of scripture. Because the word of God never changes, we must be directed by the absolute standard of the Bible. Below are some of the things which are clearly stated as being God's will for every individual.

A. It is God's will that all men be saved (2 Peter 3:9).

1. This means that all lost people are out of the will of God.
2. This also means that God expects us to be actively involved in preaching the gospel.

B. It is the will of God for us to live a holy life and abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:1-7).

C. It is the will of God that we give thanks in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

- D.** It is the will of God for us to submit ourselves to the ordinance of man (1 Peter 2:13-15).
- E.** It is the will of God to redeem the time He has given us (Ephesians 5:15-17).
- F.** It is the will of God to serve those in authority from the heart (Ephesians 6:5-8).
- G.** It is the will of God for our minds to be transformed and that we not be conformed to this world (Romans 12:1-2).
- H.** It is the will of God that we be conformed to Christ's image (Romans 8:28-29). Every believer is *called* to be Christlike (Ephesians 4:1, 11-12).
 - 1.** This begins with our salvation (1 Timothy 2:3-4, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Colossians 3:10). This establishes the image of Christ within us.
 - 2.** It continues with our sanctification (1 Peter 4:1-2, 2 Corinthians 3:18). This manifests the image of Christ through us.
 - 3.** It will be completed with our glorification (Ephesians 1:3-14, 1 John 3:1-2). This is our final conformity to Christ's image.

The will of God is not only about what we *do*, but who we *are*. When men look upon the outward appearance, God looks upon the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). The will of God reaches beyond our actions to the thoughts and intents of our hearts (Hebrews 4:12).

III. What About the Areas of God's Will that I'm Unsure About?

- A.** The key to discerning the details of God's plan for our lives is to obey the aspects of His will that He has already revealed to us (John 7:17, Romans 12:1-2). Don't become consumed with the details that are unclear! Focus on obeying what you know and God will guide you in the areas about which you are unsure.

- B.** How does God give me guidance in the specific details of His will for me?
 - 1.** God will use His word to give you very personal direction and confirmation concerning his will for your life (Psalm 119:105). This is why it is so important to consistently read the Bible and sit under Bible preaching.

 - 2.** God gives us wisdom to know and do His will (James 1:5). Wisdom is about the application of Biblical principles in the absence of clear scriptural commands.
 - a.** This will include seeking wise counsel from spiritually minded authorities in your life (such as your pastor, parents, or more mature believers - Proverbs 11:14).

Lesson Twelve Questions

1. How has God clearly revealed much of His will for our lives?

2. This lesson mentioned eight areas of God's will that are clearly revealed in scripture. List these below.
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

 - d.

 - e.

 - f.

 - g.

 - h.

3. What is the key to understanding the details to God's plan for our lives?

4. What are some of the tools the Lord has given us to discern the details of his plan for our lives?

Memory Verses for Lesson Twelve

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.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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. Romans 12:1-2

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Lesson Thirteen:

The Will of God, Part Two

How can I stay in the will of God?

God's will for our lives is not like a moving target that we constantly aim for and often miss. God's will is a place of rest and peace where we can enjoy the confidence that we are pleasing Him and thus fulfilling our purpose in life (Revelation 4:11). With that said, the enemy is constantly seeking to divert us out from the will of God.

I. What are Some of the Things That Can Divert Me from the Will of God?

- A. Sin. The quickest route away from the will of God is a path of sin.
- B. Impatience. Timing is important to God (Galatians 4:4).
 - 1. God wants us to wait upon Him (Psalm 25:21, 27:41, 40:1).
 - 2. Consider the devil's temptation of Christ in Matthew 4:8-11. A good thing (like Christ ruling the kingdoms of this world) at the wrong time (when Satan offered Christ the kingdoms) can be ruinous to God's will for us.
- C. Improper Methods. The way we go about our things is important to God.

1. God wanted Abraham to have a seed, but not through Hagar (Genesis 16:1-3). God promised Jacob would receive his father's blessing, but not through his mother's deceit (Genesis 27:22-29).
2. God's methods are not deceitful or manipulative.

D. Improper Motives. God is concerned about why we do what we do.

1. Israel wanted a king to reign over them so that they could be like other nations (1 Samuel 8:5). God had promised to give Israel a king (Genesis 49:10, Deuteronomy 17:14-20), but not for that purpose (Number 23:9).

E. The Wrong Attitude. God's will for us extends to our spirit and attitude.

1. Remember that God is as interested in what we *are* as what we *do*. The condition of our spirit and attitude has to do with what we *are*.
2. It is possible to do the right thing - such as maintain sexual purity (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4) - and yet develop an attitude of frustration and discontentment with the will of God (like singleness or marital fidelity).
3. Our contentment is found in Christ (Hebrews 13:5). Having a relationship with Him should be sufficient for keeping a

good spirit and attitude no matter what our circumstances may be.

II. What If I Mess Up?

Many of us have experienced great failures when it comes to doing God's will. When you have failed to fulfill the will of God, manifest genuine repentance, confess your failure to Him, and move on (1 John 1:9). The will of God is not a missed target, but a present opportunity.

III. God Wants You to Know and Do His Will

- A.** God wants you to know and fulfill His will as much or more than you do (Philippians 2:13, Ephesians 5:17, Colossians 1:9).
- B.** God doesn't reveal all the details of His plan for our lives all at once.
 - 1.** If he did, it would overwhelm us. Sometimes we are simply not ready (John 16:12).
 - 2.** God wants us to be patient and walk by faith trusting him with what we do not understand (Philippians 4:6-7).
- C.** You can stand perfect and complete in all the will of God (Colossians 4:12), and the Holy Spirit is praying for that very thing (Romans 8:27).

Lesson Thirteen Questions

1. List the five things from this less that can divert us from the will of God.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
2. What should you do when you have missed the will of God for your life?
3. Why doesn't God reveal all of the details of His plan for my life all at once?

Memory Verses for Lesson Thirteen

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 it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Revelation 4:11

Lesson Fourteen: Dealing with Sin

How do I overcome sin in my life?

Every believer has three spiritual enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. These enemies are constantly working together to ruin our joy and spoil our service to Christ by getting us to sin. Jesus Christ went to the cross to deal with sin. By faith in Jesus Christ, every sin we have committed or will ever commit has been paid for and forgiven. But as long as we are in this flesh, we will continually have a battle with sin. The purpose of this lesson is to show you what sin is, how to have victory over it, and what sin steals from us when we give into temptation.

I. What is Sin?

There are many verses that help us to understand what sin is.

A. Sin includes the wrong things that we do.

1. Sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4)
2. Sin is anything that is not right (1 John 5:17).
3. Sin is anything done apart from faith (Romans 14:23).

B. Sin includes our failure to do the good things we know we are supposed to do, such as pray, witness, give, or read the Bible (James 4:17).

II. Why Do I Sin?

We have an inherited disposition toward sin within us (Romans 7:18, 21). However, we do not HAVE to sin (John 8:11, 1 Corinthians 15:34, 1 John 2:1). Sin is the result of our being drawn into temptation by our own lusts (James 1:13-15). This temptation comes in three forms (1 John 2:15-16).

- A. The lust of the flesh – This is what Eve faced when she saw that the tree was “good for food” (Genesis 3:6). Jesus Christ was tempted in the same way to turn stones into bread to satisfy his hunger (Matthew 4:3).
- B. The lust of the eyes – This is what confronted Eve when she saw that the tree was “pleasant to the eyes” (Genesis 3:6). The Lord Jesus Christ was tempted when the Devil caused all the kingdoms of this world to pass before his eyes (Matthew 4:8).
- C. The pride of life – This is what tempted Eve when she saw that the tree was “desired to make one wise” (Genesis 3:6). Likewise, Christ was tempted to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of temple so that they angels would bear him up (Matthew 4:6).

In each of these areas, Eve gave in to the temptation. On the other hand, in each of these areas Jesus Christ resisted the devil’s temptation setting an example for us (Hebrews 4:15-16).

III. How Does God Deal with My Sin?

- A.** God has dealt with your sin by judging it in Christ on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21). This affords us judicial forgiveness for all of our sins – past, present, and future (Colossians 2:13, 1 John 2:12).
- B.** While your sin will not force you out of God’s family, He will deal with you as a loving father deals with his son, by chastening you (Hebrews 12:5-11).
- C.** All of our actions have consequences. Even though you may confess and forsake your sin, God will still allow you to reap what you have sown (Galatians 6:7-8).

IV. What Do I Stand To Lose Because of My Sin?

While you cannot lose your eternal life, there are things that you may forfeit because of continued disobedience to God’s word.

- A.** You can lose your joy (Psalm 51:12).
- B.** You can lost your testimony (Genesis 19:14).
- C.** You can lose your rewards (2 John 8).
- D.** You can lose your health (1 Corinthians 11:30).
- E.** You can lose your life (1 Corinthians 11:30).

V. How Can I Overcome Sin?

- A.** Be honest with God about your sin. Take responsibility for your actions and confess your sins (1 Corinthians 11:31-32, Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:9).

- B.** Do not put yourself in a situation that you know will lend itself to temptation (Matthew 6:13, Romans 13:14).
- C.** Do not allow sinful thoughts to control your mind (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- D.** Walk in the Spirit, and yield your members to Christ, reckoning yourself dead unto sin, but alive unto God (Galatians 5:16, Romans 6:11-13).
- E.** Meditate in the word of God (Psalm 119:9, 11, 2 Corinthians 7:1). Do you remember Christ's method of overcoming the Devil's temptations?
- F.** Ask the Lord for the help you need (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15-16).
- G.** When you are tempted, take God's way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- H.** Learn to hate the sin that so easily besets you (Proverbs 8:13, Psalm 119:104).
- I.** Separate yourself **from** worldly influences (2 Corinthians 6:14-18) and separate yourself **unto** the things of God (Romans 1:1, Ephesians 4:28, 1 Corinthians 16:15).

Lesson Fourteen Questions

1. What are the three forms in which temptation presents itself?
2. How did Jesus Christ overcome the Devil's temptation in Matthew 4?
3. Can a believer lose his salvation because he sins? What can the believer lose because of sin?
4. Why does God chasten his children (Hebrews 12:6)?
5. What has God promised to provide us in the face of temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13)?
6. What are the two aspects of Biblical separation? Give an example of how this works for you personally?

Memory Verses for Lesson Fourteen

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.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:11

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psalms 119:11

Lesson Fifteen: Liberty in Christ

Since all my sins are forgiven, am I free to do as I please?

God's grace is greater than our sin (Rom 5:20). As New Testament believers, we are not under the law, but under grace (Rom 6:14). We are saved and kept eternally secure, not because of what we do, but because of what Christ has done on our behalf. Sadly, some people will pervert these wonderful truths and use them as an excuse to live for themselves. This lesson is designed to give you a balanced view of your liberty in Jesus Christ.

I. Your Liberty in Christ Provides Freedom to do God's Will, Not to Sin

- A. Your liberty is *from* sin that you might do what is right, not what you want (John 8:36, Galatians 5:1, Romans 6:12-18, 8:2-4).
- B. Our liberty in Christ frees us to serve the Lord and others (1 Peter 2:16). Our liberty should never be abused to fulfill our fleshly lusts (Galatians 5:13).

II. The Misuse of Your Liberty Can Have a Serious Effect on Others

- A. Your life is an influence upon other people. You will either be a testimony for good or bad, but you cannot remain neutral (Romans 14:7).
- B. You are to avoid things that might cause a weaker Christian to stumble in his faith (Romans 14:13-15, 1 Corinthians 8:9-13).

C. You are to avoid the appearance of evil, even when it may not technically be wrong (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

D. It should be every believer's desire to maintain a good testimony before believers and unbelievers alike (Acts 16:1-2, 11:22-24, Colossians 4:5, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

IV. While You are Not Under the Law, You are to be Motivated by Love

In the New Testament, love is the answer to the law. This provides us with important, common-sense boundaries in every relationship that we have. See Matthew 22:37-40, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:13-14, 6:2.

V. We Must Let the Holy Spirit Guide Us in Matters that are Not Perfectly Clear

There are some matters where the scriptures do not clearly define what is and is not acceptable. However, even in these so-called "gray areas" the scriptures provide us with guidance and direction as the Holy Spirit applies them to our specific circumstances. Below are a series of questions that you can ask yourself on occasions of uncertainty.

A. Am I being brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life? See 1 Corinthians 6:12.

B. Am I edifying myself or others? See 1 Corinthians 10:23.

C. Can I ask God to bless the thing I would do with a clear conscience? See Colossians 3:17, Acts 24:16.

- D.** If the Lord returned at this moment, would I be ashamed? See 1 John 2:28, 1 Thessalonians 5:23.
- E.** Would it cause a brother to stumble? See Romans 14:13-15, 15:1-2.
- F.** Would it be cause for a lost person to reject Jesus Christ? See 1 Corinthians 10:31-33.
- G.** Does my conscience condemn me for it? See 1 Peter 3:16, Hebrews 13:18, 1 Timothy 1:5.
- H.** What is good or right about this thing that I would allow in my life? See Philippians 4:8.

It is only through a consistent walk with the Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can maintain a balance between liberty in Christ and the needs of others (2 Corinthians 3:6, 17).

Lesson Fifteen Questions

1. What does it mean to have liberty in Christ? What have we been liberated from?
2. How might the misuse of your liberty affect someone else negatively?
3. How can we know the proper course of action in a situation that is not specifically spelled out in the Bible?

Memory Verses for Lesson Fifteen

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.

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
Galatians 5:13

Lesson Sixteen:

Witnessing for Christ

As a child of God, what responsibility do I have to tell others of my Savior?

As believers, we can be grateful that someone told us about Jesus Christ. Different believers have different skills, talents, and gifts, but every believer has a responsibility to be a witness of Jesus Christ to others. This lesson is designed to show you your Christian obligation to be a witness and provide you with some tips on how you can do this effectively.

I. A Ministry for Every Believer

- A.** The last instructions the Lord Jesus Christ gave his followers before ascending back to the Father was to teach and preach the gospel to others (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47-48, Acts 1:8).
- B.** This is called the ministry of reconciliation in Second Corinthians 5:18. Observe that this ministry is a *word* ministry (2 Corinthians 5:19).
- C.** God uses human instrumentation (like you and me) to bring sinners to Christ (Proverbs 11:30, 1 Corinthians 4:15, 7:16, 9:22).

II. Being Prepared to Speak Up

Many believers lack the confidence needed to speak to others about the gospel. If it is your responsibility to witness for Jesus, then it is your responsibility to prepare yourself for the opportunity when it should arise (1 Peter 3:15).

- A. You should know what the gospel is since that is the substance of our message. The gospel is defined in the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. You can have confidence that any sinner that truly believes the gospel will be saved (Romans 1:16).
- B. You should be equipped with the word of God, since faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God! It is a good idea to mark the Bible verses that you might use to lead someone to Christ. You should also memorize important verses that will help in the event that you do not have a Bible with you. You can begin by memorizing “The Romans Road”: Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10.
- C. Try to remember to take tracts with you (in your pocket or your purse) so that you can share these with people you attempt to witness to.
- D. Keep in mind that everyone needs to be saved. Learn to look upon others as eternal souls that must be born again to be spared hell.

III. Objectives for Presenting the Gospel

There are certain truths that a lost person must be confronted with in order to be saved. Outlined below are some important basic steps that should be covered when attempting to lead someone to Christ.

- A. You must show the person that he is a sinner and that his sin separates him from God.
 - 1. Appropriate scriptures – Romans 3:10, 23, James 2:10.

2. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-18) serve as an excellent tool to illustrate man's sinfulness (1 John 3:14).
 - B. You must show the sinner that there is a penalty for his sin and that penalty is death.
 1. Appropriate scriptures: Romans 6:23, Revelation 20:14-15, 21:8.
 - C. You must show the sinner that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for his sin.
 1. Appropriate scriptures: 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21.
 2. It is important that they understand that Christ was sinless (1 Peter 2:22, Hebrews 4:15).
 - D. You must show the sinner that salvation is by faith alone, apart from works.
 1. Appropriate scriptures: Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 2:21, 3:24, Romans 3:24.
 - E. You must show the sinner that they must receive Christ personally by faith.
 1. Appropriate scriptures: John 1:12, Romans 10:9-10, Acts 16:31.
 2. When a person is clearly convinced of their need of Christ, you may encourage them to receive Christ for themselves (Romans 10:13-15).

IV. Giving Your Personal Testimony

One powerful tool that you have is your own personal testimony. Even if you did not feel confident finding the verses to explain the gospel, or if a person didn't seem to be receptive to scripture at first, you can always tell someone what Christ has done for you.

- A.** There are three parts to every personal testimony as can be seen from the Apostle Paul's example in Acts 26.
 - 1.** Your life before you got saved (Acts 26:4-5, 9-11). This is your chance to tell someone that you were a sinner in need of a Savior.
 - 2.** How you got saved (Acts 26:12-18). This is your chance to tell someone that you trusted Jesus Christ alone and He saved your soul.
 - 3.** Your life since you got saved (Acts 26:19-23). This is your chance to tell someone that Jesus has made a difference in your life and that you know you're on your way to heaven.

V. A Few Tips

- A.** Mark a Bible. There is nothing as powerful as God's word.
- B.** Pray for souls. You will be much more conscious and burdened for the souls you pray for.
- C.** Pass out tracts. Even when you cannot speak up you can often pass along the gospel in print.

Lesson Sixteen Questions

1. Whose responsibility is it to be a witness? Provide scriptural support.
2. What is the scriptural definition for the gospel?
3. What are some steps that you can take to be prepared to give someone the gospel?
4. What scriptural tool has God left us to convince men of their sin?
5. What are the three basic parts to a personal salvation testimony?
6. List the five things from this lesson that you must show a sinner in order for him to be saved?

Memory Verses for Lesson Sixteen

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.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Peter 3:15

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: John 1:12

Lesson Seventeen:

The Home and Family

As a Christian, what is my responsibility to my family?

The home is the first institution that God established and it provides the foundation for every other institution. It has been said that the home is the place of practical Christianity. If a believer does not practice his faith with his family, he will not be a very good Christian. The idea behind this lesson is to give you a Biblical concept of the roles and relationships essential to a Christian home.

I. The Marriage Relationship

At the heart of the home is the union between the husband and wife. Marriage is God's design and it is best enjoyed by following his plan (Genesis 2:21-24).

- A.** Marriage is between a man and a woman (Romans 1:26-27). This excludes homosexuality.
- B.** Marriage is intended to be between one man and one woman (Malachi 2:15). This excludes polygamy.
- C.** Marriage is God's boundary for sexual intimacy (Hebrews 13:4). This excludes immorality (1 Corinthians 6:15-18, Proverbs 6:32).
- D.** Marriage is intended by God to be permanent (Matthew 19:6-9). God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16).
- E.** God warns against an unequal yoke (2 Corinthians 6:14, 1 Corinthians 7:39). A believer should only marry another believer.

II. Responsibilities of the Husband

The husband is to be the “head” of the home (Ephesians 5:23) and his relationship with his wife is likened to that of Jesus Christ’s to the church in Ephesians 5.

- A.** He is to love his wife as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25, 28-29).
- B.** He is to sanctify and cleanse her with his words (Ephesians 5:26-27).
- C.** He is to avoid bitterness toward his wife (Colossians 3:19).
- D.** He is to dwell with her according to knowledge (1 Peter 3:7).
- E.** He is to honour his wife (1 Peter 3:7).
- F.** He is to be a spiritual leader for his wife and his children praying with the family and teaching them God’s word (1 Peter 3:7, 1 Corinthians 14:35).

III. Responsibilities of the Wife

- A.** She is to be in subjection to her husband (1 Peter 3:1, 5, Ephesians 5:24). This does not mean that the wife is of lesser value, it simply means that she voluntarily takes a place in the home under the authority of her husband. Christ was equal to God, but submitted Himself to the Father’s will for the good of the human race (1 Corinthians 11:3, 11).
- B.** She is to reverence her husband (Ephesians 5:33).

- C. She is to have a meek and quiet spirit (1 Peter 3:4). This kind of spirit will accomplish much more than trying to fix her husband with her speech (which he perceives as “nagging”).
- D. She is to be chaste (1 Peter 3:2, Titus 2:5).
- E. She is to be a keeper at home (Titus 2:5).
- F. She is to be obedient to her husband (Titus 2:5).
- G. She is to love her husband and children (Titus 2:4).

IV. Responsibilities of the Parents

- A. They are to train up their children in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6).
- B. They are to restrain their children (1 Samuel 3:13).
- C. They are to correct their children through chastisement and instruction (Proverbs 19:18, 23:13-14, 29:15, 17).
- D. They are to teach them the word of God (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Psalm 78:4-7, Ephesians 6:4).
- E. They are not to provoke them to wrath and anger (Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21).
- F. They are to provide for them (1 Timothy 5:8, 2 Corinthians 12:14).

V. Responsibilities of the Children

- A. They are to listen to their parents (Proverbs 1:8, 2:1, 4:1).

- B.** They are to obey them (Ephesians 6:1).
- C.** They are to honour them (Ephesians 6:2).
- D.** They are not to be stubborn or rebellious (Deuteronomy 21:18-21).
- E.** They are to see that their needs are met in their old age (1 Timothy 5:4, John 19:26-27, Proverbs 23:22).

Lesson Seventeen Questions

1. In what way is the institution of the home foundational to the institution of the government or the church?
2. What is God's attitude toward divorce? Provide scriptural support.
3. To whom is the husband compared in Ephesians 5? What are some ways in which he fulfills this role?
4. What does it mean for a woman to put herself in submission to her husband? Does this mean she is somehow of lesser value or intelligence?

Memory Verses for Lesson Seventeen

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 Husbands:

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; Ephesians 5:25

For Wives:

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. Ephesians 5:22

For Parents:

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

For Children:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Ephesians 6:1-3

Lesson Eighteen:

Money and Possessions

What should be my attitude toward handling money and giving to God?

Ever since the early church, one of the greatest temptations facing believers pertains to our attitude toward money. While you can't always *see* the sins of greed, covetousness, and materialism, these sins represent a great threat to our spiritual health. A proper heart-attitude toward the Lord will extend to our finances. The purpose of this lesson is to show you what your attitude should be toward managing money and giving to God.

I. The Issue Isn't Really Money

Money is an inanimate object. Just like with the misuse of a gun or knife, the problem with money is not really with the object itself, but with its improper use.

A. The *love* of money is the root of all evil, not money itself (1 Timothy 6:10). Money can be a useful tool or it can be the means of our destruction. The difference has to do with our attitude toward it.

B. Spirituality is never determined by a lack or an abundance of money. God blessed and used both the rich (like Job, Joseph of Arimathea, and Barnabas) and the poor (like Mary and Joseph, and Jesus Christ). It is not your financial wealth that makes you useful to the Lord.

II. You Must Not Let Money Become Your Focus

Never let money get between you and the Lord. This includes an abundance or a lack of money.

- A. Your trust should be in God, not in wealth or possessions (Mark 10:23-27, Proverbs 11:4, 28).
- B. Keep your attention and affections on heavenly things (Matthew 6:19-21, Colossians 3:1-4).
- C. Never judge a person's spirituality by their material possessions (Luke 12:15).
- D. Your objective in life should never be to get rich (Proverbs 23:4, 1 Timothy 6:9).
- E. Keep in mind that there are many things that money cannot buy (Proverbs 15:16, 16:8, 16, 17:1, 28:6).

III. Avoid Covetousness and Aim for Contentment

Jesus Christ provides His people with contentment regardless of what their financial standing is (Hebrews 13:5, Philippians 4:11, 1 Timothy 6:6).

- A. Don't forget about God if he blesses you financially (Deuteronomy 6:10-12, Proverbs 30:7-9).
- B. If God took all of your wealth away, it should not change your attitude toward Him (Job 1:20-22).
- C. Keep a balance in your attitude toward money.
 - 1. You should not worry over money (Matthew 6:24-25), but you must work for a living to provide for your family (1 Timothy 5:8).

2. You should not be covetous of riches (1 Timothy 6:9), but you should seek to earn a fair wage (1 Timothy 5:18).
3. You should not hoard away your money (Matthew 6:19-20), but you should prepare for your family's future (2 Corinthians 12:14).

IV. You Should Give of your Resources to the Lord's Work

If we keep in mind that our money is a tool, then it should be a tool that we make available for the Lord's use. This is a very natural exercise if we ourselves are surrendered to the Lord (Romans 12:1, 2 Corinthians 8:5).

- A. Giving financially to the Lord expresses love to God and gratitude for Christ's sacrifice (2 Corinthians 8:8-9, 24).
- B. Giving to God cultivates grace in our hearts and shows our dependency on the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:7, 9:8).
- C. Giving financially to the work of the Lord allows you to invest in things of eternal consequence (Philippians 4:17, Matthew 6:19-21).

V. Giving Should Follow Certain New Testament Principles

- A. You should give with the right attitude and motives (2 Corinthians 9:7, Acts 20:35).
- B. Your giving should be regular, proportional, and centered around your local church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

1. Giving a tithe, or a tenth, of our income through our local church is a good way to develop the discipline of giving (Genesis 14:20).

VI. Giving Meets Important Biblical Needs

- A. It helps to support those that minister the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:11-14, 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
- B. It helps to support missions and evangelism (Philippians 4:15-19).
- C. It helps to support those in need within the congregation (Acts 6:1, 1 Timothy 5:9-10, 16).

Lesson Eighteen Questions

1. In what way can money have a negative impact on you spiritually?
2. What does the Lord Jesus Christ offer to His people, regardless of their financial standing?
3. What are some of the spiritual benefits to giving to the Lord's work?
4. Around what does New Testament giving center?
5. What are some Biblical needs that are met by your giving through the local church?

Memory Verses for Lesson Eighteen

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.

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. Philippians 4:11

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: Matthew 6:19-20

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Lesson Nineteen:

Work and Employment

What should be my attitude toward working for a living?

God gave Adam a work to do before the entrance of sin (Genesis 2:15). Ever since the creation, work has been an important part of man's existence on earth. We should seek to honor the Lord in the work we perform throughout the week just as much as in our public worship. The Bible has plenty to say about the believer's relationship to his work, including those he works for and those who may work for him. This lesson is designed to help you form a Biblical attitude toward your job and your employer (or employees).

I. Christianity is "Full-Time"

Every believer is called to be a full-time Christian (Ephesians 4:1). Ministry is not for a select few, but for every child of God (Ephesians 4:12). Our occupation (the way we make money - Acts 18:3) should not prevent us from ministering to others, but facilitate our ministry.

- A. The purpose of your occupation is to "support" your ministry at home (1 Timothy 5:8), at church (Galatians 6:10), and to the world (2 Corinthians 5:18).
- B. Having a good work ethic is an important part of our Christian testimony (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12).
 - 1. Through hard work, we should seek to "have need of nothing" - enough to provide for our family and be a blessing to others.

2. Our work should be honest and upright, without deceit (Ephesians 4:28, Proverbs 11:1, 3, 21:6). Beware of schemes that promise big profits with little effort (Proverbs 28:20, 22, 14:23).

C. Sometimes our work brings us into contact with people who are unsaved. This is a good opportunity to be a witness for Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:15-16, 2 Corinthians 3:2, 1 Peter 3:15).

II. Seek to Be a Good Employee by the Bible's Standards

If you work for someone else, you should seek to display a Biblical attitude toward your employer and fellow employees.

A. Recognize that you ultimately answer to Jesus Christ. Therefore you should seek to serve Christ as if He were your employer (Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-24).

B. Show respect for authority by being submissive and compliant toward your supervisors (Titus 2:9).

C. Do an honest day's work (Titus 2:10, 2 Corinthians 8:21).

D. Concentrate on the job you were hired to do and do not be hindered or distracted by other employees (1 Thessalonians 4:11).

E. Be diligent and seek the success of your employer (Romans 12:11, 1 Corinthians 10:24). Consider the life of Joseph as an example.

III. Seek to Be a Good Employer by the Bible's Standards

If you manage or employ other workers, you are still answerable to Jesus Christ. As a supervisor, you have a great opportunity to influence others positively for the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A.** Treat your employees justly and equally, paying a reasonable wage (Colossians 4:1).
- B.** Do not threaten or speak hatefully to your employees (Ephesians 6:9).
- C.** Maintain the attitude of a servant, even in a position of leadership (1 Corinthians 9:19, 10:33).

IV. Dealing with Persecution and Temptation on the Job

- A.** As a Christian, you should not be surprised when you encounter persecution (2 Tim 3:12).
- B.** Keep in mind that many times persecution is caused by ignorance or hypocrisy (1 Peter 3:16-17). While you should seek for opportunities to witness you must avoid being rude or pushy (Matthew 10:16).
- C.** You must guard yourself against temptation on the job. It is very easy to be drawn into unholy conversation or activity as you try to live peaceably with your co-workers. You must guard your heart and your testimony (Romans 13:14, Proverbs 14:9).

V. Prayerfully Seek the Lord When Facing a Change of Occupation

Be aware that where you work, who you work for, and what kind of work you do will have a serious impact on your family and even your church. Be sure that the Lord directs this important decision.

- A.** Be certain that you are dependent on the Lord's guidance and wisdom in the matter (James 1:5).

- B.** Ask yourself how a new job or a move will affect your service to the Lord Jesus Christ and your relationship to your church. This can be a very complex issue. Seek wise counsel before making a big change.

Lesson Nineteen Questions

1. According to God's word, what is your vocation? Provide scripture.
2. How does your employment "support" your ministries?
3. To whom is every Christian employer and employee ultimately responsible? How should this affect our work ethic?
4. What are some Biblical marks of a good employee?
5. What are some Biblical marks of a good employer?
6. What are some common ways believers damage the cause of Christ on the job?

Memory Verses for Lesson Nineteen

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.

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

2 Timothy 2:4

Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour. Proverbs 14:9

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Colossians 3:23

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