



Classroom Outlines

for
Preachers
and
Teachers

J.A. Thornton

*Classroom Outlines
for Preachers
and Teachers*

by

J.A. Thornton

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P.O. Box 72

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

E-Mail: choate@worldevangelism.org

The Publisher's Statement

I am a great believer in the value of getting Christian literature out to the masses. That includes tracts, Bible correspondence courses, magazines, books, and — by all means — the Bible. I have had a few to approach me to suggest, “Wouldn’t it be better just to try to get more Bibles into the hands of the people?” True, we need to get more Bibles into circulation, but many will take the Bible and go on believing and practicing and teaching their false doctrines. Jesus himself commanded that we go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, that we go forth and teach all nations (Mark 16:15,16; Matthew 28:19,20). Paul exhorted that we preach the word (2 Timothy 4:2). The human messenger is very important. Through literature and the spoken word, he can explain the scriptures, call to the attention of the reader and the hearer the many great truths of the Bible, point out the false teachings of men and show what the Lord wants one to do be saved, the church that Christ died for, the kind of worship God wants, and the many other truths that are so vital to one’s spiritual welfare.

Isn’t it wonderful to be able to preach and teach God’s word through the many different methods that God has provided today? For instance, this book (and others) by brother J.A. Thornton of Booneville, MS is a great example of the preaching and teaching of God’s word. Brother Thornton himself has prepared great lessons, and he has preached and taught them personally and publicly. Now they are being made available in printed form to those who love the truth, so that they can pass them on to others here in our country and around the world.

I know of no one who enjoys preaching God's word more than brother Thornton. As you read these lessons, notice all of the scripture references that are given to fully support the truths he is teaching. Without a doubt, these lessons will inform, inspire, and encourage readers to obey the Lord and to grow in His grace and mercy.

Thank you, brother Thornton, for these great lessons, and we look forward to many more to follow. We also look forward to using them so that souls may be saved and, through it all, that God may be glorified.

J.C. Choate
Winona, MS
July 15, 2002

Table of Contents

The “I Am’s” of Christ

Lesson 1	“Whom Say Ye That I Am”	3
Lesson 2	“I Am Not Come To —”	5
Lesson 3	“I Am He”	7
Lesson 4	I Am Your Master	9
Lesson 5	“I Am Alpha And Omega, The Beginning And The End”	11
Lesson 6	“I Am The Bread Of Life”	13
Lesson 7	“I Am The Light Of The World”	15
Lesson 8	I Am The Door — Shepherd	17
Lesson 9	“I Am The Way”	19
Lesson 10	“I Am The Truth”	21
Lesson 11	“I Am The Life”	23
Lesson 12	“I Am The Vine”	25
Lesson 13	“I Am The Resurrection”	27

Growing Up In The Lord

Lesson 1	What It Means To Be In Christ	33
Lesson 2	What It Means To Grow Up	35
Lesson 3	Be Like Children In Some Things	37
Lesson 4	What Growing Up Involves	39
Lesson 5	Putting Away Childish Things.....	41
Lesson 6	Growing In Grace	43
Lesson 7	Growing In Knowledge.....	45
Lesson 8	Growing In Strength	47
Lesson 9	Rooted and Grounded	49
Lesson 10	Growing By Serving	51
Lesson 11	Growing Through Soul Winning.....	53
Lesson 12	Growing Through Discipline	55
Lesson 13	How Big Are You?	57

Better Things

Lesson 1	A Day With The Lord	61
Lesson 2	A Little Is Better	63
Lesson 3	Wisdom Is Better Than Gold	65
Lesson 4	Better To Be Humble.....	67
Lesson 5	Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice.....	69
Lesson 6	Better Is A Neighbor Near.....	71
Lesson 7	Better Is A Living Dog Than A Dead Lion	73
Lesson 8	Better To Enter Into Life Maimed.....	75
Lesson 9	It Is Better To Hear The Rebuke Of The Wise	77
Lesson 10	Better To Suffer For Well Doing.....	79
Lesson 11	Better To Trust In The Lord	81
Lesson 12	Better Never To Have Been Born	83
Lesson 13	Better To Be With Christ.....	85

“So”-ing For The Master I

Lesson 1	“So Walk Ye”	89
Lesson 2	“So Be Ye Holy”	91
Lesson 3	“So Stand Fast”	93
Lesson 4	“So They Are Without Excuse”	95
Lesson 5	SO’s For A Great Marriage	97
Lesson 6	“So Fullfill The Law Of Christ”	99
Lesson 7	“So Let Him Give”	101
Lesson 8	“So Run That You May Obtain”	103
Lesson 9	“So ‘Zap’ Your Enemy”	105
Lesson 10	“So Let Him Eat”	107
Lesson 11	“So Soon Removed From Christ”	109
Lesson 12	“So Also Do You (Forgive)”	112
Lesson 13	“So In Christ Shall All Be Made Alive”	115

“So”-ing For The Master II

Lesson 1	Let Your Light So Shine	119
Lesson 2	So Send I You	121
Lesson 3	God So Loved	123
Lesson 4	So All Israel Shall Be Saved	125
Lesson 5	So Mighty Grew The Word.....	127
Lesson 6	So Talk The Talk	129
Lesson 7	So Walk The Walk.....	131
Lesson 8	For So I Am.....	133
Lesson 9	So When Ye Have Done All	135
Lesson 10	So You Were An Example.....	137
Lesson 11	“So Is He That Layeth Up Treasure For Self”	139
Lesson 12	So The Lord Is My Helper	142
Lesson 13	Even So, Come Lord Jesus	144

The "I Am's" Of Christ

Lesson 1

“Whom Say Ye That I Am?”

Matthew 16:15

Introduction

1. What others had said (v. 14).
2. Peter’s answer (v. 16).
3. Jesus asked, “*What think ye of Christ?*”
(Matthew 22:42).
4. Lord’s Supper is a proclamation
(1 Corinthians 11:20-34).
5. We may walk so as to blaspheme (Titus 1:16).
6. Our whole life should be one of confessing Christ
(Matthew 10:32).

What do YOU say?

A. “Jesus Is not Worthy of my Service”

1. Never obey the gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).
2. We may never reach the point of saying this by mouth,
but we do by action.

B. “It Does Not Pay to Serve Jesus”

1. Started, but turned aside (1 Timothy 1:19,20;
2 Peter 2:20-22).

2. Some one hindered the Galatians (Galatians 5:7).

C. “There Is No Joy in Service”

1. Perform some work, but grumble (Philippians 2:14).
2. Euodias and Syntyche (Philippians 4:2).
3. “*Rejoice in the Lord*” (Philippians 4:4).

D. “Token Service Is Enough”

1. Materialist — religious, but business and pleasure first (Luke 12:13-21).
2. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).
3. Ephesus left its first love (Revelation 2:1-8).

**E. “Christ Is Worthy of My Every Thought and Deed”
(2 Corinthians 10:4)**

1. Apostles — called — included Paul (Acts 20:24).
2. Barnabas gave all (Acts 4:32-34).
3. The Macedonians (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

F. “Christ Will Be My Judge”

1. He so declared this (John 12:49).
2. God will judge us through Christ (Acts 17:30,31).
3. We will stand before His judgment seat (2 Corinthians 5:10).
4. We must give account of ourselves (Romans 14:12).
5. The judgment pictured (Revelation 21:12-15).

Lesson 2

“I Am Not Come To — ”

Introduction

1. By placing these negative statements, He helps to clear up misconceptions.
2. We shall study four times in which Jesus said, *“I am not come...”*

A. “I Am Not Come to Destroy the Law...” (Matthew 5:17,18)

1. Had He destroyed the law we would have no copy of it.
2. He fulfilled the law and prophets (Luke 24:44).
3. Jesus was the only one in the flesh to ever keep the law perfectly (2 Corinthians 5:20,21).
4. He abolished the law (Ephesians 2:14,15).
5. The law was to last until Christ came (Galatians 3:19-26).
6. The law was a schoolmaster (Galatians 3:24,25).

B. “I Am Not Come to Call the Righteous...” (Matthew 9:13)

1. The doctor does not treat the well.
2. Jesus called Matthew, a publican; this brought criticism from the self-righteous Pharisees.
3. Jesus’ statement is a quotation of Hosea 6:6.
4. The just needs no repentance (Luke 15:7).

5. All are commanded to repent (Acts 17:30).
6. Jesus was not saying the Pharisees need no repentance, but reasoned from their own claim.
7. God wants all to repent (2 Peter 3:9).

C. “I Am Not Come To Send Peace...” (Matthew 10:34)

1. Some family members would accept Christ, others would not.
2. We must not love relatives more than Christ (Matthew 10:37).
3. We should never compromise Christ for family unity, though desirable that may be.
4. Christ must be first before self, life and all else (Luke 14:26,33).
5. We must count all things loss (Philippians 3:8).
6. The reward promised (Luke 18:29,30).

D. “I Am Not Come Of Myself...” (John 7:28)

1. Christ came not in His own name (John 5:43).
2. Christ was sent by the Father (John 6:44).
3. Jesus came not to do His own will (John 6:38-40).
4. Jesus came from the Father (John 16:28).
5. Christ spoke not of Himself (John 12:48-50).

Lesson 3

“I Am He”

Introduction

1. Very few times did Jesus plainly say, “*I am He*”.
2. It is imperative that we believe (John 8:24).
3. Jesus is the Messiah, Christ, Anointed.

A. “I That Speak Unto Thee Am He” (John 4:26)

1. This woman was a most unlikely prospect for conversion.
2. She was “electrified” by his statement.
3. Many believed because of her; she was not ashamed to own Him.
4. He said, “*I am He*” but told some others not to tell (Matthew 16:20).
5. This is the first recorded time that He openly declared who He was.

B. “It Is He That Talketh With Thee” (John 9:37)

1. Jesus had given the blind man his sight.
2. The blind man defended Jesus before his critics (John 9:24-31).
3. When Jesus identified Himself, the man believed and worshiped Him (v. 3).

4. Jesus said, “*For judgement I am come into this world that they which see not might see...*” (John 9:39).

C. “If Thou Be The Christ Tell Us Plainly” (John 10:24)

1. Jesus answered, “*I have told you by works*” (John 10:25).
2. Jesus and the Father bear witness of Christ (John 8:13-18).
3. Jesus, John the Baptist and the Father bear witness (John 6:31-36).
4. If Jesus and the Father are one person, then He did bear witness of himself and His witness is not true.

D. “Before Abraham Was I Am” (John 8:58,5).

1. “I AM” suggests the self existent eternal one — timeless one.
2. This timeless present tense was used of God (Exodus 3:14).
3. Jesus did not say “*Before Abraham was born I was*” but, “*I AM*”.
4. The Jews took up stones to kill Him for blasphemy (v. 59).
5. Jesus has always been (John 1:1-3,14; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-17).

Lesson 4

I Am Your Master

A. Christ Declared Himself as Master

1. One is your master (Matthew 23:8-10).
2. We cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24).
3. Jesus says, “*so I am*” (John 13:13-15).
4. The servant is not greater than his master (John 13:16,17).
5. Paul taught that Christ is Master of Masters (Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1).

B. Jesus Is the Matchless Master

1. The master of self (John 10:18).
2. The master of temptation (Hebrews 4:15).
3. The master of obedience (Hebrews 5:8,9; Philippians 2:8).
4. The master of service (Matthew 20:28; Acts 10:38).
5. The master of sacrifice and love (Matthew 20:28; John 15:13).
6. The master of living (Luke 2:52; John 8:46).

C. Some Observations

1. “Master” is often used to refer to teacher (James 3:1), and Jesus was the Great Teacher (John 3:1,2).

2. “Master” often means lord or ruler as in Matthew 6:24, and Jesus is the One Lord (Ephesians 4:44,45).
3. “Master” sometimes means one of absolute ownership (Titus 2:9) and translated “Lord” in Jude 4.
4. Rabbi is used to mean “My Master” and was a common form of address (Matthew 26:18,25).
5. “Rabboni” was a Galilean expression used by Mary of Magdala (John 20:16).

Lesson 5

“I Am Alpha And Omega, The Beginning And The End” Revelation 1:8,11

Introduction

1. Christ asked His disciples, “*Whom do men say that I the Son of man Am?*” (Matthew 16:13-16).
 2. Christ told us who He was in His “I Am’s”.
- A. The Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8,11; 21:6; 22:13)**
1. The first and last letter of the Greek alphabet like our A to Z.
 2. Which was, is, and is to come (Revelation 1:8).
 3. This is the equivalent of the Hebrew “Yea” and “Amen”.
 4. “The Almighty” — Revelation 1:8b literally means “The King and the Age”.
- B. “Before Abraham Was ‘I Am’” (John 8:58)**
1. “I Am” the Eternal One, the Existent One.
 2. To Moses God said, “*I Am hath sent thee*” (Exodus 3:14).
 3. The Jews considered Christ a blasphemer (John 8:58,59).

Had He not been the Son of God, He would have blasphemed.

4. Jesus was in the beginning (John 1:1-3,14).
5. He was equal with God (Philippians 2:5-8).
6. He was in a glorified state with God before the world began (John 17:4,5).
7. All things were created by Him and so consist (Colossians 1:15-17).

C. “I That Speak To Thee Am He” (John 4:26)

1. Christ here identified Himself as the Messiah.
2. He told His disciples not to tell this (Matthew 16:20).
3. His time was not come (John 7:6,8,30; 8:20).
4. Had they told this early in His ministry He would have been killed before He had opportunity to prepare His followers.

Conclusion:

1. This means that Jesus was more than just a good man.
2. Jehovah’s Witnesses say that Christ was the first created being.
3. Mormonism is wrong, for Christ is eternal. “Remember that God our Heavenly Father was perhaps once a child and mortal like we are and rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement: has moved forward and overcome until He has arrived at the point where He now is” (Orson Hyde, Journal of Discourses, Vol. 1, page 123).
4. Then Christ is Lord and we must obey Him (Hebrews 5:8,9).

Lesson 6

“I Am The Bread Of Life”

John 6:35,48,51,58,63,68

Introduction

1. After feeding the 5,000 at Bethsaida, many were convinced that Jesus was the Christ (John 6:5-14).
2. Man must have food and drink — so in spiritual life (Revelation 7:16,17).
3. Some have lost the appetite — physically and spiritually.

A. Jesus the Bread of Life (John 6:48)

1. Jesus is our sustainer.
2. He is the bread that came down from heaven (John 6:51).
3. Not manna, but living bread (v. 51,58).
4. Christ’s words are life (v. 63,68).
5. Not to live by bread alone (Matthew 4:4).

B. Christ Gave the Word of Life to Sustain Us

1. God gave word to Christ, He to the apostles (John 17:8; 14:26).
2. Must learn of Father to come to Christ (John 6:44,45).
3. We believe on Christ thru apostles’ words (John 17:20,21).
4. The milk of the word (1 Peter 2:2).

5. The meat that endures (John 6:27; Hebrews 5:12,13).

C. We Must Accept Pure “Bread of Life”

1. Jews made the word of God of non-effect by their traditions (Mark 7:13).
2. Must accept pure gospel (Galatians 1:6-11).
3. Doctrines of men make worship vain (Matthew 15:9).
4. The word is alive (Hebrews 4:12).
5. Word has power to save (James 1:21).

D. “Bread of Life” Gives Life to the Alien

1. The word quickens (Psalm 119:50).
2. Believer has power to become (John 1:11,12).
3. The word commands repentance (Acts 17:30).
4. The word calls for confession (Matthew 10:32; Acts 8:37).
5. Baptized into Christ (our life) (Romans 6:3,4; Galatians 3:26,27).
6. So we are a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17).
7. Then let the word dwell in us richly (Colossians 3:16).

Lesson 7

“I Am The Light Of The World”

John 8:12; 9:1-5

Introduction

1. The world is in darkness (Colossians 1:13; 1 John 5:19).
2. He who walks in darkness knows not where he goes (John 12:35).
3. Christians do not walk in darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:5; 1 John 1:5-7).

A. Jesus Is the Light of the World

1. He is the Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2).
2. He is the Bright and Morning Star (Revelation 22:16).
3. *“In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehendeth it not”* (John 1:4,5).
4. Jesus the source of light and we the reflectors.

B. His Word Is the Light That Brings Us to God

1. God’s word gives light and understanding (Psalm 119:105).
2. The light of the glorious gospel should shine unto us (2 Corinthians 4:4,5).

3. Light dispels darkness (cf. 1 John 1:5).
4. All must be taught of God to come to Jesus (John 6:44,45).
5. This is why we must preach the gospel (Mark 16:15,16).
6. We cannot walk in darkness and follow Christ (John 8:12).

C. “Ye are the Light of the World” (Matthew 5:14)

1. A city set on a hill (Matthew 5:14).
2. “*Let your light so shine...*” (Matthew 5:16).
 - a. Do not put it under a bushel. (There are bushels of tempers, neglect, worldliness, evil speaking, etc.)
 - b. By our good works — as Christ (Acts 10:38).
3. There are many different kinds of lamps — candle, oil lamp, gasoline, electric. Which kind are you?

Lesson 8

I Am The Door — Shepherd

John 10:1-18

Introduction

1. There are two parables — the Door of Sheepfold (vs. 1-10) and the Good Shepherd (v. 11-18).
2. The fold was a place of safety.
3. Evidently verses 11-18 is an explanation of the first parable, the fold.

A. Christ the Door (vs. 7-10)

1. The door suggests an opening and a closing.
2. Christ has the key of David (Revelation 3:7).
3. The door must be entered to be saved (v. 9; 2 Timothy 2:10).
4. Jesus is the only Door, the only Way (John 14:6).

B. Christ the Shepherd (vs. 11-18)

1. The Good Shepherd is willing to die for the sheep (vs. 11,15).
2. The Good Shepherd knows His sheep (v. 14).
3. He laid down His life willingly (vs. 17,18).
4. He is the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4).
5. He is the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20).

C. The Sheep and the Fold

1. There is one fold and one Shepherd (v. 16).
2. Jew and Gentile reconciled in one body (Ephesians 2:13-16).
3. The Church is the one fold.
4. His sheep are those who hear and follow Christ (v. 27).
5. The sheep find pasture or sustenance (v. 9; Ephesians 1:3).
6. The sheep to receive eternal life (v. 28).
7. The sheep (those who follow Christ) shall never perish (vs. 28,29).

Lesson 9

“I Am The Way”

John 14:6

Introduction

1. There are many ways but only one to God.
2. The way that seems right ends in death (Proverbs 14:12).
3. The two ways (Matthew 7:13,14).

A. Jesus Alone Is the Way

1. Christ was not merely a good man (Matthew 16:16).
 - a. Christ was more than a human leader like Buddha or Mohammed.
 - b. Christianity is more than a code of conduct. It is the way of salvation.
2. Christ the way of Holiness (Isaiah 35:8).
 - a. Christ prophesied (Isaiah 35:4-6).
 - b. Christ so identified Himself (Matthew 11:2-5).
3. He is a “New and Living Way” (Hebrews 10:19,20).
 - a. Salvation is in no other (Acts 4:12).
 - b. Author of eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:8,9).

B. Christ Is the Only Way

1. Our only atonement (1 Peter 1:18,19).

2. Our only mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).
3. Our only advocate (1 John 2:1,2).
4. Our High Priest (Hebrews 6:19,20).
5. Our one Master (Matthew 23:10).
6. Our Judge (Acts 17:30,31).

C. We Must Enter the Way and Continue in it

1. This is true of travel to any given point.
2. How do we enter Christ (Romans 6:3,4; Galatians 3:26,27)?
3. How we are to continue in Him (Colossians 2:6).
4. If we are in Him we are new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17).
5. The reward of living and dying in Him (Revelation 14:13).

Lesson 10

“I Am The Truth”

John 14:6

Introduction

1. “I Am’s” of Christ — Alpha and Omega, the Light of the World, and the Way.
2. Christ’s question before Pilot.
3. Christ, source of truth (John 1:1-3, 17).

A. Three Empires of Truth

1. Intellectual
 - a. *“Ye shall know the truth”* (John 8:32).
 - b. *“Because ye know the truth”* (1 John 2:21).
2. Moral
 - a. Principles of right conduct.
 - b. Honesty (Romans 12:17).
 - c. Responsible (Ephesians 4:28).
3. Spiritual
 - a. *“Thy word is truth”* (John 17:17).
 - b. *“Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth”* (James 1:18).
 - c. Church is pillar and support of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).

B. Christ as a Teacher of Truth

1. Jesus taught by word and deed (Acts 1:1).
2. He commanded His followers to teach (Matthew 28:19,20).
3. Things are written to produce faith (John 20:30,31).
4. All must be taught (John 6:44,45).
5. All the truth must be taught (Matthew 4:4; Acts 20:26,27).

C. The Truth that Saves

1. Truth cannot be changed, as $2 + 2 = 4$.
2. The word is unchanging (John 17:17; 1 Peter 1:22-24; Psalm 117).
3. Known truth frees (John 8:32).
4. Gospel truth saves (Romans 1:16).
5. Obeyed truth purifies (1 Peter 1:22; Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16).
6. Truth abides in the obedient (1 John 2:4).

Lesson 11

“I Am The Life”

John 14:6

Introduction

1. Life is everywhere — in air, on earth, in sea, in the earth.
2. Jesus is the life.
3. Jesus is the “*Prince of Life*” (Acts 3:15).

A. Christ, the Life

1. In Him was life (John 1:4).
2. He has life as God the Father has life (John 5:26).
3. Life is in the blood (Deuteronomy 12:23).
 - a. His blood gives us spiritual life (Matthew 26:28).
 - b. We must eat His flesh and drink His blood (John 6:53-57).

B. Life Is in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)

1. We have life thru His name (John 20:30,31).
2. He gives life more abundantly (John 10:10).
3. Life hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3,4).
4. Eternal life is in Christ (1 John 5:11).
5. He that hath the Son hath life (1 John 5:12).
6. Christ lives in us (Galatians 2:20).

C. How to Obtain this Life

1. By being born again (John 3:5; 1 Peter 1:22,23; 1 John 5:1).
2. By being quickened (Psalm 119:50; Ephesians 2:1).
3. By being a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17).
4. By Christ being in us (Galatians 2:20; John 15:5-8).
5. By being in Christ (1 John 5:11,12).
6. By loyalty to Christ (Mark 10:30,31; Revelation 2:10).

Lesson 12

“I Am The Vine”

John 15:1-8

Introduction

1. Jesus often illustrated spiritual things with natural ones.
2. The relationship of Christ and the Christian is seen. He is in them and they in Him.
3. The church as a vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16; 1 Corinthians 3:9).

A. The Vineyard Is God’s

1. The Jews were so pictured in Old Testament (Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 2:21).
2. *“My Father is the husbandman.”*
3. The church as a vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16; 1 Corinthians 3:9).

B. Christ Is the True Vine (vs. 1,2)

1. The branches must be in the vine (v. 2).
 - a. They cannot maintain life apart from the vine.
 - b. They cannot grow apart from the vine.
 - c. They cannot produce apart from the vine.
2. The branches are completely dependent on the vine.
3. The vine is dependent on the branches.

- a. The vine cannot bear fruit without the branches.
 - b. The vine cannot beautify the vineyard alone.
 - c. We beautify the church by our lives (Romans 10:15; Philippians 1:27; Titus 2:9,10).
4. Branches must be grafted in (planted) (Romans 6:3-5).
 5. Christ is the vine.

C. The Branches Are the Disciples (vs. 5,6)

1. They are not denominations, but men (v. 6).
2. Christians are in Christ and Christ in Christians (2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Timothy 2:10; Galatians 2:20).
3. We must be purged to produce more fruit (v. 2,3).
4. We must bear fruit (vs. 2,8).
 - a. We are married to Christ for this purpose (Romans 7:4).
 - b. We must be in Christ to bear (v. 4).
 - c. The best man out of Christ can bear no fruit to God.
 - d. The feeblest branch in the vine has a better chance to bear than healthiest cut off.
5. If we fail to bear fruit we will be cut off, burned.
6. We glorify God in bearing fruit (v. 8; Ephesians 3:21).
7. Every vine produces after its kind.

Lesson 13

“I Am The Resurrection”

John 11:25

Introduction

1. This means He is the source of Life and has the ability to raise the dead.
2. All civilizations had some view of life beyond.
 - a. Babylonian — believed in a life beyond but limited duration.
 - b. Egyptian — indicated in burying valuables. Transmigration.
 - c. Hebrew — expressed by Job and Psalmist. Hope but not detailed in expression.
 - d. Heathen — believed in immortality of soul but no bodily resurrection. Some transmigration.

A. Jesus Shows His Power to Raise the Dead

1. He raised the widow’s son (Luke 7:11-17).
2. He raised Jairus’ daughter (Matthew 9:18-26).
 - a. Scoffers did not see this demonstration.
 - b. This strengthened the faith of believers.
3. The raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44).
 - a. Jesus was sent for, but delayed His coming (vs. 1-16).

- b. Lazarus had been dead four days when Jesus came.
No one could doubt he was dead.
- c. Jesus demonstrated His power (vs. 17-44).
 - (1) Jesus gave life to the body.
 - (2) He either preserved it from decay or brought it back from decay.

B. Jesus' Own Resurrection (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20)

- 1. This was the grand climax of all resurrections.
- 2. The others were to die again, but not Jesus.
- 3. His resurrection proves His Sonship (Romans 1:4).
- 4. Proof of His resurrection:
 - a. His many appearances. Mary Magdalene (John 20:14); on road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-31); Thomas (John 20:26); other disciples (Luke 24:32-53); at Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1); above 500 (1 Corinthians 15:6); ascension (Acts 1); Paul (Acts 9); John, (Revelation).
 - b. Apostles and others as witnesses.
 - (1) Conscientious, honest, integrity (best witness).
 - (2) Willing to die for testimony.
 - (3) Multiplicity of witnesses.
 - c. The tomb was guarded; what happened to the body, if He was not raised?

C. The General Resurrection

1. All will be raised (John 5:28,29; Revelation 20:12-15).
2. A new body (1 Corinthians 15:42-48).
3. Like Christ in glory (Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:1-3).
4. We will be changed (resurrected)
(1 Corinthians 15:51-54).
5. Those alive will not precede the dead in ascension
(1 Thessalonians 4:15).

Conclusion

1. Since Christ is the Resurrection He should be the Lord of my life (Luke 6:46).
2. You will be somewhere in eternity. Your action now may determine your eternal life destiny.

Growing Up In The Lord

Lesson 1

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 to Be in Christ

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 1:13-18).
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; 20:28).
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. No hesitance in Him (Ephesians 1:10,11).

Lesson 2

What It Means To Grow Up

Introduction

1. This lesson compares physical and spiritual life.
2. Some never seem to grow up.

A. Characteristics of Childhood

1. During infancy, of necessity, have everything done for them and must outgrow this.
2. Children want what they want now!
3. Having everything given them they can grow up to be selfish. This attitude is seen in “Mine, Mine, Mine”.
4. Children must be taught to share and the stewardship of possessions.
5. They want entertainment all the time and play continually. Some never outgrow this.
6. No sense of personal discipline.
7. Desire often overrides reasoning.

B. Babes in Christ

1. New born babes (1 Peter 2:1,2).

2. Born again (John 3:1-7).
 - a. Begettal (James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:22,23; 1 John 5:1).
 - b. Birth or coming forth (Romans 6:3,4).
3. New creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17).
4. Put off the old man and his deeds (Colossians 3:9-11).

C. Growing Up (applications)

1. We want to be served, not serve (Luke 15:25-32).
2. Patience a fruit of the Spirit and evidence of growth (Galatians 5:22,23; 2 Peter 1:5-7).
3. The rich man left God and others out (Luke 12:15-21).
4. Our possessions are simply entrusted to us to use for the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:19,20; 1 Timothy 6:7-10; 1 Corinthians 4:1,2).
5. Pleasure may be sinful (Hebrews 11:24,25). Pleasure may not be sinful but may lead us to sin (1 Timothy 5:6).
6. We must exercise personal discipline (1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 2 Timothy 2:1-5).
7. We must overcome desires that would become too strong (Colossians 3:5).

Lesson 3

Be Like Children In Some Things

Introduction

1. *“A little child shall lead them”* (Isaiah 11:6).
2. Be like children, but not childish.

A. Be Like a Child to Enter the Kingdom

1. This is a must (Matthew 18:3,4).
2. This conversion is equal to being born again (John 3:5).
3. Some obvious characteristics of a little child:
 - a. Innocence and humility (Genesis 2:21).
 - b. Faith and trust (Isaiah 12:2).
 - c. Sympathy for crippled dog, cat or bird (Romans 12:15).

B. In Malice Be Ye Children

1. Grow up in understanding but in malice be like children (1 Corinthians 14:20).
2. New babes in Christ to lay aside all malice and guile (1 Peter 2:1,2).
3. Put away all malice (Ephesians 4:31).

4. Now that you are a Christian put off anger, wrath, malice (Colossians 3:8).
5. Putting off these is result of implanting of the word (James 1:18-21).
6. Children are most forgiving (Ephesians 4:32).
7. All of this teaches our anger and malice should be short lived (Ephesians 4:26).
8. Consider James 1:20.

C. The Spirit of Christ

1. Jesus was meek and lowly (Matthew 11:28-30).
2. Jesus taught us to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44).
3. *“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”*
4. When reviled, He reviled not again (1 Peter 2:21-23).
5. Recompense to no man evil for evil (Romans 12:17-20).
6. We must not allow the one who has attitude of malice to cause us to have the same attitude.

Lesson 4

What Growing Up Involves

Introduction

1. Growing up indicates progress and maturity.
2. Failure to grow is sinful (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

A. Marks of Maturity

1. Reproductive capacity, e.g. teaching others (Hebrews 5:12-14; 2 Timothy 2:1,2).
2. Understanding (1 Corinthians 14:20).
3. Recognizing consequences of actions (Galatians 6:7-10; 1 Corinthians 15:33).
4. A child's love is possessive — "My Mamma!" Mature love is giving and forgiving (2 Corinthians 8:8; 1 Peter 4:8).

B. Evidence of Maturity

1. Able to eat solid food (Hebrews 5:14).
2. Able to discern good and evil (Hebrews 5:12-14).
3. Unshaken by false teachers (Ephesians 4:14).
4. Proves all things (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
5. Able to control the tongue — the same is perfect (full grown) man (James 3:2).
6. Overcome evil with good (Matthew 5:44-48; Romans 12:21).

7. Conscious of our own imperfections
(Philippians 3:12-15; 2 Corinthians 10:12).

C. Growing Up in Him (Ephesians 4:15,16)

1. Growth must be like Christ (Luke 2:52).
2. The increase of the Lord (John 3:28-30).
3. The increase of the gospel (Acts 6:7; 12:24).
4. The increase of the kingdom (Mark 4:30-32,38).
5. Faith grows (2 Thessalonians 1:3).
6. We are commanded to grow (2 Peter 3:18).

Lesson 5
**Putting Away Childish
Things**
1 Corinthians 13:11-13

Introduction

1. We often overlook conduct of children.
2. A man is expected to behave differently.

A. Never Put Away Some Childish Traits

1. Innocence and humility (Matthew 18:1-3).
2. Simple faith and trust (Isaiah 12:1,2).
3. Forgiving, holding no malice (1 Corinthians 14:20).

B. Some Childish Things

1. Gossip — children tattle — we have to teach them not to
(1 Timothy 5:13; Leviticus 19:16).
2. Desire for attention — if you can't get it by being good,
get it by being bad — true of some adults (1
Peter 5:6; 3 John 8,9).
3. Envy and jealousy. Will not allow mother to hold
another child. May step on another's new shoes. Adults
are envious of another's success, clothes, etc.
(Proverbs 14:30; Matthew 27:17,18).

4. Crave amusement, want no chores but want to play all the time (1 Timothy 3:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; James 5:5).
5. Unstable — not steadfast (1 Corinthians 15:58).
6. Fussy — will argue about anything.
7. Discourteous, sometimes even cruel — ”Johnny is a sissy”, “Mary’s hair looks like a horse’s tail” (1 Peter 3:8).
8. Pout — enjoy feeling mistreated — won’t tell what is wrong.
9. But we are to act like men (1 Corinthians 16:13,14).

C. Beliefs That Make Men Strong and Courageous

1. A trusting faith in God, a belief that all will be well in the end (Romans 8:28; Joshua 1:9).
2. A belief in ourselves, puts iron in the soul (2 Timothy 1:7; Philippians 2:13; 4:13).
3. Others believing in us and praying for us helps (Ephesians 6:18,19).
4. Belief in the greatness of those who have gone before us (Hebrews 12:1). Examples: faith of Abraham, patience of Job, courage of Elijah and zeal of Paul.
5. Belief in a purposeful future. We know not the future but we know who holds the future. The foundation of hope (Hebrews 11:1).

Lesson 6

Growing In Grace

2 Peter 3:18

Introduction

1. Grace is unmerited favor.
2. Jesus grew in God's favor (Luke 2:52).

A. How to Get into God's Grace

1. By the word (Acts 14:3; 20:24,32).
2. By hearing (Colossians 1:6).
3. Through knowledge (2 Peter 1:2; 2 Timothy 2:15).
4. Through faith (Romans 5:1,2; 4:16).
5. By turning from sin (Romans 6:1).
6. By coming into Christ (2 Timothy 2:1).
7. By being called (Galatians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:14).
8. By righteousness (Romans 5:21).
9. By humility (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5).
10. By growing (2 Peter 3:18).

B. Why Get Into the Grace of God

1. To be saved (Acts 15:11; Ephesians 2:8,9).
2. To have hope (2 Thessalonians 2:16).

3. To be justified (Romans 3:23-26).
4. To find help (Hebrews 4:16).
5. To have life (Romans 5:21; 1 Peter 3:7).
6. To be established (Hebrews 13:9).
7. Made heirs by grace (Titus 3:7).
8. Paul “*By grace I am what I am*” (1 Corinthians 15:10).

C. What to Do After Coming into Grace

1. Not fall short of it (Hebrews 12:15).
2. Not to fall from it (Galatians 5:4).
3. Not make it void (Galatians 2:20,21).
4. Continue in it (Acts 13:43).
5. Not to receive it in vain (2 Corinthians 6:1).
6. Stand fast in grace (Romans 5:2; 1 Peter 5:12).
7. Be strong in it and grow (2 Timothy 2:1; 2 Peter 3:18).

Lesson 7

Grow In Knowledge

Introduction

1. To be Christ's disciples in deed (John 8:31,32).
2. There is false knowledge as well as true (1 Timothy 2:4; 6:20,21).

A. How to Gain Knowledge

1. Study the word (2 Timothy 2:15).
2. By reading (Ephesians 3:4; 1 Timothy 4:13).
3. By being taught (John 6:44,45).
4. By hearing (Romans 10:17).

B. Why We Should Gain Knowledge

1. There is power in knowledge (Proverbs 24:5).
2. There is freedom in it (John 8:32).
3. Without knowledge we err (Matthew 22:29-32).
4. This knowledge is available that we might be fruitful (Colossians 1:9,10).
5. All that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).
6. That we may grow (1 Peter 2:1,2; 2 Peter 3:18).

C. The Greatest Knowledge

1. Know God.

- a. How we know God (1 John 2:3,4).
 - b. All can know God (Hebrews 8:10,11).
2. To know God is eternal life (John 17:3).
3. We can know Christ (1 John 5:20,21).
4. We can know His will (1 Timothy 2:4; Colossians 1:9).

Lesson 8

Growing In Strength

Introduction

1. This is moral and spiritual strength.
2. We should grow spiritually as we mature (2 Corinthians 4:16).

A. We Are Called Upon to Be Strong

1. Be strong in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10).
2. Be strong (1 Corinthians 16:13).
3. Be strong in grace (2 Timothy 2:1).
4. Strengthen things that remain (Revelation 3:1,2).

B. Essentials of Christian Growth

1. Spiritual food (1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14).
2. Requires freedom from disease (sin) (Romans 6:23). Diseases of neglect (Hebrews 2:3). Lukewarmness (Revelation 3:15,16).
3. It demands exercise (1 Timothy 4:7,8).
4. Senses exercised (Hebrews 5:14).
5. Concentration helps (1 Timothy 4:15).
6. Chastisement brings strength (Hebrews 12:11).
7. All this takes time (Hebrews 12:11).

C. Things That Hinder Progress

1. Worldly cares (Matthew 13:22).
2. Sin (Hebrews 12:1,2).
3. Deceitfulness of riches (Mark 4:19).
4. Pleasures (Luke 8:14; Hebrews 11:23-26).
5. Carnality (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

D. Strengthening the Church

1. Must do so lest we die (Revelation 2:1-3).
2. The word strengthens (1 John 2:14).
3. Wisdom (Ecclesiastes 7:19; Colossians 1:9-11).
4. Encouragement (Psalm 138:2,3).
5. The spirit of the inner man (Ephesians 3:14).
6. Example (Luke 22:32).

Lesson 9

Rooted and Grounded

Colossians 2:6,7

Introduction

1. Foundation is essential (1 Corinthians 3:11).
2. If foundations fail (Psalm 11:3).

A. In What Should We Be Rooted

1. Not in sin (Jude 11,12; 2 Peter 2:14).
2. Not in bitterness (Hebrews 12:15).
3. In Christ (Colossians 2:6,7).
4. In faith and hope (Colossians 1:23).
5. In love (Ephesians 3:17).
6. In the truth (2 Peter 1:12; 2 John 9).

B. How to Become Rooted and Grounded

1. By God's planting (Matthew 15:13).
2. By receiving Christ (Colossians 2:6,7; Acts 2:41).
3. By walking in Christ (Colossians 2:6,7; Romans 8:1).
4. By righteousness (Proverbs 12:3; Romans 1:17).
5. Being grafted in (Romans 11:16-18).

C. Why be Rooted and Grounded

1. Lest we fall (Luke 8:13).
2. So we need not fear (Jeremiah 17:7,8).
3. To be fruitful (Proverbs 12:12; John 15:8).
4. So we will not be tossed by winds of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14,15).

D. To Be Rooted Means Stability

1. The Jerusalem church was steadfast (Acts 2:42).
2. God withholds blessing from the unstable (James 1:5-8).
3. We are exhorted to steadfastness (1 Corinthians 15:58; 16:13,14).
4. Be on guard against becoming unstable (2 Peter 3:17,18).
5. We are to be steadfast even unto death (Revelation 2:10).

Lesson 10

Growing By Serving

Introduction

1. We learn and grow by doing.
2. We must find the joy of serving (Psalm 100).

A. The Church Is a Service Institution

1. It is a worshipping institution and more.
2. They had all things common (Acts 2:44,45; 4:32-37).
3. Seven chosen to serve tables (Acts 6:1-8).
4. Collection for the saints (1 Corinthians 16:1,2).
5. Antioch responds to needs (Acts 11:27-30).
6. The care for widows (1 Timothy 5:3-10,16).
7. Service to mankind is service to Christ (Matthew 25:31-46).
8. Greatest service is giving the gospel to all (Mark 16:15).
9. It is a service to edify (Acts 11:22-26).

B. Rewards for Service

1. Brings personal joy of accomplishment (Galatians 6:4).
2. Service brings consecration (1 Timothy 4:16).
3. Service brings spiritual strength.

4. It is service that makes one great (Matthew 20:25-28).
5. Gives treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Timothy 6:17-19).
6. Every service, though simple, will not be unnoticed by God (Matthew 10:41,42).

C. What Can I Do

1. Live right (Titus 2:11,12).
2. Cooperate and support the church program (Philippians 1:27).
3. Attend every service possible (Hebrews 10:25).
4. Study and prepare (2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11).
5. Pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1).
6. Teach others (Acts 5:42).
7. Visit sick and needy (James 1:27).
8. Speak encouraging words (1 Thessalonians 5:14; Hebrews 12:12).
9. Stand for truth (Ephesians 6:10-14).
10. Show hospitality (1 Peter 4:9).

Lesson 11

Growing Through Soul Winning

Introduction

1. Rewards and purposes go hand-in-hand.
2. It is all right to be interested in the reward (Mark 10:28-30).

A. Soul Winning Moves You to Study

1. It forces us to study; one cannot teach what one does not know (2 Timothy 2:15).
2. Soul winning is a continual learning process.
3. Search the scriptures (John 5:39).

B. The Reward of Spiritual Enrichment

1. It brings consecration and consistent living (1 Timothy 4:16; Romans 2:21).
2. It will help to guard against selfishness and warm your heart, for we are instruments of righteousness (Romans 6:13-18).
3. It will keep us humble (cf. 1 Corinthians 9:16,17).
4. It will increase your prayer life as it did Paul's (Romans 10:1).

5. The joy of soul winning (Luke 15:7,10).
6. It will strengthen the church.
7. We may start an endless chain or win someone who can do more than we (Matthew 28:18-20).

C. The Eternal Reward

1. We may save ourselves (1 Timothy 4:16).
2. We have treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19,20; 19:21; 1 Timothy 6:18,19).
3. Crown of righteousness may be ours (2 Timothy 4:8).
4. In the world to come, eternal life (Mark 10:28-30).
5. Rest for our souls (Revelation 14:13).
6. We should labor so hard that rest really means something to us (Ecclesiastes 5:12; Hebrews 4:11).

Lesson 12

Growing Through Discipline

Introduction

1. The only real discipline is self-discipline.
2. Self-discipline is greater than being a city ruler (Proverbs 16:32).

A. Self-Discipline Is Self-Control

1. Is temperate in all things (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).
2. Relative to intoxicants (Proverbs 23:31-35).
3. Relative to lust and passion (Ephesians 5:3-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Colossians 3:5).
4. Relative to care of the body (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).
5. Control your mental attitude (1 Corinthians 10:4,5; Ephesians 4:25,26; Philippians 4:8,9).

B. Discipline Based in Conviction and Purpose

1. Conviction is faith (Hebrews 11:1).
2. We must live by faith or conviction (Romans 1:17; Galatians 2:20).
3. Our conviction must have purpose.
 - a. God made us for a purpose.
 - b. Whatever we do in word or deed do all to the glory of God (Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

- c. Where such a noble purpose our convictions should be stronger.

C. Self-Discipline Requires Humility and Christian Living

1. Without humility we do not recognize spiritual danger (1 Corinthians 10:12).
2. Self-discipline requires fidelity to conscience (Daniel 3:17,18; Acts 23:1).
3. Make no unholy alliances (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).
4. Following the teaching of grace (Titus 2:11,12).
5. Courage to resist evil even unto death (Hebrews 12:3,4).

You Have Christian Maturity

If you can see someone you know deliberately snub you and still make allowances for his action...

If you can see a person do an act which is against your Christian standards and react without self-righteousness...

If you can listen to someone criticize you, even unkindly, and receive instruction from it without hard feelings...

If you can see the credit for a work you have done taken from you and given to another, and not feel bitter...

If you can suffer nagging pain or ache, still singing and praising God, hiding your feelings for the sake of others...

If you can crawl out of bed at an early hour and pray when you would rather sleep, because here lies your power with God...

This is Christian Maturity!

Taken from the Stamford (Conn.) Messenger

Lesson 13

How Big Are You?

Introduction

1. Some are big in size, but little in attitude.
2. We must have the spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9,10; Philippians 2:5-11).

A. Are You Big Enough To:

1. Receive instructions (Proverbs 9:9)?
2. Be corrected and apologize (Proverbs 9:8)?
3. Be criticized (Galatians 2:11)?
4. Be full-grown (Hebrews 5:11,12)?
5. Forgive (Matthew 18:35)?
6. Be liberal (Acts 4:34-37)?
7. Stand (Ephesians 6:10-13)?

B. What Makes One Big

1. Realizing one's littleness (Ephesians 3:8).
2. Proper food, environment, exercise (Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Timothy 4:7,8).
3. A big heart:
 - a. Full of knowledge (Colossians 1:9).
 - b. Full of love (Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 16:14).

- c. Full of sympathy (Colossians 3:12).
- d. Full of faith (Acts 6:5; 11:22-24).
- e. Full of humility (1 Peter 5:5).
- f. Full of patience (2 Corinthians 6:4).

C. Why Be Big

1. To be strong (1 Corinthians 16:13).
2. To accomplish things (John 17:4).
3. To defend against Satan (Ephesians 6:10-13).
4. To be happy. Most unhappiness comes from being too little to forget trivial things.
5. To make peace (Matthew 5:9).
6. To glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Better Things

Lesson 1

A Day With The Lord

Psalm 84:10,11

Introduction

1. Read entire 84th Psalm.
2. The Lord's house was a tent then but David gave to build a temple. See how much (1 Chronicles 22:14-16).

A. "One Day In Thy Courts"

1. One day is better than a thousand without Him.
2. David's soul longed for the Lord (Psalm 84:2).
3. "I'd rather be a doorkeeper..." Better to have the lowliest place with God than the highest position in the world.
4. Therefore David said, "*I was glad when they said let us go into the house of the Lord*" (Psalm 122:1).
5. There is more joy, happiness and bliss in one year with God than 1000 years without Him (Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16).
6. All things are yours (1 Corinthians 3:21,22).

B. Joy in Church Membership and Service

1. In God's house, the church (1 Timothy 3:15).

2. What is the church or kingdom (Romans 14:17,18)?
3. Jerusalem a happy church (Acts 2:44-47).
4. We can rejoice even in persecution (Matthew 5:11,12).
5. Joy in service (Philippians 2:17,18).
6. The Lord meets us when we assemble to worship (Matthew 18:20).
7. He is with those who abide in the doctrine (2 John 9).
8. He is with us to the end (Matthew 28:18-20).

C. Remember the Blessings in Christ

1. All spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).
2. Redemption and forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7).
3. Reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).
4. Salvation (2 Timothy 2:10).
5. Hope (Hebrews 6:19,20; Colossians 1:27).
6. Eternal life (1 John 5:11,12).
7. Rest (Hebrews 4:11; Revelation 14:13).

Why not be happy?

Lesson 2

A Little Is Better

Introduction

1. Man often thinks “more” is better.
2. Agur’s request (Proverbs 30:8,9).

A. The Fear of the Lord (Proverbs 15:16)

1. A requirement (Deuteronomy 10:12).
2. Fear Him and serve (Joshua 24:14,15).
3. The great conclusion (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
4. Let Him be your fear (Isaiah 8:13).
5. Fear not man but God (Matthew 10:28).
6. Four admonitions (1 Peter 2:17).
7. The beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10).
8. Serve God with reverence and Godly fear (Hebrews 12:28).

B. A Little With Love (Proverbs 15:17)

1. The stalled ox is the best steak.
2. To be happy one must have someone to love.
3. Who are we to love?
 - a. God (Matthew 22:37).
 - b. Neighbor (Matthew 22:39).

- c. Companion (Ephesians 5:25).
 - d. Brotherhood (1 Peter 2:17).
 - e. Our enemy (Matthew 15:43-47).
4. Love covers a multitude of sins (Proverbs 10:12).
 5. Jesus' love was greatest (John 5:13).

C. A Little With Righteousness (Proverbs 16:8)

1. The righteousness of God (Psalm 97:2; 119:172; 145:17).
2. The righteous branch (Jeremiah 23:5,6).
3. Righteousness revealed in the gospel (Romans 1:16,17).
4. We are to awaken to righteousness (1 Corinthians 15:33,34).
5. Our breastplate is righteousness (Ephesians 6:14; Philippians 1:10,11).
6. Grace reigns through righteousness (Romans 5:19-21).
7. Righteousness is not by the law (Galatians 2:20,21).
8. We must submit to God's righteousness (Romans 10:1-4).

D. A Little With Quietness (Ecclesiastes 4:6)

1. This suggests contentment (1 Timothy 6:7,8).
2. Contentment may be learned (Philippians 4:11-13).
3. Study to be quiet (1 Thessalonians 4:11).
4. Better a dry morsel and quietness (Proverbs 17:1).

Lesson 3

Wisdom Is Better Than Gold Proverbs 16:16

Introduction

1. Wisdom is knowledge and insight, good sense, judgment. Wise attitude.
2. Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge right.

A. Wisdom, the Principle Thing (Proverbs 4:7)

1. Wisdom is above rubies (Job 28:18,19).
2. Happy is the one who finds wisdom (Proverbs 3:13,14).
3. Wisdom above all else (Proverbs 8:11).
4. Wisdom excels folly (Ecclesiastes 2:13).
5. Wisdom gives strength (Ecclesiastes 7:19; Proverbs 8:14).
6. Seek understanding (2 Timothy 2:7).

B. The Wisdom From Above

1. God's wisdom manifold (Psalm 104:24; Ephesians 3:10,11).
2. Wisdom of God in creation (Proverbs 3:19).

3. None like God (Jeremiah 10:6,7).
4. Wisdom and might are His (Daniel 2:20).
5. His wisdom is past finding out (Romans 11:33).
6. The foolishness of God is greater than all the wisdom of men (1 Corinthians 1:25).
7. The wisdom from above contrasted (James 3:15-17).
8. The beginning of wisdom (Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10).
9. If we lack wisdom (James 1:5).
10. Paul's prayer for the Ephesian and Colossian Christians (Ephesians 1:16,17; Colossians 4:12).

C. Who is Wise (Hosea 14:9)

1. The wise will hear (Proverbs 1:5).
2. A wise son (Proverbs 13:1).
3. The doer of the word is truly wise (Matthew 7:24,25).
4. Be wise as serpents (Matthew 10:16).
5. Walk as wise (Ephesians 5:15,16).
6. Wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3:15).
7. The wise are prepared (Matthew 25:1-13).

Lesson 4

Better To Be Humble

Proverbs 16:18,19

Introduction

1. The term “humility” in the New Testament is always in a good sense.
2. It means lowliness of mind, courteous, the opposite of haughty or proud.

A. Humility Enjoined

1. So walk with God (Micah 6:8).
2. The attitude of Jacob (Genesis 32:9-12).
3. Pride will bring us low (Proverbs 29:23).
4. The humble will be rewarded (Proverbs 22:4).
5. Humble yourselves (James 4:10).
6. Attitude of King Saul (1 Samuel 9:21).
7. The Syrophenician woman (Matthew 15:24-28).
8. Paul (1 Timothy 1:15).

B. Christ’s Humility and Teaching

1. He humbled Himself to come to earth (Philippians 2:5-11).
2. *“I am meek and lowly...”* (Matthew 11:28-30).

3. Zechariah's prophecy (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4,5).
4. In death (Philippians 2:8).
5. He washed the disciples' feet (John 13:4-16).
6. The meek to inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5).
7. The humble shall be exalted (Matthew 23:12).
8. Those who serve are greatest (Matthew 20:26-28).
9. The humble exalted in due time (Matthew 18:4).

C. Other Teaching on Humility

1. God resists the proud (1 Peter 5:5,6).
2. God gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).
3. Humble yourselves (James 4:10).
4. Humbleness must be an attitude (Colossians 3:12-14).
5. The Centurion's attitude (Matthew 8:8).
6. Serve God with a humble mind (Acts 20:19; Ephesians 4:1-3).
7. Esteem others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:3).
8. Humility must be genuine (Philippians 2:18,23).

**“Humility is a quality that
when a person realizes he has it, has lost it.”**

Lesson 5

Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice

1 Samuel 15:22

Introduction

1. Israel asked for a king, one was chosen (1 Samuel 8:5; 9:17).
2. Saul was sent to destroy the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:3; Exodus 17:8-16).

A. Saul's Disobedience (1 Samuel 15)

1. He did not fully carry out God's command.
2. He listened to the voice of the people and devised a service God had not authorized (v. 10,11).
3. He tried to substitute for God's command and argued that he had obeyed God (v. 13,20).
4. He said the people did it (v. 21).
5. Samuel's question (v. 22).

B. Obedience Is Better than Sacrifice

1. This disobedience cost Saul God's approval as king (v. 24-28).
2. *"I desire mercy and not sacrifice"* (Hosea 6:6,7).

3. *"I commanded obedience"* (Jeremiah 7:22,23).
4. Sacrifice is acceptable when offered by God's instruction and not as a substitute (Isaiah 1:11-19).
5. There is no substitute for obedience.
 - a. Cain could not (Genesis 4:1-8).
 - b. Nadab and Abihu tried it (Leviticus 10:1,2).

C. Obedience Is an Absolute Must

1. Happiness to those who obey (Deuteronomy 11:26-28).
2. Solomon's conclusion (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
3. Four ways of disobeying God:
 - a. Refusing to do as commanded (John 5:39,40).
 - b. Adding to the word (Deuteronomy 4:2).
 - c. Taking from the word.
 - d. By substituting as Cain did.
4. Blessings of obedience:
 - a. Souls purified (1 Peter 1:22,23).
 - b. Salvation (Hebrews 5:8,9).
 - c. Enter into the Kingdom (Matthew 7:21).
 - d. Enter Heaven (Revelation 22:14).

Lesson 6

Better Is A Neighbor Near

Introduction

1. This text speaks of old friends.
2. Paul's friendship with Priscilla and Aquila (Romans 16:3,4).

A. The Kind of Friends We Should Seek

1. Not false ones like Job's (Job 19:2-22).
2. Those that love always (Proverbs 17:17).
3. Those that stick (Proverbs 18:24).
4. Those who will receive us into their homes (Luke 16:8,9).
5. Friends that will stimulate us (Proverbs 27:17).
6. Profitable friends (Ecclesiastes 4:9,10).

B. How Can We Make Them Our Friends?

1. Not by being a friend of the world (James 4:4).
2. Show ourselves friendly (Proverbs 18:24).
3. By being true (1 Samuel 18:1).
4. By constancy (Ruth 1:16; 1 Samuel 20:17).
5. By commitment (John 11:16).
6. Love to the end (John 13:1).

7. Not ashamed when others turn against us (2 Timothy 1:16).
8. Make no friendship with an angry man (Proverbs 22:24,25).

C. God and Jesus Our Friends

1. God gave His Son (John 3:16).
2. Jesus came to die (Hebrews 2:9).
3. *“For this cause came I unto the world”* (John 12:27,28).
4. Greater love hath no man than this (John 15:13).
5. We can be His friends (John 15:12-15).
6. Christ gave Himself for us — we should give ourselves to Him (Luke 14:33).
7. What great fellowship (1 John 1:7; 2 John 9).

Lesson 7

Better Is A Living Dog Than A Dead Lion

Ecclesiastes 9:4

Introduction

1. I am better than Alexander the Great or George Washington — they are not living.
2. Context: every man should enjoy his work, share a home with a loving wife and celebrate the blessings of each day as a gift from God (v. 8,9).

A. Hope for the Loving Living

1. The scriptures offer hope (Romans 15:4).
2. Hope is a saving element (Romans 8:24).
3. Faith is a basis for hope (Hebrews 11:1).
4. Hope sometimes is difficult (Romans 4:18).
5. We must give a reason for hope (1 Peter 3:15).
6. Hope inspires right living (1 John 3:3).
7. The righteous have hope eternal (Proverbs 14:32).
8. The blessed hope (Acts 24:15; Titus 2:13).
9. The hope is alive (1 Peter 1:3).
10. Hope is an anchor (Hebrews 6:19).

B. The Living Know They Shall Die

1. The dead cannot do anything (Ecclesiastes 9:5,6).
2. We must do what we would do now! (v.10).
3. No man knows when his time is (v. 12).
4. Life is like a vapour (James 4:13-17).
5. No man has power over the spirit to retain it (Ecclesiastes 8:8).
6. Actually all things are in the hand of God (Ecclesiastes 9:1).
7. We should live everyday as if it were our last.

C. Living for Eternity

1. We are going to eternity whether we are living for it now or not.
2. We will wake in eternity (Daniel 12:2).
3. Eternal life in the world to come (Mark 10:29,30).
4. In the time to come (1 Timothy 6:19).
5. Eternal life is in Christ (1 John 5:11).
6. Sow to the Spirit (Galatians 6:7,8).
7. To know God is life eternal (John 17:3).

Are you living for eternity?

Lesson 8

Better To Enter Into Life Maimed Matthew 18:7-9

Introduction

1. Offend means to cause to stumble.
2. See Matthew 5:29,30; Mark 9:41-47.
3. Evil eye is eyeing with selfishness (covetous), (Mark 7:21-23; Matthew 6:22,23).

A. Offenses that Come

1. Offenses will come (Luke 17:1).
2. Pluck out eye or cut off hand shows seriousness of stumbling.
3. Stumbling blocks:
 - a. Unfaithful leaders (Malachi 2:7,8).
 - b. Hypocrites.
 - c. Church members (Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 8:8-13).
4. Love will prevent stumbling (1 John 2:10).

B. Hell's Repulsive Population

1. Hell is eternal (Matthew 25:41,46).

2. The fire is never quenched and the worm dies not (Mark 9:42,43).
3. Who will be there?
 - a. Devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10).
 - b. Those not in the Book of Life (Revelation 20:15).
 - c. The wicked (Psalm 9:17).
 - d. Those who cast stumbling blocks (Matthew 13:41,42).
 - e. The terrifying list (Revelation 21:8; 22:15).
 - f. The rejectors of Christ (John 8:21-24; Hebrews 10:28-31).
4. Knowing the terror of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:11).

C. Heaven's Joys and Wonders

1. No sin there (Revelation 21:23-27).
2. Those who overcome (Revelation 21:7).
3. Heaven's joys enumerated (Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5).
4. To him that overcomes (Revelation 2:7,17,26-28; 3:5,11,12,21).
5. The crown of life (2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 2:10).

Lesson 9

It Is Better To Hear The Rebuke Of The Wise Ecclesiastes 7:5

Introduction

1. Who we listen to makes the difference in action.
2. The rebuke of the wise is but the sharp incision that wounds for the purpose of healing.

A. Hearing the Wise

1. If unpleasant, we should listen (Ecclesiastes 7:5).
2. What the wise observes (Psalm 107:43).
3. The fear of the Lord leads to wisdom (Psalm 111:10).
4. *“Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord”*
(Proverbs 2:1-5).
5. Happy is the wise man (Proverbs 3:13).
6. The inheritance of the wise (Proverbs 3:35).
7. Your years shall be many (Proverbs 4:4,5,10).
8. Keep my commandments and live (Proverbs 7:2).
9. Wisdom is better than gold (Proverbs 16:16; 17:10).
10. Hear the word of the wise (Proverbs 22:17).

B. A Description of the Fool

1. The folly of fools (Proverbs 14:8).
2. The fool returns to his folly (Proverbs 26:11; Ecclesiastes 2:13).
3. The atheistic fool (Psalm 53:1).
4. The slandering fool (Proverbs 10:18).
5. The mocking fool (Proverbs 14:9).
6. The fool Jesus describes (Luke 11:39).
7. The fool's voice (Ecclesiastes 5:3).
8. The wise professor (Romans 1:21,22).

C. Who Is a Wise Man

1. The wisdom of man compared to God, even His (God's) foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:19-28).
2. The wise man of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:24-27).
3. The soul winner (Daniel 12:3; Proverbs 11:30).
4. Those who walk right (Ephesians 5:15).
5. Be not unwise but understanding what the will of God is (Ephesians 5:15-17).
6. Some foolish people:
 - a. The rich farmer (Luke 12:16-21).
 - b. Those who are slow to believe (Luke 24:25,26).
7. The wisdom from above (James 1:5; 3:15-18).

Lesson 10
Better To Suffer For
Well Doing
1 Peter 3:17

Introduction

1. We must take up the cross and follow Him (Luke 9:23).
2. Persecution comes from ungodly people and even from sincere people.

A. Suffering for Well-Doing

1. It is better because we have hope (1 Peter 3:15).
2. Have a good conscience (1 Peter 3:16).
3. Remembering we're right helps (1 Peter 3:17).
4. Blessed are you, rejoice (Matthew 5:11,12).
5. Do not suffer as an evil doer (1 Peter 4:15,16).
6. Peter and John rejoicing (Acts 5:41).
7. Suffering is a common lot to those who live godly (2 Timothy 3:12).
8. Commit our souls, in well doing, to Him (1 Peter 4:19).
9. Take it patiently (1 Peter 2:19,20).

B. Christ Our Example

1. He suffered for us, we should suffer for Him (1 Peter 2:21,22).
2. He took it patiently (1 Peter 2:23,24).
3. The attitude of Christ (Matthew 7:12; Proverbs 24:29).
4. Christ suffered that He might bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18).
5. We are to arm ourselves with the mind of Christ (1 Peter 4:1).
6. Rejoice that we are partakers of Christ's suffering (1 Peter 4:12,13).
7. He came to suffer (John 12:27).

C. Suffering for Righteousness Sake

1. If we suffer with Christ, we will be glorified together (Romans 8:17).
2. We can have the consolation of Christ if we suffer.
3. We must endure patiently (James 5:10,11).
4. Note what is ours after we suffer (1 Peter 5:1).
5. The Lord is with us (2 Timothy 3:10,11).
6. Rejoice that we are partakers of Christ's suffering (1 Peter 4:12,13).
7. Endurance to the end pays (Matthew 10:22).

Lesson 11
Better To Trust In
The Lord
Psalm 118:8,9

Introduction

1. Trust, confidence, hope and dependence on.
2. Trust not in your own heart.

A. Trust in God

1. Better to trust in the Lord, not man (Psalm 118:8,9).
2. Trust in the Lord and do good (Psalm 37:3).
3. Commit your ways to Him (Psalm 37:5).
4. Trust the Lord without wavering (Psalm 26:1).
5. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart (Proverbs 3:5).
6. Trust in the name of the Lord (Isaiah 50:10).
7. It pays to trust God (Psalm 22:4).

B. God's Special Promises

1. God's way is perfect (2 Samuel 22:31,32).
2. God's goodness toward those who trust (Proverbs 16:7).
3. Mercy shall compass those who trust (Psalm 32:10).

4. None who trust shall be desolate (Psalm 34:22).
5. Stability to those who trust (Psalm 125:1).
6. Safety is theirs (Proverbs 29:25).
7. Keep us in perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3).
8. Those who hope in the Lord (Isaiah 40:31).
9. The Lord keeps every promise (2 Peter 3:9).
10. We can fall short (Hebrews 4:11).
11. No exception (Mark 10:29,30).

C. If Not God, Whom Will We Trust?

1. To whom shall we go? (John 6:66-68).
2. Ourselves (Proverbs 3:5)?
3. Man, even princes (Psalm 118:8,9).
4. There is no help (Psalm 146:3; 46:1).
5. Not in wicked man (Psalm 11:1-3).
6. Not in lying words (Jeremiah 7:4).
7. Not in a brother or friend (Jeremiah 9:4; Micah 7:5).

Lesson 12
*Better Never To Have
Been Born*
Matthew 26:24

Introduction

1. Everyone who ends in hell will wish they had not been born.
2. Our text was said by Jesus on the eve of the greatest tragedy the world had ever known, also the greatest blessing the world has known.
3. Our aim is to see different classes for whom this is true.

A. The Traitor Who Sells Him

1. The traitor is one who betrays a trust, confidence, or violates an allegiance.
2. Think of what he did for 30 pieces of silver (\$17.00) (Matthew 26:14-16).
3. His over-much sorrow (Matthew 27:3-9).
4. Ways in which we sell Him:
 - a. For money, power, pleasure, fame, etc.
 - b. Violating our allegiance to Him (Luke 14:33).
 - c. Demas (2 Timothy 4:10).

B. The Infidel Who Denies Him

1. The fool (Psalm 14:1).

2. The universal God (Psalm 19:1).
3. The cost of denying Jesus (Matthew 10:32,33; John 8:21-24).
4. Man cannot direct his own steps (Jeremiah 10:23).
5. Man is without excuse (Romans 1:19-21).
6. By faith we understand the worlds were formed (Hebrews 11:3).

C. The Apostate Who Renounces Him

1. See promises to the backslider (Jeremiah 2:12,13; Hosea 14:2).
2. Their condition (Hebrews 6:4-6).
3. Better not to have known the way (2 Peter 2:20-22).
4. They are in danger of perishing (Acts 8:20-22).

D. The Hypocrite Who Dishonors Him

1. Hypocrite: deceiver, a cheat.
2. Jesus rebukes them (Matthew 23:13-15,23).
3. The devil laughs with glee at the hypocrites.

E. The Presumptuous Person

1. Presumptuous: changes God's law.
2. They make immorality appear good.
3. Some presume instrumental music in worship is right (John 4:24; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).

**If we die lost, it would have been better
if we had never been born!**

Lesson 13

Better To Be With Christ

Philippians 1:23

Introduction

1. Paul was in a Roman prison.
2. Philippians is an epistle of joy.
3. His imprisonment had fallen out to the furtherance of the Gospel (Philippian 1:12).

A. To Live Is Christ (Philippians 1:21)

1. Christ would be magnified in His body (Philippians 1:22).
2. Christ was living in Paul (Galatians 2:20).
3. Christ in us, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).
4. *“To live is Christ”* — Christ magnified in life and death (Philippians 1:20).
5. For him to live, Christ is preached (Philippians 1:13-18).
6. For Him to abide in the flesh was needful for the Philippians (Philippians 1:24).

B. To Die Is Gain (Philippians 1:21)

1. In death we lose a loved one but the loved one may gain.
 - a. Freedom from pain, etc. (Revelation 21:1-4).
 - b. The gain of rest (Revelation 14:13).

- c. The joys of heaven (Revelation 22:1-5).
 - d. He would be free from the anxiety of prison (2 Timothy 4:21).
2. We may suffer for Him (Philippians 1:29,30).
 3. Paul had learned the value of gain (Philippians 3:7-11).

C. To Depart, Be With Christ

1. We can have fellowship with Christ here (2 John 9).
2. Our fellowship now (1 John 1:3-7).
3. Depart (leave here for another destiny) and be with Christ. The future fellowship is far better (v. 23).
4. Absent from the body to be with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).
5. That future fellowship is everlasting (Matthew 25:46).
6. Like a reunion with our best friend (John 15:12-17).

“So”-ing For The Master 1

Lesson 1

“So Walk Ye”

Colossians 2:6,7

Introduction

1. “So” in this passage means “in this manner”.
2. *“Can two walk together except they be agreed”*
(Amos 3:3)?

A. As You Have Received Christ

1. What it means to receive Christ:
 - a. To receive the Father (Mark 9:37).
 - b. To receive the word (John 12:48; Acts 2:41).
 - c. To receive His followers (Matthew 10:14).
2. “As” (manner, attitude) you received Christ
(Colossians 2:6).
3. Evidently they received Him gladly and enthusiastically.
4. We must not be like Ephesus (Revelation 2:4,5).

B. So Walk Ye In Him

1. Walk in the same manner, enthusiastically with joy.
2. Walk is mentioned three times in Colossians: 1:10; 2:6; 4:5.
3. Other commands “to walk”:

- a. In good works (Ephesians 2:10).
- b. Worthy of calling (Ephesians 4:1-3).
- c. In love (Ephesians 5:1,2).
- d. As children of light (Ephesians 5:8).
- e. In newness of life (Romans 6:3,4).
- f. By the same rule (Philippians 3:16).
- g. In the light (1 John 1:7).
- h. As Christ walked (1 John 2:6).
- i. A walk of faith (2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 1:16,17).

C. Rooted and Grounded

- 1. In Him (Colossians 2:7).
- 2. In love (Ephesians 3:17).
- 3. In faith (Colossians 1:23).
- 4. In truth (2 John 9).
- 5. To guard against becoming unstable (2 Peter 3:17,18).

Lesson 2

“So Be Ye Holy”

1 Peter 1:15

Introduction

1. “Holy” and “Saint” are from the same Greek background (1 Corinthians 1:2).
2. The root meaning is “separation” (1 Peter 2:14).

A. Being Holy Is a Must

1. This is enjoined by our text.
2. Children of God share this family trait (holiness) with their Father (1 Peter 1:14).
3. “*Ye shall be holy*” (v. 15 ASV) is found five times with reference to priests (Leviticus 11:44,45; 20:7,26).
4. Application: we are priests (1 Peter 2:5).
5. Without holiness we cannot see God (Hebrews 12:14).
6. In view of Christ’s coming (2 Peter 3:10,11).

B. What Holiness Involves

1. Not walking in your former lusts (1 Peter 1:14).
 - a. Being cleansed or redeemed (1 Peter 1:15-20).
 - b. Not fashioned after the world (Romans 12:1,2).
 - c. Now we are new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17).

- d. Put off the old man and his deeds (Colossians 3:6-11).
 - e. Do not follow the multitude (Exodus 23:2).
2. Sanctification (John 17:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:13,14).
 3. What sanctification involves (1 Thessalonians 1:2-5).
 4. We are children of light (Ephesians 5:8).
 5. The beginning of holiness (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

C. Some Thoughts on Holiness

1. How to become holy:
 - a. By becoming pure in heart (Matthew 5:8; Philippians 4:8).
 - b. By chastisement (Hebrews 12:10).
 - c. By cleansing ourselves (2 Corinthians 7:1).
2. Christianity is a way of holiness (Isaiah 35:8).
3. We are a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9).
4. We are to serve (Luke 1:74,75).
5. Christ died to make the Church holy (Ephesians 5:25-27).
6. Our calling is holy (2 Timothy 1:9).

Lesson 3

“So Stand Fast”

Philippians 4:1

Introduction

1. Stand fast is close to steadfast.
2. From the Greek steko meaning “in willing subjection to authority” (Vines Dictionary Vol 1, p. 71).

A. Stand fast in the Lord

1. To stand fast in the Lord one must be in the Lord.
 - a. How to enter Christ (Romans 6:3,4; Galatians 3:26,27).
 - b. If in Christ, then a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17).
2. Staying firm in the Lord (Hebrews 3:6).
3. Be strong in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10).
4. Stand fast in the Lord (1 Thessalonians 3:8).
5. Stand fast in the Lord until death (Revelation 14:13).

B. Stand Fast in the Faith

1. “The faith” that is the system of faith as in Jude 3.
2. Stand fast is to stand firm, persistent, persevere.
3. Five principles of Christianity (1 Corinthians 16:13,14).
4. There is one faith (Ephesians 4:4-6).

5. Paul rejoiced in the steadfastness of the Colossians (Colossians 2:5).
6. We must be steadfast in the faith to resist the Devil (1 Peter 5:8,9).
7. Hold confidence steadfast to the end (Hebrews 3:14).
8. We are commanded to be steadfast (1 Corinthians 15:58).

C. Stand Fast in one Spirit

1. “One spirit and one mind” emphasizes real unity.
2. Other expressions in Philippian letter (2:14; 3:15,16; 4:2).
3. The Jerusalem church was of one heart and one soul (Acts 4:32).
4. Paul besought the Corinthians to be of one mind (1 Corinthians 1:10).
5. Those who cause division are to be marked and avoided (Romans 16:17,18).
6. God hates the sowing of discord among brethren (Proverbs 6:16-19).

Lesson 4

“So They Are Without Excuse”

Romans 1:20,21

Introduction

1. Excuses are common — all are guilty.
2. Distinguish between an excuse and a reason.
3. Man will accept excuses that God will not.

A. Some Bible Examples

1. Adam — “*The woman thou gavest me...*” (Genesis 3:12).
2. Eve — “*The serpent beguiled me...*” (Genesis 3:13).
3. Three excuse makers in parable (Luke 14:16).
4. Aaron — golden calf (Exodus 32:21-24).
5. Would-be followers (Luke 9:60-62).
6. The one talent man (Matthew 25:24-27).

B. Without Excuse Because of Simplicity

1. The plan is simple (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).
2. Christ as head (Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18).
3. Its unity “*one body*” (Ephesians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 12:20).

4. Worship is simple (John 4:24).

C. Salvation Offered to All

1. “*Come unto me...*” (Matthew 11:28-30).
2. “*Go teach all nations...*” (Matthew 28:19).
3. Whosoever will (Revelation 22:17).
4. No one refused if come (John 6:37).

D. Salvation Free, Therefore No Excuse

1. Wealth is unnecessary — might even hinder.
2. Salvation requires giving up sin (Luke 13:3,5).
3. Requires giving up false theories (Matthew 15:9).
4. Requires forsaking all (Matthew 10:34; Luke 14:33).
5. Cost not money, but self (2 Corinthians 8:5).

E. Opportunity Is Present

1. Life is opportunity — but short (James 4:13).
2. Gave Jezebel space to repent (Revelation 2:20,21).
3. As we have opportunity, serve (Galatians 6:10).

F. Fair and Adequate Warning Given

1. Bible given to guide us (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
2. Preachers sent to warn and plead (2 Timothy 4:1-3).
3. All Christians are anxious about you.

Lesson 5
SO's For A Great
Marriage
Ephesians 5:21-33

Introduction

1. Marriage was instituted by God (Genesis 2:21-24; 1 Peter 3:7).
2. Marriage is honorable (Hebrews 13:4).
3. God's plan: "one man for one woman" (Matthew 19:3-8).

A. So Let the Wives Be Subject to Their Own Husbands

1. To be in subjection does not mean one is inferior (cf. Ephesians 5:21).
2. Husbands and wives have different roles (Ephesians 5:22,23).
3. The Christian wife is to be in subjection to her husband even if he is not a Christian (1 Peter 3:1,2).
4. Sarah is used as an example (1 Peter 3:6).
5. The headship of man over woman goes back to creation (1 Corinthians 11:3,8,9; 1 Timothy 2:12-14).
6. This is connected to the first sin (Genesis 3:16).

B. So Ought Men to Love Their Wives

1. As their own bodies (Ephesians 5:28).
2. This love should temper his expectations of his wife (Ephesians 5:25).
3. The husband must not be bitter against the wife (Colossians 3:19).
4. A man must leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife (Genesis 2:24).
5. The husband should be the spiritual leader (cf. Ephesians 6:4).
6. The husband and wife are to be the heirs of the grace of life (1 Peter 3:7).

C. Everyone of You so Love His Wife (Ephesians 5:33)

1. This is like v. 28 but places it on a more individual basis.
2. The purpose of this paragraph is to emphasize the church (Ephesians 5:32).
3. The wife is to respect her husband (v. 33b).
4. “Nevertheless” of v. 33 means even without regard to the mystery or comparison.
5. If these principles are followed, happiness abounds and God’s pleasure is upon us.

Lesson 6
**“So Fulfill The
Law Of Christ”**
Galatians 6:2

Introduction

1. This shows Christ does have a law.
2. Some think grace does away with the law.

A. Bear One Another’s Burden

1. We can help in time of temptation (Galatians 6:1).
2. In time of need.
 - a. The poor in Jerusalem (Acts 4:32-35; 11:27-30).
 - b. This opportunity is ever present (Matthew 25:35-40).
 - c. It pays (Proverbs 21:13; 19:17; Acts 20:35).
3. Burden of Affliction (James 1:27).
 - a. Suffering as in illness (1 Corinthians 12:26; Matthew 25:35-40).
 - b. Sorrowing. Jesus wept (John 11:35; Romans 12:15).
4. Spiritual activity by encouraging (Hebrews 10:22-24; 12:12).

B. So Fulfill The Law Of Christ

1. This is a royal law (James 2:8).

2. It is love thy neighbor — who is my neighbor?
(Luke 10:29-37).
3. It is a law of obedience (John 14:15).
4. It is a law of love of brethren (John 13:35; 15:9-12).
5. If we fail to fulfill this law of love (1 John 3:17).
6. It is a law of service (Matthew 20:26-28).

C. Some Burdens Must Be Born Alone

1. *“Every man shall bear his own burden”* (Galatians 6:5).
2. The burden of responsibility (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:14-17).
3. The burden of our own sin (Ezekiel 18:20).
4. The burden of the judgment (Romans 14:12,13).

Lesson 7

“So Let Him Give”

2 Corinthians 9:7

Introduction

1. The Bible is a book on giving. It is itself a gift; it begins with God giving us a world, life, a home in the garden, hope of redemption and giving between beginning and ending of the Bible. It ends with God giving us a home in heaven.
2. God has given us a plan of giving.

A. Purposely

1. Purpose of heart (2 Corinthians 9:7).
2. This suggests thoughtful planning.
3. Worshipful giving should be planned, though we may give on spur of the moment when special opportunity arises.

B. Willingly

1. There must first be a willing mind (2 Corinthians 8:12).
2. Service must be willing (Ephesians 6:7).
3. We are volunteer servants.

C. Weekly

1. Giving in worship, an offering, is to be done on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1,2).

2. We may give personally to the needy, etc., any time we wish.
3. We may eat bread and drink grape juice any time we wish, but we can do so in the Lord's Supper only on Sunday (Acts 20:7).

D. Proportionately

1. *"As God has prospered"* (1 Corinthians 16:1,2).
2. This is the way that all are on a fair basis.
3. Under the law, giving was a tenth part and is even or fair.

E. Liberally

1. *"He that giveth let him do it with liberality"* (Romans 12:8 ASV).
2. The liberality of the Macedonians was at a time of poverty (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).
3. The blessings of giving (Acts 20:35).
4. The liberal soul shall be rich (Proverbs 11:25).

F. Sacrificially

1. Present our bodies (Romans 12:1).
2. Other sacrifices (Hebrews 13:15,16).
3. We are to offer spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5).

Lesson 8
**“So Run That
You May Obtain”**
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Introduction

1. The Christian life is one of action.
2. “So” suggests the determined effort.

A. Those Who Strive for Masteries (2 Timothy 2:1-5)

1. This probably refers to Greek games.
2. Those who participate must play by the rules (v. 5).
3. The victor receives the prize (1 Corinthians 9:24).
4. The prize is incorruptible crown (1 Corinthians 9:25).
5. The crown that fades not away (1 Peter 1:4).
6. The crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:6-8).
7. Let no man take your crown (Revelation 3:11).

B. Running the Race

1. Of those who run, only one receives the prize (1 Corinthians 9:24).
2. Those who run are temperate in all things (v. 25).
3. The Christian life is like a race (Hebrews 12:1-3).

4. We are compassed by a great crowd of witnesses. Who are these?
5. We are to run with patience.
6. The joy set before us (Philippians 4:4).
7. Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.
8. We must not run in vain (Galatians 2:2; Philippians 2:16).
9. We must rid ourselves of hindrances: *“Lay aside every weight.”*

C. So Fight I But Not The Air (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

1. Picture the fighter as he exercises by shadow boxing. Paul knew his enemy.
2. His discipline, self control in all things (v. 25).
3. Christianity is a warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18).
 - a. Our fight is not a carnal one (v. 12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
 - b. The soldier is to be strong (v. 10; 2 Timothy 2:1,4).
 - c. His armor (vs 13-17).
4. It is a good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12).
5. The Christian is to stand (Ephesians 6:11-14).
6. We must fight to the end (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Lesson 9

“So ‘Zap’ Your Enemy”

Romans 12:19-21

Introduction

1. We may have enemies and not be an enemy.
2. If we live godly we will suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12).

A. Christ’s Law of Love for Enemies (Matthew 5:38-48)

1. What is love? From Greek “Agapao”, “to be kindly disposed toward one, to do one good.”
2. Self restraint to be used with enemies (Matthew 5:39).
3. Give more than people demand (v. 40).
4. Go the second mile (v. 41).
5. Love your enemies. How? (v. 44).
 - a. *“Do good to them that hate you.”*
 - b. *“Pray for them that despitefully use you”*
 - c. *“Pray for them that persecute you.”*

B. How to “Zap” Your Enemies

1. We must remember vengeance belongs to the Lord (Romans 12:18,19; Psalm 94:1; Hebrews 10:30; Deuteronomy 32:35).
2. Zap your enemy (Romans 12:20).

3. Have you ever tried this?
4. We must not allow the fact that we have been mistreated to cause us to mistreat one (Romans 12:17).
5. Jesus is our example (1 Peter 2:20-23).
6. Replace evil with good (Romans 12:21).
7. Abraham Lincoln was criticized for making friends of his enemies, that he should destroy them. He said, "If I make an enemy a friend, have I not destroyed an enemy?"

C. Why Should We Do These Things

1. Jesus calls upon us to do so (Matthew 5:44).
2. Children should be like their Father (Matthew 5:45).
3. God has given us an example (Romans 5:8).
4. To be rewarded (Luke 6:35).
5. Jesus practiced what he preached (Luke 23:34).
6. Stephen as an example (Acts 7:59,60).
7. While we are to love personal enemies we are not to love the spiritual enemy, Satan.

Lesson 10

“So Let Him Eat”

1 Corinthians 11:23-30

Introduction

1. The Lord’s Supper does not hold much place in the religious world.
2. The church of Christ is somewhat unique in its observance of the Lord’s Supper.

A. Bible Memorials

1. Rainbow, memorial to God’s flood covenant (Genesis 9:11-15).
2. Circumcision, a memorial (Genesis 17:9-11).
3. Stones at Bethel (Genesis 28:18-22), Gilgal (Joshua 4:4-7).
4. The Sabbath (Deuteronomy 5:12-15).
5. The Lord’s Supper.

B. Scriptural Names and Terms

1. Breaking bread (Acts 20:7).
2. My table (Luke 22:29,30).
3. The table of the Lord (1Corinthians 10:21).
4. The Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20).
5. Communion (1 Corinthians 10:16).

6. Terms of men — “Eucharist” and “Sacrament”

C. The Spirit of its Observance

1. The Corinthians profaned it (1 Corinthians 11:20).
2. Simplicity abounds — no pomp, ritual or display or priestly regalia.
3. Must discern the Lord’s body (1 Corinthians 11:23-29).
4. We must examine ourselves and so let us eat.

D. The Time of its Observance

1. Jesus did not state a time for its observance at the time of its institution.
2. He gave them the Spirit to guide them into all truth (John 16:13).
3. The Spirit guided them to observe it on the first day of the week (Acts 2:42; 20:7).
4. When the whole church is come together (1 Corinthians 11:20; 16:1,2).

Lesson 11

“So Soon Removed From Christ” Galatians 1:6-10

Introduction

1. The Galatians were a fickle people.
2. Paul marvelled at this (v. 6a).

A. Galatians Moving Away From One Who Called Them

1. The one who called them was God
(2 Thessalonians 2:13,14).
2. We are called into the grace of Christ (v. 6).
 - a. Grace in Paul’s greetings (Galatians 1:3; 6:18).
 - b. Paul’s was a service of grace (Galatians 1:15;
2:9,21).
 - c. If we follow the law, we fall from grace
(Galatians 5:4).
3. Grace and truth came by Jesus (John 1:17).
4. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law
(Galatians 3:10,13).
5. Christ has liberated us (Galatians 5:1-3).

6. We are no longer under the law (Galatians 3:24,25).

B. The Gospel Paul Preached

1. The original gospel (v. 6).
2. The pure gospel (v. 7).
 - a. Water is God's power to quench thirst, add salt it loses its power.
 - b. The gospel is God's power to save, add doctrine of men and its power is nullified (Matthew 15:9).
3. The adequate gospel (v. 8,9).
4. The simple gospel (cf 2 Corinthians 11:3).
5. If there were gospel perverters in Paul's day, surely there are now. We must be on guard.
6. The gospel is complete (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
7. How we are to speak (1 Peter 4:11).
8. We must abide in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9).

C. Some Would Pervert the Gospel

1. They did so by adding to the gospel, for example, circumcision.
2. Some perversions today:
 - a. Election by eternal decree.
 - b. Sincerity is the real requirement.
 - c. Salvation by grace alone.
 - d. Saved by faith only.

- e. Saved by “sinner’s” prayer.
 - f. If those at Galatia who taught men to keep the law were perverters, what about people today?
3. The condemnation of the perverter (Galatians 1:8,9).

Lesson 12
“So Also Do You”
(Forgive)
Colossians 3:13

Introduction

1. It takes a big person to forgive.
2. We need God’s forgiveness, others and ourselves.
3. Love is not easily provoked (1 Corinthians 13:4,5).
4. Forgiveness is limitless on repentance (Luke 17:3,4).

A. A Forgiving Spirit Is a Must

1. Unforgiving spirit causes God to withhold His mercy (Matthew 6:14,15).
2. Unforgiving spirit invalidates our worship (Matthew 5:23).
3. Unforgiving spirit gives Satan an advantage over us (2 Corinthians 2:10,11).
4. Unforgiving spirit means we will receive no mercy in the judgment (James 2:13).
5. Forgive as God has forgiven (Ephesians 4:23).

B. What Is Forgiveness

1. It is **not** ignoring or overlooking the wrong done to us (Luke 17:3).

2. Forgiveness exemplified:
 - a. Remove from record (Acts 3:19).
 - b. God puts it out of His memory (Hebrews 8:12).
 - c. Treats like before the sin (cf. Luke 15:20-24).
 - d. Joseph as an example (Genesis 45:5-15).
3. Test to see if we have forgiven.
 - a. Do I secretly rejoice at his misfortune?
 - b. Do I speak to him hesitatingly and only under duress?
 - c. Do I purposely avoid him?
 - d. Do I vividly remember the wrong committed?
 - e. Do I sit and meditate (brood) over the wrong done to me?
 - f. Do I pray for him?
 - g. Have I sought to do him a favor?

C. Learning to Forgive

1. Remember: hatred, ill will and bitterness is to be put away (Ephesians 4:31,32).
2. Remember your need for forgiveness (Matthew 18:23-25).
3. Pray about it. Ask God's help.
4. Pray for your offender (Matthew 5:44).
5. Speak a kind word about the one offending you.

6. Do them a good deed (Romans 12:18-20).
7. Avoid some dangers.
 - a. When the pain is fresh we find it hard to forgive.
 - b. We find it hard to forgive when angry.
 - c. Jealousy and envy make it hard to forgive.
 - d. We find it hard to forgive when we want revenge.
 - e. Pride makes it hard to forgive.
 - f. We may take the easy way out and use the “scissors”, cutting off relationships and avoiding them.

Lesson 13

“So In Christ Shall All Be Made Alive”

1 Corinthians 15:22,24

Introduction

1. What we lost in Adam we will gain in Christ.
2. As a person dies so shall he be in the resurrection and judgment.

A. Possibility of the Resurrection and Judgment

1. If God could give life initially He could give that body life again.
2. What has been, can be. Christ was raised (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
3. Proved to be God’s Son by resurrection (Romans 1:4).
4. Jarius’ daughter (Matthew 9:23-26).
5. Widow of Nain’s son (Luke 7:11).
6. Lazarus (John 11:21-46).
7. Christ the first fruit of them that slept (1 Corinthians 15:20).
8. The power of His resurrection (Philippians 3:10).

B. A General Resurrection

1. Our text says so (1 Corinthians 15:22,23).
2. The good and evil to be raised in the same hour (John 5:28,29).
3. Men of Ninevah will rise and be judged with later generations (Matthew 12:41).
4. Good and bad will be rewarded when Jesus comes (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10).
5. All the dead will be raised (Revelation 20:12,13).
6. The same spirit that raised Jesus will also raise us (Romans 8:11; 2 Corinthians 4:14).
7. We shall be like Christ (1 John 3:1-3).
8. We must remember we are the Lord's (Romans 14:8).

C. The Judgment Follows the Resurrection

1. The judgment is after death (Hebrews 9:27).
2. It is after the resurrection (Revelation 20:12-15).
3. We shall be judged by the word of Christ (John 12:48).
4. We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

“So”-ing For The Master 11

Lesson 1

Let Your Light So Shine

Matthew 5:16

Introduction

1. The world is in darkness (Colossians 1:13; 1 John 5:19).
2. Christians do not walk in darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:5; 1 John 1:5-7).

A. Christ as the Light

1. He is the Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2).
2. He is the bright and morning star (Revelation 22:16).
3. In Him is the light of life (John 1:4,5).
4. If we follow Him we will not walk in darkness (John 8:12).
5. Walk in light and you know where you are going (John 12:35,36).
6. Follow me as I follow the Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

B. God's People as Lights

1. *"Ye are the light of the world"* (Matthew 5:14).
2. *"Ye are as lights in the world"* (Philippians 2:15).
3. Congregations as candlesticks (Revelation 1:20).
4. Hold up the word as light (Psalm 119:105).

5. To turn them from darkness to light (Acts 26:18).
6. The purpose of light is to dispel darkness (1 John 1:5,6).
7. *“The entrance of thy word gives light”* (Psalm 119:130).
8. If our “light” be hid (2 Corinthians 4:3-5).
9. We are children of light (Ephesians 5:8).
10. We are called out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

C. Let Your Light So Shine

1. ”So” indicates power or degree of shining.
2. A candle is not put under a bushel. Some bushels: neglect, temper, worldliness, evil speakings.
3. What kind of light are you? Oil lamp? Gasoline? Electric? Flood?
4. Qualities of light: power, revealing, purifying, awakening, guidance.
5. We let our light shine by good works (Matthew 5:16).
 - a. Ready unto every good work (Titus 3:1).
 - b. Zealous of good works (Titus 2:13,14).
 - c. Maintains good works (Colossians 1:10; Titus 3:14).

Lesson 2

So Send I You

John 20:21-23

Introduction

1. Preachers to be sent (Romans 10:14,15).
2. Church's mission.

A. As My Father Sent Me

1. *"Peace be unto you"* (c. 21; John 14:27).
2. *"My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me"* (John 4:34).
3. *"The Father sent me"* (John 6:44,45).
4. *"The Father which sent me gave me a command"* (John 12:48-50).
5. *"The world to know that thou hast sent me"* (John 17:20,21,25).
6. Purpose of God sending Jesus (John 3:16,17; 5:23,24).
7. Work God sent Him to do (John 9:4).

B. So Send I You

1. Into all the world (Mark 16:15).
2. To teach all nations (Matthew 28:19).
3. To preach the gospel (Romans 1:16).

4. “*So send I you...*” God sent Christ to save. We are to go to save.
5. They were to begin in Jerusalem (Luke 24:46,47).
6. This was prophesied by Isaiah (Isaiah 2:2,3).
7. This sending is often called the “Great Commission”.
 - a. Great because of who gave it.
 - b. Great because of its scope.
 - c. Great because of great salvation offered.
 - d. Great length of time involved.

C. Whosoever’s Sins You Remit

1. No conditions are expressed.
2. Whose sins did they remit?
 - a. Those who are taught (Matthew 28:19).
 - b. Those who believe (Mark 16:16).
 - c. Those who repent (Luke 24:47).
 - d. Those who are baptized (Mark 16:16).
 - e. Those who observe commands (Matthew 28:20).
 - f. By what authority (power) were they to do this? (Matthew 28:18).
3. The mission of the church (Ephesians 3:10,11,21).
4. How the first century church did with its mission (Colossians 1:6,23).

Lesson 3

God So Loved

John 3:16

Introduction

1. God is love (1 John 4:7,8,16).
2. We ought to love (1 John 3:16; 4:11,19,20).

A. Manifestation of God's Love

1. In creation (Genesis 1:26-30).
2. He gave hope after the first sin (Genesis 3:15).
3. God gave His Son (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9,10).
 - a. Some die for friends (John 15:13).
 - b. Christ died for His enemies (Matthew 5:44-48).
4. God showed love to His enemies (Matthew 5:44-48).
5. In making us sons of God (1 John 3:1-3).

B. To Preach John 3:16 Could Offend Some

(Some say “preach and leave others alone”)

1. *“For God”*— atheist says “there is no God”.
2. *“So loved”*— offends the Deist who believes God created all but left it to itself.
3. *“The World”*— the electionist thinks God loved not the world but the elect only (1 John 2:1,2).
4. *“That He gave”*— denies premillennialism, which says

God sent Jesus to set up a worldly kingdom but the Jews rejected Him and He could not but set up the church as an afterthought (Ephesians 3:10,11).

5. *“His only begotten Son”*— this offends the Jew and the modernist.
6. *“That whosoever”*— denies Calvinistic doctrine of unconditional election.
7. *“Believeth in Him”*— denied doctrine of universalism.
8. *“Should not perish”*— denies materialism and universalism.
9. *“But have eternal life”*— denies impersonal hope in life after death.

C. What Kind of Love Does God Have?

1. Everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3).
2. Immeasurable love (Ephesians 3:16-18).
3. Incomprehensive love (Ephesians 3:19).
4. Great love (John 15:12; Ephesians 2:4).
5. His love is shed abroad (Romans 5:5,6).

Lesson 4
*So All Israel Shall
Be Saved*
Romans 11:26

Introduction

1. The goodness and surety of God (Romans 11:22).
2. God desires all to be saved (2 Peter 3:9).

A. Lesson from the Grafting (Romans 11:17-25)

1. Israel is the tame olive branch and Gentiles wild branch.
2. The Jews reject gospel opportunity (cf. Acts 18:4-6).
3. The “holy root” must refer to the basic basis of faith, like the faith of Abraham (Galatians 3:26-29).
4. Paul uses “grafting” to mean process of conversion.
5. The Jews did not believe (were cut off) the Gentiles.
6. Gentiles were not to boast for the root (stump) bears the branch, not the branch the root (v.18).
7. Natural branch can be grafted in again (v. 24,25).

B. “So All Israel Shall Be Saved” (v. 26)

1. “So” is an adverb of manner.
2. The Gentiles and Israel are saved just alike, by being grafted in.

3. “All” Jerusalem and Judea were baptized of John in the Jordan (Matthew 3:5,6).
4. All Gentiles and all Jews will be saved in the same manner.

C. The Deliverer Will Come Out Of Zion

1. A Quotation from Isaiah 59:20.
2. Turn away from ungodliness means the forgiveness of sins and change of conduct.
3. Zion is Jerusalem (cf. Hebrews 13:12-14).
4. We are redeemed, not with silver and gold, but by precious blood (1 Peter 1:18-20).
5. His redemption is eternal (Hebrews 9:12).
6. Redemption is in Christ (Romans 3:23-26; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13,14).

Lesson 5

So Mighty Grew The Word *Acts 19:20*

Introduction

1. The great commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16).
2. The fact that man is lost and the hope of the gospel motivated them (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3).
3. The gospel was taken to every creature (Colossians 1:6,23).

A. There is Power in the Word

1. Quick and powerful (Hebrews 4:12).
2. Can make alive (Psalm 119:50).
3. Able to beget (James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:22,23).
4. Able to save (James 1:21).
5. To build up and give an inheritance (Acts 20:32).

B. Mightily Grew the Word

1. They ceased not to preach (Acts 5:42).
2. They went everywhere preaching (Acts 8:4).
3. The word increased after the appointing of the seven (Acts 6:7).
4. The word grew and increased in Antioch

(Acts 12:24,25).

5. People of position desired the word (Acts 13:7-12).
6. Gentiles desired the word (Acts 13:42-44).
7. The Bereans received the word with all readiness of mind (Acts 17:11).
8. Isaiah prophesied that the word would be so preached (Isaiah 11:9; 55:11).

C. Rapidly Grew the Church

1. The church grows through preaching and teaching (cf. Ephesians 3:10,11; Acts 2:41).
2. Many heard and believed (Acts 4:4).
3. Believers the more were added (Acts 5:14).
4. A great company of priests were obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7).
5. The hand of the Lord was with them (Acts 11:20,21).
6. Churches increased in number daily (Acts 16:5).
7. Many believed (Acts 17:12).
8. Many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8).

Lesson 6

So Talk The Talk

James 2:12

Introduction

1. We should be slow to speak (James 1:26).
2. Remember your tongue is in a wet place and will likely slip (cf. Psalm 19:14).

A. Thoughts on the Tongue

1. We must bridle the tongue (James 1:26).
2. The tongue is a fire (James 3:5,6).
3. The tongue can not be tamed so we must bridle it (James 3:7,8).
4. The tongue may bless or curse (James 3:9-12).
5. It may speak lies (Proverbs 6:17; Colossians 3:9-11).
6. It may speak sharply (Psalm 64:3; 52:2).

B. The Language of Asdod (Jeremiah 13:23; 1 Peter 4:11)

1. Religious titles (Matthew 23:8-12).
 - a. “Reverend” the preacher (Psalm 111:9).
 - b. “Doctor” as a religious title.
 - c. “Pastor” (parson) referring to a preacher.
 - d. “Father” as a spiritual title (Matthew 23:9).

2. The church
 - a. “Our” church and “my” church (Matthew 16:18).
 - b. “Join the church” (Acts 2:47).
 - c. “Good Christians in all churches.”
 - d. The denominations, “different roads to heaven.”
 - e. “Branch of the church.”
3. Miscellaneous expressions
 - a. “Get religion” (James 1:27).
 - b. “Christian Sabbath”
 - c. What about “mild oaths” such as: “Golly”, “Gosh”, “Gee Whiz”, “Oh my God”, “Heck”, etc.

C. Right Use of the Tongue

1. Glorify God (James 3:9a; Romans 15:6,7).
2. Speak the word (Psalm 119:172; 1 Peter 4:11).
3. Speak the truth (Psalm 37:30; Ephesians 4:15).
4. Sing praise (Psalm 51:14),
5. Hold it or bridle it (Proverbs 21:23; James 1:26).
6. Preaching and teaching (Acts 5:42).
7. Comfort and encourage (2 Corinthians 1:3,4; 1 Thessalonians 5:14).

Lesson 7

So Walk The Walk

1 John 2:3-6

Introduction

1. To walk as Jesus did is to live as He lived.
2. This calls for consistent living.

A. How Jesus Walked

1. In Him is light and no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).
2. We are translated out of the kingdom of darkness (Colossians 1:12,13; 1 Peter 2:9).
3. The Father of lights (James 1:17).
4. We are to walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7).
5. Follow Him (John 8:12).
6. He knows God who so walks (1 John 2:3-5).
7. By keeping His word we know we are in Him (1 John 2:5b).
8. The one who is in Him ought to so walk (1 John 2:6). “It is not walking on the sea that we are to imitate, but His ordinary walk” (Martin Luther).

B. Christ Must Live in Us

1. We must give up our way for His (Galatians 2:20).

2. Obeying God to walk with Him (1 John 2:3-6).
3. So we know we are in Him (1 John 2:5,6; Galatians 3:26,27).
4. *“Can two walk together except they be agreed”* (Amos 3:3).
5. We are to abide in Him and He in us (John 15:4-8).
6. Christ in us is the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

C. Rewards of Walking as He Walked

1. The reward of walking in the light is twofold (1 John 1:7).
2. It is a new life (Romans 6:3,4).
3. A reward of the inheritance (Colossians 3:23,24).
4. The inheritance described (1 Peter 1:3,4).
5. The overcomer (Revelation 21:7).
6. The crown (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Lesson 8

For So I Am

Introduction

1. Many say Christ is master but do not act like it.
2. We are more than servants (Galatians 4:1-7).

A. Jesus Is Qualified as Master

1. By authority declares Himself (Matthew 23:10).
2. He was master of self (John 10:18).
3. Master over temptation (Hebrews 4:15).
4. The master of obedience (Hebrews 5:8,9).
5. The master of service (Matthew 20:28; Acts 10:28).
6. The master of sacrifice and love (Ephesians 5:25; John 15:13).
7. The master of suffering (John 10:11; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Peter 2:21).

B. He Wants Volunteer Service

1. He has all authority (Matthew 28:18).
2. We are the servant of the one we obey (Romans 6:16).
3. Jesus had earlier said this (John 8:32-36).
4. How we become servants (Romans 6:17,18).
5. The word servant is from the Greek “doulos”, which means a bond servant voluntary or not.

6. We are bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).
7. Paul was such a servant (Romans 1:1).
8. A servant is to please his master (Galatians 1:10).

C. Qualities of a Good Servant

1. A good servant is obedient (1 Peter 1:22,23).
2. Diligent, not slothful (Romans 12:11).
3. Humble. Remember our original text.
4. Courageous (Romans 8:31).
5. Devoted to his master (cf. Exodus 21:1-6).
6. Persevering (Ephesians 6:18).
7. Faithful (1 Corinthians 4:1,2).

Lesson 9

So When Ye Have Done All *Luke 17:5-10*

Introduction

1. The disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith (v. 5).
2. Earlier He had rebuked their lack of faith (Matthew 8:26; 14:31).

A. We Do not Earn our Salvation

1. Salvation is by grace (Ephesians 2:8,9).
2. Salvation conditional (John 3:16; Mark 16:16).
3. Salvation without conditions would mean universal salvation (Romans 2:11; 2 Peter 3:9).
4. Many blessings by grace are conditional (John 3:16; Mark 16:16).
 - a. Life is by grace but one must eat to live.
 - b. Water supplied by grace but one must drink it.
 - c. Sight is by grace but we must open our eyes.

B. We Are Servants of God

1. We belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).
2. Servants are not to question the master's will.
3. Our service belongs to God (Luke 17:7,8).

4. We must be ready to serve at all times (Colossians 1:10; Titus 3:1; 1 Corinthians 15:58).
5. We must serve with love (John 14:15; 1 John 4:18; 5:3).
6. Serve with humility (Luke 18:14; James 4:6-10).
7. How we become servants (Romans 6:17,18).
8. Access to grace and allowing it to reign (Romans 5:1,2,21).

C. We Are Unprofitable Servants

1. God is pleased though we are unprofitable (John 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:15; Galatians 1:10).
2. It is our duty (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
3. There is rejoicing in heaven (Luke 15:7).
4. We are not to expect God to thank us for service (Luke 17:9).
5. Though we are unprofitable we are to be faithful (1 Corinthians 4:1,2).
6. We are unprofitable because we cannot do enough to repay God for His great gift.
7. Think of some things we must do to be faithful.

Lesson 10

So You Were An Example

1 Thessalonians 1:7

Introduction

1. Examples are effective and important.
2. “I had rather see a sermon than hear one...”
(Edgar A. Guest).

A. Many Examples in Scripture

1. Christ most prominent.
 - a. “*I have given you an example*” (John 13:15).
 - b. An example of living (1 John 2:6).
 - c. An example in suffering (1 Peter 2:19-23).
2. Many Old Testament examples are for us
(1 Corinthians 10:5-12).
3. Some may fall because of bad examples (Hebrews 4:11).
4. “*Remember Lot’s wife*” (Luke 17:32).
5. Remember the faith of Abraham (James 2:21-24).
6. Mary who anointed Jesus (Matthew 26:6-13).
7. Hebrews 11 emphasizes power of example.

B. The Thessalonians Example

1. They were imitators of Paul (1 Thessalonians 1:6;
1 Corinthians 11:1).

2. They were examples in Macedonia, Achaia and wherever they were known.
3. They were examples in faith, labor of love and patience of hope (1 Thessalonians 1:3).
4. They became examples in growth (2 Thessalonians 1:3,4).
5. They had turned from idols (1 Thessalonians 1:9,10).
6. He exhorted them to walk worthily (1 Thessalonians 2:11,12).
7. They were imitators of churches in Judea (1 Thessalonians 2:14,15).
8. Note the suffering in the beginning of the Thessalonian church (Acts 17:3-10).

C. Personal Examples Encouraged (1 Timothy 4:12)

1. *“Let no man despise thy youth.”*
2. Example in word (1 Timothy 1:13; Titus 2:1,8; Colossians 4:6).
3. Manner of life, conduct (Philippians 1:17; 3:20; 1 Peter 3:1,2; Titus 2:10).
4. In love (Romans 12:9-13; 1 Peter 1:22,23).
5. In spirit — manner, disposition, motives.
6. In faith — faithfulness, true fidelity, consistent (2 Timothy 4:6-8).
7. In purity — chastity of body and mind (Matthew 5:8; 1 Timothy 5:22b).

Lesson 11

“So Is He That Layeth Up Treasure For Self”

Luke 12:16-21

Introduction

1. Each person must choose his treasure.
2. One cannot love God and earthly treasure at the same time.

A. Lay Not up Treasure on Earth

1. This does not mean we cannot save (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:14).
2. This does not mean we cannot provide for our household (2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 4:28).
3. One should not place too much emphasis on earthly wealth because it is transient (Matthew 6:19b; 1 John 2:15-17).
4. This must not rule his life (Colossians 3:5b).
5. You can't take it with you but you can send it ahead (1 Timothy 6:7-10,17).

B. Lay Up Treasure in Heaven

1. Set your affections on things above (Colossians 3:1,2).

2. Being rich toward God (Luke 12:21).
3. In poverty we can be rich (Revelation 2:9).
4. How to have treasures in heaven:
 - a. Rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-22).
 - b. Trust not in riches but in the living God (1 Timothy 6:18,19).
 - c. Do good and be rich in good works, be liberal in giving (1 Timothy 6:18).
 - d. Lay hold on eternal life (1 Timothy 6:19).
5. God and His cause must be first (Matthew 6:33; Luke 14:33).

C. Some Things We Should Treasure

1. Each person should treasure his own life (Matthew 16:25,26).
2. Each person should treasure the truth (John 8:32; 1 Peter 1:20-25; Proverbs 23:23).
3. Every person should treasure his influence (Matthew 5:16).
4. Everyone should treasure his body (1 Corinthians 6:15-20).
5. Every person should treasure his soul (Matthew 16:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).
6. Every person should treasure his family (Ephesians 6:1-4).
7. Every person should treasure the church

(Ephesians 1:22,23).

8. Each one should treasure his own conscience
(Romans 2:14,15).
9. Each one should treasure his own eternal destiny
(Matthew 10:28; 25:46).

Lesson 12

So The Lord Is My Helper

Hebrews 13:6

Introduction

1. The strength of God helps us (1 Corinthians 1:27).
2. His strength is perfect (2 Corinthians 12:9; 13:4).

A. So, I May Boldly Say

1. To speak without hesitancy or to speak with assurance.
2. Like coming boldly (Hebrews 4:16).
3. Speak the truth with boldness (Ephesians 6:17-19).
4. The boldness of Peter and John was obvious (Acts 4:13,14).
5. Perfect love gives boldness even in the day of judgment (1 John 4:17).
6. How is love perfected (1 John 2:3-6)?

B. So, The Lord is My Helper

1. God an ever present help (Psalm 46:1,6).
2. God helps those who trust Him (Psalm 37:39,40).
3. The assurance of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).
4. The hand of the Lord was with them (Acts 11:21).
5. The hand of the Lord was with them miraculously and providentially.

6. God and Christ can both be with us (2 John 9).
7. God can comfort us (2 Corinthians 1:3,4).
8. *“If God be for us who can be against us?”*
(Romans 8:31).
9. God is our refuge (Deuteronomy 33:26,27;
Psalm 62:6-8).

C. So, I Will Not Fear

1. *“I will not fear what man will do to me.”*
2. We are to fear God, not man (Matthew 10:28).
3. We are to fear (reverence) God (Hebrews 12:28,29).
4. The wrong kind of fear may cause us to be lost
(Revelation 21:8).
5. God has not given us a spirit of fear (cowardice)
(2 Timothy 1:7).
6. The fear of God is learned (Deuteronomy 4:10; 5:29;
28:58).
7. Remember the goodness and severity of God
(Romans 11:22).

Lesson 13

Even So, Come Lord Jesus

Revelation 22:20

Introduction

1. John was ready for His coming.
2. We are challenged to be ready (Matthew 24:44-46).

A. The Certainty of His Coming

1. Christ said He would come (John 14:1-4).
2. Angels said He would come (Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7).
3. The apostles said He would come.
 - a. Paul (1 Thessalonians 4:17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).
 - b. Peter (2 Peter 3:9-12).
 - c. John in our text.

B. When Will He Come?

1. Only God knows (Mark 13:32).
2. Date-setters have been proved wrong.
 - a. William Miller — 1843 chosen.
 - b. Judge Rutherford, Charles Russell — 1914 and 1925. Rutherford said He came in 1925 but only “His” saw Him (cf Revelation 1:7).
 - c. Hal Lindsey “Late Great Planet Earth” by 1980.

C. How Will He Come?

1. Personally (Acts 1:11).
2. Audibly (John 5:28,29).
3. Visibly (Revelation 1:7).
4. Unannounced (Matthew 25:13; 2 Peter 3:10).
5. In flaming fire (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).
6. With glory and power (Matthew 25:31).

D. Why Will He Come?

1. Not to offer Himself as a sacrifice (Hebrews 9:28).
2. Not to set up His Kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:24-27).
3. Not to give a second chance (Hebrews 9:27).
4. To raise the dead (John 5:28,29).
5. To judge the world (Matthew 25:31-41; Acts 17:30,31).
5. To reward according to their works (2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:12-15).

E. Conditions at His Coming

1. Indifference and immorality (Luke 17:26,27).
2. Only a few will be saved (Matthew 7:13,14).
3. Some will welcome Him (2 Timothy 4:8).

F. What Shall We Do While We Wait?

1. Sinners, obey the gospel (Mark 16:15,16).
2. Christians, live right (Titus 2:11-14).
3. Work (1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 4:11).
4. Hold fast to the end (Hebrews 4:14; Revelation 20:10b).



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 **Classroom 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 five sections, with thirteen lessons in each group. Section titles are *The "I Am's" of Christ, Growing Up in the Lord, Better Things, and "So"-ing for the Master, Parts 1 and 2.*