

The Need of
**Steadfastness &
Proper Attitudes
For
YOUTH**

10 Lessons

**Prepared by:
PAUL E. CANTRELL**

2004

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Table of Contents

"The Need of Steadfastness & Proper Attitudes Of Youth"

I -- SECTION ONE—The Challenge to Steadfastness

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1 -- Recognize the Dangers of the Wisdom of Men | 1-6 |
| 2 -- Recognize the Dangers of Pride | 1-6 |
| 3 -- Recognize the Dangers of Pleasing Men | 1-7 |
| 4 -- Recognize the Dangers of the Lust for Things | 1-6 |
| 5 -- Recognize the Dangers of a Permissive Outlook | 1-6 |

II – SECTION TWO—The Challenge in Attitudes

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1 -- Attitudes in Regards to Responsibility | 1-2 |
| 2 -- Attitudes in Regards to Self | 2-5 |
| 3 -- Attitudes Toward Others | 6-9 |
| 4 -- Attitudes in Regards to Things | 10-14 |
| 5 -- Attitudes Toward God | 15-18 |

Lesson One

”RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS OF THE WISDOM OF MEN”

“Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” (Col. 2:7-8).

There are many efforts to undermine the faith and steadfastness of Christians. They come from within and without the church. But underlying such efforts is the “wisdom of men” at work. Until this is clearly seen, we can become an easy prey of such efforts.

The Old Testament writings warn us of the dangers of following and depending upon man’s wisdom for guidance. During the period of the Judges in Israel, there was much evil among the people of God. It was attributed to the concept that ***“every man did that which was right in his own eyes”***(Judges 17:6). The book of Proverbs is filled with admonitions not to depend upon our own wisdom, but upon the wisdom of God (Proverbs 3:1-5, 7; 2:1-6, etc.). The recorded messages of the prophets of God have the same message as illustrated by Jeremiah 10:23, ***“I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”***

The New Testament writings have the same message....the dangers of depending upon human wisdom for guidance!! The 1st Corinthian letter gives a vivid contrast between the “wisdom of men” and the “wisdom of God.” It shows that man’s wisdom led him away from the true God and showed the foolishness of his so-called wisdom (1:21). But through God’s revealed wisdom in the preaching of the gospel, man can come to know the true and living God (1:24). It is God’s desire that our faith should stand in the “wisdom of God” rather than in the “wisdom of men” (2:4-7).

THE DANGERS WITHOUT

For ages the skeptical world has rejected the One True God of the Bible and the Bible itself as being from God. Up until this century, Protestant and Catholic churches have stood fairly united on a belief in these two fundamental truths. But no longer! Skepticism has gotten a foothold in these groups and has caused a drifting away from their roots. While there is still an open statement of belief in God and the

Bible, it is so watered down that it is a far cry to what the Bible teaches about God and about itself.

Once these two basic concepts are given up, belief of truth is no longer needed. Each man is allowed to do that which is right in his own eyes! The distinctions between right and wrong become blurred in the minds of the people so they feel free to call evil, good; and good, evil! The prophet Isaiah warned of this danger (5:20). Then the people are easily led away from “the faith” by “seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1 Timothy 4:1-2).

The inspired apostle Paul said that the Christian is warring against ***“principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places”***(Ephesians 6:12). He admonishes the Christian to put on the whole armor of God in order to be successful in this great battle(Ephesians 6:13). The dangers are real that the true Christian will be pulled into following the “wisdom of men” rather than the “wisdom of God.”

THE DANGERS WITHIN

Even if the Christian is successful in this great struggle with the world, he cannot be at ease; for he then is faced with dangers from within by his own brethren. Sadly, some of these are being turned from even those basic fundamentals that are so necessary to recognize the Lord’s church among religious groups in the world. They are turning from “the faith” and turning to the erroneous doctrines and commands of men, or the “wisdom of men”(Colossians 2:8, 20-22). Such men have allowed the cultural, social, political, and religious pressures to move them away from ***“the faith, once delivered to the saints”***(Jude 3). They are embracing the very things that has been leading to the decline of Protestantism. They scoff at the idea of having to give “book, chapter, and verse” for the authority of what is being preached. These men are helping to sweep away those foundational doctrines that characterize true New Testament Christianity.

And again, it should be obvious that deeply involved in this issue is the “wisdom of men” versus the “wisdom of God.” It involves the belief in the Bible as God’s revelation to man as an authoritative guide for his life. It deals with such imperative questions as: **Is the Bible really the wisdom of God for man’s guidance? Is it the infallible and inspired word of God? Are the Scriptures to be taken seriously as the supreme regulator of man’s behavior?** So much depends upon a positive answer to these questions. The Bible claims to be inspired of God and capable of being that complete guide for man (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

CONCLUSION

It is high time for those who wish to save their souls to take seriously the warnings of Jesus and His inspired spokesmen to ***“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves”***(Matthew 7:15); as well as the warning that ***”grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them”***(Acts 20:29-30). And especially the warning, ***“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they re of God: because many false prophets have gone out into the world”***(1 John 4:1).

We must not be like children, ***“tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive”***(Ephesians 4:14). We must not be a part of this age by rebelling against the light which God has given us (Ephesians 4:17-19). Let’s hold to God’s wisdom in Christ (Colossians 2:3) that has come down to us from above (James 3:17). We not only must hold to this wisdom, but make it known to the world (Ephesians 3:10).

Questions for Discussion

1. What is meant by the phrase, “the wisdom of men?” (1 Cor. 2:4; Prov. 3:5; Jere. 10:23)
2. What is meant by the phrase, “the wisdom of God?” (1 Cor. 2:6-8)
3. Why is it important to be rooted, built up and established in the faith? (Col. 2:6-8)
4. Against what does the Christian war without? (Eph. 6:12)
5. What must he put on to successfully fight this war? (Eph. 6:13-17)
6. What are the dangers from within that the Christian must face?
 - a) Col. 2:8, 20-22---
 - b) Jude 3---
7. What are some vital questions in this issue of the “wisdom of men” versus the “wisdom of God?”
8. What do the Scriptures claim about this issue? (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
9. What must the Christian do in regards to the dangers he faces? (Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:29-30; 1 Jn. 4:1; Eph. 4:14, 17-18; Col. 2:3; Eph. 3:10)

Lesson 2

“RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS OF PRIDE”

“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.” (Ezekiel 16:49-50)

Our world has been advancing at a staggering pace during the past few years in several areas. We are making tremendous strides in fields of science, technology, space exploration, and gene manipulation. But we remain, despite the claims of many of us to the contrary, the created; we are not gods, but are rather dependent upon the God of heaven and earth for ***“life, and breath, and all things.”***(Acts 17:25). Try as we might, we can create neither life nor matter; we must satisfy ourselves with marveling at the works of the Creator.

But....man is a creature of varied motivations. What he accepts, what he believes, and what he does comes out of good and pure motives or evil and selfish motives----regardless of the facts or evidences at times. Since man is incapable of complete accuracy in reading the motives of other men, it becomes necessary to look at their deeds. Jesus said, ***“by their fruits, ye shall know them”***(Matthew 7:16).

When one asked the question, “What motivates a person to do what he does?”, it is often obvious by their fruit. For example, What motivated Hitler, or Stalin, or the Terrorists that terrorize people to get what they want? What causes people to believe in idols, or the religions of man’s origin? What causes such people as Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, Ellen G. White to advocate new revelations contrary to plain teaching of Scriptures? Some thing or things motivated these and all others to act like they do.

But what about those who cause division in the church, who want to change things contrary to Scripture? What motivates them? Is it “Pride” that is behind all of these activities? ***“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.”***(Proverbs 13:10). When one thinks too highly of self, he is caught up in pride (Romans 12:3).

HOW IS PRIDE CHARACTERIZED?

Pride is characterized by such terms as, “self-centeredness,” “selfishness,” “haughtiness,” “vain,” “stuck-up,” “self-conceit,” etc. Synonyms in Scripture are: “boastful” (James 3:5), “vainglory” (I John 2:16, RSV), “haughty, arrogant, disdainful” (Romans 1:30, RV), “be lifted up” (1 Timothy 3:6), “high-minded, conceited” (2 Timothy 3:4, 1 Timothy 6:17), etc. Pride is generally defined as an inordinate and unreasonable self-esteem, attended with insolence and rude treatment of others. It is an attempt to appear in a superior light to what we are with the desire to gain the approval or applause of men.

Inspiration tells us that there are three basic avenues by which Satan attempts to cause our disobedience to God: (1) Lust of the flesh; (2) Lust of the eyes; and (3) The pride of life (1 John 2:16). All three are in reality selfishness on man’s part. For when he is tempted through these avenues to do wrong, he gives in to them because of a desire to please self and not God. Thus, pride can be characterized as a person desiring to get what he wants, to push for his idea no matter who it might hurt, to please self! It is to have too high opinion of one’s self, one’s ideas, one’s opinions, or one’s abilities. It is to approach people or events with the idea of what will this do for me, my image, my advancement, my career, my, my, my, my! Selfishness is the essence of all sin and it is hard to separate selfishness from pride.

EXAMPLES OF PRIDE

Pride is universal, everywhere man turns! This is seen in the many nations that God condemned because of pride: Israel, Judah, Moab, Edom, Assyria, Babylon, Jordan, Philistines, Sodom, etc. The list seems to be unending. Nation after nation fell because of their pride.

But the original example that started it all is found in the actions of Satan. The ambitious pride of Satan brought his fall, and gave him the undesirable title to the first sin of the universe (1 Timothy 3:6; John 8:44). Isaiah’s description of the reason for the fall of Babylon seems to be a reenactment of Satan’s own fall (Isaiah 13-14). King David’s sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband came out of pride (selfishness) (2 Samuel 11-12). He later humble himself before God with a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17). King Saul was evidently a prideful man, justifying his disobedience to God in his own mind and failing to see his stubbornness and rebellion (1 Samuel 13:8-14; 15:10-11, 23). Saul seems to have never fully recognized his prideful heart.

WHAT PRIDE DOES OR PRODUCES

A man's pride brings shame (Proverbs 11:2); brings him low (Proverbs 29:23); causes him to be lifted up and his mind hardened (Daniel 5:20); deceives the heart (Jeremiah 49:16); compasses like a chain (Psalm 73:6); brings men to destruction (Proverbs 16:5); causes him to stumble and fall (Jeremiah 50:32); and brings contentions (Proverbs 13:10).

In general, pride causes discontent, ingratitude, presumption, extravagance, bigotry, etc. There is hardly an evil committed without pride being involved. Pride causes the wicked to even persecute the poor (Psalm 10:2). Pride causes one to trust in his own heart, thinking, ideas, instead of listening to God. He then becomes arrogant and rebellious like Saul, and deceived like Eve. Man is constantly warned of the dangers of pride.

THE SOLUTION TO PRIDE

First, man needs to recognize that God hates pride and arrogance in his creatures (Proverbs 6:17; 8:13). He states that it is an abomination to Him (Proverbs 16:5). He also adds that He will resist the proud (James 4:6). King Nebuchadnezzar was made to live as a beast and eat grass as an oxen because of his pride (Daniel 4:28-37). Herod Agrippa was consumed of worms because he ***“gave not God the glory.”*** (Acts 12:21-23). The praying Pharisee went back to his house unjustified because he wasted worship in exalting himself (Luke 18:10-14). Heaven's immutable principle is clearly stated by the Lord: ***“Everyone who exalts himself shall be brought low, but the one who lowers himself shall be exalted”*** (Luke 18:14, McCord).

In the second place, we need to recognize our correct position before the God of heaven....one of humility! ***“God resists the proud, but giveth grace to the humble”***(James 4:6) ***“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up”*** (James 4:10). After all, heaven's kingdom is promised, not to the proud of heart, but to the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3).

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some reasons why man gets puffed up with pride?
2. Since man cannot know accurately what is in another man's heart, upon what basis can we judge his actions? (Matt. 7:16)
3. What is the reason why there are contentions in the church? (Prov. 13:10)
4. What are some synonyms of pride?
5. What are some other Biblical terms that identifies with pride?
 - a) James 3:5—
 - b) 1 John 2:16—
 - c) Rom. 1:30—
 - d) 1 Tim. 3:6—
 - e) 2 Tim. 3:4—
6. What is at the root of all sin, and is closely connected with pride?
7. Who was guilty of the first sin of pride? (1 Tim. 3:6; John 8:44)
8. What caused the fall of Babylon? (Isaiah 14:11-15)
9. What are some things pride will do?
 - a) Prov. 11:2—
 - b) Prov 29:23—
 - c) Dan. 5:20—
 - d) Jere. 49:16—
 - e) Ps. 73:6—
 - f) Prov. 16:5—
 - g) Jere. 50:32—
 - h) Prov. 13:10—
10. What is the solution to pride?
 - a) Prov. 6:17; 8:13—
 - b) James 4:6, 10—
 - c)

Lesson 3

“RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS OF PLEASING MEN”

“Woe to you, when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets.” (Luke 6:26)

The desire to gain the favor and approval of people is a normal thing. Everyone wants to be liked and looked up to. But this normal healthy need for acceptance can get out of hand and cause us to lose our soul. Seeking to please people and showing more concern for what others think than what pleases God or what He thinks is sinful and wrong! Paul’s statement to the Galatians shows the erroneousness of pleasing men over pleasing God (Galatians 1:10). He simply states that for him to do so that he **“*should not be a servant of Christ.*”**

“Peer pressure,” the desire to be accepted by the group, has caused many a young person, as well as older ones, to go astray. It’s dangers are real as the Scriptures warn, **“*Evil companionships corrupt good morals*”** (1 Corinthians 15:33, ASV, Proverbs 1:10-16). The warning is also given in Exodus 23:2, **“*Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.*”** Why would anyone want to do evil, unless that is the only way they can receive the acceptance of their peers.

BIBLE EXAMPLES TO ILLUSTRATE

King Saul’s reason for not doing what God had commanded him was, **“*the people took the spoils*”** (1 Samuel 15:19, 21). And when faced with his rebellion and disobedience by the prophet Samuel, he said, **“*I feared the people*”** (1 Samuel 15:24). His fear was not of physical harm they could do to him, but of losing the favor and approval of the people. He desired that more than he desired God’s favor.

Aaron, the brother of Moses, also showed this same weakness. He desired the favor of the people more than the favor of God. So, when pressured by the people, he gave in to their desire and made a golden calf for Israel to worship (Exodus 32:1-5). And Moses stated that God was angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him with the people, but he prayed for him. (Deuteronomy 9:20). When Aaron was asked by Moses, **“*What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?*”** His answer was, **“*the people*”** (Exodus 32:21-22). So, Aaron did not accept the truth about himself....that he wanted to be popular with the people. He desired that more than being right with God!

Among the Jewish rulers in Jesus' day, many of them believed on Jesus, but would not openly confess him. Why? ***“They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God”*** (John 12:42-43). Thus, people can know the truth, but still stay with false beliefs or false religious practices. Why? Because they had position, prestige, fame, acceptance, attention of the people; but, to have confess Jesus openly would have meant the loss of all of the above. These things meant more to them than being right with God, or having God's approval.

A man by the name of Simon, a sorcerer, had sufficient abilities to dupe people into believing he had great powers. He had bewitched these people for a long time (Acts 8:9-11). Simon knew that he did not have such powers. He was a fake, a con man. Why would he do such a thing? He did it for money, prestige, popularity, acceptance with the people, to be highly regarded and respected by the people. But when Philip came preaching the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, the people were able to make a clear-cut distinction between the false and the real miracles. These miracles confirmed the message that Philip spoke and caused them to believe and be baptized (Acts 8:5-8, 12). Simon, himself, also believed and was baptized (Acts 8:13). But later, when Simon saw that through the laying on of the hands of the apostles, miraculous gifts were given, he wanted that power and offered money to buy it. His old desire for public acclaim resurfaced and took control. Peter rebuked him, telling him his heart was not right with God (Acts 8:18-23). He was more desirous of the people's acclaim than God's!

Paul's warning to the Ephesian elders describes men who are more concerned for the following of men than they are to be a simple disciple of Jesus. Their driving force was, ***“to draw away disciples after them”*** (Acts 20:30). Why? Men can become so enamored with a position of leadership that they will compromise truth to hold it or secure it. Those who follow such are simply feeding their egos and making them feel important!

John tells of Diotrephes, ***“who loveth to have the pre-eminence”*** (3 John 9). It caused him to reject John's teaching and to cast some out of the church (3 John 9-10). This desire for acceptance is strong and needs to be properly directed.

THE SOLUTION TO THIS OVER-EAGERNESS TO PLEASE MEN

What a contrast between Diotrephes and Gaius. Gaius was known for his ***“walking in the truth”*** (3 John 3-4). He was known for his kindness to those traveling (3 John 5-6). Diotrephes was known for his ***“love of pre-eminence,”*** his unwillingness to ***“receive”*** the apostle John, his ***“malicious words”*** against John, and

his “*casting*” people out of the church (3 John 1-10). How many times has this scene been re-enacted! Those who want to be recognized as the top figures in the church strive to sustained this status by badmouthing the lovers of truth and push for them to leave, so they will be unopposed.

The problem or danger will not be avoided until men realize something: fame, power, acclaim, ego-pleasing is fleeting! Men are fickle, changeable, undependable most of the time. They can praise you one day, and stab you in the back the next day. Jesus chose one of the twelve, Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16). The crowd one day was praising Jesus, “*Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord*” (Matthew 21:9), and the next thing you know they are crying, “*crucify him, crucify him*” (Luke 23:21).

A second thing that must be recognized is that men have the power to give us acclaim, power, acceptance in this life only, but with God, we can be accepted of Him here and hereafter (Matthew 19:29). What welcome words we can hear at the judgment when the Lord says, “*Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*” (Matthew 25:34).

We must recognize the grave dangers of wanting the acceptance of men over God’s acceptance. We must examine our motives carefully and honestly. We must then be willing to purify our motives and make certain that Christ and His Will is supreme in our lives. We must set aside our egos and set our hearts on pleasing God. “*Beware when all men speak well of you*” (Luke 6:26)!

Questions for Discussion

1. Is it normal to want the favor and approval of people? (Gal. 1:10)
2. What does the term “Peer pressure” mean to you? (1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 1:10-16; Exo. 23:2)
3. How do these examples illustrate a problem?
 - a) 1 Sam. 15:19,21—
 - b) Exo. 32:1-5; Deut. 9:20; Exo. 32:21-22—
 - c) John 12:42-43—
 - d) Acts 8:9-11, 5-8, 12, 13, 18-23—
 - e) Acts 20:30--
 - f) 3 John 9-10—
4. What can help us to deal with this problem?
 - a) 3 John 1-10—
 - b) Matt. 26:14-16; 21:9; Luke 23:21—
 - c) Matt. 19:29; 25:34—
 - d) Luke 6:26—

Lesson 4

“RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS OF THE LUST FOR THINGS”

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” (1 Timothy 5:17-19)

Americans are living in possibly the most prosperous nation that history has revealed. This country is the envy of the world. Most people think that all Americans are rich. But at the same time the spiritual outlook and condition of the nation is fast declining. Convictions, moral standards, devotion to God has declined greatly over the past 30-40 years Why?

For some reason prosperity has dangers for man’s spiritual well-being, and if not guarded against, will cause him to lose his soul. The warning given by Moses to Israel illustrates this concept: *“And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, and houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantest not; when thou shall have eaten and be full; then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.”*(Deuteronomy 6:10-12) This same warning applies to us today; that is, that are dangers connected with prosperity!

Moses gave the Israelites a song to sing to be a reminder in the future of why they had forsaken God (Deuteronomy 32:1-43). In particular, it was a song to remind them in the future of why they had forsaken God. In verses 15-16, the song states: *“But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation. They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger.”* God’s warnings to us today could be ignored just like Israel ignored God’s warning!

THE DANGERS OF THE LUST FOR THINGS

We not only need to recognize the dangers of the desire for possessions and guard against such, but we need to be aware of what those dangers are so that we may see the reasons for avoiding them.

- 1. Mark 4:3:20**—Jesus is telling the Parable of the 4 kinds of soils. He said there is the wayside soil, the stony soil, the thorny soil, and the good soil. In particular, he says of the thorny soil: *“And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.”*(Verse 7) When Jesus told the application, he said: *“And thee are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it*

becometh unfruitful.” (Verse 18-19) This kind of heart and life cannot be a steadfast Christian, unless some changes are made.

2. **1 Timothy 6:9-10**—The Spirit of God is warning those that would be rich, or those who lust after things, that there are grave dangers to be faced: *“fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.”* He then adds that the Love of Money is the root of all evil, and again emphasizes the dangers involved: *“they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”* *The dangers are real!*
3. **1 Timothy 6:17**—The Spirit continues to warn those who are rich of their dangers as well: *“that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches.”* Riches can cause a person to be lifted up with pride and cause him to put his trust in the wrong thing!
4. **Jeremiah 6:16**—Jeremiah states that God’s people strayed from the “old paths” of righteousness because that: *“From the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.”* (Verse 13).
5. **James 4:1-3**—James gives the reason for the wrangling among themselves as the “lust for things” or being a “friend of the world.” Their emphasis was not upon the spiritual, but upon the carnal, this world.
6. **Matthew 19:23-24**—Jesus stated that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven. Why? The dangers are real and not too many escape getting caught up in the “lust for things.”

EXAMPLES TO ILLUSTRATE

Such dangers to one’s spiritual well-being must be taken seriously. God has not only given warnings in His word of the dangers of the lust for things, but given examples to help us clearly see those dangers.

1. **Luke 18:18-25**—Why did the rich young ruler go away sorrowful? He had his emphasis upon the wrong thing. He was unwilling to give up his idol.
2. **Luke 16:19-31**—Why did the rich man end up in Hades in Torment? Not because he was rich, necessarily, but because of his failure to use his riches wisely and correctly.
3. **Luke 12:13-21**—Before Jesus tells this Parable of the Rich Fool, he warns: *“Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”* He then illustrated this thought with this parable. He concludes by pointing out why the rich man was a fool. It was not because of riches, as such; but because he was not *“rich towards God.”* (Verse 21). He did not use his riches properly. His “lust for things” destroyed him!

But God has also given us examples of rich men who were faithful and righteous before Him.

1. **Abraham.** At one time Abraham and Lot were together. But their flocks and herds were too much, so they chose to separate. The statement is made: *“for their substance was great.”* (Genesis 13:6) But Abraham is held up before the world as the *“father”* of the faithful (Romans 4:11).

2. **Job.** It was said of him that his possessions were such that he was *“the greatest of all the men of the east.”* (Job 1:3). And yet, he was praised by God as: *“perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.”* (Job 1:1). And also, *“there is none like him in the earth”* (Job 1:8). It would seem that riches, having things, is not the evil itself, but the attitude towards such and the unrighteous use of such.

THE SOLUTION

There are some basic things that must be done upon recognizing the dangers of the lust for things (1 Timothy 6:10).

1. **Man must recognize his stewardship over possession** (Luke 16:10-12). We must be faithful as stewards. If we are not faithful in the use of our possessions, then who will commit or give to us the true riches?
2. **Man must not put his trust in uncertain riches, but in God** (1 Timothy 6:17). The uncertainty of riches can let us down, but God will not! Our heart is where our treasure is (Matthew 6:21).
3. **Money must be our servant, not our master** (Matthew 6:24). Possessions are entrusted to us for proper use. We need certain things for survival upon this earth now and in our older years. God intended for us to enjoy what he has placed here for us. But this outlook must not be a selfish one....ONLY FOR SELF! Proper use of money makes it our servant, not our master.
4. **Man must learn to lay up treasures in heaven** (Matthew 6:19-20). A good portion of what we are prospered must be used for self and family. Yet, if it is all used for self; then, there is no laying up treasures in heaven that will receive us in the last day (Luke 16:9; 1 Timothy 6:19).

CONCLUSION

Is it possible to be a steadfast Christian with our minds and lives all wrapped up in this life and the lust for the things of this life? Jesus said that we cannot (Mark 4:19)! What greater authority do we need than this?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How would you define Covetousness? (Luke 12:15)
2. What did Moses warn the Israelites about concerning their occupying and living in the land of Canaan? (Deut. 6:10-18)
3. Did it happen to the Israelites like Moses warned? (Deut. 32:15-16)
4. What kind of heart gets caught up in the lust for things? (Mark 4:18-19)
5. What are some of the dangers of wanting to be rich? (1 Tim. 6:9-10)
6. How do the following examples illustrate the dangers of the lust for things:
 - a) Luke 18:18-25—
 - b) Luke 16:19-31—
 - c) Luke 12:13-21—
7. Is it possible to be rich and faithful to God? (Gen. 13:6; Rom 4:11; Job 1:1-8)
8. How can the Christian guard against the dangers of the lust for things?
 - a) Luke 16:10-12—
 - b) 1 Tim. 6:17—
 - c) Matt. 6:24—
 - d) Matt. 6:19-20--

Lesson Five

“RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS OF A PERMISSIVE OUTLOOK”

“Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.” (Jeremiah 6:16-17)

We are living in what is called a “Permissive Society!” That is, more and more freedom to do as we please and not be subject to a higher authority or punishment. The almost total disregard for the speed limits on our highways are a reflection of this attitude of rebellion against authority. It is a selfish, self-indulgent outlook that desires to be free of any restraints. Our children to a great extent reflect this permissive outlook! Parents let their children get by with “murder” and do nothing about it, and even take up for them when they should be disciplined!

While mankind has to some degree or other felt this way all along, it seems to be so obviously this way in our times. And when this attitude prevails, sooner or later religion will be degraded to the likes and dislikes of the people. As with Israel after the death of Joshua and the elders that succeeded him, **“every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”** (Judges 17:6). People desire to be free to do their own thing and not be held accountable to anyone. But this is not the way man was made. God made man to be a responsible being, under obligation to reverence his maker, and to be obedient to His will (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). If he refuses to be responsible, drastic consequences are threatened (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

While the Bible speaks often of the wonderful freedom that Christ offers to mankind, it certainly isn't the kind of freedom that men have always wanted, but the kind he has always needed! This freedom is not a release from restrictions and restraints as advocated by those who refuse to respect God's Law and desire to live as they please. The freedom Christ offers requires a person to respect and obey the Law of God in his life. **“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** (John 8:31-32). Can one truly be a disciple of Christ without continuing in His Word; and obviously, His Word is Truth (John 17:17) that is capable of making one free! But free from what? Free from the burden and bondage of Sin and it's threatened penalty (Romans 6:23). Free to live the way

God wants us to live, following in Christ's Words. James makes it clear that it is the "doers" of the word who will be blessed (James 1:22, 25), and enjoy the liberty in Christ!

Those who claim to be free from the restraint of God's Law, and who promise people "freedom" if they will follow their false ways are in reality not free at all, but are in bondage to Sin and Corruption (2 Peter 2:19). True freedom is only found in following Christ and His teachings of Truth that restrains us from walking in Sin! (John 8:31-32)

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THE PERMISSIVE ATTITUDE

1. **Matthew 15:1-9.** The Scribes and Pharisees accused Jesus' disciples of breaking the tradition of the elders (which was not the Law of God). But, they in turn, broke God's Law by their traditions. It was all right for them to ignore God's Law to follow their own ideas.
2. **Matthew 23:1-4.** Jesus said that the Scribes and Pharisees bind heavy burdens on the Jews that were grievous to be borne, but they felt they were exempt from such and could do as they pleased.
3. **1 Samuel 15:10-23.** King Saul was told by God through Samuel to go down and utterly destroy the Amalekites. He brought back the king alive and the best of the cattle. He did not feel that he had to do exactly as God said, and when confronted by Samuel, he felt he had done no wrong! Samuel's answer to Saul was straight to the point: *"Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king."*(Vs. 22-23)
4. **Leviticus 10:1-3.** These two sons of Aaron evidently felt they could do as they pleased. They offered "strange" fire before the Lord, rather than what God had commanded. God immediately took their lives!
5. **Matthew 23:23.** These religious leaders had strictly tithed even the herbs from their gardens. But, they overlooked the weightier matters of the Law: Judgment, mercy, faith. Jesus made it clear they had no right to do one and omit the other. They should have done both!

The permissive spirit is seen in the religious world about us. Their unwillingness to go strictly by the Will of God is prevalent among religious people. There is little real sincere respect for what God's Word says on many topics that are not popular with people. Thus, one religious group after another have given in to the

pressures of the permissive outlook. Basic, fundamental teachings of the Truth of God are disregarded, made fun of, relegated to the unpopular junk heap. They resist God's instructions, defiantly asserting their own will, to do as they please. And all is done in the name of religion, and with a feigned "pious" outlook for their actions.

Jeremiah faced the same situation among the people of Israel in his day. He challenged them to: ***ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.***"(Jeremiah 6:16). How typical of religious people today...."***We will not walk therein.***"

CONCLUSION

What about you and me? Do we want the restraints removed, so we can do as we please? Do we feel the keeping of God's commands are burdensome and desire to be set free from them? Or, do we love the Law of the Lord and meditate on it day and night? (Psalms 1:1-2). Do we make a diligent effort to know and to do all that God has commanded us as Noah did (Genesis 6:22; Psalms 119:1-2).

Questions for Discussion

1. What is a permissive outlook?
2. Give an example of this attitude from your own experiences.
3. What does this attitude do to religious people? (Judges 17:6)
4. What kind of freedom is Jesus promising in John 8:31-32?
5. What does James say in regards to the permissive outlook? (James 1:22, 25)
6. What about those who promise freedom from restraint? (2 Peter 2:19)
7. Tell how these Bible examples illustrate the permissive outlook:
 - a) Matt. 15:1-9—
 - b) Matt. 23:1-4—
 - c) 1 Sam. 15:10-23—
 - d) Lev. 10:1-3—
 - e) Matt. 23:23—
8. Illustrate how the religious world has been caught up in this permissive outlook.
9. What did the Israelites tell Jeremiah when rebuked for their permissive outlook? (Jeremiah 6:16-17)
10. How can a person be a steadfast Christian and have a permissive outlook?

Lesson Six

ATTITUDES IN REGARDS TO RESPONSIBILITY

INTRODUCTION

1. Matthew 15:17-20
2. Series of studies on a Contrast between Good and Bad Attitudes.
3. The first four lessons will cover :
 - a) Attitudes in regards to Responsibility.
 - b) Attitudes in regards to One's Self.
 - c) Attitudes in regards to Others.
 - d) Attitudes in regards to Things.
4. Attitude—A disposition or outlook with regards to a person or thing.

DISCUSSION

I. BAD ATTITUDES—RESPONSIBILITY.

A. Neglect

- 1) Defined:
 - a) *“To pay no attention to, disregard, or treat with indifference.”*
 - b) *“To be remiss in care for or treatment of”*
 - c) *“To fail to carry out or perform duties”*
- 2) Scriptures: Matt. 25:27; 2 Peter 1:12
- 3) Apply in family, at work, in the church, neighborhood.

B. Slothful

- 1) Defined:
 - a) *“Sluggishness of disposition, habitual dis-inclination to exertion, as a moral fault”*
 - b) *“Indolence, laziness, idleness, slowness or tardiness.”*
- 2) Scriptures: Prov. 18:9; 24:30; 26:13
- 3) Apply in family, at work, in the church, neighborhood.

C. Procrastination

- 1) Defined:
 - a) *“To put off to another day or time, day after day.”*
 - b) *“Defer, delay, dilatory”*
- 2) Scriptures: James 4:17; Heb. 3:14-15
- 3) Apply in family, at work, in the Church, neighborhood.

D. Closed-mindedness

- 1) Defined—“*Mind shut to ideas, closed to a sense of responsibility.*”
- 2) Scriptures: Matt. 13:14-15
- 3) Apply in family, at work, in the church, neighborhood

II. GOOD ATTITUDES—RESPONSIBILITY.

A. Diligence

- 1) Defined—“*industrious, to pursue with persevering attention*”
- 2) Scriptures: 2 Pet. 1:10; Prov. 21:5; 27:23-27
- 3) Apply in family, at work, in the church, neighborhood.

B. Punctual

- 1) Defined:
 - a) “*Strictly observant of an appointed or regular time*”
 - b) “*In good time, not late, prompt in keeping engagements*”
- 2) Scriptures: Prov. 22:29
- 3) Apply in family, at work, in the church, neighborhood.

C. Orderly

- 1) Defined:
 - a) “*Arranged or disposed in order*”
 - b) “*Characterized by observing order, rule, or discipline*”
 - c) “*Conformity with good order or discipline.*”
- 2) Scriptures: Prov. 25:28
- 3) Apply in family, at work, in the church, neighborhood

D. Openness to Learn

- 1) Acts 17:11
- 2) Apply

CONCLUSION

1. Attitude—a disposition with regards to a person or thing.
2. Matt. 15:17-20
3. An attitude comes from the heart of man and is exemplified in various ways.

Lesson Seven

ATTITUDES IN REGARDS TO SELF

INTRODUCTION

1. Prov. 12:15—*“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise.”*
2. Prov. 11:19—*“As righteousness leads to life, so he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.”*
3. Prov. 15:14—*“The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.”*
4. Prov. 16:16—*“How much better to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.”*
5. Prov. 23:19—*“Hear, my son, and be wise; and guide your heart in the way.”*
6. We are looking at Good & Bad Attitudes!
 - a) Last lesson—In relationship to Responsibilities.
 - b) Today—In relationship to Self!

DISCUSSION

I. BAD ATTITUDES IN REGARDS TO SELF:

A. Self-Centered or Selfish.

- 1) Synonyms: Self-Seeking; Self-Worship; Egotist; Centered in Self.
- 2) Scriptures: Phil. 2:3, 4
- 3) Key Questions:
 - a) How do you determine when one is selfish and self-centered?
 - 1) By an attitude expressed.
 - 2) By an attitude shown by actions.
 - b) How is this attitude shown?
 - 1) Intemperance, excess, piggish.
 - 2) Sensuality, Carnality, dissipation, licentiousness.
 - 3) Taking care of #1
- 4) Application: Home, Church.

B. Pride or Arrogance.

- 1) Synonyms: Haughty spirit; High-Minded; Inflated ego; puffed up; Vain or Vain Glorious; Conceited; Give one’s self airs.
- 2) Scriptures: Rom. 11:20; 1 Tim. 6:17

3) Special Scriptures in Proverbs:

- a) 11:2—*“When pride comes, then comes shame”*
- b) 13:10—*“By pride comes nothing but strife”*
- c) 15:25—*“The Lord will destroy the house of the proud.”*
- d) 16:5—*“Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord.”*
- e) 16:18—*“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”*
- f) 21:4—*“A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin.”*
- g) 21:24—*“A proud and haughty man—“Scoffer” is his name; he acts with arrogant pride.”*

4) How is this attitude shown?

- a) Talking and boasting about self.
- b) Being too opinionated.
- c) The way one looks at another.
- d) Talking down to people.

5) Application: Home & Church

C. Dejection

1) Synonyms: Bad self-image or self-worth; down on self; Low of heart; Depressed in spirit, disheartened.

2) Scriptures: Joshua 1:9 (Repeated many times in O.T.); 2 Cor. 2:5-8

3) How is this attitude shown?

- a) Sorrow, broken-heart, despair, discouragement, depression.
- b) Pessimistic about self.
- c) Gloom & doom, sadness, down in dumps, the blues.

4) Application:

- a) Home—attitude of worthlessness to family.
- b) Danger of suicide.
- c) Lack of faith or trust in God.

II. GOOD ATTITUDES IN REGARDS TO SELF.

A. Proper self-love.

1) Synonyms: Self-preservation; saving self; guard, defend, or defensive.

2) Scriptures: Matt. 22:39; Eph. 5:28-29

3) How is this attitude shown?

- a) Taking care of our own body properly.
- b) Taking care of our soul for eternity.

4) Application: Home, Church.

B. Humility

- 1) Synonyms: Meek, Lowliness, Modest
- 2) Scriptures: James 4:6-10
- 3) Special Scriptures:
 - a) Prov. 11:2—*“When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.”*
 - b) Prov. 15:33—*“The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.”*
 - c) Prov. 16:10—*“Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”*
 - d) Prov. 22:4—*“By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life.”*
- 4) How is this attitude shown?
 - a) *“Poor in spirit”* (Matt. 5:3)
 - b) Self- Abasement (Proper view of self)
 - c) Submission (Phil. 2:8)
- 5) Application: Church, Home

C. Self-Worth

- 1) Synonyms: Self-esteem; Proper view of one’s value.
- 2) Scriptures: Jn. 3:16; 1 Pet. 2:9
- 3) How is this attitude shown?
 - a) Proper self-confidence
 - b) Proper self-admiration
- 4) Application: Church & Home

CONCLUSION

1. Good attitudes about self:
 - a) Love of self.
 - b) Proper view of self before God and fellow-man.
 - c) See great value God places on us.
2. How well are we doing?

Lesson Eight

**PROPER ATTITUDES TOWARDS
OTHERS**

INTRODUCTION

1. Series of studies on a Contrast between Good and Bad Attitudes.
2. Lessons before:
 - a) Attitudes in regards to Responsibilities.
 - b) Attitudes in regards to Self.
3. This lesson—Attitudes Towards Others.
4. This lesson will require two class periods.

DISCUSSION

I. MALIOUS & REVENGEFUL ATTITUDES

A. Eph. 4:31

B. 8 Terms that fit into this category

- 1) Anger—Strong mental irritation at someone who offends.
 - a) Displeasure—Animosity—Indignation—Irate—Displeasure
Resentment.
 - b) Prov. 27:4; 15:1; 15:18; 16:32; Matt. 5:22.
 - c) Col. 3:8; Eph. 4:26
 - d) Beginning point—deal with it before it becomes worse.
- 2) Malice—Desire to inflict injury or suffering on another.
 - a) Wrongful act injurious of another.
 - b) 1 Pet. 2:1
- 3) Bitterness—Intense animosity—building up inside.
 - a) Shown by harsh and cutting words.
 - b) Rom. 3:14
- 4) Clamor—Loud outcry
 - a) Chiding, abuse, hard, cutting, bitter words.
 - b) Evil speaking, not speak well of.
 - c) Lay blame upon.
- 5) Envy & Jealousy—To look at with ill-will.
 - a) To feel discontent towards another.
 - b) A covetous desire for some advantage possessed by another.
 - c) 1 Pet. 2:1
- 6) Contentious—Argumentive—To cause strife.
 - a) Prov. 17:14; 18:6

- b) 1 Cor. 1:11; Tit. 3:9
- 7) Hatred—Enmity, hard feelings.
 - a) Coolness, alienation, estrangement, dislike, despise,
 - b) Detest, abhor, hold a grudge, uncourteous, disrespect, rude,
 - c) Insult, abusive, uncivil, sarcastic, crusty, scorn, contempt,
 - d) To slight, derision, disregard, make light of.
 - e) Prov. 10:12
 - f) Tit. 3:3
 - g) 1 Jn. 3:15
- 8) Wrath—The point where physical action is severe.
 - a) Rom. 1:18
 - b) Heat, Rage, Fury, Fierceness
 - c) Rev. 14:19
 - d) 2 Cor. 12:20
 - e) James 1:19-20

II. UNJUST ATTITUDES

A. Prejudice—To pre-judge.

- 1) Misjudge, warped judgment, hasty conclusion, pre-conceived judgment.
- 2) Partisanship—taking sides unfairly.
- 3) Pre-suppose, Presume, Jump to a conclusion.
- 4) Look at only one side—One-sided.
- 5) Narrow-minded—Wedded to an opinion.
- 6) Unreasonable.
- 7) Jn. 7:24

B. Hyper-Critical.

- 1) Fault-finding.
- 2) Excessively critical or overly-critical.
- 3) Matt. 7:1-5

C. Respector of Persons

- 1) Opposite of showing respect for a person.
- 2) To make unfair or unjust distinctions.
- 3) Unjust discrimination.
- 4) Luke 10:30-37—Good Samaritan
- 5) James 2:1-9
- 6) James 3:17
- 7) 1 Tim. 5:21

D. Impatient

- 1) Lack of patience with people.

- 2) To forbear, long suffering, enduring with people.
- 3) 1 Thess. 5:14

E. Intolerant

- 1) Indisposed to tolerate or endure a person.
- 2) Bigoted.
- 3) Not tolerant of others' opinions.
- 4) Religious leaders were not tolerant of Jesus, nor His teachings.
- 5) Sought to kill Him.
- 6) Early Christians suffered death for same reason.

F. Unforgiving

- 1) Bitterness of heart toward another.
- 2) Hate, Malice, or envy—will not forgive.
- 3) Matt. 6:15

II. THE PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARDS OTHERS

A. Eph. 4:32

- 1) Kind to one another instead of harshness.
 - a) 2 Pet. 1:7
 - b) In attitude and actions.
- 2) Tenderhearted to one another instead of hard hearted.
 - a) Col. 3:12—Tender-mercies.
 - b) 1 Thess. 2:5-8
- 3) Forgiving instead of unforgiving.
 - a) Col. 3:13
 - b) Luke 17:1-5

B. Gal. 5:22-23

- 1) Love instead of hate.
 - a) Col. 3:14
- 2) Longsuffering instead of impatient.
 - a) Col. 3:13-14
 - b) Bearing with one another.
 - c) 1 Thess. 5:14
- 3) Goodness instead of evil.
 - a) 1 Thess. 5:15
- 4) Gentleness instead of Violent.
 - a) 2 Tim. 2:24-25
- 4) Peacemaker instead of contentious.
 - a) Matt. 5:9
 - b) Stress oneness, not division.
 - c) Rom. 14:19

CONCLUSION

1. Attitudes towards others are very important!
 - a) If we are to live in peace with them.
 - b) If we are to influence them towards righteousness.
 - c) If we are able to work together effectively in the church.
2. We must keep working on getting rid of the bad attitudes towards others.
3. Keep putting on the good attitudes in our lives.

Lesson Nine

ATTITUDES IN REGARDS TO THINGS

INTRODUCTION

1. Lessons thus far:
 - a) Attitudes toward Responsibility.
 - b) Attitudes toward Self.
 - c) Attitudes toward Others.
2. This lesson—"Attitudes toward Things."
 - a) Again, the dangers are real in this area also.
 - b) General warning—1 John 2:15
3. Attitudes that all of us have to put away and put on.

DISCUSSION

I. BAD ATTITUDES

A. Worry

- 1) Synonyms
 - a) Uneasiness, anxiety, miserable outlook,
 - b) Lack of trust, doubt, uncertainty, skepticism, suspicion.
- 2) Scriptures (Matt. 6:25)
 - a) Phil. 4:6
 - b) Heb. 3:12, 19
 - c) James 1:5-8
- 3) Comments
 - a) "Worry is like a rocking chair: It uses up our energy, but we get nowhere."
 - b) "Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrows, but it only saps today of its joy."
 - c) Worry contributes to depression, break-down, high blood pressure, heart attacks, early death.

B. Fear

- 1) Synonyms
 - a) Timidity—want of confidence.
 - b) Despair, dread, terror.
 - c) Faint-hearted, cowardice.
- 2) Scriptures
 - a) Matt. 25:25

- b) 2 Tim. 1:7
- c) 1 Thess. 5:14

3) Comments

- a) Greek word, ***Phobos (phobia)***
- b) Keeps us from doing what we know we should.

C. Covetousness

1) Synonyms

- a) Desire, lust, greed, grasping
- b) Longed for, lust after, reach for.
- c) Envy, rivalry, crave.
- d) Tightwad, miserly, stingy, skinflint, selfish.

2) Scriptures

- a) Lk. 12:15
- b) Col. 3:5

3) Comments

- a) To fix desire on (Matt. 6:21)
- b) A desire to have more and more.
- c) A desire to have what another has.
- d) Lovers of money. (2 Tim. 3:2)

D. Ingratitude

1) Synonyms

- a) Thankless, oblivious to benefits, ingrate
- b) Insensible, unthankful.

2) Scriptures: Lk. 6:35, 2 Tim. 3:2

3) Comments

- a) Shown by lack of expression in word.
- b) Shown by lack of proper actions

E. Something for Nothing

1) Synonyms

- a) Sponger, parasite, lazy
- b) Waster, to cheat, defraud.

2) Scriptures

- a) 2 Thess. 3:10
- b) Prov. 20:13
- c) Prov. 21:25-26

3) Comments

- a) Lotto, gambling, get rich quick schemes
- b) Unwillingness to patiently work and save.
- c) To steal, rob, cheat, defraud.

F. Discontent

- 1) Synonyms
 - a) Dissatisfaction, disappointment
 - b) Complainer, faultfinder, murmurer
 - c) Disheartened
 - d) Ungrateful, unthankful
 - e) Down in the dumps, sulky, sour, crabby, out of humor
- 2) Scriptures
 - a) Phil. 2:14-16
 - b) 1 Pet. 4:9
- 3) Comments
 - a) Israelites in wilderness—murmuring, complaining.
 - b) 1 Cor. 10:5-10

II. GOOD ATTITUDES TOWARD THINGS

A. Trust in God

- 1) Synonyms
 - a) Belief in, assurance, confidence, persuasion, trustworthy
 - b) Reliance on, conviction, convinced
 - c) Rooted in, unshaken, well-founded, no doubt.
 - d) Have hope.
- 2) Scriptures
 - a) Col. 2:6-7
 - b) Jas. 1:5-6
- 3) Comments
 - a) Our religious convictions need to be sure.
 - b) Our trust in God needs to be strong.
 - c) We survive by trust. Gal. 3:11

B. Courage

- 1) Synonyms
 - a) Bravery, valor, bold, daring, gallantry
 - b) Confident, self-reliance, resolution
 - c) Backbone, bold of heart, strong-minded
 - d) Stand your ground.
- 2) Scriptures
 - a) Josh. 1:6, 7, 9
- 3) Comments
 - a) Courage, confidence. (2 Cor. 5:6, 8, 7:16; Eph. 3:12)
 - b) Bold. (2 Cor. 10:1-2; Heb. 13:6)
 - c) Persuasion, assurance, strong trust.

d) The quality of confidence to endure or under take anything

C. Liberal

- 1) Synonyms
 - a) Generous, unselfish, not stingy
 - b) Hospitable, ungrudging, free-hearted
- 2) Scriptures
 - a) 2 Cor. 9:6-7
- 3) Comments
 - a) Not covetous
 - b) Money is a servant, not our master.

D. Gratitude

- 1) Synonyms
 - a) Thankful, feeling of obligation
 - b) Recognition, acknowledge
 - c) Indebted to
- 2) Scriptures
 - a) 2 Cor. 4:15; 9:11-12
- 3) Comments
 - a) Something that has blessed our life and our response to it.
 - b) A feeling of joy and obligation.
 - c) Rom. 1:14
 - d) Concrete ways to express gratitude.
 - e) Lk. 17:11-18 (ten lepers—only one returned to thank)

E. Work

- 1) Synonyms
 - a) To exert one's self—use energy
 - b) To toil, to labor
 - c) Toil that results into weariness
 - d) Toil, hardship, distress
- 2) Scriptures
 - a) Gen. 3:17-19
 - b) 1 Thess. 4:11; 2 Thess. 3:8
- 3) Comments
 - a) God intended for man to work (Eph. 4:28)
 - b) Reasons for work—self, family, others, kingdom.
 - c) Willingness to work for what we have.

F. Contentment

- 1) Synonyms
 - a) Satisfaction, peace of mind, serenity, comfort.
 - b) Cheerful, to be thankful, comfortable, sufficient.

- c) Resignation
- 2) Scriptures
 - a) Matt. 11:28-29
 - b) Phil. 4:11-2
 - c) 1 Tim. 6:6-8
- 3) Comments
 - a) Learning process
 - b) Christ offers and makes possible.
 - c) Faith—trust.

Lesson Ten

ATTITUDES TOWARDS GOD

INTRODUCTION

1. Correct attitudes are critical to:
 - a) Our happiness;
 - b) Our success in any endeavor for good;
 - c) Our relationship to one another;
 - d) And our relationship to God.
2. Thus far, We have look at attitudes:
 - a) Toward our Responsibilities;
 - b) Towards Others;
 - c) Towards Self;
 - d) Towards Things;
3. This lesson—Attitudes Towards God!
4. Our Attitudes toward God depend largely upon a correct understanding of God.
 - a) His Nature
 - b) His Characteristics
 - c) His Attributes
5. Incorrect or one-sided views can definitely affect our Attitudes toward God.
 - a) Not only our Attitudes, but our Actions, as well.
 - b) Rom. 1:20-23

DISCUSSION

I. FEARFUL versus REVERENCE!

A. Fearful

1) Synonyms:

- a) Fear—Acts 19:17; Matt. 10:28
- b) Terror or Torment—1 John 4:18; 2 Cor. 5:11
- c) Trembling—shaking—Phil. 2:12
- d) Fright, Alarm, Dread.
- e) Dismay, Panic, Scare.

B. Reverence

1) Synonyms:

- a) To stand in Awe of
- b) Respect for
- c) Godly fear—Heb. 5:7

- d) Reverence & Godly Fear—Heb. 12:28-29
- 2) Reverence because of who He is:
 - a) Mal. 1:6—to honor, to revere
 - b) Mal. 1:14—His name to be feared
 - c) Mal. 2:4-5—Feared God, Reverent before His name.
 - d) Mal. 3:5—People engage in sinful activities because they do not fear God.
- 3) What terms or names for God can be used to show reverence?
 - a) Almighty
 - b) Father
 - c) The Eternal One
 - d) First and Last, etc.

II. MOCKING GOD versus PRAISING GOD.

A. Mocking God (Gal. 6:7-8; Lk. 22:65)

- 1) Synonyms:
 - a) To imitate, Ridicule, Show disrespect or contempt;
 - b) To deride, to scoff, to make fun of, sarcastic, degrading.
- 2) Biblical terms:
 - a) Despise—Mal. 1:6-8
 - b) Profane—Mal. 1:12; 2:10-11
 - c) Sneer—Mal. 1:13
 - d) Harsh—Mal. 3:13
 - e) Blasphemed—Rev. 16:17
 - f) Curse—James 3:9

B. Praise or Glorifying God.

- 1) Synonyms:
 - a) Majesty
 - b) Worthiness
- 2) Biblical Terms:
 - a) Glory—Mal. 2:2
 - b) To offer sacrifices—Mal. 3:3-4
 - c) Offer worship—Jn. 4:23-24
 - d) Worthiness—Rev. 4:11
 - e) Praise—Rev. 15:3-4; 19:1, 5, 6
 - f) Thanksgiving—Rev. 7:12

III. HATERS versus LOVERS OF GOD

A. Haters of God.

- 1) Synonyms:

- a) Dislike
 - b) Animosity
 - c) Detest
 - d) Treat with contempt
- 2) Biblical Terms:
- a) Do not love God—2 Tim. 3:4
 - b) Haters of God—Rom. 1:30
 - c) Despise—Mal. 1:6-8
 - d) To think lightly of—Rom. 2:4

B. Lovers of God

- 1) Love has to be shown to be valid!
- 2) Keep God's commands. 1 John 5:2-3
- 3) We love Him because He first loved us. 1 Jn. 4:19
- 4) If we love God, we will love our brethren. 1 Jn. 4:21
- 5) To be right with God. Jn. 15:10

IV. INDIFFERENT versus ZEALOUS TOWARDS GOD.

A. Indifferent

- 1) Synonyms:
 - a) Neutral, Unconcerned
 - b) Lack of interest, Apathy
 - c) Insensibility, Lukewarm
- 2) Biblical Concept—Rev. 3:15-16; 2:4

B. Zealous

- 1) To seek or desire eagerly.
- 2) Take warm interest in.
- 3) Jesus' example. Jn. 2:17
- 4) Man towards God. Rom. 10:2; Acts 22:3

V. DOUBTERS verses THOSE WHO TRUST IN GOD

A. Doubters

- 1) Synonyms:
 - a) Skeptic,
 - b) Uncertain
 - c) Untrustworthy
- 3) Biblical Terms:
 - a) Disbelieve—Mark 16:16
 - b) Unbelief—Heb. 3:19
 - c) Perplexed—Jn. 13:22

d) Doubt—Jas. 1:6; Lk. 24:4; Acts 11:12

B. Trust in

- 4) To have confidence in.
- 5) To trust in—Matt. 27:43
- 6) To be persuaded

C. Comments:

- 1) Doubt in the sense of uncertainty.
- 2) To doubt a person's word or promise—God's????
- 3) Apostles struggled with uncertainty about Jesus at times.
 - a) They wanted to believe.
 - b) They needed stronger trust in Him.
 - c) "Increase our faith."
- 4) What will build our trust?
- 5) How do we deal with doubt in God?

