

An OVERVIEW

By Topics of the

New Testament

**#3 – 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians,
Ephesians, Philippians,
Colossians, Philemon
1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy**

12 Lessons

**Prepared by:
PAUL E. CANTRELL**

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Lesson One

"PREACHING CHRIST CRUCIFIED"

(1 Cor. 2:1-5)

INTRODUCTION

(Our Lesson comes from the Reading of 1 Cor. 1-5)

1. There is no congregation that is perfect!
 - a) All have some kind of problems.
 - b) Some more—others less.
 - c) Some problems eventually destroy a congregation.
 - d) Others, if dealt with, can mature a church.
2. The church at Corinth had many problems!
 - a) They had to be dealt with or be destroyed.
 - b) A divisive spirit was already developing among them.
 - c) They were being lured away from following Christ to following men!
3. The solution to their problems—come back to the Gospel of Christ!

DISCUSSION

I. PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL AS THE SOLUTION. (1:17)

A. Paul was sent to preach the gospel.

- 1) 1 Cor. 2:2
- 2) It is more than preaching that Jesus was:
 - a) A great miracle-worker;
 - b) A great prophet of God;
 - c) A great moral reformer;
 - d) A great revealer of new truth;
 - e) A great lawgiver for a new spiritual kingdom;
 - f) An example of a perfect life;
 - g) Just another righteous martyr for a good cause.
- 3) It is preaching that Jesus is:
 - a) God's substitute for sinful man.
 - b) God's means of forgiving sinful man.
 - c) The means of spiritual cleansing & righteousness before God.
 - d) The means of fellowship with God.
 - e) Man's only hope of eternal glory!

B. How was this preaching to be done?

- 1) 1:17—***"not with the wisdom of words"***
- 2) 2:1—***"not with excellency of speech or of wisdom"***
- 3) 2:4—***"not with enticing words of man's wisdom"***
- 4) Comments:
 - a) It was not a speculative system as the philosophers had.
 - b) It was not with worldly eloquence:
 - 1) *Trying to impress people with the one doing the speaking;*
 - 2) *But to impress people with the message!*
 - c) Not just another philosophy some men worked out in their minds.
- 5) What it was:

- a) The message of God, foretold as a mystery for a long time.(2:7-9)
- b) Now—revealed thru His apostles & prophets by the H.S. (2:10)
- c) The H.S. actually giving them the words of their message. (2:13)
- d) A simple straight-forward message about salvation to be found in a crucified Jew—who was the Son of God.
- e) A message not to be changed to suit intellectual or prideful people.
- f) Not a message to be kept in the background as something to be ashamed of.

C. Reason why these things must be stressed:

- 1) 1:17—"**Lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.**"
- 2) The wrong message destroys the results.
- 3) Why go back to the wisdom of men—they have failed miserably!
- 4) Why destroy man's only hope!

II. MAN'S INABILITY TO SUPPLY WHAT THE GOSPEL OFFERS. (18-21)

A. *God foretold of man's inability!*

- 1) He quotes Isa. 29:14 (1:19)
 - a) Isaiah pointed out the failure of the worldly-wise statesmen of Judah.
 - b) They failed to protect Judah against the Assyrians.
- 2) The application is obvious!
 - a) The "wisdom of this world" cannot possibly save men from spiritual destruction.
 - b) It can only be done thru the gospel.

B. *Question is asked—Where is the wise, scribe, or disputer that has the answers?*

- 1) Why haven't:
 - a) The exalted persons among men;
 - b) The speculative thinkers;
 - c) The lovers of logic;
 - d) The clever debater.....
- 2) Come up with an answer to man's deepest need?
- 3) Great men have been unable to figure out God's Plan of Redemption for man.
- 4) God has had to reveal it to them.
- 5) In the process:
 - a) God has shown up man's so-called wisdom as foolishness;
 - b) As totally incapable of meeting man's basic need;
 - c) For man cannot be saved by eloquence, philosophy, or learning.
 - d) He needs a Savior, a Redeemer! (Jesus!)

III. REASONS GIVEN FOR REJECTION OF GOSPEL. (22-25)

A. *The Jews' rejection:*

- 1) They sought for signs.
 - a) Jesus pointedly dealt with the problem during His public ministry.
 - b) "**Show us a sign that we might believe.**"
 - c) Jesus told them none would be given—but the sign of the Prophet Jonah.
 - d) Signs were an appeal to the Pride of sense.
 - e) Jesus refused to satisfy such.

- 2) Christ's crucified was also a stumblingblock to the Jews.
 - a) They stumbled at Jesus in many ways:
 - 1) *At His low birth.*
 - 2) *The unpretentiousness of His life.*
 - 3) *The unworldliness of His aims and methods.*
 - 4) *The universality of the grace that He offered to all men.*
 - b) But most of all to the fact of the crucifixion.
 - 1) *The cross was a "tree of shame & horror."*
 - 2) *They looked for a military Savior—not a martyred Messiah.*
 - 3) *They expected deliverance by trumpet & sword—not ignominy & death.*
 - 4) *They wanted a leader, a king, to exalt their nation again—not a suffering & humiliated Messiah.*
 - 5) *They refused to accept a Messiah who had been crucified like a common criminal.*
 - c) And so, they stumbled at the cross!
- B. The Greeks:**
 - 1) They sought after wisdom.
 - a) The Gentile world was pervaded by Greek sentiment.
 - b) They looked upon themselves as the intellectual leaders of the world.
 - c) In this spirit—they sat in judgment upon the gospel.
 - d) They were guilty of the Pride of Intellect.
 - 2) They considered the gospel foolishness.
 - a) To preach salvation thru a Jew was bad enough....
 - b) But, to preach it thru a crucified Jew was the height of folly!
 - c) Profound contempt was shown to Christianity by both Greeks & Romans.
 - d) The cross was a slave's infamy or a murderer's punishment.
 - e) Worship of a crucified person was pure superstition.
- C. Both failed to see in the gospel of the crucified Christ:**
 - 1) The wisdom of God;
 - 2) And the Power of God;
- D. But to those who listened with an opened mind—THEY COULD SEE both!**

IV. GOD'S APPROACH EXONERATED. (26-29)

- A. *God's plan was not to use the worldly wise, mighty, noble to further His plans.***
 - 1) Such do not normally receive the gospel.
 - 2) It is usually the poor, the weak, the low-born who receive it.
 - 3) The gospel is not identified with the rich, wise, powerful, high-born.
 - 4) But with fishermen, tax-gatherers, slaves, women, and blue-collar workers.
- B. *God chose the opposite of what men would have chosen.***
 - 1) The things that would appear foolish to the wise;
 - 2) The things that would appear weak to the strong;
 - 3) The base things, things despised, things which are non-entities to the noble or highborn!

- 4) And...there is nothing more humbling than:
 - a) For a lowborn person, poor, feeble hands....
 - b) To preach a crucified savior.
 - 5) God chose to achieve the highest ends by the humblest of means!
 - 6) God won the battle, not by things men count as great, but that which they despise.
- C. Why did God so choose?**
- 1) v. 29—***"that no flesh should glory in His presence."***
 - a) That man cannot say, "Look what I did."
 - b) God's means were so weak that no man could find merit or power of their own to boast about!
 - c) Man can only exclaim—***"This the Lord hath done, and it is marvelous in our eyes."***
 - 2) 2:5—***"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."***
 - a) So it can stand on something solid, dependable.
 - b) Not on shifting sand!

CONCLUSION

1. What is the preaching of Christ crucified to you?
 - a) Foolishness?
 - b) A stumbling block?
 - c) Or, the wisdom of God and the power of God to save?
2. We show by our receptivity or non-receptivity how we view the Word of the Cross.

*Lesson Two***"THE POWER OF LOVE"**

(1 Cor. 10:23-29)

INTRODUCTION

(Our Lesson comes from the Reading of 1 Corinthians 6-10)

1. **"Love is the fulfilling of the Law"** (Rom. 13:10)
 - a) 1 John 5:3—**"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments."**
 - b) If we love, we will conform to everything the Law says.
2. When we think of Law—generally think of "Thou Shalt" and "Thou shalt nots"
 - a) The Law of God gives COMMANDS!
 - b) But the Law of God goes further--It gives us principles by which to make decisions.
 - c) In areas where the Christian has liberty—still has to make judgments.
3. Two expressions are used in particular in 1 Corinthians to identify areas for decisions:
 - a) Liberty as a Christian:
 - 1) 7:39—**"she is at liberty to be married to whom she will"**
 - 2) 8:9—**"take heed lest by any means this liberty of your's become a stumbling block."**
 - 3) 9:19—**"for though I be free from all men..."**
 - 4) 10:29—**"why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience."**
 - b) Law of Expediency:
 - 1) 6:12—**"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient."**
 - 2) 10:23—**(repeated again).**
4. Chs. 6-10 illustrate how LOVE helps to make proper decisions in these areas.

DISCUSSION**I. CH. 6—A GROSS MISS-USE OF CHRISTIAN LIBERTY DEALT WITH.**

- A. Problem—Brother taking a brother to law courts of the land.**
 - 1) The Law of God had not specifically dealt with this question.
 - 2) But Christian love does!!
 - 3) The Law of Expediency clearly does too!!
- B. His reasoning:**
 - 1) Don't you know Christians will judge the world—and even angels.
 - 2) Why, then, are you turning to the world for your judgment?
 - 3) Don't you have one wise man among you to judge?
 - 4) Your actions are bringing shame and reproach upon the church.
 - 5) Before you let that happen—you should have suffered wrong yourself.
- C. Love would have been the answer.**
 - 1) If you had truly loved your brother—you would have settled it among yourselves.
 - 2) Rather, your lack of love has caused you to defraud your brethren.

II. CH. 6—ILLUSTRATES MISS-USE OF "LAW OF EXPEDIENCY."

- A. All that God has ordained is Lawful and right!**
 - 1) However---There will be times that we will need to forego such lawful things for the good of others.
 - 2) Paul states for himself:

- a) Even though something may be lawful (allowable).....
- b) I will not let that thing bring me into bondage so that I can't deal properly with it.
- c) **Verse 12—*"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."***
- 3) He illustrates the principle:
 - a) Meats are made for man's enjoyment.
 - b) But when we over-indulge and are gluttonous—we sin.
 - c) The sexual drive is God-given for man's happiness.
 - d) But miss-used (Fornication)—it is sinful.
 - e) **Verse 13—*Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body."***

III. CH. 7—ILLUSTRATES AN AREA OF JUDGMENT.

A. To marry or not to marry—Is there a command of God?

- 1) No!—God could not give such!
- 2) Whether to marry or not is a Christian liberty.
- 3) However, there are some things that need to be recognized in exercising that liberty.
- 4) He illustrates:
 - a) Paul did not command singles to marry or not to marry.
 - b) He did not tell widows to marry or not to marry by the command of God.
 - c) But—he did give things for their consideration—Decisions!

B. Principles to help:

- 1) Better for singles and widows to remain unmarried.
- 2) Reasons:
 - a) **7:8—*"But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am."***
 - b) **7:25-26—*"Now concerning virgins: I have no commandment from the Lord; yet I give judgment as one whom the Lord in His mercy has made trustworthy. I suppose therefore that this is good because of the present distress—that it is good for a man to remain as he is."***
 - c) **7:28—*"But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Nevertheless such will have trouble in the flesh, but I would spare you."***
 - 1) *The present distress—persecution & pressures to come upon them.*
 - 2) *From then, until 312 AD—persecution would be severe at times.*
 - 3) *He was trying to spare them the possible problems if they were married.*
- 3) **7:32-33—*"But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife."***
- 4) However—if either one marries—not a sin!

- 5) Concerning marital situations:
 - a) God has commanded certain things here—must be respected.
 - b) Where God has not commanded, there is liberty.
 - c) But this liberty must be exercised wisely to bring good, not evil.
 - d) **7:10—“Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband.”**
 - e) **7:12—“But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: if any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her.”**
- 6) He illustrates the use of Christian liberty:
 - a) If unbelieving mate wishes to remain married—stay with them.
 - b) If unbeliever wants to depart—let them depart.

IV. CH. 8—SHOWS THE SUPERIORITY OF LOVE OVER KNOWLEDGE.

A. The concept stated:

- 1) Christians are knowledgeable people concerning God & idols.
 - a) They have been enlightened—understand properly.
 - b) They know that an idol is nothing.
 - c) And, that eating meat offered to idols poses no problem in itself.
- 2) However—there are some Christians who have not matured enough to know this.
 - a) **Verse 7—“However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.”**
 - b) What do we do about such?
- 3) Here is where the superiority of love is seen.
 - a) Knowledge can puff up—but love can edify.
 - b) Knowledge causes a man to go on and eat meat offered to idols in front of someone that sees this and is caused to stumble.
 - c) Love shows more concern about a brother's soul, than to eat the meat.
 - d) The principle stated: **Verse 13—“Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.”**

V. CH. 9—ILLUSTRATED—THE FREEDOM TO CHOSE IN OPTIONAL AREAS.

A. The question about supporting the preaching of the gospel.

- 1) Paul had a right to carry about a wife and be supported as others did.
- 2) Proof:
 - a) What soldier serves at his own expense?
 - b) Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruits?
 - c) Who feeds a flock and does not drink of its milk?
 - d) Even the Law of Moses states the same principle: **“Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn.”**
 - e) Does God care more for oxen than His people?
- 3) He concludes:
 - a) **Verses 11-12—“If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more?”**

b) *Verse 14—“Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.”*

B. Then, why didn't Paul take advantage of this right at Corinth?

- 1) He had chosen not to take support of them.
- 2) He gladly took support from past established churches while at Corinth.
- 3) Reason given:
 - 1) *So that he would not hinder the spread of the gospel among them.*
 - 2) *He did not want to do harm—even if it were lawful to take support.*
 - 3) The PRINCIPLE—Love for souls requires foregoing a right at times.

VI. CH. 10—LAW OF EXPEDIENCY FURTHER ILLUSTRATED.

A. What about eating & drinking in an idol's temple?

- 1) How can one eat and drink at the Lord's table & the Devil's table at the same time?
 - a) Are we trying to provoke the Lord to jealousy?
 - b) Are we so strong that we can go into Satan's den & not be touched?
- 2) Such eating & drinking may be lawful—but is it wise?
- 3) If such practice does not edify—then, forego it!

B. Principle—Engage in those things that build up.

- 1) Shown by placing spiritual interest of others above our physical pleasure.
 - a) Food sold in the market place—you can eat—asking no questions.
 - b) If asked to a non-believers house to eat—you can eat—asking no questions.
 - c) But—if it is pointed out that it has been offered to idols—DON'T EAT!
 - d) Reason:
 - 1) *Don't eat for the sake of the one who pointed this out.*
 - 2) *He won't make the distinction.*
 - 3) *You may mislead him by your actions.*

C. Concluding Principle stated:

- 1) In eating & drinking—*“do all things to the glory of God.”*
- 2) Give no occasion of stumbling to Jews, Greeks, or to the brethren.
- 3) Do not act selfishly—but for good of the many.
- 4) Goal to keep uppermost in mind—*“That they may be saved.”*

CONCLUSION

1. Love is the fulfilling of the Law.
2. But Love goes beyond Law and even foregoes that which is allowed by Law—for the spiritual benefit of another.
3. To be UN-concerned about other's spiritual condition is selfishness—lack of love.
4. Have these principles been incorporated into our lives?
5. Are we really that concerned about the souls of those around us?
 - a) If so—to be commended. But if not—need to do some repenting.

*Lesson Three***"ALL ABOUT MIRACULOUS GIFTS"**

(1 Cor. 12:4-10)

INTRODUCTION

(Our Lesson comes from the Reading of 1 Corinthians 11-16)

1. In a previous lesson in ACTS:
 - a) We showed a contrast between the miraculous & non-miraculous results of the Holy Spirit.
 - b) We also emphasized the indwelling concept of the Holy Spirit and the non-miraculous nature of the expression: **"Being full of the Holy Spirit."**
2. Our reading for this past week has a strong emphasis upon the miraculous gifts of the Spirit.
 - a) It gives a listing of the gifts (Ch. 12)
 - b) It gives regulations of how to use these gifts (Chs. 13-14)
3. Background to this lesson:
 - a) The Apostles had received power in the coming of the H.S. upon them.
 - b) They were able to do all kinds of miraculous activity.
 - c) Some of the early Christians also possessed some of these gifts also.
 - d) Chs. 12-14 helps to deal with several questions about these gifts.

DISCUSSION**I. WHAT WERE THESE GIFTS?*****A. Listing in 1 Cor. 12:8-10:***

- 1) Word of Wisdom—Ability to apply the knowledge of God's Word wisely in special situations.
- 2) Word of Knowledge—A gift of knowing God's Truth when needed.
- 3) Faith—The trust in God that helps to perform miraculous powers.
- 4) Gifts of healing—Healing of all kinds of sickness & illnesses.
- 5) Working of miracles—Signs, special wonders, unusual events to convince.
- 6) Prophecy—One who could speak God's message without study.
- 7) Discerning of Spirits—Able to determine which person had the Spirit of God.
- 8) Divers kinds of tongues—Speak in a foreign language without study.
- 9) Interpretation of tongues—Translate foreign language into one the people knew.

B. Other listings:

- 1) 1 Cor. 12:28-30
- 2) Mark 16:17-18
- 3) Eph. 4:11-12
- 4) Rom. 12:5-8
- 5) Observations:
 - a) Those things mentioned in Ch. 12 were miraculous gifts.
 - b) Those things in the "other listings" can be non-miraculous in nature and miraculous in nature.

II. HOW WERE THESE GIFTS RECEIVED?***A. 1 Cor. 12:8—"For to one is given by the Spirit..."***

- 1) The Spirit of God gives these gifts.

- 2) He determines who will get what gift.
 - 3) 1 Cor. 12:11—***"But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."***
 - 4) Christians were exhorted to desire the gifts.
 - 5) 1 Cor. 12:31—***"But earnestly desire the best gifts."***
 - 6) But how did the Spirit give these gifts:
 - a) Did He give the gift directly? (To Apostles—Yes)
 - b) Or, was it through an agency? (To Early Christian)
- B. They were given by the agency of the Apostles.**
- 1) This was a power that only the Apostles had.
 - a) 2 Cor. 12:11-12
 - 2) This power was promised to them by Jesus.
 - a) Acts 1:4-5, 8
 - b) They received it as recorded in Acts 2:1-4.
 - 3) They alone had the power to pass on these gifts.
 - a) An example. Acts 8:14-19
 - b) Others: Acts 6:6-8; Acts 19:5-6; Rom. 1:11; 2 Tim. 1:6
 - 4) Thus:
 - a) The Holy Spirit gave the gift;
 - b) He determined what gift would be given;
 - c) But He did it when the apostles laid their hands on the person.
- C. Not all Christians received a miraculous gift.**
- 1) All indications are that gifts were given to limited number in each congregation.

III. WHY WERE THESE GIFTS GIVEN?

- A. To teach, build up, edify one another.**
- 1) 1 Cor. 12:7
 - 2) 1 Cor. 14:26
 - 3) Eph. 4:11-16
- B. To convince sinners that their message was from God.**
- 1) Acts 8:5-6
 - 2) 1 Cor. 14:24-25
 - 3) Mark 16:19-20
 - 4) Heb. 2:3-4
- C. Primary outcome of the gifts:**
- 1) The Word of God was preached to sinners.
 - 2) It was confirmed, verified as being from God by Miracles, Wonders, Signs.
 - 3) They helped the new Christians to continue learning God's Truth.
 - 4) They finally gave the completed Word of God written down by inspiration.
 - a) 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3
 - b) Jude 3; John 16:13
- D. Some observations:**
- 1) Not all gifts were of equal value.
 - a) 1 Cor. 14:5
 - 2) These gifts could be misused & abused, or controlled & used properly.
 - a) 1 Cor. 14:32

- b) 1 Cor. 14:40
- c) 1 Cor. 13:1
- 3) They were not to be used to:
 - a) Satisfy the pride of an individual.
 - b) Not given to cause confusion.
 - c) Not given to let everyone know who was a true Christian or not.
 - d) Nor to indicate a superior spiritual person.

IV. FOR HOW LONG WERE THESE GIFTS TO LAST?

A. 1 Cor. 13:8-13

- 1) V. 8 states there will be an end to gifts.
- 2) Vs. 9-10 states when!
 - a) God's Word was being given in part—little at a time—not complete all at once.
 - b) When the perfect or complete Revelation is given—written down..
 - c) Then—the gifts would cease.
- 3) After these gifts ceased—Faith, Hope, and Love would continue.
- 4) At the end—the judgment—Only love will continue.

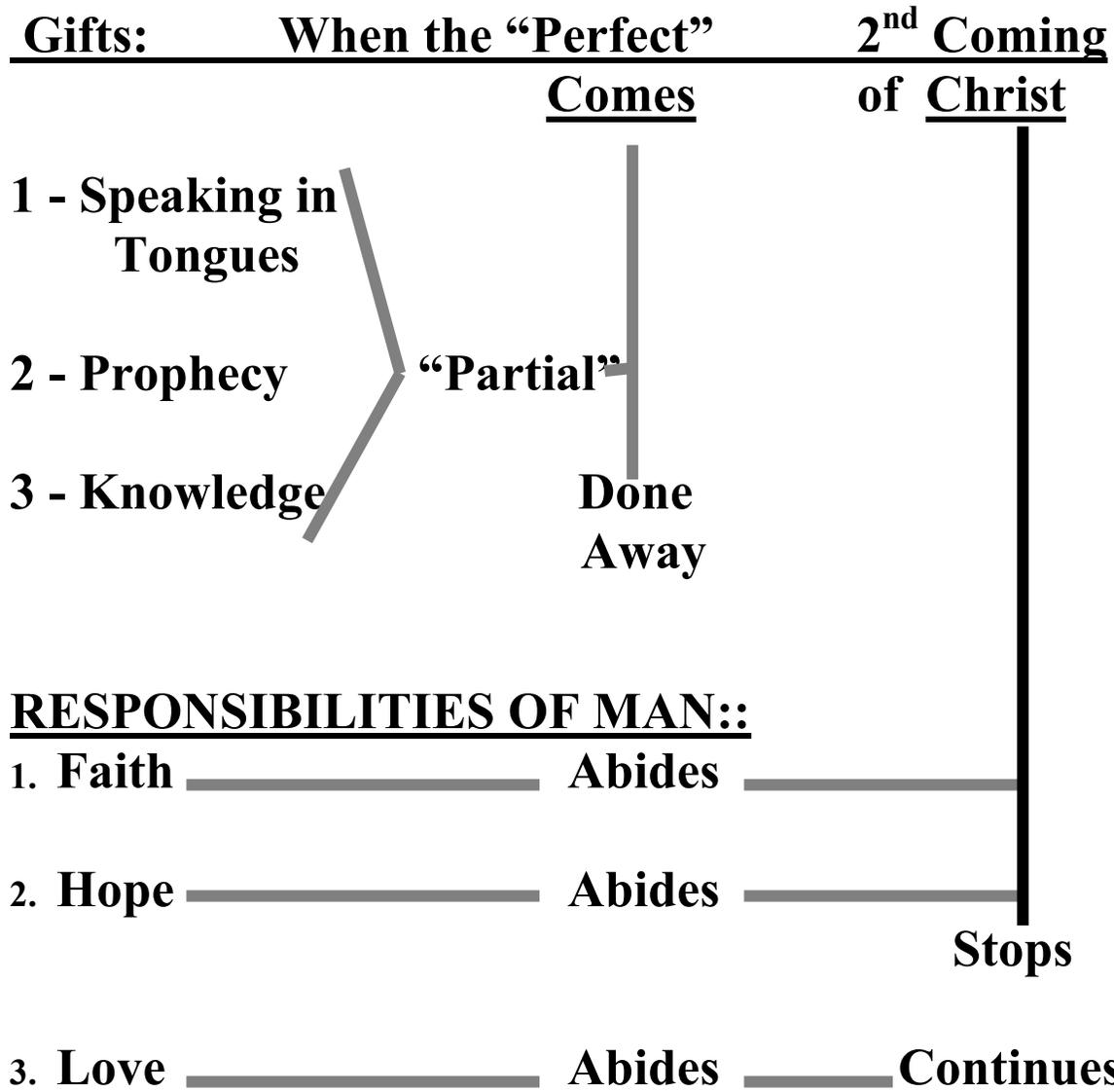
B. Logically, when the Apostles died, the gifts would have had to cease.

- 1) If the means of receiving the gifts were thru the Apostles—THEN:
 - a) Upon their death, and death of those who had the gifts,
 - b) Their demise was assured!
- 2) There is absolutely nothing to the contrary to this.
- 3) They were being replaced with a completed Revelation that could be read.

CONCLUSION

- 1. The question of gifts today is not one of whether God is able!
 - a) He is still just as powerful as He has always been.
 - b) It is a question of what He desires to do.
 - c) Clear indications are that gifts were to cease.
- 2. Today, we have the full benefit of the gifts in the recorded & complete revelation.
 - a) They needed those gifts—they didn't have a written revelation like us.
 - b) God's Word was confirmed by the gifts—It needs no further confirmation.
 - c) John 20:30-31.
- 3. The so-call miracles today are not from God.
 - a) 2 Thess. 2:9-12
 - b) The miraculous gifts ceased!
- 4. But, we still have the natural gifts that God has given to each of us.
 - a) Need to use them to His glory—to reach the lost & building up His church.

**MIRACULOUS GIFTS
WILL CEASE**
(1 Corinthians 13:8-13—A.D. 56)



GIFTS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Cor. 12:8-10	1 Cor. 12:28	Mk. 16:17-18	Eph. 4:11-12	Rom. 12:5-8
	Apostles		Apostles	
Wisdom				
Knowledge				
Miracles	Miracles	Cast out Demons		
		Take up Serpents		
		Drink Poison		
Faith				
Healing	Healing	Sick		
Prophecy	Prophets		Prophets	Prophecy
Discerning				
Tongues	Tongues	Tongues		
Interpretation	Interpretation			
	Government		Shepherds	Rulers
	Teachers		Teachers	Teaching
	Helps		Evangelists	
				Serving
				Giving

Lesson Four

"INSIGHTS ABOUT THE APOSTLE PAUL"

(2 Cor. 4:1-7)

INTRODUCTION

(Our Lesson comes from the Reading of 2 Corinthians 1-6)

1. Paul wrote two letters to the church at Corinth that give us a lot of insight about the apostle.
 - a) Possibly---of all the letters Paul wrote—2 Cor. gives us more insight about him.
 - b) It is also one of the more challenging letters to understand.
2. What brought about these insights were:
 - a) Problems that revolved around the apostle;
 - b) Caused by some teachers in the Corinthian church.
3. The problems had to be dealt with.
 - a) They were not going to be pleasant.
 - b) It put Paul in an awkward situation.
 - c) But it had to be done—for the good of the church then & now.
 - d) And so, the Spirit of God guided him in telling things about himself—that he would not have done otherwise.

DISCUSSION

I. HE GAVE INSIGHTS ABOUT WHAT HE ENDURED:

A. Scriptures:

- 1) 1:4-6
- 2) 2:3-4
- 3) 4:8-12
- 4) 6:4-5

B. Comments:

- 1) Paul states that all of these trials, afflictions, persecutions, etc:
 - a) Were his way of proving his sincere servitude in Christ.
 - b) But, as well, to prove his concern for them.
- 2) To those who were questioning Paul's sincerity:
 - a) How many had suffered what he had in service to others?
 - b) How many were willing to endure what he had endured?

II. INSIGHTS ABOUT THE VALUE OF AFFLICTIONS:

A. These afflictions were not pleasant.

- 1) However, they were not without value to him & others.
- 2) The following passages emphasize their value.

B. Scriptures:

- 1) 1:4-7
- 2) 1:9
- 3) 2:14
- 4) 4:16-17

C. Comments:

- 1) In spite of the many afflictions which Paul suffered:
 - a) God was always there to help him, comfort him, console him.

- b) He might be brought low—but God always exalted him afterwards.
- 2) But in addition:
 - a) He could see an added advantage of his sufferings for others.
 - b) He could become a source of consolation & comfort to them.
 - c) Because of what God had done for him.
- 3) But ultimately:
 - a) All of these afflictions were making him more & more aware of that exceeding, eternal weight of glory after awhile.
 - b) He looked to heaven as his great reward—not this life.

III. INSIGHTS ABOUT HIS SINCERITY & FAITHFULNESS TO HIS CALLING.

A. There are indications that Paul's critics were:

- 1) Questioning his honesty, integrity, & sincerity.
- 2) They accused him of guile, subtlety, and self-interest designs.
- 3) He had great reluctance to deal with these accusations & insinuations, but it had to be done.
- 4) The following passages show this.

B. Scriptures:

- 1) 1:12
- 2) 1:23
- 3) 2:1
- 4) 2:4-5
- 5) 4:2
- 6) 6:3-10

C. Comments:

- 1) Paul emphasizes that his decision to write rather than visit them:
 - a) Was not out of insincerity on his part.
 - b) It was an act of love and concern for them.
 - c) He did not want to grieve them further.
 - d) He had hopes that a letter would do the job needed.
 - e) So that when he did come, it would be a joyous occasion.
- 2) He pointed out that some men make merchandise of the gospel.
 - a) It is a way of making a living.
 - b) It is a trade, a profession, a means of gratification of pride & ambition.
 - c) But Paul could not rightfully be accused of any of these.
 - d) He had been & still was very careful about his actions---
 - e) So that he would not hinder the gospel among men.
 - f) His sincerity & faithfulness had been amply illustrated in his actions.

IV. INSIGHTS ABOUT HIS PREACHING:

A. Scriptures:

- 1) 1:18-20
- 2) 2:17
- 3) 4:5
- 4) 4:7
- 5) 5:11

6) 5:20

B. Comments:

- 1) Paul's preaching was not with a forked-tongue.
 - a) He did not teach one thing to be right.
 - b) And then, turn around and say it was wrong the next time.
- 2) He had NO DESIRE to deceive, delude, or use them for his ends!
 - a) He did not preach himself.
 - b) He did not corrupt the gospel.
 - c) He realized the seriousness of his work as an Ambassador for Christ.
 - d) He had no desire to have power over them.
 - e) He only wanted to help them have the joy of being God's children.

CONCLUSION

1. One of the last great insights that Paul gave to preachers is found in:
 - a) 2 Tim. 4:1-5
 - b) He had spent his adult life, primarily, in constantly preaching the gospel.
 - c) The route he chose to go was not easy.
 - d) But he was faithful in spite of the many afflictions.
2. As God's people:
 - a) We will face tribulations, sorrows, hard times, even persecution.
 - b) We need to look at the life of the apostle Paul & profit by it.
 - c) Be encouraged by his life.
 - d) Be challenged by it.

Lesson Five

**"GOD'S STRENGTH MADE PERFECT IN
MAN'S WEAKNESS"**

(2 Cor. 12:1-9)

INTRODUCTION

(Our Lesson comes from the Reading of 2 Corinthians 7-13)

1. The first part of 2 Corinthians gives a lot of insight about Paul's life & work.
2. The 2nd half of the letter continues to give insights about him that are very profitable.
3. We will give a brief synopsis of each chapter.

DISCUSSION

I. CHAPTER 7

- 1) **He makes a special appeal to holiness:**
 - a) He wants them to perfect it in the fear of God.
 - b) He encourages them to cleanse their lives of immorality & ungodliness.
- 2) **He requested that they receive him:**
 - a) He had wronged no man;
 - b) He had corrupted no one;
 - c) He had defrauded no one;
 - d) And—he had even been bold in his praise of them.
- 3) **He is greatly comforted over the coming of Titus with news about them.**
 - a) The news was generally good.
 - b) Even Titus was encouraged over the church's actions.
 - c) He realized that his letter had made them sorry.
 - d) And he rejoiced that they did something about the letter.
 - e) Godly repentance brings salvation.
 - f) They had made a great effort to clear themselves.
 - g) And Titus had made it very clear about Paul's boasting about them.

II. CHAPTER 8

- 1) **He now uses the example of the Macedonian Christians to encourage the Corinthians.**
 - a) Paul was collecting money from the churches to assist the poor saints in Jerusalem.
 - b) The Macedonian churches proved their devotion by giving to help them.
 - They gave of their own accord;
 - They gave beyond their ability;
 - They gave themselves to the Lord.
- 2) **He now turns to discuss principles of giving.**
 - a) He encourages the church to abound in this grace of giving.
 - b) Let your love be the motivating force of your giving.
 - c) Let Christ serve as your example of giving.
 - d) And by all means carry out your promise you made a year ago.

- e) Let it be done with a willing mind.
- f) Regard it as an effort to bring about equality:
 - They supplied you with the gospel of Christ;
 - You supply them with their need of physical help.
- 3) He assures them that the money contributed will be handled with integrity.**
 - a) Titus wants you to be a part of this great work.
 - b) The money will be handled with the utmost care.
 - c) So, prove to all that my boasting about you was true.

III. CHAPTER 9

- 1) Paul had plans to send brethren ahead of him before arriving at Corinth.**
 - a) He had boasted of their promise to be a part of this work.
 - b) They had promised a year ago.
 - c) Their zeal had provoked many.
 - d) Paul used their promise to encourage others.
 - e) These brethren are going ahead of Paul to be sure his boasting of them was not in vain.
- 2) Principles of Giving discussed again.**
 - a) Sow little—reap little----sow much—reap much!
 - b) They needed to purpose in their heart what they would give.
 - c) Be sure to remember that God loves a cheerful giver.
 - d) God has promised to bless the liberal giver.
- 3) Why was Paul so concerned about their giving?**
 - a) It would exonerate his boasting of them.
 - b) Their example would not be a sham.
 - c) They would help to provide for the needs of God's people in Jerusalem.
 - d) It would bring many thanksgivings to God from the recipients.
 - e) It would bring the giver & receiver closer together in Christ.

IV. CHAPTER 10

- 1) He now turns to offer his defense to those who still held out against him.**
 - a) He asked for their understanding.
 - b) He gave recognition that he was base in the eyes of some there.
 - c) But he was trying to identify with the meekness & gentleness of Christ.
 - d) He does not want to be carnal in his boldness—like the world.
 - Our weapons are not carnal—but spiritual (Truth).
 - Such is very powerful to destroy.
 - Truth destroys imaginations, high things exalted above the knowledge of God.
 - The end result of Truth is to bring every thought into the captivity to obedience to Christ.
- 2) His defense:**
 - a) He points out that outward appearance can be deceiving.
 - b) That the real issue is—They claim to be "in Christ"—well, so am I!
 - c) Paul's authority was given to him for edification—not destruction.
 - d) His boasting about it was not meant to terrify them.
 - e) His accusers had said about him:

- His letters are weighty & powerful;
 - But his bodily presence is weak;
 - And his speech contemptible (Not a good speaker).
- f) He warns them—such as we are by letter—we will be in deed when we are present.
- 3) Paul stated the rule by which he worked.**
- a) He was not some preacher who wanted to work where others had preached.
- b) He had a burning desire to preach where others had not preached.
- c) That rule had been fulfilled at Corinth.
- Paul could glory in this.
 - But all glorying should be in the Lord.
- d) The one who is approved is the one whom the Lord approves!

V. CHAPTER 11

- 1) Paul again asked for them to bear with his foolish boasting.**
- a) He had espoused them to one husband—to Christ!
- b) He was jealous over them with a godly jealousy.
- c) He wanted them to be a chaste virgin presented to Christ.
- d) He was fearful that someone might pervert them from the simplicity that is in Christ.
- e) He reminds them—He was not a whit behind the chiefest apostles.
- f) However—he recognized that he may not be a skilled speaker.
- g) Yet—he was not wanting in true knowledge.
- 2) Paul contrasted his work with the ones causing the trouble.**
- a) He preached freely the gospel to them without their paying a penny.
- b) He abased himself that they might be exalted.
- c) He took support from other churches to do them service.
- d) He was chargeable to no man among them.
- e) He had only received help from elsewhere.
- He had purposely kept himself from being burdensome to them.
 - He had proven his love to them in his work—God knows!
- f) Reasons why he did not take support:
- To cut off occasion from others to boast as he was able to do.
 - To show up the real motives of others.
 - To show they are false apostles, deceitful workers.
 - They are co-workers with Satan in his cunning work.
 - Their end will be according to their works.
- 3) He continues his boasting—asked that they bear with him.**
- a) And—since they suffered fools gladly—then, I will be foolish again.
- b) Since others glory—I will glory (boast).
- c) You have received others who:
- Put you into bondage;
 - Took advantage of your pocketbook & you;
 - Exalted himself in your midst;

- Browbeats you, as well.
- d) Now bear with me too, as I boast.
 - Are they Hebrews—so am I.
 - Are they Israelites—so am I.
 - Are they of the seed of Abraham—so am I.
 - Are they ministers of Christ—I am more!
 - In labors, more abundant.
 - In stripes, above measure.
 - In prisons, more frequent.
 - In deaths oft.
 - 5 times, beaten with 39 stripes.
 - 3 times, beaten with rods.
 - 3 times, suffered shipwreck.
 - Often in journeys.
 - In perils in the waters.
 - In perils of robbers.
 - In perils of my own countrymen.
 - In perils by heathen.
 - In perils in the city.
 - In perils in the wilderness.
 - In perils in the sea.
 - In perils among false brethren.
 - In weariness & painfulness.
 - In watchings often.
 - In hunger and thirst.
 - In fastings often.
 - In cold & nakedness.
 - And the care of the churches (he had established).
- e) But—His true boasting was in his weaknesses.
- f) He illustrated this in telling about his escape over the wall at Damascus.

VI. CHAPTER 12

1) He continues his boastings.

- a) He now tells about his special vision given to him 14 years ago.
 - Before any of his missionary journeys (While in Tarsus).
 - He was not sure if in the body or in spirit only.
 - He was caught up into the 3rd heaven—paradise.
 - He heard words not lawful for a man to utter.
- b) He now feels constrained to stop his boasting of all these great things.
 - So that no one will think of Paul above what they should.
 - Besides God took care of any real boasting on his part.
 - He gave him a thorn in the flesh.
 - A messenger of Satan to buffet him.
 - So that he would not be lifted up above measure in his own mind.

- He even asked the Lord 3 times to remove it.
 - The Lord said "NO."
 - ***"My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness."***
 - Paul's conclusion—***"I will glory only in my weaknesses....so the power of Christ will rest on me."***
- c) Paul had been compelled to boast because:
- Of their attitude towards him;
 - They had failed to commend Paul for his work (respect his work).
 - Even though Paul was not a whit behind the chiefest apostle—he was nothing!
 - Yet—All the signs of an apostle were worked among them by Paul.
 - The church at Corinth was not inferior to other churches.
 - Except that Paul had not been burdensome to them.
 - ***"Forgive me this wrong."***
- 2) **He talks about his plans of coming to them.**
- a) It is now the 3rd time he had planned to come to visit.
- b) When he comes:
- He will still not be burdensome to them;
 - He does not seek what they have;
 - He seeks their welfare.
- c) He illustrates it by principle:
- Parents lay up for children—not children for parents.
 - ***"I will gladly spend and be spent for you."***
 - However, just like parents—The more he loves them, the less they seem to care about him.
- d) It doesn't matter—He still will not be burdensome to them.
- e) He asked plainly—"Did I or anyone I sent to you make a gain of you?"
- f) Everything Paul did was for their upbuilding.
- 3) **He states his fears about coming!**
- a) He was afraid that he would find Debates, Envyings, Wrath, Strifes, Backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults.
- b) He was afraid that he would be brought low by mourning over them publicly.

VII. CHAPTER 13

- 1) **Paul now extends a threat of what he will do when he comes.**
- a) Every word will be established at the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses.
- b) Those continuing in sin will not be spared.
- c) He will act with boldness thru the strength of Christ.
- d) So—look to yourselves—prove that you are in Christ & not reprobates.
- e) And then adds—"We are glad to be weak, if you can be made strong."
- 2) **He again gives reasons for writing & extends final greetings.**

CONCLUSION

1. God allowed the great dedication, service, and sufferings of Paul to be made known.
2. It was not to exalt the apostle.
3. But to exalt the One who saved him, redeemed him, and gave him his motivation to do these great things.
 - a) Paul was nothing—he was weak—he was not some great one.
 - b) He even gloried in his weaknesses.
4. But God used those weaknesses to His own glory.

Lesson Six

"JUSTIFICATION: ARGUED, ILLUSTRATED & APPLIED"

(Gal. 3:16-21)

INTRODUCTION

(Our Lesson comes from the Reading of Galatians 1-6)

1. Gentile Christians seemed to have grasped the concept of Justification by Faith better than the Jewish Christians.
 - a) Or, at least some Jewish Christians.
 - b) For they were trying to bind circumcision & the Law upon Gentiles.
 - c) Even Peter & Barnabas were both affected by these people.
 - d) Judaizers were traveling among the churches advocating their doctrine.
 - e) They were also undermining Paul's apostleship as inferior to others.
2. This letter attempts to deal with these issues one at a time:
 - a) He upholds his apostleship & his teaching.
 - b) He argues the fact of Justification by faith and not by Works of Law.
 - c) He illustrates his conclusions.
 - d) And then gives practical applications.

DISCUSSION**I. PAUL UPHOLDS HIS APOSTLESHIP.*****A. Why was such so important?***

- 1) Because his message was from God, not from men. (1:11-12)
- 2) Because his message could save—a perverted one cannot. (1:6-9)
- 3) Because his message was the same as the other apostles. (2:6-10)

B. Paul's apostleship was inseparably tied to his message.**II. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ARGUED.*****A. He states his premise. (2:15-16)***

- 1) A sharp contrast is drawn between two systems of justification.
 - a) Works of Law.
 - b) By Faith in Christ.
- 2) These need to be clearly defined.
 - a) Justification by faith does not leave us sinners—but saved. (2:17)
 - b) To add circumcision & keeping of Law is not necessary to be saved.
 - c) We live by faith—we died to the Law system.

B. He argues his case!

- 1) The Law could not make one righteous. (2:21)
 - a) Reason—Man cannot keep it—therefore condemned. (3:10)
 - b) The Old Covenant taught this. (3:11)
- 2) Christ has delivered us from the curse of the Law by His death for us. (3:13-14)
- 3) He fulfilled his promise to Abraham. (3:15-18)
 - a) He promised to bless all nations in his seed. (3:8-9)
 - b) Christ is that seed to bless all nations—not the Law.

- c) He came in the fullness of time. (4:4-5)
- 4) The Law was not given to save, but to show our need of Christ. (3:19, 21-25)
- 5) We become Sons of God by faith—not Works of Law. (3:26)
 - a) But what kind of faith.
 - b) An obedient faith. (3:27)
- 6) He also reminds them how they had received the Spirit. (3:2-5)

III. ILLUSTRATED.

A. How they became heirs of God's promise to Abraham.

- 1) 4:5-7
- 2) Then, why go back to the Law?

B. Two covenants contrasted in two women.

- 1) Hagar—O.T.—brings into bondage.
- 2) Sarah—N.T.—free woman—sons. (4:31)

IV. CONCLUDING ADMONITIONS.

A. Don't go back into bondage under Law. (5:1-4)

B. What avails in God's eyes? (5:6)

C. How to walk. (5:16)

- 1) Works of flesh
- 2) Fruit of Spirit.

D. Show concern for one another.

- 1) 6:1
- 2) 6:2
- 3) 6:6
- 4) 6:9-10
- 5) 6:15

CONCLUSION

1. What a great privilege we have been given:
 - a) To have heard the glorious gospel of salvation.
 - b) To be delivered from the bondage of a Law System of justification.
 - c) To have the great privilege to be free in Christ Jesus.
 - d) To become an heir of God.
 - e) To be given the Spirit to direct our paths unto fruitfulness.
 - f) To have the privilege to express our love to others about us.
2. This wonderful privilege has been offered to all—Have you accepted it yet?

Lesson Seven

**"GREAT BLESSINGS
OF BEING IN THE CHURCH"
(Eph. 1:15-23)**

INTRODUCTION

(Our Lesson comes from the Reading of Ephesians 1-6)

1. Two things stand out about the Ephesian Letter:
 - a) The Blessing of being in Christ, or in the church, or being a Christian.
 - b) The exaltation of the church!
2. This letter:
 - a) Seems to be more of a general letter to the churches.
 - b) It has very little direct indication of problems.
 - c) I am sure the letter would have circulated among the churches in Asia.

DISCUSSION

I. THE BLESSINGS OF BEING IN CHRIST.

A. Chapter 1

- v. 3—All spiritual blessings are in Christ!
- v. 4—God planned to save the lost before the world was created.
 - a) The church was no after-thought on God's part.
 - b) It was planned before man even sinned.
- v. 5—God planned to adopt the saved as his children.
 - a) Not against our will.
 - b) But He set guidelines, rules, and means of making it possible.
- v. 6—He has taken us into His favor thru his beloved Son.
- v. 7—The saved have been delivered & redeemed by Jesus' blood.
 - a) Not by our own power.
 - b) God made it possible thru Jesus' death.
- v. 8—Thru this grace—we have wisdom & understanding.
 - a) We know about ourselves & our condition.
 - b) Also know of God's great plan, his wisdom, & salvation.
- v. 11—God chose us according to his plans & purposes.
 - a) Emphasis upon God's action was first.
 - b) Ours is secondary—accepting His wonderful grace.
- v. 12—We become the means of giving praise & glory to God.
 - a) Our acceptance of God's grace.
 - b) Our love & appreciation of what God has done for us.
 - c) Our changed lives—all are a means of giving glory to God.
- v. 13—We have been sealed by the Holy Spirit as being God's people.
 - a) H.S. given to all who obey God. (Acts 5:32)
 - b) Miraculous manifestations given in early church by H.S.
 - c) Inspired Revelation given by H.S.
 - d) All to let us know—we are the people of God—sealed unto Him.
- v. 14—H.S. is our pledge from God of our eternal inheritance.

- a) Given us as a down-payment until the rest can be given.
- v. 17—He gives His people spiritual wisdom & insight.
- v. 18—He has enlightened (opened) our eyes of understanding.
- v. 18—This enlightenment makes obvious the hope that we have in Christ.

B. Chapter 2

- v. 1—Thus—God has given life to spiritually dead people.
 - a) He has given us this life in His Son.
- v. 5—This salvation is by God's grace.
- v. 6—He has raised us up from death:
 - a) As God raised up His Son;
 - b) We have been lifted up from the old life;
 - c) To take our place with Him & His Son in exalted places.
- v. 8—This salvation is a gift of God—not one we earn.
 - a) It comes thru the avenue of Faith on man's part (not earned).
 - b) But this is not a dead faith—but active—obedient.
- v. 13—Shows great blessing to Gentiles in particular:
 - a) They were far away once from God's presence;
 - b) But now are made nigh by the blood of His Son.
- v. 14—God has broken down the high wall that separated Jew & Gentile (Law).
- v. 16—He has reconciled both unto Himself in one body by the cross.
- v. 18—We now have access by one Spirit unto the Father.
- v. 19—Gentiles are no longer strangers & foreigners:
 - a) They are fellow-citizens with the saints;
 - b) They are a part of the household of God—the church.
- v. 20—The church is built upon a sure foundation:
 - a) The Apostles, Prophets
 - b) Christ, as chief cornerstone.
- v. 22—The church has been made the proper habitation (indwelling) of God—Today!

C. Chapter 3

- v. 4—We have the privilege to read & understand God's great mystery.
- v. 12—We can have courage to approach unto our Great God because:
 - a) We now have a special relationship with God;
 - b) Our faith in Him.
- v. 15—We have the privilege to wear God's name—as His children.

D. Chapter 4

- v. 11—We are blessed by God's gifts to the church:
 - a) Apostles & Prophets
 - b) Evangelists, Shepherds, Teachers.
- v. 12—These help to perfect us, mature us in Christ.
- v. 14—We are blessed with stability in Christ—not tossed to & fro.

II. THE EXALTATION OF THE CHURCH.

A. Chapter 1

- v. 22—Jesus has been made head over all things to the church.
 - a) He is the only head—shares it with no other.
 - b) No man—nor group of men can share it.
- v. 23—The church is the body of Christ.
 - a) Perfect function of head & body working together.

B. Chapter 2

- v. 16—Both Jew & Gentile are reconciled to God in the One body.
- v. 19—Church is called the "household" of God.
- v. 20—Church built on a sure foundation: Apostles, Prophets, Christ as chief cornerstone.
- v. 21-22—Church is holy Temple unto the Lord—His habitation today.

C. Chapter 3

- v. 6—Gentiles are to be in the same body as the Jews.
- v. 10—Church is to make know God's manifold wisdom to world.
- v. 15—The church is the family of God on earth.
- v. 21—God is glorified in His church.

E. Chapter 4

- v. 4—There is only one body, the church.
- v. 12—God gave gifts to edify & equip the body to function smoothly.
- v. 16—God gave gifts to help the church grow.

F. Chapter 5

- v. 23—Christ is the head of the church.
- v. 23—Christ is the Savior of the body (the church).
- v. 24—Church is to be subject to Christ as head.
- v. 25—Christ loved the church & gave Himself for it.
- v. 26—Christ cleansed & sanctified the church by the washing of water by the word.
- v. 27—Church to be presented to Christ as a glorious church without spot or wrinkle.

CONCLUSION

1. With such great blessings—the church also has responsibilities.
 - a) The rest of the letter is taken up with exhortations on how to live.
 - b) I counted between 60-70 general exhortations to Christians.
 - c) Then, the book also gives special exhortations to special people such as:
Wives, Husbands, Children, Fathers, Servants, Masters.
2. Strong emphasis is placed upon our battle being a great spiritual battle—and the need to be properly prepared to fight evil.
3. God gives his people all the help they need to successfully fight the battles of life.
4. What a great privilege to be a Christian—be in the body or church of Christ.
5. Are you in it?

*Lesson Eight***"LOOKING UNTO THE PRIZE"**

(Phil. 3:12-21)

INTRODUCTION

(Our Lesson comes from the Reading of Philippians 1-4)

1. The church at Philippi had a small start.
 - a) Lydia & her household (servants—employees).
 - b) Philippian Jailer & household.
 - c) Epaphraditus was identified with church there.
2. Several of Paul's companions had a connection with the church.
 - a) Luke, Timothy, Silas.
 - b) Luke may have stayed on for quite a while after Paul left.
3. There was a close attachment between Paul & the church.
 - a) Paul had taught them the gospel.
 - b) Luke's staying on would help foster that relationship.
 - c) This relationship is clearly expressed:
 - 4:1—***"Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved."***
 - 1:3—***"I thank God upon every remembrance of you."***
 - 1:7-8—***"just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ."***
 - d) The church had clearly shown their love for Paul & his efforts:
 - 4:15-16—***"Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities."***
 - 4:18—***"Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphraditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God."***
 - e) Paul was now ready to send Epaphraditus & Timothy back to them in order to let them know of his condition. (From Roman Prison)
 - 2:19-23
 - 2:25-30
 - f) Paul was hoping to come to see them shortly.
 - 2:24—***"But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly."***
4. As you would expect:
 - a) The letter has very little in the way of correction.
 - b) It is mostly a challenge to greater spiritual heights as a Christian.
 - c) Key thought—***"Looking unto the prize."***

DISCUSSION**I. CHAPTER 1—HE EXPRESSES HIS DESIRE FOR THEM.****A. Vs. 9-11**

- 1) That their love would grow stronger & overflow towards others.
- 2) That they would make a distinction in things that make a difference.
- 3) They would have a sense of what was vital—appreciate moral distinctions.
- 4) They would be sincere and blameless in character.
- 5) That they may bear a rich harvest of righteousness in Christ Jesus.

B. Vs. 27-28

- 1) Be sure to live your life worthy of the gospel.
- 2) Stand firm in the faith—be directed by the one Spirit.
- 3) With one mind—fight shoulder to shoulder for the faith of the gospel.
- 4) Don't allow your adversaries to intimidate you.
- 5) Show boldness, serenity.

II. CHAPTER 2—HE MAKES A STRONG APPEAL TO THEM.**A. Vs. 1-4**

- 1) He reaches deep down to make his appeal.
 - a) *"If I can make any appeal because of our connection with Christ;*
 - b) *"If there is any persuasive power in love;*
 - c) *"If we have any common share in the Spirit;*
 - d) *"If your hearts are tender & sympathetic at all;*
- 2) *"Fulfill ye my joy!"*
 - a) Make my joy complete.
 - b) Fill up my cup of joy.
 - c) Make my best hopes for you come true.
 - d) Make me truly happy.
- 3) How?
 - a) By being likeminded—by living in harmony & unity.
 - b) By having the same love—united in mutual love.
 - c) By being of one accord—one mind—your hearts beating in unison.
 - d) Have your minds set on the same purpose.
 - e) Be sure nothing is done through petty ambition or selfish strife.
 - f) Show true humility by esteeming others better than self.
 - g) By not seeking your own private ends only—but practice looking after the interest of others too.

B. Vs. 5-11

- 1) What will help to do the above?
- 2) To have the same mind that Christ had.
 - a) He emptied Himself of His great glory;
 - b) He became a man—a lowly servant;
 - c) He was completely obedient to the Father—even unto death.

C. Vs. 12-13

- 1) Work out your own salvation with fear & trembling.
 - a) With reverence & awe make every effort to insure your salvation.

b) Keep on working clear down to the finish line.

D. Vs. 14-18

- 1) Keep your influence burning brightly among a heathen world.
- 2) Don't be a murmurer, a grumbler, a faultfinder.
- 3) Avoid discontent as well as dissension & strife.
- 4) Live blameless & harmless lives in the midst of an evil-disposed generation.
- 5) Shine as lights in a dark world.
- 6) Hold forth the word of life to a lost world.

E. Vs. 19-30

- 1) His praise of Timothy & Epaphroditus—his fellow-workers.
- 2) Hold in honor such men like these—who have given so much for the Lord's cause.

III. CHAPTER 3—HE CHALLENGES THEM TO LOOK UNTO THE GREAT PRIZE BEFORE THEM.

A. Vs. 1-3

- 1) He rejoiced over their union with the Lord.
- 2) But beware of false teachers who will try to break that union.
- 3) Especially the men who demand circumcision of you.
- 4) Remember—We are the true circumcised:
 - a) Who worship God from the heart;
 - b) Who glory in Christ, and not in ourselves.

B. Vs. 4-14

- 1) Paul turns to his own life briefly to illustrate something.
 - a) He could glory in his fleshly attainments.....
 - b) But, they were worthless in order to attain the greatest of all prizes:
 - The righteousness thru faith in Christ;
 - A hope of the resurrection unto life.
 - c) His attitude was not one of having arrived—but always pressing upward—towards the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

C. Vs. 15-21

- 1) On the basis of these facts—knowing these things:
 - a) Let's all be thus minded.
 - b) Let's hold true to what we have already attained.
 - c) Continue to walk steadfastly in that way.
 - d) In short—unite in following Paul's example.
 - e) Keep an eye on those who practice living by the pattern we have set for you.

IV. CHAPTER 4—CLOSING EXHORTATIONS.

A. Vs. 1-3

- 1) Stand fast—stand firm in the Lord—stay true to the Lord.
- 2) Settle your differences quickly.
- 3) Help those who are trying hard to further the kingdom.

B. Vs. 4-9

- 1) Be rejoicing as Christians at all times.

- 2) Let your forbearing spirit be plain for all to see.
 - 3) Give proof of your courtesy.
 - 4) Have a reputation for gentleness.
 - 5) Don't let cares trouble you—entertain no worries.
 - 6) Go to God with every detail of your needs in earnest & thankful prayer.
 - 7) Let your thinking dwell on:
 - a) Things that ring true;
 - b) Things that are honorable;
 - c) Things right and pure;
 - d) Things loveable, endearing;
 - e) Things that are gracious.
 - 8) Also—things that you have learned, received, heard, and seen in me do, and fashion your conduct after mine—as I follow Christ.
- C. Vs. 10-23**
- 1) He expresses gratitude for their continual concern for him.
 - 2) However—he had learned to be content in whatever situation he was in.
 - 3) It is possible to handle any situation with the strength Christ gives.
 - 4) Their financial help was an odor of a sweet smell unto God.
 - 5) Ending greetings.

CONCLUSION

1. Paul's life was a great example to follow after.
2. His afflictions had mellowed him and helped him to learn some great lessons.
3. He wanted to pass on these great lessons to his good friends.

*Lesson Nine***"THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST"**

(Col. 2:6-12)

INTRODUCTION

(Our Lesson comes from the Reading of Colossians 1-4 & Philemon)

1. **"...so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."** (Acts 19:10)
2. Several churches were evidently established during the 3 years preaching at Ephesus.
 - a) Names of churches keep cropping up that are not mentioned in Acts.
 - b) The tri-city area of Colosse, Laodicea, Hierapolis. (Col. 4:13)
 - c) 7 churches of Asia: Smyrna; Pergamos; Thyatira; Sardis; Philadelphia.
 - d) All indicate a wide spread growth of the church in the Asian province.
3. The Ephesian letter & the Colossian letter are similar in Style, Wording, and Content.
 - a) Both emphasize the great blessings in Christ;
 - b) Both give general & specific exhortations to Christians;
 - c) Ephesians exalts the church;
 - d) Colossians exalts Christ.
4. Our study will be looking at both Colossians & Philemon from 3 points.

DISCUSSION**I. PERSONALITIES MENTIONED:*****A. Comments:***

- 1) Both Colossians & Philemon mention some of the same persons.
- 2) We believe that both letters went to the same place—Colosse
- 3) Paul was in prison at Rome in his own hired house. (4:18)
 - a) Money & Words of encouragement were being sent to him.
 - b) We have already noticed that Philippi had sent money by their messenger.
 - c) Now, Colosse was also sending money by their messenger.
- 4) Paul was writing back to express gratitude for their love & concern.

B. Workers with Paul at Rome:

- 1) Timothy:
 - a) Referred to as a brother in Christ (1:1) (1)
 - b) Mentioned in both letters.
 - c) Well-known among the churches.
- 2) Epaphras:
 - a) Possibly the one who took the gospel to them at Colosse. (1:7)
 - b) Called a faithful minister to church at Colosse. (1:7)
 - c) He was one of them. (4:12)
 - d) He had a great zeal for those at Colosse, Laodicea, and Hierapolis. (4:13)
 - e) He was sent to Rome from Colosse to declare their love for Paul. (1:8)
 - f) Paul said he was a fellow-prisoner. (23)
- 3) Tychicus:
 - a) A beloved brother. (4:7)
 - b) Called a faithful minister, fellow-servant in the Lord, fellow-worker with Paul. (4:7)

- c) He was being sent to them to find out their condition & to comfort them. (4:8)
 d) He will declare unto you my state (4:7)
- 4) Onesimus:
 a) Evidently a run-a-way slave of Philemon. (11)
 b) He had become unprofitable to Philemon.
 c) But had been converted by Paul at Rome. (10-11)
 d) He had become very profitable in the work. (11)
 • He was a faithful & beloved brother. (4:9)
 • He was one of them. (4:9)
 • Fellow-worker with Paul at Rome. (4:11)
 • Paul liked him.
 • Would like to have kept him with him.
 • But not without Philemon's consent. (13-14)
 e) He would be traveling with Tychicus from Rome. (4:9)
 f) Both shall make known unto you all things. (4:9)
 g) He was being sent back to Philemon. (12)
 h) Paul encouraged Philemon to receive him now—more than a slave—but as a beloved brother. (16)
 i) Paul would stand good for Onesimus' debts. (18-19)
- 5) Aristarchus:
 a) Fellow-prisoner. (4:10)
- 6) John Mark (Marcus):
 a) Barnabas' sister's son. (4:10)
 b) Receive him. (4:10)
 c) Fellow-worker with Paul. (4:11)
- 7) Jesus, called Justus:
 a) A Jewish Christian. (4:11)
 b) Fellow-worker with Paul. (4:11)
- 8) Luke—The beloved physician. (4:14)
- 9) Demas—also with Paul. (4:14)
- C. Persons he writes to or speaks about at Colosse:**
- 1) Archippus:
 a) Fellow-soldier. (2)
 b) Probably a minister of the gospel at Colosse and/or in the area.
 c) Tell him to take heed to the ministry that he received of the Lord—to fulfill it. (4:17)
- 2) Philemon:
 a) Dearly beloved fellow-laborer. (1)
 b) His love & faith towards the Lord and His people had reached Paul. (5)
 c) Paul said that the saints were encouraged by his actions. (7)
 d) He then makes a special request of him:
 • To receive Onesimus back again in good standing and as a servant of Christ and as a brother in Christ. (16)
 • Receive him as myself, Paul said. (17)
 • Paul was confident Philemon would do more than he asks. (21)
 • Any wrongs, Paul will pay for them. (18-19)

- Prepare lodging for my visit. (22)
- 3) Apphia:
 - a) Beloved. (2)
 - b) Possibly wife of Philemon.

II. EMPHASIS UPON THE GOSPEL & CHRIST:

A. The Gospel:

- 1) The gospel gives hope to lost mankind. (1:5)
- 2) The gospel was preached at Colosse as it was into all the world. (1:6, 23).
- 3) It brings forth fruit, as it did at Colosse. (1:6)
- 4) The gospel was a revelation of God's mystery that had been hidden for ages. (1:26)
- 5) Purpose of preaching this gospel—be able to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. (1:28)

B. Exaltation of Christ:

- 1) He is the originator of all things. (1:15)
 - a) By Him all things were created:
 - In heaven & in earth
 - Things visible & invisible
 - Thrones, dominions, principalities, powers. (1:16)
 - b) By him all things consist. (1:17)
- 2) Exalted to be head over the body, the church. (1:18)
 - a) His resurrection from death made this possible. (1:18)
 - b) God wanted Him to have the pre-imminent position. (1:18)
 - c) So that in Him all fullness could dwell. (1:19)
- 3) He is the head over all principality & power. (2:10)
- 4) He has spoiled principalities & powers. (2:15)
- 5) In Him:
 - a) Are hid all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge. (2:3)
 - b) Dwells all fullness of the Godhead bodily. (2:9)
- 6) Great blessings in Christ:
 - a) He made peace possible by reconciling all things unto Himself. (1:20)
 - b) We are complete in Him. (2:10)
 - c) He has made the dead in sin to live again before God. (2:13)
 - d) He has blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us. (2:14)
 - e) Our life is hid with Christ in God. (3:3)
 - f) We shall appear with Christ in glory. (3:4)
- 7) Christ is all and in all. (3:11)

III. RELIGIOUS ERRORS WARNED ABOUT:

A. Beware of Philosophy & vain deceit. (2:8)

B. Let no man judge you in regard to eating meats, drinks, observing holy days, new moons, or Sabbath days. (2:16)

C. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility & worshipping of angels. (2:18)

D. Stop being subject to ordinances. (2:20)

CONCLUSION

1. As with Ephesians—so with Colossians—much exhortation is given.
 - a) Strong emphasis upon Godly living.
 - b) To hold to the faith & hope of the gospel.
 - c) To set affections on things above.
2. A high-light of the book is the emphasis upon completeness in Christ.
 - a) In Him, we have all we need to make us complete before God.
 - b) We don't need vain speculations & philosophies of men to make us more acceptable.

Lesson Ten

**"COMFORT IN THE HOPE OF THE LORD'S
RETURN"**

(1 Thess. 4:13-5:6)

INTRODUCTION

(Our Lesson comes from the Reading of 1 Thessalonians 1-5)

1. The church at Thessalonica:
 - a) Established on Paul's 2nd missionary journey.
 - b) He preached for 3 Sabbath days in Synagogue. (Acts 17:1-2)
 - c) Results:
 - 1) Some Jews believed.
 - 2) Great multitude of devout Greeks believed.
 - 3) Some chief women of the town believed. (Acts 17:4)
 - d) The unbelieving Jews became envious.
 - 1) Tried to stop Paul's work. (Acts 17:5)
 - 2) Brought Jason & other believers before city rulers.
 - 3) They accused them of harboring the men who were turning the world upside down.
 - 4) The rulers became concerned & took security of Jason & others. (Acts 17:6)
 - e) Paul & Silas left that night. (Acts 17:10)
2. Paul's concern for the infant church shown by:
 - a) Sending Timothy & Silas back up into Macedonia. (Acts 18:5)
 - 1) To establish them (3:2)
 - 2) To comfort them concerning their faith. (3:2)
 - 3) So no man might be moved by these afflictions. (3:3)
 - 4) And to learn about how strong their faith was. (3:5)
 - b) Timothy finally brings good news to Paul at Corinth. (3:6-11)
3. Letter:
 - a) Written from Corinth.
 - b) About 6 months after church established. (AD 53)

DISCUSSION

I. THE CHURCH'S RECEPTION OF THE GOSPEL:

- 1:6**—They became followers of Paul, as he followed the Lord.
1:8—Received word in much affliction, but with joy.
1:9—Turned from idols to the true & living God.
2:13—Received Paul's preaching as the Word of God.
2:14—They were like churches in Judea—suffered from own countrymen.

II. PAUL'S WORK AMONG THEM:

- 1:5**—Preached Gospel with strong conviction—confirmed with miracles.
2:1—Preaching was not in vain.
2:2—His conviction shown by preaching after being mistreated at Philippi.
2:3—His preaching:
 - a) Not based on a delusion;

- b) Not done from unworthy motives;
- c) Not with an intent to mislead.
- 2:4—Did not try to ingratiate himself with men—but to please God.
- 2:5—He did not resort to:
 - a) Flattery to win them;
 - b) Nor use false professions to hide selfish aims.
- 2:6—Did not seek glory of them, nor anyone else.
- 2:7—Acted like a gentle nursing mother would to her child.
- 2:8—Felt close to them—willing to preach to them—give his life for preaching it.
- 2:9—Even willing to labor with own hands to preach to them—not be a burden.
- 2:10—His behavior was **PURE, UPRIGHT, and BEYOND REPROACH.**
- 2:11-12—He was like a Father toward his children—trying to encourage them to walk worthy of their calling.

III. PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE LORD'S 2ND COMING.

- 3:13—The Lord is coming again.
- 4:13—Thus, don't sorrow over those who have died in the Lord as if they had no hope.
- 4:14—The Lord will raise them up and take them with Him.
- 4:15—Those who are alive will not precede the dead Christians.
- 4:16—The order of events are as follows:
 - a) There will be a shout, a loud summons to all;
 - b) Voice of an archangel will sound;
 - c) Will be with the sound of God's trumpet;
 - d) At that time—the dead in Christ will be raised up.
- 4:17—Then, the living Christians will be changed and they both will be taken up together to ever be with the Lord.
- 4:18—Should use these words as words of comfort.
- 5:2—As to when the Lord will return:
 - a) We do not know.
 - b) His coming will be like a thief in the night—unexpected.
- 5:23—Paul prayed that their whole being: spirit, soul, and body would be preserved blameless unto that day.

IV. WORDS OF EXHORTATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT:

- 1:3—Paul expressed gratitude for their:
 - a) Work of faith (energetic faith)
 - b) Labor of love (toil prompted by love)
 - c) Patience of hope (unwavering expectations)
- 1:7—Their actions had become an example to all believers in Macedonia & Achaia.
- 1:8—Their faith in God had been heard about far & wide.
- 3:4—Paul had tried to prepare them for the trouble they were having to endure.
- 3:12—Desired that their love would overflow for one another & everyone.

- 3:13**—Desired that God would give them inward strength to be holy & without a fault.
- 4:1**—Exhorted them to strive more & more to live up to the ideal.
- 4:3**—A holy life is one that is free of fornication (all immorality).
- 4:4**—Need to know how to control own body.
- 4:5**—Realize it is not made for mere gratification of passions.
- 4:6**—It is not right to so defraud your brother.
- 4:7**—God has not called us to uncleanness, but to holiness.
- 4:8**—Those who disregard this warning are in reality disregarding God Himself.
- 4:10**—Continue to learn how to better express your love.
- 4:11**—Learn how to:
- a) Live quietly;
 - b) Attend to your own affairs as you should;
 - c) Work with your own hands to earn your living.
- 4:12**—Walk so as to win respect from outsiders.
- 5:5**—Remember—you are children of light, not darkness.
- 5:6**—Don't fall into a sleep that stupefies the rest of the world. Rather, be watchful—be on your guard—be self-controlled
- 5:8**—Put on your armor against evil: Put on faith, love, and the hope of salvation.
- 5:9**—Remember that God:
- a) Has not appointed us to reap His wrath;
 - b) But to enjoy His salvation.
- 5:10**—God wants us to live in company with Christ Jesus.
- 5:11**—Be a means of consoling and building one another up.
- 5:12**—Show appreciation to those who work with you.
Respect your leaders who give you counsel.
- 5:13**—Hold them in special esteem & affection—for their work's sake.
- a) And—maintain peace among yourselves.
- 5:14**—a) Admonish the careless, idle, loafers;
- b) Encourage those who are on the verge of fainting & falling back;
 - c) Give a helping hand to the weak;
 - d) Be longsuffering with all.
- 5:15**—a) See that no one becomes an avenger of wrongs;
- b) Always aim at what is best among yourselves and even in the world.
- 5:16**—Be happy in your faith under all circumstances.
- 5:17**—Don't give up praying.
- 5:18**—Learn to express gratitude to God under all circumstances.
- 5:19**—Do not stifle the words of the Spirit.
- 5:20**—Do not hold prophecy in low esteem in comparison to other gifts.
- 5:21**—Test everything—hold only to what is good.
- 5:22**—Reject all that has a look of evil about it.
- 5:25-27**—Closing exhortations:
- a) Pray for me;
 - b) Greet all the brethren for me with a sacred kiss;
 - c) See that this letter is read to all the brethren.

CONCLUSION

1. What a wonderful fellowship God's people can have by following these instructions.
2. What a great hope we have of Jesus' return some day for His people.
3. What awesome responsibility we have as the Redeemed of God!

*Lesson Eleven***"DEALING WITH DISORDERLY CHRISTIANS"**

(2 Thess. 3:6-14)

INTRODUCTION

(Our Lesson comes from the Reading of 2 Thessalonians 1-3).

1. This is the 2nd letter to the church in a short time.
 - a) 1st letter written about 6 months after church established.
 - b) It had accomplished a lot of good.
 - c) But—2nd letter necessary to deal with continuing problems.
2. Problems:
 - a) Continued persecution—God's assurance given to them.
 - b) Question of Lord's return—not fully settled among them yet.
 - c) Dealing with disorderly Christians.

DISCUSSION**I. THE CONTINUING PERSECUTION. (Ch. 1)*****A. 1:3-4—The value of continued persecutions & tribulations.***

- 1) They were growing in their faith greatly.
- 2) Their love to every one was abounding.

B. 1:5—Some things that would encourage them:

- 1) Persecution is God's way of letting you know something.....
- 2) That you are looked upon as being counted worthy of the kingdom of God.

C. 1:6-10—God will avenge you in His good time.

- 1) He will be just in doing so.
- 2) Be assured of God's punishment upon your persecutors.
- 3) The Lord Jesus Himself, with His mighty angels, will bring that punishment.
- 4) It will be a fiery vengeance.
- 5) It will come upon those who:
 - a) Refuse to have the knowledge of God in their minds;
 - b) Refuse to obey the gospel they have heard.
- 6) Their punishment is described as:
 - a) Everlastingly in a place away from God;
 - b) In a place from the glory of His power.
- 7) At the same time:
 - a) He will come to be glorified in His people.
 - b) He will be admired in all them that believe.

D. 1:11-12—He prayed that God would continue to count them worthy of His calling.

- 1) That God would also fulfill towards them all the good pleasure of His goodness.
- 2) That His gospel would work powerfully within them.
- 3) That the name of the Lord Jesus Christ might be glorified in them.

II. THE LORD'S RETURN DISCUSSED AS TO TIME. (Ch. 2)***A. 2:1-2—Don't be overwrought concerning the Lord's immediate return.***

- 1) Don't let your minds be quickly unsettled or disturbed.
- 2) Don't be moved away from the truth concerning this matter by:

- a) Some supposed revelation of the Spirit;
- b) Or, some rumor that someone has started;
- c) Or, by a supposed letter as from us.

B. 2:3—*The Lord's coming will be preceded by something.*

- 1) There must first come the great apostasy, rebellion, rejection.
- 2) The one who represents this apostasy must be made manifest.
- 3) Falling away of the church from within!

C. 2:3-4—*The description of the one who represents the apostasy.*

- 1) "Man of sin"—incarnation of wickedness—representative of lawlessness.
- 2) "Son of perdition"—one destined to inherit perdition (punishment).
- 3) "One who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped"
 - a) Self-exaltation.
 - b) Replaces God's word with his own teachings.
- 4) "He, as God, sits in the temple of God."
 - a) Assumes God's place in the church of God.
- 5) "Shows himself that he is God"
 - a) Proclaims himself as God—to be revered & worshiped.

D. 2:6-8—*When will this apostasy take place?*

- 1) When Paul was first among them—he warned them of such.
- 2) However:
 - a) The man of sin was under restraint at that time.
 - b) But he will be revealed when his time comes.
- 3) But the mystery of iniquity is already at work.
- 4) Soon his work will be allowed to go unchecked.
- 5) Then, he will be seen in all his wickedness for what he is.
 - a) The Lord will consume him with the spirit of His mouth.
 - b) He shall destroy him with the brightness of His coming.

E. 2:9-12—*Why will the man of sin have such a following in the church?*

- 1) Because of his deceptiveness.
 - a) Satan will give him all manner of deceptive miracles, signs, and marvels.
 - b) He will have no lack of counterfeit power, signs & wonders.
 - c) He will come with evil's full power to deceive.
- 2) Because people do not love the truth.
 - a) God's truth versus Satan's lies.
 - b) Men who prefer Satan's lies will be caught up in this apostasy.
- 3) Because people love unrighteousness.
 - a) Want to stay in their unrighteous ways, pleasurable ways.
 - b) They want a religion that allows this to take place.
- 4) Results:
 - a) God will send them a strong delusion (working of error);
 - b) So they can be caught up in believing a lie;
 - c) Put their faith in an utter fraud;
 - d) Will be brought under condemnation.

F. 2:13-17—*In view of these events:*

- 1) Paul was grateful that God had chosen the Thessalonians unto Salvation.
 - a) This was done by:
 - Sanctification of the Spirit;
 - Belief of the truth;
 - By calling them thru the gospel.
 - b) So that they might obtain glory from our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2) So remain steadfast and hold fast what you have been taught:
 - a) By Paul and others;
 - b) And by letters sent.
- 3) Realize:
 - a) God and His Son has loved you;
 - b) Given you everlasting consolation;
 - c) Given you a well-founded hope thru his grace.
- 4) His desire for them was:
 - a) That their hopes would be comforted in these matters.
 - b) That they might be established in every good word & work.

III. HOW TO DEAL WITH DISORDERLY CHRISTIANS. (Ch. 3)

A. 3:1-5—Personal request that they pray for Paul & his efforts.

- 1) That the Word of the Lord might have free course;
 - a) That the Word may be received everywhere with honor, as it was among them.
 - b) That he & his fellow-workers would be delivered from unbalanced & malicious people.
- 2) Be assured that the dependable Lord will:
 - a) Establish you—give you strength;
 - b) Keep you from evil—protect you from the evil one.
- 3) Paul expressed confidence in the Thessalonians.
 - a) That they would do the things commanded of the Lord.
 - b) That their hearts would be directed into the love of God.
 - c) That they would patiently wait for the Lord's return.

B. 3:6-15—Dealing with disorderly Christians:

- 1) What to do with those who will not listen to God's Word:
 - a) Withdraw yourselves from them;
 - b) Avoid them—stand aloof from them—shun them—don't associate with them.
- 2) Follow Paul's example:
 - a) He did not behave in a disorderly way.
 - b) He did not eat any man's bread without paying for it.
 - c) He labored at his trade night and day so he would not impose on them.
 - d) It was not because he did not have the right to be supported either...
 - e) But he did it to set the proper example for the lazy.
- 3) He reminds them: ***"Even when I was with you I commanded...if any will not work, neither let him eat."***
- 4) The problem clarified:
 - a) Some were walking disorderly among them.

- b) They were not working at all.
- c) They were busybodies—busy in other people's affairs.
- 5) Paul's command to such:
 - a) Attend quietly to your own business;
 - c) Earn your own living.
- 6) Paul's words to the faithful brethren:
 - a) Be not weary in doing what is right—don't tire of honest work.
 - b) Deal with the disobedient man in the following way:
 - Note the person—take special note of him—mark him.
 - No longer have company with him—stop having anything to do with him.
 - c) Purpose—that he may be ashamed.
 - d) However:
 - Do not count him as an enemy;
 - Rather Admonish him—caution him—as you would a brother.
 - Give him friendly advice, as one of the family of God.

CONCLUSION

1. Guidance for God's people has been amply given.
2. However, in spite of that:
 - a) Men will not be satisfied;
 - b) Their hearts will be turned to their own ideas, rather than God's.
 - c) They will soon join the rebellion against God—yet, still be looked upon as religious.
3. We must be very careful that such a spirit does not enter into our hearts.

*Lesson Twelve***"THE MAKING OF A PREACHER"**

(1 Tim. 4:11-16)

INTRODUCTION

(Our Lesson comes from Reading 1 Timothy 1-6)

1. Timothy is called Paul's son in the gospel or in the faith.
 - a) He was converted under Paul's preaching on the 1st missionary journey.
 - b) Later, he became a constant companion of Paul on his preaching trips.
 - c) He was a great help & encouragement to Paul.
 - d) He was well-known & respected among the churches.
2. Paul knew he would not be around for very much longer (2-5 years at most).
 - a) Timothy needed encouragement in the work that he would have to do.
 - b) These two letters serve as instruction & encouragement to him—as well as to all preachers of the gospel.
 - 1) The first letter is believed to have been written after Paul's release from Rome. (AD 65-66) (at Macedonia)
 - 2) He had left Timothy at Ephesus to help the church there.
 - 3) The second letter is believed to have been written during Paul's 2nd Roman imprisonment shortly before his death. (AD 66-67)
3. A strong emphasis is given to the dangers of false teaching & apostasy.
 - a) **1:3**—Timothy left at Ephesus in order to charge some that they teach no other doctrine.
 - b) **1:4**—Don't pay any attention to myths & never-ending genealogies.
 - c) **6:20**—Keep away from the irreligious & empty discussions, and objections from what is falsely called "knowledge."
 - d) **6:21**—Some have already given their minds to these things and gone astray.
 - e) **1:19-20**—Hymenaeus and Alexander had put away their faith for something different.
 - f) **4:1-5**

DISCUSSION**I. SPECIAL TEACHINGS TO BE STRESSED BY PREACHER.*****A. The purpose of Law. (1:7-11)***

- 1) Some among the churches desired to be teachers (That's good).
 - a) But, evidently before they were ready;
 - b) They had missed the point of their teaching ministry;
 - c) They got themselves caught up in vain arguments & discussions.
- 2) They were also mis-using the Law in their teaching.
 - a) They didn't know how to use it legitimately.
 - b) They were applying it to righteous people—not the Lawless.
 - c) The Law is made for:
 - *The lawless & disobedient;*
 - *The ungodly & for sinners;*
 - *Murderers of fathers & mothers, manslayers;*
 - *The immoral & sexual perverts;*
 - *Kidnappers, liars, and false witnesses.*
 - d) It is an indictment to their lives—They are under God's wrath for sin.

B. Encouraged to proper prayer. (2:1-8)

- 1) Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.
- 2) Especially for kings—those in authority.
- 3) That these prayers be led by men of the congregation.
- 4) That they do so out of holy living, putting away anger & dissension.

C. Special admonition to women & widows. (2:9-15; 5:3-16)

- 1) That they dress & conduct themselves modestly—as godly women.
- 2) That they learn in quiet subjection to the man's leadership over them.
 - a) Because this is God's arrangement.
 - b) And because the woman was deceived in the beginning, not the man.
 - c) And God has given her a special place in His scheme of things.
- 3) Be sure that relatives take care of widows related to them.
 - a) Younger widows are encouraged to remarry.
 - b) Certain qualified widows can be fully supported by the church to do the special work of women.

D. Special teachings about elders & deacons. (3:1-14; 5:17-21)

- 1) Qualifications are given for elders, deacons, and their families.
- 2) Reasons are often given for some of the qualifications.
- 3) The better the leadership is qualified, the greater the chances for the church to grow and be unified.
- 4) Give special respect & even financial support to those elders willing to spend full-time in teaching in the church.
- 5) Be sure that there are sufficient witnesses to any accusation against an elder.
- 6) Those elders who sin openly need to be rebuked openly—as a warning to others.

E. Special instructions to slaves (employees). (6:1-2)

- 1) Be very respectful to your master (employer)—so God's name won't be blasphemed.
- 2) Especially, don't be disrespectful of your master (employer) if he is a Christian.
 - a) Rather—serve them all the more.
 - b) Because it is God's people who will benefit from such.

F. Stress the need for a sense of contentment. (6:6-10)

- 1) Righteous living with a contented spirit can bring great satisfaction.
- 2) Learn to be content if you have the necessities of life.
- 3) Be aware of the grave dangers of striving after material riches.
 - a) Such lay themselves open to all kinds of foolish & hurtful coveting.
- 4) Realize that the love of money is the root from which all kinds of evil arise.
 - a) Many have already gotten caught up in these evils.
 - b) They have been seduced from the faith.
 - c) They are suffering many sorrows, pangs of remorse, to their lives.

G. Charge to the rich. (6:17-19)

- 1) That they are not to be proud, arrogant, or haughty.
- 2) Not to place their hope in uncertain riches, but in God.
- 3) That they use their riches in noble works and kindnesses.
- 4) To be open-handed & generous-hearted, sharing with those in need.
- 5) To be concerned about laying up treasures in heaven, not on earth.

II. INSTRUCTIONS TO TIMOTHY IN REGARDS TO THESE TEACHINGS:

A. 3:14-15

- 1) Paul wrote this letter & instructions hoping to come shortly.
- 2) But in case he doesn't come right away.....
- 3) Here are instructions so you can know how the church ought to behave itself.

B. 4:11—These things command & teach.

C. 6:20—Keep safe that which has been entrusted to you.

D. 6:13-14—He gives him a solemn charge to keep these instructions free from stain or reproach.

III. PAUL'S DESCRIPTION OF A GOOD MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL:

A. 1:18—Good spiritual soldier in the army of the Lord.

B. 1:19—Keeps his faith strong & his conscience clear.

C. 3:15—Knows how to behave himself as God's child.

D. 4:6—Continually reminds the brethren of the dangers of apostasy; Continually feeds his own soul upon the Word of God.

E. 4:7—Major emphasis is not physical exercise, but spiritual exercise. Will not let himself get caught up in godless & silly myths.

F. 4:11—Continually enjoins & teaches God's Word to the church.

G. 4:12—His life is an example to the church in **Word, Manner of life, Love, Faith, Purity.**

H. 4:13—Concerned that Word of God is read in Assembly—coupled with exhortation & teaching.

I. 4:14—Uses well whatever gift God has given.

J. 4:15—Gives his sole attention & energies to these things. Life reflects growth in way of righteousness.

K. 4:16—Has a critical eye upon himself, as well as that which he teaches.

L. 5:1—Shows respect & kindness to older men & women in church.

M. 5:2—Treats younger men and women as brothers & sisters.

N. 5:3—Shows a concern for elderly widows who have needs.

O. 5:22—Not too quick in appointing men to responsibilities in church. Remains pure and away from sin—no matter who may be involved.

P. 6:11—Fully recognizes the many evils of the love of money & flees such. His emphasis is to follow after: **Righteousness, Godliness, Faith, Love, Patience, Meekness.**

Q. 6:12—Continually fights to uphold the faith. One whose ultimate destination is heaven—eternal life.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The great challenges to preachers should be obvious from these thoughts.
2. Preachers need to measure up to God's standard.
3. The church needs to encourage this kind of preachers & preaching.
4. Good preachers are a blessing to those who hear their preaching:
 - a) For their message is from God;
 - b) It is an offer from God of eternal life thru Christ;
 - c) If you haven't responded yet—why not now

