

Year One

Lessons for Home Meetings

The white horse and Him who sat on it... goes forth conquering
and to conquer.



Our Faith

Jesus Christ: God's Son, Our Savior

"The Word was with God, and the Word was God"

John 1:1

"The Lord gave the Word, Great was the company of those that published it!" Psa. 68:11

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Bible verses were quoted from the King James Bible (kjb) unless otherwise indicated. Also used are the American Standard Version (asv), and the Darby Translation (dby). Verses paraphrased are indicated by (para). "gk" indicates the meaning of the word in Greek. In some places common English words like "has, was, you" are used instead of the old kjv words like "hast, wast, ye" etc.

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Lesson 1 Being a Believer and Growing

To come to Jesus Christ is to become a believer in God and all that He has done for us. It is also to believe into Jesus, to trust in Him, to have faith in Him, and to follow Him.

When we believe in Him a number of wonderful, unseen things happen:

- Our sins are forgiven by God: John 1:9
- We pass out of death into Life: John 5:24
- We are saved from God's condemnation: Rom. 8:1
- We become born anew, born again: 1 Peter 1:3
- We receive the Holy Spirit: John 20:22
- We get grafted into Christ: Rom. 11:24 and we are indwelt by Christ: Gal. 2:20

The witness of John the Baptist:

John said regarding Jesus: Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world ... I saw and bear record that this is the Son of God. John 1:29, 34

Jesus is Calling:

Jesus said: Follow me... John 1:43. Come and follow me... Matthew 19:21. ...follow me and I will make you fishers of men Matthew 4:19.

Jesus said: Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest for your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said: ... If any man thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, within him shall flow rivers of living water... but this He spoke of the Spirit... John 7:37-39(asv)

Jesus said: For the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world ... I am the bread of life, he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. John 6:33, 34

Jesus said: I am the light of the world, he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12

As human beings, we need to follow Jesus and believe in Him. Jesus gives us peace in our souls, His Spirit satisfies our thirst, He as our food fills our hunger, and Jesus is the light of life in our life. He is all of these things to those who follow Him.

Having Eternal Life

Jesus said:

- Verily, verily, I say to you, he that believeth hath eternal life John 6:47 (asv)
- Verily, Verily, I say to you, that he who hears my word, and believeth Him that sent me, has eternal life, and shall not come into judgement, but is passed from death unto life. John 5:24 (asv)
- And this is the will of him that sent me that everyone which sees the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:40
- He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life, but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him. John 3:36 (asv)
- Verily, Verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. John 8:51
- ... I lay down my life for the sheep ... My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand ... no one is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my father are one. John 10:15, 27-30

- As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:14-15

In saying this, Jesus was referring to Numbers 21:4-9 when God told Moses to put a brass serpent on a wooden pole and all who gazed at it would be healed from the bite of the deadly serpents that were among the people. Jesus points out, that He would be that “brass serpent” on the cross that all who “look will live”.

- For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16 (asv)
- For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:17-18
- I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. John 11:25

Our passing out of death into life has been made possible by the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the cross of Calvary. Receiving eternal life happens by belief in the Lord Jesus. Eternal life, is much more than living for eternity. Eternal life is God begetting His life in us. This life is divine and it conveys His nature to us. Thus, receiving eternal life results in a new birth, and this makes us sons of God in reality. See Recovery Version John 16:8 footnote 2. (get a free copy at www.BiblesForAmerica.org)

In summary:

“Whosoever drinks of the water that I will shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up into eternal life” John 4:14 (asv)

Later, we will see how belief is followed by baptism. Baptism is a critical step for a new believer. If you have recently believed into Jesus, please have your Christian friends baptize you.

It is also a good time for you to tell other people of your new-found faith and how you have been brought from darkness to light (Acts 26:18).

Growing

The Christian Life is primarily a life of growing. The Lord planted us as his crop in Matthew 13:3 with full expectation that we grow. 1 Peter 3:18 says to “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...”

One of the most important items in our Christian life is to grow (Eph. 4:15, Col 2:19, I Cor. 3:6-7, Mat 13:23).

Every morning we should rise a little earlier so that we may spend time in the word of God and in fellowship with Him. Early rising to fellowship with God is a characteristic of his people (Psa. 63:1, 108:2-3, Mark 1:36). The main purpose of this time is not the study. It is to be nourished with the word. For example in the morning you do not study the dietary benefits of your breakfast. Rather you eat it to enjoy it, that you might be nourished and strengthened for the day, 1 Timothy 4:6.

Many New Testament experiences are portrayed in types and figures in the Old Testament. This experience of spiritual feeding is portrayed in Exodus 16:4-31 with the bread from heaven, manna. God's people were wandering in the wilderness and manna came down from heaven every night as a supply from God for His people. They would have to rise early in the morning to collect it. If they waited too long, it would melt away and be lost. Likewise there is a heavenly supply from God for which we need to rise early, collect, and eat every day. This is a crucial practice that each believer in Jesus Christ must do that they may grow unto maturity.

Lesson 2 Belief and Confession unto Salvation

Rom. 10:14-15 How then shall they call on Him (Jesus) in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things (para).

Rom 10:8-10 The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of the faith which we preach; that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart there is believing unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (para).

In the spiritual realm, our heart believes and our mouth cooperates by confessing. Confess His name "Jesus is Lord". Say "Lord Jesus, I love you! Tell him "Thank you for dying for me!" and just call His name, "Lord Jesus".

Romans 10:9 says: "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved " (para). What is to confess? The dictionary says to confess is to admit or to confess is to admit as true. So, as a believer, we admit with our mouth that Jesus is Lord to be saved.

Romans 10:12-13 For there is no difference between Jew and Greek (i.e. non-Jew), for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him; for whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (para).

Call His name, "Lord Jesus". His name is sweet. Our calling His name is our confessing Him unto salvation, and our heart believes in Him and that God raised Him from the dead. "Lord Jesus, I believe in you"!

Confessing saves us. Even after we believe in Jesus and walk with Him, we continue to call on Him to be filled with Him. The

scripture says, the same Lord is rich to all who call upon Him
Romans 10:12 (para).

Lesson 3 **Baptism**

There are many pairs in nature: black and white, man and woman, belief and baptism. Likewise when a person takes a full step, he has to take one step with one foot and another with the other foot. So, belief followed by baptism are the one “full step” of salvation.

“He who believeth and is baptized shall be saved...” Mark 16:16

Belief and baptism are one full step and the Bible shows that one typically follows the other immediately.

Acts 2:38... Repent and be baptized each one of you upon the name of Jesus Christ...

Acts 8:26-28 Phillip shared the gospel with an Ethiopian eunuch. Then the eunuch said “here is water, what prevents me from being baptized? The eunuch was baptized immediately after his belief.

Acts 16:33 The jailor in Phillipi was baptized immediately after his salvation in the middle of the night by Paul.

Acts 8:12 Corinthians believed and were baptized immediately afterwards.

Acts 2:41 In Jerusalem those who received Peter’s word of the gospel were baptized immediately.

Acts 9:10, 17-18 a simple believer named Ananias baptized Paul. He was a disciple, not an apostle, not a pastor. Any male believer may baptize another believer.

Rom 6: 3-5, Col 2:12 The Greek word for baptism means immersion.

We see a picture of this in the old testament book of Exodus 12, where God commanded the children of Israel to escape Pharaoh's bondage first by the Passover lamb and then by leaving Egypt through the red sea. First, God judged all of Pharaoh's domain by killing all of the firstborn sons. Moses told the children of Israel to sacrifice the lamb and apply its blood on their doorposts, thus when Jehovah came through, He passed-over that house and all who were in it were saved. The next step was to eat the lamb for strength. Finally all of the children of Israel needed to flee Egypt and pass through the "baptism" of the Red sea (I Cor. 10:2), thus entering a new realm where they could serve God (Exo 10:3). So, in like manner, our belief in Jesus saves us from God's judgement and our escaping the world through baptism are the two steps we need to take in order to enter the realm of God's new creation to serve Him.

Anyone who has not been baptized please tell us and we will baptize you. You will be raised to walk in newness of life. Satan (Pharaoh) will no longer have a hold on you

Many Christian affiliations like to add additional steps or requirements for a person to be baptized. They can do this, but in the Bible we find that belief is the first and only requirement.

Once a person believes in Jesus, it is good if they are baptized right away.

Things to avoid:

Many believers like to discuss the theological issue of whether baptism is necessary. Sometimes we just need to take the Bible for what it says, and not be weighed down by philosophical discussions.

The best answer I have heard was from a young lady, she said: Jesus himself was baptized. If it was good enough for him then it is good enough for me.

Lesson 4 I call my sheep by name

Jesus coming to save you is very personal. He calls you by name. He loves you personally. John 15:9 says "As the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Abide in My love"(asv.).

Jesus said "I am the Good shepherd. I call my own sheep by name. John 10:3, 11 (asv.).

Jesus will move heaven and earth to save one of His sheep.

He will leave the 99 and go find the one. "What man of you who has 100 sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the 99 in the wilderness and go after that which is lost until he finds it? And when he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes into his house, he calls together his friends and his neighbors and says to them rejoice with me for I have found my sheep that was lost" Luke 15:4 (asv.).

He did not ask you to climb the mountain to come to Him. He came down the mountain to find and save you.

Write down on paper the details of how Jesus found you and saved you. Write the date and save this for yourself.

Then we will have prayer and you will thank Jesus for how He found you and saved you. This is not for others. This is for you to realize the immensity of His love for you.

Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. John 14: 6

Jesus said "All who come unto me I will in no wise cast out" John 6:37 (asv.).

Jesus said "He who believes Him that sent me has eternal life and cometh not into judgement but has passed out of death into Life" John 5:24 (asv.).

Titus 3:4-5 (asv.) When the kindness of God our savior and His love toward man appeared, not by works done in righteousness which we did ourselves, but according to His mercy He saved us through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson 5 Who is this Jesus?

It will take time to cover this because this is THE question about THE person.

In space, in the universe, He is THE person. He is over all, through all and in all. Col 4:6

In time, for all time, He is THE person. 1 Tim 1:17 calls Him "The King eternal..."

In importance, He is THE person. Col 1:18 says "that in all He may have the preeminence."

In value, in preciousness, He is THE person. Song of songs 1:1 Draw me, we will run after Thee. And "Thy love is much better than wine."

He was born of a real woman- Mary. Matt 1:18 (asv.) "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When His mother, Mary, had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit."

Mary was human, the Holy Spirit is divine. Jesus is a compound person. He was truly man and He is truly God. He was in Mary's womb as a baby for nine months. He was born a baby in a manger in Bethlehem. He grew up with his parents, Joseph and Mary, in Nazareth. Luke 2:49-52 He grew in wisdom and stature. To grow in wisdom is to grow in the divine life. Growth in stature refers to growth in His humanity.

These verses show His divinity:

John 14:9(asv.) Have I been so long a time with you Phillip and you don't know me. He that hath seen Me has seen the Father.

John 1:1(asv.) In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

John 1:14(asv.) The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of Grace and Truth.

Isaiah 9:6(asv.) Unto us is a child is born, unto us a son is given... and His name shall be called Wonderful, counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace.

He is God and He is man. He is the son of God and the son of man. So, we see He lived as a perfect man.

He died as a man, He was resurrected as a man and He is now still a man in the heavens. When Stephen was being martyred in Acts 7:56 he said "I see the heavens opened and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." Jesus is a man in the heavens. He is God and He is a man. He has all the human attributes He had on earth, except now they are in resurrection. He is God and He is a man. This makes Him the perfect mediator between God and man. (1 Tim. 2:5)

Lesson 6 The Savior

He is the Savior. Jesus is our savior. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Luke 2:11(asv.) and the angel said unto them I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people, for there is born to you this day in the city of David, a savior who is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you: you shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

John 4:42 The Samaritans said: This one is truly the savior of the world.

He is my savior, He is your savior. What has He saved us from?

He has saved us from God's condemnation of the world. He has saved us from having the same fate as the world, which is eternal

judgement, the lake of fire. John 1:29 Jesus died for the sins of the world.

The unique sin is not believing in the Son of God, Jesus Christ. It is for this sin that the world is condemned by God and sent to eternal judgement (Rev. 20:15, Jn. 16:11). Christ is our Savior. His sacrifice on the cross has fully satisfied God and saved us from eternal judgement.

What did Jesus save you from? One common experience of salvation is to feel a big load lifted off your shoulders. This load was the burden of sin, and the relief shows that Christ has saved you from it.

Romans 10:13 (asv.) Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. The following are examples of people being saved whom we know personally.

A woman who lived in Los Angeles was in an earthquake. She called out to the Lord to save her and He did. Jesus came into her.

A woman in New Jersey was listening to preaching in a church and the Lord spoke to her in her heart "I am your Lifeguard" For some reason this had great significance to her and she believed from that time forward.

A young girl in Indiana was told she could have Jesus. She said "Who me? I can?" The answer was yes. She prayed a prayer that asked the Lord to come into her and be hers. She was saved and very happy.

A child heard people praying. She began to call on the name of the Lord and she was saved. She became very excited and ran around.

A believer was in another country hiking and saw a very sad woman. She could not speak the language, so simply told her that Jesus loved her. This simple sentence led to the woman's salvation. She revealed that she was thinking about suicide, but finding out about Jesus saved her from that.

This One is truly savior of the world. 1 John 4:14 and we have beheld and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world.

1 Tim 4:10 For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach because we trust in the living God who is the savior of all men, especially of those that believe. Jesus is our savior. He is the savior of the world. He has saved us from sin, sins, God's judgement, condemnation, and being lost forever into His salvation and a glorious future. How we love our savior and we want others to know Him also.

Lesson 7 The Lamb of God

The Word of God is very clear, God will judge the world through Jesus Christ. But it is not God's desire for mankind perish, rather "... that all should come to repentance" 2 PT 3:9

Jesus said: "Those eighteen, upon whom the tower of Siloam fell, and killed them, think ye that they were offenders above all men that dwell in Jerusalem? I tell you nay, but except you repent, you shall all likewise perish" Luke 13:4-5(asy).

"... it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgement" Heb. 9:27

In a sense, God has a difficulty. He must judge the world in righteousness, for the foundation of His throne and of all that He does is righteousness. But as far as we are concerned "... there is none righteous, no, not one" Rom. 3:10 and "... the wages of sin is death" Rom 6:23. Then Hebrews tells us "... without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" Heb. 9:22 (para).

So God has a problem to solve, and we have an even bigger problem, as sin condemns us to suffer God's judgement. But with big problems we have a Big God who has a big plan with a God sized solution to this predicament we are in.

This solution is called:

The Lamb of God

Why did John the Baptist call Jesus the Lamb of God in John 1:29? In Exodus 12 the children of Israel applied the blood of a perfect lamb to the doorposts in order to escape God's judgement. This was known as the Passover. In like manner, Jesus is the spotless Lamb who was being offered up for our sins.

John the Baptist identified Jesus as the Lamb of God.

John 1:29 "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". Isaiah 53:6 tells us "God has laid on him the iniquity of us all". Therefore when Jesus was on the cross, he cried "my God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?". It was at this time that the sinless Lamb of God bore the sins of the world, dying in our stead. Now, all who believe in him are not condemned, because "the just died for the unjust" 1 Pet. 3:18. Heb. 9:12 neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained an eternal redemption for us. What a mercy, what a plan.

In Christ we have redemption. The price is paid, we are purchased back to God. Our Lord did this on the cross once for all. We are redeemed by the blood of the lamb.

Due to man's sin, our relationship with God was ruined. We needed to be redeemed, brought back to God. We needed to be reconciled in our relationship with God, we needed our sins to be forgiven, paid for, and removed from us. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross accomplished all this and fixed our problem with God, giving us a new start with a clean conscience and a new life within to live to Him.

Jesus is the perfect, sinless, spotless Lamb of God. He was born of a virgin and was without sin. Heb. 4:15 For we have not a high priest not able to sympathize with our infirmities, but tempted in all things in like manner, sin apart (dby.). He was spotless and

without blemish. He was tested by God and man. He came out blameless. So, He could be the spotless Lamb to die in our place and accomplish redemption so we could be forgiven by God and reconciled to Him. He was such a perfect Lamb. God was fully satisfied with His sacrifice. He took our place. We are absolved and forgiven. We can now come to God without guilt. We have the blood of the Lamb. He could only be this lamb if He was a man of flesh and blood, yet perfect, without sin. He took this flesh and blood to the cross and died for us. He accomplished an eternal redemption. Heb. 9:12 We thank Him for being the Lamb of God.

Lesson 8 Christ's work on the Cross

The most important event in the universe was Christ going to the cross to accomplish redemption for all mankind. He paid the price. He died for us.

Isaiah 53 He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastening of our peace was upon Him, by His stripes we are healed. The Lord laid upon Him the iniquity of us all. He makes Himself an offering for sin, He shall bear their iniquities. He poured out His life unto death, He bore the sins of many.

2 Cor. 5:19 God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.

Hebrews 9:12, 14 By His own blood, He entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained an eternal redemption. Vs 14 much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Heb. 9:26 but now once, at the completion of the ages, He has been manifested for the annulment of sin through the sacrifice of Himself. Heb. 9:28 Christ was offered to bear the sins of many;

will appear, to those that look for Him, a second time without sin...

Heb 10:10 We have been sanctified (made holy) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Heb 10: 12 This man, having offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.

Heb 10:17 He says "Their sins and their iniquities I will by no means remember any more"

Isaiah 1:18 though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool (dby.).

Psalm 103: 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us (dby.).

Christ's offering on the cross was once for all. It is done. When He comes again, Heb. 9:28 says He will appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

As human beings we all have inherited sin from Adam. This is sometimes called original sin. As we live, what we are results in sins. So, all of us actually have both sin and sins. However, both our sin and sins are fully taken care of by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. God will not remember their sins anymore (Heb. 10:17). This is the truth as revealed in the bible and we receive it from Him. Thus we are eternally saved, justified and reconciled to Him.

Eph. 1:7 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

Col. 1:20 and having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things to Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things on earth or things in heaven.

Also, according to John 16:11 the ruler of this world has been judged. Satan was judged on the cross. Heb. 2:14 that through

death He might annul him that had the might of death, that is, the devil.

Rom. 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. We were baptized into His death, so we might walk in newness of life.

Christ's work on the cross is eternally efficacious, eternally effective. We are eternally grateful to Him for what He did. Wow, what a salvation we have received!

Some errors to avoid:

The Bible says a lot of things, so it is easy for misunderstandings to arise. There are two sections in Hebrews that are commonly misunderstood. We need to understand that the writer was exhorting the Jewish Christians of the first century to be bold to enter the New Testament way (Heb. 10:19, 35) and realize that their old Judaistic way had expired (Heb. 10:18).

First, Hebrews 6: 4-6 says that a person who has been enlightened, yet has fallen away, cannot renew themselves again to repentance. The concept is simple, the Jewish believer has fallen away from the New Testament way. Such a person does not need to "repent and believe in Jesus" again. They are already the good earth (vs 7). Any person who has turned away from God can at any moment repent and turn their heart back to God. 2 Cor. 3:15 says But when it (*the heart*) shall turn to the Lord the veil shall be taken away". When the heart turns, the veil is taken away! Then we behold and reflect the glory of the Lord (vs 18). No problem!

The other one is found in Heb 10:19-26, please read it.

According to the context, what is it to "sin willfully" here? The "sin" is to forsake the assembling of the New Testament Jewish believers and to forsake the New Testament way. Then Hebrews says, there no long remains a "sacrifice for sins". What does this mean? It means that in God's plan, all Jewish Old Testament

sacrifices have been ended! Jesus Christ replaced all these with His sacrifice.

So, this section does not mean that if we do a sin willfully that we cannot be forgiven. That is an incorrect interpretation of this verse. I John 1:9 categorically states, If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. The purpose of Hebrews was to encourage the readers to be brought on to maturity (Heb. 6:1), to be bold to enter the New Testament way (Heb. 10:19, 35) and realize that their old Judaistic way had expired (Heb. 10:18).

Lesson 9 The Good Shepherd, Life, Light, Love

He is the Good Shepherd. Luke 15 and John 10

Luke 15 The Good Shepherd has 100 sheep. He leaves the 99 and goes out to find the one which is lost. When he finds it he lays it on his shoulder and brings it home rejoicing. He calls his friends and neighbors and says rejoice with me for I have found my sheep which was lost.

John 10:1-14 I am the Good Shepherd. My sheep know me and go in and out and find pasture.

He is Life.

John 1:4 In Him was life and life was the light of men. "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." 1 John 5:12 He that has the son has life. 1 John 1:2 The life was manifested and we have seen it and bear witness and show unto you the eternal life.

In the Garden of Eden He was the tree of life and in the New Jerusalem He is the tree of life growing on both sides of the street.(Rev. 22)

John 6:48 I am the bread of life. He who eats me shall live by me.

He is light.

John 1:4 In Him was life and the life was the light of men. John 8:12: He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life (para). 1 Jn. 1:5 God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 1:7 If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

He is Love.

1 John 4:16 God is Love. John 3:16 God so loved the world that He have His only begotten son that whoever believes into Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jesus loved sinners. Rom. 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ...

He cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene. He loved Lazarus and raised him from the dead. John 11:36 "how He loved him." John 15:12 This is my commandment, that you love one another even as I have loved you.

He commands us to love one another with the same love with which He loved us.

Love is described in 1 Cor. 13. Love suffers long, love is kind, it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up. It does not behave unbecomingly, it does not seek its own things, it is not provoked and does not take account of evil. It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. Love covers all things, love believes all things, love hopes all things, love endures all things. And Love never fails. Vs 2 says if I have not love I am nothing.

1 Cor. 13:13 Now there abide faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is Love.

1 John 4:7 Beloved let us love one another; for love is of God and everyone that loves is born of God and knows God. He that loves not knows not God because God is Love.

Vs 10-11 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if

God has loved us, we ought also to love one another.... No man has seen God at any time, if we love one another, God dwells in us and His love is perfected in us. Our savior is Life, light and love. Let us be known for our love.

Jesus is Life, light, and love from God to us. As ones who were dead in our sins (Eph. 2:1) we have Jesus Christ as life to us, that we may be alive to God and walk in Him.

As ones who were in darkness (Matt. 4:16), we have Jesus Christ as light in our life. Light gives us understanding, light causes us to grow (1 Cor. 3:6). Light keeps all darkness away from us. Jesus is light to us.

As ones in need of the great mercies of God (Eph. 2:4), God sent His very heart, the sweet Lord Jesus to save our soul and to love us (Eph. 5:2). Now that we are redeemed, saved, blood- washed and Spirit filled, we can love one another. 1 John 4:10-11 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God has loved us, we ought also to love one another... No man has seen God at any time, if we love one another, God dwells in us and His love is perfected in us. Our savior is Life, Light, and love. Let us be known for our love.

Lesson 10 Lord of All

In Gen. 1:1 we learn "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Then He made the bodies of water (1:9-10) the sun, the moon, and the stars (1:16) and all animals (1:20-25). In chapter 2 He created the man, Adam (2:7) and subsequently, a woman, Eve (2:22). He is the Creator. He created all things. He is our God. The earth, the heavens, the planets, stars, principles of physics, organisms, plants, oceans, rivers, lakes, streams, mountains, valleys, small and large animals, man , the human body; He created them all.

Acts 2:36 God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.

The God of the universe has given us His only Son, Jesus Christ. God made Him Lord. God has made him Christ. To this One, God has given all authority in heaven and on earth. (Matt. 28:18) God also made Him over all rule and authority (Col. 2:10).

Therefore, Jesus Christ our Lord is Lord of All. This is confirmed by Rev. 17: 14: He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. All authority has been given Him in heaven and on earth.

When Jesus was on earth as a man, possessing the fullness of the God-head (Col 2:9), He performed many miracles. He healed the sick (Matt. 9:6-8, He turned water into wine (John 2), healed the blind (Mark 8), commanded the waves and the wind (Matt. 8:23-27), raised the dead (John 11:43), cast out demons (Mark 1:39), ruled over the demons, Satan, all creation, calmed the sea in Mark 4:38; He had all the power of the Godhead. When He resurrected from the dead He also ascended into heaven. He is the ruler, the Lord of All.

Romans 14:11 as I live says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to me, every tongue shall confess to God.

He is the expression of God. Heb. 1:3 (asv.) Who being the effulgence of His glory and the very image of His substance.

When He was on earth Jesus said He only did what the Father was doing and only said what the Father was saying. (John 6:38) He expressed God. What He was and what He did expressed what God the Father is.

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of Him (God) from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse...

Friend in Kentucky: Told us that as a child she saw creation and asked her mother where did all this come from? She was told God made it for us. She then began to thank God for each tree and

flower one after another, through this the little girl mixed faith with the word (Heb. 4:2) resulting in the birth of new life within her (John 1:12).

He is Lord of all, the Creator and the Word.

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

He now needs to be the Lord in us. He cannot be just a far-away God, but He must be Lord in each and every one of His believers! How do we let Him be the Lord in us? By listening to and obeying Him. Luke 6:46 says "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord' and not do the things which I say?"

He is the Word of God (John 1:1, 14), so, when we are unclear about something, we can go to His word, the Bible, and find our answer.

Lesson 11 Grace

What is grace? Many people say grace is unmerited favor. But what does the bible say about grace?

Titus 2:11: For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. So it is grace that brings salvation, and that grace has appeared. Therefore, we can see that grace is a person. And this person is Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul mentioned grace numerous times in all his epistles. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you". (Romans 16:20 among many others.) This grace was so real to him, because he experienced this grace personally. This grace brought him through many trials and tribulations. As His word says: "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Cor. 12:9).

He is Grace. The law was given thru Moses, Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17). The law was a set of

written rules, whereas Grace and Truth was in the person of Jesus Christ. Grace and Truth came with Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 15:10 By the Grace of God I am what I am and His grace which was bestowed unto me was not in vain but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I but the grace of God which was with me. Here in this verse Paul says: grace labored, this is grace personified. It is a person. This is just like Gal 2:20, which says: It is no longer I but Christ who lives in me.

Grace is Christ. Grace be with you. Stand in Grace. Persevere in Grace. Continue in Grace. The Grace which came unto you. We have all received grace upon grace. That grace might reign through the One. Grace did abound. We are not under law but Grace. Being justified freely by His Grace. If of works then it is no longer by Grace. Through the Grace given unto me. The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Grace be with you and peace.

According to the grace of God given to me I have laid a good foundation. By the Grace of God I am what I am. The abundant Grace. See that you abound in the Grace. God is able to make all grace abound. My Grace is sufficient for you because my strength is perfected in weakness. According to the riches of His Grace. By Grace you are saved. Unto every one of us is given Grace according to the riches of Christ. Be strong in the Grace. The Grace of our Lord was exceeding.

Singing with Grace in your hearts to God. Find Grace to help in time of need. He gives more Grace. Heirs together of the grace of life. Stewards of the manifold Grace of God. God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. The true Grace of God in which we stand. Grace and Peace be multiplied to you. Eph. 2:8 By Grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Grace is Christ. Stand in Grace. Anything mentioned so many times in the New Testament deserves our attention. Grace is Christ. Grace be with you.

John 1:14, 17, Rom 16:20, 1 Cor. 15:10, 2 Cor. 12:9, 13:14, Gal 2:21, 6:18, Eph. 4:29, 6:24, Phil 4:23, Col 4:6, 4:18, 1 Thess. 5:28, 2 Thess.

3:18, 1 Tim 1:14, 6:21, 2 Tim. 1:9, 2:1, 4:22, Titus 2:11, 3:7, 3:15, Heb. 12:28, 13:25, 1 Pet 1:2

Lesson 12 Truth

Christ is truth. Truth is mentioned over 100 times in the New Testament. John 14: 6 I am the way, the truth and the life. Also in the book of John, verse 1:17 it says "the law was given through Moses, Grace and truth came with Jesus Christ." These verses show us that Christ is truth.

Many Christians know of verse 8:32 in John "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free". Just a few verses later, John 8:36 says "If therefore the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed. So, we have the truth setting free and the Son setting free. Therefore, this shows us that the truth and the Son are one and the same.

In John 17:17 the Lord Jesus prayed to the father "Thy word is truth." Thy word here refers to God's word.

So, we have Jesus is truth and God's word is truth. We have both Jesus and God's word.

John 8: 32 You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. John 17:17 Thy word is truth.

2 John 4:4 I hear your children are walking in the truth. 3 John 1:1 To Gaius whom I love in the truth.

2 John 1:1 Her children whom I love in the truth. Your steadfastness in the truth even as you walk in the truth. 3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. Gal. 2:5 the truth of the gospel. Eph. 4:15 Speak the truth in love. Titus 1:14 Men who turn away from the truth. John 4:24 God is Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.

2 Tim 2:15 rightly dividing the word of truth.

Psalms: Lead me in thy truth and teach me.

Psalms 25:10 The paths of the lord are mercy and truth. Psalm 31:5 Thou hast redeemed me o Lord God of Truth. Psalm 40:11 Thy truth continually preserve me. Psalm 43:3 O send out thy light and thy Truth. Psalm 51:6 Thou desirest truth in the inward parts. Psalm 57:3 Send forth His mercy and His truth. Psalm 85:11 Truth shall spring out of the earth. Psalm 86:11 Teach me thy way O Lord and I will walk in thy truth. Psalm 89:14 Mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Psalm 117:2 The truth of the Lord endures forever. Psalm 119:30 I have chosen the way of truth. Psalm 119:151 All thy commandments are truth Prov. 16:6. By mercy and truth iniquity is purged.

1 Tim 2:4 God desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth. Prov. 23:23 Buy the truth and sell it not. 1 Pet. 1:22 You have purified your souls by obedience to the truth.

John 1:17 the law was given through Moses, Grace and Truth came with Jesus Christ. Christ is truth.

John 16:13 The Spirit will guide you into all the truth .John 17:17 Sanctify them in truth. Rom. 2:2 The judgement of God is according to truth. Gal. 2:5 the truth of the gospel. Eph. 4:15 Speak truth in love. 1 Tim. 2:4 God desires that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (dby).

So, what is the opposite of Truth? It is Lie. John 8:44 tells us that satan is a liar and the father of it. All lies come from the devil. In fact, "there is no truth in him."

1 John 5:19 (asv.) the whole world lies in the evil one.

The world is under satan's control, and he is a liar. He causes chaos and confusions with his lies. To escape from all of satan's lies, we need to abide in Jesus Christ, because our Lord Jesus Christ is "Himself our peace" Eph. 2:14. Only by abiding in Him can we protect ourselves from the devil's work.

Christ is truth.

His word is truth.

He wants us to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

We need to know Christ, and we need to know His word. We need to know Jesus Christ as a person, not as someone far away who can only be reached on Sundays. This person is always available, and we can reach Him at any time. We also need to know His word. His word is given to us as the bible, and thankfully, in most parts of the world, the bible is readily available. We need to study the word so that we can differentiate between the truth and the lie. We should also pray over the word. That is how we can come to know the word. When we can know both Jesus Christ and His word, we can come to the full knowledge of the truth and satan cannot manipulate us with his lies.

13 Righteousness

As human beings, we have a sense of what is right and just and we, insist on things being fair. In the universe, God is the One most right and most just. His ruling of the universe is based on His righteousness. Regarding His throne, Psalm 89:14 says: Righteousness and judgement are the foundation of Thy throne. In describing the son of God on the throne Psalm 45:6 says: Thy throne O God is forever and ever, the scepter of thy kingdom is a right scepter. All of Christ's ruling is righteous. 1 John 2:1 says: My little children, these things I write unto you, that you sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate (lawyer) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. Christ is righteousness. In Isaiah it describes Jesus after He accomplished redemption on the cross that He is the righteous servant of Jehovah and He instructs us in righteousness. Isaiah 53: 11 He (Jesus) shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied, by His knowledge shall my righteous servant instruct many in righteousness and He shall bear their iniquities.

Psalm 89:14 righteousness and judgement are the foundation of thy throne.

Psalm 45:6 Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; the scepter of thy kingdom is a right scepter. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness (para).

When Jesus Christ returns to destroy Antichrist, it says:

Rev. 19:11 In righteousness He judges and makes war.

Psalm 50:6 Then the heavens shall declare His righteousness.

1 Cor. 1:30 Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

Rev 15:3 Great and wonderful are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways O king of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord and glorify thy name? For thou alone are holy: for all the nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgements are made manifest.

Jeremiah 33:15 In those days and at that time, will I cause the branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and He shall execute judgement and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, the Lord our righteousness.

Heb. 1:3 The Son... who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person...

God is righteous. His righteousness is the foundation of His throne. All His authority is based on His righteousness. Jeremiah spoke of the Branch of righteousness, who is the coming Christ. Jesus Christ is righteous. We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. Because God is righteous, we, as fallen human beings have no way to meet God's righteousness. Therefore we need Christ to be our advocate and to bear our iniquities, and to make us righteous.

Isaiah 53:11 By His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities.

2 Cor. 5:21 For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Lesson 14 The New Covenant

Matt. 26:26-28 Jesus took bread and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, take, eat; this is my body. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 22:19-20 And He took the bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, this is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me. Likewise the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

A covenant is a formal, solemn agreement. God gave us a covenant and the first blessing of the New Covenant is that we receive forgiveness of sins.

Acts 26:18 due to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Behold the days are coming says the Lord when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; my covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord; I will put my law in their minds, and write it on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying "Know the Lord": For they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord:

“For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more”.

Hebrews 8:10-12 This is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel in those days says the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind and write them in their hearts: And I will be to them a God and they shall be to Me a people: They shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest for I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their iniquities will I remember no more.

His laws are the Law of Life in Romans 8:2. The law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has saved me from the law of sin and of death. The law of sin and death is the operation of sin in our flesh that brings us into bondage and death (Rom. 7). The new law is written in our hearts, the old covenant law is outside of us and is powerless against sins. The new law is based on the blood shed by the Lord Jesus on the cross. It is effective eternally to remove sins. It is by this blood that God can be our God and we can be His people and we can all know Him and our sins are forgiven and forgotten forever (Heb.10:17). How superior is the new covenant to the old one ! The old one was powerless (Gal. 3:2).

Now we have Christ as our High Priest who entered the Holy of Holies once for all and sprinkled the blood of the covenant so we could meet with God. God is our God in life and we are His people according to His life in us. We do not live by the outward letter of the law which kills (Rom. 7:10), but by the inward law of life which gives life. Hallelujah! We are not keeping the outward law but are living by His inward law of life which gives us life every day (Rom. 5:10). This is the new covenant.

Lesson 15 The Word

One of the wonderful provisions God has given us to live the Christian life and endure trials and suffering is His word.

Psalms 119 talks a lot about the Word. Thy word is more precious than gold.

Vs 105: Thy word is a Lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

His Word is a big rudder guiding our ship on the sea of life.

John 17:17 Thy Word is Truth.

John 8:32 You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

John 6:63 The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit and they are life.

Jer. 15:16 Thy words were found and I did eat them and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.

1 Pet 2:2 as newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word that you may grow thereby:

Matt 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. He wants us to live by His word.

Eph. 6:17-18 and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: praying always in the Spirit and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for all the saints, and for me that utterance may be given unto me that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel...

Psalms 119:148 I will meditate on thy word.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.

It turns out that the very supply God has given us to live by is the very incarnation of Himself in Humanity. John 1:14 The Word became flesh and tabernacle (dwelt) among us, full of Grace and Truth.

Rev 19:13 His name is called the Word of God. He is the Word.

John 15:7 abide in Me and my words abide in you. Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Eph. 5:25-26 That He might sanctify her (the church) by the washing of water in the word (para).

Eph. 6:17-18 take the word of God by means of all prayer. We need to take His word every day and chew on it all day long with prayer to be soaked and marinated in His word until it becomes our very life. His word becomes our life, and this life reproduces His life in us, "Until we all arrive at a full grown man "Eph. 4:13.

John 14:23 If any man loves Me, he will keep my words, and my father will love him and we will come to him and make an abode (home) with him.

Lesson 16 The Way

John 15 shows us God's Way. This way is to "Abide in Me and I in you". As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abide in the vine so neither can you unless you abide in Me. Apart from Me you can do nothing. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away. Every branch that bears fruit He prunes it that it may bear more fruit. He who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit. In this is My Father glorified that you bear much fruit. This is God's purpose that He would be glorified, which is for Him to be expressed in glory. The full development of this Jesus and us vine is in Rev 21:9-11 and it is the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth.

Living in the Vine

At this point in the gospel of John, the Lord was about to leave the disciples. He said He was going to the Father. He knew He was about to die and right after He spoke John 15 he was arrested. It

was at this juncture that He spoke John 15. He said: I am the vine and you are the branches. Abide in Me and I in you. How will you live after I am gone physically? Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you lest you abide in Me. This is the way He told us to live. This is faith. This relationship, this joining of the vine and the branches, this is faith. The just shall live by faith. We live by living in Christ and He in us. This is how we walk. We walk in Him and He in us. This joining issues in John 17:21. That they may be one even as You Father are in Me and I in You that they in us may be one, that the world may believe that You have sent Me. This oneness of all believers, where is it? Obviously by these verses we can see the Lord desires this. But unfortunately many of His believers are divided. This verse tells us how to be one. I in them and You in Me that they may be perfected into one that the world may know You have sent Me.

John 15 is the way. Abide in Me and I in you. Live by abiding in the vine. Abide in Him. God put us into Him. Now we need to abide, stay, remain, and dwell in Him. Abide in Him. The Christian life is the simplest life, "walk by this rule" Gal. 6:16, to abide in Him. When we abide in Him, all that He is, is ours. That is all we need. There is no need to search for another way. This is the way. Abide in Him. All we need is in Him. All we desire is in Him. The goal of God's plan is in Him. He is all we need. Abide in Him.



Lesson 17 Life and Peace

This is the principle way to live the Christian life.

Romans 8:6 The mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Zech. 12:1 Jehovah stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundation of the earth, and formed the spirit of man within him (dby.).

The Lord formed a spirit in man. This is our deepest part. We also have a mind and emotion and will, which make up our soul*.

Deeper than this is our human spirit. It is here we can contact God and fellowship with Him. It is here He communes with us. He put His Spirit into our spirit (1 Cor. 6:17).

(* "soul" in Greek is *psuche*, it is the word for psychology. Our soul is our mind, emotion and will.)

Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus. Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which also you were called.

As believers and by our joining to God, we know and live by the way of peace. 1 Cor. 7:15 God has called us in peace. Lk 8:48 Your faith has healed you, go in peace. 1 Cor. 16:11 Send him forward in peace. 1 Cor. 14:33 God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.

Eph. 4:3 be diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace. 2 Pet. 3:14 Be diligent to be found of Him in peace without spot and without blemish.

The Christian life is a living by life and peace in your spirit. In the court of God's law, Christ's redemption has answered all of God's demands and is the basis for our peace with God. We humans are very complicated beings. God's plan is not just to save us, but to conform us to the image of Christ. For this He has installed the Holy Spirit into us. Not only does this Spirit conform us, but it is also God's way to lead and guide us in God's will to help us in our daily life (Jn 14:26).

By what means does God use to lead us? Does he do miracles to open doors for us? If you risk your life to preach the gospel you will see many miracles, but in your normal daily life as a normal person, the main way God leads you in His will is by the inward sense of life and peace.

This is a sense that is in your deepest part, your human spirit, where God's Spirit dwells. From here a sense of peace spreads into your heart and to your mind, it is a sense of "life giving". Our sins, shortcomings, and failures hinder this life, but this life needs a free channel to flow to us, so we need to confess to the Lord the things on our conscience: sins, failures, and offenses, etc. Confessing like this opens the curtains of our heart so His life can shine in us and transform us into the image of His son (1 Cor. 3:16-18).

The first step of knowing life and peace is to confess our sins to God. 1 John says "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This confessing is not for our initial salvation, it is for our daily walk, it cleanses our conscience to remove the dirt of sin and offenses from our heart that we may receive His light into us. With our heart renewed and cleansed we come to Him in His word and prayer to receive nourishment and life from Him and His word. You will notice that this lifts you up. Your attitude is improved and things look better. You might feel rejuvenated to

complete a task. This is life. Something of God, His life, has been transmitted into you. 2 Peter 1:4 says we are partakers of the divine nature, you have partaken of the divine nature.

By noticing this change within your heart after spending time with the Lord, you can identify this experience of life. In John 15, Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. Life from the vine flows into the branches supporting the branches, giving life to the branches and eventually issuing in the producing of fruit. This is life. Read Recovery Version Acts 11:18 note 1.

Peace is easier to understand. Peace is peace in our heart. Our situation may be troubling yet we still have peace in our heart. This peace is God's leading, even His speaking. Sometimes peace is the absence of bothering or uneasiness. If there is the absence of bothering, that may be considered peace. But surely when there is bothering there is no peace. To know life and peace we need to discern the separation of soul and spirit. Heb. 4:12 talks about the division of soul and spirit. It is possible for your outward situation to be very bothering in your mind, such as losing your job, yet in your spirit you have peace.

If so, trust in the peace because that is God's leading. Conversely, something very positive may have occurred outwardly, but inwardly there is no peace in your spirit. This is also God's leading. As we are human beings, we are complicated. Either the thoughts in our mind or the feelings of our emotions are strong and make it hard to discern how God feels in our spirit.

Sometimes we need to calm our mind and emotions and seek the Lord to know Him. If time allows, it is good to wait and see how life and peace are leading you. Seeking counsel from others is not a substitute for seeking the Lord. As they talk to you or you consider what they have to say, hopefully there is a witness in your spirit as shown in Romans 9:1 either confirming what they said or not confirming it. As you consider this with your sober, God given mind, you will see the way, but still God's leading by His Spirit in your spirit through the means of life and peace in essential.

Lesson 18 Fellowship

1 John 1:7 If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another.

1 John 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the word of life; for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the father and was manifested unto us, that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that you also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the father and with His son, Jesus Christ.

This verse tells us how to have fellowship. We share our understanding of Christ with one another. This is one aspect of fellowship. We also share the light we receive in God's word with each other.

It is important for believers to have fellowship with one another. Just as members of social clubs enjoy getting together to participate in their activities, be it music, cooking, classic cars, etc.; likewise, it is good for believers to get together to share what they have learned from the bible, or what the Lord has shown them in their normal daily lives. Sometimes, even reading a passage together, different people may see different aspects and receive different enlightenment.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you that you love one another as I have loved you.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death and into life because we love the brothers.

First we love, then we fellowship.

4:7 Beloved let us love one another. For love is of God and everyone that loves is born of God and knows God. He that does not love has not known God, because God is Love.

1 Pet. 1:22 Love one another fervently out of a pure heart

Rom. 12:10 Love one another warmly in brotherly love.

Philadelphia means the church of brotherly love.

All the books of the New Testament are fellowship from the apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, James, Paul, Peter and Jude. This is their fellowship with us that we may have fellowship with them. An especially sweet fellowship from Paul is Romans 16. There is a sweet fellowship among the believers in this chapter. There is a lot of helping and laboring and fellowshiping in these verses. A sweet communion of the believers among themselves and with the apostle.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and prayers.

Phil 1:2 if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of spirit,

2 Cor. 13 The love of God, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Love for one another and our true fellowship with one another are closely related. Therefore fellowship with one another will proceed out of love for one another.

The Moravian Brethren quoted this:

“In all essential matters: unity. In the nonessential matters: liberty and in all things, charity (love). Some say this is a quote from a much earlier time.

Love is essential for fellowship among believers. Believers have different beliefs and different opinions. We need to practice love and unity in all essential matters and liberty in all nonessential matters, but in all things love. We will cover this more in the next message on the common faith.

Lesson 19 The Common Faith

Among Christians, there is something called the common faith:
Titus 1:4 To Titus, genuine child, according to the common faith.

2 Tim. 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith.

This common faith brings us into a common salvation:

Jude 3 Beloved, while using all diligence to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you to earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

There is one Lord and one Faith:

Eph. 4: 4-5 One Body, and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism...

The common faith is made up of two things: the **person** of the Lord Jesus and His redemptive **work** on the cross.

Paul sums up the **work** of the Lord Jesus in:

1 Cor. 15: 2-4 I announced to you as the gospel, for I delivered to you first of all, that which also I received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures and that He was buried and that He has been raised on the third day according to the scriptures. The redemptive work that Jesus did is the foundation of the faith that all Christians believe.

Rom. 10:9 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believes into Him shall not perish but shall have eternal life.

In addition to the **Work** that Jesus Christ did in dying for us, the second half of the common faith is the person of the Lord Jesus. Who is He in his **Person**?

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Jesus Christ was born of a virgin to be a true human child, conceived of the Holy Spirit (Mat 1:20). If he had a human father, then he would have inherited Adam's sin (Rom 5:12-21). As a sinless man, he is the perfect person to take our sins and die on our behalf. This birth affords him the title, "the son of man" (Lk 19:10), a title he would defend and not relinquish (Lk 4:3-4). II Cor. 5:21 For He (God) has made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Like the brass serpent in John 3:14, Jesus had only the form of a serpent, he did not have the life, nature, or poison of a serpent. And as Rom 8:3 says, "...God sent his son, in the likeness of the flesh of sin..." not in actual flesh of sin. If Jesus had sin, then he would have had no ground to take our sins on him. There would have been no way that he could have paid the debt of sin for all of us.

In addition to the son of man, he is the son of God, the only begotten son of God (Jn. 3:16).

But the mystery of his person continues. The disciples lived with him for over three years. Like all faithful Jews, they were awaiting and expecting the Jewish Messiah, the Christ. At one point Simon Peter finally realized that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God (Matt 16:16)! And not only that, but by the end of the gospels, they realized that Jesus was the very God Himself, as shown in John 20:28 "Thomas answered and said unto him (Jesus), My Lord and my God!".

John 1:1 In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.

It is a mystery that the very God would put on humanity, but that is His plan. He is a sinless man, and our very God (I Tim 1:17).

The common faith are the things we believe in that bring us into the common salvation. In His person He is the sinless One who was made sin to die on our behalf. In His person, He is a true man and He is God. In His work, He accomplished an eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12). He is the unique sacrifice for sin. By His sacrifice all sins are forgiven and atoned for, and by this sacrifice we are reconciled to God and justified before Him. He is the sinless Lamb of God who died, was buried and resurrected bodily from the grave, and ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God (Mark 16:19). This is the common faith.

All other things in the bible are not the common faith. We should only contend for the common faith. In all other things we should be tolerant and exercise brotherly love. We want to be one with one another in the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace, that the world may believe (Jn 17:21). Beloved, let us love one another.

The Moravian brethren in the 16th and 17th centuries practiced the saying: "In essential things: unity. In nonessential things: liberty. In all things: love."

The essential things are the beliefs we need to receive Christ's redemption. Christ was God come in the flesh as a man to die for us so we could be forgiven, cleansed of our sins, reconciled to God and indwelt by His Spirit. Christ's person and work are the essential things, everything else is nonessential and differences should be tolerated in love. In matters such as the method of baptism or the Lord's table, or Pentecostal blessings or head covering or the rapture or the Lord's second coming we must give our brothers and sisters liberty and love them in brotherly love. The oneness of the believers is more important than how we practice baptism or whether we are raptured before or after the tribulation. Keep the common faith and practice brotherly love.

Our common faith has two basic factors that we believe in regarding Jesus Christ. The first is His person. Who is He in His person? He is God and He is the sinless, genuine man. The second is His work. We believe in His redemption, His sacrificial and

redemptive work, satisfying God's righteousness. This is the common faith that we all hold to.

See Recovery Version John 1:14 note 2 and Romans 4:25 note 1

Message 20 Brotherly Love

Paul said:

1 Cor. 16:14 Let all things be done in love.

1 Cor. 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become sounding brass and a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

John said:

1 John 3:14 We know we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers.

4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God and everyone who loves has been begotten of God and knows God. He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

Vs 10 Herein is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His son as a propitiation for sins. Beloved, if God has loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another. No one has beheld God at any time, if we love one another God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. God is love and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God love his brother also. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God and everyone who loves Him who has begotten loves him also who has been begotten of Him.

Jesus said:

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you that you love one another even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Love is of God. If we are in Him, we will love our brothers and sisters who are His. If there is no love there is no Christ. This means: if a person does not have love for other believers and even love for the unbelievers, then that person does not have Christ personally in their life, in a daily, personal way. If they do, they will have love. Love is the outward expression of the inner Christ. Believers in Christ have love. Love to other believers and love to all people. God is love. Beloved, let us love one another.

Lesson 21 Conformed

Romans 8:29 “Those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His son...”

Rom. 12:2 “Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what the will of God is...”

2 Cor. 3:18 we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory.

The Greek word for “conformed” in Romans 8:29 is: “*sun morphos*” – it means jointly formed, formed while being joined.

The Greek work for “Transformed” in the other two verses is metamorphosis. This implies a change from within.

Renewing means making new or fresh

We are transformed into the image of Christ. What is Christ? Col. 1:15 Christ is the image of God. And His attributes are:

Life, light, love, compassion, kindness, endurance, faithfulness, righteousness, justice, mercy, forgiveness, a sober mind, holiness, purity, humbleness, joy, peace, no dissipation, lowliness, caring for the things of others and not for your own things, giving, loving your own husband, lovers of children, lovers of God.

This brings us back to the vine and the branches.

Water and air with sunshine causes growth. What is absorbed by the vine goes into the branches and eventually into the fruit.

Water comes from the soil and carbon dioxide from the air and sunlight from God and the plant forms sugars to grow by. It is the same with the branches of the vine. We absorb all that Christ is from Him and then it transforms us from within and conforms us to His image and we live out what we received from Him. This is what is going on today in all believers. Eventually we will look just like Him and the world will see Him in us 2 Thess. 1:10.

When we, His believers, reach this stage, then He will return and set up His beautiful Kingdom for a thousand years. We shall rule and reign with Christ for one thousand years and enjoy what He is for eternity.

Lesson 22 Creation

God created everything Gen. 1. He created the universe. He set the Sun, the Moon and the stars in the sky. He determined their movement (Jer.33:25, Job 38:33). He created the earth. He set the earth just the right distance from the sun so life would flourish on the earth. Any closer to the sun would be too hot and any further too cold. Every process was set in motion. He set the moon in our sky to control the tides in the oceans and to give a little light at night. He set the rotation of the earth so we could have night and day and He made the earth to tilt so we could have seasons. He created the oceans and the abundance of ocean life. He set up the cycle of water from evaporation on the oceans to rain falling on earth and draining into creeks, rivers and flowing back to the

ocean. He made the evaporation rate just right to keep the salinity of the oceans. He created all creatures from the microscopic to insects, to reptiles, to birds, to all animals. Originally, they were all created perfect (Gen. 1:25), and God saw that it was good. All perfect. Then He created man. Man was created in the image of God. Gen. 1:26 Wow! That is incredible. What does that mean? We have a human body with a mind, an emotion, a will and a human spirit to contain and contact God. We are like Him. He has a mind, emotion and will. He is considerate, thoughtful, loving, sympathetic, kind and full of purpose.

God's creation is wonderful, amazing, awesome, awe inspiring. People are drawn to believe in God just by seeing God's creation. Romans 1:27: God's eternal power and divine characteristics are seen in His creation and man has no excuse for not believing in Him. God gave man everything in creation. An abundance of food, the means for shelter with wood and stone. He gave us each other so we could love and be loved and have children. Creation also gives us pleasure. It is so pleasing to the eye. Why did God create flowers? They are not for food. Why? They are for our pleasure. Why are birds so colorful and beautiful? For our pleasure and enjoyment. It also shows God is a God of beauty. He Himself is full of beauty.

Where does the oxygen come from for us to breath? 70% is from the algae and plankton in the oceans. They give off oxygen. Then it also comes from plants on the earth. They take in water and carbon dioxide to form sugars to grow with and then give off oxygen.

God set up everything and put it all in motion. He does not have to make it happen every day. He set the processes up and they work. The weather is a cycle of heat and moisture. It works. There is an oxygen cycle and a carbon cycle and a water cycle. There are many principles of physics. It works. In Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Then following that, Satan's rebellion happened. So, Gen 1:2 says: the earth became

waste and empty. In Gen 1:3-26 God restored the heavens and the earth for His purpose with the man whom He created.

Psalm 19 The heavens declare the glory of God and the expanse shows the work of His hands. Day unto day utters speech and night unto night shows knowledge. There is no speech and no words of the heavens yet their voice is heard.

Job 9:9-10 Who makes the Bear, Orion, the Pleiades, who does great things past finding out and wonders without number.

Psalm 24 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon floods.

Jeremiah 33:25...I have...appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth.

Job 38:33 Do you know the laws of the heavens? Do you determine their rule over the earth?

Psalm 119:90-91 You established the earth and it abides; they stand to this day according to your ordinances (para).

God set up ordinances to keep creation functioning. The universe operates by these ordinances. There is an order to the universe. It is not random. This is God's creation.

He stretched forth the heavens, He laid the foundations of the earth, and He formed the spirit of man within him. (Zech. 12:1).

God created the heavens and the earth so He could have man.

God loves man. He wants to fill man with Himself to become His counterpart, His expression, for eternity. God's creation is marvelous, awesome, and wonderful. It is awe inspiring.

Lesson 23 The Fall

Genesis says that God made man a "helpmeet" for man, a woman that matched him. A woman he named Eve. God put Adam and Eve in a garden called Eden in front of the tree of life and told them they could eat of any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve was alone and the serpent tricked her into

eating of the tree of good and evil. Then she gave it to Adam to eat. Then they knew that they were naked and covered themselves with fig leaves. When God came into the garden they hid from Him. He said "Where are you?" Adam confessed that they had eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He said Eve had given it to him. So God told Eve that she would have pain in childbearing from now on and she would be subject to her husband. Eve said the serpent tricked her. So, God told the serpent from now on he would crawl on his belly and eat dust. To Adam he said from now on he would get bread by the sweat of his brow and the earth would not yield its bounty so easily. So, man fell from God's desire that man choose God as his life and he was put out of the garden. The fall of man affected all of creation and put it in the slavery of corruption Rom. 8:21.

God had put two trees in the midst of the garden. The tree of life, which was God's life, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which was Satan's life. God gave man a free will to choose. God had no intention of forcing man to choose God. Man was free to choose. Man failed and made the wrong choice; and sin entered the world, because all have sinned (Rom 5:12) Man took in the element of Satan into his body (Matt. 23:33) and the body became the flesh. From this point on man's condition continued to go downhill and culminated in:

The Days of Noah

"God saw the wickedness of man was great on the earth and all his imaginations were evil. And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth and it grieved Him at His heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy the man I have created from the face of the earth...."Gen. 6. But, Noah walked with God. God told him to build an ark and to take his wife and his sons and his son's wives and two of every living thing and put them in the ark with enough food for them. It would rain 40 days and 40 nights. The waters rose above the mountain tops and the flood stayed on the earth for 40 days. All life died except those in the ark. The ark rested on Mt Ararat and God told Noah and family to go out and

replenish the earth and that God would never again destroy the whole earth by flood. God put a rainbow in the rainy sky to show His promise to man.

The result of the fall was that now man's body has the element of satan in it. It is now the flesh. This element causes man to sin and go away from God. It also caused man himself to be sin. Our problem is not just with what we do, but what we are. We are sin. Because of this, God had to send His son to take the human form in order to take this flesh to the cross and crucify it, thus destroying the power of satan. Then He took humanity into the grave and God resurrected Him to bring humanity into resurrection. To those who believe into Christ, Christ comes into them and they can now live by the life of Christ which brings them into God, thus defeating satan. We no longer walk by the flesh but by the Spirit of God, no longer fulfilling the lusts of the flesh but doing the will of God. So, Paul can say in romans 8: "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed me from the law of sin and of death."

Lesson 24 Satan

The Old Testament prophets reveal the origins of satan.

In Ezekiel 28:12-13 God speaks to Lucifer "Thus says the Lord God; You seal up the sum, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering." 28:14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covered; and I have set thee so: thou was upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 28:17: thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty.

In Isaiah 14: 13-14 Lucifer, the archangel, said "I will ascend to heaven above the stars of God. I will exalt my throne. I will make myself like the most high. "The archangel rebelled against God and became Satan.

Lucifer fell because he wanted to exalt himself above God, so he was cast down and became Satan. One third of the angels joined him in his rebellion. Rev. 12:3-4 And behold a great red dragon, and his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven. The heavenly stars are the angels. They joined Satan in his rebellion against God. These became the evil spirits in the air. Eph. 2:2- the ruler of the authority in the air. Eph. 6:12- spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies. All these verses refer to the angels who rebelled with satan.

There were beings on the earth at the time of satan's rebellion. They joined satan in his rebellion against God. God judged them with water and they became the demons (Matt. 12:43-45) This is when the heavens and the earth were judged by God: Job 9:5-7. God overturned the mountains in His anger, shook the earth out of its place, commanded the Sun not to rise and sealed the stars. So the earth became waste and empty buried deep under water and covered with darkness.

God then started again and formed man of the dust of the ground Gen 1:3-31. The name Adam means red earth.

Satan still operates on earth. In Luke 4:6 the devil said to Him (Jesus)" to You I will give all this authority and glory because to me it has been delivered and to whomever I want I give it."

John 12:31 Now is the judgement of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto myself. Here we can see that the Lord Jesus called satan the ruler of this world.

John 14:30 Jesus said: The ruler of this world is coming and in Me he has nothing.

John 16:11 Jesus said: The ruler of this world has been judged.

Eph. 2:2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience among whom also we conducted ourselves once in the lusts of the flesh

doing the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant, your adversary the devil goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.

Satan is God's enemy and our enemy. He hates man because God loves man and wants him for His purpose.

Among the Lord's people, some are overcomers. Regarding satan, Rev 12:11 says: They overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony and they loved not their soul life unto death.

We overcome satan by the blood of Jesus, the lamb of God. We hide under His blood, under what He did on the cross to defeat satan. One day, when the Lord returns, satan will be dealt with forever and cast into the lake of fire. For now, he still bothers us, but we have the blood of Jesus and His authority (Matt. 28:19) to fend him off. James 4:7 resist the devil and he will flee from you.

John 3:14 and as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (para). Jesus, as the brass serpent takes the real serpent, satan, to the cross and destroys him (Numbers 21:9) and Moses made a serpent of brass and put it upon the pole, and it came to pass that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked upon the serpent of brass, he lived (para).

Heb. 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

On the cross, Jesus destroyed the devil, so we are released. Heb. 2:15 and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of the

sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. So, the death of Jesus on the cross has dealt with man's sin and it has abolished satan.

Rev 20: 10 and the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone ... and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. This is satan's final destination and judgement.

Lesson 25 Faith

It is very important to see what faith is. Faith comes by hearing the word of Christ. Faith is infused into us by hearing His word.

Rom. 10:17 So then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me. Rom. 5:1-2 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ by whom we have access by faith into this grace wherein which we stand.

Habakkuk 2:4 The just shall live by faith. Heb. 10:38 Paul quotes Habakkuk. The just shall live by faith.

We live by faith. Faith is infused into us by hearing His word and we live by this faith. We need to be in His word daily to stay filled with faith to live by faith.

Luke 7:50 to the sinful woman Jesus said: Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.

Eph. 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.

Faith is not of us. It is infused into us by hearing the word of Christ. It is not of ourselves, it is the gift of God.

2 Cor. 5:7 We walk by faith, not by sight. Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts by faith. 2 Tim. 2:22 Pursue faith with all those who call on the Lord. Heb. 12:2 Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Faith is vitally important. We live by faith, we are saved by faith, we stand in faith, we walk by faith, we pray in faith, we speak by faith. We serve in faith. Faith is vital. Guard your faith and nurture your faith. Spend time every morning to contact the Lord by faith. Feed your faith in His word and by prayer. Be strong in the faith. We are of the household of faith. Pursue faith. Come to Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.

Rom. 11:20, Rom 4:12, James 1:6, Eph. 3:12, 17, 1 Thess. 1:3, 7.

Lesson 26 Life

Life is not a thing, it is Christ Himself.

John 1:4 In Him was life and the life was the light of men. Christ is life. Life is not a thing, it is a person, Christ Himself.

John 10:10 I have come that they might have life and may have it abundantly.

This is not to have a good life. We are branches of the vine, and we need the life of the vine to be supplied to us richly. When we receive an abundant flow of the life of Christ, we grow and flourish and bring forth "fruit unto eternal life" (John 4:36) and thus glorify the Father (Jn. 15:8).

1 John 1:2 the life was manifested and we have seen and report unto you the eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us. His Life is eternal life.

John 5:24 He who hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and does not come into judgement but passed out of death into life.

1 John 5:11-13 God has given to us eternal life and this life is in His son. He that has the Son has life and he that has not the Son of God has not life. These things I have written to you that you may know that you have eternal life who believe on the name of the Son of God. To think that eternal life is just to live forever is a shallow understanding. Eternal life is our passing out of death into life (1 Jn. 3:14) by being made alive together with Christ (Eph. 2:5) through the new birth (Jn. 3:6). We now have eternal life in us as life.

1 John 1:1-2 The life was manifested and we have beheld the eternal life. He who has the Son has life. Christ is Life. Col 3:4 When Christ who is our life shall appear we shall appear with Him in glory.

Gal. 2: 20 It is no longer I that live, but Christ who lives in me.

Christ is our life. We don't live by our own life. We live by Him as life. Matt. 16:24 If any man will come after Me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

The Christian life is a life of denying our life and taking Christ in us as our new life and living Him.

Phil. 1:21 For me to live is Christ.

Lesson 27 Christ lives in me

Christ is not far away from us. He actually lives in us!

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I that live but Christ who lives in me and the life I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.

1 Cor. 6:19 do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, whom you have from God and you are not your own?

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him.

The preceding verses show that the Son, the Spirit and the Father all indwell us. This indwelling is not three gods, but one God, who is triune.

2 Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith, prove your own selves. Know you not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you...?

John 17:26 that the love with which you have loved Me may be in them and I in them.

1 John 2:27 the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you and you need not that anyone teach you but the same anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

John 15:4 tells us: Abide, stay, remain in Me and I in you.

Christ is in us and we are in Him. All we need do now is abide, stay, remain, dwell, live in Him.

Lesson 28 Justification

As human beings, descendants of Adam, we have a huge problem with God. We have offended God's holiness, righteousness and glory. (1 Pet. 1:16, Rom. 3:16, Rom. 3:23).

Isaiah 64:8 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness' are as filthy rags...

So, it is a great offense to God if you think by some kind of good behavior you can justify yourself before Him. This is like putting makeup on a corpse. Eph. 2:1 You are dead. You're very being is

offensive to Him. What we need is a savior who will take our place to die for our sin, justify us before God, make us alive, and then sanctify us, make us holy by the Holy Spirit.

There is a song which says: What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus! What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus! Listen to what the bible says:

Rom. 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 5:1 therefore having been justified out of faith, we have peace toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 5:9 much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we will be saved through Him from the wrath.

Rom. 5:18 therefore as by the offense of one (Adam) judgement came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of One (Christ) the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

Acts 13:39 And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Rom. 3:20 wherefore by works of law no flesh shall be justified before God (dby.).

Rom. 3:26 for the showing forth of His righteousness in the present time, so that He should be just and justify him that is of the faith of Jesus (dby.).

Rom. 3:28 For we reckon that a man is justified by faith without the works of the law (dby.).

Rom. 3:30 God is one, who will justify the circumcision by faith and the uncircumcision through faith.

Rom. 4:24-25 Jesus our Lord was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification.

Gal. 3:24 The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith. But after faith is come we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

2 Cor. 5:21 For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Justification means to be made right, even to be made righteous. By our faith in Jesus Christ and based on His redemption we are made right with God. We have been justified in His blood by what He did on the cross. Now, we are righteous before God when we receive what He did by faith. We are not justified by works. It is entirely by His Grace.

In the court of God's law, those who have faith in Christ are pronounced righteous (2 Cor. 5:21)

Lesson 29 Sanctification

1 Pet. 1:16 ...be ye holy, for I am holy.

John 17 Sanctify them in truth. Your word is truth.

1 Thess. 4:3 This is the will of God, your sanctification. That you abstain from fornication. That each one of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor.

1 Thess. 5:23 And the God of peace sanctify you wholly and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thess. 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren, beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

Sanctification of our being is done by the Spirit and by His word. We are sanctified, made Holy, by Him through His word. It is not done by our own effort to be holy. Some have tried this and failed.

It is by our abiding in Him and in His word. We must take Him to be holy, sanctified.

1 Cor. 1:30 Christ Jesus who became unto us from God both righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

Lesson 30 Our spirit

Many people think that the soul and the spirit are the same, and that they are simply different words for the same human part. However, 1 Thess. 5:23 clearly tells us that we are made of 3 parts- body, soul, and spirit.

1 Thess. 5:23 Your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 8:6 the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are the children of God.

John 3:6-7 that which is born of Spirit is spirit. John 4:24 those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth. 1 Cor. 6:7 he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

We have a body, a soul with mind, emotion and will and a human spirit. Our soul is called in Greek "*psuche*". This is the root word for psychology. Our soul is where our "me" is. Our mind, emotion and will make up our soul. The spirit is where we are joined to the Lord and where Christ abides in us. Our spirit is where we contact God and He communicates with us. In addition, our conscience and intuition are parts of our spirit. We must keep our conscience clean by confessing anything bothering our conscience and applying the Lord's blood He shed to cleanse all sin. Then we can have fellowship with Him (1 John 1:17).

1 Cor. 2:11 Who knows the things of a man except the spirit of man? Our intuition knows things without being told. We just know. That is our intuition. The Lord's mother, Mary, said in

Luke 1:46-47 "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in my God." You can see clearly from this verse that our soul and spirit are separate parts. Our spirit is our deepest part and where we commune with the Lord.

Lesson 31 The Triune God

God is Triune, meaning 3 in 1 or, three-one. He is the three-One God, the triune God. In Matt. 3:13-17 we easily see the Son being baptized, the Father speaking from the heavens, and the Spirit descending as a dove. So we know that God has an aspect of three. His word also shows that He is one.

Isaiah 9:6-7 Unto us a child is born, a son is given and the government shall be upon His shoulders... and His name shall be called wonderful, counselor, the Mighty God, the eternal Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government there shall be no end upon the throne of David and over His kingdom...

This verse shows that the child, Jesus, is called the mighty God and the eternal Father.

He is the Father, He is the Son, He is the Spirit. He is three, but He is one. We only have one God.

Deut. 6:4 Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord.

God is one. 1 Cor. 8:4 There is no God but one.

Isaiah 44:6 I am Jehovah, the King of Israel and his redeemer, Jehovah of hosts. I am the first and the last and beside Me there is no God.

Isaiah 45:5 I am Jehovah and there is none else. Beside Me there is no God.

2 Cor. 13:14 The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Here the apostle blesses us with the Triune God.

He is the expression of the Father. John 14:9 Have I been so long a time with you and you do not know me Phillip. If you have seen Me you have seen the Father.

He is God. John 1:1 In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.

He is the Spirit. 2 Cor. 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit. The Spirit is also the Spirit of the Father. Matt. 10:20 For it is not you who speak, but the spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

All true Christians embrace this truth. He is not three Gods, nor is He one God with three manifestations. He is the three-one God.

He is three yet one. This is the greatest mystery, yet the bible reveals it.

Lesson 32 Christ our Good Land

The Good Land of Canaan typifies Christ. All the riches of Christ are for us to enjoy and labor on that we would have the top riches to offer in God's temple as our offerings and service to God.

The whole Old Testament is about God's people possessing this land. Satan comes to remove God's people from this land and then God recovers them back to the land for Himself. The Lord brought the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the good land of Canaan.

Exodus 3:8 says: to bring them into a good land and a spacious land.

Christ firstly is spacious. He is immeasurable (Eph. 3:18). You enjoy Him today but He is never exhausted. He is spacious, He is unlimited. We are so limited, but He is unlimited. We need to experience such an unlimited Christ.

Deut. 32:13 He made him to ride on the high places of the earth. In the good land are mountains. Mt Hermon, Mt Gilead, Mt Zion,

and Mt Carmel. The mountains of the good land are at 2,000 to 4,000 feet elevation. These mountains represent the ascended Christ. Christ was crucified, He was buried, on the 3rd day He resurrected and then He ascended to the Father. Christ is ascended. When we come to Him we also can be in ascension in Him, far above all the troubles on earth. By praying in faith we can ascend to the heavens in Him.

Eph. 2:6 And He hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Ezekiel 34:13-15 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the streams and in all the inhabited places of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and their dwelling place will be upon the mountains of the heights of Israel. There they will lie down in a good dwelling place and on rich pasture they will feed upon the mountains of Israel. I myself will cause them to lie down declares the Lord Jehovah.

The streams represent the Holy Spirit. We can enjoy our Christ as streams of water. John 7:38 I will become in him rivers of living water flowing out unto eternal life.

There is also good pasture in the good land. This is Christ as life to us, to feed us. John 6:35 I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me shall never hunger. There is also the place to lie down. Christ is our resting place. Psalm 23:2-3 He makes me to lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside the still water, He restores my soul.

Deuteronomy 8:8-9 A land of wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive trees, and honey. A land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you dig copper. Christ is our food and our wine to cheer us. Figs are nourishing and pomegranates represent how full the life of Christ is. Oil is the Holy Spirit and milk and honey signify how rich the produce of the Good land is.

Rev. 2:27 He will rule them with an iron rod. Iron is for ruling, for authority. Bronze is for warfare. In 1 Samuel 17: 5-7 The warrior

wore bronze as armor. In Revelation Christ will have feet of bronze. Christ is our good land. He is rich. He is unlimited. He is food, water, iron and bronze to us. We need to walk in this land and labor on this land. We need to experience Christ as such riches and enjoyment. What a rich land flowing with milk and honey. We will need eternity to fully enjoy this land but we can experience Christ today as this richness and fullness. What a rich land Christ is to us.

Lesson 33 The Church

The church is a wonderful and lovely subject. The word itself in Greek is *ecclesia*, which means "The called out ones" or you might say, from God's standpoint: "My selected ones". We, His people, are very precious to Him.

1 Pet. 2:7, 9 To you who believe is the preciousness... You are a chosen race, a kingly priesthood, a holy nation, a people for a possession (dby).

We are His precious possession which Jesus' precious blood has bought (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

Eph. 5:25 Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her that He might sanctify and purify her with the washing of water in the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing Eph. 5:30-31. We are members of His body, of His flesh and bones. For this cause shall a man leave his mother and father and be joined unto his wife and they shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church.

We are His body and His bride. Rev. 21:2 And I, John, saw the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven adorned as a bride for her husband.

The whole bible begins and ends with a marriage. (Gen. 2:22, Rev. 21:2) In God's own words: It is not good for man to be alone"

(Gen. 2:18). We get a glimpse of His heart's desire, to have a bride for Christ. Eve was built from a rib taken out of Adam's side while God put him to sleep. This foreshadows that the church would be built from Christ's indestructible life which came out from Him after He went into death (sleep) and came out in resurrection. Our relationship with Him is very personal. So, one aspect of the church is that we are the body of Christ and the bride of Christ. From our standpoint, what is the main characteristic of the church? John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you that you love one another as I have loved you. Eph. 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit...

The Lord has commanded that His believers love one another and be one body. According to the bible, all the believers in one city are the church in that city and with one eldership of a handful of men (Acts 14:23). It should be the same today. The Christians met from house to house. Even though the church in Jerusalem had tens of thousands of believers, they were still one church in Jerusalem.

1 Thess. 3:12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men. 1 Thess. 4:9 But as touching brotherly love, you need not that I write unto you: for you yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

The church at it's core is a matter of love, and this is best practiced in the homes.

In the New Testament, the believers in a city are called the church in that city. This would be like calling ourselves the church in "Richmond". If a place is a large region like Judea (Gal 1:2) or Galatia (Acts 1:2) then the churches there are called churches, plural. That would be like writing a letter to the churches in Virginia.

Acts 1:14 they all continued with one accord and in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brethren.

2:41-42 There were added unto them about 3000 souls and they continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And all that believed were together and had all things common;

2:46 and they, continuing daily in one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

5:42 and daily in the temple and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

8:1 the church which was in Jerusalem.

Acts 20:28 Feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.

This was the beginning of the church in acts. They met in homes with prayer, the teaching of the apostles, breaking bread, praising God and the gospel. Wow! Does that look like what you see today?

Though there could be 100 home meetings in Jerusalem it was still only one Church in Jerusalem. One church.

Although we do not see many people practicing this way of meeting and oneness, it is the pattern the Bible presents.

Eph. 1:22-23 The Church which is His Body, the fullness of the one who fills all in all.

Col. 1:18 He is the head of the Body, the church. He is the beginning, firstborn of the dead, that He himself might have the first place (preeminence) in all things.

This is an overview of the church. There are many instructions on the living needed in the church in Romans, 1 Corinthians and Ephesians. Read Recovery Version Titus 1:5 note 1, Rev 1:4 note 2.

Lesson 34 **Home Meetings**

In the New Testament, in what way did the believers meet together? There was no big structure called “church”. In the early days, the believers met in the homes.

Acts 2:42 they continued steadfastly in the teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers.

Acts 5:42 and every day in the temple and from house to house they ceased not teaching and preaching the Christ Jesus.

1 Cor. 16:19 Aquila and Prisca greet you much in the Lord with the church which is in their house.(Ephesus AD 59)

Rom.16:3-5 Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus... and greet the church, which is in their house. (Corinth AD 60)

Col. 4:15 Greet the brothers in Laodicea as well as Nymphas and the church which is in his house. (Laodicea)

Philemon 1 To Philemon our beloved and fellow worker and to Apphia the sister and to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church which is in your house. (Collosae)

Rom 16:23 Gaius, my host and of the whole church salutes you. (Rome)

This is how the church met. They met in the homes of the believers. They prayed, they had the teachings of the apostles, they preached the gospel and broke bread together. No matter how many homes were meeting in Jerusalem, there was still just one church in Jerusalem. In church history there are examples of believers who met in this way. The Waldenses, who lived in the Italian Alps during the early 1800's, claimed to have kept an unbroken line from the times of the apostles and met in a simple way in homes. “ They had a desire to remember the Lord's death in the way He had appointed, so they met together there and with prayer and the reading of the word and took the bread and wine

among themselves, while any who felt the Holy Spirit had given a word of exhortation or exposition spoke with liberty.” Pilgrim Church. Broadbent

Many have followed this pattern set in the New Testament including a group of Christians in eastern Canada at the end of the 1800’s. They met in homes and discovered that each member had a portion for the group and shared it. This is beautifully portrayed in the book: The Gate Seldom Found by Raymond Reid. So, meeting in homes is the pattern set up in the New Testament, actually by the Holy Spirit. Then, practiced by many groups of believers as they were led also by the Holy Spirit.

Today we see a “church” structure that people attend. It has a paid professional who conducts a “service” once a week for an hour. We have no interaction with our fellow believers, except maybe a handshake and a nod. Beloved, this is not the way it was from the beginning! Some groups have discovered the benefit of the saints getting together and have established home groups.

To practice the church with the believers loving one another requires we meet in small groups in the homes of the believers. There is no better way to be prepared for the Lord’s return than to meet in the homes. Two or three gather together in His name, love one another, and have Jesus in their midst. Mat 18:20

Additional reading: Pilgrim Church on the Anabaptists, the Mennonites, Dunkards, Waldenses, Lollards and brethren.

Lesson 35 In the measure of each one part

In the home meetings of believers, it is vital that each member of the church functions in his own capacity with what the Lord has given him Lk. 19:13. Each one has a gift from the Lord which gives him a measure with which to function.

Eph. 4:16 out from whom the whole body, fitted together and connected by every joint of supply, according to the working in

the measure of each one part works for itself the increase of the body to its building itself up in love.(dby)

The stronger “joints of supply” fit the body together, but the body builds itself up in love, through the operation of each one part.

Eph. 4:7 To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Rom. 12:3-8 to every one among you, not to have high thoughts above what he should think; but to think so as to be wise, as God has dealt to each a measure of faith. For as in one body we have many members, but all the members do not have the same function (gk), so we who are many are one body in Christ and each one members one of the other. But having different gifts, according to the grace which has been given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or service, let us occupy ourselves in that service; or he that teaches, in that teaching; or he who exhorts in that exhortation; he who gives, in simplicity; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness (dby).

1 Cor. 12: 14-27 For the body is not one member but many. If the foot shall say, because I am not the hand, I am not of the body, is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body as it has pleased Him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head unto the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be weaker, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable, these we bestow more abundant honor; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts hath no need. But God has tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked: that

there should be no division in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the Body of Christ and members in particular. And God has set some in the assembly: first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers; after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all in possession of miraculous powers? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But desire earnestly the greater gifts and yet I show unto you a more excellent way (1 Cor. 14:1-5).

1 Cor. 14:26 How is it then brethren? When you come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. Vs 31 For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be comforted. Eph. 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

This is the functioning of all the members of the body of Christ. We are members one of another and each one has a portion to share with the others. No function is better or worse than another, nor higher or lower than another. This vision will keep you from falling into a clergy laity system of thought or a hierarchy system of a religion. This is vital for the meetings in homes. We all have a portion to offer. In love we share one with another and are built up in Christ by it.

The practice of our church-life has one common element, that we receive one another. Read Romans chapter 14. It is inevitable that we hold different practices (vs 2, 5), and are even fully persuaded regarding them. But, Paul tells us that our receiving one another is based on God's receiving, "For God has received him" Rom. 14:3

Therefore, do not judge or despise your brother, for we shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ. Rom. 14:10

In essentials, unity.

In nonessentials, liberty.

And in all things: Love.

We should be united in our common faith, gracious in areas we differ in, and at all times loving one another.

Lesson 36 Seeking

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Heb. 4:16 Let us come forward with boldness to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace for timely help. 10:19 Having therefore boldness for entering the holy of holies in the blood of Jesus.

Psalms 63:8 My soul follows hard after Thee.

Psalms 81:10 Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it...

Psalms 86:5 Thou Lord are good and ready to forgive and are of great mercy to those who call upon You.

Psalms 27:4 One thing have I desired of the Lord and that will I seek, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.

Vs 8 Thy face O Lord will I seek

Matt 7:7 seek and you shall find, ask and it shall be given to you, knock and it shall be opened to you.

Psalms 63:1 early will I seek Thee.

119:2 blessed are they that seek Him with their whole heart.

Prov. 8:17 I love those who love Me and they that seek Me early shall find Me.

Song of Songs 3:2 Draw me, we will run after Thee.

Amos 5:4 Seek Me and you shall live.

Hebrews 11:6 Those who come forward to God must believe that He is and He is the rewarder of those who seek Him out (gk.).

It may seem that God asks us to take the first step, but in reality God has already taken many steps towards us. He has laid aside His glory, taken the form of a slave, become obedient unto death on a cross, defeated satan, and now has the name above all names. He has come as far to us as He can. What more do you want Him to do? Now it is our turn, we must turn our heart to Him and seek Him.

These verses show the secret to the Christian life: seeking. Seek and you shall find. God promises that if we seek we will find. So, as long as we seek after Him, we will find Him. He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Lesson 37 Standing against Satan

James 4:7 Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 1 Cor. 16:13 watch ye, stand fast in the faith, show courage, be strong (para) Eph. 6:14. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Vs 16 above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

The word tells us to be on the defense. Jesus is the One who fought the battle on the cross and won. He rose from the dead, showing that He is over all things. He won the battle totally. All we need to do is to stand in what He has done. Stand and resist the devil and he will flee from you. If you read chapter 19 of Revelation you will see that the overcomers come with the Lord to fight at Armageddon but it is only the Lord who does the fighting. He easily defeats the enemies. We have only to stand with Christ the victor.

Rev. 19:11-21(dby.) And I saw the heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and one sitting on it, called Faithful and True, and he judges and makes war in righteousness. And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon his head many diadems, having a name written which no one knows but himself; and he is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clad in white, pure, fine linen. And out of his mouth goes a sharp, two-edged sword, that with it he might smite the nations; and he shall shepherd them with an iron rod; and he treads the wine-press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. And he has upon his garment, and upon his thigh, a name written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid heaven. Come, gather yourselves to the great supper of God... And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against him that sat upon the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and the false prophet that was with him, who wrought the signs before him by which he deceived them that received the mark of the beast, and those that worship his image. Alive were both cast into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone; and the rest were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which goes out of his mouth; and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Heb. 2:14(dby.) Since therefore the children partake of blood and flesh, he also in like manner, took part in the same, that through death He might annul him who has the might of death, that is, the devil. Rev. 12:11 and they overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul lives unto death.

Rom. 16:20 And the God of peace *will crush* (gk.) satan under your feet shortly...

Eph. 4:27 neither give place to the devil.

Eph. 6:10-11 ...be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph. 6:17 and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God.

Matt 4:10 then saith Jesus unto him, get thee hence, satan, for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve.

Christ destroyed satan on the cross, so all we need to do now is stand. The Lord Jesus won the battle. We enter into His victory and stand in it. Resist the devil and he will flee from you, because the Lord Jesus won the victory over satan.

Lesson 38 This Human Life

Eph. 6:1 Children obey your parents in the Lord. Honor thy father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.

Proverbs 3:5: Lean not unto your own understanding but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your steps.

2 Tim. 2:22 Flee youthful lusts. 1 Cor. 6:18 Flee fornication. He who commits fornication sins against his own body.

Ecclesiastes 4 Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow, but woe to him that is alone when he falls and who has not another to pick him up. Again, if two lie together then they have warmth, but how can one alone be warm? And if a man overpowers the one, the two shall withstand him.

1 Cor. 7:9 If they do not have self- control, let them marry. It is better to marry than to burn.

Eph. 5 wives be subject to their own husbands. Husbands love your wives. 1 Tim. 2:11 Let a woman learn in quietness in all subjection, but I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to be in quietness. For Adam was formed first, then Eve and Adam was not deceived, but the woman being quite deceived has fallen into transgression. But she will be saved through childbearing if she remains in faith, love and holiness with sobriety.

1 Tim. 2:9 Women adorn themselves in proper clothing with modesty and sobriety, not with braided hair and gold, pearls or costly clothing, but what befits women professing Godliness.

Titus 2:4-5 Teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. To be discreet, chaste, workers at home, good,

Thess. 4:11 Aspire to be quiet and attend to your own affairs and work with your hands, even as we charged you 2 Thess. 2:10 We gave you this charge, that if anyone does not want to work, neither should he eat. Some are walking disorderly among you not working at all but being busybodies. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needed.

Eph. 4:28 Let him that stole, steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that is in need.

1 Tim. 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his own and especially for those of his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Prov. 30:8 Give me neither poverty nor riches. Feed me with the bread of my daily need lest I be full and deny You or I be poor and steal and outrage the name of my God.

Prov. 31:10 Who can find a woman of worth, her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband confides in her, she does him good and not evil all the days of her life. She rises when it is still

night and gives meat to her household. Strength and dignity are her clothing and she opens her mouth with wisdom. Her children call her blessed, her husband praises her, let her own works praise her in the gates.

1 Tim.4:2 the hypocrisy of men who speak lies... who forbid marriage and command abstaining from foods, which God created to be partaken with thanksgiving by those who believe for every creature of God is good and nothing is to be rejected if received with thanksgiving.

Rom. 12:13 distributing to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality (para).

12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

Eph. 5:18 Do not be drunk with wine in which is dissipation- (Webster's) to be without control in the pursuit of pleasure.

Eph. 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Rom. 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another.

Prov. 16:28 A forward man sows strife and one who gossips separates intimate friends (para).

1 Thess. 5:16 always rejoice, unceasingly pray, in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God for you.

1 Tim. 6:8 but having food and covering, with these we will be content.

1 Tim. 6:6 Godliness with contentment is great gain.

Christians make two kinds of mistakes, one is when they themselves try to live a "righteous" life in their own strength, and to thus justify themselves before God. And the other is when they just seek to live a "Spirit-led" life apart from being human. The correct way is a human life that is joined to and in oneness with the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45) where our humanity is uplifted

and strengthened by the Spirit of God, where we live a normal human life, in the divinity of Christ (1 Jn. 3:2). In Jesus, the power, love, and compassion of God were expressed to man through the humanity of Jesus. It is the same with us today. Our life is a joined life with His (Rom. 11:17).

Lesson 39 A sober mind

2 Tim. 1:7 God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sober mind.

God has given us a strong will, a loving emotion and a sober mind.

Sober in Greek means discreet, sound, and sober. In Webster's dictionary sound means healthy and with good sense. Sober means serious, temperate, self-controlled.

Titus 2:2, 5-6, 12 Older men must be of a sober mind. Likewise older women. Young women must be of a sober mind, younger men should be of a sober mind. 1 Tim 3:2 Overseers must be temperate and of a sober mind. So, that covers everybody. All of us must be of a sober mind. Sometimes in our zeal for the Lord we reject our mind, thinking it is bad. Yes, sometimes we need to reject thoughts from satan, but we should never reject our God-given, sober, serious, healthy, reasonable, good sense, sound mind. It may be the only thing that saves you from wrong doctrine or practice. Remember, God gave you a sober mind.

Example: During the reformation a group of Christians were rejecting infant baptism, which practice is not in the bible. Someone opposed them saying "I will never go along with something that forbids the children to come unto Christ." One of the Christians there told them "That scripture about allowing the little children to come unto Him does not mention anything about infant baptism." This was a very balanced, sober, serious thing to say to counter an emotional appeal that was not based on truth.

Remember, God gave you a sober mind and He wants us to use it. It may be what saves you from deception. To give up your free will to be part of a group is against a sober mind.

Lesson 40 Discernment

1 Jn. 4:1-6 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but discern the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. In this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming and now is already in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and you have overcome them because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are of the world; therefore they speak out of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God; he who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. From this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error (para).

1 Cor. 12:7, 8, 10 For to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for what is profitable. To one, through the Spirit, a word of wisdom... and to another discerning of spirits...(para)

This is to discern if what is being spoken is of God or not.

1 Tim. 4:1-3 Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God has created to be received with thanksgiving...

Phil. 1:9-10 And this I pray that your love may abound yet more and more in full knowledge and in all judgement (discernment), so that you may approve things that are excellent; that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ (para).

1 Cor. 14:29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge (discern).

People will say this is judging others, but this is not judging, this is discernment, which is clearly taught in the New Testament. Our discerning is not for passing judgement on them, but for our protection. Not all things our fellow believers say is right. When we listen to someone speaking about Christ, we should 80% receive and 20% discern. Sometimes what a person says is true for them, but not for you. On a bigger topic, not everything a good and faithful brother in the Lord says is correct according to the Word of God.

Lesson 41 Christ's Second Coming

Jesus Christ came the first time through his incarnation. When he ascended to the heavens the disciples were told that he would come again Acts 1:11. He comes to receive us to himself, to deal with his enemies (Lk 19:27), and to set up his kingdom on earth.

The Lord's second coming proceeds from the throne to the earth in stages. He descends from heaven to the air, where we meet him in the clouds.

1 Thess. 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself with an assembly shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God shall descend from heaven and the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we, who are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and thus we will always be together with the Lord. See Rev 14:14-16.

Then the Lord proceeds from the clouds to his open appearing to all the earth, until his feet touch the Mount of Olives, after which he treads the wine press of the Wrath of God:

Rev. 1:7 Every eye will see Him, and those who pierced Him: and all the kindred's of the earth shall wail because of Him.

Zech. 14:4 And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem toward the east and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north and half of it toward the south. And you shall flee by the valley of My mountains...

Matt. 24:27-30 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shines even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven: and then shall all the (Jewish) tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Rev. 19:15-16, 19-20 ...He treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords... and I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse. The beast was taken and the false prophet... They were cast alive into the Lake of Fire. (See also Rev 14:17-20)

So, His coming proceeds from the throne of God, to the air, to the clouds, and finally to the earth.

At the end of this age is a final seven year period, called the tribulation. The last 3 ½ years is called the great tribulation. At the beginning of the last 3 ½ years the Lord will come as a thief to secretly 'steal' the part of His people who are watching and praying for His return. The rest of the believers will be raptured at the end of the great tribulation when Christ comes openly on a cloud. If you are a watching and praying believer (Lk. 21: 28-30) or one in a congregation like that in Philadelphia in Rev. 3:12, He will come as a thief in the night and snatch you away prior to the worst part of the great tribulation. This includes the 144,000 Firstfruits, who have been raptured to the throne and who are

with the Lamb at the beginning of the great tribulation (Rev 14:1-5).

On the other hand, if you are like some Christians and you are just occupied with living and the anxieties of life, and do not care to “live Christ” in your daily life, then His secret coming will catch you unaware (Lk 21:34) and you will not be “taken” but left behind. Luke 17:35-36: “One will be taken and the other left”. In that case you will be part of the harvest at the end of the tribulation, of those who “remain unto the coming of the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:16-17) who will be harvested (Rev. 14:15-16) at the last trumpet (1 Cor. 15:50-53). Since you were not ready when the Lord came as a thief, you will pass through the great tribulation.

But if, in the tribulation, you get a chance to be faithful through martyrdom, then you will be counted faithful and reign with Christ. Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones and they sat upon them, and judgement was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

It is a matter of ripeness. Rev. 14:15 says “The harvest of the earth is ripe”, so we want to be those who ripen early by pursuing Christ (Php 3:12), even those who “hasten the day of the Lord” II Pt 3:12.

Christ’s coming is in many stages until He eventually comes openly to the earth. He will gather His people to Him also in different stages. He gathers His believers and the nation of Israel. He will also judge the nations who rejected Him and His salvation. We are those who love His appearing. We watch for it, and we expect it, and we ask Him to come. Come Lord Jesus!

Lesson 42 The Great Tribulation

At the last 7 years of this age, Antichrist makes a covenant with Israel for seven years (it is called “one week” in Dan. 9:27). He will allow them to worship in their temple in Jerusalem and to offer sacrifices. Halfway through this week of 7 years he will break the covenant and persecute them and stop the offerings.

When Antichrist breaks the covenant with Israel, the great tribulation begins which will last three and one half years. Before he breaks the covenant with Israel, five of the seven seals in Revelation have already been opened. The first four seals cover all of human history since Christ’s resurrection, which are represented by the four horses going forth. The first horse is the white horse going forth with the truth of the Gospel of peace. The second horse, red, is war. The third, black, is famine and the fourth, gray, is death.

At the beginning of the tribulation in Rev. 12 there is the rapture of the firstfruits. The fifth seal in Rev. 6 is when the saints who have been martyred throughout time begin to cry out to Him who sits on the throne to avenge their deaths on those who dwell on the earth. This is followed by the great earthquake of the sixth seal (Rev. 6:12) which is a warning to those who dwell on the earth. Then, in concert with the martyred saints’ prayer, and in concert with Christ’s opening of the seventh seal, the saints on earth pray (Rev. 8:3-5) for the execution of God’s judgement on the God-forsaking and humanity-corrupting world. At this point, as an answer to this prayer, the Great Tribulation begins with supernatural calamities. The sun is darkened, the moon turns to blood and some stars fall from heaven.

The sixth seal is a great earthquake, such as the world has never seen before. Then the seventh seal begins, which is, divided into seven trumpets. The first six trumpets are in Rev. 8 and 9.

Trumpet 1: one third of the earth is burned.(Rev. 8:7)

Trumpet 2: one third of the seas become blood. (Rev. 8:8)

Trumpet 3: one third of water becomes undrinkable wormwood. (Rev. 8:11)

Trumpet 4: one third of the sun, moon, and stars are darkened. (Rev 8:12)

Trumpet 5: locusts with the power of scorpions harm men for 5 months. (Rev 9:3)

Trumpet 6: 200 million horsemen kill one third of men. Yet, mankind still does not repent. (Rev. 9:16, 18)

At the seventh trumpet the believers who are left on earth are raptured to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:17), (Rev. 14:15-17). And another angel came out of the temple and cried with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud. Thrust in Thy sickle and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. Matt. 25:1-12 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened to ten virgins... and while they went away to buy, the bridegroom came and they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage, and the door was shut. 1 Thess. 4:15 For this I say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep.

After this rapture, the Lord sets up His judgement seat for His believers Matt 25:19. After a long time the Lord of those servants comes and reckoned with them. 2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether good or bad. Eccles. 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil. This judgement seat is for all the believers conduct and work for which they will be either rewarded or disciplined. Out of this judgement the overcoming believers go into the Kingdom of Christ for 1, 000 years.

In Rev. 11:15-16 are the last of the trumpets, with the seventh trumpet made up of seven bowls. During this time, the Lord returns openly to earth and destroys Antichrist and his armies and casts satan in the bottomless pit.

Toward the end of the sixth bowl any believers who are still left on earth are raptured to meet the Lord in the air.

This ends the great tribulation and has brought Christ back to the earth, as the Son of David to have His millennial kingdom on earth.

The Lord has three groups of people on earth that He deals with at the end of the age. One is the Israelites. They are covered in Matt. 24:1-31. The next is the church, and they are covered in Matt. 24:32-25:30. And the last group are the nations who are covered in Matt. 25:31-46. The “sheep” of the nations who took care of God’s people during the great tribulation will be rewarded to go into the Lord’s 1,000 year kingdom on earth (Zech. 14:16, Rev. 21:24). The 1,000 year kingdom has it’s finale with satan’s final demise and the dead unbelievers final judgement at the great white throne. The earth and mankind are now all cleared up to make way for the New Heaven and New Earth with the New Jerusalem.

Lesson 43 The Overcomers

Though there are apostles, prophets, shepherds, and teachers in the church (Eph. 4:11), we are all believers in the Lord Jesus and have the same standing (Mat 23:8). We are all just branches in the vine (Jn. 15:5). We are all servants of the Lord (Matt. 25:8) and virgins waiting for our bridegroom to return (Matt 25:1). Even though we are the same, if you look carefully at the New Testament, you will see that the Lord calls us to be overcomers. Rev. 3:21: To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with my father in His throne. In Rev. 2 and 3, to each of the seven churches, He makes a call for His people to be overcomers. Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26 and Rev. 3:5, 12, 21. In the gospels He tells us to be ones who go to God to ask, seek, and knock (Matt. 7:7). He tells us that we need to be those who do the will of the father that we might not just be people who hear His words and then don’t do them (Matt. 7:26).

Again the Lord Jesus exhorts us to “enter through the narrow gate for narrow is the gate and constricted is the way that leads unto life and few there be that find it.” (Matt. 7:13-14). Hebrews 11:6 says that God “... is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”. One of the illustrations that the Lord used was that of the ten virgins in Matt. 25: 1-3. Five were wise and five were foolish. The five that were wise got to go into “the wedding feast” in verse 10 (dby.). To the others, the door to the wedding feast was shut.

In Rev. 3:14-22 the word is very clear, the Lord rebukes the church in Laodicea for being lukewarm, neither hot nor cold. He will spew them out of His mouth (vs 16). They think they are in great condition, but He tells them that they need to repent (vs 19) and overcome (vs 21). To enter the wedding feast is to be one who receives the reward (1 Cor. 3:14) to be in Christ’s 1,000 year kingdom on earth (Rev. 20:6). Those who are not prepared for the Lord’s coming will be in shame before Him (Rev. 16:15) and put into “outer darkness” (Matt. 25:30) during this time. This is a temporary discipline to these children of the Lord who were not faithful, but slothful and unprofitable (Matt. 25:26-30). Once they have gained the oil (Matt. 25: 10) and the time is over, they will then participate in the eternal blessing of the New Jerusalem, the eternal dwelling place of God and man (Rev. 21: 1-3, Eph. 6:11-17). They will be part of the bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2).

So, to be an overcomer is to be what the Lord Jesus desires before He returns. It is to be an person loving the Lord, loving our fellow believers, one who is asking, seeking, and knocking, one who is strong in the word of God (1 Jn. 2:14), resisting and standing against the devil (Rom. 16:20, Eph. 6:11-17, James 4:7, Rev. 12:11) and one who lives above all the downward trends in the church. There are many exhortations throughout the bible, such as, “be filled in spirit singing and psalming in your heart to God (Eph. 5:14). Always rejoice, unceasingly pray, in everything give thanks (1 Thess. 5: 16-18) Each one of us, even the least among us, has received a fortune from the Lord (Matt 25:14). A talent is a 100 pound unit of weight. We must do business with this or at least

gain interest (vs 27). He expects and requires each of us to be faithful with the rich gift He has given us. To be faithful in these days is to be an overcomer.

Eventually the church as a whole, will not be ready. But there will arise out of God's people, the overcomers. They are described in Rev. 2 and 3. Each stage in history, corresponding to each church in Revelation, will have overcomers.

Ephesus- the church in the initial stage. To him who overcomes the losing of the first love, I will give to eat of the tree of life.

Smyrna- the church in persecution. He who overcomes to be faithful unto death, he shall by no means be hurt of the second death.

Pergamos- the church joined to the world. To him who overcomes the teaching of the Nicolaitans, to him I will give of the hidden manna and I will give a white stone with a new name written, which no one knows except he who receives it.

Thyatira- the church in apostasy. To him who overcomes apostasy and keeps my works unto the end, to him I will give authority over the nations. And to him I will give the morning star (to be raptured).

Sardis- the church in reformation. You have a name that you are living, but you are dead. To him who overcomes he will be clothed in white garments and I shall by no means erase his name from the book of life.

Philadelphia- the church in recovery. He who overcomes, him will I make a pillar in the temple of my God and he shall by no means go out anymore and I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the New Jerusalem.

Laodicea- the church in degradation. To him who overcomes being lukewarm, neither cold or hot, to him I will give to sit with Me on my throne.

Rev. 14:4 These are those who follow the Lamb wherever He may go.

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him (satan) by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony and they loved not their lives unto the death.

At every church epoch the Lord needs overcomers. He needs those who are one with Him for what He wants. We have everything we need in Him to overcome. Let us aspire to be those overcomers whom the Lord desires.

Lesson 44 The Rapture

The principal of the rapture is shown in Genesis 5, where the first rapture happened. "And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him" Genesis 5:24. This is referred to in Hebrews 11:5, By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death and was not found, because God had translated him, for before his translation he had the testimony that he pleased God" (dby.).

This is the principle of the rapture, that a person is mature in the divine life and living a human life that is in line with Christ, a mature Christian life, then he will be raptured.

One aspect of how the Bible refers to us is as God's farm, 1 Cor. 3:9. James 5:7 says, be patient therefore brothers, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer (God) waits patiently for the precious fruit of the earth, and has long patience for it, until it receives the early and later rain (para). This tells us that God is waiting for his harvest to ripen.

In the ripening of the harvest there are three stages. There are the firstfruits, the harvest, and there are the gleanings. In Revelation we see these three. The firstfruits are very special, and according to Leviticus 23:10-11 they are taken and presented directly before God. This is shown in Revelation 14:1-5 and it happens at the beginning of the Great tribulation.

According to 1 Thess. 4:15-18 and 1 Cor. 15:51-53 the harvest of the majority of believers happens at the last trumpet, which is

towards the end of the Great tribulation. This is seen in Rev 14:14-16. This harvest is a harvest of grain or wheat. We know this because verse 15 says "the harvest of the earth is ripe". The word ripe in Greek is the word dried. So the harvest of the Earth is dried. It is important to see this so that we do not mix up the harvest of the wheat in these verses with the harvest of The Grapes of Wrath that follows in the next verses.

The reaping of the gleanings is indicated in Rev 16:15 which is in the midst of the last vials of God's wrath.

All of these events are predicated upon the "ripeness" of the people, of their growth in Christ.

But the Bible says more – as believers, we have a responsibility.

Matthew 24:15-44, Luke 17:20-37, and Luke 21:20-36 show the world situation and Lord's return. Luke 21:31 says: So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom is nigh (near) at hand. Vs 34-36 But take heed to yourselves, lest haply your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting (weighted down with over indulgence), and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Vs 36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

"Watch and pray that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things." You may escape, but it is totally dependent on your watching and praying.

In Rev 3 the Lord speaks a word to the church in Philadelphia, one of seven churches which was in a very healthy condition. To them he says, Because thou hast kept the word of my patience (endurance gk.), I also will keep thee out of the hour of trial, which is about to come upon the whole inhabitable world, to try them that dwell upon the earth Rev 3:10 (dby.). In verse 12 he continues: Him that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of my God... The church in Philadelphia was a church of

“overcomers”. To such people the Lord promised that he would “keep them out of the hour of trial” that is coming on the whole earth, a word that he did not say to the other six churches in Rev 2-3.

The Lord said that His return would be like lightning that flashes from one end of heaven to the other. It is visible to the whole earth and cannot be missed. Mat 24:27. This is at the end of the great tribulation. But in Matt. 24: 43 and I Thess. 5:2 he warns his people that he is coming as a thief in the night and that one will be taken and one left. In Mat 24:44 he warns us, “therefore be ready, for as in such an hour as ye think not, the son of man cometh”. Watch and pray that you may be counted worthy to escape Lk 21:36, therefore be ready. These are our responsibilities.

While we are still in the darkness of mankind’s reign on earth, and as tumultuous things are happening, the Lord comes as a thief to steal his valuable, loving believers. But if you are eating and drinking with the worldly people, you will be left behind like Lot’s wife (Lk 17:32) and go through most of the tribulation, until the last trumpet. Mat 24:40 One shall be taken, and one left. It is like an eagle swooping down, Darby translates it thus: One shall be snatched, and the other let go. One is ready to be taken by the Lord, “I will keep you out of the hour of trial” (Rev 3:10), and the other will be left behind, “lest that day catch you unawares” (Lk. 21:34). If we are watching and praying, like servants waiting for their master Lk 12:36, then the Lord will give us the “morning star” (Rev 2:28) and we will be secretly raptured to the heavens (Rev 7:9) and miss most of the great tribulation.

So you see, it is not either/or. It is not a question of whether the rapture is before the tribulation or at the end. It is a question of readiness. Are you ripe in Christ, loving him and anticipating his return? Are you one who says with the Spirit “Come Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:17). If so, you are valuable to him and he will come and steal you away. If you are just occupied with this human life, letting the anxieties of life rule you rather than the peace of Christ (Col 3:15), then his secret coming will pass you by. “One will be

left” and you will remain on earth. Your passing through the great tribulation will dry you out of all the worldly water and eventually you will only want Christ. Then you will be ripe and ready for harvest “at the last trump”.

You have a choice, you can be an overcomer. Have roots that go deep into God (Mat 13:5-8), bring forth thirty-fold, invest the Lord’s talent, watch and pray, take the narrow gate, seek and ye shall find.

Lesson 45 The Requirement to be a Faithful Servant

Our Lord has provided us “so great a salvation” (Heb. 2:3). He has taken away our sin (Heb. 9:28), washed us (1 Cor. 6:11), clothed us (Lk. 15:22), infilled us (Jn. 14:17), equipped us (Heb. 13:21), and given us a spiritual fortune (Matt. 25:15), from which He expects a good return (Lk. 19:22-23), (Lk. 20:9-10) both for Himself and for our benefit (Phil. 4:17).

The security of our salvation is founded “on nothing less than Jesus Christ our righteousness” (2 Cor. 5:21). Now we have hope “which we have as an anchor of the soul, both secure and firm...” (Heb. 6:19). So, our standing before God is secure, even eternally secure (Heb. 9:12, Jn. 10:28). But now, as God’s redeemed, He expects us to bear fruit to God (Rom. 7:4) and we are His servants, even slaves (Matt. 25:14) and it is required that we be found faithful (1 Cor. 4:2). In Matthew and Luke (Matt. 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27, Luke 17:7-10) the Lord gives us parables which show the riches He has given us and how He expects us to “do business until I come” (Luke 19:13). In these parables the Lord rewards the faithful slaves and chastises the unfaithful and slothful slaves. These are not a parables about whether we are “saved” or not. These are parables to us, His believers and they encourage us and warn us that we need to “do business” with what the Lord has committed to each one of us.

This thought is repeated by Paul in 1 Cor. 3:11-15 For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as through fire.

The foundation which is laid is that Jesus Christ has taken away our sin and made us right with God (Rom. 5:1). Now we are required to build on this foundation (1 Cor. 3:10), even to the least of us, we are given one talent "according to our ability" (Matt. 25:15). So, there is no excuse. Perhaps if you are crippled, blind, deaf, and dumb, then you could have an excuse. But, if you love the Lord, no matter how much you are handicapped, you still will want to bear fruit to Him (S.S. 8:12-14).

So what the bible clearly states is that we, His believers, must give an account to Him, for either reward or discipline.

(We also must pursue the holiness of our holy God, but that is another lesson. Heb 12:14)

2 Cor. 5:10 Paul says: "We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that which he has done, whether it be good or evil."

Paul includes himself and all believers in this verse. Believers will give an account for how they lived their life at the judgement Seat of Christ.

Matt 16:27 For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels and then He shall reward every man according to his works.

1 Pet 4:17 For it is time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Rom. 14:10, 12 But thou why judge you your brother? For we shall all be placed before the judgement seat of God. So then each of us shall give an account concerning himself to God.

1 Cor. 3:8 He that plants and he that waters are one; and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Paul is talking about how he and Apollos ministered to the church in Corinth, but saying how each one will be rewarded according to their own work.

Matt 25:14-15, 19-21 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants and delivered to them his goods, and unto one he have five talents, to another two and to another one; to every man according to his own ability; and straightway took his journey. After a long time the lord of those servants comes, and reckons with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, you delivered unto me five talents; behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things; enter into the joy of your lord.

Matt. 25:24-30 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew you are a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered; and I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the earth; lo, there you have what is yours. His lord answered and said to him, you wicked and slothful servant, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I have not scattered: you ought to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with interest. Take therefore the talent from him and give it to him which has ten talents. For every one that has shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from

him that has not it shall be taken away even that which he has. And cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (para)

(* Talent: a talent is a large unit of measure that was worth about 6,000 denarii. A denarii is a day's pay (Matt 20:2). Thus one talent is worth about one million dollars)

Heb 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which has great recompense of reward. Read Recovery Version Heb. 10:35 note 1.

Heb 11:26 Accounting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he looked unto the recompense of reward (asv).

Rev 22:12 Behold I come quickly and my reward is with Me to give every man according as his work shall be. This is one of the very last things that Jesus says in the bible, and it is spoken to us.

The punishment or discipline is temporary**, for our benefit (Heb 12:7-11), it is not to perish in the lake of fire for eternity. That is for unbelievers (Rev 20:11-15). If you consider these verses you can see that the reward is to enter into His one thousand year Kingdom on earth and to suffer loss is to go into outer darkness. Outer darkness is a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

(** the temporary aspect of discipline can be seen in Matt 5:25-26 and 18:21-35, particularly in 5:26 and 18:34)

God's intent and goal is that all His children be conformed to the image of Christ (Rom 8:29), and in the long run He will not accept anything less than that. Those who take the cross, deny themselves, live Christ (Phil 1:21) and are conformed to His image are those who have taken the straight gate and walked the narrow way that leads to life. These people will surely be rewarded and enter into His kingdom.

As we grow in this life, and Christ grows in us as life (Jn 12:24), we become perfected in Christ, which is manifested as love. Eventually, there is no fear in love, as we mature in Him.

1 John 4:16-18 And we have known and have believed the love which God has to us. God is love, and he that abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Herein has love been perfected with us that we may have boldness in the day of judgement, that even as He is, we also are in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has torment, and he that fears has not been perfected in love. We love because He first loved us (dby.).

1 John 3:18-20 Children, let us not love with word, nor with tongue, but in deed and in truth. And hereby we shall know that we are of the truth, and shall persuade our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

Read Recovery Version, Hebrews 12:28 note 1 and Romans 14:10 note 1.

So, there will be reward and loss for believers depending on what they do in their body. But, this will only be temporary. I Thess. 5:9 says: "For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to the obtaining of salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ." Eventually, all believers will be in the New Jerusalem on the new earth, it will be filled with God and the expression of God. The entire New Jerusalem will be the Holy of Holies, the divine nature will be there as the golden street and in the middle of the street is the river of water of life with the tree of life growing in it. This will be our eternal future and is our hope today.

As this is an unfamiliar topic, we spent a lot of time on it. The Bible also presents another aspect of being prepared, read Matt 25:1-13. This parable shows us that we can be prepared by "gaining the oil". We gain the oil within through the transformation of the Holy Spirit. Any outward activity of a faithful servant must be the issue of a life in union with Christ, for as Jesus said "apart from me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). Read Recovery Version Matt 25:9 note 3.

Vocabulary: Overcomer

One who “gains the oil” is an overcomer, see Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26
Rev 3:5, 12, 21 Rev 12:11 Aspire to overcome!
Reread Lesson 16 The Way, and “Growing” in Lesson 1.

Lesson 46 The Kingdom

Rev. 3:21 To him who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with me on my throne.

Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones and they that sat on them and judgement was given to them and the souls of those beheaded on account of the testimony of Jesus and on account of the word of God and those who had not done homage to the beast nor his image and had not received the mark on their forehead and have and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years: the rest of the dead did not live until the thousand years had been completed (dby.).

Zech. 8:23 In those days shall ten men take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew saying, we will go with you for we have heard that God is with you (dby.).

Isaiah 2:3-4 Come, let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob and he will teach us of His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law and Jehovah’s word from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall reprove many peoples and they shall forge their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning knives; nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war anymore (dby.).

Following the great tribulation, Jesus Christ will come to rule and reign on earth for 1,000 years. Rev. 20:4 and they ruled and reigned with Christ for 1,000 years. That the Christ, the Messiah, the son of David would rule on earth is foretold in the Old Testament numerous times: psalms 2: 8-9, 2 Samuel 7:12-13, Daniel 7:14, 27, Zech. 14:9. Christ’s eternal reign begins with His

1,000 year Messianic Kingdom on earth. This 1,000 year kingdom is the “wedding feast” of Matt. 25:10 and “the joy of thy Lord” in Matt 25: 21-23 which overcoming believers receive as a reward in Heb. 10:35-36, 11:26, and Rev. 22:12.

At the end of the 1,000 years, the ultimate and consummate judgement of God is executed upon Satan with his being thrown into the lake of fire where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev. 20:10). Next, the old heavens and old earth pass away (Rev. 21:1) through burning (2 Peter 3:12-13) to become the New Heaven and New Earth. The New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven to the new earth as the eternal dwelling place of God and all His redeemed, perfected, and glorified saints dwell there for eternity.

The overcoming believers will be the priests and kings ruling and reigning with Christ and the saved Jews will be the priests teaching the nations the word of God and how to worship in His temple in Jerusalem.

Matt. 25:1- 30 Then shall the kingdom of the heavens will be likened unto ten virgins, who took their *lamps* (gk.) and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, took no oil with them; but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps .While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh. Go out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise: give us of your oil, for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered: saying, not so; lest there be not enough for us and for you; go rather to them that sell and buy for yourselves. And while they went away to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But He answered and said, verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.

For the kingdom of the heaven is as a man travelling into a far country who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents and to another two and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with the same and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained another two. But he that had received the one went and dug in the earth and hid his lord's money. After a long time the Lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received five talents came and brought another five talents saying Lord, thou delivered to me five talents: I have gained another five talents. His master said to him, well done good and faithful servant. You were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. He also who had received the two talents also came and said, lord, you delivered to me two talents; behold I have gained another two talents. His lord said to him, well done, good and faithful servant, you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.

Then he who had received the one talent came and said lord, I knew thee, that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not winnow, and I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the earth; behold you have what is yours. And his lord answered and said unto him, evil and slothful slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not winnow. Therefore you should have deposited my money with the moneychangers and when I came, I would have recovered what is mine with interest. Take away therefore the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he shall abound; but from him who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken away from him. And cast out the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (para).

The parable of the virgins is according to life needed for the kingdom and the parable of the talents is according to the service needed for the kingdom. We need the oil, which is the Holy Spirit for life and we need to be faithful in our service. Both are needed to enter the kingdom of our Lord. This is what it means to be an overcomer. Our vessels are full of the Holy Spirit and we are faithful in the use of our abilities in our service to the Lord. Then we will receive the reward and enter into the Kingdom with our Lord.

Regarding the nations in Christ's kingdom:

The people of the nations who were not killed in the great tribulation will stand before the Lord and He will separate the sheep from the goats. Matt. 25:35 I was hungry and you gave me meat, I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me and I was in prison and you came to me. Vs 40: as much as you did it unto these my brethren you did it unto me.

These are the sheep, who cared for the believers in the great tribulation. They will go into the kingdom to be the nations. The goats will be cast out into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Lesson 47 The New Jerusalem

Rev. 1:1 says "the revelation is made known by signs". For example, when Jesus said He was the "bread of life" in John 6:35, that was a sign, a symbol. Likewise, so many things in revelation are signs, something that represents a spiritual reality. So, regarding the New Jerusalem, do not try to make the spiritual reality merely a physical thing.

Rev 21:10-23, Rev 22:1-2 And He carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory

of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; and had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: on the east three gates, and on the north three gates; and on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lies foursquare and the length is as large as the breadth: And He measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and breadth and the height of it are equal. And He measured the wall thereof, a hundred and forty four cubits, according to the measure of a man that is of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones.... And the street of the city was pure gold as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city has no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof... And He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bear twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: and they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no more night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign forever and ever.

This is the end of the bible. This is the last thing in the bible. This is God's final goal. The New Jerusalem. Here are the points.

1. It is us, the Bride of Christ,
2. It is made of precious, transformed stones 2 Cor. 3:18.
3. It shines with the Glory of God.
4. It is the mutual dwelling place of the Triune God and redeemed mankind.
5. It comes down out of heaven from God.
6. The length, width, and height are equal. It is a cube.
7. Having twelve gates.
8. Having one street.
9. Having one river in the middle of its street.
10. The tree of life is on both sides of the river.
11. It contains the throne of God and of the Lamb.
12. The Lamb is the lamp of the city.

First of all, notice, the city comes down, out of heaven, from God. This is the word of God. God's final place for His people comes down out of heaven from God.

The length, width and height are equal. These are the dimensions of the Holy of Holies, meaning that the New Jerusalem is now the Holy of Holies where God dwells. The city has 12 gates, 3 on each side, meaning the city is easily accessible to all on earth through the salvation of the Triune God.

The tree of life is growing on both sides of the street and produces fruit each month. The leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of the nations who are outside the gates of the city.

This is God's purpose. To have a building of all His believers that expresses Him in all His glory. The city has the glory of God. The river of water of life flows to the whole city to be our refreshment and supply with Christ as the water of life. Christ, as the tree of life continually produces fresh fruit to sustain us. This is our future. It is glorious and wonderful. We will dwell with God in Christ forever and ever. Thank the Lord for our glorious future in the New Jerusalem.

Lesson 48 The Twelve Foundations

In Rev. 21:19-20 the twelve foundations of the New Jerusalem are presented. These foundations are layered one on top of another. The “first” foundation is jasper. It is the top foundation and matches the wall (Rev. 21:18). The foundations are presented from God’s perspective, not man’s. So, the final, complete foundation on top is presented first, following down to the foundation layer where we start, amethyst. Here the foundations are presented from the bottom, going up.

The twelve foundations of the New Jerusalem correspond to our growth in the Christian life.

Starting with amethyst and going up to Jasper. It is a wonderful progression. We start with receiving the Savior and end up expressing God in His glory as the New Jerusalem. All the steps in between are our Christian life.

1. Amethyst: purple-red plus blue. Purple is the union of blue and red. The heavenly One who bled for us. He is the foundation on which all else is built. No other foundation can be laid

2. Jacinth: purple -Jacinth gets its color from being irradiated. We are irradiated with the truth of the gospel and we then radiate it out to others. We testify it; as represented by the number 2.

3. Chrysophras: apple-green - the color of new life. We are given new life in Christ who is life. 3 is the triune God in life.

4. Topaz: yellow - Light. Life issues in light, light causes growth. 4 is the creature. John 1:4.

5. Beryl: blue-green-Five is the number of responsibility. The life and light we receive issues in our bearing our Christian responsibility. Our life comes into line with God’s will.

6. Chrysolite: gold stone-we begin to express and show forth Christ in our life. 6 is the number of the proper man created by God.

7. Sardius: red- we experience the cross of Christ for the crossing out of the self. God's life plus the cross of Christ make us complete. Seven is the number of completion in God's move.

8. Sardonyx: striped, red - bearing the brands of Jesus in resurrection. The cross becomes the characteristic of our life. 8 is the number of resurrection.

9. Emerald: green-we become life to others. "Death operates in us, but life in you" 2 Cor. 4:12. This is 3X3, the triune God in resurrection.

10. Chalcedony: is the color of heavenly blue.-We have the heavenly humanity of Jesus in us that builds up others. Ten is the number of perfection.

11. Sapphire: deep blue - related to God's throne. We become the administration of God's throne. It is 12 minus 1= 11. The eleven apostles in acts were God's administration on the earth.

12. Jasper: dark green. Showing forth God in His glory as the New Jerusalem in eternal completion. The number 12 means eternal completion.

The foundations are a complete picture of the Christian life. Every stage is here. Wonderful!

Lesson 49 Church History 1

Church history can be divided into seven periods corresponding to the seven churches in Revelation 2-3. These were actual churches at the time Revelation was written but they also represent the progression of church history.

The period of time from the book of Acts to the persecution of the Roman Caesars is the first period and corresponds to the church in Ephesus. Ephesus started out really good at the time of the apostles but ended up losing her first love for the Lord.

Rev. 2:10(asy.) behold the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and you shall have tribulation for ten days. This refers to the second period of time and to the church in Smyrna, the suffering church.

Persecution from the Caesars is called in this verse, 10 days, starting from Caesar Nero and going all the way to Constantine. Many Christians were killed by the Roman Empire. This lasted from the first century AD to the fourth century. Then Constantine became emperor. To consolidate his power he made Christianity the empire's religion and many, many unbelievers came into the 'church'. This produced the church in Pergamos. She was married to the world and influenced by Satan. She also had the teachings of the Nicolaitans, which is the clergy-laity system, which is not according to the New Testament teaching.

The clergy-laity system became the dominate system and issued in the fourth type of church, the Catholic Church, with its clerical system. This is the church in Thyatira, the church in apostasy (falling away). This is also represented by the woman in Matt. 13:33 who hid leaven in the fine flour. This is to mix abominations with the things of Christ. Revelation chapter 17 characterizes her as the great harlot and she is completely destroyed in Revelation 17. History tells us that the Roman Catholic Church has persecuted and killed more Christians than the Roman Empire ever did. But in the end days, the Lord praises many of her people for their works, love, faith, and service Rev. 2:19.

In the 1500's there was the protestant reformation led by Martin Luther and Zwingli in Switzerland. This was a reaction to the Catholic Church, especially in the taking of indulgences or money for the forgiveness of sins which can only happen by the redemption of Christ. Many Christian groups joined the reformation which brought in the fifth type of church, the church in Sardis. This church eventually became dead spiritually. She had a name she was living but she was dead. This church will remain until the Lord's return. The Lord exhorts her to "be watchful and

strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Rev.3:2

From the early days of the church there were a group of believers living in the alpine valleys of Italy a group of believers called the Waldenses. "Apart from the Holy Scriptures they had no special confession of faith or religion, nor any rules, and no authority of any man, however eminent, was allowed to set aside the authority of scripture. Yet, throughout the centuries, and in all countries, they confessed the same truths and had the same practices" The Pilgrim Church. Broadbent. They had no organization and relied on fellowship among themselves and between them and other believers they heard about. They did not build church buildings but met in small groups in homes. One of their practices was for an older brother to take a younger brother and they would travel to fellowship with the other believers they had heard existed.

In southern Germany close to the border with Moravia there were the Moravian Brethren. These also met in a simple way in homes with only the word of God as their guide. These groups and more like them became the sixth type of church, the church in Philadelphia, they were the recovered church, not new, but recovered back to the original. Count Zinzendorf took them in to his estate at Herrnhut and a group of them sought the Lord together. They had 24 hour a day prayer that lasted 100 years, they strove to lay aside any differences and be one with each other and they sent out gospel preachers all over the world. Along with these were the Plymouth Brethren in England, the Anabaptists, the Albigenses, the Dunkards, the Lollards, the Bogomils and others who met outside the Catholic Church. These were all part of the church in Philadelphia in revelation chapter 3.

But, as with all moves of the Lord, even though a certain group has contributed much to the body of Christ, that group eventually goes down hill and becomes Laodicea. This was particularly evident with the Plymouth Brethren, who became divided by doctrinal debates and became degraded. The degraded church in Philadelphia becomes the church in Laodicea. This is the seventh

kind of church. Both these churches remain until the Lord comes. Laodicea thought she was rich when actually she was poor and blind. Rev. 3:17.

In recent history, there was a group known as the Local church. They had a period of time in the last century in which they could have been called “The Church in Philadelphia”. Any group that takes the simple way of exalting Christ, putting His word first, practicing the universal priesthood of the believers, dropping their differences, and loving one another in the home group setting, and caring for the unbelievers by preaching the gospel will find that they enter into the condition of Philadelphia.

We strongly recommend every believer should read church history. The Pilgrim Church is an excellent source. It is very insightful.

Lesson 50 Church History 2

The Moravian Brethren were being persecuted in Moravia by the Catholic Church at the time of the protestant reformation. They were looking for a place to practice their beliefs in safety. Count Zinzendorf had similar beliefs and owned a large estate in southern Germany called Herrenhut. He invited them there to live and practice their beliefs. He also invited other believers who were being persecuted in Europe. They had different beliefs, but Zinzendorf told them they had to be one. They were not allowed to argue and be divided. They had to sign an agreement saying they would do this. They signed the agreement. They began to meet in small groups of 8 to 10 people called bands. They studied the word, prayed and sang. Each day they had a different verse to study. They developed a 24 hour prayer chain every day of the week. They sent out missionaries to all parts of the earth with the gospel of Jesus Christ. They bore a wonderful testimony to the Lord.

They believed and practiced the universal priesthood of all believers. Every believer is a priest having something to offer to God and a portion to share with other believers. Each one has a portion, a gift, a service to offer. No one is greater than any other. All are priests. They practiced the oneness of all believers no matter what their beliefs were. They had a saying, "In the essentials-unity, in the nonessentials-liberty and in all things-love" The essentials are only what is required to be a genuine believer. The nonessentials are everything else, such as, baptism method, head covering, tongues, rapture, and heaven. In all things keep the Lord's commandment to love one another. They practiced having a simple living, being content with the Lord's grace and serving the Lord by going out with the gospel

These believers left us a wonderful example to follow in our Christian life. We need examples like this just as it says in Song of Songs, "Follow the footsteps of the flock."

Lesson 51 Woman and Manchild in Revelation 12

Rev 12: 1-6 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars; and she being with child cried, travailing in birth and pained to be delivered. And she brought forth a man-child, who was to rule all the nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and sixty days.

This woman is clothed with the sun. The sun is the Lord Jesus (Mal. 4:2, Lk. 1:78) The woman is manifesting the Lord Jesus brightly at the end of this age. The woman is the church at the end of this age.

She has the moon under her feet. It is part of her but she is above it. This refers to the Israelites and the age of the law.

The twelve stars on her head refer to the age of the patriarchs before the time of the twelve tribes of Israel. The patriarchs are Adam, Enoch, Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Noah, David, etc.

This woman is the composite of all of God's people through all of the dispensations. Out of her comes the stronger part of God's people, which are the overcomers. There are only two places the bible uses the phrase to rule with a rod of iron. One refers to the Lord Jesus and the other to the overcomers in the church in Thyatira. So, here it refers to all the overcomers among God's people through the ages. This is the man-child.

When the man-child is brought forth he is immediately raptured to God and to His throne. He will join the heavenly host to cast Satan out of heaven (Rev. 12:11) and come to earth with the Lord (Rev. 19:14) to fight the armies of Antichrist. These armies will be defeated.

The woman will flee into the wilderness where there is a place prepared for her and she will be nourished and protected there. Vs 13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man-child. And to the woman were given the two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

Water here signifies armies from Antichrist who chase the woman, but the earth opens up and swallows them. Time and times and half a time refer to the three and one half years of the great tribulation. The wilderness is a place of nourishment and protection. This could be the United States, because Antichrist will

be centered in Europe. The U.S. is a place of great wealth and bounty. It could be the wilderness.

The Lord wants us to be His overcomers to join Him in fighting Antichrist and his armies. We need to seek to be such overcomers always standing with the Lord to resist Satan and exercise our authority over him given us by the Lord and by His blood shed for us.

Lesson 52 The Hope of His Coming

Rev. 22:20 Amen, come Lord Jesus. Song of Songs 8: The companions are listening for thy voice, let me hear it. Be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Spices (para).

Our Beloved returns. We love Him. Our first desire is to be with our Beloved.

2 Tim. 4:8 Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me in that day, and not to me only but unto all them also that love His appearing.

Rev. 11:15 The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever. Vs 17 Thou hast taken to Thee Thy great power and hast reigned.

Antichrist and the false prophet are cast alive into the lake of fire. Rev. 19:20

Satan is bound for 1000 years. Rev. 20:2-3 And He laid hold of the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil and satan and bound him for 1000 years.

The Jews are returned to the good land and sealed (Rev. 7:4) I heard the number of them which were sealed: there were 144,000 of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Rev. 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Daniel 2:35 The stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Rev. 6:9-10 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice saying, how long O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

These are the martyrs of the last 2,000 years who were killed for their testimony for the Lord Jesus and His word. They are asking the Lord to avenge their deaths. To judge those on the earth who did this. He must judge the people on the earth. His very nature demands judgement. He must judge all unrighteousness, unholiness, and all evil, such as: Idolatry, fornication, murders, lies, stealing, crookedness, and hate. These are all against His nature and will be judged at His coming.

On the positive side, sin has been dealt with, the rebellious world rulers will be vanquished, the sheep and goats will be sorted out, it is time for God to give His reward to all who fear His name (Rev. 11:18), we, His believers, will put on immortality (1 Cor. 15:53) and Christ will reign in Jerusalem, eventually bringing in the New Heavens and New Earth, with the New Jerusalem.

This is our hope in His coming. Come Lord Jesus.



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