

Bible
Outlines
for
Preachers
and
Teachers

J.A. Thornton

Bible Outlines for Preachers and Teachers

by

J.A. Thornton

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Phone: 662-283-1192; Fax: 662-283-1191

E-Mail: choate@worldevangelism.org

The Publisher's Statement

J.A. Thornton baptized me, gave me the opportunity to preach on the radio for the first time, performed the wedding ceremony for my wife and me, and preached my Dad's and Mother's funerals. Having been a part of such major things in my life, I cannot begin to tell you what he means to me.

Jean Thornton has preached for most of his life in Mississippi. If there is a man who could be labeled as "The Mississippi Preacher", he is the one. He has worked with churches of Christ in Ruleville, Corinth, Sardis, Macon, New Albany, and Booneville. He has also worked for Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee.

During the years of local work, brother Thornton has also preached on numerous radio stations, conducted hundreds of gospel meetings, gone into new places with a tent to establish congregations where there were none, and he serves now as the Associate Minister of the Booneville Church of Christ. Even now, he preaches there from time to time and also fills the pulpits of many area congregations. On the side, he tapes television programs and sends the videos to a number of congregations for use, at their request.

Brother Thornton has written several books through the years. When I saw this series of sermons, I asked permission to print them, and he graciously consented. I am happy to pass them on to you in this format. I think you will like them and find them helpful to use. Certainly, they are Bible-centered lessons that are sorely needed in these days of severe challenge to the truth. As these sermons are preached and taught, through them brother

Thornton will continue to proclaim God's word to those here in the States and around the world.

Two other volumes of these outlines are scheduled to be printed in the coming months. I would like to encourage you to use them, for all the eternal good they will do.

J. C. Choate
Winona, MS
June 1, 2002

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Abiding In Christ

Lesson 1

Who Is The Christ?

Introduction

1. Abiding in Christ is a wonderful privilege.
2. We can never abide in Him unless we know who He is and what He expects.

A. An Eternal Being

1. He is referred to as God (Hebrews 1:8).
2. He was on an equality with God (Philippians 2:5-8).
3. He was in the beginning (John 1:1-3).
4. All things were created by Him (Colossians 1:15,17).
5. God created all things by Him (Ephesians 3:9).
6. He was in glory with God before the world was (John 17:5).
7. He was in the wilderness (1 Corinthians 10:1-4).

B. He Became Flesh (John 1:14)

1. The first recorded promise of Christ's birth (Genesis 3:15).
2. He was born of woman (Galatians 4:4).
 - a. Mary was a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23).
 - b. This makes Him the only begotten Son of God (Luke 1:30-35; John 1:14; 3:16).

3. Why did He become flesh (Hebrews 2:9,10)?
4. This is why He is pictured as the Lamb of God (John 1:29-36).
5. Every miracle He did proves Him to be the Son of God (John 20:30,31).
6. He came to die (John 12:24-27).
7. He is declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection (Romans 1:4).
8. He fulfilled every prophecy (Luke 24:44).
9. His charge to us before His ascension (Mark 16:15,16; Acts 1:8).

C. Jesus Is Now in Heaven

1. On the right hand of God (Hebrews 1:1-3; 12:1,2).
2. Now king (Acts 2:32-36; cf Daniel 7:13,14).
3. He is now our High Priest (Hebrews 8:1-4).
4. We offer our worship through Him (1 Peter 2:5,9).
5. He is our advocate (1 John 2:1,2).
6. He is our helper (Hebrews 2:18).
7. He will deliver up the kingdom at His coming (1 Corinthians 15:24-26).
8. He will judge the world (Acts 17:31; Romans 2:16).

Lesson 2

Why Be In Christ?

Introduction

1. We cannot abide in Christ unless we are in Him.
2. We can be in Him and He in us (John 15:4,5; Galatians 2:20).

A. To Have Spiritual Blessings (Ephesians 1:3)

1. Salvation is in Him (2 Timothy 2:10).
2. Redemption and forgiveness of sins are in Him (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13,14).
3. We are new creatures in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17).
4. No condemnation (Romans 8:1).
5. Hope (Colossians 1:27; 1 Corinthians 15:17).
6. Eternal life (1 John 5:11,12).

B. To Be Fruitful

1. Christ must live in us (Galatians 2:20).
2. Apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5b).
3. We can be severed from Christ even after we are in Him.
 - a. By going back to the law (Galatians 5:4 ASV).
 - b. By not being productive (John 15:2).
4. We must be rooted and built up in Him (Colossians 2:6,7).
5. We are to bear much fruit (John 15:6-8).

6. Fruitful in every good work (Colossians 1:10,11).
7. The gospel brings forth fruit in us (Colossians 1:5,6).
8. Those in Christ (Galatians 3:26,27) are expected to manifest the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-24).

C. To Receive Eternal Blessings

1. To be found in Him (Philippians 3:9).
2. *“Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord...”*
(Revelation 14:13).
3. The dead in Christ are to be raised before the living in Christ are caught up (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).
4. Eternal life in Christ (1 John 5:11,12).
5. Inheritance in Him (Ephesians 1:11).
6. What is our ultimate inheritance (Ephesians 2:1-7)?

Lesson 3

Entering Into Christ

Introduction

1. We cannot abide in Christ unless we are in Him.
2. The world around us must see Jesus in us.

A. We Must Come to Him

1. The invitation of Jesus (Matthew 11:28).
2. We must come to Him to have life (John 5:40).
3. This involves searching the scriptures (John 5:39).
4. Who can come to Jesus (John 6:44,45)?
5. We are also drawn by His death (John 12:32).
6. We should go to no other (John 6:67,68).
7. He will not cast out one who comes (John 6:37).
8. The Spirit and the Bride say come (Revelation 22:17).

B. Entering Into Christ

1. We must believe unto righteousness (Roman 10:10).
2. Confession of faith is in the direction of salvation (Romans 10:10b).
3. Repentance is toward life (Acts 11:18).
4. Baptism is “into” Christ (Romans 6:3,4).
5. Before baptism one is outside of Christ and afterwards he is in Christ.

6. Every person who is spoken of as being in Christ has been baptized into Him.

C. Putting Him On

1. We put on Christ in baptism (Galatians 3:26,27).
2. What is involved in putting on Christ (Romans 13:12-14)?
 - a. Put on armor of light (v. 12).
 - b. Avoid rioting, drunkenness, chambering, wantonness, strife, envying (v. 13).
 - c. Put on Christ, make no provision for the flesh to fulfill lusts (v. 14).
3. Compare (Galatians 5:16-21).
4. Consider “*ye have not so learned Christ*” (Ephesians 4:17-24).
5. What should be our attitude toward works of darkness (Ephesians 5:11)?

Lesson 4

What It Means To Be In Christ

Introduction

1. Faith in Christ to sustain us (Ephesians 1:15).
2. Our trust must be in Christ (Ephesians 1:12,13).

A. What It Means as to Action

1. Christian (same process that puts one in Christ makes him a Christian) (Romans 6:3-7).
2. New creature (2 Corinthians 5:17).
3. We are to seek things above (Colossians 3:1-3).
4. Christ lives in us (Galatians 2:20).
5. Walk in Him (Colossians 2:6).

B. What It Means as to Location

1. In the body (Ephesians 1:22,23; 4:4; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27).
2. In the kingdom (Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; Colossians 13-18).
3. In God's family (Galatians 3:26,27; Romans 8:17; 1 Timothy 3:15).
4. In the church (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47).
5. In His fold and He the shepherd (John 10:10-16,27).

6. A part of His bride (Ephesians 5:22-32; Romans 7:4; John 3:28-30).
7. A worker in His vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16; 1 Corinthians 3:9).

C. What It Means in Hope

1. Current salvation (2 Timothy 2:10).
2. No condemnation (Romans 8:1).
3. Hope beyond this life (1 Corinthians 15:19).
4. Be found in Him (Philippians 3:8-11).
5. We can die in Him (Revelation 14:13).
6. Inheritance in Him (Ephesians 1:10,11).

Lesson 5

Walking In Him

Introduction

1. The title of this lesson demands action.
2. Every comparison of the Christian is active.

A. Christianity as a Walk

1. In newness of life (Romans 6:3,4).
2. As you have received Him (Colossians 2:6,7).
3. Walk honestly (Romans 13:13).
4. Walk in the spirit (Galatians 5:16,25).
5. Walking by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7).
6. Walk in the light (1 John 1:7).

B. Walks in the Ephesians Letter

1. How they had walked in the past (Ephesians 2:1,2).
2. Walk in good works (Ephesians 2:10).
3. Walk worthy of their calling (Ephesians 4:1-3).
4. Walk not in vanity of mind (Ephesians 4:17).
5. Walk in love (Ephesians 5:1,2).
6. Walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8).
7. Walk circumspectly (Ephesians 5:15).

C. Some Observations

1. Walk in agreement (Amos 3:3).
2. Walk in same rule (Philippians 3:16).
3. Walk after His commandments (2 John 6).
4. Walk in all His commandments (Luke 1:5,6).

Lesson 6

Living In Him

Introduction

1. In Christ is life (John 1:1-4).
2. He came to give us life (John 10:10; 1 John 5:11,12).

A. A Life of Faith

1. A walk of faith (2 Corinthians 5:7).
2. Walk in Him (Colossians 2:6,7).
3. The obedience of faith (Romans 16:25,26).
4. Live by faith (Romans 1:16,17).
5. Faith to sustain us (Proverbs 29:25; Isaiah 26:3,4).
6. Christ dwells in us by faith (Ephesians 3:17).
7. Commit our souls to Him (1 Peter 4:19).

B. A Life of Service

1. God promises to bless those who serve Him (Exodus 23:25).
2. Serve Him with the whole heart (Deuteronomy 10:12; 1 Chronicles 28:9).
3. Serve Him with fear (Psalm 2:11).
4. Serve with fervency of spirit (Romans 12:11).
5. Serve with zeal (Titus 2:11-14).
6. How Paul served (Acts 20:18,19).

7. Serve each other with love (Galatians 5:13-15).
8. Serve God with reverence (Hebrews 12:28,29).
9. Christ gave us an example (John 13:14).

C. Abiding in the Doctrine

1. We are to abide in Christ (John 15:4-6).
2. To abide in Him, His word is to abide in us (John 15:7).
3. This is essential for us to abide in His love (2 John 9).
4. We must abide in His doctrine (2 John 9).
5. If we abide in Him we must walk as He did (1 John 2:6).
6. We cannot abide in Him and in sin too (1 John 3:6; Romans 6:11,12).
7. Abiding in His commandments is a mark of love (John 14:15).
8. We will be judged by Christ's words (John 12:48).

Lesson 7

We Are In Him To Work

Introduction

1. We are His workmanship (Ephesians 2:10).
2. The church as a vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16).

A. God Has Always Expected Man to Work

1. Even in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15-17).
2. Serve with the whole heart (Deuteronomy 10:12).
3. Depart from evil, do good (Psalm 34:14;
1 Peter 3:10,11).
4. Obedience a must (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
5. Abraham justified by works (James 2:21-24).
6. Blessing promised (Isaiah 1:19).
7. Who dwells in God's house (Psalm 15:1,2)?
8. The secret of success (Nehemiah 4:6,21).

B. The Christian Is to Work

1. Always abound in the work (1 Corinthians 15:58).
2. We show our faith by our works (James 2:18).
3. We are justified by works (James 2:24).
4. Zealous of good works (Titus 2:11-14).
5. Ready for every good work (Titus 3:1,2).

6. Who works in us (Philippians 2:13)?
7. Who works with us (1 Corinthians 3:9).
8. So we let our light shine (Matthew 5:16).
9. Work of faith (1 Thessalonians 1:1-3).
10. To whom should we do good (Galatians 6:10)?
11. Be doers of the word (James 1:22-27).

C. Works Influence Destinies

1. God will not forget our work (Hebrews 6:10).
2. Labor to enter rest (Hebrews 4:11).
3. Who will enter the city (Revelation 22:14)?
4. Jesus' picture of the judgment (Matthew 25:31-46).
5. We will be judged by our works (Revelation 20:12-15).

Lesson 8

Joy And Thanksgiving In Him

Introduction

1. The happy man of Psalms 1.
2. *“One day in Thy courts is better than a thousand”*
(Psalm 84:10-12).

A. Jesus Declares Who Is Happy (Matthew 5:1-12)

1. The humble (v. 3).
2. The penitent (v. 4).
3. The meek (v. 5).
4. Hungry for righteousness (v. 6).
5. The merciful (v. 7).
6. The pure in heart (v. 8).
7. The peacemakers (v. 9).
8. Those persecuted for right and the Lord (vs. 10-12).

B. We Are Told to Rejoice

1. Rejoice always (Philippians 4:4,6).
2. Rejoice evermore (1 Thessalonians 5:16).
3. Why should we rejoice?
 - a. We have forgiveness (Acts 2:38; Ephesians 1:7).

- b. We have fellowship (1 John 1:7).
- c. We have hope (Titus 1:2).
- 4. John wrote that their joy might be full (1 John 1:3,4).
- 5. We should rejoice as we see others grow
(cf Philippians 2:1,2; 3:1; 4:1).
- 6. Jesus spoke to make their joy full (John 15:11).

C. Thanksgiving and Joy Go Together

- 1. Associated with rejoice (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
- 2. Peace of mind and thankfulness go together
(Colossians 3:15).
- 3. In everything give thanks (Philippians 4:6).
- 4. Thanks be to God for victory (1 Corinthians 15:57).
- 5. Paul thanked God for brethren (Philippians 1:1-4;
1 Thessalonians 1:1-3).

Lesson 9

Abiding Together In Christ

Introduction

1. We labor together with God (1 Corinthians 3:9; Galatians 2:20).
2. The togetherness of the Jerusalem church is outstanding (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32).

A. Christ Desires Unity of His Followers

1. His prayer for unity (John 17:20,21).
2. Christ died to unite Jew and Gentile (Ephesians 2:13-16).
3. What denominationalism does to Christ:
 - a. Mocks Christ's prayer (John 17:20,21).
 - b. Keeps people from believing in Christ (John 17:21).
 - c. Makes Him a contradictory Lord by endorsing contradictory doctrines.
 - d. Makes Him a polygamous Lord, if He has many brides (Romans 7:4; Ephesians 5:22-32).

B. Paul's Plea and Platform

1. Paul's pleas (1 Corinthians 1:10).
2. The Christian is united to Christ (Romans 6:5 ASV).
3. We are to put forth effort to maintain unity (Ephesians 4:1-3).
4. The seven ones (Ephesians 4:4-6).

5. The church as a body:
 - a. Christ is head of the body (Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18).
 - b. We are members of each other (Romans 12:4,5).
 - c. The most detailed comparison (1 Corinthians 12:13-27).
 - d. There is but one body (1 Corinthians 12:20).

C. Follow Things That Make for Peace

1. This is Paul's charge (Romans 14:19).
2. We are called to peace (1 Corinthians 7:15b).
3. How does God look on those who sow discord among brethren (Proverbs 6:16-19)?
4. What about those who cause division (Romans 16:16-18)?
5. Give a Bible example of brethren leaving a local congregation and starting another in protest.
6. Consider solving our difficulties (Matthew 5:23,24; 18:15-17).
7. Public sins may be rebuked publicly (1 Timothy 5:20).
8. Our togetherness is of primary importance (Matthew 18:20; Colossians 2:2; Philippians 1:27; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Lesson 10

Security In Christ

Introduction

1. The value of the soul (Matthew 16:26).
2. Soul security is essential to peace of mind.
3. Some think we teach insecurity because we teach it is possible to fall.

A. The Basis of Security

1. We have permanent forgiveness.
 - a. The New Covenant offers this (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:6).
 - b. Under the first covenant remembrance was made of sin every year (Hebrews 10:1-4,11,12).
2. Keep in blood contact.
 - a. His blood keeps us clean (1 John 1:7-10).
 - b. We wash our robes in obedience (Revelation 22:14 KJV, ASV).
3. God's love is perfected in us.
 - a. Who knows God (1 John 2:1-5)?
 - b. How should we walk (1 John 2:6,7)?
 - c. Love prompts us to obey (1 John 5:3).

B. There Is no Condemnation

1. To those in Christ (Romans 8:1-4).
2. Who walk not after the flesh (Romans 8:4; Galatians 5:16-21).
3. We must walk after the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25).
4. How do we have eternal life **now** (John 3:36; 5:24)?
 - a. In hope (Titus 1:2).
 - b. In promise (1 John 2:25).
 - c. In Christ, in the world to come (1 John 5:11,12; Mark 10:30).

C. We Are Kept by the Power of God

1. Through faith (1 Peter 1:4,5).
2. If we do these things we shall never fall (2 Peter 1:5-11).
3. Nothing can separate us from the love of God and Christ (Romans 8:35-39).

Lesson 11

Take Heed, Lest You Fall

Introduction

1. Even Paul could fall (1 Corinthians 9:27).
2. We must do God's will (Matthew 7:21).

A. A Child of God Can Fall

1. Admonished to take heed (1 Corinthians 10:12).
2. Children of God did (Galatians 3:26,27; 5:4).
3. A child of God can stop believing (Hebrews 3:12).
4. A branch can be severed (John 15:2-6).
5. The servant of the Lord can be lost (Matthew 25:14-30).
6. The fallen state pictured (2 Peter 2:4-15).
7. A child of God can lie (Acts 5:1-11; Revelation 21:8).
8. The parable of the sower (Luke 8:4-15).

B. How to Take Heed to Keep From Falling

1. Watch (Matthew 26:41; Hebrews 2:1).
2. Resist the Devil (James 4:7).
3. Pray (James 4:8).
4. Follow Jesus' example (Matthew 4:1-11).
5. Add the Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5-11).
6. Take heed lest we fall (1 Corinthians 10:13).

C. Restoring the Fallen

1. The spiritual are to restore them (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19,20).
2. Repent and pray (Acts 8:22).
3. Confess and pray (James 5:16; 1 John 1:9).
4. Efforts to solve personal differences (Matthew 18:15-17).

Lesson 12

Our Hope In Christ

Introduction:

1. If we are without hope we are miserable (1 Corinthians 15:19).
2. Our hope must be in God (Psalm 146:5).
3. Hope is based on faith (Hebrews 11:1).
4. Hope is desire plus expectation.

A. The Christian's Hope

1. We cannot hope for what we already have (Romans 8:24,25).
2. Hope of the resurrection (1 Thessalonians 4:13).
3. We will be immortalized (1 Corinthians 15:51-57).
4. We will enter into rest (Hebrews 4:11; Revelation 14:13).
5. Eternal life (Titus 1:2).

B. Reasons for Our Hope

1. We are to give reason for hope (1 Peter 3:15).
2. God's promises (1 John 2:25).
3. God's oath (Hebrews 6:12-18).
4. God's promise is sure (2 Peter 3:9).
5. Christ our hope (1 Timothy 1:1; Colossians 1:27).

C. Conditions on Which We May Have Hope

1. Conditions of salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).
2. We are in Christ where life is (1 John 5:11,12).
3. We must hold to our hope (Hebrews 3:6).
4. Look for blessed hope (Titus 2:11-14).
5. The promise (Revelation 2:10b).
6. Should be ready to give a reason for hope (1 Peter 3:15).

D. Why Should We Have Hope

1. Else we are miserable (1 Corinthians 15:19).
2. To have an anchor (Hebrews 6:19,20).
3. Lest we become discouraged (Galatians 6:9,10).
4. For sweet assurance (2 Corinthians 5:1-10).

Lesson 13

Abiding To The End

Introduction

1. We must continue in Christ — *“He is our refuge.”*
2. One who tries one time more than he fails is successful.

A. This Suggests Continuing

1. Continuing in Christ (1 John 2:24).
2. Continuing in His word (John 8:31,32).
3. Continuing in the perfect law of liberty (James 1:25).
4. Continue in faith (Acts 14:22).
5. Continue in God’s grace (Acts 14:43).
6. Continue in love (John 15:9; Hebrews 13:1; Jude 21).
7. Continue in worship (Acts 2:42).

B. The Importance of “Finishing” the Work

1. Christ finished the work (John 17:4,5).
2. Paul’s determination (Acts 20:24).
3. He did this (2 Timothy 4:6,7).
4. Perseverance is essential (Ephesians 6:17,18).
5. Remember the reaping (reward) time is coming (Galatians 6:9).
6. Run with patience (Hebrews 12:1,2).

7. The reward of endurance (James 1:12; Matthew 10:22).

C. Faithfulness to the End

1. *“Be thou faithful unto death...”* (Revelation 2:10).
2. *“Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord...”*
(Revelation 14:13).
 - a. Not all dead are blessed.
 - b. They rest from their labors (Hebrews 4:11;
Ecclesiastes 9:10).
 - c. The rest of a laboring man (Ecclesiastes 5:12).
3. Their works follow them.
 - a. In influencing others like the heroes of faith
(Hebrews 11).
 - b. Our works follow us to judgment
(Revelation 20:12-15).
4. Their reward (2 Timothy 4:8).

What Everybody Ought To Know

Lesson 1

About God

Introduction

1. This is the greatest knowledge.
2. Knowledge: “Familiarity gained by actual experience; practical skill: to know, to deduce; a state of understanding, perception of truth.”
3. *“Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”* (John 8:32).
4. We can understand the will of God (Ephesians 5:17).

A. Divine Characteristics of God (Psalm 139:1-14)

1. God is a Spirit (John 4:24; Luke 24:39).
2. “Omniscient” — knows all (Acts 15:18; Matthew 10:29,30).
3. “Omnipotent” — all powerful (Psalm 8:3; 19:1; Matthew 19:26; Proverbs 16:4).
4. “Omnipresent” — everywhere (Psalm 139:7-10; 1 Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:23,24).
5. “Omnivisual” — sees all (Psalm 139:11,12; Hebrews 4:13).
6. God is eternal (Psalm 90:1,2; Deuteronomy 33:27; 1 Timothy 1:17).
7. God is infinitely just (Psalm 89:14).

8. God is infinite in holiness and goodness (Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 145:9).
9. He is unchangeable (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17).

B. David's Charge to Solomon (1 Chronicles 28:9)

1. Know the God of thy fathers — serve Him.
2. *"All shall know Me"* (Jeremiah 31:31-34).
3. To know God (John 17:3).
4. What is true understanding (Jeremiah 9:24)?

C. What Knowing God Means

1. To keep His commandments (1 John 2:3-5).
2. *"He that loveth not knoweth not God"* (1 John 4:6-8).
3. Our works may deny Him (Titus 1:16).
4. We must do righteousness (1 John 2:29; 3:7).
5. We must be of God as a result of knowing Him (1 John 5:18-20).

D. What if We Know Not God

1. He will take vengeance on us (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).
2. We will serve idols (Galatians 4:8).
3. We will live in lust (1 Thessalonians 4:5).
4. We need to be known of Christ (Matthew 7:21-23).
5. He knows not some in the kingdom (Matthew 25:1-13).
6. To those He knows, He gives eternal life (John 10:27,28).

Lesson 2

About Christ

Introduction

1. Whose Son is He (Matthew 22:41-46)?
2. We need to know Christ (Philippians 3:8-11).

A. Who Jesus Is

1. As eternal as God, for He is God (John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:8).
2. Before His flesh He was equal to God (Philippians 2:5-8).
3. He was creator (Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 1:1-3).
4. He was born of the virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23).
5. He is now glorified as God (John 17:1-5).
6. He is now our advocate and High Priest (1 John 2:1,2; Hebrews 2:17; 4:4,15; 6:20; 1 Peter 2:5).
7. After redeeming us He sat down on the right hand of God (Hebrews 1:1-3; 12:1,2).

B. He Is Our Master

1. One Master (Matthew 23:10; Ephesians 6:9).
2. He must be above all (Luke 14:33; Ephesians 6:9).
3. He is a matchless Master.
 - a. Master of self as no other (John 10:18).
 - b. Master over temptation (Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15).

- c. Master of obedience (Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 5:8,9).
- d. Master of service (Matthew 20:28; Acts 10:38).
- e. Master of sacrifice and love (Matthew 20:28; John 12:37; 15:13).
- f. The master of suffering (John 10:11).

C. He Cannot Be Divorced From:

- 1. The church (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28).
- 2. His bride (Ephesians 5:22-32).
- 3. His body (Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18).
- 4. His kingdom (Colossians 1:13,14; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26).
- 5. His sheepfold (John 10:11-16).

**Therefore, Christ must be our all and in all
(Colossians 3:11).**

Lesson 3

About The Holy Spirit

Introduction

1. The Holy Spirit is called “third person of the Godhead” because He is mentioned third (Matthew 28:19).
2. God and Christ are also spirits (cf. John 4:24).
3. Christ was the only member of the Godhead to ever have a physical body (Colossians 2:9).

A. The Holy Spirit in the Bible

1. In creation (Genesis 1:1-3).
2. Prophets (2 Peter 1:21).
3. David (2 Samuel 23:1,2).
4. Ezekiel (Ezekiel 11:5).
5. To guide into all truth (John 14:26; 16:13,14).
6. New Testament (1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16,17).
7. The common gift to God’s children (Galatians 4:6).

B. The Holy Spirit a Person

1. Pronouns are personal (John 16:13).
2. He has the same nature and essence as God and Christ.
3. His divine attributes indicate a personality.
 - a. He has a mind (Romans 8:27).
 - b. He has knowledge (1 Corinthians 2:10,11).

- c. Volition (Acts 16:7).
- d. Love (Romans 15:30).
- e. Speaks (1 Timothy 4:1).

Only persons have these characteristics.

C. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- 1. John (Luke 1:15; John 10:41).
- 2. Peter (Acts 4:8).
- 3. Christians (Romans 8:8-11).
- 4. Be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16).
- 5. The temple (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19,20).

D. What the Spirit Does for Us

- 1. Leads (Romans 8:14).
- 2. Strengthens (Ephesians 3:16).
- 3. Comforts (Acts 9:31; Romans 14:17).
- 4. Helps (Romans 8:26).
- 5. Sanctifies (1 Corinthians 6:11; John 17:17).
- 6. Abounds in hope (Romans 15:13).
- 7. Fills (Ephesians 5:18).
- 8. Seals (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30).
- 9. Gives assurance (1 John 4:13).
- 10. Fellowships (2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:1).
- 11. The instrument of the Spirit is the word (Ephesians 6:17).

Lesson 4

About The Bible

Introduction

1. The 66 books of the Bible should be familiar to us.
2. The Bible was written over a period of 1600 years by about 40 writers, yet a book of harmony.

A. It Claims Inspiration

1. It is “God breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
2. Writers were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20,21).
3. The actual words were given them (1 Corinthians 2:13).
4. Even the singleness of words inspired (Galatians 3:16).
5. The Spirit was to guide the apostles into all truth (John 14:26; 16:13).

B. Proofs the Bible Is From God

1. It is scientific foreknowledge.
 - a. The earth is round (Isaiah 40:22 cf; Luke 17:30-36).
 - b. The earth is suspended upon nothing (Job 26:7).
 - c. Light can be divided (Job 38:24).
 - d. Seas are all in one bed (Genesis 1:9,10; Psalm 8).
 - e. All men of one blood (Acts 17:26; 1 Corinthians 15:45; Genesis 3:20).
2. Fulfilled prophecies
 - a. Babylon to be desolate (Isaiah 13:19,20).

- b. Jericho (Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:34).
 - c. Egypt to be a weak kingdom (Ezekiel 29:14,15).
 - d. Abraham's seed (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:16,17).
3. Indestructibility (Matthew 24:35; John 12:48).
 4. Archaeological discoveries
 - a. Sargon (capital at Khorsabad) north of Nineveh discovered in 1842 (see Isaiah 20:1).
 - b. Cuneiform tablets, Nabonidas and Belshazzar together ruled Babylon (cf Daniel 5:29).

C. The Bible Gives Direction for Life

1. Man cannot direct his steps (Jeremiah 10:23).
2. Enlightens us (Psalm 19:7,8).
3. A guide (Psalm 119:105).
4. Speaks to the heart (Hebrews 4:12).
5. Completely furnishes to every good work (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
6. We are to walk by faith (Romans 1:16,17; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17).
7. He has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).
8. The law of liberty is perfect (James 1:25; 2 John 9).
9. We must do all in the name of the Lord (Colossians 3:17).
10. To make us wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3:15; James 1:21).

Conclusion:

The real value of the Bible is seen in the manner in which it changes the lives of those who are grasped by its message.

Lesson 5

About The Blood Of Christ

Introduction

1. We often have taken this subject for granted.
2. The blood is imperative (cf Hebrews 9:22).

A. Why Blood

1. Wages of sin (Romans 6:23).
2. God is a just God (Deuteronomy 16:20; 32:4; Psalm 89:14).
3. Life is in the blood (Genesis 9:4; Deuteronomy 12:23).
4. The justice of God therefore requires life (blood) because of the wages of sin.

B. Offering of Blood in the Old Testament

1. The first recorded offering (Genesis 4:1-5; Hebrews 11:4).
2. Noah's offering after the flood (Genesis 8:20-22).
3. There are many references to Abraham offering sacrifices but most outstanding is a certain ram (Genesis 22:10-13).
4. Offerings for sin under Moses' law (Leviticus 4:1-7).
5. On atonement day the High Priest was to take a bullock and a ram, offer the bullock for his sins, his household and the ram for the people (Leviticus

16).

6. This was to be done once a year (Hebrews 9:6,7).
7. This was a figure of Christ's sacrifice (Hebrews 10:1-4).

C. The Atonement of Christ's Blood

1. The golden text of the Bible implies this (John 3:16).
2. Jesus declared it (Matthew 26:28).
3. Jesus came for this purpose (Hebrews 2:9; John 12:27).
4. Jesus died so that God could be just in justifying the ungodly (Romans 3:23-26).
5. The blood of atonement (Hebrews 9:11-14; 10:11,12).
6. The blood of redemption (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-20).
7. This blood was adequate for redemption of all (Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 2:1,2).
8. This blood purchased the church (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25-27).
9. Heaven populated with those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:13-15; 22:14).
10. Those who disregard the blood (Hebrews 10:28,29).

Conclusion

1. How we contact the blood (Romans 6:3,4; John 19:33,34).
2. How to remain in contact (1 John 1:7-9).

Lesson 6

About Salvation

Introduction

1. The great commission is to make known the way of salvation (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16).
2. The church is to make it known (Ephesians 3:10,11).

A. Man is Lost in Sin

1. All have sinned (Romans 3:23).
2. Even those who are children of God (1 John 1:8-10).
3. Definitions of sin helps us to understand (1 John 3:4; 5:17; James 4:17).

B. Man Cannot Save Himself

1. Sin separates from God (Isaiah 59:1,2).
2. Man is without strength to save (Romans 5:6).
3. We must then be saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8,9).
4. Grace has been offered to all (Titus 2:11,12).
5. Grace is available through faith (Romans 4:16; 5:1,2).

C. Jesus is the Savior (Matthew 1:21)

1. The wages of sin (Romans 6:23).
2. Blood had to be offered because life is in the blood (Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 3:17).

3. This is so God can be just in justifying the ungodly (Romans 3:23-25; Hebrews 9:22).
4. Christ's blood necessary (Hebrews 9:13,14; 10:4; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-20).

D. The Way of Salvation

1. Believing is an absolute must (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:21-24; Revelation 21:8).
 - a. Belief comes by hearing the word (Romans 10:17).
 - b. How can they hear without a preacher (Romans 10:15)?
2. Repentance is a must (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30,31).
3. Confession is unto salvation (Romans 10:10).
4. Baptism is a condition (Mark 16:16).
 - a. It is "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).
 - b. It is to wash away sins (Acts 22:16).
 - c. Baptism is not a church ordinance but a command of God (Acts 10:48).
 - d. Baptism puts one into Christ where salvation is (Romans 6:3,4; Galatians 3:26,27; 2 Timothy 2:10).
5. We must live by faith (Romans 1:16,17; 2 Corinthians 5:7).
6. Everyone ought to know the saved are added to the Lord's church (Acts 2:41,47).

Lesson 7

About The Church

Introduction

1. Many think of the church as a social club.
2. Others think of the church as a human institution.
3. Some members take the church for granted.
4. The Bible must be our source book.

A. The Church Is a New Testament Institution

1. Isaiah prophesied about the church but he called it the house of God (Isaiah 2:1-3).
2. Daniel called it the kingdom (Daniel 2:44).
3. The first time the term church is in the Bible is in Matthew 16:18.
4. The church was established in Acts 2 and Christ's testament became effective after His death (Hebrews 9:16,17).
5. He has only one testament.

B. The Church Is Not a Denomination

1. Denominationalism did not exist then.
2. The church is pre-denominational, pre-catholic and pre-protestant.
3. A denomination is a part of the whole, but the Church of Christ is the whole.

C. The Church Is the Family of God

1. The church is the household of God (1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 3:14,15).
2. People often think one can be a child of God and not a member of any church — So!! (Acts 2:47).
3. God has no children outside His family (Galatians 3:26,27).

D. Christ Is Its Founder and Head

1. Jesus is its builder (Matthew 16:18,19).
2. He is head of the body (Ephesians 1:22,23; 5:23).
3. He must have preeminence (Colossians 1:18).
4. This makes the church a divine institution. We must love and respect it.

E. We Ought to Know Its Mission

1. It is a worshipping institution (John 4:24).
2. It is to make known the gospel (Ephesians 3:10,11; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15).
3. It is a service institution (James 1:27; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; Acts 11:27-30).
4. We are to be ready to every good work (Titus 3:1,2).

Lesson 8

About Worship

Introduction

1. We often take for granted that our children and non-members understand what worship is.
2. From Cain and Abel to the angel who said, “Worship God” in Revelation 22:8,9, the Bible speaks of worship.
3. Worship means, “to bow down”, “to kiss the hand toward”, “to give devotion”.

A. The Christian Life Is a Life of Worship

1. We are to offer up spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5).
2. Let us offer the sacrifice of praise continually (Hebrews 13:15,16).
3. Worship is a vital part of the Christian’s life.
 - a. Worship glorifies and magnifies God.
 - b. Worship strengthens and edifies worshippers (Romans 14:19).
 - c. Stimulates zeal.
4. Since worship plays such a vital role we should not forsake it (Hebrews 10:25).
5. Worship is more than being in the assembly, it involves emotions of adoration, praise, penitence, love and sorrow.

B. Real Worship Requires Living Close to God

1. To really worship we must be right with God.
2. We must know God through intimate acquaintance.
 - a. To know God we must be obedient (1 John 2:3-5).
 - b. The more we live with God, the more we love Him (James 4:8-10).
3. We must walk in the light (1 John 1:7).
4. We need the instructions God made to the Jews (Isaiah 1:11-20).

C. Worship Requires Careful Preparation

1. To prepare we must understand the various acts of worship.
2. Prior study and consideration helps (cf. 2 Corinthians 9:7).
3. We joke about those who sleep in worship, but it is doubtful God views it humorously.
4. Those who lead in worship should make preparation.
5. Acceptable worship requires being with brethren (Matthew 5:23,24).

D. Worship Requires Thoughtful Participation

1. Just being present is not enough.
2. We cannot worship without thinking, we must be alert.
3. We must fight distraction.
4. Worship is reverence paid.

E. Worship Requires Self-Examination

1. *“Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith”*
(2 Corinthians 13:5).
2. Examine ourselves when we observe the Lord’s Supper
(1 Corinthians 11:27,28).
3. We should recognize our littleness and be more humble
(cf Psalm 139:23,24).
4. Our attitude should be as the Psalmist (Psalm 99:5,9).
5. We should leave the worship with our spirits uplifted
(Psalm 100; Philippians 4:4; Titus 2:11-14).

Lesson 9

About Living

Introduction

1. Man needs direction (Jeremiah 10:23).
2. Must have respect for authority, a standard.
3. Moral: “Characterized by excellence of practice or conduct. Confirming to standards of right” (Webster Collegiate).

A. Basic Morality Suggests

1. Integrity — honesty (Romans 12:17; Proverbs 11:3; 20:7).
2. Ethics — purity of conduct (Matthew 5:8; 7:12; 1 Timothy 5:22).
3. Fidelity — loyal to duty.
 - a. Dictionary — “Exact in copy, adherence to contract”.
 - b. Fidelity to one’s family (Ephesians 5:23;6:4).
 - c. Joseph as an example (Genesis 39:8,9).
 - d. Suggests devotion to a principle, cause or person.
4. Responsibility — accountable.
 - a. The truly irresponsible cannot be moral.
 - b. Man is a “free moral agent”; that is, a creature of choice and accountable (Deuteronomy 30:15,16; Mark 10:21).

- c. But some call evil good and good evil
(Isaiah 5:20-24).

B. How We Should Live (1 Peter 3:10-12)

1. After the Spirit, not after the flesh (Romans 8:1-4).
2. For self but not selfishly (2 Corinthians 5:15; Philippians 2:4).
3. For others, not instead of others (Galatians 6:1,2; 5:13).
4. As in the presence of God, we are (Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:13).
5. As the eyes of the world are on us, for they are (Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 2:15; 2 Corinthians 3:1-3).
6. As though little children are following us, because they are (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).
7. As though this were our last day, because it may be (James 4:13-15; Hebrews 9:27).

C. There Should Be Purposeful Living

1. There must be one central purpose (Philippians 3:13,14).
2. Purpose not to defile self (Daniel 1:8).
3. Purpose to cleave to the Lord (Acts 11:23).
4. Purposeful generosity (2 Corinthians 9:7; Acts 20:35).
5. Allow nothing to move us from our purpose (Acts 20:24).

Lesson 10

About Teaching Others

Introduction

1. A successful way of reaching souls because of opportunities, multiplicity of teachers, power of personal influence and lesson can be fitted to a person's needs.
2. All Christians are obligated to teach (Mark 16:15; Acts 8:4; Hebrews 5:12).

A. Jesus Practiced Personal Evangelism

1. Personally called His apostles.
 - a. Peter and Andrew (Matthew 4:18-20).
 - b. James and John (Matthew 4:21,22).
 - c. Matthew (Levi) (Matthew 9:9,10).
2. He taught Nicodemus (John 3:1-8).
3. He taught the woman at the well (John 4:5-26).
4. He took time to teach Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-9).

B. Christ's Followers Practiced It

1. Andrew finds Simon, his own brother (John 1:40,41).
2. Philip brought Nathaniel (John 1:43-51).
3. Apostles taught even from house to house (Acts 5:42).
4. Philip taught the Eunuch (Acts 8:26-38).

5. Paul practiced personal teaching (Acts 20:20).
 - a. Lydia and her house (Acts 16:12-15).
 - b. The jailer (Acts 16:30-34).
 - c. Felix and his wife (Acts 24:25).
 - d. Agrippa (Acts 26).
6. Aquila and Priscilla taught Apollos (Acts 18:24-26).

C. Ways and Opportunities

1. To accomplish much we must have some plan.
2. One grave danger is to assume a person knows what he does not know.
3. Make opportunities with those on the job, neighbors, and friends.
4. Find opportunities through visitation.
5. Those who may need our help become opportunities.

D. Reasons for not Teaching Personally

1. Pride — fear of losing friend or maybe asked a question we do not know.
2. The word is not burning in our heart (Jeremiah 20:8,9).
3. We do not have a deep love for souls.
4. We do not know enough (2 Timothy 2:15).
5. Over-cautious (Ecclesiastes 11:4).
6. Failure to remember the reward (Daniel 12:3; James 5:19,20).

E. Some Observations

1. We must recognize that most prospects are believers but denominational, we must teach them undenominational Christianity (cf Acts 16:12-15).
2. We must be motivated with planned action.
3. We must not assume they know; therefore teach every fundamental.
4. Train ourselves to watch for opportunities, even in conversation with our friends.

Lesson 11

About Giving

Introduction

1. Too many are takers instead of givers.
2. We should give ourselves to something that will last longer than earthly life.

A. The Bible Is a Book on Giving

1. In creation God gave man life, a garden home, dominion over His creation, and a helpmeet.
2. The Bible itself is a gift (2 Timothy 3:16,17; Psalm 119:105).
3. When man fell, God gave a promise of redemption (Genesis 3:15).
4. Man offered many sacrifices: Cain and Abel, Noah after the flood, Abraham, Abraham and Jacob tithed (Genesis 28:20-22; 8:20).
5. God gave the law of Moses, a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:23-25).
6. God gave His Son (John 3:16). He gave His life.
7. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).
8. The book of Acts and epistles filled with giving.
9. Revelation ends with God giving an eternal home.

B. We Should Recognize Principles

1. Avoid selfish motives (Matthew 6:1).
2. Unselfish giving brings good returns (Luke 6:38).
3. Generosity brings divine love (2 Corinthians 9:7).
4. Sacrifice of self brings Divine pleasure on us (Hebrews 13:15,16).
5. Even small things are noted (Matthew 10:42).

C. Planned Giving and Worship

1. Weekly (1 Corinthians 16:1,2).
2. Willingly (2 Corinthians 8:12).
3. Purposely (2 Corinthians 9:7).
4. Proportionately (1 Corinthians 16:1,2).
5. Liberally (Romans 12:8).
6. Sacrificially (Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15,16).
7. Lovingly (2 Corinthians 8:8).

Lesson 12

About Family Responsibilities

Introduction

1. The home originated by divine authority (Genesis 2:18,21-24).
2. Marriage is for adults (maturity) (Genesis 2:24).
3. The happy home is a foretaste of heaven.

A. Responsibility of Husband/Father

1. Husband is head — not a dictator (Ephesians 5:23).
2. Foundation of love (Ephesians 5:25-32; Colossians 3:19).
3. Husband should be ambitious, provide for family, be a man, have courage, be still, kind and considerate, etc. Any brute can neglect, abuse and shift responsibility (Titus 2:6-8).
4. Husband as a provider (1 Timothy 5:8).
 - a. Provide life, leadership and physical essentials.
 - b. Provide training for children (Ephesians 6:4).
 - c. No husband/father is a good provider who does not provide spiritual guidance and leadership.
 - d. Provide a good moral and ethical example.

B. Responsibility of Wife/Mother

1. She is a helpmeet — mutual help (Genesis 2:18).

2. She is to love her husband (Titus 2:4).
3. Solomon's picture of a virtuous woman (Proverbs 31:10-29).
4. She must remember they are the heirs of the grace of life (1 Peter 3:1-7).
5. The virtuous woman is pictured as helping with the financial support of the family. Today most wives work outside the home and husbands should help with the housework (cf. 2 Kings 21:13).

C. Children in the Home

1. Children are to be loved and trained (Titus 2:4,5; Proverbs 22:6).
2. Children deserve love and discipline for this is the mark of love (Hebrews 12:6-11; Proverbs 12:24).
3. Fathers are to nurture, admonish children in the Lord (Ephesians 6:4; Psalm 119:11).
4. Children are to obey parents (Ephesians 6:1-3).
5. Jesus gave excellent example (Luke 2:51,52).
6. Honor father and mother includes love and care in old age (Mark 7:9-13).
7. Disregard for parents is a mark of perilous time (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

Lesson 13

About Heaven And Eternity

Introduction

1. Majority of people believe in some form of life after death.
2. Most think of heaven after death, but do not think much about the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).
3. Heaven is not physical nor will we be (1 Corinthians 15:40-44).

A. The Comforting Words of Jesus (John 14:1-3)

1. Faith in Jesus should comfort us now (v. 1).
2. Heaven is a prepared place (v. 2).
3. It is spacious, many mansions (v. 2).
4. It is prepared for a prepared people (v. 3).

B. The Holy City John Saw (Revelation 21:1-7).

1. There was no more sea (v. 1). Sometimes sea represents people; in this case sea separated John from the brethren he loved.
2. The holy city is a thing of beauty, “as a bride adorned for her husband” (v. 2).
3. God is with those in the holy city (v. 3).
4. A place of comfort; no tears, no fear of death, no sorrow or crying (v. 4).

5. All things are new (v. 5).
6. He has provided for those in the city (vs. 6,7).
7. Nothing shall enter the city to defile (Revelation 21:25-27).

C. The Final View of the City (Revelation 22:1-7)

1. It is an eternal house (2 Corinthians 5:1).
2. The river of water of life (v. 1).
3. The tree of life, continual fruit and healing (v. 2).
4. No curse there because God and the Lamb are present (v. 3).
5. God's ownership of the saints as evidenced by His name in their foreheads (v. 4).
6. No need for light for God is light (v. 5; 1 John 1:5-7).
7. Those who keep God's word will be blessed (v. 7).
8. Who will enter the city (Revelation 22:14).
9. Eternal life shall be theirs (Mark 10:28-30; Matthew 25:46).

Finding My Place In The Church

Lesson 1

The Church As A Body

1 Corinthians 12:13-27

A. One Body and One Head (Ephesians 4:4-6)

1. This is obvious.
2. There is but one body (1 Corinthians 12:20).

B. There Is One Body, But Many Members (Romans 12:4,5)

1. All members have not the same function.
2. We are members of one another.

C. The Head Is to Direct the Body (Ephesians 1:22,23)

1. Christ has all authority (Matthew 28:18).
2. He must have pre-eminence (Colossians 1:18).

D. Ears Are to Hear

1. Hear the word (Luke 8:18; Matthew 13:5).
2. Hear the cries for help (cf. Macedonian Call).

E. Eyes to See

1. Lift up your eyes (John 4:35).
2. We should look for opportunities to serve (Galatians 6:10).

F. Tongues to Speak

1. We are to cease not to teach (Acts 5:42; 8:4).

2. Preach in season and out of season (2 Timothy 2:2; 4:2).

G. Shoulders to Bear Burdens

1. Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2).
2. Strong to help the weak (Romans 15:1).

H. Hands to Work

1. Always abound in the work (1 Corinthians 15:58).
2. Work with our hands (Ephesians 4:28).
3. Labor to enter into rest (Hebrews 4:11).

I. Backbone to Stand

1. Stand against the Devil (Ephesians 6:10-12).
2. We are to contend for the faith (Jude 3; Philippians 1:17).

J. Feet to Go

1. Go into all the world (Mark 16:15,16).
2. Go and produce fruit (John 15:16).

Lesson 2

Elders Or Overseers

Introduction

1. Each congregation is completely independent and ruled by elders (1 Timothy 3:3-5).
2. The first is the desire to serve (1 Timothy 3:1).

A. Qualifications of Elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

1. As a family man
 - a. Husband of one wife
 - b. Believing children
 - c. Rules own house well
 - d. Wife — good behavior
2. Sound Character
 - a. Blameless
 - b. Without reproach
 - c. Just, hospitable
 - d. Holy, patient, no striker
3. Able to meet life's difficulties
 - a. Not a novice
 - b. Apt to teach
 - c. Temperate, gentle

d. Not self-willed or greedy

B. Their Duties

1. Feed and oversee the flock (Acts 20:28).
2. Tend the flock (1 Peter 5:1,2).
3. Watch for souls (Hebrews 13:17).
4. Rule the flock (1 Timothy 5:17).
5. Stop mouths of gain-sayers (Titus 1:9-11).
6. Six things involved in tending the flock (1 Thessalonians 5:14,15).

C. Our Duty to Them

1. Obey them (Hebrews 13:17).
2. Respect their position (1 Peter 5:5).
3. Esteem them highly (1 Thessalonians 5:13).
4. Defend them (1 Timothy 5:19).

Since elders are to rule, oversee, lead, feed, tend and watch — should we not be ruled, overseen, led, fed, tended and watched?

List some things we can do without having to be told or asking the elders.

Lesson 3

Deacons To Serve

Introduction

1. The term denotes a servant.
2. This word may refer to any servant or to an “official” servant of the church.

A. Qualifications of Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

1. Positive qualifications
 - a. Grave
 - b. Faith in a pure conscience
 - c. Blameless
 - d. Husband of one wife
 - e. Ruling house well
 - f. Good report

These must first be proved.

2. Negative qualifications
 - a. Not double tongued
 - b. Not given to much wine
 - c. Not greedy of filthy lucre
3. Consider the seven at Jerusalem (Acts 6:1-7).

B. Duties of Deacons

1. The work of deacons is not minutely defined like that of elders.
2. They are a serving body and certainly serve under the elders.
3. Deacons are to serve in any capacity that the elders see fit. They may be put in charge of a work, but only under the elders.

C. Some Observations

1. Some think deacons are to serve only in the work of material things, but the Bible nowhere says this. They may perform any work the elders assign them.
2. A deacon may eventually become an elder, but one does not have to be a deacon before.
3. Deacons are first mentioned in the English versions of the New Testament in Philippians 1:1.

Lesson 4

Evangelists Or Preachers

Introduction

1. Preacher suggests a herald messenger, proclaimer.
2. Evangelist, a bearer of good tidings.

A. His Qualifications and Preparation

1. He should give attendance to reading (1 Timothy 4:13).
2. He should be an example (1 Timothy 4:12).
3. What about his personal life (1 Timothy 4:12)?
4. Why is he to study (2 Timothy 2:15)?
5. His life and teaching should harmonize (1 Timothy 4:16).

B. The Work of a Preacher

1. Why should one preach (Mark 16:15; Romans 1:16)?
2. Preaching is related to salvation (1 Corinthians 1:21).
3. He should defend the gospel (Philippians 1:17; Jude 3).
4. He should declare all the counsel of God (Acts 20:27).
5. He should teach publicly and privately (Acts 8:26-29; 20:20).
6. To whom should he be in subjection (1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:17)?
7. How should he do his preaching (Titus 2:7,8)?

C. Rewards of Preaching

1. It will bring consecration and consistent living (1 Corinthians 9:27; 1 Timothy 4:16).
2. It will help to protect against selfishness by warming your heart. We are instruments of righteousness (Romans 6:13-18).
3. It will help keep you humble (1 Corinthians 9:16,17).
4. It will increase your prayer life.
5. It will give you joy in soul winning (Luke 15:7,10).
6. It will bring an eternal reward (Mark 10:28-30; 2 Timothy 4:8).

Lesson 5

Bible Teaching

Introduction

1. All should teach — impart knowledge, motivate for good (Hebrews 5:11-14).
2. The early church taught daily (Acts 5:42; 8:4).

A. Qualities of a Good Teacher

1. Must be a genuine Christian in life and attitude.
2. Knowledge a must (2 Timothy 2:15). We cannot teach what we do not know.
3. One must know people and their needs (cf. Paul and Felix).
4. One must love souls (Matthew 22:37-40).
5. Be consistent with your teaching (Romans 2:21,22).
6. He recognizes his responsibility (Matthew 28:19,20; James 3:1).
7. One who is able to make his lessons simple, yet profound. Jesus is our example.

C. Often Overlooked Opportunities (cf. Exodus 4:1-5)

1. Distribute tracts and other printed material. There has been a great slow-down in this area.
2. You have life, live it with happiness and everyone will want to be like you.

3. You have a child — train it; if not a child, your friend or neighbor does. Invite children into your home for cookies, Kool-aid and a Bible story.
4. You have a home — show hospitality with teaching in mind.
5. You have health and strength — use it to help those who do not and keep eyes open to opportunities to teach.
6. You have a sewing machine — be a Dorcas (Acts 9:36-43).
7. You have a telephone — use it to show concern, spread good will and to teach or set up opportunities to teach. We should become masters of telecommunications.
8. You have an ear — make it a listening ear. This is a crying need of our time. Some cry, “no one listens to me!” Be an ear for those who are lonely, depressed, facing some great difficulty, a child, teenager or elderly. These you may teach or make opportunities for others to teach.
9. You have a job — use it to support truth and influence for good.
10. You have an automobile — use it to bring people to Bible classes, worship or to grocery store, etc., for opportunities for you or others to teach.

Lesson 6
Christian Service
Titus 3:1

Introduction

1. Some good works are listed in the context.
2. “Ready” suggests both prepared and willing.
3. Scriptures furnish to every good work
(2 Timothy 3:16,17).
4. We are created unto good works (Ephesians 2:10).

A. Christian Life is a Working Life

1. Laborers in vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16).
2. We are lively stones (1 Peter 2:5).
3. We are to abound in work (1 Corinthians 15:58).
4. A workman not ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15).
5. Labor to enter rest (Hebrews 4:11).
6. Do it with our might (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

B. Ten Things All Can Do

1. Live right (Titus 2:11,12).
2. Cooperate (Philippians 1:27).
3. Attend every service possible (Hebrews 10:25).
4. Study (2 Timothy 2:15).

5. Pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
6. Teach others (Acts 5:42).
7. Visit sick and needy (James 1:27; Matthew 25:31-46).
8. Speak encouraging words (1 Thessalonians 5:14).
9. Stand for truth (Ephesians 6:10-18).
10. Show hospitality (1 Peter 4:9).

C. How Can We Motivate Every Member to Work?

1. There must be planning.
 - a. We plan a visitation program to motivate.
 - b. We plan a personal teaching program.
 - c. Why not develop plans in other areas.
 - d. As a preacher my week is planned. I do certain things every day. This way I get more done.
2. Motivate by training in other areas in addition to teaching.
3. Motivate by making workers conscious of rewards.
4. Motivate by inspiring confidence.
5. Motivate by personal resolution.

D. When Shall We Do These Things?

1. As we have opportunity (Galatians 6:10).
2. Daily (Luke 9:23; John 9:4).
3. This is the greatest work on earth.

“If a man would be a soldier he’d expect of course to fight;
And he couldn’t be an author if he didn’t try to write.
So it isn’t common logic, doesn’t have a right true ring,
That a man to be a Christian, doesn’t have to do a thing.”

Lesson 7

Righteous Living

(Some Things That Help Us Live Better Titus 2:11-14)

Introduction

1. Right living is the crying need of the church. This is responsibility of every member as feeling is to the physical body.
2. Even those outside the church recognize this.
3. This is everyone's place.

A. To Have the Forgiveness of Past Sins Helps

1. By obeying the gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Mark 16:15,16).
2. By having sins forgiven as God's child (Acts 8:22).
3. Then forgetting the past, press forward (Philippians 3:13,14).

B. A Greater Degree of Faith

1. What is faith (Hebrews 11:1)?
2. How does faith come (Romans 10:17)?
3. Faith may fail us, so we must be on guard (Matthew 14:28-31; Hebrews 3:12).

C. Having Our Sins Rebuked

1. Paul charged Timothy to rebuke (2 Timothy 4:1,2).

2. Titus told to rebuke with all authority (Titus 2:15).
3. It was good for David (2 Samuel 12:7).

D. Encouraging Words

1. Remember what Jesus said about the centurion and the widow (Matthew 8:5,6; Mark 12:41-44).
2. Support the weak and fainthearted (1 Thessalonians 5:14; Hebrews 12:12,13).

E. Remember We Are Examples

1. *“Be thou an example...”* (1 Timothy 4:12).
2. We are the light of the world (Matthew 5:16).
3. *“For me to live is Christ...”* (Philippians 1:21).

F. A Realization of the Value of the Soul

1. More valuable than the world (Matthew 16:26).
2. Realize that there is but one life to live — there is no reincarnation (cf. Hebrews 9:27).

G. Recognize the Brevity and Uncertainty of Life

1. Life is as a vapour (James 4:13,14).
2. We should live every day as though it were our last, because it may be (Ecclesiastes 8:7,8).
3. There is joy in the personal, inner peace of knowing we are acceptable to God (Ecclesiastes 9:7).

H. Be Conscious to the Certainty of Death and Eternity

1. The living know that they shall die (Ecclesiastes 9:5).
2. Judgment is coming (Revelation 20:12-15; Acts 17:30,31; Romans 14:12).

Lesson 8

An Unselfish Consecrated Life

(Some Things That Moved Paul)

Introduction

1. Paul's unselfish, consecrated life cannot be accounted for, except for very strong motivating factors.
2. He was moved by something stronger than persecution and even death (Acts 20:24; 21:11).

A. God's Love Moved Him

1. "*God commendeth His love toward us*" (Romans 5:8; cf. 1 John 4:19).
2. The life I now live (Galatians 2:20).
3. "*For the love of Christ constraineth us*"
(2 Corinthians 5:14).

B. His Own Love for God Moved Him

1. Service is meaningless without love
(1 Corinthians 14:1-3).
2. God is with those who love Him (Romans 8:28).
3. Faith works by love (Galatians 5:6).

C. His Gratitude Moved Him

1. He never forgot the marvelous mercy of Christ
(1 Timothy 1:12-15).

2. He thanked God for victory (Romans 7:24,25).
3. God's grace was not bestowed in vain (1 Corinthians 15:10).

D. His Sense of Responsibility Moved Him

1. He felt he was debtor (Romans 1:14-17; 1 Corinthians 9:16).
2. A consciousness of God depending on him to carry the word (Acts 20:24).

E. He Was Vitally Concerned About the Lost

1. His desire moved him (Romans 9:3; 10:1-3).
2. The "man from Macedonia" moved him (Acts 16:9,10).

F. Knowing He Must Give Account Moved Him

1. He believed judgment awaited all (Romans 14:12).
2. He considered himself a steward (1 Corinthians 4:1,2).
3. He sought to please Christ (Galatians 1:10).

G. The Desire to Complete His Task

1. *"That I may finish my course"* (Acts 20:24).
2. Like Jesus who said, *"I have finished the work..."* (John 17:4).

H. He Realized the Need of Haste

1. *"Redeeming the time for the days are evil"* (Ephesians 5:16).
2. *"Ye shall see my face no more"* (Acts 20:25).

I. The Thought That Divine Help Was Near Moved Him

1. *“The Lord is at hand”* (Philippians 4:5).
2. *“My grace is sufficient...”* (2 Corinthians 12:9).
3. *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”* (Philippians 4:13).

J. The Hope of Eternal Life Moved Him

1. *“If any man’s work abide...he shall receive a reward”* (1 Corinthians 3:14).
2. The incorruptible crown (1 Corinthians 9:25).
3. *“in hope of eternal life...”* (Titus 1:2).
4. *“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness...”* (2 Timothy 4:8).

These should likewise move us!

Lesson 9

A Place Of Maturity

Hebrews 5:11

(Some Marks of Maturity)

Introduction

1. Some people never grow up. This is pathetic.
2. Maturity suggests full grown, adult, advanced.
3. Signs of immaturity — want to play all the time, pouting, determined to have own way, etc.

A. Able to Eat Solid Food

1. Meat belongs to full grown (Hebrews 5:14).
2. We are to be men in understanding (1 Corinthians 14:22).
3. Those who have not grown up spiritually:
 - a. Unskilled in the word (text).
 - b. Always taking milk (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).
 - c. Division, envy, strife are marks of immaturity.

B. Able to Discern Good and Evil

1. By reason of use (exercise) (Hebrews 5:14).
2. By reason of more knowledge (Philippians 1:9-11).
3. A more keenly developed conscience.

C. Unshaken by False Teachers

1. Not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14).
2. Men of conviction...not moved to compromise (Jude 3).
3. Proves all things (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

D. Able to Control His Tongue

1. The same is a perfect (full-grown) man (James 3:2).
2. He swears not (James 5:12).
3. He lies not (James 3:14).
4. He does not speak evil (Titus 3:2).

E. Overcomes Evil with Good

1. Love for enemy shows maturity (Matthew 5:44-48).
2. How to overcome evil (Romans 12:17-21).
3. The secret of happiness (1 Peter 3:8-11).

F. A Consciousness of Imperfections

1. Count not self to have apprehended (Philippians 3:12).
2. To be too sure of oneself is to open the door of temptation (1 Corinthians 10:12).
3. So stand in Him (Colossians 4:12).
4. We are to grow up in Him (Ephesians 4:15,16).

Lesson 10

How Can I Recognize My Place?

Introduction

1. Every member has a valuable place to fill.
2. Our place should grow as we grow individually.
3. “Sometimes finding our place, our spiritual gift is the spiritual dilemma of our lives” (Leon Barnes).

A. Some Suggestions

1. Consider the total range of possibilities.
 - a. Do not limit your thinking to the teaching program or public activities. Read again Romans 12:1-8.
 - b. Remember service makes one great: Dorcas (Acts 9:36-43); Stephanas (1 Corinthians 16:15); (Matthew 23:11,12).
 - c. Consider those who guard the stuff (1 Samuel 30:21-25).
2. Spend time in prayer about your plans (Colossians 4:2-4).
3. Seek the advice of mature Christians — ask the elders to help you.
4. Look for areas of need in the congregation. We tend to see need in the realm of our ability.

5. Remember God's plan for our lives is revealed on His timetable, not ours. Example: Moses slaying the Egyptian was 40 years ahead of God's plan of deliverance.
6. God's plan does not always coincide with ours. Paul planned to go to Rome (Romans 15:22-29) but he did not plan to go as a prisoner (cf. Philippians 1:12).
7. Remember God uses our hurts, failures and tragedies to lead us to our greatest service (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).

B. Things That Hinder Us in Recognizing Our Gifts

1. Our own lack of commitment (Romans 12:1). We are His (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).
2. Too much of the world in our lives (Romans 12:2).
3. Pride hinders us (Romans 12:3).
4. Our feeling of inferiority (cf. Philippians 4:13; 2 Timothy 1:7,8).
5. Our spirit of slothfulness (Romans 12:11).

C. Helping Others Find Their Place

1. Everyone has some gift (1 Peter 4:10).
2. We are to provoke one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24).
3. Be attentive to the special abilities others have.
4. Expand the view of young Christians. The harvest is great (Matthew 9:37,38) and it is ready now (John 4:35).

Lesson 11

Doing What We Can

Introduction

1. Having considered what we can do, we now consider doing it according to our ability.
2. Often we think we have done all we can, when we really have not.

A. We Must Act to the Extent of Our Ability

1. The parable of the talents teaches this (Matthew 25:14-30).
 - a. The talents were distributed according to ability (v. 15).
 - b. Each servant received something.
 - c. Each was to use the talent to the fullest of his ability.
 - d. The two talent man was rewarded the same as the five.
2. The parable of the pounds teaches this, too (Luke 19:11-27).
3. *“Whatsoever thy hand finds to do, do it with thy might...”* (Ecclesiastes 9:10).
4. It is wise to be a doer (Matthew 7:24-27).

B. *“She Hath Done What She Could”* (Mark 14:1-11).

1. Jesus’ appraisal was, *“She hath done what she could”*.
2. This was a sacrifice of love and devotion.

3. The disciples criticized because they did not understand the anointing was for His burial. Most criticism today is a result of a failure to understand.
4. God holds each responsible for what he can do rather than for what he cannot do (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:12).
5. Christ is our pattern (Acts 10:38; John 9:4).
6. Tabitha should encourage us (Acts 9:36-43).
7. All do not have the same work (Romans 12:5).

C. Have We Done What We Could (2 Corinthians 13:5)?

1. In studying the Bible (1 Timothy 4:13)?
2. In teaching and preaching (Ephesians 3:10,11)?
3. In attending to worship (Hebrews 10:25)?
4. In teaching our children (Ephesians 6:4)?
5. In ministering to the sick and needy (James 1:27)?
6. In giving of time, effort, skill, influence, money, etc.?

May each of us so conduct ourselves that Christ can say of us, "They have done what they could"!

Lesson 12

Improving Ourselves

Hebrews 5:12; 6:3

Introduction

1. Progress is not that I am better than the other fellow, but that I am better than myself.
2. We have had a lesson on seeing ourselves as we are and this is the first step to improvement.
3. Self improvement is a daily challenge.

A. The Bible and Self Improvement

1. Examine ourselves in the light of the scriptures (2 Corinthians 13:5).
2. Read and study the Bible daily (1 Peter 2:2; Acts 17:11).
3. Keep the heart in harmony with the word (Proverbs 4:23).
4. The Bible will discern our thoughts (Hebrews 4:12; Acts 2:37).
5. It will give us strength to outgrow wrong attitudes (1 Peter 2:1,2).
6. The Bible furnishes us to every good work (2 Timothy 3:16,17; Titus 3:1).
7. The Bible is a protector against sin (Psalm 119:11).

These are reasons we should study privately and in class (2 Timothy 2:15).

B. Others Can Help Us Improve Ourselves

1. The right associates can help us to be better.
2. The wrong associates can also ruin us
(1 Corinthians 15:33; Proverbs 22:24,25).
3. The help of a Christian husband or wife (1 Peter 3:1-3).
Solomon's wives turned him away (1 Kings 11:4).
4. Making efforts to teach others forces us to learn.
5. Being involved in service to others gives us spiritual strength, this is exercise (Galatians 6:10).
6. Cultivate a more attractive personality by right thoughts
(Proverbs 23:7; Philippians 4:8), and influence others for good (Matthew 13:33).

C. The Church Helps Us to Improve Ourselves

1. By opportunities of worship. Every act of worship is designed to glorify God and strengthen us.
2. The church offers edification by teaching (Ephesians 3:10).
3. The church offers opportunities of Christian fellowship.
This should be strengthening to us (Ephesians 4:15,16).
4. By elders watching for the souls (Hebrews 13:17).
5. By members restoring the erring (Galatians 6:1).
6. By members bearing one another's burdens (Galatians 6:1; Romans 15:1-3).

7. By love serving and sustaining one another
(Galatians 5:13; 1 John 3:13-19).

Lesson 13

They That Are Christ's

Introduction

1. We must remember that we belong to Christ (Galatians 5:24,25).
2. Christ has a possession (Titus 2:13,14).
3. We must have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5; 2 Corinthians 10:4-6).

A. Who are Christ's?

1. Those who have put on Christ (Galatians 3:26-29).
2. Those who have the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9).
3. Those bought by His blood (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20; 1 Peter 1:18-20).
4. Christian means "of or belonging to Christ."

B. Body of Sin Destroyed

1. Body of sin destroyed in baptism (Romans 6:3-6).
2. Let not sin reign in your mortal body (Romans 6:12).
3. They were servants of sin, now they are righteous (Romans 6:17,18).
4. How shall we who are dead to sin live any longer there in (Romans 6:2)?
5. If Christ is in us the body is dead (Romans 8:10).

C. Crucified with Christ

1. Christ lives in us (Galatians 2:20).
2. We are new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17).
3. We are dead with Christ (Colossians 2:20). Our life in Christ (Colossians 3:3).
4. We are crucified to world and the world to us (Galatians 6:14).
5. We have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts (Galatians 5:24).

D. The Lusts that Are Destroyed

1. Put to death — fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire and covetousness (Colossians 3:5).
2. The works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21).
3. Cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh (2 Corinthians 7:1).
4. Put off the old man (Colossians 3:8,9).

E. They that Are Christ's Live After the Spirit

1. Walk not after flesh but after the Spirit (Romans 8:1-4).
2. Walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16,17).
3. The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25).
4. Put on the new man (Colossians 3:10-15).
5. Sow to the Spirit, reap life (Galatians 6:7-9).

Some “Fear Nots” of the Bible

Lesson 1

God, A Present Help

Psalm 46:1,2

Introduction

1. Fear is a terrifying thing.
2. Someone said there are 365 “Fear Nots” in the Bible, one for each day.

A. God Is My Refuge

1. This implies God’s goodness.
2. God is a refuge (Psalm 62:6-8).
3. As mountains round about Jerusalem (Psalm 125:1,2).
4. He is like a wall of fire (Zechariah 2:1-5).
5. The eternal God is thy refuge (Deuteronomy 33:26,27).
6. Our refuge is bound up in hope (Hebrews 6:18).

B. God Is My Strength

1. We must not trust in our own strength (Jeremiah 9:23,24).
2. Such is foolish (Proverbs 28:25,26; Psalms 52).
3. God is our strength (Psalm 46:1; Isaiah 41:10).
4. I am weak, He is strong (Psalm 73:26; 1 Corinthians 1:27).
5. God’s strength is perfect (2 Corinthians 12:9,10; 13:4).

6. Faith and God's strength (Hebrews 11:33,34).
7. We can be strong (Ephesians 3:16; 6:10; 2 Timothy 2:1).

C. God Is My Help

1. Ever present, that is, He is accessible (Psalm 46:1; Hebrews 4:15,16).
2. God promises to help (Isaiah 41:10-14).
3. The divine helper (Psalm 27:1; 28:7).
4. The Lord God will help (Isaiah 50:9).
5. His help cast out fear (Hebrews 13:6; Romans 8:31).
6. Therefore, give Him your cares (1 Peter 5:7).

Lesson 2

Fear Not, I Have Redeemed You

Isaiah 43:1,2

Introduction

1. A Psychology class asked 500 people to list their fears. They listed 7,000 fears (*Heart Diseases*, Winkler, p 62).
2. Fear may cause us to be lost (Revelation 21:8).
3. Redemption is to purchase or buy back.

A. God Is Our Redeemer

1. *"I know that my redeemer lives"* (Job 19:25).
2. Jehovah our redeemer (Isaiah 41:13,14).
3. My strength and redeemer (Psalm 19:14; Jeremiah 50:34).
4. I am the Lord thy redeemer (Isaiah 49:26; 48:17).
5. A redeemer to come to Zion (Isaiah 59:20).

B. Redemption in Christ

1. Christ obtained eternal redemption for us (Hebrews 9:12-14).
2. Jesus suffered to bear sins of many (Hebrews 9:17,18).

3. Redemption justified God in saving us (Romans 3:23-26).
4. Redemption is in Christ (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13,14).
5. How does one enter Christ (Romans 6:3,4; Galatians 3:26,27)?
6. Jesus gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity (Titus 2:11-14).
7. The church is the redeemed (Ephesians 2:25-27; Acts 20:28).
8. The redeemed are in the Way (Isaiah 35:8,9).

C. Seven Causes of Redemption

1. God, the prime cause (Luke 1:68; Galatians 4:4,5).
2. Christ, the mediatorial cause (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 9:15).
3. Spirit, the revealing cause (Ephesians 1:14).
4. Blood, the procuring cause (1 Peter 1:18,19).
5. Apostles, instrumental cause (1 Timothy 2:5-7).
6. Gospel, preaching cause (Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 1:17-25).
7. Obedience, the conditional cause (Isaiah 59:20; Colossians 1:13,14).

Lesson 3

Fear Not, I Have Called You

Isaiah 43:1

Introduction

1. Some fears are wholesome; fear God (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Fears of accident causes us to drive carefully.
2. Someone has said there are 365 “fear nots”, one for each day of the year. One might find that many “Fear Nots”, “Be Not Afraids”, plus other terms.
3. Fear can be paralyzing (Cf Matthew 25:24,25).

A. I Have Called You by Thy Name

1. This makes it personal — He knows our name.
2. God hath called thee, fear not (Isaiah 54:4-6).
3. I know My sheep (John 10:14).
4. If God knows the number of the hairs of our head, He can know our name (Matthew 10:30,31).

B. I Have Called You by My Name

1. Adam Clarke believed this is the correct rendition. He thinks it is a copyist error.
2. The called made for His glory (Isaiah 43:5-7).

3. My people called by My name (2 Chronicles 7:14).
4. A new name to be given after all nations and Gentiles see His righteousness (Isaiah 62:1,2)
5. Gentiles saw His righteousness in Acts 10, and they were called Christians (Acts 11:26).

C. The Christian Calling

1. By whom are we called?
 - a. Christ (Matthew 11:28-30).
 - b. God (Acts 2:39).
2. Who are called and how?
 - a. Many (Matthew 22:14).
 - b. Sinners (Matthew 9:13; Revelation 22:17).
 - c. By the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14).
 - d. By the word (1 Peter 1:22-25).
 - e. It is a high, holy, heavenly calling (Philippians 3:14; 2 Timothy 1:9; Hebrews 3:1).
3. Unto what are we called?
 - a. Into light (1 Peter 2:9).
 - b. To be saints (Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2).
 - c. Unto peace (1 Corinthians 7:15; Romans 14:19).
 - d. Unto glory (2 Thessalonians 2:14).
 - e. Eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12).
4. What this call requires:

- a. Obedience (Hebrews 5:8,9; 1 John 3:24).
- b. Walk worthy (Ephesians 4:1-7).
- c. Worship and consecration (John 4:23,24).
- d. Make your calling sure (2 Peter 1:10,11).

Lesson 4

Fear Not, I Will Come With A Vengeance

Isaiah 35:3,4

Introduction

1. It is obvious from all the “fear nots” and ”be not afrails”, God does not want us to be terrified with fear.
2. Israel is an example of our text (Exodus 14:13).
3. We should fear God, that is, reverence Him.

A. Be Strong, Fear Not

1. Be strong and of a good courage (Joshua 1:6-9).
2. Strong to be rewarded (2 Chronicles 15:7).
3. Five exhortations (1 Corinthians 16:13,14).
4. Be strong in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10).
5. Be strong in grace (2 Timothy 2:1-3).
6. Strong in faith (Romans 4:19-21).
7. God is our strength (Psalm 46:1).

B. Fear Not, God Will Come With Vengeance

1. To those who are abused, God is the one who will avenge them (Isaiah 35:3,4).
2. Vengeance belongs to the Lord (Psalm 94:1).

3. I will repay, saith the Lord (Romans 12:18,19).
4. Adonibezek learned this (Judges 1:5-7).
5. The troubled should remember this
(2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).
6. The Hebrew writer says we know this
(Hebrews 10:30,31; cf Galatians 6:7-10).
7. The same God that takes vengeance on the wicked brings
salvation to righteous (Romans 11:22).

C. He Will Come and Save You

1. Isaiah wrote before the Babylonian captivity, and this
context was God taking vengeance on their oppressors,
saving them and eventual salvation through Christ.
2. We should not fear the wages of sin, because salvation is
offered (Romans 6:23).
3. We should not fear condemnation, but enter Christ and
live right (Romans 8:1-4).
4. Hope overcomes fear (Romans 8:24,25; Titus 1:2).
5. Perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18; 2:3-5).

Lesson 5

Fear Not, I Will Show Thee Kindness

2 Samuel 9:1-8

Introduction

1. Only he who can say, “The Lord is the strength of my life” can say “Of whom shall I be afraid”.
2. “*Perfect love casteth out fear*” (1 John 4:18).
3. The law of kindness (Proverbs 31:26).

A. David’s Good Attitude

1. Saul had been David’s enemy, he would have killed him; he played the fool (1 Samuel 26:21,22).
2. Mephibosheth was sole survivor. Imagine his fear in coming to David the king but David said, “*Fear not*” (2 Samuel 9:7).
3. Mephibosheth’s attitude (v. 8).
4. All this because David remembered Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:41,42).
5. This boy was crippled, so was I by sin; the King invited me (Matthew 11:28-30), the King’s blessings are mine (Ephesians 1:3).

B. Compare “For Jonathan’s Sake and Christ’s Sake”

1. David did this for Jonathan’s sake (v. 1).
2. We should do more for Jesus’ sake.
3. Kindness and forgiveness for Christ’s sake (Ephesians 4:31,32).
4. We should preach and serve for Jesus’ sake (2 Corinthians 4:1-5).
5. Suffer for His sake (Matthew 5:11,12; 10:22).
6. We are fools for Christ’s sake (1 Corinthians 4:10).
7. Paul as an example (Acts 9:16).

C. Why Should We Be Kind?

1. Lest God’s word be blasphemed (Titus 2:4,5).
2. It is a command (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12; Romans 12:10).
3. Makes us desirable (Proverbs 19:22; Matthew 5:16).
4. It commends us (2 Corinthians 6:4-6).
5. It is to be added to faith (2 Peter 1:5-7).
6. It is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23).
7. It is a manifestation of love (1 Corinthians 13:4).
8. God’s kindness should motivate us (Titus 3:3-5).

Lesson 6

Fear Not, I Am With Thee

Isaiah 41:10; 54:4

Introduction

1. If you truly fear God, you need fear nothing else (Matthew 10:28).
2. God raised up righteous man from the east and his descendants encourage each other (Isaiah 41:2-6).
3. Fear not, God is with us (Deuteronomy 31:6; James 4:8).

A. Fear Not, I Am With Thee

1. God has been our dwelling place (Psalm 90:1).
2. In the pilgrimage of life (Genesis 28:13-15).
3. He was with Joseph (cf Genesis 45:5; 50:19-21).
4. God's presence with Moses and Israel (Exodus 3:13-15; Deuteronomy 20:1).
5. Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23).
6. The hand of the Lord was with them (Acts 11:21).
7. Be strong and work, I am with you (Haggai 2:4).
8. Christ with us (Matthew 18:20; 28:18-20).

B. I Am Thy God

1. We are to have no other (Deuteronomy 5:7-9).
2. *"I will strengthen thee."*

- a. The Lord is my strength (Psalm 27:1).
- b. Our strength in God (Psalm 84:5; Ephesians 6:10).
- 3. *“I will help thee”* (cf Isaiah 41:13).
 - a. A present help (Psalm 46:1).
 - b. The Lord our helper (Hebrews 13:6).
- 4. *“I will uphold thee.”*
 - a. God upholds the righteous (Psalm 37:17).
 - b. Righteousness, our protection (Isaiah 59:16,17; Ephesians 6:14-17).
 - c. God’s grace reigns in the righteous (Romans 5:19-21).

C. Abiding in Christ

- 1. Strength comes from abiding in Christ (John 15:4-6).
- 2. Abide in His love (John 15:10; 1 John 2:3-5).
- 3. To abide in Him we must walk as He walked (1 John 2:6,28).
- 4. The one who abides in Him keeps himself from sin (1 John 3:5-7).
- 5. We must abide in His doctrine (2 John 9).
- 6. Those who die in the Lord are blessed (Revelation 14:13).
- 7. To die in Him we must live in Him (Galatians 3:26,27; 2 Timothy 2:10).

Lesson 7

Fear Not, My Spirit Remains

Haggai 2:5

Introduction

1. Perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18).
2. “He who fears to suffer, suffers from fear. He who fears death, cannot enjoy life.”

A. This Was According to the Covenant

1. The covenant with Israel, God’s treasure (Exodus 19:5,6).
2. The covenant dedicated by blood (Exodus 24:7,8).
3. God’s presence assured (Exodus 29:45).
4. The Spirit given to elders of Israel (Numbers 11:16,17,25).
5. The Spirit was in Joshua (Numbers 27:18).
6. The Spirit mightily upon David (1 Samuel 16:13).
7. The Spirit gave instruction (Nehemiah 9:20).
8. Isaiah predicted the Spirit would be on Jesus (Isaiah 11:1-3).

B. The Holy Spirit With Us

1. The Spirit to guide the apostles (John 14:26; 16:13,14).

2. They were to be empowered by Him (Acts 1:8).
3. The Bible is fully inspired (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
4. The actual words were given (1 Corinthians 2:13).
5. The Spirit was promised to the obedient (Acts 2:38; 5:32).
6. He gives His Spirit to His children (Galatians 4:6).
7. The Spirit of God dwells in us (Romans 8:9-11).
8. The sons of God are led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14).
9. What the Spirit leads us to do (Galatians 5:18-23).

C. God Has Not Given Us a Spirit of Fear

1. Describe the attitude that comes from God (2 Timothy 1:7-9).
2. The spirit of Caleb (Numbers 14:24).
3. We must have a mind captured by Christ (2 Corinthians 10:1-5).
4. We must have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5-8).
5. We will not fear man (Hebrews 13:5,6).

Lesson 8

Fear Not, They That Be With Us Are More

2 Kings 6:16; Deuteronomy 20:1-4

Introduction

1. God's people have always been few.
2. God with us gives us a majority (Joshua 23:10).

A. God's Host Is Greater than Syria's Host (2 Kings 6:16)

1. The host that the young man saw (2 Kings 6:16-18).
2. The hand of the flesh and the hand of the Lord — the Lord with us (2 Chronicles 32:7,8).
3. God goes with you, fear not (Deuteronomy 20:1-4; Acts 11:21).
4. Be strong, of good courage, be not afraid (Deuteronomy 31:6-8).
5. Fear not, many with us shall afflict them (Psalm 55:18,19).
6. If we put our trust in God, be not afraid (Psalm 56:3).
7. The Lord is my light and strength (Psalm 27:1).

B. Greater Is He that Is in Thee

1. Remember who is in us (1 John 4:4).

2. God is in us (Ephesians 4:6).
3. Christ is in us and we in Him (John 15:5,6; Ephesians 3:17).
4. Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).
5. The Holy Spirit in us (Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 3:16).
6. *“Then if God be for us, who can be against us?”* (Romans 8:31).
7. God has said, *“I will never forsake thee”*, then be not afraid (Hebrews 13:5,6).
8. *“Fear not, I am with thee...”* (Isaiah 41:10).
9. Then the peace of God can be with us (Romans 5:1,2; Philippians 4:7-9).
10. Christ is our peace (Ephesians 2:13-16).

C. God’s Providence

1. Providence is God working by nature and a miracle is God working above, beyond or contrary to nature (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 John 9).
2. God’s providence with Joseph (Genesis 45:5-8; 50:15-21).
3. Consider Esther 4:14.

Lesson 9

Fear Not, God Hears

Daniel 10:12

Introduction

1. Prayer is thanksgiving, petition and intercession.
2. To hear is to hear sound of, or to hearken to.

A. God Will Hear From Heaven

1. God always heard Daniel (Daniel 10:12).
2. He always heard Jesus (John 11:41,42).
3. We know He hears us (1 John 5:14,15).
4. He will hear from heaven (Psalm 20:6).
5. He heard the cry of Israel (Exodus 3:7-9).
6. *"I will hear from heaven"* (2 Chronicles 7:14).

B. Whom God Will Not Hear

1. Sinners (John 9:31).
2. He that turns away from hearing the law (Proverbs 28:9).
3. Those who will not heed His counsel (Proverbs 1:25-31).
4. The Lord is far from the wicked (Proverbs 15:29).
5. Those whose hands are full of blood (Isaiah 1:15).
6. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil (1 Peter 3:12).

C. Conditions of Acceptable Prayer

1. A child of God (Matthew 6:9).
2. In Christ's name (John 14:13; 15:16; 16:23-26).
3. In faith (Matthew 21:22; James 1:6,7).
4. Unselfishly (James 4:3).
5. Keeping His commands (1 John 3:22).
6. According to God's will (1 John 5:14,15).
7. Fervently (James 5:16,17).
8. A forgiving attitude (Matthew 6:14,15).
9. With clean hands (1 Timothy 2:8).
10. With a pure heart (Psalm 66:18-20).

D. Christ's Prayer for His Followers (John 17)

1. That they be kept from evil (v. 11).
2. That they might have His joy (v. 13).
3. That they may be sanctified (v. 17).
4. That they might all be one (vs. 11,20,21).
5. That they may cause others to believe (v. 21b).
6. That they may possess the Father's love (vs. 23-26).
7. That they might behold His glory (vs. 22,23).

Lesson 10

It Is I, Be Not Afraid

Matthew 14:22-31

Introduction

1. Read other accounts (Mark 6:34-51; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:5-21).
2. Feeding 5,000 one of few incidents to be recorded by all four writers.

A. A Study of Our Text (Matthew 14:22-31)

1. Disciples started to cross the Sea of Galilee in the evening as He went to pray. They were struggling all night in the storm, in the fourth watch, or 3:00 a.m. and Jesus came walking on the water.
2. The disciples were troubled and thought He was a “ghost”.
3. He dispelled their fear and said, *“Be of good cheer; it is I, be not afraid.”*
4. Peter said, *“If it be Thou bid me come unto Thee on the waters and He said, Come.”* (vs. 28,29).

B. Reverential Fear

1. Beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10).
2. Beginning of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7).
3. Fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

4. Fear one who can destroy soul and body (Matthew 10:28).
5. Serve God with reverence and Godly fear (Hebrews 12:28).
6. Awesome fear (Luke 5:8).
7. The disciples feared exceedingly (Mark 4:41).
8. Stand in awe (Psalm 4:4).
9. Let all fear the Lord (Psalm 33:8,9).
10. God is greatly to be feared (Psalm 89:7).

C. Love Casts Out Fear (1 John 4:18)

1. Love casts out paralyzing fear, or terror.
2. He that feareth (tormented by fear) is not perfect in love (1 John 4:18b).
3. What is perfect love (1 John 2:3-5)?
4. Doubtless, this is the meaning of: *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil”* (Psalm 23:4,5).
5. Peace of God and Christ helps (Philippians 4:7-9; John 14:27).

Lesson 11

Fear Not, Little Flock

Introduction

1. “Fear not” means “do not lose heart”.
2. The sermon on the mount (Matthew 5 and 6) and these statements are similar but at different times.

A. Seek the Kingdom

1. Two priorities (Matthew 6:3).
 - a. Kingdom more than food or raiment.
 - b. God’s righteousness (Romans 1:17; 10:1-4).
2. The King must be first (Luke 14:33).
3. Christ and the gospel must be first (Mark 10:28-30).
4. Hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matthew 5:6).

B. Little Flock to Have the Kingdom

1. The little flock, no doubt, refers to the disciples.
2. This promise was fulfilled on Pentecost (Acts 2:36-41).
3. The kingdom is the church (Matthew 16:18,19).
4. The kingdom was to be established in the lifetime of the “little flock” (Mark 9:1).
5. When did the power mentioned in Mark 9:1 come (Acts 1:7,8)?

6. The disciples who were scattered abroad preached the kingdom (Acts 8:4,12).
7. If the tabernacle of David has not been rebuilt, then Gentiles are without hope (Acts 16:13-17).

C. Thoughts on the Kingdom

1. The King of kings (1 Timothy 6:15).
2. The Colossians were in the church, which is the kingdom (Colossians 1:13,14,18).
3. The converted are in the kingdom (Matthew 18:3).
4. The born again are in the kingdom (John 3:3).
5. Receiving the kingdom (Hebrews 12:28).
6. John was in the kingdom (Revelation 1:9).
7. Christ will give the kingdom to God when He comes again (1 Corinthians 15:23-26).

Lesson 12

Fear Not To Serve

2 Kings 25:24; Jeremiah 40:9

Introduction

1. While these passages refer to serving the Babylonians, we can apply them to serving God.
2. God seeks men to serve Him (John 4:23,24).

A. We Are to Fear the Lord

1. God must be revered (Psalm 89:7).
2. God is to be praised and feared (Psalm 96:4).
3. The fear of the Lord is wisdom (Job 28:28).
4. Solomon's conclusion after trying everything (Ecclesiastes 12:13,14).
5. If we fear the Lord we should fear to speak against His servant (Numbers 12:5-9; cf 1 Samuel 8:6,7).
6. We are to serve with reverence (Hebrews 12:28,29).

B. Fear Not to Serve God

1. What causes men to fear to serve?
 - a. Some fear to become Christians because of the awesome responsibility.
 - b. What about your condition while you wait (James 4:17)?
2. Remember the one talent man (Matthew 25:25-30).
3. The value of worship.

- a. Feeds our minds and quickens the conscience.
- b. Opens the heart to the love of God (Matthew 22:37).
- c. Devotes us to the love of God (1 John 5:3).
- d. Removes pride by recognizing our littleness.

C. Find the Joy of Service

1. The church is also a service institution.
 - a. Supply the needs of others (Acts 2:44,45; 4:32-37).
 - b. Seven chosen to serve tables (Acts 6:1-8).
 - c. Antioch responds to needs (Acts 11:27-30).
 - d. Care for widows (1 Timothy 5:3-10,16).
 - e. Edify others (Acts 11:22-26).
2. Remember rewards for service.
 - a. Service to men is service to Christ (Matthew 25:31-46).
 - b. Greatness through service (Matthew 20:25-28).
 - c. Service brings joy of accomplishment.
 - d. Service brings consecration (1 Timothy 4:16).
 - e. Brings strength and gives hope for the future (1 Timothy 6:17-19).
 - f. A hundredfold now and eternal life in the world to come (Mark 10:29-31).
3. Every service, though simple, will not go unnoticed by the Father (Matthew 10:41,42).
4. Let us be fervent in spirit (Romans 12:11).

Lesson 13

Be Not Afraid To Speak

Acts 18:8-10

Introduction

1. Should be afraid not to speak (1 Corinthians 9:16,17).
2. How we are to speak (1 Peter 4:11).

A. Fear Not to Speak

1. Fear not implies no hesitancy.
2. Jeremiah was fearful and discouraged (Jeremiah 20:9).
3. More than likely Paul was more fearful for the new converts than for himself.
4. We should speak boldly (Acts 4:13; 19:20).
5. Paul asked the Ephesians to so pray for him (Ephesians 6:18,19).
6. We should lift up our voice as Peter (Acts 2:14).
7. We should be consistent with the message (1 Timothy 4:16; Ezra 7:10).
8. We have a charge (Mark 16:15; 2 Timothy 4:1,2).
9. The Lord encouraged Paul before he went to Rome (Acts 23:11).

B. For I Am With Thee

1. Christ made such a promise (Matthew 28:19-21).

2. The Lord worked with them (Acts 12:23).
3. With whom is the Lord (2 John 9)?
4. We are laborers together with God (1 Corinthians 3:9).
5. Strength comes from abiding in Christ (John 15:5,6).
6. God is a present help (Psalm 46:1,2; Isaiah 41:10).
7. Be strong and work, I am with you (Haggai 2:4).

C. I Have Much People

1. God knew the possibility then and now.
2. God's people are those who hear and obey (Acts 18:8; Galatians 3:26,27).
3. Jesus identified God's people.
4. We must lead people to be born again.
5. The people of God (1 Peter 2:5,9,10).



J.A. Thornton

was born in Walnut, MS on August 12, 1920 to Christopher and Vergie Thornton. He was baptized at the young age of fourteen by Everette C. Day, Sr., and preached his first sermon on December 18, 1939.

Even at the age of 80, he preached 117 times

during the year and was deeply involved in personal work and other activities of the Booneville Church of Christ where he serves as associate minister.

Brother Thornton has been a close student of the Scriptures more than 60 years. He has much to offer and we are happy that these **Bible Outlines for Preachers and Teachers** will continue to live and teach long after brother Thornton has gone to his Father.

These outlines are divided into four sections, with thirteen lessons in each group. Section titles are *Abiding in Christ, What Everybody Ought to Know, Finding My Place in the Church, and Some "Fear Nots" of the Bible.*