

**ESTABLISHED BY
THE WORD OF GOD**



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CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

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INTRODUCTION

YOUR MOST VALUABLE POSSESSION

One of the most significant moments in the coronation of the Queen of England came when she was presented with a Holy Bible, as the Archbishop of Canterbury said, “Our gracious Queen: to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as a Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing which this world affords.”

Indeed, these words were appropriate for the Queen to hear as she began her reign. The Bible is the only infallible Rule for life. It is the wisdom of God written, “not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth.” (1 Corinthians 2:13). Other things will pass away, but the Word of God “liveth and abideth forever” (1 Peter 1:23).

This little booklet is prepared to help you search the Scriptures and “find an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:14). It does not attempt to cover everything, but it does raise some of the most basic questions before a young Christian, and it shows you where to find the answer. The answer is in the Word of God – “the most valuable thing which this world affords.”

How To Use This Booklet . . .

IN INDIVIDUAL STUDY

1. Use this booklet along with your Bible.
2. Read carefully the introduction to each lesson.
3. Study a few questions every day. Be regular. Develop a habit of Bible study. Take no longer than a week on each lesson.
4. After reading the question, look up the Scripture reference. In most cases, more than one verse is cited in parenthesis.
5. The second reference will usually emphasize the same idea and need to be read only if the first verse is not clear.
6. Ask God to help you find the truth sought in each Bible verse. Meditate on the verse long enough to clearly understand what it says, then what it means to you.
7. Write very briefly the answer to the question in your own words. Be yourself. Try not to just copy word for word the Bible answer.
8. Write your personal application at the end of each lesson. This will help personalize your thoughts.
9. Memorize the Scripture verses in connection with each lesson. This will enable you to meditate upon the Word of God day and night, and give you something to hold on to as you meet the issues of life.
10. When all the lessons are finished, return the booklet to your pastor or counselor for a check-up. He will then review your answers and give you further instruction.

IN GROUP STUDY

The procedure is the same as that outlined above for the individual, except that the completed lessons are discussed among the members of the group in meeting together, usually each week. Thus the group itself assumes the place of pastor or counselor in reviewing the work and in making additional assignments.

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LESSON 1

THE GOOD NEWS

You heard the good news – the best news that anyone has ever heard – the news that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). You may have heard it many times before, but this time it was different – you believed it.

You believed God. That’s why the Gospel makes sense now. This truth is hid to those who do not believe (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). The very first principle of knowledge is to believe that God is true to His Word. “Then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17).

The truth at first was not pleasant to face. You saw yourself for what you truly were – a sinner. You had rebelled against God, and had come under the just penalty of death and Hell. You knew that you were guilty. It was no use to deny it any longer. You were lost, “having no hope, and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12).

Yet you believed the good news that God still loved you. God “so loved” you that He was willing to take upon Himself the judgment of His own law of righteousness by offering His Son to die in your stead. Jesus took your place, “the Just for the unjust” that He might bring you to God (1 Peter 3:18).

Jesus paid it all. He bore in His own blameless body the shame, the suffering, and the utter separation from the Father caused by your sin. It was a terrible price, but it was the only way that God could cancel out your iniquity and still maintain His justice. There on the cross God made full satisfaction for the sins of the whole world. The atonement was finished. Everything was done that needed to be done to provide salvation from all sin for all men.

You knew that you were unworthy of such love. But God did not give you what you deserved; He gave you grace – unmerited love. It was simply a “gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

All that you could do was take God at His Word and accept His gift. And God asked nothing more. There were no strings attached to His condition for salvation. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31). Yet to believe, you had to confess and forsake all sin, and commit all that you are to Jesus in childlike trust.

This is the simple plan of salvation. It’s all that a sinner needs to know to be saved. You heard it. You believed it. You came to Jesus in repentance and faith, asked Him to save you. You may not have known how to pray, but you could say in your own way this much:

“I am a sinner. I need a Savior. I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I forsake my sins, and by faith in God’s Word, I now accept Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. By God’s grace, I will serve and obey Him all my life.”

This is not the prayer of a righteous man wanting justice, but the earnest plea of a sinner seeking mercy. And where it is sincerely prayed, God always answers for the sake of His Son. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Find It For Yourself...

1. Why is the Gospel such good news? Luke 2:10, 11

2. Why do people need to hear the Gospel? Romans 3:23 (Romans 5:12)

3. Sin has many aspects. There are sins of commission (doing what is wrong), sins of omission (not doing what is right), and unbelief in God's Word. To be specific, what is sin in respect to the law of God? 1 John 3:4 (Mark 7: 21, 22)

4. What is sin in respect to lost opportunity and privilege? James 4:17 (Matthew 23:23)

5. What is the expression of sin in respect to the Gospel of Christ? John 16:9 (John 3:19)

6. What is the consequence of sin? Romans 6:23 (Genesis 2:17)

7. The penalty of sin is death, so how could God uphold His law and still let sinners go free? 1 Peter 3:18 (2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:6)

8. What happened then to your sin when God permitted His Just Son to die for the unjust on the Cross? 1 Peter 2:24 (Galatians 1:4; 1 John 3:5)

9. Why did God who was perfect in Himself ever let His Son go through such humiliation and suffering to redeem a rebellious people? John 3:16 (Romans 5:8)

10. Who then can be saved since God loves the whole world? John 3:16 (Romans 10:13)

11. What must you do to be saved? John 3:16 (Acts 16:31)

12. Name some ways in which you express saving faith, that is, taking God at his Word and acting accordingly:

John 1:12 "As many as _____ Him..."

Matthew 7:13 "_____ ye in ..."

Revelations 3:20 : _____ the door ..."

Romans 10:10 "With the mouth _____ ..."

13. What must you do about your sin when you believe the Gospel? Mark 1:15 (Luke 13:3)

14. What does it mean to repent? Isaiah 55:7 (Luke 15:21)

15. What does Jesus promise to all who sincerely come to Him? John 6:37 (Matthew 11:28)

16. When does Jesus invite you to come and be saved? 2 Corinthians 6:2 (Isaiah 55:6)

17. Why do you not have to wait until you are better or have done more good works to be saved? Ephesians 2:8-9 (Titus 2:11)

18. What then does grace mean? Titus 3:5 (Romans 5:15; 11:6)

Make Your Own Application

Write out your experience of faith in the Gospel of Christ, telling why it is such good news to you, and how you have turned from sin unto God and accepted his grace.

Memorize ... John 3:16 and Romans 1:16

LESSON 2

CHRIST IN YOU

Jesus Christ is a personal Savior. He does not give you a mere philosophy of life or a code of ethics. He gives you Himself. The Christian life is not a creed or a dogma. It is the living fellowship with a real Person – the Son of God who loved you and gave Himself for you.

For your sake, He who could speak worlds into being accepted for a time human flesh, became a servant, was tempted in all ways as you are, suffered, died, was buried, and rose again from the grave. When, by faith you identified yourself with Him, you not only died with Christ on the Cross, but you also rose with Christ in the power of His resurrection.

Do not underestimate what has happened. Your life is made new. “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). God does not just put new clothes on your back; He puts a new man in your clothes.

His life is imparted to you through the Holy Spirit. The transforming power of the Spirit indwelling your heart by faith is so real that it is likened to “being born again” (I Peter 1:23). This does not mean that God destroys your human nature and abilities. Quite the contrary. He takes your natural powers and bends them to perform their true created purpose. Christ thus enables you to fulfill your destiny as a man created in the image of God.

The life you now live is not your own. You belong to Christ. He has redeemed you by His own blood. All that you are and all that you hope to be you owe to Him. He is your righteousness, your peace, your joy – “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27)

Find It For Yourself ...

1. What was the great reason for the Bible to be written? John 20:31

2. Why does everything depend upon what you do with Jesus? John 14:6 (Acts 4:12)

3. Who is this Person around whom all the events of redemption revolve? Not to leave this question in doubt, God the Father said: Matthew 3:17 (Matthew 17:5)

The angels said: Luke 1:32 (Luke 2:11)

The apostles said: John 6:69 (John 20:28)

People that believed said: John 4:42 (John 11:27)

4. Why then did Jesus, who was One with God, almighty in power, ever come to earth? Luke 19:10 (I Timothy 1:15)

5. How did Jesus so completely identify Himself with your human circumstances? Philippians 2:7, 8 (Romans 5:19)

6. What are the essential events in the life of Christ which you have participated in by faith? I Corinthians 15:3, 4

7. What happened when you believed that Christ died on the cross for you? Romans 6:6 (Colossians 3:3)

8. What happened when you believed that Christ rose from the grave for you? 2 Timothy 2:11 (Romans 8:11)

9. Having ascended back into heaven, what does Christ continue to do for you now? Hebrews 7:25 (Romans 8:34)

10. What does Jesus plan to do for you someday? John 14:3 (Acts 1:11)

11. What did you become in relation to God by virtue of your faith in Jesus Christ? John 1:12 (I John 3:2)

12. How does this new sonship of God come about? John 1:13 (John 3:3, 5, 7)

13. What is the teaching instrument through which the new birth is known? I Peter 1:23 (2 Peter 1:4)

14. Who is the Agent of God in effecting the new birth? Romans 8:9 (Titus 3:5)

15. How close is Christ related to you through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? John 14:20 (John 15:5)

16. What did God give you when Christ came into your life? I John 5:11 (John 11:25)

17. To boil it down, then, what two types of people are there in the world? I John 5:12 (John 3:36)

Make Your Own Application ...

Tell why Jesus Christ is worthy of your trust and how your life has found fulfillment in Him, using as a reference Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 1:21.

Memorize ... John 1:12 and I John 5:12.

LESSON 3

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT

Salvation is real. You can know it. God does not intend for you to be in doubt about this most essential thing in life. He has given you the Bible, not only that you might believe on His Son, but also “that you might know you have eternal life” (I John 5:13).

Moreover, the same Spirit that inspired the writing of the Scriptures will testify to the reality of that Word received by faith unto your own heart. “It is the Spirit that beareth witness; because the Spirit is truth” (I John 5:6). He will vouch with your spirit that you are a child of God (Romans 8:16).

Understand though what this assurance is. It is not necessarily a feeling of emotion, although this may accompany it. Salvation is something you know, not because you feel it, but because you are certain that Jesus died for your sins and rose again from the grave for your justification. These are facts which are true whether you feel like shouting or crying. Your assurance rests upon the faithfulness of God, that when you meet the conditions of His Word, He always fulfills His promises.

That which you feel within is the realization that your sins are forgiven and that you are free from condemnation. There is a resulting sense of inner peace, abiding joy, and confidence in the future. You do not know what the future holds, but you know God loves you, and He holds your future.

This is your assurance. The sin which separated between you and God is nailed to the Cross. You are reconciled. God is no stranger to you any longer. He is your Father. You are His adopted child. The Bible is your Authority. The Holy Spirit is your inner witness. Your own sense of peace agrees. That’s enough to settle any doubt.

Find It For Yourself ...

1. What is the written guarantee of eternal life? I John 5:13

2. How does the Bible accomplish its purpose in you, that is, how must you receive the Word to know that you are born of God? I John 5:1,10 (John 5:24)

3. When you meet this basic condition of faith, not in yourself, but in Christ, what is there about the nature of God that assures you of salvation? Hebrews 10:23 (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

4. How do you know in experience that the doctrines you believe are of God? John 7:17 (John 8:31, 32)

5. How does God confirm the truthfulness of what you believe directly to your heart and mind? I John 4:13; 5:6 (I Corinthians 2:12)

6. What especially is the relationship with God, resulting from your faith in Christ, to which the Holy Spirit bears witness? Romans 8:15 (Galatians 4:6)

7. Believing God's Word, what do you know that He has done with your sins? Colossians 2:13 (I John 2:12)

8. How does this sense of complete forgiveness manifest itself in your consciousness? Romans 8:1 (John 3:18)

9. What does the absence of any condemnation of sins do for your assurance of salvation? I John 3:21)

10. How does your trust in Jesus affect your anxiety about the future and the fear of death? John 14, 1, 2, 3 (2 Timothy 1:7)

11. Loving God and His calling, what wonderful assurance do you have about the way things happen to you? Romans 8:28 (2 Corinthians 4:17)

12. If your life on this earth were suddenly ended by death or the second coming of Christ, what assurance do you have? 2 Corinthians 5:1 (I John 3:2)

13. How might you sum up the way one feels now who has his faith firmly fixed in God? Romans 5:1 (Romans 15:13)

14. What is the way a Christian feels toward others which confirms his assurance of salvation? I John 3:14 (I John 3:18, 19)

15. A Christian will love God and his fellowman, but how is this love expressed? I John 5:2 (I John 2:3,5)

16. What is the confidence which you have so long as you walk obediently in all the light of God's Word that you understand? I John 1:7 (I John 2:17, 24, 25)

17. How does the assurance of salvation manifest itself in your public testimony? 2 Timothy 1:12 (Acts 2:36, I John 5:20)

Make Your Own Application ...

Write out why you know that your salvation is real, and tell what you know is true in regard to your past, present, and future in the light of John 5:24.

Memorize ... I John 5:13 and John 5:24

LESSON 4

A VICTORIOUS LIFE

When you gave yourself to Christ, you became an overcomer. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God” (I John 5:4,5)?

However, the victory is won through conquest. You might as well face it now; the Devil will fight every advance you make, and sometimes your faith will be sorely tried. You must “fight the good fight of faith” to win (I Timothy 6:2) It would be tragic to assume that you will not be tempted, or that you could not fall back into sin.

But your God is bigger than any adversary which you may face. He will not let you be tempted more than you can withstand. Through His strength, you can be more than a conqueror. In fact, your trials can be turned into opportunities for real spiritual growth and blessing if you will just mind God.

If through your failing you give way to a temptation, immediately confess it to God. You have an “Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous” (I John 2:1). Renew your commitment to Him, turn your back on the sin, and He will forgive you. Doing anything which you know displeases God will break your fellowship with Him, and thereby cause you to lose your confidence.

Beginning with Christ was wonderful, but overcoming with Him day by day is even better. You get to see His faithfulness demonstrated continually. No matter what comes, His grace is sufficient to handle any problem. He is able to supply all your needs “according to His riches in glory” (Philippians 4:19). So “be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 6:10).

Find It For Yourself ...

1. Who is it that overcometh the world? I John 5:5

2. How do you have this power to overcome? I John 4:4 (John 16:33, Philippians 4:13)

3. What does God promise to do according to His power in Christ Jesus? Philippians 4:19 (Ephesians 3:20)

4. Why is the Christian life beset with conflict and struggle? I Peter 5:8 (Ephesians 6:12)

5. What kind of person is this Devil that seeks to capture the souls of men? John 8:44 (2 Corinthians 11:14)

6. In addition to the deceitful attacks of Satan, how do temptations arise? James 1:13, 14 (Mark 7:21-23)

7. God is never the author of temptation, but He does permit His people to be tested. In this sense, what good can come out of temptations that one overcomes? James 1:2-4, 12 (Zechariah 13:9)

8. What can you be sure of in respect to every temptation that comes your way? I Corinthians 10:13

9. What must you do when temptations arise? James 4:7 (I Timothy 6:11)

10. Even though there may be strong intentions never to sin, what must you be doing to strengthen your resistance to temptation since the human flesh is weak? Matthew 26:41 (Matthew 6:13)

11. What may you be sure of when you bring your problems before the Lord in prayer? Hebrews 2:17, 18 (Hebrews 4:14-16)

12. How did Jesus resist the Devil when He was being tempted? Matthew 4:4, 7, 10 (Ephesians 6:17)

13. It being true that Jesus found great strength in knowing the promises of God during His temptation, how can you draw upon these same resources when you need them? Psalms 119:11 (Romans 10:8)

14. What is the only thing that can ever separate you from God? Isaiah 59:2 (Joshua 7:11,12)

15 If sin separates from God, then can a Christian expect not to sin deliberately? I John 3:9 (Romans 6:12)

16 It is clear that a Christian is expected to overcome the world through the power of Christ in him, but what can you do if sin is allowed to break your fellowship with God? I John 1:9 (I John 2:1)

17 What does confession mean in addition to asking God to forgive the sin? Proverbs 28:13 (Hebrews 12:1)

Make Your Own Application ...

Study Romans 8:35-39 and write out the things which God says cannot separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Tell why you have victory now over your present circumstances.

Memorize ... I Corinthians 10:13 and I John 1:9

LESSON 5

GROWING IN GRACE

The Christian life is always growing up “into the perfect man, and the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:13) No matter what you have already attained in the grace of God, there is more beyond. To stop growing is to stop living.

This continual process of growth will not always be easy. There will be times of real struggle and suffering which you must pass through. You will doubtless learn many things about your life now which will need to be brought into conformity to the obedience of Christ as your understanding of God’s will enlarges.

You will come to see, for example, that you need to be cleansed from any root of bitterness remaining in you. Experience will show you that you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to effectively serve God. Old habits may have to be broken, new disciplines formed, and many attitudes changed. There are many things that need to be added to your faith – virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (2 Peter 1:5-7)

The secret of this ever-expanding life in the fullness of God is simply to walk in all the light which He gives. Obey without question everything which He tells you to do. Follow Jesus all the way. He is Lord of your life. This will mean a daily denial of your own rights in loving submission to His Sovereignty.

God has great things for you. He will lead you on as fast as you can go. Never get discouraged if the way seems slow. He intends someday “to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24). So keep pressing on to “the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14)

Find It For Yourself ...

1. It is recognized that every new Christian starts out as a spiritual babe in Christ, but when you grow up, what are you expected to become as a man? Ephesians 4:13-15

2. In order to grow to maturity in Christ, what food must you have? I Peter 2:2 (Jeremiah 15:16)

3. As a child gradually takes a stronger diet of the Word growing in the knowledge of God, what normally is he expected to do with his childish ways? I Corinthians 13:11 (Hebrews 5:14)

4. What pitiful condition is soon evident when a young Christian does not digest more meat of the Word and progressively develop into manhood? Hebrews 5:12, 13 (I Corinthians 3:1, 2)

5. Realizing that there comes a time when a Christian looks pathetic still sucking a baby bottle, what should you do after the more elemental doctrines of Christ are mastered? Hebrews 6:1 (Matthew 5:48)

6. What about your character should you always be perfecting? 2 Corinthians 7:1 (Hebrews 12:14)

7. Why is holiness of life so necessary to you? I Peter 1:15, 16 (Matthew 5:8, I Thessalonians 4:7)

8. Holiness is likeness to God, and He wants you to be like Him, but how can you be made pure and holy in His sight? Hebrews 13:12 (Ephesians 5:26, Hebrews 10:10)

9. How do you appropriate holiness and every other benefit of the atonement of Christ? Acts 15:9 (Acts 26:18)

10. How does this faith come to you which sanctifies and cleanses your heart? John 17:17 (John 15:3)

11. What especially should you be increasing in as you perfect your faith in Christ? I Thessalonians 3:12 (Colossians 3:12-14)

12. Love is the greatest expression of holiness, but what are some other virtues in your Christian life which should be cultivated? 2 Peter 1:5-7 (Galatians 5:22, 23)

13. What should you endeavor to think about during the day? Colossians 3:1, 2 (Philippians 2:5, 2 Corinthians 10:5)

14 In the light of Christ's love for you, what is your reasonable service to Him? Romans 12:1 (2 Corinthians 4:11)

15. What does it mean to make a full surrender to Jesus Christ? Matthew 16:24 (Philippians 3:8)

16. How is your loving sacrifice to Christ expressed in terms of daily conduct? John 14:21, 23 (Matthew 16:24)

Make Your Own Application ...

One of the best descriptions of what the ethical behavior of a Christian should be is in I Corinthians 13:4-7. List the characteristic ways this love should be manifested in your life. It will be helpful to consult several different Bible translations of this passage.

Memorize I John 1:7 and John 14:21

LESSON 6

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINE

Christian experience forms spiritual habits in your personal life which nourish and deepen your devotion to God. As such, these disciplines are absolutely necessary if you are to grow up in Christ.

The guide of your life, as has already been noted, is the divinely inspired and interpreted Bible. It is the means by which God speaks to your faith. As a child desirous of the Father's will, you should learn as much of His Word as you can. Read it carefully, study it systematically, memorize it diligently, meditate upon it continuously and practice it faithfully.

You commune with God through prayer. It is the air which your spirit breathes. You cannot live without it. Pray in the morning when you get up, and again before going to bed at night. Always give thanks to God before every meal. And sometime during the day, if possible, have prayer with your family.

In addition, the habit of investing a longer period of time alone with God every day or so would be of immeasurable benefit to your spiritual life. During this quiet time, you can more leisurely search the Scriptures and meditate upon the purposes of God for your life.

You also need to faithfully support a church where the pure Word of God is preached, and the sacraments duly administered. It is part of the Body of Christ. Give it of your most devoted prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service. You cannot develop as you should without this fellowship with others seeking the power of godliness, watching over one another in love, and endeavoring together to work out your salvation.

Find It For Yourself ...

1. What is more necessary than food for you to live? Job 23:12

2. From a practical standpoint, why must you have the Word of God to live every day? Psalms 119:105, 130 (2 Peter 1:19)

3. Why is the Bible an infallible Guide in all matters of faith and practice? 2 Timothy 3:16 (2 Peter 1:20, 21; I Corinthians 2:13)

4. It is assuring to know that God so inspired the chosen men who wrote the Scriptures that they were guarded against any error in their selection of words to express the truth which He wanted revealed, but how does God guide you in interpreting these Words? John 16:13 (I Corinthians 2:12)

5. Since the Holy Spirit interprets the Scriptures which He inspired, what is a good thing to do when you open the Bible? Psalms 119:18, 27 (James 1:5)

6. You must ask God to help you understand the Bible, but what must you do on your part to really get the meat of the Word? 2 Timothy 2:15 (Acts 17:11)

7. What should you do with the Word of God in your mind day and night? Joshua 1:8 (Psalms 1:2)

8. What does Jesus promise those who abide in Him? John 15:7 (Luke 11:9-10)

9. How does the Holy Spirit help you when you pray in Christ? Romans 8:26, 27 (I Corinthians 2:10)

10. What can block the channel of prayer in your life? Psalms 66:18 (I John 3:21, 22)

11. Why are some prayers of good men unanswered? James 4:3 (I John 5:14, 15)

12. How does your faith affect your prayer to God? Matthew 21:22 (Mark 11:24)

13. In what attitude must prayer and supplications be offered? Philippians 4:6 (Ephesians 5:20)

14. What are some things for which to pray? Psalms 139: 23, 24; Ephesians 3:19

15. How does Jesus regard the value of prayer in small groups? Matthew 18:19

16. What must Christians be careful not to neglect? Hebrews 10:25 (Deuteronomy 12:5)

17. How are members of the church to regard one another? Galatians 6:2 (James 5:16; I Corinthians 12:12)

18. What is a good habit to form in your support of the church? I Corinthians 16:2 (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Make Your Own Application ...

Jesus taught His disciples to pray after the manner recorded in Matthew 6:9-13 (Luke 11:2-4). Outline in your own words the seven things asked for in the prayer. Note especially how the worship of God and submission to His will precedes your own concerns.

Memorize John 15:7 and Psalms 119:11

LESSON 7

SAVED TO TELL OTHERS

God has made a tremendous investment in you. He expects a return. You were chosen “that you might go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain” (John 15:16) He not only saved you from sin, He saved you for His work. He has a job for you. You were “created in Christ Jesus unto good work” (Ephesians 2:10).

Your good deeds, of course, are not the basis of your salvation. You are saved only by the grace of God through faith. But having been redeemed, you start working for God. Now others, seeing your good works, give glory to your Father in Heaven. God gets the credit for it, but someday you will get a reward for it.

God is counting on you. You are His instrument in ministering to the needs of the world. Look around for these opportunities for service. Surely there is something that you can do. He will give you the strength to do His work, if you will only trust Him, and let Him lead you on.

Above all, God wants you to represent Him before those who do not know His grace. This was the supreme mission of His Own Son when He came to earth, “not be to ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Now, in the power of His spirit He sends you out to be His witness “unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard” (Acts 22:15).

The love of Christ constrains you to this task. It is your reason for living. You are born to reproduce. What a thrill! You are a co-laborer with Christ in telling the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth and unto the end of time.

Find it For Yourself ...

1. Why did God choose to save you? John 15:16

2. How does God feel if you do not bring forth fruit in your life? John 15:2 (Luke 13:6-9)

3. It is certain that no amount of good works saves you since you are saved by faith in Christ, but why are they so important? James 2:17, 18 (Titus 3:8)

4. When you, in love, help others, who are you actually serving? Matthew 25:40 (John 21:16)

5. How can pure religion be defined in this sense of unselfish service James 1:27 (Romans 13:10)

6. How do your good works, done in the Name of Christ, reflect upon God? Matthew 5:16 (I Peter 2:12)

7. What did Jesus regard as the supreme work of God John 6:29 (John 6:40)

8. Since the whole work of God is summed up in Jesus Christ, what will become of those who refuse to participate by faith in His salvation? John 8:24 (John 3:18)

9. Moved by love for the multitudes who were lost, Jesus came into the world to save sinners. In the light of Christ's work, if you follow Him, what will you become? Matthew 4:19 (Luke 5:10)

10. Since God works through human personality, what does the world so desperately need today? Matthew 9:38 (Romans 10:14,15)

11. Why should you be willing to do the work of Christ? I John 3:16 (2 Corinthians 5:14)

12. What are expected to tell those you see who do not know the Savior? I John 1:3 (Acts 22:15)

13. What do you realize when a soul is converted to Christ? James 5:20 (Matthew 18:3)

14. How has God provided the spiritual power for you to be His witness for Christ? Acts 1:8 (Luke 24:49)

15. What is the great commission which Jesus gave to His people? Matthew 28:10 (Mark 16:15)

16. What does Jesus promise to all those who obey His great commission? Matthew 28:20

17. What reward has God promised to all those who are faithful unto the end? 2 Timothy 4:8 (I Peter 5:4)

18. What should you do now with the knowledge that you have gained from this study? 2 Timothy 2:2 (I Peter 5:2)

Make your Own Application ...

Reviewing the principles of the Gospel studied in Lesson 1, tell how you would explain to the lost sinner what he must do to be saved. Recall your own experience as an illustration of what you mean.

Memorize ... I John 1:3 and Matthew 28:19,20

Accomplished ...

You have reason to be proud of yourself after having completed these lessons. It represents real accomplishment on your part, but the job is still

.... Not Finished

Let your pastor or counselor go over your answers to see if you have fully grasped the vital truths of each lesson. This experienced advisor will then be able to counsel with you concerning any questions left unanswered in your mind, and also instruct you on the next step to take in your Christian pilgrimage. It would a good thing, too, if you would let someone check you for word perfection on your memory verses.

God wants you to get thoroughly established in His Word. Completing these lessons has helped you get started, but it is only a beginning. You need to go on to more advanced and intensive Bible studies of your own. Adopt some plan. Perhaps you could take the Gospel of John, and after reading it through as a whole make a study of it verse by verse.

You have already practiced the basic principles of Bible study. Simply ask yourself the following questions as you search the Scriptures:

- (1) What does the passage say?
- (2) What does the passage mean?
- (3) How can I apply it to my life today?

Answering these simple questions in regard to any passage of the Bible, you can dig out for yourself the riches of God's Word.

**YOU HAVE MADE A WONDERFUL BEGINNING.
JUST DON'T QUIT.
BETTER THINGS ARE BEFORE YOU.
SEEK THEM. FIND THEM.
APPLY THEM
DETERMINE TO
...KEEP GOING**