

CHRISTIAN LIFE LESSONS

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Lesson One

THE JOY OF SALVATION

Introduction

1. How important is having forgiveness of your sins?
 - a. “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26 KJV).
 - b. Read Luke 16:19-32. While living upon the earth, the rich man enjoyed splendid physical blessings. However, he had no spiritual life.
 - c. Christians realize that having forgiveness of sins is a priceless blessing!
2. Forgiveness is reason for great rejoicing. This is illustrated in the three parables in Luke chapter 15.
 - a. The lost sheep (vv. 3-7). “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost” (v.6).
 - b. The lost coin (vv. 8-10). “Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I had lost” (v.9).
 - c. The lost son (vv. 11-32). For “this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry” (v. 24).
3. The change from lost to being saved is going from spiritual death to spiritual life.
 - a. Read Romans 6:2-4.
 - b. Read Ephesians 2:1-4.

I. Two Modes Of Forgiveness

- A. God has one method of forgiveness for a non-Christian, and a different one for a Christian. One must first become a *spiritual* child of God, and then after that they may enjoy the blessing of forgiveness from their Father in heaven.
- B. Born into the family:
 1. You became of member of your *physical* family when you were born into this world. Then you began to enjoy blessings from your earthly father.
 2. Becoming a member of the family of God requires a *spiritual* birth.
 - a. Read John 3:3-5.
 - b. This “new birth” is water baptism.
- C. The two modes of forgiveness are seen in the life of Simon.
 1. Read Acts 8:9-13. Simon learned the truth, believed, and was baptized.
 - a. Baptism is for “the remission of your sins” (Acts 2:38).
 - b. So Simon was forgiven of his sins and became a child of God.
 2. Read Acts 8:14-24. Simon tried to bribe the apostles with money – he sinned.
 - a. He did not need baptism again! He had already become a child of God.
 - b. He was told to “repent” and “pray” for forgiveness (Acts 8:22).

- c. We must also be willing to “confess” our sins.
 - 1) Read James 5:16.
 - 2) Read 1 John 1:9.
- D. The order of the two modes is important. They cannot be reversed.
 - 1. Simon first obeyed God by being baptized then later, when he sinned, he could ask for forgiveness in prayer.
 - 2. Many denominational churches tell people to “pray for forgiveness” and then later to be baptized. This is not God’s plan!
 - a. Many false teachers tell people: “Ask God to come into your heart and save you!”
 - b. The so-called “sinner’s prayer” is not found in the Bible!

II. Continual Cleansing For Faithful Christians

- A. Many Christians seem confused about forgiveness and salvation:
 - 1. Some think that a Christian goes in and out of salvation.
 - a. They think that if they sin, even unknowingly, they are immediately lost, then when they realize their sin, they pray for forgiveness and are saved again, and that cycle repeats.
 - b. They fear that if they sin and die before they have time to say a prayer, they will be lost forever.
 - c. Many Christians seem to have no confidence in their salvation.
 - d. Therefore, many have no real anticipation of heaven.
 - 2. Some have overreacted to the false teaching of “the impossibility of apostasy.”
 - a. The doctrine of “once saved always saved” is false. Read 2 Peter 2:20-22.
 - b. While the Bible does teach the possibility of apostasy, it also teaches that God will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to handle.
 - c. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.
- B. There is a difference between ongoing dedication and perfection. Forgiveness is given to dedicated Christians. But no Christian lives to perfection.
 - 1. A life of dedication (this God requires):
 - a. The righteous “shall live by faith” (Romans 1:17). This is striving to live according to God’s will.
 - b. “For they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit” (Romans 8:5).
 - c. Devoted Christians keep a focus upon spiritual things.
 - d. “Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2). Note that *faithfulness* is required, not sinless perfection.

- e. Devoted saints will still have sins of omission, and sins committed without even knowing.
- 2. A life of sinless perfection (God does not require this):
 - a. No human lives with sinless perfection. If God required this, no one would be saved.
 - b. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).
- C. Read 1 John 1:5-10.
 - 1. This section contrasts walking in darkness versus walking in the light.
 - 2. Note carefully verses 6 and 7:
 - a. "If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and do not the truth" (v. 6).
 - b. But "if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, ..." (v. 7).
 - 3. "Walking" stands for the way we live, our lifestyle, our "walk of life."
 - 4. Read carefully 1 John 1:7. Walking in the light = Dedicated living.
 - a. It is important to note two *present tense* verbs: "walk" and "cleanseth." This indicates a continuing action.
 - b. If our way of life is an ongoing walking in the light, then we have the assurance of ongoing cleansing of our sins.
 - c. This walking in the light does not require sinless perfection, or else there would be no sins to be cleansed.
 - d. Therefore, as long as a child of God lives a life of dedication, he/she enjoys the continual cleansing of sins!
 - 5. Read 1 John 1:9. A dedicated Christian will maintain an attitude of humility, and be willing to "confess" their sins, and pray for forgiveness.

III. The Joy Of Salvation

- A. Example of David:
 - 1. After David had committed adultery, he was confronted by the prophet Nathan. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-8.
 - 2. Read 2 Samuel 12:13. David had a heart willing to admit his sin.
 - 3. Read Psalm 51:1, 2, 12.
 - a. David wrote these words after he had sinned.
 - b. He asked God for forgiveness.
 - c. He wanted to have again the joy of salvation!

- B. Those who have learned and obeyed the gospel, rejoice in having forgiveness of their past sins.
 - 1. Read Acts 8:35-39. After baptism, the Eunuch “went on his way rejoicing” (v. 39).
 - 2. Read Romans 6:4. What a joy to arise from baptism to “walk in newness of life.”
 - 3. That same joy should continue on for the dedicated child of God.
- C. Example of Paul:
 - 1. Read Philippians 3:13, 14. Paul admitted he was not perfect. He had not reached perfection.
 - 2. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
 - a. As Paul was facing death, he did NOT say: “I sure hope I will be saved!”
 - b. He declared: “there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing” (v. 8).
- D. Read Romans 5:1, 2.
 - 1. Devoted Christians “have peace with God” and can “rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”
 - 2. This is not true of a Christian that has the attitude that they may live as they wish and that “grace will cover” sins they have no intention of ending.

Conclusion

- 1. Read Hebrews 3:12. Yes, we must guard against “falling away from the living God.”
- 2. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12, 13.
 - a. We must guard against falling.
 - b. But we are encouraged, that God will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to handle.
- 3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. “For the word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God.”

Lesson Two

SUFFERING

Introduction

1. When Israel was being terrorized by the Midianites, Gideon asked: "Oh, my lord, if Jehovah is with us, why then is all this befallen us?" (Judges 6:13).
2. For millennia mankind has been asking: "Why does God allow all this suffering?"
3. The Greek philosopher Epicurus (342-270 B.C.) articulated the now classic argument:
 - a. If God is all-powerful He *could* eliminate suffering.
 - b. If God is all-loving He *would want to* eliminate suffering.
 - c. Since there is still suffering, then God must be lacking in either power or love, or both.
4. The Epicurean paradox may appear to be valid, but it is not!

I. Some Faulty Views Of Suffering

- A. Oversimplified view – All suffering is due to personal sin.
 1. Read Job 2:11. Job's 3 friends: *Eliphaz*, *Bildad*, and *Zophar*.
 - a. Read Job 4:7-9 *Eliphaz*; Read Job 8:5, 6 *Bildad*; Read Job 11:6 *Zophar*.
 - b. These three all assumed that Job's suffering was because of his own sin.
 - c. Read Job 42:7. They were wrong about Job.
 2. Read John 9:1-3. "Rabbi, who sinned, this man, or his parents, that he should be born blind?" They assumed that the man's blindness was due to sin.
 3. Jesus suffered, but had no sin.
 - a. Read Hebrews 4:15.
 - b. Read 1 Peter 2:21.
- B. Humanism & Atheism
 1. Some humanists delight in taunting believers with the problem of suffering. For example, they ask: "How can you believe in a loving God when there is so much suffering in this world?"
 2. If there is no God, who is to say suffering is to receive blame at all?
 - a. If life is the result of randomness and existence just happened, no one is to blame.
 - b. According to evolution, humans and animals are essentially only different in their degree of development.
 - c. The lion kills the wildebeest and a human takes the life of another human. If there is no fundamental difference between animals and man then the evolutionist has no reason to condemn murder.

II. Freedom Of Choice – The Underlying Principle

- A. There are religious debates over freedom versus bondage of the human will.
 - 1. Example: Some Baptist denominations call themselves: “free will,” while others are Calvinistic in their belief (holding to the teaching of Total Hereditary Depravity).
 - 2. Example: Some cultures hold to a fatalistic view of life: “Whatever will be, will be!”
- B. Some basic (theoretical) creation choices:
 - 1. God could have programmed mankind to make only proper choices (God did NOT do this).
 - a. God did input instinctive behavior into animals.
 - b. Example: Some birds fly south for the winter.
 - 2. God could have given freedom of choice, but then automatically and consistently blocked every wrong choice (God does NOT do this).
 - a. If someone was about to kill, God would intervene.
 - b. If someone was about to utter a lie, they would be struck speechless.
 - c. Such an arrangement would essentially be blocking freedom of choice.
 - 3. God DID grant mankind actual freedom of choice.
 - a. Read Joshua 24:15. “... choose you this day whom ye will serve...”
 - b. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10.
 - c. Consistency:
 - 1) We like it when we work hard and receive beneficial results.
 - 2) However, we don’t enjoy the consequences of poor choices.

III. Some True Causes Of Suffering

- A. Personal Wrong Choices
 - 1. Read 1 Peter 4:15. We often bring suffering upon ourselves.
 - 2. Example: If a person chooses to smoke cigarettes, he/she may suffer from coughing, shortness of breath, and lung disease.
 - 3. Read Matthew 5:32. A person may choose to commit adultery, and then be divorced from their mate.
 - 4. If we are honest, we will admit that much of our suffering is because of our own bad choices!
- B. Personal Wrong Choices of Others
 - 1. The wrong choice of someone else can bring suffering to us.
 - 2. Example: Sometimes, drunk drivers kill innocent children.
 - a. Why is it that in these cases, God often receives the blame? The question is asked: “Why did God take the child?”
 - b. The blame lies with the one who chose to drink and drive.
 - 3. Example: A pregnant woman chooses to drink alcohol and the child is born with birth defects. The child suffers for the sinful choice of the mother.

- C. Personal Poor Choices of Former Generations
 - 1. Some suffering is caused by the poor choices others made in the past.
 - 2. Example: In India those following the Hindu religious revere the cow as a sacred animal.
 - a. Read Romans 1:22, 23. Their ancestors turned away from God and began to worship creatures.
 - b. Many children may suffer from starvation, while cows are allowed to freely roam the streets and eat from fruit stands.
 - c. Read 1 Timothy 4:3, 4. God allows eating of meats today.
- D. Violation Of Natural Laws
 - 1. Read James 2:26. Man is of dual makeup – he has body and spirit. His environment was created to suit him. We live in a physical world – governed by physical laws.
 - 2. Physical laws are beneficial – when respected.
 - a. Gravitational force allows us to park a car, and find it there later.
 - b. If there was no gravity, everything would be floating around, as happens in outer space.
 - 3. Suffering can result from the force of natural laws:
 - a. Read Luke 13:4. A tower in Siloam fell and killed 18 people.
 - b. Today, if a building is poorly constructed, it can collapse and injure people.
 - 4. Men may build a dam to collect water and enjoy a large water supply.
 - a. But if the structure is built too thin, the force of the water can destroy the dam.
 - b. The rushing water may flood a village and people may die.

IV. Some Benefits Of Suffering

- A. Having physical feeling:
 - 1. On the positive:
 - a. How many of us love the tender touch from our mate?
 - b. What if we felt no pain when we touched something hot?
 - c. Having some pain can alert us to a problem and seek a cure.
 - 2. On the negative: Someone may get caught in a fire and suffer pain from burns.
- B. Reminder that this world is not our home.
 - 1. Read Hebrews 11:13-16.
 - 2. Read 2 Peter 3:10-13.

- C. May awaken us to turn to the Lord.
 - 1. Read Psalm 18:6. "In my distress I called upon Jehovah, and cried unto my God: ..."
 - 2. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.
 - a. Paul's "thorn in the flesh" was troubling him.
 - b. His suffering caused him to rely upon the Lord (v 10).
 - 3. Read Luke 22:44. "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; ..."
- D. Reminder of the awfulness of sin.
 - 1. Much suffering is traceable to sin. This realization should help us resist sin.
 - 2. We don't want to add to the suffering already in the world.
 - 3. Read Psalm 119:104. "Through thy precepts I get understanding: Therefore I hate every false way."
- E. Enhanced appreciation for what is good.
 - 1. Have you heard of people who endured cancer and then have a renewed appreciation for life?
 - 2. Those who endure suffering often come away with a greater appreciation for the little blessings in life.
- F. Suffering may allow us to better help others in their suffering.
 - 1. Read Hebrews 2:18. "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor [help] them that are tempted."
 - 2. When we have experienced suffering, our compassion and sympathy for others can blossom.
- G. Spiritual Strengthening
 - 1. Read 1 Peter 1:6, 7.
 - 2. *Sterling character is forged in the furnace of adversity! GJ*
- H. Sifting and Testing
 - 1. Read 1 Corinthians 3:12-15.
 - a. Hardships separate the serious converts from the superficial.
 - b. Some Christians only worship when it is convenient.
 - 2. Read Revelation 2:10. These saints were "about to suffer."
- I. Corrective
 - 1. Read Daniel 4:22-25; 5:18-22.
 - 2. Read Hebrews 12:4-11.

Conclusion

- 1. Christians should expect suffering.
 - a. Read 2 Timothy 3:12.
 - b. Read 1 Peter 2:20, 21 and 4:12-16.
- 2. We must be prepared to suffer, even for doing what is right!

Lesson Three

MATURING IN CHRIST

Introduction

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-3.
 - a. These old ways and attitudes are often deeply ingrained in us.
 - b. The “desires of the flesh and of the mind” may still plague us.
2. Read 1 Peter 4:1-4.
 - a. Immature and ungodly ways do not just disappear after baptism!
 - b. We must strive to change and form new thinking and new habits.
3. Read 1 Peter 2:1-5. Babies in Christ must strive to grow toward maturity.

I. Maturing In Mind

- A. Read 1 Peter 1:13.
 1. “girding up.” This term was commonly used to speak of a person who gathered up their loose robes with a belt, to be able to hurry along on a journey. Christians should have tight control of their thinking.
 2. “be sober.” This means we must stay watchful, alert, with clear thinking.
- B. Read Romans 12:1, 2.
 1. Christians must resist being pressed into conformity with the ways and thinking of this world.
 2. Can people tell that you think and act differently?
 3. God is challenging you to be “transformed by the renewing of your mind.”
- C. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. Signs of carnality include: “jealousy and strife.”
 1. Read Romans 12:10.
 2. Read Hebrews 6:10. God will not forget, even if others don’t seem to notice.
- D. Read 2 Corinthians 8:12. Christians should have a “willing mind” (KJV) – to give to the work of the church.
 1. Those spiritually mature never ask: “How much must I give?”
 2. Spiritually mature people inquire: “How much can I give?”
 3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:1, 2.
- E. Lowliness of Mind
 1. Read Philippians 2:3.
 2. Read Acts 20:18, 19.
 3. Read 1 Peter 5:5.
- F. Our minds should not be fixated on earthly things.
 1. Read Colossians 3:1, 2.
 - a. Notice the mental focus required by the words: “seek” and “set your mind.”

- b. Christians must give thought to determine what efforts will make a lasting difference.
- 2. Read Matthew 19:16-22.
 - a. This man wanted eternal life (see 19:16).
 - b. But his love of possessions was greater than his love of the Lord.
 - c. Materialism is one of the common traps for Christians.
- 3. Read Hebrews 11:13-16.

II. Maturing In Speech

- A. Read James 3:2.
- B. Read Ephesians 4:29. "Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, ..."
- C. Read Matthew 26:73.
 - 1. Peter's speech revealed he was a Galilean.
 - 2. Read Acts 4:13.
- D. Read Colossians 4:6.
- E. Read Titus 2:8. "sound" = healthy.

III. Maturing In Actions

- A. Examples of immaturity:
 - 1. Naaman – Read 2 Kings 5:11, 12.
 - a. Some are like this when they hear Bible teaching and don't like it!
 - b. Others reject truth because it seems too simple; they consider themselves to be so "sophisticated."
 - 2. Jonah – Read Jonah 4:1-3.
- B. Read Romans 12:17-21.
 - 1. Read Leviticus 19:18.
 - 2. Read Proverbs 14:29.
 - 3. Read Mark 6:16-28. Herodias hated John because he spoke the truth about her unlawful marriage.
- C. Read Daniel 3:15-18.
 - 1. These three men were firm in their conviction.
 - 2. Today, we should demonstrate our strong commitment to Christ by our actions.

Conclusion

- 1. Read Philippians 3:15.
 - a. We can never be perfectly sinless, but we can become mature.
 - b. We must think maturely before our speech and actions can improve!
- 2. Has your maturity increased since you were immersed into Christ?

Lesson Four

MAKING PROPER CHOICES

Introduction

1. So often we suffer because we make foolish choices.
2. Much suffering can be avoided by making wise decisions.
3. This lesson will teach us how to better make godly choices.

I. Heeding Warnings

- A. We can see warning signs in many places:
 1. Near electric lines we can read the sign – “Warning: High Voltage.”
 2. Near the road a sign might indicate there is a sharp turn ahead.
 3. Failure to heed warnings can result in injury or death.
- B. The Bible contains many warnings from God.
 1. God, as a loving Father, wishes for us to avoid dangers.
 2. The Book of Proverbs is full of warnings.
 - a. Solomon cautions his son to guard against various dangers.
 - b. A few examples:
 - 1) Read Proverbs 1:8, 10.
 - 2) Read Proverbs 6:16-19.
- C. Bible warnings take various forms (Note: Wording will vary by translation):
 1. “Beware”
 - a. Read Matthew 7:15. “Beware of false prophets, ...”
 - b. Read Philippians 3:2. “Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, ...”
 2. “Be not deceived”
 - a. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9.
 - b. Read 1 Corinthians 15:33.
 - c. Read Galatians 6:7.
 3. “Remember” (Don’t forget)
 - a. Read Luke 17:32. “Remember Lot’s wife.”
 - b. Read Acts 20:35. “... remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, ...”
 4. “Take heed”
 - a. Read Luke 12:15.
 - b. Read Hebrews 3:12.
 5. “except” (“unless”)
 - a. Read Luke 13:3, 5.
 - b. Read John 8:24.
 - c. Read 1 Corinthians 7:5.

6. Direct Statements
 - a. Read Matthew 6:25 "...Be not anxious for your life, ..."
 - 1) Be not "anxious" = Present, active, imperative.
 - 2) This is a command that calls for ongoing avoidance of worry.
 - b. Read Romans 12:17. "Render to no man evil for evil."
7. Repeated Words or Phrases
 - a. Read John 3:3, 5. Without water baptism a person cannot enter the kingdom.
 - b. Read John 8:34.
 - c. Read Galatians 1:8, 9.

II. Making Decisions By The Bible

- A. It is easier to follow the world's well-worn path, than to stop and consult the Bible.
- B. It is foolish for Christians to make important decisions without first looking into the Bible for help and advise.
 1. Certainly important decisions deserve being put to the Bible test.
 2. Some simple test questions are:
 - a. Is it right or wrong according to the Bible?
 - b. Will this likely help me or hurt me spiritually?
 - c. If others see me doing this, will it be a good and helpful example?
 - d. Even if it is permissible, is there a better choice?
- C. Mate Selection
 1. People of the world often choose based upon: Looks, education, personality, income, etc.
 2. Read 1 Corinthians 9:5.
 - a. If Paul were to choose a wife, he would choose a "wife that is a believer."
 - b. Literally = "sister wife." That is: A sister in the Lord.
 3. Read 1 Corinthians 7:39.
 - a. A widow (one with marriage experience) should choose to marry "only in the Lord."
 - b. How much more should one who has never been married, choose a Christian mate?
 4. Read 2 Corinthians 6:15. "What part does a believer have with an unbeliever?" (McCord's Translation)
 5. Read 1 Peter 3:12. Would you bind yourself for a lifetime to someone who could not acceptably pray with you?
- D. Roles and Spousal Treatment
 1. Read Ephesians 5:22-33.

2. Read 1 Peter 3:1-7.
 3. Read Titus 2:4, 5.
 4. Read 1 Timothy 5:14.
- E. Worship
1. Read Colossians 2:23. "will-worship."
 - a. Worship that a person devises or decides from their personal desire.
 - b. This can be either what is forbidden or unbidden.
 2. Read Acts 2:42.
 3. Read Acts 20:7.
- F. Things not specifically named:
1. Dancing is mentioned in both testaments.
 - a. What about modern dancing? We must apply Bible principles.
 - b. Read Galatians 5:19. "lasciviousness."
 - 1) Thayer mentions this includes: "...indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc."
 - 2) Much of the modern dancing includes lewd bodily movements.
 - c. Read Matthew 14:6-12. Herodias' daughter danced provocatively.
 2. Internet Pornography
 - a. Read Matthew 5:27, 28.
 - b. Read Matthew 15:19.

III. Consider The Outcome

- A. Vision – nearsighted or farsighted?
1. Impulsive behavior is common among children/adolescents.
 - a. Children often act without thinking first.
 - b. Since children lack experience, it is more difficult for them to visualize what might be the likely outcome of their actions.
 2. The world often parades "impulsiveness" under the banner of "spontaneous, fun-loving, free-spirited, etc."
 3. Christians are on a long-distance racecourse that leads to heaven.
 - a. It is a marathon, not a sprint.
 - b. Read Hebrews 12:1. "...let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"
- B. Read Hebrews 11:24-26.
- C. Read Psalm 73:2-17.
- D. Read Proverbs 20:1 and 23:29-35.
- E. Some helpful questions to ask yourself before making a decision:
1. What will be the likely outcome or consequences of this decision?
 2. Will taking this step, possibly lead to other things that will not be good?

IV. Three Major Decisions In Life

- A. There are three major decisions in life: Spiritual, Marital, Parental.
- B. Consider their importance. You should wisely answer these questions:
 - 1. Spiritual
 - a. Will you take the time to learn the gospel and obey?
 - b. Will you remain faithful to Christ for the remainder of your life?
 - 2. Marital
 - a. Will you choose to marry?
 - b. If you choose to marry will you choose to marry a faithful Christian?
 - c. Will you remain faithful to your mate for the rest of your life?
 - 3. Parental
 - a. Will you choose to bring children into this world?
 - b. Will you bring them up in the ways of the Lord?
- C. Consequences of each decision:
 - 1. Spiritual
 - a. Read 2 Timothy 4:7, 8. Faithfulness rewarded with eternal life.
 - b. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9. Eternal destruction will be the punishment to those who know not God and to those who do not continue to obey.
 - 2. Marital
 - a. Read Proverbs 18:22. A godly mate is a blessing.
 - b. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10. Fornicators and adulterers cannot inherit the kingdom of God.
 - 3. Parental
 - a. Read Psalm 127:3. Children are a blessing from the Lord.
 - b. Read Proverbs 17:25 and 29:15. An undisciplined child brings grief.

Conclusion

- 1. Each small choice we make becomes a part of our whole character.
 - a. Sow a thought, reap an action.
 - b. Sow an action, reap a habit.
 - c. Sow a habit, reap a lifestyle.
 - d. Sow a lifestyle, reap a destiny!
- 2. It is so easy to go through life making decisions without giving much forethought.
 - a. Read Proverbs 3:31. We must guard against choosing the ways of the world.
 - b. Read Isaiah 56:4. We should strive to “choose the things that please” God.
- 3. Read Hebrews 11:25.
 - a. Moses chose to be with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.
 - b. We should chose to be with God’s people, the church, rather than indulge in brief sinful pleasures.

Lesson Five

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Introduction

1. Read Luke 11:1.
 - a. John taught his disciples to pray.
 - b. This disciple asked Jesus to teach them to pray.
 - c. We should have the same interest in learning to pray.
2. Proper communication involves two basic elements – talking and listening.
 - a. Read 1 Peter 3:12. Prayer is a blessing for children of God.
 - b. Communication with God involves:
 - 1) God speaks to us today by His word.
 - 2) We speak to God in prayer.
3. Read James 5:16. “The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working.”
 - a. Prayer that is effective is by a “righteous” person.
 - b. If we want our prayers to be working we must be living a righteous life.

I. Elements Of Prayer

- A. Praise
 1. Without a doubt, we all tend to “ask” when we pray.
 2. We most often think of “praise” in the context of singing.
 3. Read Daniel 9:4. Daniel praised God’s greatness.
 4. Read Psalm 5:1-4. David praised God’s holiness (v. 4).
 5. Read Psalm 86:6-10. God is praised in prayer for his greatness.
- B. Thanksgiving
 1. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18.
 2. Read 2 Timothy 1:3-5. Paul thanked God often in prayer for Timothy’s faith.
 3. Read Philippians 4:6. Our prayers should include “thanksgiving.”
 4. So often we ask in prayer. We should remember to thank God for answering our prayers.
- C. Confession
 1. Read Luke 16:15. “God knoweth your hearts.”
 - a. Therefore, we cannot hide anything from God.
 - b. So we should be honest and admit our faults before God.
 2. Read Ezra 9:6, 10-13 and 10:1.
 - a. We should be ashamed when we sin against God (9:6).
 - b. Surely, “God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve” (9:13).
 - c. “Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God ...” (10:1).

- d. Have you felt so ashamed of your sins that you wept, and prayed, and confessed your sins unto God?
 - 3. Read 1 John 1:9. This is conditional. Without confession there can be no forgiveness.
- D. Petition
 - 1. Requests – Personal
 - a. No doubt this is the most common part of our prayers. We often ask God for something(s)!
 - b. Read Matthew 7:7-11.
 - c. Read Jonah 2:1-10.
 - d. Read Luke 22:39-42.
 - 1) Jesus set the perfect example.
 - 2) He asked for something, but wanted most for God's will to be done, rather than His own.
 - 2. Requests – For Others (Intercessions)
 - a. Read Job 42:8-10.
 - 1) What an amazing man! After all the torment he received from these men, he was willing to pray for them.
 - 2) Do you have a heart to pray for others, even those who have wronged you? Read Matthew 5:44.
 - b. Read 1 Timothy 2:1. "intercessions" (ASV)

II. Proper Praying

- A. Persistence
 - 1. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17. "pray without ceasing;"
 - 2. Read Luke 18:1-8.
 - 3. Read Colossians 4:2.
- B. Humility
 - 1. Read James 4:6.
 - 2. Read Luke 18:9-14.
- C. Reverence
 - 1. Read Matthew 6:9. In the Lord's example prayer we are taught to express reverence toward God.
 - 2. Read John 17:11. Jesus called the Father – "Holy Father."
 - 3. Read Hebrew 4:16. We can draw near with "boldness" because Jesus is our sympathetic High Priest (see 4:15). However, we still must draw near with a realization that we are approaching the Most High God!

4. Read 2 Peter 2:11. Even though angels have great “power and might” and enjoy close access to God, they are not casual before God, but show complete respect before God. See Isaiah 6:2, 3.

D. Faith

1. Read James 1:6-8
 - a. We must have faith that God will give what is best.
 - b. Compare Romans 4:20. Abraham had confidence in the promise of God.
2. Read James 5:14, 15. Notice: “... the prayer of faith shall save him that is sick...”

E. Limitations

1. We must never pray for something that is against the will of God.
 - a. Read Jude 11. Balaam wanted to get rewarded for cursing God’s people but he was hindered. See Numbers chapters 22 to 24.
 - b. Example: We must not ask God to bless a marriage that is unlawful. Read Mark 6:17,18.
2. We must not ask for God to forgive those who refuse to repent.
 - a. Read Jeremiah 7:16-18. The inhabitants of Judah refused to repent, even when Jeremiah gave warnings.
 - b. Read 1 John 5:16.
 - 1) Read 1 John 1:9. If we will confess our sins we can receive forgiveness. It is understood that this confession must be genuine and thus repentance is implied.
 - 2) Sin that leads to death, “unto death,” is sin that continues.
 - 3) A person who refuses to repent is sinning “unto death.”

Conclusion

1. Read 1 Kings 8:54.
 - a. As king, Solomon had great authority and power.
 - b. However, he acknowledged by his prayer and posture that God was to be revered above all. See 1 Kings 9:3.
2. Read Proverbs 15:8.
 - a. Those who live wicked lives should not expect God to accept their worship.
 - b. God has delight in the prayers of those who live uprightly.
3. Read Isaiah 38:1-8.
 - a. God is compassionate toward those who serve him with a pure heart.
 - b. What beautiful words to Hezekiah, when God said: “I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears” (v. 5).
 - c. Christians who live holy lives can also expect God to be attentive to their heartaches and prayers.

Lesson Six

BIBLE STUDY

Introduction

1. Read Hebrews 4:12, 13.
 - a. We can read about the power of God's spoken word in Genesis 1.
 - b. The written word also carries authority.
 - c. Read John 12:48.
2. Read Psalm 119:105. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And light unto my path."
 - a. We need God's help to direct our steps properly.
 - b. Read Jeremiah 10:23. Wise men admit this truth.
3. Man needs physical and also spiritual food.
 - a. Read Matthew 4:4 (Quotation from Deuteronomy 8:3).
 - b. A Christian cannot be strong without feeding on God's word!
4. Here are some tips to help get the most benefit from Bible study.

I. The Bible Is Understandable

- A. During the Dark Ages, people were told to let the clergy interpret the Bible for them. Most people had no access to the Bible.
- B. The Bible was given for the purpose of conveying God's message to us.
 1. Read John 8:31, 32. We can know the truth.
 2. Read John 14:15. How could we possibly keep the commandments of Jesus, if we cannot understand them?
 3. Read Ephesians 3:1-4. Note carefully the order:
 - a. Revelation was given to Paul.
 - b. He wrote down the message in a few words.
 - c. When we read we can understand.
- C. Approach the Bible expecting to understand.
 1. Like the study of other subjects, it takes effort to understand (e.g. Mathematics).
 2. Are you willing to put forth the effort to learn the word of God?

II. Approach The Bible With Awe – God Is Speaking

- A. Read 2 Peter 1:20, 21.
- B. Read 2 Timothy 3:15. The Scriptures are "sacred writings."
- C. In many places we find the phrase: "Thus saith Jehovah:" (ASV). Other English versions may have: "Thus says the LORD..."
 1. Read 2 Kings 7:1. "And Elisha said, Hear ye the word of Jehovah: thus saith Jehovah, ..."

2. Read Matthew 5:21, 22. "Ye have heard ... but I say unto you ..."
- D. We should never dismiss the word by saying: "I know the Bible says ... but ..."

 1. Too often we hear folks say this. Often they are reacting to something they don't want to obey.
 2. It is a serious offense to hear what the Bible has to say, and then set it aside.

- E. Read Nehemiah 8:1-3.

III. Prepare Your Heart For Action

- A. Examples of men who were eager to hear and obey God:
 1. Read 1 Samuel 3:9, 10. "Speak, Jehovah; for thy servant heareth."
 2. Read Ezra 7:10. "For Ezra had set his heart to seek the law of Jehovah, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and ordinances."
 3. Read Acts 10:33. "Now therefore we are all here present in the sight of God, to hear all things that have been commanded thee of the Lord."
- B. Don't read simply as an academic exercise. Read and look for needed changes in your life.
 1. READ to learn what you should do!
 2. READ to find out what to become!
 3. READ to improve your attitude and motives!

IV. Understand The Divisions Of The Bible

- A. Old Testament:
 1. 39 Books – Genesis to Malachi.
 2. Divisions:
 - a. Law – Genesis to Deuteronomy (5 Books).
 - b. History – Joshua to Esther (12 Books).
 - c. Poetry – Job to Song of Solomon (5 Books).
 - d. Major Prophets – Isaiah to Daniel (5 Books).
 - e. Minor Prophets – Hosea to Malachi (12 Books).
- B. New Testament.
 1. 27 Books – Matthew to Revelation.
 2. Divisions:
 - a. Gospel Accounts - Matthew to John (4 Books). *Life and Death of Jesus.*
 - b. History - Acts (1 Book). *Beginning and growth of the church.*
 - c. Letters - Romans to Jude (21 Books). *Life in the church.*
 - d. Prophecy - Revelation (1 Book). *Victory of the church.*

V. Details About The New Testament

A. Gospel Accounts – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

1. There is only one gospel. But four accounts of the one gospel.
 - a. Read Romans 1:16.
 - b. Read Galatians 1:11.
 - c. Read Ephesians 4:5. There is only “one faith.”
2. These Books tell about the birth, teaching, and death of Jesus.
3. Chart:

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus is:	Prophesied King	Obedient Servant	Perfect Man	God in the flesh
First Readers:	Jews	Romans	Greeks	All men
Jesus as:	Son of Abraham	Man of Action	Son of Adam	Son of God

4. Key offices of the Messiah:
 - a. Redeemer
 - 1) Genesis 3:15.
 - 2) Galatians 4:4, 5.
 - 3) Acts 2:22, 23.
 - 4) 1 Corinthians 2:8.
 - 5) Hebrews 2:14.
 - b. Prophet
 - 1) Deuteronomy 18:18, 19.
 - 2) Acts 3:22, 23.
 - 3) Matthew 12:41; 17:1-8.
 - c. Priest
 - 1) Psalm 110:4.
 - 2) Hebrews 5:6, 8-10; 7:17.
 - d. King
 - 1) Genesis 49:10.
 - 2) Acts 2:30, 31.
5. Genealogies Of Jesus:
 - a. Matthew 1:1-16
 - 1) Traces the lineage from Abraham to Jesus – through Joseph.
 - 2) Matthew gives the **legal** record, according to Jewish reckoning.
 - 3) The wording is careful to show that Jesus was “of Mary” (Matthew 1:16 – “of whom”), and not physically from Joseph.

- b. Luke 3:23-38
 - 1) Luke shows the **literal** line of Mary, rather than Joseph.
 - 2) Luke traces the lineage back to Adam.
- B. History – Acts
 - 1. The one Book of Acts is a history of the beginning and growth of Jesus' church.
 - 2. Luke is the writer of this book (see Luke 1:3 and Acts 1:1).
 - a. Luke also wrote the Book of Luke. Acts continues where Luke ended.
 - b. Acts tells about the resurrected Christ going back to heaven (Acts 1:9).
 - 3. This Book gives examples of conversions. Examples of people becoming Christians. Consider two examples:
 - a. In Acts 2 we learn of Jews becoming Christians.
 - b. In Acts 10 we learn about the first Gentiles becoming Christians.
- C. Letters – Romans to Jude
 - 1. Letters written by Paul – Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon.
 - 2. Hebrews – writer is not known.
 - 3. James – written by James.
 - 4. 1 & 2 Peter - written by Peter.
 - 5. 1, 2, 3 John - written by John (also the gospel of John, and Revelation).
 - 6. Jude - written by Jude.
- D. Prophecy – Revelation
 - 1. This one Book tells of the persecution of Christians (see 2:10).
 - 2. Special kind of writing:
 - a. This Book is full of dramatic signs and images. It is symbolic language.
 - 1) We read of the *Lamb* (Jesus, 5:8), and the *great dragon* (Satan, 12:9).
 - 2) Golden bowls full of incense (the prayers of the saints, 5:8).
 - b. These pictures and numbers are not to be taken as literal.
 - 1) 144,000 (14:1) is not to be taken as a literal number. Today, the Israel of God is spiritual, not 12 literal tribes (See Galatians 6:16).
 - 2) 1,000 years reign (20:4) should not be taken as a literal length of time. Jesus is now reigning over his spiritual kingdom (See 1 Corinthians 15:25; also Colossians 1:13).
 - 3. Written by John (see 1:4, 9). Written about A.D. 96 by the last living apostle.

Conclusion

- 1. Read 2 Timothy 2:15. Take time to study the word of God.
- 2. Read Acts 17:11. You too should be “examining the scriptures daily.”

Lesson Seven

WORSHIP - Part One

Introduction

1. Read Revelation 4:11.
 - a. "Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power: for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they were, and were created."
 - b. God the Father is pictured as sitting upon the throne. He is worthy of worship.
2. Read Revelation 5:12.
 - a. "Worthy is the Lamb that hath been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honor, and glory, and blessing."
 - b. Jesus is pictured as the Lamb. He is worthy of worship.
 - c. Read Philippians 2:9-11. See also Hebrews 1:6, 8.
3. Since the beginning and continuing, God has always told mankind how to worship acceptably.
 - a. Read Genesis 4:1-8.
 - b. Read Leviticus 10:1, 2.
 - c. Read John 4:24.
 - d. We are not at liberty to worship in ways we choose for ourselves.

I. Preparation For Worship

- A. Old Testament Examples
 1. Read Exodus 20:8-11.
 2. Read Mark 15:42. The Jews took time to prepare on the day BEFORE the Sabbath.
 3. Read Deuteronomy 16:16, 17. The Israelites had to prepare ahead of time for these pilgrimage journeys.
- B. Preparation of the heart (mind).
 1. Desire for Worship
 - a. Read Psalm 122:1.
 - b. We love things we know about. We usually dread "obligations."
 - c. Read Acts 8:27, 28.
 2. Harmony with Others
 - a. Read Matthew 5:23, 24.
 - 1) BEFORE going to worship we should settle matters with others.
 - 2) Read Matthew 5:9. We must strive to be peacemakers!

- b. Read 1 Peter 3:7.
 - 1) Husbands must treat their wives with kindness and respect.
 - 2) If a man does not treat his wife properly, even his prayer can be cut off.
 - c. Read Romans 12:18.
 - 1) We must try to be at peace with others. We must do what we can.
 - 2) You can do your part, but you cannot force others to be peaceable.
 - 3. Purity of Heart
 - a. Read Psalm 24:3, 4.
 - b. Read Matthew 5:27, 28. We cannot be lustful during the week (e.g. viewing pornography) and then assemble on Sunday and expect God to accept our worship.
- C. Physical Preparation
 - 1. Adequate Rest
 - a. Read Acts 20:7-9.
 - 1) Surely we have all yawned and felt sleepy in worship.
 - 2) However, we should try to get adequate rest on Saturday night if at all possible. This applies to children and adults.
 - b. What choices do you make for your Saturday activities? Do you plan to be home in time to get a good night's rest?
 - 2. Items for Worship
 - a. Make preparations BEFORE Sunday morning for what you will need!
 - b. **Clothing** - neat & clean.
 - 1) Prepare your clothes and clothes for your children.
 - 2) You should not look messy and dirty.
 - c. **Bible** & notepad & pen. Have your items in a bag ready to go.
 - 3. Set an alarm clock (most cell phones have an alarm function).
 - a. Allow enough time for breakfast. Children who come to Bible class hungry cannot concentrate well.
 - b. Some Christians habitually arrive late. What does that indicate to God?
 - 4. Contribution Ready
 - a. Some give by paper check, some give cash, some give coins.
 - b. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. Each Christian should have ready what he has "purposed in his heart."
 - c. Read 2 Corinthians 9:1, 2. For this special need, saints had prepared far in advance.
 - 5. Bible Lesson
 - a. If you will be teaching, have your lesson notes finished and organized.
 - b. If you are a student – have your lesson assignment completed and the assigned verses memorized.

6. Men to Serve
 - a. If you will be leading singing - have song numbers written and ready.
 - b. If you will be leading communion - have Scriptures ready.
 - c. If you will be preaching - have your sermon ready.

II. The Lord's Supper

- A. Read Acts 20:7.
 1. This clearly shows the day that early Christians ate the Supper – Sunday.
 2. This was the practice sanctioned by the apostles.
 3. “to break bread” stands by the figure of speech *synecdoche* (part for whole) for both the bread and the juice.
 4. They met “to break” - this is in the original Greek “an infinitive of purpose.”
- B. Testimony of history. Historians document that even in the second century it was the universal practice of the church to have the Lord's Supper each week.
- C. Preparatory Teaching
 1. It must be remembered that the personal ministry of Jesus was preparatory.
 - a. He spoke much about the coming kingdom, that is, the church He would build.
 - b. It is logical that Jesus would teach beforehand about what his followers should do after he returned to heaven.
 2. Read Matthew 26:26-28.
 - a. The language has clear indications of forward-looking anticipation.
 - 1) “this is my blood” - “which is poured out for many unto remission of sins.”
 - 2) The symbolism would be obvious once He had been offered.
 - 3) Read 1 Corinthians 11:23. Paul referenced back to this betrayal night.
 - b. Prayer wording was:
 - 1) “blessed” (v. 26)
 - 2) “gave thanks” (v. 27)
 - 3) Therefore, the prayer does not change the elements. Rather, “blessing” simply means the same as *giving thanks*.
- D. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-29.
 1. The importance of verse 23:
 - a. Paul received teaching from the Lord, and taught the disciples.
 - b. This is a commandment from the Lord, not from man.
 2. Key aspects:
 - a. “remembrance” (vv. 24, 25). We remember with thankfulness.
 - b. “the Lord's death” (v. 26). We are to focus and remember the Lord's death. This is NOT a memorial to his burial and resurrection!

- c. “till he come” (v. 26). The Lord’s Supper will be a part of Christian worship until the Lord returns.
- d. Worthy manner (v. 27).
 - 1) This means the *way* we take it must be proper.
 - 2) This is NOT talking about our worthiness.
 - 3) The Corinthian saints were failing to take it respectfully; in a proper way.
- E. Partaking does not:
 - 1. Eating does NOT bring forgiveness of sins.
 - a. Eating does not produce some spiritual cleansing.
 - b. If you are living in sin, there is no special forgiveness received, simply by eating the Lord’s Supper.
 - 2. Eating does NOT stand alone as complete worship.
 - a. Some evidently think, based upon their actions, that as long as they eat the Lord’s Supper the other acts of worship are not mandatory.
 - b. Some seem to think they can skip giving, skip singing, skip the preaching, but are acceptable to God if they eat communion.
 - 3. Eating does NOT condemn those who are already lost.
 - a. Often non-Christians will partake while visiting our worship service.
 - b. We need not make an issue by trying to restrict visitors from eating.

III. Singing

- A. New Testament verses mentioning singing:
 - 1. There are three references in the Book of Revelation (5:9; 14:3; 15:3). However, Revelation is a highly symbolic book.
 - 2. Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15 (2x); Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; James 5:13.
- B. New Testament instructions:
 - 1. Read carefully Ephesians 5:19.
 - a. “speaking one to another” - Greek reflexive. Everyone should participate.
 - b. “singing” - this is the specified type of *speaking*.
 - 1) God did NOT say – “make music” (that would have been a generic command).
 - 2) God is specific. God commands us to “sing.”
 - c. “making melody with your heart” (ψάλλοντες ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν)
 - 1) Many debate the meaning of the Greek word *Psallo*. Some claim that an instrument is implied.
 - 2) However, here the word is tied with the word *heart* - thus no literal instrument is in view.

2. Read Colossians 3:16.
 - a. “teaching and admonishing”
 - 1) There must be an understandable meaning in our words so there can be *teaching*.
 - 2) Singing is primarily directed toward God, but also can serve to warn one another.
 - b. “one another” (ἑαυτοὺς).
 - 1) Every Christian should participate.
 - 2) Having a chorus of chosen singers while others merely listen has no New Testament sanction.
 3. Read 1 Corinthians 14:15.
 - a. “sing with the spirit”
 - 1) This word *spirit* should rightly not be capitalized.
 - 2) This “spirit” is the human spirit or mind.
 - 3) We should be engaging our mind when singing in worship.
 - 4) It is easy to let our mind wander and not actually be thinking about what we are singing.
 - b. “sing with the understanding”
 - 1) We should understand what we are singing.
 - 2) We should truly mean what we are singing. For example, if we sing: “I want to be a worker for the Lord,” then we must honestly be striving to be a worker.
- C. What about additions?
1. Read Colossians 3:16, 17.
 - a. “in the name of the Lord” means what the Lord has authorized (v. 17).
 - b. We are not under the Old Testament Law of Moses.
 - c. Read Hebrews 7:12. “For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.”
 - d. We cannot bring worship items from the Old Law and practice them today.
 - 1) Read Exodus 30:1. *Burning incense* was a part of the Old Law.
 - 2) Read Psalm 47:1. *Hand clapping* is mentioned.
 - 3) Read Psalm 150. *Trumpet, harp, dance, and stringed instruments* are mentioned.
 2. We must respect the silence of the Scriptures.
 - a. How large would the New Testament be if God listed every single item that was forbidden?
 - b. Read Hebrews 7:14. If God said nothing about a certain matter, then we cannot do it.

3. What about solos and choirs?
 - a. Read 1 Corinthians 14:26.
 - 1) Some claim this gives authorization for a solo.
 - 2) However, this verse merely indicates someone may be ready with a “psalm.”
 - a) A “psalm” might be read aloud.
 - b) A man might be ready to lead the congregation in a “psalm.”
 - c) There is no implication that a man had a “psalm” to sing by himself!
 - b. Reciprocal nature of singing (Noted above):
 - 1) Can anyone take the Lord’s Supper for you? No!
 - 2) Christians are commanded to sing. No one can sing for you!
 - c. “From the apostolic age singing was always a part of divine service, in which the whole body of the Church joined together; and it was the decay of this practice that first brought the order of singers into the Church.”¹
 - d. “A cappella”
 - 1) From Latin *ad*, according to, and *capella*, chapel.
 - 2) Literally: in the style of the church.
 - 3) The word is defined as: “without instrumental accompaniment.”
 - 4) Because from earliest times the primitive church had only vocal singing.

Conclusion

1. Christians have the obligation and privilege to remember the Lord’s death every Sunday.
2. God’s children ought to delight in singing praises to God.

¹ John McClintock, James Strong, Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1981). Vol. IX, p. 776.

Lesson Eight

WORSHIP - Part Two

Introduction

1. Read Acts 2:42.
 - a. Note that the early Christians carefully followed the teaching of the apostles.
 - b. We too must follow the same teaching.
 - c. We should continue in “fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.”
2. In this lesson we will continue discussing proper worship.

I. Prayer

- A. Worship has a reciprocal aspect.
 1. Communication requires two things – listening and speaking.
 2. Worship includes:
 - a. Preaching – we listen to the word of God.
 - b. Prayers – we are expressing ourselves to God.
- B. New Testament instructions:
 1. Turn to 1 Corinthians chapter 14.
 - a. Verse 15: “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also:”
 - b. Verse 16: Saying “Amen” at the giving of thanks indicates agreement.
 2. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-15.
 - a. Verse 8:
 - 1) “rather as *Greek*, ‘that *the* men,’ as distinguished from ‘the women,’ to whom he has something different to say from what he said to the men...”²
 - 2) “the men” (τοὺς ἄνδρας) - the word is not the generic word for mankind.
 - a) This word means the males.
 - b) It is not correct to say women do not pray in worship.
 - c) Rather, women join in prayer in worship, they just do not lead the prayers.
 - 3) “in every place”
 - a) Since the context is contrasting men and women, then in every place where men and women are together in prayer, men will lead.
 - b) Read John 4:21. Worship no longer requires a specific place.

² Jamieson, Fausset, Brown, 1 Timothy 2:8.

- b. Verse 12:
 - 1) Not to “have dominion over” - Women are forbidden from having authority over men.
 - 2) This would include leading prayers and teaching/preaching.
 - c. Verse 13: The reason women are restricted is based upon creation (God’s original arrangement), not on culture.
 - C. Prayer for Special Needs
 - 1. Read Acts 12:5. Peter was in prison so the church prayed for him.
 - 2. Read Romans 15:30. Prayers were requested by Paul – a missionary/preacher.
 - 3. Read Acts 14:23. At the appointment of elders they had prayer.
 - D. Some Cautions
 - 1. Read Matthew 6:7. We must avoid using “vain repetitions.”
 - 2. Read Luke 20:47. We should avoid trying to make a show by offering “long prayers.” Long prayers are not the problem.
 - E. Beauty of Prayer
 - 1. Read 1 Timothy 5:5. Widows, who are often overlooked, are honored if they are devoted to “prayers night and day.”
 - 2. Read Revelation 5:8. A picture is given in words.
 - a. Prayers of the saints are like “golden bowls full of incense.”
 - b. Just as smoke from incense rises up, so the prayers of God’s people rise up to the throne of God. Note: here prayers rise to the “Lamb” (Jesus).
 - 3. Read Philippians 4:6.

II. Giving

- A. Read Acts 2:42.
 - 1. The phrase “the fellowship” (τῇ κοινωνίᾳ) can have both wide and narrow meaning. Context is the determiner.
 - a. General meaning is “joint participation” or “sharing.”
 - b. Specific usage examples are:
 - 1) Read Romans 15:26. “For it hath been the good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution [κοινωνίαν] for the poor among the saints that are at Jerusalem.”
 - 2) Read 2 Corinthians 9:13. “... the liberality of *your* contribution [κοινωνίας] unto them and unto all.”
 - 2. Since other acts of worship are named in this verse, it is likely that the meaning here is their participation in giving. It is also probable because of the presence of the definite article in the original (“the fellowship”).

B. New Testament directions:

1. Free-will Offerings
 - a. Read Acts 4:34-37.
 - b. Christians may freely give to the church.
 - c. Example (giving not on Sunday): Saints may choose to name the church in their will, so some money goes to the church after their death.
2. Weekly Contributions
 - a. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2.
 - 1) "Upon the first day of the week" (ASV)
 - a) "κατὰ μίαν σαββάτου" = every first [day] of week
 - b) "Every Sunday" (NEB, McCord's)
 - c) Unfortunately, many English versions leave out the word "every" that is found in the original.
 - 2) "each one of you" (ἕκαστος ὑμῶν)
 - a) This is for every Christian.
 - b) This should be just as much a Sunday habit for us as singing or praying or any other part of worship.
 - 3) "as he may prosper" (ὅ τι ἐὰν εὐοδῶται)
 - a) Not everyone will give the same amount.
 - b) Our giving should be related to how we have been blessed.
 - b. Application:
 - 1) If you are a Christian, give each week, based upon what you have received.
 - 2) Husbands and wives.
 - a) Husband is the head and should discuss giving with his wife.
 - b) A couple should have unity.
 - c) Therefore they may put together what they (plural) have prospered and give from that amount.
 - c. Question often asked: "What if I get paid monthly?" Since the Bible says "every week," it seems like we can do the simple math division and still give each week.
3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.
 - a. Giving should be planned.
 - b. A farmer gives forethought to his planting.
 - c. Willingness versus feeling of obligation. Paradox: Giving is an obligation, but with the right attitude it should not feel like an obligation. We should desire to give, and not feel forced.

- C. What about additions?
 - 1. Denominations commonly have: bake sales, rummage sales, walk-a-thons, bingo games, raffle sales, etc.
 - 2. We must not mimic what man-made churches do.
 - 3. We have no authority to solicit businesses to donate or sponsor church works.
 - 4. We have no authority for the church to own and operate for profit businesses, like: farms, raising livestock, raising chickens for meat and egg sales, etc.
 - 5. God has given us the pattern for raising funds for the church (noted above).
 - a. Free-will offerings from members.
 - b. Weekly giving by members.
- D. Further considerations:
 - 1. Mixed up thinking:
 - a. Some Christians make purchases and obligations near or above their income, then rationalize that they cannot give. Buying on credit has been a devastating trap for many Christians.
 - b. The habit of first paying for personal treats, paying for fun gadgets (e.g. the newest cell phone), then giving if anything is left over, is shameful.
 - 2. We are not under the Old Testament Tithe (10%).
 - a. Some Christians have rightly understood that we are not under the tithe command, but have wrongly concluded they can therefore give less.
 - b. In this age, surely Christians can give as much or more than the children of God in ancient times.
 - 3. Support of Preaching and Teaching
 - a. Read 1 Corinthians 9:11,14. Faithful preachers are worthy of support for themselves and their families.
 - b. Read 1 Timothy 5:17,18. Faithful elders are worthy of support.
 - 4. Read James 5:3. If we do not use our blessings wisely, “rust” can be a witness against us.
 - 5. We should remind ourselves often, that we have Stewardship and not Ownership of our blessings!
 - 6. Read Acts 20:35. We may call this the “special beatitude.”

III. Preaching

- A. The value of preaching:
 - 1. Read Acts 20:7.
 - a. Clear example that Sunday worship included a preached message.
 - b. Other passages will show the important place of preaching in the worship assembly.

2. Preaching should not exclude things that are difficult or unpopular.
 - a. Read Acts 20:20. Paul did not cower and keep back some truths.
 - b. Read Acts 20:27. "For I shrank not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God."
- B. New Testament directions:
 1. Read 1 Timothy 5:17. Elders should be able teachers.
 - a. This context is not limited to the assembly.
 - b. Read 1 Timothy 3:2. Bishops must be "apt to teach."
 - c. Bishops should share in the "feeding" of the flock by teaching.
 2. Turn to 1 Corinthians chapter 14.
 - a. Bible students generally concede that the Holy Spirit has a lengthy section on worship in this Book. From 11:2 - 14:40.³
 - b. Read 14:23. "... the whole church be assembled together"
 - c. Emphasis is given to "edification" and learning.
 - 1) Read verse 3.
 - 2) Read verse 19. "howbeit in the church [assembly] ... I might instruct others..."
 - 3) Read verse 31. "... that all may learn, and all may be exhorted;"
 - 4) Read verse 35. "... it is shameful for a woman to speak in the church [assembly]."
 - d. Therefore, teaching is an important part in the assembly.
 3. Instructions to Timothy (an Evangelist):
 - a. Turn to the Book of 1 Timothy.
 - 1) Read 4:6. "If thou put the brethren in mind of these things, thou shalt be a good minister..." This verse dispels the faulty idea that Evangelists only teach non-Christians (evangelize).
 - 2) Read 4:11. "These things command and teach." The preacher speaks authoritatively when he gives God's word.
 - 3) Read 4:13. "Till I come, give heed to reading, to exhortation, to teaching."
 - a) "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching" (ESV).
 - b) "In the early church, when very few individuals owned private copies of the sacred writings, and all such materials had to be copied by hand, one can imagine how important was the *public reading* of Scripture."⁴

³ Simon J. Kistemaker, New Testament Commentary, Exposition of the First Epistle to the Corinthians (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1993), p. v (Contents: Worship, parts 1 to 4).

⁴ William Hendriksen, New Testament Commentary, Exposition of The Pastoral Epistles (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1978 printing), p. 159.

- 4) Read 6:17. "Charge them that are rich in this present world, that they be not highminded, ..."
- b. Turn to the Book of 2 Timothy.
 - 1) Read 1:13. "Hold the pattern of sound words ..."
 - 2) Read 2:14. "Of these things put them in remembrance, ..."
 - 3) Read 4:2. "preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke,..."
- C. Further considerations:
 1. Faith building preaching:
 - a. Read 2 Timothy 4:2. Timothy was commanded to "preach the word."
 - b. Read Romans 10:17. Faith is built by hearing the word of Christ.
 - c. Sermons *filled* with poems, jokes, stories, current events, etc. may entertain the listeners, but will not build faith.
 2. The value of preaching is not to be assessed merely by the response.
 - a. Jesus was the Perfect Teacher and he was rejected.
 - b. Stephen faithfully proclaimed the message and was killed (Acts 7).
 3. Lesson from Philip the evangelist. Read Acts 8:30-35. Preaching should help people understand the word of the Lord.
 4. Read James 3:1.
 - a. There is a greater judgment placed upon teachers.
 - b. Read 1 Timothy 4:16.
 - 1) By faithful and accurate teaching Timothy could be saved and also those who heard him.
 - 2) By false teaching both teacher and the listeners may be lost.
 5. Read Matthew 15:8, 9.
 - a. It is possible for worship to be in vain. Not all worship is acceptable.
 - b. The doctrines of men must be shunned.

Conclusion

1. Read Matthew 4:10. God alone is to receive our worship.
 - a. Read 1 Corinthians 3:5. We must not elevate men.
 - b. Read Revelation 22:8, 9. We may not worship angels.
2. Read John 4:23. God is seeking *true* worshippers.

Lesson Nine

SHARING THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION

Introduction

1. Read Luke 15:3-6.
 - a. This man was so happy to find his lost sheep, he told his friends the good news.
 - b. You were lost in sin and are now saved. You ought to be happy to share the good news with others!
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8.
 - a. Paul praised these Christians for “sounding forth the word of the Lord” (v.8).
 - b. It is proper for those who have “received the word” (v.6) to share “the word of the Lord” (v.8) with others.

I. Obstacles To Overcome

- A. Realization of Responsibility
 1. Sadly, many Christians do not realize their responsibility to share the message with others.
 2. Many saints seem to think evangelism is the responsibility of a few. Such as preachers, elders, and missionaries.
 3. Read Matthew 28:18-20. The command was given to make disciples, then to teach those new disciples to obey all that is commanded.
- B. Lack of Knowledge
 1. Some Christians feel they don't know enough to teach a non-Christian.
 - a. The remedy for this is to give diligence to learn and prepare to be able to teach the lost.
 - b. Read 1 Peter 2:2. Like babies, we begin on milk and progress to solid food.
 - c. Ask to go along with someone who is already busy teaching the lost.
 2. Tell what you already know.
 - a. Think back to when you first learned the truth.
 - b. Begin by telling the things you learned:
 - 1) You learned that Jesus was the eternal “Word,” and left heaven, took on flesh, lived and died for our sins.
 - 2) You learned that before any denominations came into existence, there was one true church. That church is made up of saved people.
 - 3) You found out God's requirements for receiving forgiveness of sins.
 - c. The person will likely need more teaching, but this is a good place to start.

C. Shyness, Uncomfortableness, Fear

1. Going along with someone else who is busy teaching the lost can build your confidence.
2. Remind yourself:
 - a. Remind yourself of the importance of sharing with this lost person. You may be the only true Christian that has contact with this lost person!
 - b. Read 1 Corinthians 3:6.
 - 1) The “seed” is the word of God (Luke 8:11).
 - 2) Remind yourself that you just need to try to plant the seed – share the word. Leave the increase in the hands of God.
 - 3) You are not responsible for the person’s response. They may reject the message or they may obey.
 - 4) You are not responsible to “save” them!
 - c. Read Hebrews 4:12.
 - 1) Remind yourself that God’s word is powerful.
 - 2) Read Romans 1:16. Remind yourself that the gospel is God’s power to save.
 - 3) The great need is not for you to be clever or persuasive, but allow them to be convicted by the word.
 - d. Some people are afraid they may not teach exactly right or may say the wrong thing, or turn the person away.
 - 1) Remind yourself that the person is already lost. You are not going to make them lost.
 - 2) Try to teach the best you can, but realize that trying to teach them is far better than them not hearing at all.

D. Impatience

1. We are rightly eager to see people obey the gospel.
 - a. We realize the seriousness of people being lost.
 - b. We feel the urgency for them to learn the truth so they can be saved.
2. Read 1 Timothy 2:4.
 - a. God desires for “all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.”
 - b. Coming to “the knowledge of the truth” is a learning process, not just one lesson!
3. We must teach patiently.
 - a. Realize that for those who have little Bible knowledge it will take more teaching than for a person more familiar with the Bible.
 - b. Realize one crucial difference between the teaching effort required in the first century and the teaching effort required today.
 - 1) Important note: the truths must remain the same. We must teach the same message as was taught in the first century!

- 2) During the first century there were not, as yet, any man-made “churches.” There was no Catholic church and no denominations.
- 3) Therefore, it will require more careful teaching for people today to understand about the true church.
- c. For example: We may read Matthew 16:18. Jesus promised to build his church. We read also Colossians 1:18. Jesus is the “head” of the “body” which is the “church.” And Ephesians 4:4, reveals there is only “one body.”
 - 1) Many people are so accustomed to thinking in terms of various denominations that they may not actually understand, even after we read these verses.
 - 2) The Christian teacher may be surprised when their student returns to their denomination, right after they were taught about the one true church and seemed to agree. The student may have even said: “I see there is only one true church!”
 - 3) What the teacher failed to realize is that when they taught about the one church – the student was still confused, thinking that the one true church is made up of all the denominations put together!
- E. Avoid backdoor approaches.
 1. Read Matthew 7:12. We should treat others in the way we would like to be treated.
 - a. Ask this question: “Do you like it when someone speaks to you about one thing, but later you find out they had an ulterior motive?”
 - b. We should avoid “backdoor” tactics of pretending to do one thing, when we know our intent is something else.
 2. Consider a loving, caring, honest, direct approach:
 - a. “Dear friend, I have been praying for you. I am so happy to know the Bible, and I enjoy salvation. May I please tell you about what I have learned? I would love for you to become a Christian.”
 - b. Read Acts 26:28, 29.

II. Prayer

- A. Select a person you know who is lost.
 1. This may be a neighbor, co-worker, relative, schoolmate, friend, etc.
 2. This will be the person you will try to reach with the gospel.
- B. Before talking with them, begin to pray for them by name.
 1. For example: “Dear holy heavenly Father, you know the heart of _____. Please help me to speak to them about Jesus. ...”
 2. Ask for God to bless you as you make time to ask them to study the Bible together.
- C. If the person agrees to have a Bible study, begin each study with a prayer.

III. Importance Of Orderly Teaching

- A. Good teachers recognize the importance of proper order in teaching.
 - 1. Mathematics lessons begin first with addition and subtraction before moving on to multiplication.
 - 2. For example, before a person can make an informed decision about making Jesus their Master, they must first learn of his true identity (see John 8:24).
- B. Teaching must begin with some fundamentals.
 - 1. Without experience or a plan, the novice teacher often begins to teach the non-Christian about baptism first.
 - a. There are many other things a person needs to learn first.
 - b. Sadly, it has happened too often, that a lost person is shown verses about baptism, led to water and immersed, then they return to their denomination, never to be seen again. This is not conversion!
 - c. For example: A Catholic person may have been sprinkled with water as a baby (called “infant baptism”). If they are only taught about “immersion” as the proper way to be baptized (buried), they may ask to be immersed. The Christian teacher should not be surprised if that person continues in their Catholic religion. The teacher never taught them about being “baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13), and that “the body” is “the church” (Colossians 1:18). The person never was taught about the true church versus Catholicism.
 - 2. Read Acts 8:30-38.
 - a. Luke gives the summary, without details, that Philip “preached unto him Jesus” (v. 35).
 - b. The Eunuch had been reading from Isaiah 53 (Acts 8:32,33).
 - 1) Philip began teaching him “from this scripture” (8:35).
 - 2) There is no reference to baptism in this section of Isaiah, therefore, the Eunuch first learned about Jesus and his suffering on the cross for sins.
 - 3) It was later that Philip must have taught about baptism, since the man asked about baptism (8:36).
 - 3. Read Acts 8:12
 - a. In Samaria, Philip preached to non-Christians “concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ.”
 - b. Common *false* idea:
 - 1) Some Christians hold the opinion that a non-Christian needs only to first hear about “five steps” (hear, believe, repent, confess, baptism) and can learn later about the kingdom (church).
 - 2) Paul also taught non-Christians about the kingdom (Acts 19:8; 20:25; 28:23).

- 3) Read John 3:3, 5. Jesus taught that the “new birth” (baptism) is the way to enter into the kingdom. A person should know about the true spiritual kingdom before we tell them how to enter it!
4. The teaching booklet “God’s Plan For Salvation” is one tool the teacher can use to help them follow a logical learning order.

IV. Let The Word Do The Convicting

- A. Often, the novice teacher will get into arguments with the student.
 1. When this happens a battle ensues that pits the teacher against the student. This is usually unproductive.
 2. It soon degenerates into “my belief” versus “your belief.”
 3. Often, such discussions happen without any Bible being opened; each person is just speaking off the top of their head.
- B. Cultivate a learning environment where both teacher and student together are reading and learning what the Bible says!
 1. Even if the teacher can quote verbatim the verses he/she is sharing, the student will not know that it is indeed the words of God.
 2. Open the Bible to each verse, and ask: “What do we learn here?”
 - a. The teacher should assist the student to understand.
 - b. The teacher should stress, along the way: “This is not my teaching. What does this verse teach?”
- C. Encourage without manipulation.
 1. Make sure your enthusiasm is not pressing someone beyond their conviction.
 2. Coercion is not the same as conversion.
 3. Read Acts 8:37. When the Eunuch was convicted by the teaching, and understood, he was motivated to obey.

Conclusion

1. Read Acts 8:26-40. God knew this Eunuch had an honest heart.
 - a. Be encouraged that God knows every human heart.
 - b. It is exciting to think that you can be the tool in God’s hands to reach an honest person.
2. Will you choose someone you know and begin to pray for them by name?
3. Will you then ask them to study the Bible with you?

Lesson Ten

HEAVEN & HELL

Introduction

1. In life there are both positive and negative incentives.
 - a. If a person does well, they can receive a reward. For example, hard work can be rewarded with wages.
 - b. If a person does not do well, they may suffer punishment. So some people may obey the law just to avoid punishment.
2. God has given mankind a positive (reward) incentive, and a negative (punishment) incentive.
 - a. Read Matthew 25:46.
 - 1) Jesus tells us there are only two possibilities after the judgment.
 - 2) There will only be “eternal life” or “eternal death” for every person.
 - b. There is a reward to be gained, and a punishment to be avoided.
3. Changing views of heaven and hell.
 - a. It seems that in more recent times, fewer people seem to believe in Hell.
 - b. Bible teaching has not changed, but people more and more are rejecting any teaching they find distasteful or troubling.
 - c. It has also become popular for people to think *many* will go to heaven.
Read Matthew 7:13, 14.

I. Hell

- A. The Greek word:
 1. The Greek word transliterated is *Geenna*.
 2. The word “hell” appears 13 times in the English ASV version.
 - a. However, in 2 Peter 2:4, there is actually a different word, *tartarus*.
 - b. And in James 3:6 there is a special usage.
 - c. The word is used eleven times by Jesus.
 - 1) Matthew 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 32.
 - 2) Mark 9:43, 45, 47.
 - 3) Luke 12:5.
 3. Those who claim to love and follow Jesus, but who reject the teaching of hell, are actually rejecting the teaching of Jesus.
 4. Word background:
 - a. Gehenna – the name of the valley on the South East of Jerusalem.
 - b. In antiquity, children were given as human sacrifice to the false god Molech. See Jeremiah 32:35.
 - c. During the first century it had become a place for dumping and burning trash, and for depositing dead bodies.

- d. Therefore it became a fitting way to depict the awfulness of hell.
- B. Distinction Between Hell (*geenna*) and Hades (*hades*)
 - 1. Read Matthew 16:18. Here the Greek word is not *Geenna*, but *Hades*.
 - a. Jesus did not die and go to Hell.
 - b. Jesus went to Paradise, one side in Hades.
 - 2. Hades is the intermediate place for spirits, a waiting place between the time of physical death and the judgment day.
 - 3. Hell is the final, eternal place of suffering for the wicked.
- C. Different types of death:
 - 1. Physical death
 - a. Read James 2:26. This is a separation of the *spirit* from the *body*.
 - b. Read Hebrews 9:27. We all must die physically.
 - 2. Spiritual death
 - a. Read Isaiah 59:2. This is a spiritual separation of a *sinner* from *God*.
 - b. Read Ephesians 2:1.
 - c. All who fail to receive forgiveness in this life will forever remain separated from God.
 - 3. Eternal death (Hell)
 - a. Read Revelation 20:14, 15 and 21:8.
 - 1) This is also called “the second death.”
 - 2) Physical death is the first death. Hell is the second death.
 - b. Read Romans 6:23. All who sin earn (deserve) the wage of eternal death.
- D. Summary of Hell
 - 1. Read Matthew 13:42. “and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.” See also Matthew 8:12; 13:50.
 - 2. Read Matthew 25:41. “Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels.”
 - 3. Read Matthew 25:46. It is called “eternal punishment.”
 - 4. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:9.
- E. Annihilation or eternal punishment?
 - 1. People don’t like to hear about Hell. Instead of ignoring the truth, some try to explain it away.
 - 2. One man-made approach is to claim that the wicked will go out of existence. This doctrine is called *annihilation*.
 - 3. Bible truth:
 - a. Matthew 3:12. The picture is of fire that is “unquenchable.” This fire cannot be put out!

- b. Mark 9:47, 48. Here “hell” is described as the place “where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” It would make no sense to describe worms not dying, while the people go out of existence!
 - c. Matthew 10:28.
 - 1) God is able to “destroy” both soul and body in hell.
 - 2) This word *apollumi* is used about 92 times in the Greek New Testament.
 - 3) It has to do with loss of wellbeing, not the loss of being.
- F. Who will be sent to Hell?
 - 1. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.
 - a. “them that know not God.”
 - 1) This is a description of those who are away from God.
 - 2) Read 1 Thessalonians 4:5. The unconverted.
 - b. “them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”
 - 1) Literally, this is those “not obeying” the gospel (Present active participle). Thus, those who do not continue to obey.
 - 2) This would include those who once obeyed, but then fell away. Read 2 Peter 2:20-22.
 - 2. Read Matthew 7:21-23.
 - a. Well intentioned religious people will be sent away from God.
 - b. Read also Romans 10:1-3.
- G. Serious warnings:
 - 1. Read Hebrews 10:26-31.
 - 2. Read Matthew 25:1-13.

II. Heaven

- A. The Bible:
 - 1. Begins with: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
 - 2. Ends with a reference to “a new heaven and a new earth” (Revelation 21:1).
- B. Three Heavens:
 - 1. Read Matthew 6:26. “Behold the birds of the heaven, ...” This is the atmosphere around the earth.
 - 2. Read Hebrews 11:12. “... as the stars of heaven in multitude, ...” This we call outer space.
 - 3. Read Matthew 5:16. “... your Father who is in heaven.” The place God dwells.
- C. Qualities of heaven:
 - 1. Read John 14:1-3. A “place.”
 - 2. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16. A place Jesus will “descend from.”

3. A realm different from our familiar earthly environment:
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:1. A new body will be suited to that realm.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 15:50. Not a “flesh and blood” body.
 - c. 1 John 3:2.
 - d. Philippians 3:20, 21.
 4. Matthew 25:46. It will be of limitless duration.
- D. God’s accommodation to the limitations of humanity.
1. Man’s Limitation
 - a. God uses what is a part of our experience to convey information about what is not a part of our knowledge.
 - b. Similarly in science, we use models or graphics to depict what is not visible to the naked eyes. E.g. the DNA helix exists, but we cannot see it with the unaided eye.
 2. God’s Use of Word Pictures
 - a. The Book of Revelation pictures:
 - 1) “the street of the city was pure gold” (21:21).
 - 2) City dimensions as “twelve thousand furlongs” (21:16).
 - 3) A “Lamb standing” (5:6).
 - b. Application:
 - 1) The “Lamb” is not a literal animal, but stands for Jesus.
 - 2) So also, heaven is not literally having a street of gold, etc. But God wants us to know it will be beautiful and lovely.
 3. Read Revelation 21:4. No more tears, death, mourning, crying, or pain!

Conclusion

1. The Bible ends by telling about both heaven and hell.
 - a. Read Revelation 21:1-8.
 - b. Entrance into that city requires people “wash their robes” (Revelation 22:14).
2. Remember it takes no effort to end up in hell, it takes faithfulness to be rewarded with a heavenly home!

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