

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

by
J. C. CHOATE

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INTRODUCTION

My desire in writing this series of radio sermons was to present the listeners with some thoughts on The Christian Life. I attempted to explain what it means to live for Christ and the many blessings that come from it. Although I prepared twenty sermons, they really amount to no more than an introduction to this paramount theme of the scriptures.

I approached The Christian Life on the basis that it is a life of many facets. Speaking to an audience composed primarily of those who are not members of the church of Christ, and perhaps not even believers in Christ, I placed emphasis in each lesson on what the Lord requires one to do to become a Christian and then what is expected of one after he becomes a Christian.

It would be my prayer that all who have heard these sermons, or who will hear them, along with all who will read this book, will seriously consider the possibility of becoming a Christian. It would be hoping for too much to think that all would obey God, but I would pray that, some will as a result of these lessons.

As I have said again and again in these lessons, The Christian Life is the best and most rewarding life that one can live in the world today. But one must experience it for himself to be convinced of it. I would recommend

it to anyone and I have every reason to believe that those who will try it will be more than pleased with the results.

Once more, I want to thank my son, Steve Choate, for serving as my announcer. I am also grateful to the Ira Y. Rice, Jr. Family Singers of Memphis, Tenn. U.S.A. and the True-Life Singers of West Monroe, La. U.S.A. for providing the singing for these broadcasts. I would likewise express my appreciation to Bro. Sunny David for the proof reading, and for all others who have helped to make these broadcasts and the printing of this book possible. May it all be to the glory of God.

With the completion of these sermons, I have now been broadcasting the gospel via Radio Sri Lanka for two years. This is the fourth volume of The Voice of Truth radio sermons to have been published. I pray that it will be possible to continue for many years and that this may be a means of reaching many souls for Christ.

J. C. Choate
Church of Christ
New Delhi
October 22, 1981

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ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO LISTEN

Bible Correspondence Courses and Christian Literature are available in these different languages from the addresses listed. Also, the radio sermons are available in book form.

Lesson 1

A CHRISTIAN LIFE

Thank you, and greetings to each one of you in the name of Christ. I want to invite you to spend the next few minutes with me in a study of God's word.

Before we continue with that, I would like to encourage you to write for a free Bible Correspondence Course. This course, and other Christian literature, will be sent to you for your own private study. As the lessons are returned to us, we will grade them, and then post them back to you. On completion, a certificate will be sent, but the important part will be the knowledge and help you will gain through such a study. Please send your name and address, written in block letters, along with the names and addresses of friends that may want this course, and we will be more than happy to send them to you.

At this time I want to begin a series of studies with you on *The Christian Life*. In today's lesson we will be talking about the basis of Christianity, how one becomes a Christian, what it means to be a Christian, and various other points that set him or her apart from all other people. In future broadcasts we will be considering the many phases, qualities, and blessings of the Christian life. We hope that you will make it a point to listen each week at this time for this set of lessons, and that you will encour-

age your family members and friends likewise to listen. I would hope that you will not only listen, but that you will study and consider seriously the things that will be said. Whether you are a believer in Christ or not, the same invitation applies to one and all.

Jesus Christ, of course, is the basis for the religion of Christianity and the Christian life. He is the author of it. The Hebrew writer of the scriptures says concerning Christ, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." (Hebrews 5:8, 9). He says again, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2).

Again, Christianity is based on the fact that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that he was with God in the beginning, through him and by him all things were created, that he came to this world to be born of the virgin Mary, miraculously, to live among men, to perform miracles to prove his divinity, to introduce a new way of living, to die on a cruel cross for the sins of the world, to be buried, to be resurrected on the third day, and finally after some time, to return to the Father in heaven to sit down at the right hand of God, and to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

That's saying a lot about Christ, but if these facts were not true, then Christianity would have died out long ago. But to give support to these statements we will go to the Bible, the word of God, and point by point show that

these things are clearly taught in the scriptures.

First, Christ was with God in the beginning. In Genesis 1:1 we read, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." The writer goes on to list in detail the various acts of creation, but in the original Hebrew in which the Old Testament scriptures were written, the word for God included God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Therefore when it came time for man's creation, God said, "Let us create man in our own image..." (Genesis 1:26). This implies that more than one was present at the time of creation, and we are saying that one of those present was the Word: Christ. John wrote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." (John 1:1, 2). The writer goes on to identify the Word as Christ.

Second, all things were created through and by Christ. Going back to the book of John, he says concerning Christ, "All things were made by him, and without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:3). The Hebrew writer says that the worlds were made by Christ, that is, the heaven and the earth. (Hebrews 1:1, 2). Paul said, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible, and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him." (Colossians 1:16).

Third, he was sent into the world, being born miraculously of the virgin Mary. There were prophecies made concerning this (Isaiah 7:14), and in Matthew 1 we have an angel saying to Joseph at a time when Mary was found

with a child, before they had come together in marriage, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all of this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS." (Matthew 1:20-25). During the following years, Christ was recognized both by God his Father, and by man himself as being the Son of God. (Matthew 17:5; Matthew 16:16).

Fourth, Christ lived among men, doing good, and performing miracles to prove that he was actually from God and not an imposter. If you have a Bible or New Testament, please read the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to see all the miracles that Jesus was able to do. Then John concludes with this statement, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:30, 31)

Fifth, during the Lord's personal ministry, he introduced principles and teachings that would usher in a new way of life, a new religion, after his departure. These included

the teachings to do unto others as you would have them do unto you, to love your neighbour as yourself, that if one lusted in his heart after a woman he would be considered an adulterer, if one hated his brother he would be counted as a murderer in God's sight, that the gospel was for all, that the Lord would be no respecter of persons, and so on. (Matthew 7:12; Matthew 22: 36, 37; Matthew 5:28; Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 10:34).

And sixth, the prophecy was made that Christ would die for the sins of the world, be buried, resurrected, and then return to the Father in Heaven to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. Again, in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John we may read the individual accounts of this, proving that Christ was more than a man, that He was truly the Son of God, the saviour of man. It is summed up in these words: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:16, 17).

In conclusion, Paul says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven,

and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5-11).

Now, with that brief introduction concerning Christ and Christianity, I would like to go on and tell you how one becomes a Christian. As already stated, Christ died that man might be saved. (Romans 5:8). This truth is referred to in the scriptures as the gospel, the good news of salvation. The facts of the gospel are said to be the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Then there are the commands of the gospel, which include the importance of hearing the gospel, believing that Christ is the Son of God, repenting of one's sins, confessing Christ as the Son of God, and being baptized, or immersed in water, for the remission of sins. Christ himself said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15, 16). When one does these things, the promises of the gospel are fulfilled. These promises include being saved, being added to the Lord's church, and receiving all spiritual blessings in Christ. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:47; Ephesians 1:3).

In obeying Christ to be saved, and becoming a member of his church, one of the identifying marks that distinguishes that man from all others is the fact that he takes upon himself the name of Christ and becomes known as a Christian. In Acts 11:26 the disciples or followers of Christ first began to be called Christians in Antioch and this was with divine approval. In Acts 26:28, after Paul had preached to King Agrippa, he declared that he had

almost been persuaded to be a Christian. This indicates that he had been taught concerning Christ and that he recognized that if he became a follower of Christ, this would make him a Christian. Peter said to those who belonged to the Lord, "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." (1 Peter 4:15, 16). So, one who obeys Christ and follows him and practices Christianity is known as a Christian. In this way he honours Christ, his Lord.

Not only is it important that one learn of Christ, and obey his will to be saved, and then to wear his name, but it is equally important that one live for Christ, that he practices Christianity. In the middle of a world of all types of religion, the Christian is unique. He is different because his very name means Christ-like, a statement to the effect that he is living in the same manner that Christ would live if he were physically in the world today.

It is therefore a great responsibility to call oneself a Christian. Those who see him measure Christ by his life. If he is pure and honest, kind and loving, then people say that this is the effect of Christ in one's life. But if he wears the name falsely and then is lazy and dishonest or vengeful, people who know him also measure Christ by his life, and they see nothing good that they would want to follow.

Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32). When we hold up a righteous life, the Christian life, before the world, then our lives serve as a magnet, drawing men to Christ.

Recently a Christian bank clerk was telling me of an experience he had had. One evening after the bank had closed, he went into the men's room and there he saw a packet. Inside were many rupee notes. Because the officers of the bank had already gone, he put the packet into his bag and took it home. The next day he brought it to the head officer and turned it in, not even having counted the rupees to see how much he had saved someone. I asked if the officer was surprised. He said, "No, because I have worked there for many years. They expect honesty of me because they know I am a Christian."

My friends, much of the Christianity we see today is not true and pure Christianity. Many of those who claim to be Christians are not true followers of Christ. If you want to learn about pure Christianity, please go back to the source, the Bible, the word of God, and see for yourself what it is and what it will do for you and the world. Christianity is the one true religion of God. It is needed in the world today more than anything else. It can change your life and give you hope.

Wouldn't you like to be a Christian? You can become one, by believing in the Lord, repenting of your sins, confessing Christ as the Son of God, and by being baptized to wash away your sins. When you do these things, Christ will save you and add you to his church. Then you will wear the name of Christ and follow him daily. It will be up to you to live in such a way that Christ can be seen in your life. This will not only be a blessing to you, but it will likewise be a means of bringing others to Christ, and through all of this the Lord will be honored.

Please let us hear from you, and if we can assist you

with your obedience to God we would be more than happy to do so. Thank you for listening, and we hope to be with you again next week at the same time. Goodbye till then.

Lesson 2

A NEW LIFE

Thank you, and I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I am happy to be able to return, through the means of radio, to continue our study of the word of God. I hope you will think seriously about the things that I will have to say. I would encourage you to listen each week at this time, and to have your family members and friends also to listen. I believe that you, and they likewise, will find it to be very helpful.

I want to mention again that we have a Bible Correspondence Course available to send to you, if you would like to have it. It is an eight lesson course, and one that has been prepared especially for you. If you are serious about Bible study, and would like to know more of God's will, then this course is what you need. Please send your name and address, plainly written in block letters, and we will send this material to you by return post. If you know of others who would also like to study the Bible in this way, or if you would like for them to have some good Christian literature, if you will send their names and addresses, we will be happy to send it on your behalf.

We have just begun a series of lessons on The Christian Life. In our last study we dealt with Christ and Christianity, the basis for Christianity, how one becomes a Chris-

tian, and what it means to be a Christian. As we continue these broadcasts, we will deal extensively with the various aspects of the Christian life, showing why Christianity is distinctive, and why it is superior to all other walks of life.

In our present program we are going to present *The Christian Life as A New Life*. Everyone likes new things—new clothes, new shoes, a new house, a new cycle, and so on. Not only that, but most people have thought at one time or another, how nice it would be if they could live their life over, or could have a new beginning. Of course, physically, it is not possible to go back and start over again, but spiritually, that is a different matter.

The Bible says that as long as we are in our sin, we are spiritually dead, that is, we are lost, we have no hope. Sin, that which is bad and wrong, unlawful and ungodly, is a destructive force in our lives. It brings shame and disgrace, heartaches and sorrows, troubles and problems, and eventually, death. The scriptures tell us that all have sinned (Romans 3:23), that we are dead in sin (Colossians 2:13), and that sin finally brings eternal death. (Romans 6:23). Sin is responsible, then, for the world being in the mess that it is in.

Although the picture seems bleak, there is a solution. God, the Creator of all things, seeing man in the state of sin and without hope as he was, chose to send his Son into the world as a sacrifice for the sins of man. (John 3:16; Romans 5:8). The Apostle John of the New Testament wrote, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." (1 John 3:8). The Apostle Peter said,

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” (1 Peter 2:21-24). Speaking of this same Jesus, Paul said, “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” (Galatians 1:4). The Hebrew writer said, “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” (Hebrews 9:28). Again, Peter said, “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being but in death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18).

So it is clear that Christ died for the sins of men, that man might be saved from his sins, that he might have a new life, that he might have hope. When one becomes a believer in God, and in Christ as the Son of God, he is then in position to obey the will of the Lord which brings about a new birth, a new life the Christian life. Christ spoke of this birth in conversation with a man by the name of Nicodemus. Jesus told him, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? Jesus answered,

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." (John 3:3-8).

The new birth that Jesus spoke of is not a physical birth. Rather, it is a spiritual birth. It is brought about by being born of water and of the Spirit in Conversion. This may appear to be a mystery to some but when you read through the pages of the New Testament you will discover that there are other passages that speak of being saved, of having remission of sins, of having sins washed away, of being added to the church, of entering Christ, and so on. Would not the new birth, and that action which brings about the new birth, be equal to that of being saved, of being added to the Lord's church? That would certainly be obvious, or otherwise you would have one doing one thing to be born again and another thing to be saved.

What, then, must one do to be saved? There ere numerous cases of conversion listed in the book of Acts that answer this question again and again. Then there are many statements by Christ, and other inspired men of God, that likewise answer this question. All of these are in complete harmony. In other words, the Bible teaches that in order for one to be saved, to have forgiveness of all of his past sins, or to be born again, he must first of all hear the word of God taught, or else he must study the word of

God for himself, so that faith might be produced. We read that faith comes by hearing the word of God. (Romans 10:17). Then, based on hearing and believing in God, and, Christ as being the Son of God, the scriptures teach that one must repent or turn away from all of his past sins. Christ said that one must repent or perish. (Luke 13:3). Paul says that God commands all men everywhere to repent. (Acts 17:30). Then the Lord says that one must confess him before men if He is to confess him before the Father in heaven. (Matthew 10:32). Romans 10:10 says that the confession is to be made with the mouth. We have an example of the Ethiopian eunuch doing this before he submitted to the command of baptism. (Acts 8:37). And finally, there is baptism, a burial in water, for the remission of sins. Peter told a group of believers on the day of Pentecost, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38). When an individual obeys these commands, the Lord saves him from all of his sins and at the same time adds him to his church. (Acts 2:47).

Now let's go back to the new birth. Christ said that one must be born of water and of the Spirit. What command in the New Testament would involve water? There is but one such command and that is baptism. But what about being born of the Spirit? In 1 Peter 1:22,23 we read, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

Now did you notice what Peter said? He shows that the Spirit has given the word, the truth, and when we obey the word, that is, when we obey the commands contained therein, we are being directed by the Spirit to do so. Therefore as he directs us to obey the various commands to be saved, including the act of baptism, then it may be said that we have been born of water and of the Spirit.

Now the result of this is that in being born again we enter into the Lord's kingdom, or his church. The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:13 that we are baptized into the body of Christ, and the body under consideration is the church; the church is the kingdom of Christ, or the kingdom of God. (Matthew 16:18, 19). We had already noted earlier that when one obeys the Lord he is saved and as a result the Lord adds the saved to his church.

Again, we read that when one completes his obedience with the act of baptism, he finds himself in Christ. (Romans 6:3,4; Galatians 3:26,27). Then Paul says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17). To really get a picture of the new life, read through Romans 6 to see that when one obeys the Lord in baptism he puts off the old man of sin, and thus is raised from baptism to walk in newness of life.

So when, one is saved, that is, when he is born again, he becomes a new creature or a new person in Christ. This means that he has been forgiven of all of his past sins, that he has had all of his sins washed away, that he is saved, that his soul has been made whole again. He is now able to begin a new life. He is not the same person that he was. He no longer is a servant of Satan but he is

now a servant of Christ. He is a Christian, a child of God. His attitudes are different, he thinks differently, and he acts differently. He has changed. He lives not for himself, but for others. He is blessed above all others. He now has hope in this world and in the world to come.

Being born again, he has a new life. He patterns his life after the life of Christ. He strives to be like Christ. He wants to set a good example.

Being born again, he has a new name. He now wears the name of Christ. He is a Christian. All that he does now is in that name, to the honor and glory of the Lord.

Being born again, he has a new family. This is a spiritual family, the family of God, the Lord's church, the church of Christ. He has brothers and sisters all over the world. He recognizes Christ as his one and only head.

Being born again, he has a new master. The new Christian no longer serves Satan and sin, but now he serves Christ. Christ says that no man can serve two masters.

Being born again, he has a new work. His life consists of worshiping and serving God, of doing all that he does as though it is unto God.

Being born again, he has a new message. He now desires to proclaim the gospel of Christ to a lost world. Those who accept it and obey it will likewise have a new life.

Being born again, he has a new tongue, new ears, new eyes, new friends.

His goals are new, his vision is as God would see the world.

As Paul said, "Old things are passed away and all things are become new."

This new life should not be misunderstood. It does

not guarantee that one cannot sin. It does not mean that one will never have any future problems or heartaches. It does not mean that one will not eventually experience physical death. Neither does it mean that one will never have any future needs. But it does mean that one is saved from his past sins, that he has God and Christ to help him, that the word of God is there to direct him, and it means that by remaining faithful to the Lord he will be able to overcome Satan and to cope with the problems that may come his way. It means that the Christian has brethren to look to for help and guidance.

In living this new life, if one slips and falls, there is someone near to help him get up and try again. There is a merciful Father who is willing to forgive him when he repents and to help him when he tries again. In this world, he is blessed above all others as he gives himself to God and lives according to his will. Finally, he will go to be with the Lord forevermore.

Are you satisfied with the kind of life you are living? Are you happy with it? Do you feel weighted down with sin and guilt? Wouldn't you like to have a better life, a new life? You can have this newness by becoming a Christian. If you will believe in the Lord, repent of your sins, confess Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized for the remission of your sins, then the Lord will save you and add you to his church. You will then be in position to live the new life, the Christian, life, that we have been talking about in this particular study. If we can assist you in your obedience, please let us know. If you would like some literature for further study, we would also be happy to send it to you after receiving your request.

Thank you for listening, and I hope to be with you again soon. Bye for this time.

Lesson 3

A PURE LIFE

Thank you, and in the name of Christ I welcome you to another period of Bible study. If you have been listening to these broadcasts, I am glad that we can continue our studies together. If you are a new listener, I want you to know that we are happy to have you join us for this study. All in all, we are glad to have you with us and I would hope that we can continue to get together each week for this study during the months ahead.

As already announced, we have a Bible Correspondence Course available to send to you if you would like to have materials for study in your home. Please send us your name and address, in block letters, written clearly, and we will post this course to you immediately.

Our present study has to do with The Christian Life. We are trying to show what the Christian life is all about, and why so many have accepted this way of life. I will hasten to say, however, that not all who claim to be Christians are Christians. Most of that which is labeled as Christianity is a corrupted form and therefore does not really represent the Christianity that we read about in the Bible. We must go back to the Bible itself for pure New Testament Christianity and we would ask that you settle for no less.

Today we are going to consider The Christian Life as being A Pure Life. We have already gone into detail to show how one becomes a Christian, that is, through hearing God's word, believing in Christ, repenting of all sins, confessing Christ as the Son of God, and being baptized for the remission of sins. Thus, when one is born again he becomes a new creature, and he enters Christ and his church.

It is through obeying the gospel of Christ that one's soul is purified. Peter said, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (1 Peter 1:22,23).

One who is pure is clean, without sin, and holy. As such he strives to keep sin out of his life so that he might remain preserved for the Lord. The Apostle Paul discussed this with the Roman Christians, when he said, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For

he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more! death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God,

ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ." (Romans 6).

The Christian is to constantly be on guard so that nothing will come into his life that would spoil him, corrupt him, and destroy him. Paul warns, "But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness." (2 Timothy 2:16). He continues by saying, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." (2 Timothy 2:19-26).

Listen to Paul's further exhortations: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For

ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is niether Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free; but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents

in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged. Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons." (Colossians 3).

Now let us observe some statements from Romans 12: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God... Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be

possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath : for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shall heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

In emphasizing the Christian life as a pure life, I would like to go back and stress again that one must become a Christian to be spiritually pure, that is, to be saved, to be forgiven of all past sins, to be clean and whole. After this has been accomplished, it is up to that person to remain pure in the sight of God and before man. As we have observed in the scriptures that we have been quoting, this includes abhorring evil, staying away from bad things, and engaging one's self in good and wholesome things. One is to have a pure soul and along with this a pure heart, pure thoughts, a pure conscience, a pure life, morally and spiritually. The Christian is concerned about his dress, habits, who he associates with, and the kind of activities he engages in.

This type of person is an asset to his family, to the community, and to his country. He is of good character, a hard worker, and honest in all of his dealings. He represents that which is the best and the finest.

Now, wouldn't you like to live this kind of life? You can, if you are willing to follow Christ, Everyone who follows him will become like him.

You can be a Christian only by obeying Christ. To do this, you must believe in him, repent of your sins, confess with your mouth that you believe that he is the

Son of God, and then you must be baptized for the remission of your sins. He will then save you and add you to his family. As a child of God, He will expect you to keep yourself pure and clean for him and for his cause. In return, he will bless you and keep you to his honour and glory.

If we can assist you in your obedience, please let us know. If you would like to have some Christian literature for further study, we would be happy to send it to you, Please let us hear from you.

It has been my pleasure to talk to you about these matters and I look forward to our next meeting. Bye till then.

Lesson 4

A GOOD LIFE

Thank you, and in the name of Jesus Christ I come to you with another period of Bible Study. I hope that you will join me for the next few minutes for this most noble purpose.

We have been offering a free Bible Correspondence Course on this broadcast for some time. I wonder if you have sent for yours. If not, I would like to encourage you to send your name and address, written plainly in block style, and we will send this course to you, along with other Christian literature. We would also like to receive your card or letter to indicate that you are listening to these programs. It would certainly encourage us to know that you are a part of our audience each week.

Our present series of studies deals with the Christian Life. We believe that the Christian life has more to offer than any other way of life. Our desire is to discuss it fully with you so that you may know all that is involved in Christianity and that it is to your advantage to become a Christian.

We want to warn you again that much of what is passed off as Christianity is everything but Christianity. Surely Christ is not the author of division, denominationalism, man-made names and practices. The only way to

know what pure New Testament Christianity is, is to go to the Bible to find out. After you know, then when you see someone living up to the standard as set forth in God's word, you will know that that is Christianity at work.

For our study today we are going to think about The Christian Life as being A Good Life.

I'll begin by stressing the fact that a person cannot be saved on the basis of his own goodness. It is true that there are some people in the world who are good moral people, and perhaps they are good in other ways, but whether they are religious or not religious, this goodness alone will not save them and cannot save them. No one can be so good that on the merit of his goodness alone he can be saved. In Acts 10 and 11 we read of Cornelius being a good man, but it was necessary for him to hear the word of God, and then to believe in the Lord, to repent of his sins, and to be baptized in order to be saved. There just simply was no other way. That was true then and it is true today.

When a person recognizes his need for the Lord, whether he has been good or bad, and he obeys the teachings of Christ, then the Lord saves him and adds him to his family, his church. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:47). It is then that one's life takes a turn for the better. He may now live a good life, not because of what he was, but because of what he has become.

We are going to talk about the Christian life as being a good life from several viewpoints.

First, the Christian life is a good life as opposed to that which is bad and wrong, One becomes a Christian to

rid himself of the sin that was in his life, to be forgiven, to be cleansed, and to be purified. He becomes a Christian to be like Christ and therefore to live a better life. He desires to be good and right in all of his activities. Paul said, "See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men." (1 Thessalonians 5:15). Again, he said, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Peter says, "For he that will love life, and see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensure it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." (1 Peter 3:10-12).

Second, the Christian life is a good life because of all the good works that one can do. It is not that one should be doing good works to stack up merit in his favour, so that he might finally be saved in heaven. On the contrary, we are told that we are saved by the grace of God and not by the works of the law. (Ephesians 2:8, 9). That is, even though we obey God, and live for him, and serve him, —which certainly we should do—still, that alone would not be sufficient to save us in heaven. Even after we have done all that the Lord would have us to do, it will take the grace of God to save us. Now with that truth in mind, let it be understood that God has indeed commanded many things of us. He has asked, for example, that we worship him each first day of the week, and he has told us how this is to be

done. (Acts 20:7). He has asked us to help our fellow-man. Paul says, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10). Again, he has asked us to bear fruit, "That you might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." (Colossians 1:10). And finally, we are to do good works. Paul said to Titus, "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men." (Titus 3:8).

Third, the Christian life is a good life because of the influence we can have on our family members, our friends, and those with whom we work. Christ said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16). We are therefore to set a good example before those who are around us. We are to show them what Christianity is and what it will do for one. Unless we show them by the way we live then they may never know. We are reminded of a story that Jesus told. Please listen to the story and see if you are able to learn the lesson that Jesus was teaching: "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in

the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, thou hast answered right; this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? and he said, he that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, go, and do thou likewise. (Luke 10:25-37). As you listened to the reading of that story, I am sure that you were able to see who the good neighbour was. It was the one who helped the man in need. And that is how Christianity works. True Christians don't just preach but they practice what they preach. This is the real test of Christianity

and those who are Christians.

Fourth, the Christian life is a good life because it always benefits those who receive it to the point that it is noticeable. Look around you and observe those who are Christians and those who are not. You can generally tell even by the outward appearance that there is a marked difference in the two. The Christian generally is cleaner, is happier, works harder, and makes greater progress in his development as a person. Why? Because Christianity consists of teachings and principles that require a high standard, and therefore these standards help one to better his life. When one receives proper teaching for the soul, and his spiritual needs are satisfied, then this also shows up in the physical and social aspects of his life.

Fifth, the Christian life is a good life because of all the bad things it opposes. It never encouraged one, spiritually, or otherwise, to do anything bad or wrong or questionable. Those who are Christians will never harm any one. They do not believe in practicing war. They stand in opposition to anything that is hurtful to mankind. Paul said, "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." (Romans 12:9). Also, he said, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21).

Sixth, the Christian life is a good life because of all the good things it advocates. Christians are peacemakers. They are prayerful people. They worship God each first day of the week. They live by the principles of goodness.

Seventh, the Christian life is a good life because of all the blessings that come to those who are Christians. We have salvation in this world and the hope of the life that is to come. We have all the promises of God and the

benefits of godly living. We have the Lord's presence and all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3). We have His care for us in this world and His help with our daily problems and needs.

We could go on and on listing the many other reasons why the Christian life is such a good life. But there would be someone who would raise this question: if the Christian life is so great why haven't more become Christians? That is a good question, but as is true with everything else, man does not always do that which is in his best interest. People are like children in that they do not always listen to good advice. Christ laid down this truth in the long ago when he said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:13,14). Apart from the majority choosing the world and broad way, there are always those who are ignorant of God's will, some who have been prejudiced against the truth, and some who prefer the praises of men over the praises of God.

I would dare say that if you would seriously consider Christianity as set forth in the Bible, and if you would test it in your own life, that you would not be disappointed. It can change your life and bring happiness and peace that you never dreamed existed.

It is so easy to be a Christian. There are no customs and traditions to follow. There are no man-made rules and regulations to obey. All you need to do is to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, to repent of your sins, to

confess Christ before men, and to be baptized to wash away your sins. Now who said that one should do that? The Lord. How do we know? Because we read it in the scriptures. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). When one does these things, the Lord saves him and adds him to his church. (Acts 2:47). That one now is a Christian and all that is required is that he live the Christian life. As one does so the Lord will bless him continually through life.

If you would like to become a Christian, and have the blessings of the Christian life, then please write us and let us know. We will do what we can to help you to obey the Lord.

If you would like to have some Christian literature for further study, then we will be glad to send it to you on receiving your request.

Thank you for listening and I hope to be with you again next week. Goodbye till then.

Lesson 5

A HUMBLE LIFE

Thank you, and I come to you again in the name of Christ with another period of Bible Study. I hope you will set aside the next few minutes to seriously consider the subject that we will be discussing.

Have you ever taken the time to write us a card or letter to let us know that you are listening? If not, I hope you will. We would like to hear from you. While writing you can also request a free Bible Correspondence Course. Send your name and address, written clearly in block style, and we will just be happy to send it to you.

We will now continue our series of studies on The Christian Life. So many have heard of Christ and Christianity. Most people know someone who claims to be a Christian. Still, there is much that they do not know and understand. The purpose of these lessons is to show what Christianity is, how one becomes a Christian, and the many blessings that come from it. When a person understands all of this then in all probability he will have an entirely different attitude about the Christian life. It just might be that he would want to become a Christian.

Let me say that it is not my intention on these broadcasts to make Christianity appear to be something better

or greater than it really is. I certainly don't want you to become a Christian just because I might say that you should become one. Rather, I want to discuss with you, from the Bible, every phase of Christianity. Then, after you know facts, and all that is involved, I would encourage you to make up your mind as to what you should do. The decision should be yours.

In today's lesson we are going to think about The Christian Life as A Humble Life. To be humble is to be meek and of a quiet spirit. It is [the opposite of being proud, haughty, and exalting one's self.

In thinking of the many Bible characters who portray this quality in their lives, we could not think of a better example than Christ himself. Christ was originally with the Father in heaven, being equal to God himself. (John 1:2). It was through him and by him that all things were created. (Hebrews 1:1,2). In that exalted position he had everything. In spite of that, and with man being lost and in sin and without hope, the Apostle Paul said, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

(Philippians 2:5-11). Again, Paul said, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." (Romans 5:6-9).

Can you imagine Christ giving up heaven itself and equality with God to come into this world of sin, to be born of woman in the form of man, and to live in poverty among men, and to suffer all that he endured in order that man might be saved? He didn't have to do these things, but he did and the doing required the greatest measure of humility.

In thinking about the Lord's humility, we are reminded of the time the devil came to him when he had been fasting and was physically weak. But let's read the story, "And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread: But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all

the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them. And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and behold angels came and ministered unto him." (Matthew 4:3-11). You will note that Satan appealed to the Lord's pride in an attempt to overthrow him. He was challenging: "You claim to have all of this power; surely you can turn stones into bread." He was saying, "Even if you cast yourself down from the temple, the angels will care for your needs." He was saying, "If you will only bow before me I will give you all of the kingdoms of the world." He was saying, "Surely if you are the Son of God, as you claim to be, then you will prove it by doing these things." But Christ did not give in to the temptation to prove his greatness and power. He remained humble. He himself knew who he was and he knew the power he possessed. He also knew that he had created all things and that all was his. Therefore he turned the Devil away with the word of God and finally when Satan could stand no more he fled from him. Again humility was victorious over empty pride.

We are reminded of many other occasions when the Lord demonstrated the spirit of humility, but there was one particular instance in which he taught the disciples a special lesson on this subject. This was the time Christ washed the disciples' feet. Let's read: "Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he

loved them unto the end. And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God, He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know here-after Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but to clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord, neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." (John 13:1-17).

Palestine was a dusty country, and as people walked from place to place, it was customary for water to be offe-

red to guests that they might wash their feet whenever they entered a house. Usually a servant did this work. On the occasion of this supper shared by Jesus and his disciples, the disciples had gotten into a discussion concerning which of them would be the greatest in the new kingdom. To teach the lesson of humility, Jesus, their Lord and Master, rose and laid aside his robe in order to do the work of a servant in washing their feet.

In the world as men grow in position and recognition, usually they become filled with pride and expect to be served by others inferior to them. But Jesus taught Christians that there is no place for pride and haughtiness among His followers. All of us are to be of humble attitudes, willing and ready to help others in whatever ways are possible.

Jesus was saying by his action on this occasion that if he could wash their feet then they should be willing to serve each other. This was not done to suggest that the washing of feet itself should become a regular practice, as in a worship service, but He knew that there would be occasions due to sickness, and maybe just in showing hospitality, when it would be necessary to do service to others. On such occasions the true Christian must be humble enough to serve.

But the greatest test of humility came for the Lord when he was finally betrayed by one of his own disciples, Judas, was denied by another, Peter, and was taken and beaten, condemned, scoffed at, and then was crucified between two thieves on a cross, to die a horrible death. It had been prophesied by Isaiah, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him

stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." (Isaiah 53:4-7). Philip preached to the Ethiopian eunuch concerning Christ, "In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth." (Acts 8:33). The Hebrew writer said, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of God." (Hebrews 12:2).

When the unbelievers stood at the cross and taunted Christ with shouts of, "If you are the Christ, come down from the cross," what strength and humility he exercised to endure in silence. The Mockers deserved to be destroyed—they were crucifying the very Son of God—and if Jesus had chosen to show them his greatness and power, he could have simply spoken the word and life would have been snatched from them. He could have called the legions of angels at his command and destroyed all of humanity. But he did not. He chose, instead, to endure the shame of death by crucifixion as a common criminal. He chose to allow his enemies an apparent victory. He chose to bear the sins of all mankind in this humiliation of death, so that all men, would have the opportunity to

be forgiven. So this greatest challenge to Christ's humility brought the hope of eternal life to those who obey Him.

But what about Christians today? Actually, being humble is one of the major traits of the Christian. As we all know, those of the world, and sometimes those who stray from the teaching of Christ, are seeking to be the greatest, to have the highest positions, to receive the praises and glory of man. Christ taught his disciples a lesson on this by calling a little child into their midst and by saying that one must be converted and become as a little child to enter into the kingdom of heaven. He continued, by saying, "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:4). Again the Lord said, "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." (Matthew 23:12). James quoted the wise man to say, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." (James 4:6). In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ said, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5.) In these various scriptures, we can see the Lord's will concerning humility and meekness, not false humility, but a sincere attitude of service to others. To be like Christ, then, we must have this quality in our lives.

But don't misunderstand and take humility as a sign of weakness. On the contrary, it is a sign of great strength. It takes a very strong person to be humble. Most people have a tendency to show pride and a haughty attitude in dealing with those around them, especially if they have even a small amount of authority. Very few important people know how to handle greatness through an

attitude of humility. But which type of person do you prefer dealing with? One that is ugly, haughty, proud, bossy, demanding, showing you no respect, making you wait, or attempting to instill fear in you? Or do you like to deal with one who is kind, considerate, humble, respectful, one who tries to be helpful, making you feel worthwhile and relaxed in their presence? All of us would choose the latter type of person. That is the kind of personality the Christian must always have, for this is the spirit of Christianity.

I see that my time is up, so we'll close with a few final remarks. If you would like to become a Christian and would need assistance in doing so, please let us know. Keep in mind that in order to become a Christian you must believe in God, and believe in Christ as the Son of God. But that's not all. You must also repent of your sins, or turn from those bad things that may be in your life. Then you must confess Christ as the Son of God and be baptized, or immersed in water, for the remission of your sins. Christ said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16). Peter told a group of believers to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38). When one does these things the Lord saves him and adds him to his church. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:47). As such, he is a Christian. Now isn't that simple? As I said, if you need some assistance, please let us know. Or if you would like to have additional literature for further study, please write to us and we'll be glad to send it to you.

Thank you for listening and I hope to be with you next week at the same time. Goodbye till then.

Lesson 6

A PATIENT LIFE

Thank you, Steve, and I come to you in the name of Christ with another gospel broadcast. I count it a real privilege, and also a great responsibility, to study the word of God with you. I hope you feel the same.

As always, I want to mention again the fact that we have a Bible correspondence course available for all who will write in to request it. Please send your name and address, plainly written in block style, and I will be most happy to send it to you.

We will now continue with our present series of studies on The Christian Life. We want to fully acquaint you with what it means to be a Christian. There is no life that is comparable to it in the world today. Those who follow Christ are blessed spiritually, physically, materially, socially, and in every other way, far beyond their counterparts. Of course, this is on the basis that they have applied the teachings and principles of Christ to their lives, and they are truly living as the Lord would have them to live.

But how does one become a Christian? It is not by just believing in God and Christ as his Son. It is not by simply praying, or asking the Lord for the forgiveness of

sins. It is not by just living a good life. Rather, when one reads through the New Testament, and especially the books of Acts with all of its conversions, he will note that it is clearly taught that one must first believe in God and in Christ as his Son. Then based on that belief, he must repent of his sins. This means that he must turn away from all that is bad and wrong. Next he must confess with his mouth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And finally, he must be baptized, or immersed in water, to have the remission of his sins. When one complies with those conditions of pardon, then the Lord saves that person and adds him to his church. As such, he is a Christian, not only wearing the name Christian, but striving to follow Christ, to have the mind of Christ, to be like Christ in all things that he says or does. It is not a life that is complicated or difficult, but rather it is very pure and simple. When one applies the teachings of Christ to his life then he is changed, his life is made better, he is richly blessed. Christ would keep him from all that would hurt, harm, or destroy him and would encourage him to practice those things in his life that would be good for him and others, that would bring peace, joy, happiness, and hope.

In our lesson at this time we are going to consider The Christian Life as being A Patient Life. Patience is being long-suffering, steadfast, and practicing self-control. It is the ability to stay calm and remain undisturbed even though things may be frustrating. The Christian is encouraged to be patient in dealing with others, on the job, with life itself. It is one of those traits and qualities that moulds one and turns him into the kind of person that others would admire. This is what the Christian life is all

about. It is practical, down to earth, and what people need.

Let's begin our lesson by turning to the Scriptures for some examples of patience. In talking about the need of patience on the part of Christians, James says, "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." (James 5:7-11). In these verses you will notice that the writer illustrates patience by referring first of all to the farmer. The idea is that he prepares his soil, plants the seed, waits for the rain, and finally gathers the harvest. This takes time, faith, confidence, and patience. He works hard and is ever looking forward to the day that he will receive the fruits of his labours. Second, James refers to the many prophets and all that they endured in order to be faithful to the Lord. This was not easy. Many would have quit and deserted their calling. But they did not. Because of loyalty they were blessed. Then third, James goes back to Job as a powerful example of patience. The ones to whom he was speaking had heard of this great man, and so have all others who know anything about the Bible.

Job stands out because he was a great servant of God. At the same time Satan accused God of so blessing Job that he would not leave him. God was so sure of Job's loyalty that He gave the devil permission to do anything he wanted to do to his servant except to take his life. As a result, Job lost his animals, his children, and all that he had, but his conclusion was that God gives and God takes away, and he would not curse his creator. Then Job was covered with boils and sores to the point that even his wife told him that he should curse God and die, but he would not. His friends concluded that evidently this had befallen him because of his sins. In spite of all of this, he remained true to God. The Devil could not turn God's servant from Him. Because of his steadfastness he has been a great example of patience, endurance, and faithfulness even down to this time. Finally, James closes out with the fourth example and that being of the Lord himself. We'll say more about this later, but James uses these four examples of patience to encourage Christians of his day to be faithful to the Lord. The same teaching and principles have come on down to us and they apply equally today.

God himself is the greatest example of patience and long suffering. Is it not possible for us to imagine all of the things that God has endured and put up with down through the ages in dealing with man? Think of the many times that man, the one created in his own image, has disappointed him, failed him, and forsaken him, Think of all the hurt that God has experienced because of man. Would we have had the same patience? We don't, in dealing with one another. But the time will finally come when God's patience and longsuffering will come to an

end. Think back to the flood. He warned the wicked to repent, commanded Noah to build an ark to save himself and his family from the forthcoming flood, and to preach to all others that they should enter the ark to be saved. But finally God's patience ended and the flood was sent to destroy all of the wicked. (1 Peter 3:20). We can also think of other occasions when God's patience ran out. He waited and waited on man, giving him opportunity after opportunity to obey him, but when he would not, he punished him. The same is true today. God has been good to us, has been patient and long-suffering, but he warns that the day will come when he will destroy the world and the wicked. Those who did not believe him in the past lived to regret it. Those who do not believe in God today, and will not respond to his will, will have to suffer the consequences.

We read, also, of the patience and longsuffering of Christ. He demonstrated this during his life on the earth, in his dealings with man, in his death on the cross. Even now it must pain him to see all of the evil and corruption in the world while only a few are willing to hear his will. He has promised to come again but delays that coming to give more people an opportunity to be saved. Peter says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

We could go on and on talking about the patience of others, but what about Christians today? The Hebrew writer says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside

every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us..." (Hebrews 12:1).

Peter tells us that patience is one of the Christian graces that must be added to our faith to mould us and to make us into the kind of people that the Lord would have us to be. He says, "And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:5-11).

Patience is included in numerous statements in the scriptures. Let us notice some of them:

Romans 5:3-5. "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh *patience*; And *patience*, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

Romans 8:25. "But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with *patience* wait for it."

Romans 15:4. "For whatsoever things were written

aforetime were written for our learning, that we through *patience* and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

Colossians 1:10, 11. "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might according to his glorious power, unto all *patience* and longsuffering with joyfulness."

1 Timothy 6:10, 11. "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, *patience*, meekness."

James 1:3,4. "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh *patience*. But let *patience* have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

These, of course, are only a few of the references in the scripture to *patience*, longsuffering, endurance, and faithfulness. The Christian is to grow in this grace. He is to demonstrate it in his prayers, in his teaching, in his dealings with his brethren, in his family, on the job, in his waiting on the Lord's return.

The Christian may grow in the grace of *patience* as he overcomes the world, in his work for the Lord, in enduring persecution or problems and difficulties, in worshipping the Lord, in reading and studying the word of God. By having this quality in one's life, he is able to have a tremendous influence on those who are around him.

For example, let me ask you of the radio audience who you had rather deal with on the job, at the post

office, at the bank, in the market, and so on. Would you prefer someone who has an ill temper, who doesn't want to bother with you, who is sour, ugly, and wears a frown on his face, or would you choose to deal with someone who is kind, nice, has a smile, wants to help you, and has time to help you? Perhaps you must deal most of the time with those who are ugly and short tempered, but I am positive that you would prefer to be around those who are patient and kind. This is the spirit that distinguishes the Christian from the unbelievers around him. He has this attitude because it is like Christ and one cannot be a true Christian without learning to develop it.

Wouldn't you like to have this quality in your life? Wouldn't you like to be a Christian and be characterized as a kindly, patient person? You can, and our prayer is that you will. There is no life like the Christian life. But how can you become a Christian? By believing in him, by repenting of your sins, by confessing him before men, and by being baptized for the remission of your sins. In so doing the Lord will save you and add you to his church. Then as a Christian you can begin to grow in patience and the many other graces and qualities that will mould you into a Christ-like person.

Please write us and let us know if we can assist you in your obedience or if you would like to have some Christian literature for further study.

Our time is up and thank you for listening. May God bless you till we meet again.

Lesson 7

A FORGIVING LIFE

Thank you very much, and I come to you again in the name of Jesus Christ, God's Son our Saviour. Our intention is to spend the next few minutes in a study of God's word. We hope you will stay with us during this time.

We are offering on this broadcast a free Bible Correspondence Course to those who will request it. If you would like to have this course for your own private study, send us your name and address, written clearly in block style, and we'll send it to you immediately. We also have some Christian literature in the form of tracts and books that we can send you on receiving your request. A variety of subjects is covered and you might want to specify the particular subjects that you would be interested in.

Our present series of studies centers around The Christian Life. We are attempting to show you from the scriptures what the Christian life is all about and why you should be a follower of Christ.

Of all the teaching and principles that are interwoven with The Christian Life, none is greater than that of Forgiveness. The Christian Life is A Forgiving Life. We

want to think specifically about this during our study today.

Someone has said that the greatest word in the English language is forgiveness. If anything can draw one to Christ and Christianity the doctrine of forgiveness can. It is because of God's love and Christ's death that we are forgiven, and it is because of our willingness to forgive others that we are Christ-like, and thus Christians.

God made it possible for man to be forgiven of his sins by sending his Son into this world to die on the cross. Prior to that time man was lost and without hope. He was in sin and had no real way to have his sins remitted. There was animal sacrifice but it could not permanently take away sin. (Hebrews 10 : 4). But then God in his grace and mercy changed all of that. Please read with me some verses of scripture that confirm this:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4. "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

Romans 5:8,9. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

Matthew 26:28. "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of

sins."

Ephesians 1:7. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

Colossians 1:14. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

Now in these verses, and others that could be given, we see that Christ died on the cross for the sins of man. But how can one be saved by something that Christ did? How does that help man? How does one apply the blood of Christ so that his sins will be forgiven? Christ lived a perfect life, a life without sin, and therefore God was willing to count the sacrifice of his life as sufficient payment for the sins of man. That is, God was willing to allow His Son to shed his blood to pay the price for man's sins. But that within itself was not enough. In order for man to benefit from that sacrifice, he must be willing to apply that blood to his sins and there are certain conditions that he must meet to do that. The death of Christ on the cross is said to be the gospel of Christ, that is, the good news that Christ died to make it possible for man to be saved. Based then on that gospel, the good news that Christ died, was buried, and then was resurrected from the grave, Christ himself said to his Apostles, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15,16).

When one therefore hears the gospel of Christ, believes it, repents of his sins, confesses that Christ is the Son of God, and is baptized, then he comes into contact with the blood of Christ, and is therefore saved, that is, he receives

the remission of his sins or the forgiveness of sins. We read earlier where Christ said that his blood was shed for the remission of sins. (Matthew 26:28). Then we read in Acts 2:38 how that Peter told those who had heard the gospel and had come to believe it that they should repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. This means that on obeying the Lord, one comes into contact with the blood of Christ and his sins are washed away and forgiven.

Not only does the Lord forgive one of his sins when he obeys the gospel of Christ, but when a Christian makes a mistake or sins then later repents of it, the Lord is willing to forgive him. Peter told Simon, a man who had become a Christian, but then had sinned when he had tried to buy the gift of God with money, that he should repent of his wickedness and pray to God that the thought of his heart might be forgiven. On being told that, "Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me." (Acts 8:23,24).

In Luke 15:11-32 Jesus told the story of a man who had two sons. One decided to take his inheritance and to go away. He did so and spent his goods in riotous living. Finally he found himself in the depth of despair. But he came to himself and decided that he would repent and go back to his father. When he reached his home, his father joyfully received him back and forgave him. The other son had stayed all along with his father, but he was envious and jealous of the treatment that was given to his brother when he returned. This story represents God and his children today. Christians are safe with their Father,

having everything that they need. But if one should decide to go back into the world of sin, he is free to go. Although the Father wants him to stay, and knows that it is not in his interest to leave, yet he does not force anyone to stay with him. But then should that child realize that he is out in the world of sin, lost and without hope, away from the better things of life, and should he see the need to repent and to return to the Father, then the Father is always ready to welcome him back. He is willing to forgive and restore that son to his place. Even those who stay but have jealous hearts or other attitudes in their lives that need to be removed can be forgiven by the Father if they will repent and ask forgiveness.

No one is perfect, so even though Christians are trying to please God, they make mistakes and sin from time to time. John says that if we have no sinned then we make God a liar and the truth is not in us. Therefore, he says in speaking to God's children, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1 John 1:7-10).

Not only do we have one who has forgiven us, and is willing to forgive us as we repent and obey him, but he has commanded that we also have a forgiving spirit toward each other. On one occasion Peter asked the Lord, "How oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?"

till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Untill seven times: but, Untill seventy times seven." (Matthew 18:21,22). In other words, the Lord was teaching the lesson that one should be willing to forgive his brother as often as he repents and asks for forgiveness. Christ taught the disciples in the model prayer, "And forgive us of our debts, as we forgive our debtors." (Matthew 6:12). He then went on to say, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, niether will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14,15).

The Bible says that we should be willing to forgive as the Lord has forgiven us. Paul said, "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." (Colossians 3:13).

Man has always been prone to want to hold grudges and to seek revenge against those who have done them wrong. This is not in keeping with the spirit of Christ, however, and a Christian cannot conduct himself in such a manner. We must be willing to forgive those who do us wrong, to pray for those who curse us, and to do good to those who do us evil. Christ said, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what re-

ward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?" (Matthew 5:43-47). Jesus said, "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:35-38).

Now what have we been saying in this study? We have been saying, or rather the scripture has been saying, that God sent his Son to die on the cross to make it possible for man to be saved, to be forgiven of his sins. All of those who meet his conditions, through obedience, are forgiven. Then on becoming a Christian there is still the need of forgiveness, since even the Christian is human, and the Lord is there to forgive. Not only that, but he expects those who obey him to be willing to forgive one another. Those who will not do so cannot be forgiven.

What kind of person had you rather deal with? The kind that is ugly, sinful, mean, unforgiving, the kind that would hold a grudge and seek revenge, or the person that is kind, understanding, willing to forgive and forget, and wants to be your friend? The Christian is one who knows the importance of forgiveness because he knows that God through Christ was willing to forgive him. He is there-

fore ready to forgive those who do him wrong. I am sure you would prefer to deal with this kind of person over the other type. I know I would. Wouldn't the world be a lot better off if it had more people like this?

Are you living in sin? Are you following a religion that offers no forgiveness? How can you go on with that burden of guilt? Don't you know that there is one who died for you and is ready to forgive you of all of your sins and wrongs? You need not carry that heavy weight around with you any longer. If you will believe in the Lord, repent of all of your sins, confess Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized (buried in water), then the Lord will save you and add you to his church. Then as God's child you will always have access to your Father and can go to him at any time to ask for his help, for forgiveness for any mistake or sin you may have committed provided you are willing to sincerely repent of it. Thus, life can bring the kind of happiness that you never dreamed existed.

Wouldn't you like to be a Christian? If we can help you in any way in your obedience to the Lord, please contact us immediately. If we can send you some literature for further study, we would also be glad to do that.

Time is up, and I hope you'll plan to be with me next time as we continue our study of *The Christian Life*. Until then, I bid you goodbye.

Lesson 8

A BELIEVING LIFE

Thank you, Steve, and I welcome you of the radio audience in the name of Christ to another gospel broadcast. We come each week at this time to study the word of God with you and we trust that you look forward to it as much as we do.

We continue to emphasize our free Bible Correspondence Course because we would like to send it to you. If you haven't already written for your course, please do so today. Send your name and address, writing clearly in block style, and we will post it to you immediately.

What is the Christian life all about? This is what a lot of people want to know. For this reason we are taking the time to make a detailed study of *The Christian Life*. We want one and all to know what it really means to be a Christian, what is involved, the blessings and advantages that come to those who are Christians.

As we continue our study, we will think this time about *The Christian Life* being *A Believing Life*.

Faith, belief, and trust are some of the key words involved in living for Christ. Take them out of Christianity and there would be nothing left.

God is, and Christ is the Son of God, but for these

truths to mean anything to an individual he must believe them. The Hebrew writer said, "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6). Christ said, "...ye believe in God, believe also in me." (John 14:1). Jesus also said, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." (John 8:24). After Philip had taught the Ethiopian eunuch the truth concerning what he should do to be saved, and after the eunuch expressed a desire to be baptized, "And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:37). Then Philip baptized him and he went on his way rejoicing.

Before one can become a Christian he must believe or have faith in God and in Christ as the Son of God. The belief or faith of the scripture is all encompassing. It includes all of the commands of God. Whatever the Lord has said, one must have enough faith to accept it. Whatever the Lord has commanded, one must believe enough to do it. The scripture no where teaches faith or belief only.

We read where Christ said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). Now what is the Lord saying here? Is he talking about belief in him as a person, as the Son of God, as the Saviour, or what? Does it mean that one could believe in Christ but refuse to do what he has commanded? Does it mean that one can be saved on mental

acceptance of Christ, and then at some later point proceed to obey the commands of the Lord? It is sad the way so many handle the word of God, saying that God does not really mean it when he asks believers to be obedient in order to be saved. Shouldn't it be obvious that if a person truly believes in Christ, believes in his divinity, believes in him as the Son of God, then that person will surely believe in him enough to believe his teachings? If one has this kind of faith then it means that his faith will save him, that is, he has enough faith to obey the Lord's commands, and as a result the Lord saves him.

Christ commanded the apostles, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15,16). When one hears the word of God, and faith is produced (Romans 10:17), then in order for that belief or faith to save him, he must obey the commands of the Lord. What has he asked? He has commanded that one believe and be baptized. What must one do, then, to be saved? He must believe and be baptized. That is the only way. There is no way around this truth. What if one refuses? Then it means that he doesn't have the kind of faith necessary to be saved and therefore he will be lost. The Bible teaches that faith only is dead. (James 2:24-26). Is that hard to understand? Certainly not. Then why is it that some people argue about this? Why do they say that one is saved by belief or faith only without having to be baptized at all? They say this because they have heard others say it. And why do these people say it? Because they are unwilling to do what the Lord has commanded. With

this attitude they cannot be saved.

God and Christ are the very foundation of the Christian life, and all of our obedience, worship, living for the Lord, and all activities rest upon our faith in God and in Christ. It is through our faith in them that we obey the gospel to be saved, and then it is by our faith that we live the Christian life. Peter said, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience: and to patience godliness: And to godliness brotherly kindness: and to brotherly kindness charity." (2 Peter 1:5-7). Faith, then, is the beginning point in becoming a Christian, and faith is the beginning point for Christian growth and development.

Let us take some time now to read some verses of scripture that show the importance of faith and trust in the Christian's life:

Romans 5:1,2. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Romans 14:23. "...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

1 Corinthians 15:14. "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

2 Corinthians 5:7. "(For we walk by faith, not by sight).

2 Corinthians 13:5. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you except ye be

reprobates?"

Galatians 2:20. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Galatians 3:26,27. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Galatians 5:22. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Ephesians 2:8,9. "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Ephesians 3:17. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith..."

Ephesians 6:16. "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

1 Timothy 6:12. "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art called, and has professed a good profession before many witnesses."

2 Timothy 2:22. "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

1 John 5:4. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Jude 3. "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnest-

ly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Romans 1:16,17. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

Romans 6:8,9. "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more: death hath no more dominion over him."

1 Corinthians 1:21. "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

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

1 Timothy 4:13. "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

From these verses, and many others that could be cited, the emphasis is on faith, belief, and trust. Let me remind you again that in no way do these verses teach that salvation is by faith only, or that the Christian life can be lived apart from applying the teachings and principles of Christ to one's daily life. The Christian life is a believing life. The Christian is a living, obeying, working,

worshipping, serving person, producing good fruit to the honor and glory of God.

In Hebrews 11 we may read of the heroes of faith. Why were they considered to be men of faith? Because they proved their faith by their lives. They obeyed God's commandments. They believed that in doing so, he would be with them, would help them and make it possible for them to overcome and to be victorious. They had a deep and an abiding trust in God's care for them.

When we question God, and his word, or substitute our own ideas and ways, then we are rejecting him. On the other hand, when we believe in God with all of our heart then we are going to be willing and ready to do whatever the Lord would have us to do. We will follow His direction without question because we do believe in him. We will do it because we trust him to do for us all that he has said that he will do.

The Christian life is a life of faith. We walk by faith. We live by faith. We serve by faith. We have full confidence in God. We believe that he will keep His promises. As Paul said concerning his life, "For in which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12).

Wouldn't you like to be a Christian? You can, if you have enough faith, enough faith to repent of your sins, enough faith to confess Christ as the Son of God, and enough faith to be baptized for the remission of your sins. Then after being saved and added to the church, and as a Christian, let your faith continue to grow and to become

strong. It can lead you to heaven itself.

Some begin the Christian life but fall by the way side. What happens? They either lose their faith, or else it is not strong enough to keep them on the right path. Only those who remain faithful unto death will receive the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10).

Time is up. Thank you for listening and I'll be back next week at the same time, the Lord willing. Join me then. God bless you in your studies of His word.

Lesson 9

A PRAYING LIFE

Thank you, and in the name of Christ I greet you with The Voice of Truth. The purpose of this program is to present a lesson from God's word. We do so with an invitation for you to join us in this study. We are on the air each week at this same time and we would hope that you will make it a point to join us for each study and that you will encourage your friends to do the same.

Before we begin our lesson, let me encourage you to write for the free Bible Correspondence Course that we are offering. You'll find it inspirational, informative, and scriptural. If you would like to have it, please send your name and address, clearly written in block style, and we'll post it to you. You'll be happy that you did.

We are now engaged in a study of The Christian Life. How much do you know about Christianity? What effect would the teachings of Christianity have in your daily life? How would behaviour among the people of India be changed if all were true Christians trying to live by the Bible? We want to study to learn the answers to these questions, so that you will want the blessings of Christianity.

So far we have shown that The Christian Life is a new life, a pure life, a good life, a humble life, a patient life, a

forgiving life, and now we want to consider The Christian Life as A Praying Life. As we continue this series we will be listing many other traits and qualities of the Christian and we hope you will want to stay with us for these various studies.

Praying is one of the great themes of the Bible. Prayer and Christian living go hand in hand. You couldn't have the one without the other. But perhaps before we go further we should define prayer. It is the act of entreating God, of making supplication, the out-pouring of one's requests to God, speaking or talking to God, meditating upon Him. God speaks to us today through his word, the scriptures, and we speak to him through prayer. Furthermore, we speak to God our Father through Jesus Christ our High Priest, our mediator and advocate. John tells us, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:1,2).

Let me hasten to say that prayer is reserved solely for the Christian, the child of God. Those who obey God become his children, spiritually. One becomes a Christian when he believes in God, in Christ as being the Son of God, when he repents or turns away from all of his sins, when he confesses Christ as the Son of God and is then baptized or immersed in water for the remission of his sins. Then Paul says, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:26,27). Now, if those who obey God and are baptized

into Christ are children of God, then those who have not obeyed God, and who have not been baptized into Christ, are not children of God. Obviously, if they are not children of God, then they are children of the devil. Also, it means that if prayer is reserved for the child of God, then if one is not a child of God he does not have the right to pray to God, expecting answers to his prayers. Why? Because God is not his spiritual Father, but rather Satan is. Therefore, he cannot expect to have the same privileges and rights as the Christian who is God's rightful son. Now if a sinner realizes the need to pray to God as his Father, then he can change his relationship by obeying God and thus becoming his son. As a son, he has the right to petition God in prayer.

In the long ago, John recorded the words of a man who had been healed of blindness by Christ, and he said, "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth." (John 9:31). This man passed on a principle truth that has always been true. We may read of Saul praying (Acts 9), and of Cornelius being a prayerful man (Acts 10), but the record makes it clear that it was necessary for them to obey the gospel in order to be saved. While God does not hear the sinner, that is, God does not answer his prayer, he does hear the one who worships him and does his will. You'll note the contrast in the two parties. One represents a sinner and the other a Christian. Who is the sinner? He is one who is rebellious, who has not obeyed God, who is not a Christian. Why would God hear such a person as that? It would be unthinkable. But the Christian represents one who has humbled himself

before the Lord, and has obeyed his will. Therefore, he is a child of God, and God is now his Father. Surely God would hear his child, and does.

God's people have always been a praying people. Go through the Old Testament and observe the relationship that God and his people had with each other, God spoke to them and they talked to him. Then when Christ, the Son of God, came into this world, it is immediately noticeable how often he went to his Father in prayer. He often slipped away from the multitudes and into the mountains to find solitude and time to pray. For instance, we read in Matthew 14:23, "And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone." Again, we read, "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." (Mark 1:35). Then we think of the time that he prayed for unity (John 17), the prayer in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46), and how he prayed that the Father would forgive those who had crucified him. (Luke 23:34). There were many other occasions when Jesus taught the disciples of the power of prayer. For instance, he taught the importance of prayer through a parable. We read, "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth

me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"(Luke 18:1-8). Here the Lord took a worldly event to make a point. He showed how a widow persistently went to a worldly judge for help, and although she was nothing in his sight, still he responded to her request because he didn't want to be bothered by her constant pleas for help. The Lord then shows that if this would happen in the world, how much the more will God our Father hear our requests if we will only call upon him.

The early Christians were great believers in prayer. In the book of Acts we may read of the prayers of Peter and John (Acts 4:31), of Paul and Silas praying while in prison (Acts 16:25), and of the many prayers that were uttered by Paul and others on behalf of the many of the Christians at Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, Colosse, Thessalonica, and so on.

Christians were commanded to worship God each first day of the week (Acts 20:7) and included in that worship was prayer. We read, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42).

Another important role that prayer played in the Christians was praying to God for the forgiveness of their sins. This was to be done on behalf of others who had sinned and had repented, and likewise on behalf of one's own sins upon repenting of the same. We read of Peter

telling Simon that he needed to repent of his sin and then Simon responded by asking that Peter pray for him. (Acts 8:22-24). James says, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16). Christ taught the disciples to pray, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." (Matthew 6:12). But please listen to his warning on prayer, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14, 15).

So, for what can a Christian pray? He can pray for help, for strength, for wisdom, for the forgiveness of his sins, for God's blessings to be upon him and others. He can thank the Lord and offer prayers of praise in worship. He can pray for any and all things that are in harmony with God's will. John wrote, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." (1 John 5:14, 15).

Someone has said that God answers all prayers. To some he says yes and to others he says no. But God knows what is best for his children, and therefore, he will not grant a request if it would not be in the interest of the one that was asking. Please remember the words of Peter: "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." (1 Peter 3:12).

Let us now continue our study by noticing a few of the many passages of scripture that deal with the subject of prayer:

Philippians 4:6. "Be careful for nothing; (or be anxious about nothing); but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Ephesians 6:18. "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

1 Thessalonians 5:17. "Pray without ceasing."

Colossians 4:2. "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving."

1 Timothy 2:1. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

1 Timothy 2:8. "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

Surely then, we can see the place and importance of prayer in the life of the Christian. How blessed we are to have such a relationship with our God, to be on praying terms with him. Just think of the position that one is in who is not a child of God and who cannot turn to God for help even in the worst of trouble, Oh yes, he can pray, and surely God can hear every utterance that is made. But at the same time God has not promised to honor the requests of those who do not belong to him. That might sound cruel, but it is also cruel for one to go

through life refusing to believe in the Lord, maybe even cursing him, but certainly failing to obey him, and then for that person to expect God's help the minute he gets into serious trouble. Even as his children he may not grant all our requests. Let me illustrate this to you in this way: For instance, I have four children, two boys and two girls, and they are different ages and have different needs. Whenever my children make a request of me, I do my best to give them those things that they want. Of course since I dearly love them, I must weigh each request carefully because I wouldn't want to give them anything that would harm them. Being children they would not in every case know what might be best for them, but since I am their father and I am older, with more knowledge and experience, then I am in better position to make wise decisions concerning their requests. The same is true with God in dealing with his children. He loves us and hears our prayers, doing for us always what is best. Not only so, but while I may respond to the requests of my children, I would have no obligation to supply the wants and needs for children who do not belong to me. Likewise, while God tries to honor the requests of his children, his ears are not open to those who do not belong to him.

The Christian is the most blessed person in the world because he has access to the Father in heaven and all of his power and riches through Jesus Christ. If you are not Christian, then this fact alone should cause you to want to become one. If you will believe in God, and in Christ his Son, repent of your sins, confess Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized for the remission of your sins, then

the Lord will save you and add you to his church, which is the family of God. As a child of God you will have the relationship with God that we have been discussing in this lesson.

If we can assist you in your obedience, please let us hear from you. If you need more time for further study and would like to have some Christian literature, we would be glad to send it to you on receiving your request. Do write us so we may know your needs.

It has been my pleasure to discuss these great truths with you and I hope you will join me next week at the same time as we continue our study of the Christian Life. Bye until then.

Lesson 10

A LOVING LIFE

Thank you very much, and greetings to you in the name of Christ. I count it an honor to be able to come to you by means of radio for the purpose of studying with you from the word of God. There is not anything that we could do that would be more important than that.

Before we get into our lesson of the hour, I would like to tell you that we have a free Bible Correspondence Course available and we would be delighted to send it to you on receiving your request. Please send your name and address, printed plainly in block letters, and we'll post the course back to you. I believe you'll find it to be very helpful in your private study.

We are studying a series of lessons on The Christian Life. We are doing this to show what the Christian life is, and the importance of being a Christian. You may think that being a Christian amounts to no more than being born into a family of Christian, or you may think that one is a Christian merely because he believes in Christ. There are many misconceptions about the Christian life. We hope to clear all of these up in this series of studies, and at the same time we want to show what the Christian life is all about.

One becomes a Christian when he becomes a believer and follower of Christ by obeying his teaching. This obedience includes repenting of his sins, confessing Christ as the Son of God, and being baptized for the remission of sins. The Lord then saves that person and adds him to his church. The challenge of the Christian life, however, does not end at this point because one continues to follow Christ by worshipping him, serving him and doing all of these things that the Lord would have him to do. In this way one becomes Christ-like and that is why he is called a Christian. Please note that one is not physically born a Christian, nor does he become a Christian necessarily because he is born into a family of a Christian. He must grow up and make that decision for himself. No one can force him to be a Christian.

We will proceed now to consider The Christian Life, as A Loving Life. First, we will see how God's love made it possible for man to be saved. John tell us, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:8-10). That is, without love it is impossible to understand God because everything about God must be considered in terms of love. God represents the very highest form of love. All that he does is for our welfare.

To prove God's great love for man, he gave his only begotten Son that we might be saved. We read, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten,

Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). Paul adds, "But God commendeth his love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8). Truly this is love on the part of God and also on the part of Christ. Christ said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). There was not just the empty talk of love, but love was demonstrated on the part of God, by the giving of his Son, and on the part of Christ, by the giving of his life. But why? That man might be saved. Without such love there would not have been any way for man to have been saved.

But even that love is meaningless without man's response to it. Christ said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15). Christ showed his love by giving his life that we might be saved. He says that we are now to show our love for him by obeying his commandments. What are his commandments? First, he has commanded the sinner to meet certain conditions to be saved from his sins. These conditions are in the form of commands. Surely if Christ has the power to save man, he has a right to lay down certain conditions or commands for one to be saved. Furthermore, if there are conditions or commands then they must be complied with. Without this obedience, man cannot be saved.

The Lord's terms of pardon centre around faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. When one learns of Christ and of all that he has done that man might be saved, the hearer must believe what he hears. Christ said, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." (John

8:24). Concerning the things that Jesus did, John wrote, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:30, 31).

But that's not all. As important as it is to believe in Christ, if one stopped right there, he could not be saved. Why? Because Christ also commands that one must repent of his sins. We read that he said that one must repent or perish. (Luke 13:3). Paul declared that God commands all men everywhere to repent. (Acts 17:30). Then Peter told a group of believers that they should repent and be baptized to have the remission of their sins. (Acts 2:38). Why is repentance so important? Because the Lord recognizes the fact that sin destroys. He therefore makes one of the conditions of pardon, the turning away from sin. If one wants to be saved from his sins, and live a better life, he must be willing to give up the bad habits and sinful practices that were in his life. If he doesn't love the Lord enough to do that, he loves his sins more than he loves Christ, and he is therefore not worthy of him.

But then what comes after repentance? Next, the Lord commands that one confess him before men as being the Son of God. Christ said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven." (Matthew 10:32). The Apostle Paul said, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:10). We have an example of this being done in Acts 8:37 when the Ethiopian eunuch said to

Philip, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So the confession of Christ is very important, and who would refuse to do that?

Finally, there is the command of baptism. Christ himself said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be demned." (Mark 16:16). Now what does that mean? It means exactly what it says. Anyone who would misunderstand this statement is really not interested in doing what the Lord has commanded. But there are many other verses that stress the necessity of obeying this command. In Acts 2:38 Peter said to those who believed, that repentance and baptism would bring remission of sins. In Acts 22:16 Saul was told to be baptized to wash away his sins. But why would the Lord ask that one meet all of these conditions in order to be saved? Didn't he die on the cross that we might be saved? True, but if he was willing to die for us, we should have no complaints about obeying a few commands. He has shown his love for us. Now we have the opportunity to show our love for him. This is the test. And he said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

But this is just the beginning of the love the Lord would have us to express to him and for our fellowman. The New Testament is filled with statements, stories, and commands concerning love. Christianity is a religion of love. Because of this fact, there is no other religion like it.

Let us take the time to read some verses of scripture that deal with the love that we are to have for others:

Matthew 5:43,44. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

Matthew 22:37-39. "Jesus said unto them, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Romans 8:28. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:35-39. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come; Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Roman 12:9. "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."

Romans 13:8-10. "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another; hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

Galatians 5:22,23. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Ephesians 3:17-19. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height: And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."

Ephesians 5:1,2. "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour."

1 Thessalonians 1:3. "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father."

1 Peter 1:22. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."

1 Peter 2:17. "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king."

Hebrews 13:1. "Let brotherly love continue."

You can see that in these verses there is emphasis on loving the Lord, loving one another, the labour of love, the fruit of love. This attitude of love toward God and toward our fellow-men makes Christians unique people in the world.

The Bible at the same time warns that we must not love the world. John says that if we love the world, the evil things of the world, then the love of the Father is not in us. (1 John 2:17).

Man usually thinks of love only in the sense of physical or carnal love. The Bible stresses the highest form of love, the love that expresses itself in doing what is good for the one who is loved. In this way we are told we must even love our enemies. This does not mean that we must feel the warmth of physical love for strangers or enemies. But we are to seek to do what is best for them: to show kindness and helpfulness toward them, to deal with them honestly and justly, to pray for them, to teach them of God. This is the kind of love Jesus had for man when he died for those who hated him, and this is the kind of love that we must have for him and for each other.

Those who would show love in their lives are often depicted as weaklings. The question that needs to be asked here would be this: Was Jesus a weakling? Surely not. And neither is one a weakling today when he manifests the love of Jesus in his life. Such love requires great strength and character.

The world is full of wickedness, ungodliness, immorality, meanness, and ugliness. Wouldn't it be a better place to live in if all of that evil could be replaced with a godly love, a genuine concern for one another, the desire to help each other? Wouldn't it be better if all men greeted each other with kindness, and smiling faces? The Christian life centers around love and the good attitudes resulting from it. The Christian will harm no one, but will help his neighbour. The Christian will always be honest, will do right,

and practice the things that Christ taught. If you know of someone who is not living this type of life, you can mark it down that he is not a true Christian.

Are you a Christian? If not, would you like to be one? You can, by believing in the Lord, repenting of your sins, confessing Christ, and being baptized for the remission of your sins. The Lord loves you and wants you to be saved. If you will love Him enough to obey him, he will save you and add you to his church. Then you will be a Christian, that is, as you live for him and strive to be like him.

Shortly before Jesus' death he made these statements to his disciples: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35). This condition is a very important one for all Christians to remember.

But my time is up. Thank you for listening and I hope to be with you again next week at the same time. Until then, I'll say goodbye for now.

Lesson 11

A THANKFUL LIFE

Thank you, and I come to you in the name of Christ with this Bible broadcast. It is my pleasure to be with you again to study God's word.

Before proceeding with our study, I would like to remind you of the announcer's invitation to write for a free Bible Correspondence Course. We are ready to send it to you just as soon as we receive your request. Please let us hear from you today.

How much do you know about Christianity? If you have been listening to these programs then you should know quite a bit. If you are listening for the first time, we hope to acquaint you with what Christianity is, how to become a Christian, and what it means to be a Christian. We believe with all of our heart that Christianity is the true religion of God and that you need to be a Christian more than anything else in this world. But Christianity is a religion that must be learned—one is not *born* into it physically—and that is the purpose of this study. We desire to teach you these things from the Bible and appeal to your intelligence for a wise decision.

In our study today we are going to think about The Christian Life as A Thankful Life.

Christianity is a religion that brings joy and happiness and expresses itself in praise, gratitude, and thanksgiving. The happiest people in the world, and the people who have more to be thankful for than anyone else, are Christians. This is because God has so richly blessed them in this life and has given them eternal hope for the world to come.

God created man, making him a soul that would live on and on. He gave man everything that he needed to survive, and to be happy, as far as the material things of this world are concerned. This applies to all of mankind even to this day. God is no respecter of persons in this matter. Christ says that the Father in heaven makes the "sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:45). But God saw that man was in sin, lost, and without hope, and so he sent his Son into this world to die upon the cross for the sins of all mankind. This was done out of love and compassion (John 3:16), out of God's grace and mercy. (Ephesians 2:8,9). But even as it is necessary for man to do whatever is required to accept the material blessings of God, such as working to earn a living, taking a particular medicine to cure an ill, likewise it is necessary for man to comply with the conditions that God requires of those who would be saved from their sins. Those conditions are a means of testing one's desire to be saved. They determine how much one wants to be saved, if he has faith, if he is willing to obey the Lord. The same is true in the physical world. If one doesn't want to starve, he must go out and till the soil to produce food, or whatever is necessary to survive. If he is serious about living, he will get up and work to meet whatever conditions are necessary to have

the blessings of God. If one is too lazy to live then he will die. So, if one really wants to be saved from his sins, the Lord asks that he meet certain conditions that will result in his salvation. Now if that person understands what it means to be lost, and realizes that without salvation he will be damned forever, then he will be so thankful that the Lord has provided a way of escape. He will not sit and argue about the conditions that the Lord has placed on salvation, but will gladly believe in the Lord, happily repent of all of his sins, with joy confess with his mouth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and with great enthusiasm he will be baptized to wash away his sins. In Acts 8:39 after the Ethiopian eunuch had obeyed God in baptism, the record says that he went on his way rejoicing. Why? Because he had found the truth, had obeyed it, and was saved. The same will be true of anyone else who truly obeys the Lord.

The Christian therefore has much for which to be thankful. He has all of the material things of life, but greater still, he has received the remission of his sins, he has been saved, he has been born again and is therefore a new creature, a new person. He has been added to the Lord's church and as such he has all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3).

The Apostle Paul is a good example of one who was a sinner, a religious sinner, one who opposed the Lord, persecuted his people, but learned the truth, obeyed God, was saved, and thereafter continued to thank the Lord for saving him. He said on one occasion, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who

was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting." (1 Timothy 1:12-16).

As you can see, blessings from the Lord carry with them responsibility. Paul, who had opposed God, was now so blessed by him, being saved by his grace and mercy. Therefore he lost no opportunity to thank the Lord, to tell others of God's goodness, and to teach his brethren to be thankful for their countless blessings. Paul said to the Ephesian Christians, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." (Ephesians 1:3). Paul was thankful, too, for his spiritual family, his brethren in Christ. Concerning Christians in Rome, he said, "First I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world." (Romans 1:8). Of the Corinthian brethren, he said, "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 1:4). To the brethren at Philippi he wrote, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." (Philippians 1:3). He said to the Thessalonian Christians, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not

as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." (1 Thessalonians 2:13). Paul realized that he owed much to God and to his brethren. He was aware of the fact that within himself that he was nothing, so he was thankful for this new relationship of love that he had found in Christ.

It is sad to see so many people of the world going through life as though the world owes them something. They are proud, haughty, and unthankful. Paul himself warned that such a time would come. He said, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boaster, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (2Timothy 3:1-5). Now would you like to be classed along with such people? Paul said that if you are unthankful and ungrateful to God, and to others, for what you have, then you are certainly included with all the bad people of the world.

The scriptures tell the story of Christ healing ten lepers, but only one returned to thank the Lord for what he had done. We read, "And it came to pass, as we went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came

to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole." (Luke 17:11-19). Doesn't this story pretty well fit the situation today? Human beings haven't changed much. God has blessed all of us so richly. Where would we be without his physical and material blessings? In addition, for those of us who are Christians, God has saved us and given us all the better things of life, along with the hope of eternal life. But how many of us take the time to bow our heads and to thank the Lord for what he has done? How sad it is that we are such ingrates.

Let us read a few passages of scripture from the Bible on the subject of thanksgiving to impress this on our minds:

2 Corinthians 2:14. "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

2 Corinthians 9:15. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

Ephesians 5:19, 20. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Colossians 3:17. "And whosoever ye do in word or deed,

do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

1 Timothy 2:1,2. "I exhort therefore, that first of all supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

Hebrews 13:15. "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of lips giving thanks to his name."

Philippians 4:6. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Colossians 4:2. "Continue, in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving."

From these, and other verses of scripture, we learn that we are to be thankful and grateful for what we have. But how are we to do this? By word of mouth, through prayer, by obeying the Lord, by putting him first in our lives, by trying to please him, by honoring him in all that we do and say. Our thankfulness can be seen in our attitude, in our dealings with one another, in our attitudes of gratefulness and happiness for what we have.

Have you ever thought about where you came from? Do you ever consider the source of all of the material things that come your way? Did you know that someone died for you that you might be saved? When you stop to count your blessings, you will find that you have much

for which to be thankful. The Christian is aware of this and spends his life in worship and service to God in appreciation for all that the Lord has done for him. He realizes that with blessings come responsibilities. He therefore desires to show his gratitude as he praises and honors his maker through obedience and service.

Wouldn't you like to become a Christian? Don't you want to take advantage of all the blessings that the Lord has in store for those who will obey him? Are you glad that someone made it possible for you to be saved? If so, then show your appreciation by responding to the Lord's wishes. If you will believe in him, repent of all of your sins, confess him as the Son of God, and be baptized for the remission of your sins, then he will forgive you and add you to his church. Wouldn't you like to do that? If so, please let us know and we'll do everything we can to assist you in your obedience to the Lord. We pray that you will.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to study with you and I look forward to our lesson next week. Please make it a point to tune in at that time. Goodbye till then.

Lesson 12

A SACRIFICIAL LIFE

Thank you, and greetings to you in the name of Christ, I am happy to be back for another period of Bible Study. I trust you will continue to listen for the next few minutes to allow us to have some time to study together. I will have some very important things to say to you.

Have you sent for our free Bible Correspondence Course yet? If not, I would like to encourage you to do so at this time. Also, we would like to know if you are listening, would you send us a card or letter so that we might know?

We are studying a series of lessons now on The Christian Life. We want you to know what is involved when you become a Christian. Of course a Christian is one who is striving to follow Christ or to be like Christ. Therefore we are going through the New Testament to learn about Christ and to see what he taught. In this way, we may know what he expects of one who decides to follow him. This should also indicate that in Christianity we have nothing to hide. There are no secrets are mysteries connected with it. Even the Lord has encouraged us to search the scriptures. (John 5:39). We are also told that his word is truth and that the truth makes us free. (John

17:17; John 8:32).

At this time we want to continue our study by thinking about The Christian Life as a Sacrificial Life.

The word sacrifice means to atone, offer, propitiate, give, and so on. From the beginning God has required sacrifices. During the Old Testament period the sacrifice was generally in the form of animal offerings. There were times of course, that he accepted grain and other material things.

A blood or animal offering represented life, the most precious thing that could be given. It was presented as a means of atoning for sin, for a certain limited period of time. After that, other sacrifices had to be offered. The sacrifice itself was to be without spot or blemish. (Deuteronomy 15:21). It was to be the best that could be given and always according to God's instructions. When presented in this way, the Lord accepted it as representative of a people who were pleading for forgiveness for their sins and honoring him whom they had sinned against.

Concerning the law, the Hebrew writer said, "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins." (Hebrews 10:1-4).

As the Hebrew writer said, the sacrifices of animals could not permanently take away sins or else they would

not have continued to be offered. But why couldn't they? Because these were only animal sacrifices and although God accepted them temporarily, but even then He did not permanently blot out the sin.

Finally, according to the plan that was in the mind of God, even before the creation, God sent his only begotten Son into the world to die upon the cross to serve as a sacrifice once and for all for the sins of men. The Hebrew writer shows that Christ, in giving himself on the cross, removed the old law to give a new law, Christianity, and he says, "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:10).

In order for one to really appreciate the sacrifice of Christ and its significance, one needs to understand the Old Testament law and what happened then. For instance, during the time God was in the process of bringing the children of Israel out of the land of bondage, He said that he would send the death angel across the land and that all the first born of Egypt would die. To spare his people he said that they should put blood over the door post of their houses and the death angel would pass over every household where he saw the blood. In the New Testament, Christ is said be our Passover. He died on the cross for the sins of the world. Those who will obey him are covered by his blood and therefore they will be saved. Paul said, "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us." (1 Corinthians 5:7). Under the old law there was the High Priest who was able to go into the Holy of Holies of the Temple on behalf of the sins of the people. Under the new law, because of Christ and his sacrifice, he is our High

Priest and he is able to go before the Father on our behalf. The Hebrew writer said again, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities: but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16). Continuing in Hebrews: "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building: Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." (Hebrews 9:11-15). Going on, he says, "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the

foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Hebrews 9:24-28). John writes, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:1,2). Again, he says, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10).

Now, what have we learned from our study thus far?

1. Man was in sin, and under the Old Testament law God required a blood offering or sacrifice to atone for sins. This, however, could not permanently take away sins.
2. When the time was right, God sent his Son into the world to die on the cross as a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. This was once and for all time. His blood was shed to atone for the sins of men, to make it possible for man to be forgiven, to have his sins taken away.
3. In dying on the cross, Christ became the propitiation for our sins. That is, Christ gave his blood to pay the price for sin, to appease God for all our wrong doing.
4. In his death on the cross, Christ became our High Priest, our advocate, our mediator, our reconciliator.

He is able to go into the presence of God on our behalf to plead our cause, to bring us together again with God. Sin had separated us from God, made us enemies, but a price was paid in the form of the blood of Christ, to re-unite us. When we obey God, being cleansed by the blood of Christ, we may go directly to God through Christ to seek his help, the continual forgiveness of our sins, and to praise him for all of his blessings. We do not have to go through any man, religious or otherwise, for such help. There is no middle man. There is no preacher or priest. This is the beauty of Christianity.

With that in mind, we now come to this question: How does one apply this sacrifice, the blood of Christ, to one's sins? It is like a disease and a medicine. The disease is there and the medicine may be there to cure the disease, but in order for the disease to be cured, the one who has the disease must apply the medicine. If this is not done, the disease cannot be cured. So man has the disease of sin and the blood of Christ is the medicine or remedy. How does one apply that blood or medicine to his life? The scripture says that one must first of all believe that Christ is the Son of God. Then he must repent of all of his sins, or turn away from all that is bad and wrong. Next he must be willing to confess that Christ is the Son of God. And finally, he must be baptized, or immersed in water, to have the remission of his sins or to have his sins washed away. Christ said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16). Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for

the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38). We have an example of the Ethiopian eunuch confessing Christ as being the Son of God prior to his baptism. (Acts 8:39). Peter says that baptism doth also now save us. (1 Peter 3:21). When? When we obey all that the Lord has asked us to do to be saved. Then on being baptized we enter Christ and the church, becoming a new creature in Christ, being born again. (Romans 6:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-5). We are now pure and free from our sins because of the Lord's sacrifice, the shedding of his blood that we might have the remission of our sins. And even as we continue to walk according to his teaching, in following him, the blood of Christ continues to cleanse us from all sin and unrighteousness. (1 John 1:7). Paul declared that as members of the Lord's church we have been purchased by the blood of Christ. (Acts 20:28). Again he says that we are not our own, for we have been bought with a price.

Now once we have been saved by the blood of Christ, what does the Lord require of us? Does he expect us to offer human sacrifices or animal sacrifices to atone for our sins and to worship and honor him? Should we do this annually or how often? When Christ died on the cross he died once and for all for the sins of the world. This means that animal sacrifices are no longer necessary. As a matter of fact, even if offered they would be rejected. Nevertheless, the Lord still requires that we sacrifice. Paul said to those who had been redeemed by the blood of Christ, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And

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

Once one has been cleansed and purified by the blood of Christ, he is to strive to remain pure and holy and godly, preserved for the Lord and his cause. He is therefore to be a living sacrifice to the Lord, having given his soul and body to him. In so doing he is preparing himself to live with God in the world to come. Paul said again, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God." (Ephesians 5:1-5). Peter said, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual sacrifice, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5).

The Christian's work, worship, purity, and faithfulness are to be offered as sacrifices to God, to honor him and to praise him forevermore. God has given his Son, and Christ has given his blood that we might be saved. What the Lord requires in return, in the form of spiritual sacrifices, is small by comparison. Even in giving our all, we cannot out-give the Lord.

My friend, the Lord died for you that you might be

saved. Wouldn't you like to take full advantage of that sacrifice? You can be saved, you can be a child of God if you will but believe in the Lord and obey his will. How sad it would be to be lost when someone died that you might be saved.

I hope you will become a Christian and that you will give your life to the Lord. If you will, he will bless you far beyond anything you ever dreamed possible, both in this world and in the world to come.

But my time is up. We'll continue these thoughts next week. Until then, I bid you goodbye.

Lesson 13

A WORKING LIFE

Thank you, Steve, and greeting in the name of Christ. Welcome to another period of Bible Study.

As the announcer said, we have a free Bible Correspondence Course that we would like to send to you. We hope you are interested and that you will send your name and address for this course.

Where would you go to learn the truth about Christianity? You would go of course, to the Bible, and especially to the New Testament portion of the Bible. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John would tell you about Christ in order to produce faith in your heart that he is the Son of God. The Book of Acts would tell you about the beginning of Christianity, the establishment of the church, and the spread of the gospel. The 22 books that follow would tell you how to live the Christian life and what happens after this life. If you have a Bible or New Testament, I would like to encourage that you read and study it for yourself. If you don't have a copy, I hope you will put forth an effort to get one.

In today's lesson we will concentrate on The Christian Life as being A Working Life.

We all know what work is. It is labour. It is putting

forth an effort. It is a job. The word is generally associated with some physical endeavour but there are also mental and spiritual works as well.

The Christian is known for his initiative, his industry, his drive, his desire to accomplish something. He wants to succeed in whatever he is doing. Because of this he generally stands head and shoulders above non-Christians.

Going back to the very beginning, the Bible says that God created the world and all things therein and rested "the seventh day from all his work." (Genesis 2:2; Hebrews 4:4). Under the old law God commanded his people to work six days and then to rest on the seventh day or the sabbath day. (Exodus 20:9). When Christ came into the world he said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." (John 9:4). What work did he come to do? He came to represent his Father, to show the love of God, to introduce a new and better way, to die on the cross for the sins of the world, to make it possible for man to be saved.

Let us expand on the foregoing by pointing out that when Christ died on the cross, he blotted out the old law or system, to give a new law, a new religion. Man could not be saved under the old law and that is why it was necessary for Christ to come. Writing to the Corinthian Christians, Paul said, "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart, And such trust have we through Christ to God-

ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious. Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away." (2 Corinthians 3:2-16).

In the foregoing quotation, the writer is showing that if Moses, the law, and that system was glorious, how much more glorious is Christ, the Spirit, and his way. If the one that is passed away was glorious, then how much more glorious is the one that remains. Concerning the law and all that went with it, Paul says again in speaking

of Christ, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." (Colossians 2:14). The Hebrew writer then, says, "Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:9,10). Further explaining it, the same writer said, "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth." (Hebrews 9:16,17). The fact is, there was the first testament or will and then the Lord decided to give a new testament. When he did so, with his death on the cross, then that means that the first testament was removed or ceased to be binding. We are therefore no longer under the old law, but under the new covenant or testament. We therefore read, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17).

The old law was a law of works. It was just simply a matter of outwardly and routinely keeping the commandments. On the other hand that law was replaced by the law of Christ which represents grace and mercy, the spirit, doing things from the heart. Under the old law it was not possible to do enough so as to finally be saved by that law alone. Under the new law, one still must obey the Lord and meet the necessary conditions of pardon, but the beautiful part is the fact that through the death of Christ on the cross, the grace and mercy of the Lord completes all that is lacking in man and makes it possible for him to

be eternally saved. That is, when man does all that he can do, and that being done in compliance with the Lord's will, then God reaches down to provide the help that is needed to take care of the rest.

The Bible teaches that one must work out his own salvation. (Philippians 2:12). This just simply means that the Lord has provided salvation for man, and therefore he must respond to accept the salvation that has been offered. The scriptures tell us that Christ came to this world and died on the cross that man might be saved. Now what must man do? He must accept the fact that Christ died for him. He must do so by believing in the Lord, by repenting of his sins, by confessing Christ and by being baptized for the remission of sins. Why must he do this? Because this is what the Lord said that he should do. Christ commanded the Apostles, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15,16). Although he does not mention repentance and the confession of Christ here, certainly they are included in the fact of believing in the Lord. When one truly believes in Christ, he will obey every command, and Christ said in Luke 13:3 that one must repent of his sins and in Matthew 10:32 He also said that one must confess him before men. Therefore, when one obeys these commands he pictures in his obedience the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (Romans 6). That is to say that one dies to his sins, is buried in the watery grave to walk in newness of life. But when one does all of this, doesn't that mean that one is being saved by works? No, not at all. Although these commands are

to be obeyed to enable one to be saved, still it is by the grace and mercy of God that all of this is being made possible. Surely one cannot be saved when he refuses to obey the commands of the Lord, but after he obeys all of the commands that God has given, still it is only by the grace and mercy of God that one can be saved.

The Apostle Paul said, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8,9). It is not by one's own initiative that he can be saved or by keeping the works of the old law. If one could be saved in that way then he could boast of his salvation apart from Christ and therefore it would not have been necessary for the Lord to have died on the cross. Rather, Paul says that we are saved by grace through faith. The grace is God's part. Faith is man's part. God has provided salvation and man must accept it. In this physical world, God has provided food to eat, water to drink, and air to breath, but man must accept it. What if I said that all of these things are given by the grace of God and therefore I will not do anything to accept them? What would happen if I refused to eat, drink, or breath? I would soon die, wouldn't I? But a wise man will make the effort of eating, drinking, and breathing so that he will live. This effort doesn't mean that God's grace in providing these things is no longer there. It just means that man has to do his part in accepting God's grace. The same is true with salvation. God has provided a way for man to be saved. This is by his grace. Now man must reach up through obedience to accept this grace. When he does so, the Lord saves him. Isn't that simple?

The Bible teaches that Christians are to work. In the first place, we are to work physically provide for our families. If we are lazy and refuse to work then we should not be allowed to eat. (2 Thessalonians 3:10). God also says that if one will not provide for his own, he is worse than an infidel. (1 Timothy 5:8). It is not a shame to work, but work is honorable. It is not only necessary to work to make a living but also it is a means of accomplishing, of creating, of doing things worthwhile. The Bible condemns being slothful and lazy. The wicked are classified as slothful servants. (Matthew 25:26). Paul said that we are not to be slothful in business. (Romans 12:11). The Hebrew writer said, "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Hebrews 6:12).

The Christian wants to work, he wants to do the best job possible, and to accomplish as much as he can. He wants to give an honest day's work and then do a little extra. He is not the type that plays off, pretending he is sick, doing as little as he can get by with. He is not constantly changing jobs in an effort just to get by. Because he is a hard worker, an honest worker, he usually stands out above others. He is sought after. He is able to go forward to greater things. The key to this attitude of hard work is that everything he does is as though it is service to God. In his work he cannot offer God less than his best, so he tries always to do better, to improve his work.

The Christian is also fruitful in the Lord's work. Paul said, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,

forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1Corinthians 15:58). Christ said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16). James said, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22). He also said, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:25).

The Christian has much to do. There is worship, living daily for Christ, helping those in need, preaching the gospel, praying, studying the scriptures, doing good works, providing for the needs of his family, etc. At the same time, he must oppose Satan, the works of the world, and false teaching.

Wouldn't you like to be this type of person? You can be if you'll become a Christian. You will be if you are a faithful Christian. I hope you'll think seriously about these things and if we can be of assistance to you in any way, please let us know.

Thank you for listening and I hope to be with you again next week at the same time. God bless you in your studies.

Lesson 14

A GROWING LIFE

Thank you, and I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ with another period of Bible Study. I invite you to take the next few minutes to study with me from the pages of God's word. In so doing I am confident that we both will profit from it.

Our announcer has told you about the free Bible Correspondence Course that we are offering and I hope you will send a card or letter to indicate that you want it. We also have some Christian literature that we would be happy to send to you when we receive your request. Also, if you are listening to these broadcasts regularly and you find them helpful we would appreciate it if you would let us know.

What is expected of a Christian? Have you ever wondered about that? The Bible tell us that it is not only necessary to become a Christian by obeying the gospel of Christ, but it also tells us of the many duties and responsibilities of the Christian Life. In recent weeks we have been involved in a series of lessons on The Christian Life. These lessons will continue for some time to come. If you are really interested in knowing more about the Christian life I hope you will stay with us for these periods of study.

Today's lesson portrays The Christian life as being A growing Life. Growing suggests life, development and becoming strong. The Christian life is a life of growth. When one stops, he dies and therefore he is worthless to the Lord.

In previous lessons we have observed repeatedly how one becomes a Christian. Let us notice again briefly that in obeying God, in being saved, in becoming a Christian, one is born again and thus becomes a new creature in Christ. We are told that one must be born of water and of the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:3-5) One is directed by the Spirit through the word to believe in Christ, to repent of his sins, to confess Christ as the Son of God and to be baptized to be saved and to be added to the church. (I Peter 1:22,23). To be baptized means that one must be immersed in water and in being immersed in water there is a birth or coming forth. (Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:3,4). Therefore, one is born of water and of the Spirit and thus enters into the kingdom of God, which is the Lord's church; another way of putting it: in obeying the Lord, and thereby being saved, one is added to the church. (Acts 2:47).

When one is baptized into Christ, or is born again, he becomes a new creature. Paul said, "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17). New creatures in this case would be new beings, those who have come to life, spiritually, and are therefore said to be sons of God or children of God. Again, Paul says, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into

Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:26,27).

The Apostle Peter tells us that when one is obedient to God, and therefore becomes a child of God, he is as a new born baby, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." (1 Peter 2:2). Peter is saying that a new Christian is like a baby. And what about a new baby? It doesn't grow up overnight. Neither does it begin with strong food or meat. Rather, it begin with milk, or light food. Then, little by little, it grows and develops. Finally, it is able to partake of stronger food, and then meat itself. The same is true with the new Christian. He begins with the milk of the word, or with the simple things of God's word. He doesn't begin with the hard and difficult matters that could harm him and even destroy him. But by partaking of the simple and easy-to-be-understood truths, then little by little he grows in his spirituality and ability to understand God's will. Finally, he becomes fully developed and a grown man in Christ Jesus. This is the growth that must take place in each Christian if he is to be what the Lord would have him to be.

Here is a warning. It is possible for one to become a Christian and then because of a lack of teaching or because of not receiving the proper teaching he may become stunted and fail to grow and develop strength in the Lord. The Hebrew writer spoke of such brethren when he said, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a

babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Hebrews 5:12-14). Did you hear what the author was saying? He is talking about those who had obeyed God but had failed to grow up as Christians. Had they developed spiritually as they should have, they would have been able to teach others. But because of their lack of spiritual growth, instead of being able to teach others, they still needed someone to teach them the first principles or the simple things of God. He shows that milk is for the babe in Christ or for the young in the faith, but that meats, or the deeper things of God, were for the more mature Christian.

It is so sad to see a human being who has not developed properly either physically or mentally. We always feel sorry for such people because it is evident that they have a health problem or mental problem, or both. Likewise, it is sad to see a Christian of several years who is still in an undeveloped stage and is still a babe in Christ, still unknowledgable in the truth of God, still unable to do, even the simple things that Christians are expected to do. It is sad to hear him make excuses and to beg to be bypassed when it comes to doing some simple task that he should already be able to do.

We like to see our children grow and develop and become strong, don't we? We want to give them the proper food, exercises, medicines, and care that will assure their good health and growth. They grow, and eventually they are strong enough to do more and more things for themselves. Then, in time, they assume an adult role. Likewise, our Father wants to see his children grow and

develop and become strong. He has given us his word to serve as spiritual food. As we read and study it, it will help us to grow up to become strong. It also gives instructions on what to do to get the proper exercises and there are warnings concerning things that would bring about our hurt and destruction. Paul said, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

The Bible teaches that we are to grow in many ways. For instance, as we have already discussed, one of the main areas of growth is in our knowledge of God's word. As we read and study and meditate upon the scripture, and continue consistently over a period of time, naturally we are going to learn more about God, Christ, and his will. Peter said, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18). With our growth in a knowledge of God's word we will also be able to teach it to others. Consequently, the Lord tells us that we should go forth and teach. (Matthew 28:19). Paul said that we should preach the word. (2 Timothy 4:2). And here is something that we should remember about a knowledge of God's word and the ability to teach it. Unless you use it, you will lose it. A person may have the ability to draw beautiful pictures, but unless he uses his ability he will lose it. This is true in any field of endeavour. Unless you use the ability that you have, finally it will disappear. The same is true with your physical members. You could tie your arm behind your back over a period of time and you would eventually

lose the use of that arm. So the rule of growth is that you must use what you have, and by using it you can develop that talent and ability so that it can be more effectively used. This is definitely true with our Christian talents. Surely God wants us to perfect them so that they might be used to his glory and to the furtherance of his cause.

Another area of growth is in that of belief. As we continue to serve the Lord, and to use the talents and abilities that we have, and as we grow in the Lord, our faith should also grow. We read in the scripture of many degrees of faith. Some had a strong faith. Some had a weak faith. The Lord himself often spoke of his disciples as having little faith. He would say to them concerning some matter, "O ye of little faith." (Matthew 6:30). But their faith didn't stay small. It grew. And as we read on we see that they showed their faith by what they were willing to do for the Lord.

We are to grow in our love for the Lord. Love doesn't reach full maturity over night, but as we remain with him, and as we see his blessings in our lives, it grows more and more. Likewise as we grow in our love for the Lord, and in our dedication to his cause, we grow in love for one another and for our fellowman. We enjoy being with one another more. We grow in our zeal to take the gospel to a lost world.

We are to grow in our patience, in our relationships with one another, in doing the work of the Lord. We are to grow in our prayer habits, so that we will spend more time in prayer, so that we may be more spiritual, and may look to the Lord for his help and guidance.

This growth comes through reading and studying God's

word, as we meet on a regular basis with the Lord's people for worship, as we apply the teachings and principles of Christ to our lives, as we work with the Lord's people, and as we grow older in spiritual maturity.

The Apostle Peter shows how this growth is to take place when he says, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:3-11).

Through our Christian growth we are to bear fruit to the glory of God. Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth

more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my word abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." (John 15:1-9).

In all of this growth, the Christian becomes more and more like Christ and in the end, having been faithful unto death, he will be able to live with the Lord forevermore. That's becoming the full grown man in Christ.

Wouldn't you like to be a Christian? If so, please let us know and we'll do what we can to assist you in your obedience.

My time is up, and so I'll say bye till next time.

Lesson 15

A WORSHIPFUL LIFE

Thank you very much, and greetings in the name of Christ to our radio audience. We are happy to be with you at this time to study the words of God and we hope that you will join us in this study.

We remind you that we have a free Bible Correspondence Course to send to you. Would you like to have it? If so, simply write us a card or letter requesting it and we'll post it to you immediately. I believe that I can say without fear of contradiction that if you will do this, you'll find it to be helpful.

Have you ever heard it said that Christianity is a western religion? If so, I hope you didn't believe it because it is not so. Christianity does not belong to the west any more than it does to the east. Actually, it is a world-wide religion. It had its beginning in Jerusalem and then spread to all parts of the world.

Christianity is a religion that can exist under any political or social system, even where there is persecution. Paradoxically, with persecution, it has a tendency to grow and spread even faster.

We have been studying for the past several weeks about The Christian Life and today we will continue that series

by thinking about it as being **A Worshipful Life**. The Christian has the privilege of worshipping the true God of heaven and we want to consider what is involved in this.

Man is a worshipful being. Whatever he devotes his time to become his god or idol. This is why it is imperative for him to be taught concerning the true and living God and what he is expected to do to become a Christian. On being taught, he is encouraged to become a believer in God and in Christ as the Son of God. Paul says that faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17) and that without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6). He must then repent of his sins. Repentance will lead him to turn away from his own selfish ways, from other religions, from sin. Christ says that one must repent or perish. (Luke 13:3). Peter said that one must repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38). After one repents he is required to confess with his mouth that Christ is the Son of God. (Romans 10:10 Matthew 10:32). Finally, it is necessary to teach the non-Christian that he must be baptized that he might be saved. Christ said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16).

When one obeys God, and therefore becomes a Christian, he is to worship and serve God.

The scriptures tell us that the Christian is to worship God on each first day of the week. Christ was resurrected on this day, the church had its beginning on this day, and therefore the Lord has specified this same day, the first day of the week, or Sunday, as being the day on which his people are to worship. We read in Acts 20:7 that the

disciples met on this day to break bread. Also, we read that the Christians of the first century were commanded to lay by in store, as they had prospered, on the first day of the week. (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Next, Christians are to worship God in spirit and in truth. Christ said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24). But what does it mean to worship in spirit? It means to worship God with a sincere heart, with the proper attitude, with one's mind centered on what he is doing, in a humble way. What does it mean to worship God in truth? Since God's word is truth (John 17:17), then it means to worship as the scriptures stipulate. That is why worship must be in harmony with God's will in all that we say and do.

Christians are to assemble on the first day of the week to study God's word. In this way God speaks to us. He has given us his word, as recorded in the Bible, and when we read it or hear it, in this way God talks to us to reveal his will to us. Christ has commanded that we search the scriptures. (John 5:39). Paul said that the Berean Christians searched the scriptures daily. (Acts 17:10,11). He said again, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15). It is always in order to read and study the word of God on any occasion, but it is especially to be included when Christians gather for worship on the first day of the week. We not only honor God by hearing his word, thus learning how better to please him, but in so doing we are in position to prepare ourselves so that we may more effectively teach it to others. The Lord has also commanded us to go forth and

teach (Matthew 28:19) and likewise to preach his word. (2 Timothy 4:2). There is a great deal of emphasis on this work in the scripture, as Paul told Timothy, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." In Acts 20:7 when the Christians came together on the first day of the week to worship, we read that Paul preached to them till midnight.

Christians are to assemble on the first day of the week to pray to their Father in heaven. This is our way of speaking or talking to God. We are able to pour out our feelings to him, to thank him for all of his blessings, to praise him, to beseech his help and guidance for ourselves and others. Of course we do this through our advocate, mediator, and High Priest, Jesus Christ. (1 John 2:1). Again, prayer should be a daily practice for the Christian, but it is especially to be a part of his worship on the Lord's day. Paul wrote the Philippian Christians, "Be careful for nothing: but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Philippians 4:6). To the Colossian Christians, Paul wrote, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." (Colossians 4:2). To the Thessalonians, he said, "Pray without ceasing," meaning that they should always have the mind of prayer. (1 Thessalonians 5:17). To the Ephesians, he said, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18). Concerning those who had obeyed God on the day of Pentecost, the record says, "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles, doc-

trine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42). To emphasize the importance of prayer, John gave us this assurance: "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." (1 John 5:14,15).

Christians are to assemble on the first day of week to sing praises to God. As we have already observed from John 4:24, our worship is to be in spirit and in truth. Therefore we must not go beyond the Lord's word in worship or in anything else that we do in the name of God. That is why we limit our praise in music to singing only. There are two types of music in the world. One is vocal, the oldest form. The other is mechanical, that which has been invented of men. The Lord has ordained that we use vocal music only. He wants his creation to praise him, not something that we have invented or put together. He wants a living sacrifice, the fruits of our lips. (Hebrews 13:15). We read where Paul said that he would sing with the spirit and sing with the understanding also. (1 Corinthians 14:14,15). Again, he said, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:19). You'll note that he mentions the different types of songs to be used, which were psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, but that the music was to come from singing, and the melody was to be made in the heart. He then said to the Colossian Christians, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiri-

tual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Colossians 3:16,17). You'll note that in this statement he says that we are to teach and admonish one another through our singing. This shows again that the emphasis is on vocal music, with the teaching being done through the words of the song. Of course the traditional way has always been with the accompaniment of mechanical instruments of music, but the Lord does not authorize this and therefore Christians cannot go along with it. Those who are determined to do so by offering all kinds of excuses must be prepared to answer to the Lord not only for their actions but also for having taught others to do likewise. The safe course would be to obey the Lord on this matter as well as in all other things. There is no prettier sound in all of this world than the blending of human voices together in praise to God.

Christians are to assemble on the first day of the week to partake of the Lord's Supper. We have an example of this being done in Acts 20:7. But what is the Lord's Supper? It is a memorial instituted by the Lord himself before his death on the cross and it was His desire that his people should eat this supper after his death, burial, and resurrection in remembrance of him. In instituting this supper he took some bread, blessed it or offered thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body." That is, it was to be eaten in remembrance of his body, a body that would suffer, bleed, and die on the cross that men might be saved. The bread was not his literal body, but was merely a means of helping

us to remember his body. Then the record says, "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it: For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." (Matthew 26:26-29). Now the Lord was explaining to the disciples that the fruit of the vine, or grape juice, was to represent or to remind them of the blood that he was going to shed for them on the cross. Therefore, they should partake of it, along with him in the Spirit, in his Father's kingdom, or in the church that he was going to establish, in order to remember that he had shed his blood that they might have the remission of their sins. Later, Paul said to the Corinthian Christians, "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said. Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come, wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's

body." (1 Corinthians 11:23-29). It is therefore a serious matter to partake of the Lord's Supper. It is not a meal but a memorial feast in remembrance of Christ and his sacrifice. The Lord would have us to remember what he did for us so that we might be faithful to him. When we partake of the Lord's Supper we are telling ourselves and the world that we believe in Christ and that he will come again one day.

Christians are to assemble on the first day of the week to give of their means. Paul wrote the Corinthian Christians, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." (1 Corinthians 16:1,2). He also said to them, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7). From these statements we observe that Christians are to assemble on the first day of the week to give. They are to give as they have been prospered, which would surely be 10 per cent or more, and they should give freely and cheerfully. In this way one is helping to provide funds to enable the work of preaching the gospel and helping the poor.

The Christian life is therefore a worshipful life. The faithful Christian takes this part of his life seriously and makes it a point to be present for worship every Lord's day. Even daily living and service to God is a means of worshipping and praising the Lord. His whole soul and being are given to worship since he presents himself to the

Lord as a living sacrifice. (Romans 12:1,2).

I hope that through these studies that you will want to become a Christian.

Thank you for listening and until next time, goodbye for now.

Lesson 16

A GIVING LIFE

Thank you, Steve, and I greet you in the name of Christ. I always look forward to this time each week and the opportunity that I have the study with you from the word of God. We are most blessed to be in position to do this and I hope that we will profit by it.

Another opportunity that you have through this broadcast is to send for the free Bible Correspondence Course that we are offering each week. I believe that it is the type of course that you will gain much from and I hope you'll send for it today. On receiving your request, along with your name and address, clearly written in block style, then we'll post it to you. We also have other Christian literature that we would be happy to send to you on hearing from you.

Who is a Christian? Perhaps you have heard of nominal Christians, denominational Christians, Catholic Christians, Protestant Christians, and so on. Although believers in Christ are sometimes labeled with these titles, as well as many others, when we go to the Bible we find that when one becomes obedient to God he becomes a Christian only. He is not this kind of a Christian or that kind of a Christian. When any other name or title is

added to the name Christian, it makes it meaningless as far as the Lord is concerned. Be sure to keep that in mind during these studies and in your own private study of the scriptures.

For some time we have been going through a series of lessons on The Christian Life, for the purpose of helping you to see what the Bible says on this subject. There have been so many false and contradictory things said about Christianity that most people are confused and do not have the faintest idea of what it is all about.

In our lesson at this time we are going to show that The Christian Life is A Giving Life. It is true that in the Christian life one is blessed as in no other walk of life, but it is also a giving life. Although this may sound like a paradox, a contradiction, the Bible says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you..." (Luke 6 : 38). Christ said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35).

God is the greatest example of giving because he gave his only Son to die on the cross. (John 3:16). Christ, also, was willing to give himself that man might be saved. He said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends". (John 15:13).

Although God gave his Son that we might be saved, and Christ gave his life on the cross that we might have the remission of our sins, such gifts are nill unless accepted, and the only way they can be accepted is through our obedience to the Lord. Christ said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." Again, he said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15).

As Christians there are many ways that we may give of ourselves and of what we have. We give our hearts,

our souls, our lives, our time, our families, our material blessings, yes, we give everything to the Lord. Christ said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23).

Of course the biggest test of all is that of being willing to give our material things to the Lord. We will therefore spend the remainder of our lesson in dealing with this aspect of the Christian life.

Someone has said that there are four classes of givers:

1. There is the covetous man who gives but regrets it.
2. There is the unteachable—they resent all teaching on the subject.
3. There is the ignorant—these can be taught the truth, but they need instruction.
4. There is the giver—they are the ones who believe what the Bible teaches on the subject and do accordingly.

Some one else has said :

What I spent, I had,

What I kept, I lost,

What I gave, I have.

Christ taught what our attitude should be toward material things. He said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart

be also." (Matthew 6:19-21). Going on, he says, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" (Matthew 6:24-26). How foolish it is for man to spend all of his time gathering up material things, and being so worried and concerned about these things, when the Lord has promised to provide what he needs. As the Lord said that the Father takes care of fowls and all other living things, therefore he will surely take care of us who have been created in his image.

In Matthew 19:27-30 we read, "Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." Peter and the disciples were feeling sorry for themselves. Peter pointed out that they had forsaken all to follow Christ. He then wanted to know what their reward would be. Christ responded by saying that

they would receive a hundredfold in this life. That is, they would receive a hundred times over what they had given. And beyond that, they would receive eternal life. That's hard to beat, isn't it? Christians today are so blessed. Maybe some have given up families, material possessions, country, and so on to follow the Lord. But what do they receive in return? They are blessed with brothers and sisters all over the world, with houses, and so many other blessings. But greater than that, they have the hope of eternal life.

In talking about all the material blessings of life, the Lord said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33). The Lord is telling us that if we'll just put him and his church first, then God will add to our lives the physical things we need.

The Apostle Paul said to the Corinthian Christians, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia even so do ye. Upon the first day of week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come." (1 Corinthians 16:1,2). Here Paul tells us that as Christians we are to give on the first day of the week, as we have been prospered. Only God and we know, in most cases, how much we earn and only God and we know in most cases how much we are giving. Are we giving as we have been prospered? But how much is that? The Jews gave at least one tenth, and surely we should do no less since we are Christians with greater blessings and the hope of eternal life.

Again, Paul says to the Christians at Corinth, "But

this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:6,7). In these verses Paul lays down an eternal principle. If the farmer sows little then he reaps little. If he sows much then he shall generally reap much. The same thing is true, believe it or not, with our giving. We reap according to the way we sow. The reason some never receive any more than they do is because they never give anything. But the Lord blesses those who give as they have been prospered. Apart from obeying the Lord, and being blessed because of obedience, one learns through giving how to budget his money and thus he disciplines himself accordingly. This is not only true in giving of his material means, but it carries over into other phases of one's life. Try it and see if it doesn't work. See if you can outgive the Lord. You can't do it, but as you try to do it, he will bless you more and more.

The Bible says that all things belong to God anyway. (Haggai 2:8). Sometimes we get pretty selfish and don't want to share. We should realize that the Lord has been gracious enough to give us what we have and he allows us to keep most of it for our own use. But he has asked that we return a portion of it to him so that it might be used in his work. The best way to handle that is by giving him his portion first and then use what is left on self. If we put ourselves first, and give him what is left over, he won't get much. But there is always the same old argument that "If I had more, I would give more." Christ said,

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." (Luke 16:10).

In 2 Corinthians 8:3-5 we read about the Christians in Macedonia. Paul said that they were poor people actually needed help, but that they gave to help others because they had first given themselves to the Lord. And truly, this is the test. When we have given ourselves to the Lord, it is not difficult to give of our possessions.

Christ told the story of the poor widow in Luke 21:1-4 and how she had given more than all of the others. They had actually given greater sums of money, but she had given all that she had, her two mites, her living. In Malachi 3:8-10, the prophet said, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings, Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out blessings, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Here were a people that were robbing God by failing to give as the Lord had commanded. In spite of that the Lord told them that if they would only give as they should, he would richly bless them. The same is true today. The Lord wants to bless us more and more, and he will, beyond anything that we have imagined, if we will only give as he would have us to give.

Christ told the story of the rich farmer in Luke 12:13-21 to show how foolish it is to be selfish with what we have. Ananias and Sapphira lied to God concerning what they

had and they were struck dead. (Acts 5). I have often wondered if the Lord was still working in the same way, how many of us would be left alive on a given Sunday morning after the contribution had been taken. The scriptures says that covetousness is idolatry. (Colossians 3:5).

In 2 Samuel 24:24 King David refused to accept a gift of animals and other things that he might present them to God in worship to him. He explained that he would not give to the Lord that which cost him nothing. Are we trying to worship God without putting very much into it? A cheap religion is not worth much. The more we put into it the more we will get out of it. That is why we are to give of ourselves and of what we have to the Lord and his cause. Then He will be honored, his work can go forward, and we will be blessed.

Two villagers were walking along and one said to the other, "If you had a million rupees, would you give me half of them?" He thought for a minute and he said, "Since we are the best of friends, you know that I would." Going on down the road, the friend asked again, "If you had two cars, would you give me one?" Again, he assured him that he would. Finally, the villager got very serious and asked, "If you had two buffaloes, would you give me one?" His friend quickly responded, "But you know I had two buffaloes." And I am afraid that is the way it is with Christians often times. We are ready to give what we don't have, but we are slow in sharing with the Lord what we actually have. We must change, and begin to give. If the Lord could give his life, then surely we can give him a portion of our material blessings.

What are you giving? Would you like to be a Chris-

tian? If so, believe in the Lord, repent of your sins, confess Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized for the remission of your sins. As you give yourself to the Lord he will save you and add you to his church. Then as you live for him and serve him faithfully, he one day will reward you with eternal life.

If we can assist you in doing this, please let us know.

My time is up. I hope to be with you again next week at the same time. Until then, I bid you goodbye.

Lesson 17

A TEACHING LIFE

Thank you, and I come to you again in the name of Christ with another broadcast of the Voice of Truth. I invite you to take the next few minutes to study with me from the Bible so that we might better understand God's will

At the same time, I invite you to write for our free Bible Correspondence Course. It is a course that you will find to be very helpful. Please send your name and address, written plainly in block letters, and we'll post it to you immediately.

Some have said that Christianity is just another religion and that one religion is as good as another. Who would dare make such a statement? Only one who is not very well informed on Christianity, and perhaps the other religions as well. Just the other day I was talking to a man who had been of another religion before becoming a Christian. He remarked that he has been a Christian for ten years and it is getting better with each passing year. I believe that if anyone will really look into Christianity, and especially if he compares it with other religions, he will find that Christianity is far superior to all other religions or practices in the world today.

We are studying The Christian Life in our present

series of broadcasts in order to better acquaint our listening audience with what Christianity is all about. Many are so uninformed or misinformed on the matter. There is much done in the name of Christianity that does not really represent Christianity, but because the majority do not know the difference, they are quick to use such things as reasons for rejecting the religion of Christ. What a shame! How wonderful it would be for each one to see and know Christianity for what it really is. If this teaching could be done then that within itself would be a means of changing the world for better.

Our lesson today is a consideration of *The Christian Life as A Teaching Life*. The religion of Christ has been propagated from the very beginning by the process of teaching. Christianity rests upon the fact that Jesus Christ came from God, being his only begotten Son, that he lived among men doing good, performing miracles to convince one and all that he was truly from God, that he died on the cross for the sins of the world, that he was buried, and that he was resurrected from the grave. All of that is the truth, but facts by themselves are not enough. Unknown facts are not going to make believers out of anyone. Therefore, Christ commanded his apostles to do something. He said to them, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19,20). You'll notice that the Lord told them to teach the people of the world what they should do to be saved and then after their conversion they should

teach them to observe all the things that he had commanded them. Now a part of that was to go and teach, meaning that the teaching should continue, generation after generation, right on up to the present time.

Mark recorded the words of Christ in this way: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15,16). You will notice here that Christ commanded the Apostles to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. This indicates several things:

1. One does not become a Christian by being born into it physically.
2. One does not become a Christian at birth as a result of the decision of the parents to have some water sprinkled on his head and calling this Christian baptism.
3. Rather, it is through teaching that one comes to know of Christ and what he must do to be saved.
4. This means that one must be old enough to hear the truth, to understand it, and then to make an intelligent decision.
5. Only those who hear the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, and only those who obey the commands of the gospel, which include faith in God and Christ, repentance of all sins, the confession that Christ is the Son of God, and by being baptized, can be saved.
6. Those who hear the gospel but refuse to believe it will be lost.

When we go through the book of Acts of the New

Testament we are able to read of one conversion after another. Sometimes there were large groups that obeyed God as on the day of Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2. On other occasions a family was converted as with the case of Cornelius and his household about which we read in Acts 10. But the thing that stands out in all of these conversions is that in every case there was a gospel preacher or teacher on hand to proclaim the truth of God. The Lord did not go to the hearers directly, or speak to them from heaven, appear to them in a dream, and such like. Neither did he send an angel to them to reveal his will. He always sent a preacher or teacher to them. But why? Because the Lord put the gospel in earthen vessels or in the hands of human beings to carry forth this message that man might hear and believe. So in every case there was a preacher or teacher on hand to declare God's will to the hearers. He told them of Christ, what the Lord had done for them, that is, that he had come from God, lived a sinless life, and that he had died on the cross, been buried, and had come forth from the grave. Once faith was produced in their hearts, he told them that they should repent of their sins, confess Christ, and be baptized to have their sins washed away. Those who did so were saved and were added to the church.

The Apostle Paul explains to us why the preacher or teacher is so important. He said, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon

him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things: But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:10-17) it is the preacher or teacher, then that God has chosen to go forth and convey his message to the lost. God works through human agents to reveal his will. As Paul said, faith comes by hearing the word of God.

To the Corinthians, Paul wrote, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15: 1-4). Notice the preaching of Paul:

1. He said that he had declared the gospel to them, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, which is good news.
2. He said that they had received it, were standing in it, and had been saved by it, lest they had believed in vain. That is, they had obeyed the commands of the gospel, as he discussed elsewhere, which included believing in the Lord, repenting of their

sins, confessing Christ, and being baptized. Read Romans 6 and Romans 10.

3. His preaching was according to the scripture or in harmony with the will of God.

Paul continued by talking about preaching. He said, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God...For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe... But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jew a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18,21,23,24). What is Paul saying here? He is saying that although it is contrary to man's thinking, God has chosen preaching or teaching as the means of revealing Christ and the gospel to the world, and those who receive it and are obedient to it are thereby saved.

In writing to the young preacher, Timothy, Paul said, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word: be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (2 Timothy 4:1,2). Again, he said, "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:1,2).

Although much is said in the scripture about prea-

ching, about knowing God's will and proclaiming it to the lost, teaching itself is said to be the duty and responsibility of every Christian. This is something that can be done by men, women, and young people. It may be done by word of mouth or by example, but it must be done. Public preaching of course can be done only by men or young men.

Through preaching and teaching we are not only able to proclaim the gospel that the lost might be saved, but also to teach members of the church their duties and responsibilities in living the Christian life. Through such we warn against false doctrines and tell the world that we are God's children and that we fear no man or teaching.

The Christian is not ashamed to say that he is a Christian. He is not ashamed of what he believes and is ever ready and looking for opportunities to teach his fellowman both by word of mouth and by example. In all that he says and does, he is constantly teaching and preaching what he believes.

Wouldn't you like to be Christian? You can be one when you hear the truth, believe it and obey it. This includes repenting of your sins, confessing Christ as the Son of God, and being baptized for the remission of your sins. It is simple and easy and it is your decision. But when you do this, the Lord saves you and adds you to his church. You must be taught the truth of God in order to obey the Lord, but after you obey him, you then must become a teacher. This is not something that will be difficult to do, but it will come easy and natural, especially with the passing of time. In living the Christian life you will be teaching the world of your faith in Christ and of

the need of obeying his gospel.

I remind you again that we would like to hear from you and if we can help you with your obedience to the Lord we will be happy to do so. Because of distance, if we can't get together, maybe we can at least put you in contact with some Christians in your area who can help you. If you need Christian literature for further study, then please let us know.

Thank you for listening and I hope to be with you next week at the same time. Bye for now.

Lesson 18

A SERVING LIFE

Thank you, and I bring you greetings in the name of Christ I look forward to the opportunity of being with you each week for the purpose of studying God's word. Thank you for taking your time to study with me.

In addition to this period of study, would you like to have a Bible Correspondence Course to study in the privacy of your own home? If you would, I'll be glad to send it to you on receiving your request.

Christianity has blessed the world for hundreds of years. Actually, if there were no Christians in the world today, there would be no world. Do you know? Because if there were no Christians here to represent the Lord, he would return to this earth and end things as we now know them. This means that Christians are very important to the survival of mankind. This alone should cause you to want to know more about this religion. It just might have something to offer you.

We are thinking about The Christian Life in this present series or lessons. Today we are going to consider The Christian Life as a Serving Life. As just indicated, Christianity has blessed the world for hundreds of years because it is a serving religion.

The word serve carries with it the idea of obeying and ministering to others, helping people in need, working, worshipping, giving, being involved, growing, and bearing fruit.

Christ is a great example of serving others. When he was being asked who should be the greatest; the Lord said, "And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:27, 28).

As Jesus said, he gave his life a ransom for many. That is, he offered himself on the cross for the sins of the world. Even while we were yet sinners, he died for us. (Romans 5:8). What a sacrifice! What love!

With the death of Christ, a way was made possible for us to be saved, to have the forgiveness of our sins, to have the hope of eternal life. In believing in the Lord, repenting of our sins, confessing our faith in him, and in being baptized, he saved us and added us to his church. We therefore were saved that we might serve him and that we might also serve our fellowman. With salvation in Christ, we have taken it upon ourselves to be followers of Christ, to be like Him, to have the spirit of Christ, and to wear His name.

When you read through the New Testament you become aware of the many times that Paul, Peter, and others spoke of themselves as servants of Christ. In our world today there is a stigma attached to the idea of serving, working, and so on, but in the early days of Christianity the followers of Christ considered themselves to be servants and workers for the Lord and they considered

this to be an honor. For instance, Paul said, "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God." (Romans 1:1). To the Philippian Christians, Paul began his letter in this way: "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:1,2). Peter said, "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:1).

What does it mean to be a servant of Christ? Paul said, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." (Romans 6:16-18). Going on, he says, "I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, you have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sins is death; but the

gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:19-23).

Now that we no longer belong to Satan, but we have given ourselves through obedience to the Lord, we are no longer our own, but we have been bought with a price. Paul says, "Ye are bought with a price: be not ye the servants of men," (I Corinthians 7:23). Again he said. "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Corinthians 6:20). What is he saying? He is saying that we did belong to Satan and to sin, because we were in sin, but Christ died for us, shed his blood to redeem us or, to buy us back, and therefore, we now belong to Christ, and we are to serve him. The same thought is brought out in connection with us being members of the Lord's church, that group of people who have been bought or purchased by the blood of Christ. Paul admonished the elders of the church at Ephesus, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28).

As Christians we are exhorted again and again as servants:

Romans 12:11. "Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

Romans 14:17-19. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

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

Colossians 3:24,25. "Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done, and there is no respect of persons."

1 Thessalonians 1:9,10. "For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."

Hebrews 12:28. "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

There are many other terms set forth in the New Testament to bring out the thought that we are to serve, work, and minister, in our relationship to God and to one another. The Christian is always looking for opportunities to do good and to help others.

Christ pictured the judgment when he said, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from

the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal," (Matthew 25:31-46). Now what is the meaning of this story? It emphasizes that as we serve our fellowman in caring for his needs, in like manner we serve Christ. On the other hand, when we ignore the needs of those around us, we are ignoring Christ. We will therefore be judged accordingly, and through faithfulness we will be saved, but if we fail to

be faithful to the Lord we will be lost.

Christ invites one and all into his service, when he says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30).

As Christians we are to serve the Lord:

1. As we strive to worship God in spirit and in truth. In this way we praise and honor Him.
2. In preaching and teaching his word to others. The Lord said that we should go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
3. By helping those who are in need of help. Not all are as blessed as we are.
4. As we attempt to obey Christ and to be like him in all that we say and do.

Now, wouldn't you agree that with more of this kind of people in the world, the world is going to be a lot better off? Like Jesus, they want to do all the good possible and no harm at all. Christians will not hurt you but will help you. They will not destroy a country but will help to make it great.

Wouldn't you like to be a Christian? You can be by believing in Christ, by repenting of your sins, by confessing Christ, and by being baptized for the remission of your sins. On doing so, the Lord will save you and add you to his church. Then you can live the kind of life that would bring honor to Christ and blessings to you and those around you.

If we can assist you with your obedience, we will be glad to do so. Please let us know what you have decided to do.

Thank you so kindly for studying with me today and I welcome you to do so again next week at the same time. Until then, may the Lord bless you and keep you.

Lesson 19

A BLESSED LIFE

Thank you, Steve, and welcome in the name of Christ to another gospel broadcast of The Voice of Truth. As indicated by its name, "The Voice of Truth," we want this to be a programme that speaks out as a voice for the truth, that the truth of God might be heard. I would hope that your desire is to know the truth and that you will give serious thought to the things that shall be said.

I hope you have sent for your free copy of our Bible Correspondence Course. If you have I know you will agree that it is a very fine way to study God's word. If you have not gotten your copy yet, I hope, you will send for it immediately. Please send your name and address, clearly printed, and we'll post it to you just as soon as we receive your request.

Sometimes we think we are having a very difficult time. We are out of a job, prices keep going up, we cannot get this or that, taxes continue to rise, transportation is difficult, there is the threat of war on the world scene and on and on it goes. And yet, these are things that always seem to be with us. But what would our lives be like today if Christ had not come into the world, if we

did not have the influence of Christianity to leaven man's thinking and actions? It is true that things could be a lot better, but they could also be a lot worse. As more become the followers of Christ, then the world is going to be made better to that extent. This is true because Christ was a good man, a sinless man, and therefore when we become like him, and when others do likewise, that will automatically make us better and the world will be better to the extent that man follows him.

We will now continue with these thoughts as we think on The Christian Life as a Blessed Life. To see how blessed the Christian is, think again of what his life was like before he became a follower of Christ. Peter and other inspired writers showed what Christians were before they obeyed God, so that they could appreciate how much better off they were as children of God. Peter said to the Christians of his day, "But ye are a chosen generation a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God; which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9, 10).

Peter continued by saying, "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings,

banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead." (1 Peter 4:1-5).

Paul said of the Ephesians, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:1-7).

Not only were these things true of those people of the past, but they apply to us today. Before we became Christians we were in sin, lost, and without hope. We were doing the things of the world, engaging in the works of the flesh, with all of the hurtful consequences to follow. But Jesus died for us even while we were sinners. He loved us even before we knew him. When we learned of his coming, his sacrifice for us, and the possibility of having all of our sins forgiven, we took notice, became believers in him, thus obeying his will. In doing this we

turned away from all of our sins, our bad habits, and those things that were destroying us. Christ had said that we should repent or we would perish. (Luke 13:3). Then we gladly confessed Christ as the Son of God. Again Christ has said that if we would confess him before men, he would confess us before the Father in heaven, but that if we denied him before men that he would also deny us before the Father. (Matthew 10:32,33). Finally, we submitted to the act of baptism, that is, we were immersed in water to have our sins washed away. Christ cleansed us by his blood because we believed in him enough to obey his will. He said that his blood was shed that we might have the remission of our sins, (Matthew 26:28), and Peter told those on the day of Pentecost that if they would repent and be baptized they would receive the remission of their sins. Therefore, in obedience we contacted the blood of Christ and were saved.

Christ tells us that "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16). How wonderful it is to have the remission of sins, to be saved, to be clean and pure, to be righteous in God's sight, and to have the hope of eternal life. For one to know the old life of sins, and the consequences of sin, and then to have all of that taken away, and to have new lease on life, he can appreciate the blessings of the Christian life far beyond any words that he might use to try to describe it.

Let's think about how the Lord blesses the Christian as set forth in the word of God. Please note these verses of scripture:

Ephesians 1:3. "Blessed be the God and Father of

our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

Titus 2:11-14. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

James 1:12. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

Revelation 1:3. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

Revelation 14:13. "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Revelation 22:7. "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

Revelation 22:14. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

There are so many blessings that the Christian receives. Note some of them:

1. He is saved from all of his past sins.
2. He is in Christ and is therefore a child of God.

3. He is a member of Christ's church, the one and only church of the Bible.
4. He has the gift of the Holy Spirit.
5. As a child of God, God is his Father, and he is able to speak to God through prayer at any time.
6. He is able to assemble with the Lord's people on the first day of the week to worship and to receive spiritual strength.
7. He is able to wear the name of Christ.
8. He has brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world.
9. He has the many promises of God to look forward to.
10. He has the satisfaction of knowing that Christ will be with him.
11. He is assured that the Lord will bless him for following him.
12. He has the hope of eternal life.

In the Sermon on the Mount Christ pronounced blessings upon those who would apply his principles and teachings to their lives. Another word for blessed is happy. In other words, those who do the Lord's bidding have every reason to be happy. But listen to what he had to say: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God, Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the

children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."(Matthew 5:3-12). Yes, the Christian has much to be thankful for, and as I have said many times, he is the most blessed person in the world. He is blessed physically and materially, but greater than all, he is blessed spiritually for beyond any other person in all the world. And as he applies the teachings of the Lord to his life, he is blessed even more.

Besides all of the good things that come to the Christian as a result of following Christ, there are so many things that he doesn't have to bother with or be worried about because he is a Christian. He has the satisfaction of knowing that he is doing those things that are good and right. His conscience does not bother him. He doesn't have to suffer the consequences for deliberate sins. He mixed and mingles with the best people. He is esteemed by his brethren and by the world because of his good moral living, because of his honesty, and because he is a hard worker. He is loved and respected by all. In every relationship of life, he excels because of his Christ-likeness.

The Christian then is blessed throughout life. No other life can compare favourably to it.

Wouldn't you like to live that type of life ? You can if you will obey God and follow Christ. Believe in him, repent of your sins, confess him before men, and be bapti-

zed for the remission of your sins. The Lord then will save you and add you to his church and give you all the blessings that he has promised those who are his.

If we can help you with your obedience, please let us know. If you would like to study the matter further, we would be glad to send you some good Christian literature. Please let us hear from you concerning these matters.

Thank you for listening and I hope to be with you again next week at the same time. Until then, may the Lord bless and keep you.

Lesson 20

A FAITHFUL LIFE

Thank you and we come again in the name of Christ with another period of Bible study, we hope you will join us for a few minutes for this very important lesson from God's word.

Let me take a minute to remind you again of the free Bible Correspondence Course that we would like to send to you. We are waiting anxiously for your card or letter. As soon as we receive your request, we will post the course to you. I think you will be more than pleased with it and you will find it to be informative, inspirational, and challenging.

What is required of one who becomes a Christian? Is he left to himself to do as he pleases to chart his own course or is he expected to follow a certain pattern of life? As we have said in previous studies, one is not born physically into Christianity. Rather, it is only after one has grown up and has reached the age of maturity so that he knows right from wrong, and he is responsible for his own actions that he is in position to hear the word of God and to make an intelligent decision concerning Christianity. But not only does he decide to become a Christian, but in obeying God he commits himself for life to the teachings and principles of Christianity. It is true that not all remain

with that commitment, but at least that is what the Lord expects. If one is not going to remain with his commitment, it would have been better if he had never become a Christian in the first place. The Bible teaches that we must endure to the end.

In our lesson today we are going to consider The Christian Life as a Faithful Life.

God sent his Son into the world to die on the cross for the sins of the world. He was faithful in his mission. The Hebrew writer said, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." (Hebrews 5:8, 9). As indicated, not only was he obedient, but he became the author of eternal salvation to all of those who obey him. The Lord, then, requires obedience, both in becoming a Christian and remaining a Christian. Christ said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 7:21). James said, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22).

To become a Christian, then, one must hear the word of God, so that faith in God and Christ might be produced in his heart. Paul said, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17). The Hebrew writer says without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6). Christ says that we must also believe in him. (John 14:1). Then what? Next comes repentance. How do we know? Because the Lord himself said that we must repent or perish. (Luke 13:3). What is

repentance? It is turning away from sins. The Lord died that we might be saved, and in order for us to be saved we are going to have to repent so we can live a better life. If we go on and live the same old life we always lived then that means the Lord died for us in vain. So Paul says that God commands all men everywhere to repent. (Acts 17:30). Peter tied repentance and remission of sins together in Acts 2:38. But after repentance, what follows? Christ tell us that we must believe and be baptized to be saved. (Mark 16:16). Peter reminds us that repentance and baptism bring remission of sins. (Acts 2:38). Saul was told to be baptized to wash away his sins. (Acts 22:16). Peter says that baptism saves. (I Peter 3:21). And baptism is a burial (Colossians 2:12), in water. (Acts 8:39). But what or who actually saves? Christ saves, obedience saves, the gospel saves. That is, Christ saves one when he complies with his will or obeys his teachings and commands. Those who believe not, or who substitute for what the Lord has said, cannot be saved. Those who do obey without question are saved and are added to the Lord's church. (Acts 2:47). They therefore become Christians.

When one has committed himself to the Lord through his obedience, Christ expects loyalty and faithfulness. One must give his mind and life to development as a Christian. If he becomes careless, disobedient, and unfaithful, he will fall away. This is why the scriptures warn again and again that we should take heed lest we fall. Paul told the Corinthian brethren, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Most of the New Testament is written to the Christian. Why is this the case if one as a Christian cannot fall into sin

and finally be lost? The point is, it is possible for one to be saved and then to turn back. That is why the scriptures warn the Christian against idolatry, fornication, loving money, being deceived by false teachers, following the works of the flesh, loving the world, and so on. He may be led back into the world because of a lack of knowledge of God's word, being deceived by erring brethren, and being tempted by the works of the flesh. But even as Christ overcame Satan with the word of God (Matthew 4), the Christian today may do likewise. As a matter of fact, Paul assures us, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13). The Hebrew writer says concerning Christ, "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted, (Hebrews 2:18). Our overcoming temptation and being faithful to the Lord are dependent of course on the fact that we want to find a way of escape when we are tempted, that we have a desire to remain true to the Lord. In that case, it is possible to overcome sin and the devil himself and thus to remain faithful to the Lord to the very end. James said that if we would resist the devil that he would flee from us. (James 4:7).

To help us in our faithfulness to God, let us notice the following points:

1. Christ himself is a great example of faithfulness. It is true that he came from God, and was the Son of God, and was without sin, but he took upon him-

self the likeness of man, was subject to all temptations even as we are, yet he remained faithful to his Father. When we find ourselves being tempted we can look to him as an example and one who will help us to be faithful.

2. We have all of the great men of faith of the past to look to as examples of faithfulness to God. They went through much, they suffered, they even died for the faith, but still they remained true to their Father in Heaven.
3. Christian are to assemble on the first day of the week to worship God in spirit and in truth. The Hebrew writer said, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25). Christ said that we must worship God in spirit and truth. (John 4:24). That means that when we assemble on the first day of the week, we are to worship with understanding and according to the Lord's will. As we do this, we are able to fellowship with one another, to honor our Father in heaven, and we thereby receive help and strength in being steadfast to the end.
4. The Lord has promised to be with us even unto the end of the world. (Matthew 28:20). This is a great source of strength, just to know that the Lord himself will be with us and help us in every problem and need.
5. We have the word of God to read and study so

that we might be guided and directed by its wisdom. In so doing, we are strengthened spiritually.

6. There is prayer or the opportunity at any time to call on our Father through Christ to ask his special help.
7. We have the church, our brothers and sisters in Christ, to help us and to encourage us. We have their fellowship always and can lean upon them or go to them for advice in times of difficulty.
8. We have the Lord's work to engage in to keep ourselves busy doing good things. This brings, a great deal of satisfaction and it encourages us to go on to accomplish greater things for the Lord.
9. We have the hope of heaven to look forward to. Therefore we have a goal to work toward, another incentive to keep us on the right path.

All of the foregoing things are helpful in keeping us loyal and faithful to the Lord. The Christian life is thus a serious life, a life of obedience and endurance. It must be something that we work at daily. We have a goal set before us and we must ever keep our eyes set on that goal until we have reached it.

God is good, merciful, and faithful. (Hebrews 10:23). He will never let us down or fail us. He will keep his promises. (2 Peter 3:9). And he requires that his children likewise be faithful. Christ himself said, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Revela-

tion 2:10). Again he said, "Blessed are they that do his commandment, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Revelation 22:14).

The Lord taught that there is a broad way and a narrow way and that only the narrow way leads to heaven. He said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:13,14).

The Christian life is a life of growth as Peter stresses in 2 Peter 1:5-11. We are to add to our faith virtue and to virtue knowledge, and so on. We are to bear fruit for the Lord. (John 15:1-8). As Christians we are to let our light shine, we are to be the salt of the earth, we are to set a good example in all that we say or do to the glory of God. (Matthew 5). In the various parables, Christ emphasized faithfulness. If you took out of the scriptures all that is said about obedience and faithfulness, there wouldn't be much left. Therefore, we must be sure that we know God's will and that we obey it, and that we are faithful to him throughout our life time if we expect a home in heaven.

Please remember, however, that obedience and faithfulness to the Lord do not remove our need for the grace and mercy of God. After we have done all that he would have us do, in comparison to him we are still unprofitable servants. How thankful we should be therefore that the Lord would take note of us and would even give us something to do to show our faith in him and our loyalty to

him.

If you are not a Christian, we would like to encourage you to become one by believing in God, repenting of your sins, confessing him before men, and by being baptized for the remission of your sins. If you are a Christian, please remember that there is more to being a Christian than just saying that you are one. There is a daily life to live. You are to strive to be like Christ in all that you think, say, and do. You are to have the spirit of Christ. You are to worship the Lord each week. You are to be a good citizen. You are to be a hard worker. You are to do good works, such as helping those in distress or need. You must also be teaching others about the blessings of this special life. So there is a lot involved in living the Christian life. Be loyal and faithful to the Lord and he will bless you in this world and in the world to come.

The Christian life is not something to play with. It is not just a group of customs and traditions to follow. It is not just a set of rituals. Rather, it shapes life itself. It deals with one's problems and needs. It helps one, changes one, saves one and brings the hope of eternal life with the Lord.

Please remember that we are always ready to help you and assist you in your obedience in becoming a Christian. Many others have already obeyed God as a result of these studies and many congregations of the Lord's church have been established in different parts of the country. We would hope that you would also like to be a Christian and be instrumental in establishing a congregation of the Lord's church in your village, city, or area, provided there is not one there at this time. May God bless you as you

think on these things and as you respond to the Lord's will.

Our time is gone for this broadcast. Be with us again next week as we continue these studies from God's word. I bid you goodbye till then.