

Bible Lessons

for

THE CHURCH OF GOD

7th Day

FOURTH QUARTER

1987

FOR

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

TO BE USED WITH THE BIBLE

**Workers are needed, for the harvest
is great, but laborers are few . . .**

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Lesson for October 3, 1987

ACCEPTING CHRIST'S TEACHINGS

The very word "*Christian*" means "*Christ-like*." If we are to be like Christ, we must accept His teachings. The Christian cannot take the attitude of the world regarding the teachings of Christ. He cannot say: "*Well, He was a super good man, and what He said is good, but it just doesn't work in reality.*" Or, "*It just won't work for an ordinary person like me.*" The true Christian must believe in the reality of Christ's teachings. He must not only know them, He must live them.

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:17-30.

Memory Verse: Mark 10:21, 22.

1. For the sake of the kingdom of God, what portion of one's lot must one give up? Luke 12:33.
2. What question did a certain man once ask Jesus and what was Christ's response to him? Mark 10:17-19.
3. What was the response to Jesus? Vs. 20.
4. What was the second requirement which Jesus made known? Vs. 21.
5. Did the man accept the above requirements? Vs. 22.
6. What is the Christian's passport into the kingdom of God? Rev. 22:14; 12:17.
7. What type of teaching did Jesus present to the multitudes? Matt. 16:24-26; Luke 14:25-27, 33.
8. Did all accept Christ's teaching? John 6:60, 66.
9. Did some of Jesus' disciples accept the teachings? John 6:67-68. Compare Matt. 19:27, Luke 5:11.
10. What was Jesus promises to those of His disciples who endured His teachings? Matt. 19:28, 29; Luke 18:29, 30.

Lesson for October 10, 1987

REMOVE NOT THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS

The "*ancient landmarks*" depicts the old faith which was delivered unto the Saints — (Jude 3). The foundation was laid by the Apostles and Prophets, the foundation stone being Jesus Christ. To be against Jesus means to be against His life and His teachings.

It should be explicitly known to everyone that the church of God — God's family on earth — does not have a "*closed and stamped creed*". Since God is an Omniscient Being, His knowledge and wisdom is worldwide and unconfined. It is revealed and magnified in the hearts of true Christians, from age to age and from generation to generation.

Scripture Reading: 2nd John.

Memory Verse: Prov. 22:28.

1. Upon what is the Christian's foundation built? Eph. 2:20.
2. Should this originally-laid foundation be remodeled and renovated? 1 Cor. 3:10-15.
3. What are some of the given conditions by which this foundation was laid? Rev. 14:12, 12:17; Luke 9:23-26.
4. How was Moses cautioned concerning the building of God's Tabernacle? Ex. 25:8-9, 40; Heb. 8:5.
5. What will be the conditions of Christians if the ancient landmarks are destroyed? Ps. 11:3, 82:5.
6. What are Christians admonished to earnestly contend for? Jude 3.
7. What is prophesied concerning some Christians departing from the true faith? 1Tim. 4:1-3.
8. What are those false teachers likened to? Should one keep company with them? 1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 John 9-11.
9. How can one detect a false Christian or anti-christ? Luke 9:49-50; John 7:17; 1 John 4:1-3.
10. During the days of the early Christians, how did certain men endeavor to destroy the ancient landmarks? Acts. 15:1,5.
11. When the wise elders of the church investigated the truth about the matter, what did they do? Vs. 2, 4, 6.
12. In the emergency meeting held, what resolution did they undertake? Vs. 23-29.
13. What is Paul's counsel to the remnant people who are earnestly contending for the old faith delivered unto the saints? 1 Cor. 1:10.
14. Why was Titus left in Crete? Titus 1:5.
15. What is the fate of those who deliberately digress from the teachings and lives of our doyens? Gal. 1:6-9; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Thess. 3:6.

Lesson for October 17, 1987

STEWARDSHIP

As Christ's disciples, we are called to labor in His service, follow in His footsteps and forsake the world. But He does not ask us to endure hardship to no end. There is a glorious prize to be won through faithful Stewardship, and whatever suffering we endure in this life will be more than compensated in the next.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 19:16-30.

Memory Verse: Revelation 21:4.

1. When Jesus Christ commenced His earthly missionary work, how many men did He choose to assist Him? Luke 6:13
2. What did he present and expound to them concerning conditions of service? Luke 9:23, 24, 25-26; 14:25-27, 33, 12:33.
3. Did they accept the conditions of Jesus? Luke 5:11, 27, 28; Matt. 4:18-22.
4. Did they all accept unanimously? John 6:60, 66.
5. What question did Peter ask Christ? Matt. 19:27.
6. What was Jesus' response? Vs. 28-30.
7. If we suffer with Him, shall we also reign with Him? 2 Tim. 2:12.
8. Is the human mind able to comprehend what God has in store for those who love Him? Isa. 64:4; 1 Cor. 2:9.
9. What promises are made to the living and the dead in Christ? 1 Cor. 15:50-53; Isa. 26:19.

Lesson for October 24, 1987

STRIFE AND VAIN GLORY

A rich man once invited many honored guests for a feast. His own chair, richly decorated, was placed at one end of the long table. While awaiting his arrival, each guest seated himself according to his own esteem of his position in the sight of the Master. When the time came and all were seated, the master came in and moved his chair to the other end of the table!

It is clear from the Scriptures, that our Heavenly Father, like the master in the illustration above, shuns pride. Christ, the greatest man to ever walk on

earth, the Son of God himself, chose to come as a humble carpenter. He could have been born the son of an earthly king. He could also have accepted kingship at many points in his earthly life. He chose, instead, to live and die a servant. This is the example that we are to follow if we want to be great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Scripture Reading: Luke 22:24-30.

Memory Verse: Philippians 2:3.

1. Should the saints of God strive over who should be their leader? 1 Cor. 3:3-7.
2. What did Paul fear would become of the church at Corinth in his absence? II Cor. 12:20.
3. What is the result of pride? Prov. 16:18; 11:2.
4. What example of humility did Christ give? John 13:12-15.
5. Should those in honored church positions look down upon those in supposedly lower office? 1 Cor. 12:13-31.
6. What is the "more excellent way" spoken of in I Cor. 12:31? 1 Cor. chapter 13.
7. What does Christ say will happen to those who demand honor? Luke 14:8-11.
8. In what manner did Paul and his co-workers preach the Gospel? 1 Thess. 1:4-9.
9. In what way should those called of God show themselves worthy? Eph. 4:1-3.

Lesson for October 31, 1987

CONTENTION — A TOOL OF SATAN

"A house divided against itself cannot stand," Christ said. This well-known truth is especially applicable to the Church today. Contention and division are everywhere, and are tools Satan uses to make God's people weak. The Bible preaches strongly against strife and contention among the brethren. Christ is looking for a people who follow his example in brotherly love. Christ was very concerned about this in His prayer for His followers. His greatest desire was that, *"They all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one... I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one."* (John 17:21-23.)

The very testimony of our unity will cause the world to know that the Gospel which we profess is true. On the other hand, if God's people become known for contention and strife, this will reflect negatively on Christ's cause. As we study what the Bible has to say on this important subject, let us endeavor to purge our hearts of all contentious thoughts and unite in the perfect will of God.

Scripture Reading: 2 Thessalonians 5:9-15.

Memory Verse: I Cor. 11:16.

1. What causes fighting and contention? James 4:1; Prov. 26:21; Prov. 22:10; Prov. 13:10.
2. Do even some who profess Christ sow seeds of contention? Phil. 1:15, 16.
3. Does the Bible encourage debating over minor issues of doctrine? Tit. 3:9.
4. What should you do when another challenges you in a contentious manner? 1 Pet. 3:8-11.
5. What distinguishes a wise man in the eyes of God? James 3:13-18.
6. What distinguishes a foolish man? Prov. 18:6-8.
7. To what is peace likened? Mark 9:50.

Note: - In the above scripture, peace is compared to the flavor of salt. Just as salt without its flavor is useless, so the Gospel without peace is useless and ineffectual, and becomes a bitter pill to swallow.

8. How will the world know that we are the children of God? Matt. 5:9.

Lesson for November 7, 1987

MALICE

Booker T. Washington once said, *"I am determined to permit no man to narrow or degrade my soul by making me hate him."* Hatred and malice do just that — they degrade, defile and destroy the soul. As Christians we should avoid malice, not only as a lethal poison which kills spiritual growth, but also as the antithesis of God.

Scripture Reading: Col. 3:1-17.

Memory Verse: Col. 3:8.

1. What is a prerequisite of spiritual growth? 1 Peter 2:1, 2.
2. With what is worship incompatible? James 3:9-18.
3. Can just a little malice defile the entire body? 1 Cor. 5:6-8.

4. Should we honor all men, or is it all right to behave maliciously to unbelievers? 1 Peter 2:12-17.
5. What Godly men would not hear malice for their enemies? Job 31:29, 30; Psalm 35:11-14.
6. What does Christ tell us to do to those who wrongfully use us? Matthew 5:43, 44.
7. What is the end of those who maliciously plot to harm others? Psalm 7:14-16.

Lesson for November 14, 1987

SLANDER AND EVIL SPEAKING

No one likes to be gossiped about, nor does anyone enjoy being slandered. Yet there is certainly no shortage of gossip circles or slander manufacturers. This shows that many have no real antipathy for the sport itself, and that it is only when they themselves are the targets for its bitter arrows that they fully appreciate its loathsomeness. The next time we find ourselves participating in any kind of "evil talking" or unkind speculation, we would do well to examine our motives. We would also do well to ask ourselves if we really know what we are talking about. Often people repeat things about which they have no first-hand knowledge. They may not even know the person whom they are slandering, but have just heard "*this and that*" from some "*insider*." This insider often is, in reality, an "*outsider*" — which is why he starts the slander in the first place! In fact, some of the chief motives for slander are feelings of inferiority and jealousy, brought on by a weak spiritual state and a need to justify one's self by denigrating others.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians chapter 4.

Memory Verse: Eph. 4:29.

1. What is the source of slander? Matthew 15:19; Luke 6:45.
2. Should we trust those who indulge in slander? Jeremiah 9:5.
3. What class of people delights in gossip? Proverbs 11:9; Psalm 50:20; Jeremiah 6:28.
4. What are the effects of slander? Proverbs 6:19; 16:28; 18:8; 26:20.
5. What is the end of mischievous gossip, sensationalism, exaggeration and speculation? Ecclesiastes 10:12-14.

6. Are we justified in speaking evil of certain people who we think deserve it? Titus 3:2-8.
7. Will we have to give account of all our untrue and hurtful words? Matt. 12:36, 37.
8. Do seemingly Godly people sometimes fall into the sin of slander and evil talking? James 1:26.
9. What are the qualifications of those whom the Lord will allow into His tabernacle? Psa. 15:1-3.

Lesson for November 21, 1987

THE WATER OF LIFE

The woman at the well could not comprehend what the Master told her — she thought only of temporal water and did not realize that Jesus was offering her the water of life. Christ is standing with outstretched hand — offering the water of life to anyone who will receive it.

Jesus said, *“the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”* Many today do not yield themselves completely to the Lord, and do not have deep, satisfying joy in their Christian life — serving Christ to them is a burden instead of a joy. If you have not yielded your all to the Master — do so today!

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 12.

Memory Verse: Revelation 22:17.

1. What is God’s invitation to those who are thirsty? Isaiah 44:3; 51:1.
2. By what means do we draw water from the wells of Isaiah 12:2, 3; Nehemiah 8:10 (last part).
3. What simple request did Jesus make to the woman at Jacob’s well? John 4:6, 7,
4. What was the woman's reply? Verse 9.
5. How did the woman react when Jesus told her about the living water? Verses 10-12.
6. When a person receives the living water, are his innermost needs satisfied? John 4:13, 14; 6:35.
7. On a different occasion what invitation did Jesus extend to all? John 7:37, 38.

8. How did Jesus further define this Water of Life? John 7:39.
9. If we are filled with the Spirit, how will we walk? Galatians 5:16, 25, 26; Romans 6:11-13.
10. What glorious fruit will be manifest in our lives if we are completely surrendered to the Saviour? Ephesians 5:9, 10; Galatians 5:22, 23.

Lesson for November 28, 1987

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Scriptures tell us that Christ is the *"Star of Jacob"* (Numbers 2:17); the *"Day Star"* (II Peter 1:19); the *"Bright and Morning Star"* (Revelation 22:16). The wise men from the east were not mere astrologers as some teach. They saw *"His Star"* and chose to *"come to worship Him."* We believe they came by inspiration, *"for the world by wisdom knew not God."* — I Cor. 1:21.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:11-25.

Memory Verse: Luke 2:13, 14.

1. What was the purpose of Joseph and Mary's trip to Bethlehem? Luke 2:1-5.
2. While at Bethlehem, what wonderful event took place? Luke 2:6, 7.
3. What is said of the shepherds at this time? Luke 2:8.
4. What glory were they permitted to behold? Luke 2:9.
5. What wonderful message did the angels give them? Luke 2:10, 11.
6. What sign was given them of this child? Luke 2:12.
7. What other glorious news greeted the shepherds? Luke 2:13, 14.
8. When the angels had departed what did the shepherds decide to do? Luke 2:15.
9. When they arrived at the place spoken of by the angels, what did they see? Luke 2:16.
10. What did the shepherds do with the good news? Luke 2:17.
11. How did the hearers regard the report? Luke 2:18.
12. What was Mary's attitude about this event? Luke 2:19.
13. How did the shepherds manifest their joy for the Saviour? Luke 2:20.
14. When this child was eight days old, what did they do according to the law and what was He called? Luke 2:21.
15. By whom was He thus named before His conception? Luke 2:21.

16. Who was King of Judea at this time? Who also came to Jerusalem? Matthew 2:12.

17. What was their question? What two reasons did they give for coming? Matthew 2:2.

Lesson for December 5, 1987
THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST

The terrible suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ is well portrayed in the Scriptures so that we will realize the extent of the price He paid to free us from sin and death. It is impossible, however, to realize the extent of the love which compelled him to die in our place. The Scriptures say that even to the end He loved. He could not so much as find it in Him to hate his murderers. In His hour of deepest agony He asked God to forgive them. His lesson in love; His example of selfless sacrifice, can never be fully appreciated.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 63:1-12.

Memory Verse: I Timothy 1:15.

1. Why did Christ come into the world? 1 Tim. 1:15.
2. What prompted God to permit His own dear Son to die for sinful men? 1 John 4:9-10; Romans 5:8.
3. Did Christ know beforehand how He would be hated and despised, and finally crucified? Luke 18:31-33.
4. Jesus knew all that would befall Him, and how He would suffer and be crucified. How willing was He to go through all of this agony, shame, and suffering? Luke 22:41-42; Matt. 16:21-23; 26:37-39.
5. How great was the agony of His soul and what happened to cause Him more grief? Luke 22:44, 47, 48.
6. What act of Peter caused the Saviour additional sufferings? Luke 22:59-61.
7. What reproachful things were done to Him at the high priest's house? Luke 22:62-64.
8. What cruelty did Pilate inflict upon Him? John 19.
9. What shameful treatment did He receive from the soldiers? Matt. 27:29, 30, 34, 41, 42.
10. What wonderful prayer did He utter for His tormentors while He hung upon the

cross? Luke 23:34.

11. Was it necessary for Christ to suffer thus? Heb. 2:10.

12. Seeing how Christ was permitted to suffer all this for us, what challenge is this to His followers? Romans 8:31, 32.

Lesson for December 12, 1987

JESUS UNEXPECTEDLY APPEARS TO HIS

DISCIPLES

Jesus is with us every day. We should not limit Him to Sabbaths, prayer meetings or our quiet times alone with Him. Although it is very true that we are greatly blessed by His presence during those times, it is also equally true that, more often than not, He is right there beside us at the work bench, in the office, while we wash the dishes, drive the car or whatever daily activity we may be engaged in. Those are the times when we least expect Him, and this should not be so.

The disciples' efforts at fishing were wonderfully blessed when they worked according to the instructions of the Lord. We need to be sure that our work is pleasing unto the Lord, so that our labours may be blessed by Him.

Scripture Reading: Mark 16:9-20.

Memory Verse: John 15:16.

1. What command did Jesus give His disciples about Word? Mark 16:16; Matt 28:19; Acts 1:8.
2. Just before the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven where were the disciples gathered? John 21:2, 3.
3. What proves that the Lord was displeased with what they were doing? John 21:3, last part.
4. Who appeared on the shore? John 21:4.
5. What happened when they obeyed the Lord's command? John 21:6.
6. Is it possible for us to accomplish anything without Him? John 15:5.
7. What soul-searching question did Jesus ask Peter? John 21:15.
8. How did Peter feel when the Lord asked him the third time if he really loved Him? John 21:17.
9. When Peter saw the disciple whom the Lord loved following, what did he ask

the Lord? John 21:20, 21.

Lesson for December 19, 1987

THE MIRACLE OF CONVERSION

Nothing is as miraculous as a life changed through the shed blood of Calvary.

A newly converted man was once asked by one of his "old" friends how he knew his religious experience was real.

"If it weren't," he replied, "I wouldn't be arguing the point with you."

Scripture Reading: II Cor. 5.

Memory Verse: II Cor. 5:17.

1. Since the fall of Adam, how is our coming into this world described? Psa. 51:5.
2. How is the heart described? Jer. 17:9.
3. What illustration shows to what depth sin penetrates the heart? Jer. 17:1.
4. How does the apostle Paul further describe man's condition? Rom. 3:10-18.
5. How is the impossibility of changing ourselves described? Jer. 13:23.
6. How does God through Ezekiel describe the operation that changes a man's heart? Ezekiel 36:24-26.
7. After this operation is performed, and the Spirit of God comes in, what effect will it have upon us? Verse 27.
8. What is the obligation of every sinner who wants to obtain pardon? Prov. 28:13.
9. How is this principle emphasized in the New Testament? Acts 2:38, 3:19.
10. What proves the miracle of conversion? Gal. 5:22, 23.

Lesson for December 26, 1987

PERFECTION IN LIFE'S RACE

An upright man is one who is sincere and has no desire to do wrong. Self is the only obstacle in the way of our goal of perfection. It is self which causes us to refuse to sell out in order to buy the Pearl of great price — Christ our Lord and Redeemer.

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3.

Memory Verse: Philippians 3:14.

1. What was the standard to which Noah attained in his day? Genesis 6:8.
2. What standard did God demand of Abraham? Genesis 17:1.
3. What infers that Enoch had attained perfection? Genesis 5:22-25; Hebrews 11:3.
4. What does the New Testament say about Zacharias and Elizabeth? Luke 1:5, 6.
5. On what condition did God promise to establish the throne of David to Solomon? 1 Kings 9:3-5.
6. What is said of those who have attained perfection? Psalms 37:37.
7. What instructions were given unto Israel for this attainment? Deuteronomy 18:9-13.
8. What were said of the nations of Canaan? Deuteronomy 18:14, first part.
9. What requirements were made of Israel? Verse 14, last part; Verse 13.
10. Who did our Lord Jesus set forth as our example of perfection? Matthew 5:48.
11. What did Jesus tell the rich man to do in order to attain perfection? Matthew 19:16-21.
12. How did this wealthy man react to this demand? Verse 22.