

Children's Services

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LESSON 1 - Being the Kind of Person God Can Use

I. Salvation:

- A. “Ye must be born again” John 3:1-7 (Discuss the parallel of the two births in this passage.)
 - 1. How? - John 1:11-13
 - 2. Titus 3:5
- B. A work of the Holy Spirit - II Corinthians 7:10 coupled with John 16:7-11
- C. Necessary for spiritual understanding - I Corinthians 2:14

II. Dedication:

- A. Romans 12:1,2 - Giving God what is already His, both by creation and by redemption. Ezekiel 18:4
- B. Proverbs 3:5,6
- C. Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1
- D. Matthew 6:33

III. Fellowship:

- A. I John 1:3,7 - Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.
- B. II Corinthians 6:14-18
- C. The Christian's walk:
 - 1. John 14:21 and I Samuel 15:22,23 (Obedience)
 - 2. Ephesians 2:1,2
 - 3. Ephesians 2:8-10
 - 4. Ephesians 4:1-3
 - 5. Ephesians 4:17
 - 6. Ephesians 5:1,2
 - 7. Ephesians 5:8-11
 - 8. Ephesians 5:15
 - 9. Galatians 5:16
 - 10. Colossians 4:5
- D. Four things are necessary to being the right kind of a person:
 - 1. Obedience - John 14:21
 - 2. Reading, studying and hiding the Word of God in our hearts. Psalm 119:9,11
 - 3. Prayer - I Thessalonians 5:17
 - 4. Witnessing - Acts 1:8

IV. Our witness:

- A. Acts 1:8

- B. Ephesians 4:11-15
 - C. II Corinthians 5:17-21
 - D. John 15:5 coupled with Philippians 4:13
- V. To be used of God we must first be the kind of person God can use. God will not use a dirty vessel. In order to get our prayers answered, we must have our sins confessed and forsaken, and be walking in fellowship with God. One's relationship with and to God is basic to successful Christian service.

LESSON 2 - Seeking God's Will for Your Life

- I. Contrary to what you may have been told, God does have a formula for finding God's will for your life in areas which are not necessarily spelled out specifically in Scripture.
 - A. Matthew 6:33 - Putting God's will ahead of everything
 - B. Proverbs 3:5,6 - Trusting God implicitly, and not what seems right to us
 - C. Acts 13:1-3; Acts 1:4 and Acts 1:13,14 - Waiting on the Lord is absolutely essential. See also Isaiah 40:31
 - D. I John 5:14,15 - Wanting the will of God more than anything else in life
 - E. Psalm 37:4 - What you then desire will be the will of God
- II. Doing what God has clearly revealed as His will:
 - A. Some passages of Scripture say specifically that "this is the will of God..."
 - 1. I Thessalonians 5:12-25 - This contains what is called a parenthetical phrase: I Thessalonians 5:18b - "For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you..."
 - B. James 4:17 - Not to do what God has clearly revealed as His will; or to do what God has clearly revealed is not His will, is sin.
 - C. Of course, anything which God tells the believer to do is God's will for us.
- III. Finding the will of God for those things not presented as the will of God in so many words:
 - A. Things such as the vices of life - Verses such as I Corinthians 6:19,20, and I Corinthians 3:17 will tell us what we ought to do about them. Also Galatians 5:16-26 and Philippians 4:8
 - B. Every Christian should carefully weigh the possibility that God might want them in full-time Christian work. It is a sin if we do not make this possibility a prime priority.
 - 1. Pray about it regularly.
 - 2. Be willing to do what God wants.
 - 3. Be the most fruitful Christian you can be.
 - 4. Always refuse the temptation to follow the pattern of the world. Ephesians 5:1-11 and I John 2:15,16
 - C. Where should I prepare for what God wants me to be?
 - 1. Psalm 1:1,2 - If we cannot prepare in a Christian atmosphere, maybe it's not God's will. (See Roman numeral I)
 - 2. Whom does God want you to marry? (Roman numeral I)
 - a. Busy yourself in doing the revealed will of God and, in His time, He will bring the right one to you, just as He did with Adam. Matthew 6:33

LESSON 3 - Your Prayer Life

- I. God speaks to us through His Word, but we speak to Him through prayer.
 - A. Hebrews 4:14-16 Christ is our High Priest.
 - B. John 16:24 Prior to the resurrection and ascension the only way man could come to God was through an earthly high priest. Jesus was telling His disciples that after He was risen and seated at the Father's right hand, He could be the only means of access to the Father.
 - C. John 14:1-6 Through the finished work of Christ is the only way we can have access to a Holy God.
 - D. The believer's prayer life should be consistent.
 - 1. I Thessalonians 5:17
 - E. Every prayer promise has a condition to be met.
 - 1. Matthew 18:19 - Christians agreeing together
 - 2. Matthew 7:7,8 - Ask, seek and knock
 - 3. John 16:24 - Ask in Jesus' name, or through Christ
 - 4. John 5:14,15 - Ask according to God's will
 - 5. John 15:7 - Abiding in Christ
 - 6. James 5:13-16 - Confession of sin
 - 7. James 1:6-8 - Faith
 - 8. Jeremiah 33:3 - Call
- II. Hindrances to the Christian's prayer life:
 - A. Unconfessed sin - Psalm 66:18 and Isaiah 59:1,2
 - B. Mistreatment of one's wife - I Peter 3:7
 - C. Asking for the wrong reason - James 4:3
 - D. Offering unworthy service to God - Malachi 1:7-9
 - E. Forsaking God - Jeremiah 14:10,12
 - F. Rejecting the call of God - Proverbs 1:24,25 and 28
 - G. Being deaf to the cry of the poor - Proverbs 21:13
 - H. Being a shedder of blood - Isaiah 1:15 and 59:3
 - I. Wavering in our faith - James 1:6,7
 - J. Being a hypocrite - Job 27:8,9
 - K. Being proud - Job 35:12,13
 - L. Being self-righteous - Luke 18:11,12
 - M. Cruelty to the saints - Micah 3:2-4
- III. For whom and what should believers pray?
 - A. For Kings and all in authority - I Timothy 2:2 and 4

- B. For ministers - II Corinthians 1:11 and Philippians 1:19
- C. For the peace of Jerusalem - Psalm 122:6 and Isaiah 62:6,7
- D. All saints - Ephesians 6:18
- E. All men - I Timothy 2:1
- F. Masters (Employers) - Genesis 24:12-14
- G. Servants (Employees) - Luke 7:2,3
- H. Children - Genesis 17:18 and Matthew 15:22
- I. Friends - Job 42:8
- K. The sick - James 5:14
- L. Persecutors - Matthew 5:44
- M. Enemies - Jeremiah 29:7
- N. Those who envy us - Numbers 12:13
- O. Those who forsake us - II Timothy 4:16
- P. Those who murmur against God - Numbers 11:1,2
- Q. For more laborers in the harvest - Matthew 9:38
- R. Pray that you will not be tempted - Matthew 26:41
- S. Your daily bread - Luke 11:3
- T. For forgiveness of sins - Luke 11:4 and I John 1:9
- U. For souls to be saved - Romans 10:1

LESSON 4 - Your Attitude Toward the Word of God

I. What we believe about the Word of God

- A. Fundamental, Bible-believing Christians believe that the Bible is divinely, and supernaturally inspired by God, both verbally and plenary in the original manuscripts, or as they are often referred to, autographs. II Timothy 3:16,17
 - 1. By verbally inspired we mean that each word in the original autographs was inspired.
 - 2. By plenary inspired we mean that each part of the original manuscripts was equally inspired with every other part.
- B. Fundamental, Bible-believing Christians also believe that God has supernaturally preserved the Word of God for us today, and has superintended the translations of the Word of God into other languages.
- C. Fundamental, Bible-believing Christians also believe that God has preserved His Word verbally and plenary in the thousands of manuscripts which are in the form of parchments (Old Testament), Papyrus (writing materials made from the stem of the papyrus reed - The beginning of the Christian era), Uncials (copies of manuscripts in all capital letters - 4th Century AD), and Cursives (manuscripts written in handwriting – from later periods). Matthew 5:18

II. What we do not believe about the Word of God

- A. We do not believe that God re-inspired the Bible in English in the King James Version. (A version is a translation.) II Peter 1:20,21
 - 1. That would not be Divine preservation, but re-inspiration. The Bible never hints to that.
- B. We do not believe that there is any additional new Truth being given today. We believe that the Canon of inspired Scripture is complete. Revelation 22:18,19; Deuteronomy 4:2 and I Corinthians 13:8-10
- C. We do not believe that God inspired only concepts, not words. Concept inspiration is never taught in the Bible. Although the authorship of the various books can be confirmed by the style and vocabulary of the various writers, God took their style and vocabulary and moved them to write exactly what He wanted written. Matthew 4:4
- D. We do not believe that anyone has a corner on interpretation of the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit is the interpreter of the Word. See I Corinthians 2:8-14 and II Peter 1:21

III. A Biblical attitude toward the Word of God

- A. We should see it as the only effective weapon the Christian has against sin. Psalm 119:11
- B. We should see it as God's absolute Truth. John 17:17
- C. We should see it as that which lights the Christian's path. Psalm 119:105
- D. We should see it as the only offensive piece of the Christian's armor. Ephesians 6:17
- E. We should see it as that which has the answers for all the problems and needs of our lives. It can convict, and will convict every sin we can commit. Hebrews 4:12,13

and Psalm 1:39

- F. We ought to see it as that which produces faith. Romans 10:17 and John 20:31
- G. We ought to see it as the power of God. Romans 1:16; Genesis 1:2,6,9,11,14, 20,24,26 and John 1:3
- H. We should see it as that which produces growth in grace. I Peter 2:2
- I. We should love it. Psalm 119:97,113,159,163
- J. We should never be ashamed of it. Romans 1:16
- K. It is the power of God unto salvation. Romans 1:16

IV. Three things every Christian should do with God's Word

- A. We should read it as much as we can. Psalm 1:2
- B. We should study it. II Timothy 2:15
- C. We should memorize it. Psalm 119:11
 - 1. We cannot, however, get the Word of God in our hearts until we become doers of it. James 1:22

LESSON 5 - How to Seek a Life's Mate

- I. The relationship between husband and wife is a type of the relationship between Christ and the Church. Ephesians 5:22-33
 - A. For this reason, this relationship should be the second most important decision in an individual's life, next to one's salvation. Matthew 19:3-6
 - B. This relationship is for this life and is not to be broken by divorce. Matthew 19:7-12
 - C. Jesus interprets the Old Testament Scriptures for the Jews in Matthew 5:31,32 (See Deuteronomy 24:1-4)
 - D. Explain I Corinthians 7:10-16
- II. Is dating the answer?
 - A. You will not find the custom of dating in the Bible.
 - 1. Dating as we know it in our country today leads naturally to the stirring up of passions which belong to the marriage relationship. I Corinthians 7:1
 - 2. The Bible does not invite us to try Jesus, but to trust Jesus.
 - B. The Bible pattern is betrothal. We should not begin to look for a life's mate until we are old enough, and mature enough to enter into marriage.
 - 1. Boys and girls in their teens, and when they are going through puberty do not need the unscriptural pressures of dating. We encourage them to date and then preach that they should keep hands off.
 - C. In the Bible the boys and girls committed their lives and hearts to their parents and worked with them to find a suitable life's mate, just as the Christian ought to covenant with their Heavenly Father to trust Him to find just the right one for them. If we get busy serving the Lord and leave this matter with the Lord, the right one will come along at the right time and everything will be just right. Genesis 24
 - D. Prayer is so vital, along with trusting our parents to do what is right.
- III. The formula
 - A. Proverbs 3:5,6 - Trust the matter to God.
 - B. Be friends with all of the young people. I Timothy 5:1,2 Treat others of your own age as you would a brother or sister.
 - C. Keep busy serving the Lord and be taken up with Him and His will. Matthew 6:33 and Ecclesiastes 12:1
 - D. Be much in prayer from the time you are saved, about the kind of person you know the Lord would have to be your mate.
 - 1. A Christian should not only look for a person who is a Christian, but one who is a dedicated Christian. II Corinthians 6:14-18
 - 2. Look for a person who is called of God to do the same thing God wants you to do. Amos 3:3
 - 3. Look for a person to whom you will be attracted, not just because of their beauty, but because of spiritual qualities and qualities of character. Proverbs 31:10-31

4. If you are looking for a wife, look for one whom you can love as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it. Ephesians 5:25 If you are looking for a husband, look for one to whom you can submit, and whom you can trust for the leadership of your life as the Church should submit to and trust the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:22,23
- E. If you have arrived at the time and circumstances where you are ready for marriage, God's Spirit will bear witness with your spirit when you find the right one. You may fall in love immediately, but more often, love will come and will grow as you get to know them better.
- F. Remember, if you let your thoughts dwell on this before you are old enough and mature enough for marriage, it will rob you of what God wants you to be doing in preparation for your life's work. Philippians 4:8 and II Timothy 2:22
- G. Since God the Father is calling out a bride for His Son, and since the world is not the entity which determines who that bride will be, should we not trust our parents and work with them to determine who it is that God has for us?
 1. Even Samson who rebelled against his parents in the book of Judges turned to his father to go down to Timnath and get the girl who had caught his eye.
- H. If you do not have Christian parents to help you with this decision, remember, a Christian has his or her Heavenly Father to guide them to the right one. The wrong mate can ruin one's ministry and usefulness for God.
- I. If you are older and already married, use the Scriptures to make your marriage what God would have it to be. Ephesians 5:22,33
- J. Matthew 6:33

LESSON 6 - Seeking God's Will in Your Preparation

- I. The only true and lasting joy is found in doing what God wants you to do with your life. Matthew 6:33
 - A. We have already talked about finding the will of God in areas which are not spelled out in so many words in the Scriptures.
 - 1. Use the formula in Lesson 2 to decide when you have done what you could to exhaust all of the Scriptural possibilities.
 - B. Remember that we are not our own, and we thus are responsible to seek out the will of God for the things we do. I Corinthians 6:19,20
 - C. After salvation, the most important decision we can make is that of complete dedication of all God has given us back to Him for the doing of His will.
- II. Find His will for what He wants you to do.
 - A. Then you are in a position to seek out the kind of training God would have you to get.
 - B. Make a list of good facilities where you can get the right kind of preparation.
 - C. Pray about these places and write for information.
 - D. As you continue to pray, seek godly counsel on the strong and weak aspects of each school or training facility.
 - E. Consider your obligations.
 - F. Wait before the Lord until He lays His will on your heart.
 - G. If God is leading, don't let finances keep you from doing what He wants. If He orders, He will supply.
 - 1. Sometimes you must step off into the waters of the Red Sea before they part.
 - 2. Many times the needs are met through doing God's will. Matthew 6:33
 - H. Once you begin your training, don't let anything stop you. Finish the job. II Timothy 2:15
 - I. If you have to work your way through school, just thank God for the work experience. You may need it down the road. Many times Paul had to make tents so that he could continue to preach the Gospel.
- III. Continue to study and learn throughout your life as a Christian. II Timothy 3:14,15 and I Timothy 4:13-16

LESSON 7 - The Importance of Obedience to God

- I. Obedience to God is required for the successful life of the believer in both the Old and New Testaments.
 - A. Old Testament - Deuteronomy 13:4
 - B. New Testament - John 14:21
 - C. Without it, it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6
- II. It includes:
 - A. Obeying His voice - Exodus 19:5
 - B. Obeying His Law - Deuteronomy 11:26,27
 - C. Obeying Christ - Exodus 23:20,21
 - D. Obeying the Gospel - Romans 1:5
 - E. Submission to higher powers - Romans 13
- III. Things true of obedience to God
 - A. It is better than sacrifice - I Samuel 15:22,23
 - B. The means of obtaining justification; that is, by the obedience of Christ. Romans 5:19
 - C. Christ is the example of - Matthew 3:15; John 15:10; Philippians 2:5-8, Hebrews 5:8 and Hebrews 10:5-9
 - D. Angels engaged in - Psalm 103:20
 - E. A characteristic of Saints - I Peter 1:14
 - F. Saints are elected to - I Peter 1:2
 - G. Obligations to - Acts 4:19,20; Acts 5:29
 - H. Exhortations to - Jeremiah 26:13; Jeremiah 38:20
- IV. Our obedience to God should be:
 - A. From the heart - Deuteronomy 11:13; Romans 6:17
 - B. With willingness - Psalm 18:44; Isaiah 1:19
 - C. Unreserved - Joshua 22:2,3
 - D. Undeviating - Deuteronomy 28:14
 - E. Constant - Philippians 2:12
 - F. With confession for our failure - Daniel 9:10 and I John 1:9
 - G. With prepared hearts - I Samuel 7:3; Ezra 7:10
- V. Examples of obedience:
 - A. All of those listed in Hebrews 11, the roll-call of the faithful, are to be seen as obedient on the basis of what they did. The only way one can display their faith is through their obedience. See James 2:20-26
 - B. The prime example of obedience on the part of one of God's people in Scripture is

Jonah.

- C. Chastening for disobedience is because of the love of God, and to assure us that we are God's children. Hebrews 12:6-11
- D. God says that disobedience is as the sin of witchcraft, iniquity and idolatry. I Samuel 15:22,23
- E. The cure of disobedience is found in I John 1:9

LESSON 8 - Learning to Have a Servant's Heart

- I. We were the servants of sin before we were saved. Romans 6:16-18
 - A. The duty of a servant of Christ and of others is to first guard against becoming enslaved again in the yoke of bondage. Galatians 5:1
 - B. The servant of Christ should serve Him out of love and thanksgiving. John 14:21; II Corinthians 5:14
 - 1. Many of us say that we love the Lord, but we do not prove it by doing that which is our reasonable service. Romans 12:1,2
 - C. Those who are true servants of the Lord have addicted themselves to serving not only the Lord, but those who are the Lord's. I Corinthians 16:15
 - D. Jesus told His disciples that the person who would be greatest should be the servant of all. Matthew 20:27; 23:11 and Mark 10:44
 - E. Christ is the ultimate example of the servant.
 - 1. Matthew 20:28
 - 2. Hebrews 10:5-9
- II. A Biblical definition of a servant
 - A. I Kings 19:21 - A person devoted to the service of another
 - B. Again, Hebrews 10:5-9
 - C. Matthew 4:11
- III. The term is used to express humility.
 - A. Genesis 18:3
 - B. Genesis 33:5
 - C. I Samuel 20:7
 - D. I Kings 20:32
- IV. Duties of servants
 - A. To be contented in their situation I Corinthians 7:20,21
 - B. Should be compassionate to their fellows Matthew 18:33
 - C. Should serve:
 - 1. For conscience toward God I Peter 2:19
 - 2. In the fear of God Ephesians 6:5
 - 3. As the servants of Christ Ephesians 6:5,6
 - 4. Heartily as unto the Lord, and not unto men Ephesians 6:7 and Colossians 3:23
 - 5. As doing the will of God from the heart Ephesians 6:6
 - 6. In singleness of heart Ephesians 6:5 and Colossians 3:22
 - 7. See also Colossians 3:17; 3:23 and I Corinthians 10:31

LESSON 9 - Priorities

- I. Someone has said, "If Christ is in first place in your life, everything else will be in its right place: if Christ is out of place, everything is out of place."
 - A. Different people will find that their priorities differ a bit from others, but with the Christian, the most important priorities will be the same.
 - B. The absolutely essential priorities for the Christian:
 - 1. The things which pertain to our relationship to the Lord must be first.
Matthew 6:33
 - 2. Things which pertain to family must be second.
 - 3. Things pertaining to employment and employer must be third.
 - 4. The person who is still in school or in training for their calling must put that third.
 - 5. Obligations to the rest of the Body of Christ and community must be next.
 - 6. While we do these other things there is always a personal obligation to take care of the physical body God has given us. This, however, would fall under number one.
- II. For the Christian, duties never conflict. Many times the Christian puts his own enjoyment ahead of what God wants him to do. II Timothy 3:4,5
 - A. How can we spend time with our family and still serve the Lord?
 - 1. We can take our children with us and call on a family with children in the same age ranges as our own.
 - 2. We can get involved with family camps and the matters pertaining to our children's education.
 - 3. Fathers can take their sons and participate in father-son activities where they can invite another father-son combination who need to be reached for the Lord.
 - 4. It is possible to do both at once.
 - 5. Families should attend church together and be together as much as possible at church.
 - B. What if the father in the family has a job which requires him to spend long hours away from his family, and he sees them very little?
 - 1. I would say that he ought to look for other employment. It would be better to get by on less income than to lose his family to the world.
 - 2. There are times when men are work-aholics and are away more than they ought to be. It is his responsibility to change that.

LESSON 10 - Doing What Needs to be Done

- I. Ecclesiastes 9:10 - We are producing a generation of specialists who are not able to do anything outside of the area of their specialty.
 - A. For the Christian, there is no difference between the secular and the sacred. Whatever needs to be done to allow the overall ministry to function smoothly, the Christian should be willing to chip in and help do.
 - B. Colossians 3:17 - Word or deed covers everything which is done or could be done. The Christian should not think like the world. All too many times a person will not do what is not included in his or her job description.
 - C. The word "Deacon" means servant, but it does not mean that they are the only ones who should ever do any servile work. Colossians 3:24 is directed to all believers.
 - 1. According to this passage, we ought to do all we do as unto the Lord, whose servants we are.
 - D. I Corinthians 10:31 - We should do all that we do to the glory of God, whether it is preaching, witnessing, washing dishes, or whatever.
- II. A person in full-time Christian work should not feel that he/she is too good to help with menial tasks.
 - A. It is encouraging for the layman to see the Pastor pick up a broom or mop and do a menial task. It lets the layman know that the clergy do not think they are better than themselves.
 - 1. Many times this type of activity opens doors of witness that otherwise would not be open.
 - B. Often in small ministries, the spiritual leaders will find it necessary to do things such as the cleaning, building, etc., in order to get the work off the ground.
 - 1. Being able to delegate responsibilities is important, but there are times when it is valuable, and necessary to do the work yourself.
- III. Leadership: What is it?
 - A. According to the military manual, "Leadership is the ability to lead others: it involves the setting of an example to, and looking after the welfare of the subordinate, and cheerfully sharing with them any act they are required to perform."
 - B. If our military sees the need of the leader setting the example, how much more the Christian.

LESSON 11 - The Art of Delegating

- I. The Webster's dictionary definition of delegating is to entrust a responsibility to a deputy.
 - A. No Christian worker or leader can do everything by themselves. Some Christians are of the nature that delegating is very hard for them
 1. Some do not want to delegate because they think no one can do something as well as they can. Philippians 2:1-4
 2. Some do not want to delegate because they are afraid it will drive people away.
 - a. The truth of the matter is that, while most people will not volunteer, they are honored.
 3. Some do not want to delegate because it will take more time to show someone how to do something than it will to do it themselves.
 - a. Delegating and then training workers, however, is part of training a Timothy and discipling Christian workers.
- II. The whole purpose of Deacons: Acts 6:1-8
 - A. I would remind us that two of the original Deacons, Philip and Stephen, accomplished great things for God. Stephen became the first Christian martyr while Philip became an evangelist and was used of God to lead the Ethiopian to Christ. It is possible that the Ethiopian was the one through whom the great revival of North Africa began in the first century. If that was the case, Apollos may have been a product of that revival.
 - B. Every Christian, lay person or clergy, should have a Timothy they are training to step into their shoes and take up where they leave off.
- III. II Timothy 2:1,2 - On the first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas took John Mark with them that they might train him to follow in their steps. John Mark failed, but Paul and Silas found Timothy from the area of Lystra and Derbe in Asia Minor, who finally was the one who stepped into Paul's shoes when Paul was martyred. II Timothy 4
 - A. Jesus trained the 12 Disciples, who, in turn, trained their converts to lead.
 1. I Timothy 1:1-4 and 3:1-14
 2. Titus 1:1-9
 3. II Timothy 2:1-7
- IV. Organize
 - A. Make a list of things which need to be done.
 - B. Pray for guidance and then carefully select one which would best fit each task.
 - C. We are supposed to be making disciples and teaching others so that they can, in turn, teach others. So training the person delegated is very important. It may take time at the first but will pay off in the long run.
 - D. Teach that one whom you pick for a task how to teach another.
 - E. Supervise your people whom you have delegated.
 - F. Never pick a person whom you think does not have the ability to do the job, or who

does not have the ability to learn to do the job.

- G. Never pick a person who is not qualified to eventually lead, either mentally or spiritually.
- H. Keep planning for the future.
- I. Keep looking for people who are qualified or trainable, and need something to do to serve the Lord.
- J. In the area of soul winning and visitation we need to constantly be training people.
- V. Delegating is a very important part of training children.
 - A. From the very first day we should be setting a pattern for our children to follow, and systematically training them to do the things they will need to know how to do in life. Proverbs 22:6
 - B. In either training our children, or teaching others we must:
 - 1. Be the example of what we want them to be
 - 2. Reproduce ourselves in them
 - 3. Never quit until the job is well done and the delegate is able to stand on their own two feet and teach others.

LESSON 12 - Hospitality and Compassion

- I. Hospitality is defined by Webster as “Generous reception of strangers and guests.”
 - A. Bishops (Overseers/Pastors) are to show hospitality. Titus 1:8
 - B. John had to rebuke Diotrephes for not having a true spirit of hospitality. III John Vs 9-11
 - C. The house of Stephanas had addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints. I Corinthians 16:15,16
- II. Hospitality is commanded for believers.
 - A. Romans 12:13
 - B. I Peter 4:9
- III. It is required of ministers.
 - A. I Timothy 3:2
 - B. Titus 1:8
- IV. It is a test of Christian character.
 - A. I Timothy 5:10
- V. It is especially to be shown to:
 - A. Strangers - Hebrews 13:2 (Angels)
 - B. The poor - Isaiah 58:7 and Luke 14:13
 - C. Enemies - II Kings 6:22,23 and Romans 12:20
- VI. It is an encouragement to:
 - A. The master of the house - Luke 14:14
 - B. The host - Hebrews 13:2 - “For thereby some have entertained strangers unawares.”
- VII. It can be one of the greatest blessings of your Christian experience.
 - A. Through the years we have entertained some of God’s leading ministers, evangelists, musicians, and missionaries. It is so enriching and such a blessing to observe the spiritual habits and the spiritual qualities of these people of God.
 - B. In entertaining the poor and less fortunate we have been greatly rewarded by God in that we have had the blessing of helping some get back on their feet and become productive members of society again.
- VIII. If we have the ability to help and do not, we stand to have God close His ears to our cry for help in our time of need. Proverbs 21:13
 - A. We cannot close our eyes to the genuine needs of others and expect God to hear when we cry out in need to Him.
 - B. Some are not genuine and could help themselves. If they are able to work and help themselves and we help them, we add to their problem. In dealing with those at Thessalonica who had thought that the rapture was at hand, had quit their jobs and had become busybodies in other people’s business, Paul says, “If any would not work, neither should he eat.” (This referred to those who were able to work, of

course.)

- C. John asks the a soul-searching question of the one who claims to be a Christian in I John 3:17.
 - 1. How can we have plenty and see someone in need and do nothing about their need?
- D. Peter also makes this same emphasis in I Peter 3:8, but seems to limit his remarks to our obligation to our Christian brethren.
- E. Matthew 9:36 - Jesus was often moved with compassion.
 - 1. Is not the Gospel based on the fact that we are in great need, and we have no capacity to help ourselves? The compassion of God is what moved Him to send His son. John 3:16

LESSON 13 - Your Responsibility in Your Local Church

- I. When we speak of the Church, we must keep in mind that there are two separate aspects of which we may be speaking.
 - A. The Church Universal - Sometimes called
 - 1. The Body of Christ - Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:24
 - 2. The Bride of Christ - John 3:29; Revelation 21:2; 18:23; 21:9; 22:17 and Ephesians 5:22,23
 - 3. This would be the total of all true, Born-again believers world-wide.
 - B. The Local Church: A body of Born-again believers who have banded together in a particular locality and who worship and witness together on a regular basis. Galatians 1:2; II Corinthians 1:1; I Corinthians 1:2; I Thessalonians 1:1; II Thessalonians 1:1; Philemon V-2
- II. What is the individual Christian's responsibility in his or her local Church?
 - A. Membership - When the Bible talks about membership in the Church, it is speaking of becoming a Christian through the New Birth. (John 3:3) See Acts 2:27
 - 1. Membership in the local Church, however, is a "given". If a person is a member of the body of Christ he or she should naturally want to identify with a good, fundamental, Bible-believing local Church wherever they go and as soon as they can.
 - 2. Wherever the Apostles went, especially Paul and his evangelistic party, they established local churches. Those who believed and were baptized Scripturally were the ones who made up those churches.
 - B. Regular attendance - Hebrews 10:24,25 These verses, along with passages such as Ephesians 4:11-15, tell us that the local Church is where the Christian is fed and taught so that they can grow to be strong in the Lord. (II Timothy 2:2 and Ephesians 6:10-18) Actually, the local Church is primarily for the believer, as a place to grow in the Lord. The believer should go out from the local Church and win souls to Christ and bring them in. Ephesians 4:11,12 and Acts 2:46,47
 - C. Service - There are almost endless means by which one can serve the Lord. A Christian should first seek to discover his or her spiritual gifts before getting involved in spiritual leadership. Each Christian should also be sure that they are in Christ, have been Scripturally baptized, and that they are walking in fellowship with the Lord. Each Christian should also be sure that they demonstrate spiritual maturity before taking spiritual leadership.
 - 1. Discovering one's spiritual gifts - I Corinthians 12; Romans 12 and Ephesians 4
 - 2. Being sure we are in Christ - II Corinthians 5:17-21; II Corinthians 13:3-5; and I John 5:14 (All of I John)
 - 3. Have been Scripturally baptized - Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:1-15; Acts 2:37-42; I Peter 3:18-22
 - 4. Walking in fellowship with the Lord - Galatians 5:16
 - a. Walking in obedience - John 14:21

- b. Walking in the Word - Psalm 119:11
 - c. Walking in prayer - I Thessalonians 5:17
 - d. Walking in witness - Acts 1:8 and Mark 16:15
 - e. Walking with sin confessed - I John 1:9
- 5. Demonstrating spiritual maturity - Ephesians 4:11-15; Ephesians 4:17-32 and Colossians 3:1-17
- D. Considering full-time Christian service
 - 1. As a Bishop or Elder (Overseer of the local Church, a spiritual shepherd of the flock) I Timothy 3:1-7
 - 2. As an Evangelist or a Revivalist (One who stirs up the people of God to soul-winning and godly living)
 - 3. As a missionary - Acts 1:8 and Mark 15:16
 - 4. As a teacher - Ephesians 4:11
 - 5. There are many other types of full time ministers.
- E. Lay people
 - 1. Soul winning
 - 2. Witnessing
 - 3. Counseling
 - 4. Cleaning
 - 5. Building
 - 6. Maintenance
 - 7. Prayer ministry
 - 8. Transportation
 - 9. Teacher
 - 10. Music
 - 11. Any other ministry of helps such as housing, feeding the needy, clothing the needy, jail ministry, nursing home or hospital ministry, ministering to the shut-ins, etc.
- F. Faithfulness - The greatest ability is dependability. So many people today put the least little thing ahead of their responsibility to the local Church. We expect our ministers to be in their places and to do the things they are called of God to do. We need to know that our ministers expect us to be in our place faithfully, and not to let the least little thing call us away. We have just as much a calling as do they.
- G. Availability - There is no greater blessing to a person in spiritual leadership than to have a Christian who is always available and ready to help. We should offer, and not have to be asked.
- H. Minister to the other Saints - Hebrews 10:24,25 and I Thessalonians 5:14,15

LESSON 14 - The Importance of Scheduling Your Time

- I. It is often said, “If you aim at nothing, you are sure to hit it.” An unscheduled life is an undisciplined life.
 - A. You will never have a prayer life if you do not schedule a prayer time.
 - B. You will never spend time consistently in the Word of God unless you plan a time to do so.
 - C. Martin Luther said, “If I do not spend three hours a day in prayer in the morning, I will never get everything done that I need to do that day.”
- II. Scheduling your time: Ephesians 5:16 - “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”
 - A. The word redeem means to buy up, as it is used in context here.
 - 1. In scheduling one’s time he or she must consider carefully lesson 9, Priorities.
 - 2. The most important time in your day is the time you spend with the Lord. As you schedule your time, place that priority at the top of the list.
 - 3. You will never “find” time to spend with the Lord; you must “make” it.
 - 4. In lesson 27 we will be discussing “Keeping a Life Journal”. We will not get into the connection between scheduling your time and keeping a life journal at this point, but it is extremely helpful to be able to look back through your life journal and see what things were of greatest import in your life; and what things made the strongest impact on your time.
 - B. Keep a notebook or some sort of record of your schedule for each day. Make it up at least one day ahead of time. You will seldom be able to do everything on your list each day, but you will get much more done than you would without a list.
 - 1. Write first the things which you must do that day. Don’t forget your priorities.
 - 2. Write the next most important things. If possible, list the things you need to get done that day in the order in which you need to do them.
 - 3. Keep in mind the times when certain businesses are open, and the schedules of other people you need to contact.
 - 4. Don’t leave out things you least like to do. The less time you spend putting off those things, the less time you will spend worrying about them.
 - 5. Never undertake scheduling your day without first praying about it.
 - 6. Keep your list handy in a small, pocket-sized notebook which you can carry with you, or a pocket-sized, digital electronic reminder.
 - 7. Whatever you do not get done today, do first thing tomorrow.
 - 8. If you tell someone you will do something a certain day, keep your word.

LESSON 15 - Infant Care From Day One

- I. There are some very important thoughts we need to consider before dealing with the actual care of the infant.
 - A. Men - There are several things to be considered before fathering a child:
 1. Are you, yourself mature enough, and ready to assume the responsibility of another life?
 2. You need to carefully consider your wife's physical health and well being.
 3. Plan to be involved in the entire pregnancy; that is, be ready to help with housework and other responsibilities which you wife would normally assume. She may be perfectly able to maintain her regular duties, but then, she may not. In connection with this you need to consider both your schedules.
 4. If at all possible, finish your academic preparation before parenting a child. You may be counting on your wife helping to get your degree. If she becomes pregnant before you can finish, your plans may be interrupted.
 5. Plan ahead financially. Many are opting now for natural child birth at home. Do not feel that this is a must for financial reasons. God gives medical knowledge. Emergencies may take place late in the pregnancy, or during delivery which would necessitate the use of more extensive equipment and medical know-how. Be prepared, or your whole future may be negatively effected.
 6. Your wife will experience new emotional needs and experiences during pregnancy. Read up on these ahead of time and be prepared to understand and minister to them. Many times the wife will develop strange desires for food combinations, and at odd hours. Be ready to cater to those needs when they arise. Do not pass off warning signs such as bleeding, though slight, as unimportant. Be sure she has a good doctor who can be reached at any time.
 7. Remember, she is the one taking the greatest risk. You must be understanding. Because God has fashioned the woman to be a help-meet, she may suffer without letting you know. Be sensitive to her needs. This is a time in your lives which can draw the two of you closer together, and to God. Remember your roll from the 5th chapter of Ephesians.
 8. Abortion is not an issue to be decided by the mother to be. If this issue arises, remember, abortion is murder, and it is your responsibility as a husband, and as the spiritual head of the home to counsel on this matter. Get as much material as possible from the pro-life movement and acquaint yourself with what the Bible has to say. There is no question about the fact that from the time of conception, the mother is carrying a living human being. As soon as the two reproductive cells combine, all of the genes are present to form a complex human being with the combined traits of both parents. Life begins at conception.
 9. Both the mother and the father should talk to, and sing to the unborn

baby. Tests have shown beyond a doubt that the unborn baby comes to recognize the voices of both parents and siblings. This has a lot to do with the closeness and confidence once the child is born. The atmosphere and noise levels in the home can definitely effect the personality of the baby when still unborn.

B. Women - Having a child is not an acceptable way to save a marriage, nor is it the thing to do to provide an immature woman with a plaything. You are bringing a life into the world for whom you are responsible. Consider the following facts:

1. A woman, as well as the man, needs to take good care of her body so as to provide the baby with the most healthy environment in which to develop. I Corinthians 6:19,20
2. The woman needs to be sure she is emotionally and mentally mature to be, not just one who has a baby, but in the fullest sense, a mother. Proverbs 31:10-28
3. A woman should be careful not to neglect the emotional needs of her husband both before and after the birth of her baby. Genesis 2:18,20
4. The Christian woman certainly should not consider the use of drugs, alcohol, smoking, or harmful medications at any time, but especially during a pregnancy, with the exception of the prescribed drugs when they are needed to help a pregnancy.
5. Remember, Christian mother-to-be, there are many things thought to be perfectly acceptable by the world for a mother-to-be, which are not acceptable to the Christian.
6. We will deal in the course with some of the dangers of having your baby in a Roman Catholic hospital.
7. Talk to, read to and sing to your unborn baby. It has been proven to contribute to a stronger bond after birth. Especially read the Bible aloud.
8. Unless it is either detrimental to the mother or to the baby, a mother should breast feed her baby. This also strengthens the bond between the mother and baby.
9. It is always best to avoid arguing and anger during pregnancy. Be in Church and Sunday School as regular as possible.

II. Care of the infant:

A. It may seem strange when you first hear it, but both husband and wife will build a more wholesome atmosphere for their baby if they do not neglect each other.

1. Many new fathers are hesitant to handle the new-born because of the danger of injuring him or her. They should become accustomed to holding the baby and talking to him or her since this is the best way for a father to bond with baby, and for the infant to build confidence in both parents. This will make for a much closer relationship in the future.
2. As much as possible, the father should help with the care of the infant. This would include diaper changing, bathing, feeding, etc. Since the father is much less likely to have time off from his job because of a new

born in the family than is the wife, he needs to be as careful as he can to get enough rest, so as to be able to provide for his family. This certainly does not mean, however, that he cannot help with these things.

3. While going through the routine of caring for an infant, both mother and father should be constantly talking to, singing to and tenderly handling the infant so as to convey love and security. Their conversation and songs should be about the things of the Lord as much as is possible.

B. As soon as the couple find that the wife is expecting, they should sit down together and talk long and seriously about getting by on one income. It is far better to have to get by with little and raise children who are a praise to the Lord and an honor to their parents than to have two incomes and many material possessions and lose their children to the world.

1. One car instead of two makes for much less expense.
2. The wife would not have to have as many special garments for work, although a husband and father needs to make sure she has as many nice things as he has. The sacrifices, if we can call them that, should be shared equally.
3. There would not have to be as much transportation cost in most instances, nor as many meals eaten out.
4. Child care costs can be tremendous. Leaving one's new born in a day care, even a Christian one, can bring much sorrow and regret in the future. (One kindergarten teacher told us that she could see a decided difference between children brought to school for the first time who had been in day care and those who had been under the steady disciplining and training of a mother at home.)
5. These are some of the most wonder-filled days of your lives. Spend as much time together as a family as you can. That, you will never regret.
6. Some Christian schools provide free nursery care for mothers who work at school. Where the mother has these skills, she might want to apply for work at such a Christian school so as to be near her new born for feeding and bonding during the day if it is absolutely necessary for her to work.

LESSON 16 - Rearing Children

- I. Proverbs 22:6 - “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
 - A. To train up is a Hebrew expression referring to a common practice used by Hebrew mid-wives. They would mix a concentration of a jam-like grape substance which they would rub on the roof of the baby’s mouth as soon as it was born, to cause it to suck. They were “priming the pump”. From day one parents should be priming the pump of the child so as to bring them to where God wants them to be.
 - 1. If a child fails to be what God wants them to be, it is certainly not God’s fault. He has given us all the instruction we need to bring up a child in the way he should go.
 - 2. If a child fails to be what God wants them to be, it is not that the Word of God was insufficient.
 - 3. It has to be the fault of the parents and the combined influences of the Church and the educational institution. All influences which assist the parents in raising and training the child have to bear a part of the responsibility, but the parents have the primary duty.
 - B. Parents cannot let even a Christian school take the place of their responsibility.
 - 1. If we wait until our children are even in pre-school to begin their training in the way they should go, it is too late. We must begin their training from day one.
 - C. Research has shown that the average child’s life-long personality traits and habits are formed by the age of three. The only hope we have of overcoming our failure prior to that age is genuine Christian conversion. Even then, the child will have an uphill battle with previously formed behavioral patterns.
- II. Our biggest enemies:
 - A. Parental apathy
 - 1. We have had television for over 50 years now. It has gradually taught us, along with other media, that we have rights instead of responsibilities.
 - 2. It has taught us subtly to think of ourselves first, and others second.
 - 3. It has taught us to be lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.
II Timothy 3:5 If you will back up a ways in the first 5 verses of II Timothy 3 you will find that one of the products of our troubled times in which we are living is being unthankful, and consequently, unholy. Another is that we produce a generation of children who are disobedient to parents.
 - 4. We have abdicated our responsibility as parents, and turned it over to day cares, baby sitters and whatever school system our children may be in, including Christian schools. When things go wrong, we blame them.
 - B. Our children’s playmates and friends - These may very well be their own siblings. If we have not properly trained our older children, the younger ones have a strong, additional handicap. We also are compelled by the Word of God to carefully screen our children’s friends.

1. I Kings 12:1-10 - Rehoboam's friends who had grown up with him.
 2. II Samuel 13:1-5 - Amnon's subtle friend
 3. Judges 14:20 - Samson's wife was given to the one whom he had used as his friend.
- C. The media, such as television, newspapers, magazines, school text books, other harmful literature, radio and the internet, etc. - These often become baby sitters, and are feeding a steady diet of lies and garbage, poisoning the minds of our children, and shaping their thinking to what is right and wrong. We should certainly control it or get rid of it.
1. It is not only negatively effecting their mental health and spiritual health, but is seriously limiting their exercise, thus effecting their physical health.
 2. The violence on television should be a matter of concern to every parent. It is much easier to raise a child without television than it is to get rid of the television once the child has become accustomed to it. Psalm 101:3
 3. One of the best ways to offset the effects of the various media is to teach our children to love reading, and supply them with a good selection of the right kind of reading material
 4. Read to your children, even when they are still in the womb.
- D. Domestic violence to any extent - Parents who do not practice what they want their children to become are, to their children, a contradiction and hypocritical.
1. Our children copy what they see far more than they do what they are told. If they see what they ought to see in the lives of their parents, and if they are taught the same values by their parents, they will be able to understand that there are absolutes in this world.
 2. If there is constant incongruity in the home, the child will be prone to side with one parent or the other, or will turn against both parents.
 3. The child will think, "If Mom and Dad don't have to live by the Word of God, then why should I have it?"
- E. Irregular attendance at Church - A majority of children drop out of Sunday School and Church by the teen years. While there are many contributing factors to this fact, Mom and Dad's attitudes toward Church and the things of God are the strongest of them all. Here are some of the reasons this happens:
1. Hypocrisy in the family - Mom and Dad don't find regular attendance at, and participation in the ministries of the local Church a must, so their children follow that example. Many times the parents will send their child to Sunday School, and then come only for the church service themselves.
 2. Inconsistency in the message and methodology of the local Church - When what the Church teaches is in keeping with the world, or does not condemn and refute the message of the world, there is no reason to stay in the Church.
 3. Over exposure to the things of the world - When this is allowed by the parents, for whatever reason, children because of their Adamic nature, will always choose to go with the world.
 4. Peer pressure - Parents can control this by simply controlling the peers

to whom they are exposed. If a child knows that their parents love them, and that they pray for them, they will be more secure in their circumstances.

5. Desire for the “good life” - This will again be determined by how they were trained from day one.
6. The lack of a family altar - Blessed is the child who grows up hearing his or her mother and father pray for them daily. Parents should not preach to their children in their prayers, but truly hold them up before God in a positive manner.
7. The influence of public schools - Psalm one should, once and for all settle the public school question. We must not fall into the trap of saying we cannot afford to put our child in a Christian school. God will always make a way to do what is right if we are willing to make the necessary sacrifices, and if our children are our most important possession.
 - a. Since the educational system to which we trust our children is one of the largest contributing factors in what they become, we are responsible before God to do what the Word of God says to do.
Proverbs 22:6

III. Discipline - The Hebrew term “train up” comes from the same root as the words discipline or disciple. There are two aspects to discipline:

- A. The first, and most important, is teaching and instruction. Unless there is some mental incapacitation, the infant is teachable from day one. Newborns learn very rapidly, both the positive and the negative aspects of life. As the child grows older, and reaches the age of accountability, we must have already given them a good basic foundation in what is right and what is wrong. Behavioral habits are largely solidified by the age of three. For this reason, we dare not wait until they are older to begin the teaching process.
 1. There must be repetitive teaching on the same things. Isaiah 28:10-13
 2. There must also be a consistent correction of wrong responses, which we will consider as the other aspect of discipline.
- B. The more positive teaching there is, the less negative correction there will have to be. Every child’s personality is different, and their responses to certain stimuli vary, but for the most part, the pattern will be similar.
 1. As God’s people, we do not dare neglect our children’s training and correction, nor leave it to others.
 2. The pattern for discipline is the same as God uses with His children:
 - a. Instruction
 - b. Warning when instruction is ignored
 - c. Consistent chastening when the offense is repeated. See Hebrews 12:5-11
 3. Never correct in anger.
 4. Always, no matter what the age of the offender, be sure the child knows why they are being disciplined.

5. Always pray with the child in connection with the discipline.
6. Always be sure that your children know you chasten them because you love them.
7. Be ready to show your children from the Scriptures, what God has to say about their offense.
8. Always use biblical methods of discipline. Don't go too easy on the offender, and don't back down.
9. Both parents must be agreed on discipline. Wrong behavior is never cute.
10. Parents should be careful not to over react in public, but to immediately take their children to a private place to correct them. Perverted philosophies of discipline in our society may bring separation and heartache to parents who are simply trying to raise their children in a Biblical way.
11. Let's raise our children according to the Word of God, being careful to be the pattern that they can follow. Do not rob your children of your attention and concern to do service to others.
 - a. The best thing to spend on your children is time.

LESSON 17 - Being a Good Husband or Wife

- I. Genesis 2:18 - “And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”
 - A. Help meet means basically the same as Comforter in John 14:16.
 - 1. It was not good for man to be alone, that is, without others of his own kind with which to share knowledge and affection.
 - 2. God had created man in His own image, that is, as a spiritual being, an intellectual being and a social being. God is One God in three Persons, so He had the other persons of the Godhead with which to share all things. Genesis 1:26
 - 3. Instead of creating the woman from nothing, in the image of God, God took part of the man who was already in His image to form the woman out of man so that the two would be one flesh; one of his own kind, or of himself, completing himself.
 - 4. The woman (Out of man) thus becomes an Old Testament type of the Holy Spirit (Third person of the Godhead) and completes the man, as the Holy Spirit does for the believer what the believer cannot do for himself, thus making him whole.
 - B. God never meant for a man to have more than one wife, nor for a woman to be a help meet for more than one man since they two become one flesh. Matthew 19:8; Jeremiah 6:16 and Malachi 2:14-16
- II. Following the fall of man:
 - A. Effects of the fall on the woman - Genesis 3:16
 - B. Effects of the fall on the man - Genesis 3:17-19
 - C. Effects of the fall on both man and woman - Genesis 3:21-24 and 7-13
 - 1. Until the finished work of Christ, woman was, to a great extend, a slave of the man, and often treated as property, like cattle or other possessions.
- III. Through the redemptive work of Christ, woman has become truly liberated from the spiritual effects of the fall. New responsibilities, and new relationship has been established. Ephesians 5:22-33
 - A. The woman is to submit herself unto the man under whose authority she lives, either as a virgin still in her own father’s household, or as a wife to the man to whom she is married. She is not a slave, however, but a picture of the Church in relation to Christ.
 - B. The man is to love the woman, including meeting all her needs emotionally, spiritually, physically and mentally without fail, even as Christ does the Church. To break this relationship through divorce is to misrepresent the relationship between Christ and the Church.
- IV. Being a good Husband or Wife:
 - A. The believer should never consider marrying an unsaved person. II Corinthians 6:14-18
 - B. If a person is married before being saved, gets saved and then finds themselves

married to an unsaved mate, they should do the following:

1. Christian woman married to an unsaved man - I Corinthians 7:10,11; I Peter 3:1-6; I Corinthians 7:13-16 and I Corinthians 7:39,40
2. The Christian man who is married to an unsaved woman - I Corinthians 7:10,11 and 15; Ephesians 5:25-33 and I Peter 3:7

C. Both husband and wife should practice selfless love for their mate.
I Corinthians 13:4-8a

1. Marriage is not a 50/50 proposition; it is a 100%/100% proposition.
2. God meant marriage to be for life, not for eternity. In heaven there will be new relationships of which we never dreamed here on earth.
Mark 12:19-27

V. Divorce and remarriage, and what to do if one has already violated Scriptural instructions:

A. Because of the hardness of Israel's hearts, God allowed Moses to instruct them to write a bill of divorcement and put away one's wife on one basis only. Any other reason was recognized by God as Adultery.

1. The one reason was not unfaithfulness after marriage, but unfaithfulness to the betrothal before marriage. See Deuteronomy 24:1-4 This passage is interpreted by Christ in Matthew 5:31 and 32.
2. Most pastors today make no differentiation between fornication and adultery, but the Bible does.
3. The situation about which both of these passages speak is that which Joseph first thought to be true about Mary before the Angel told him differently in a dream.

B. If a person has violated God's pattern for marriage and divorce, what should they do?

1. What is done cannot be undone.
2. We need to confess any sin to God.
3. Once confessed and forgiven, this, or any other sin needs to be recognized as non-existent in the eyes of God. However, it does place limitations on the individual from that time on because of society.
4. The couple should, having made it right with God, go on and make their present marriage as good a marriage as they can for the glory of God. Having forgiven that sin, God can use them to serve Him in many ways. Don't dwell on what you cannot do, but on what you can do.

LESSON 18 - The Christian's Dress, Speech and Conduct

I. The Christian's dress:

A. Nakedness is a type of sin in the Bible.

1. After mankind lost their innocence in the Garden of Eden, they attempted to clothe themselves with fig leaves. This is a type of man's trying to atone for his sins by his own works. God slew an animal, shedding its blood, to make coverings of skins for Adam and Eve. This is a type of the shedding of Christ's blood to cover our sins. Genesis 3:7 and 21 and Hebrews 9:22
2. Exodus 32:25-28 The Israelites had stripped naked as they danced before the golden calf at Sinai.
3. Leviticus 18 To uncover the nakedness of one other than one's own wife is sin.
4. The general standard for everyone from the High Priest down to the average man or woman in the Old Testament was to have the body covered from the top of the shoulders to at least the bottom of the knee. (The lower end of the thigh.)

B. God would have our dress to clearly make known our sex.

1. Deuteronomy 22:5 Cross-dressing is an abomination to the Lord. Some might say, that is Old Testament, under the Law and does not pertain to us under Grace. Our answer to that would be, God's standard of morality has not changed. Under grace, we do not do what we do to be saved, but because we are saved.

C. The standard in the New Testament is represented by the word modest. I Timothy 2:9; I Peter 3:1-6; I John 2:15,16

1. What is modesty? It is that which draws attention to our Christ-likeness, and not to our flesh: that which magnifies the Lord and not self.

II. The Christian's speech:

A. Colossians 4:6 - Speech with grace

B. James 2:12

C. I Timothy 4:12

D. Proverbs 6:16-19

E. Matthew 12:34

III. The Christian's conduct:

A. Philippians 1:21 - We are the only Gospel which most people will ever read. What is the Gospel according to us?

B. Ephesians chapter 4 and Colossians chapter 3

C. Colossians 3:17; 3:23 and I Corinthians 10:31

D. Romans 12:1,2

E. Galatians 5:22-26

- F. II Timothy 2:1-7
- G. Ephesians 6:10-18
- H. Ephesians 4:1-21

LESSON 19 - Making Do With what God Gives You

- I. This lesson, hopefully, will be a most practical one; but before we get into the meat of the lesson let's consider how one gets to the place where he or she is willing to make do with what God gives them.
 - A. Paul the Apostle was one of the most brilliant men of his day. He could have been the most wealthy man, but he chose instead to be a man of little earthly wealth, spend a good bit of his time in jails and prisons, and suffer some of the most extreme circumstances any man was ever called upon to endure. It was this very man who wrote in Philippians 4:11-13, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me." How could he not only do this, but at the same time, make tents on the side to finance his own Gospel ministry?
 - B. The answer is found in II Corinthians 5:14. The person who would serve Christ must be motivated by the love of the Lord, and by love for the Lord.
- II. Making do with what Gives you:
 - A. We must learn to stretch a dollar as far as it will go.
 - 1. Many times we can walk when we want to ride.
 - 2. Many times a dollar will buy more vegetables than it will rich food which is not good for us.
 - 3. For the work of the Lord we can forgo eating out except when it is absolutely necessary.
 - 4. If necessary, we can live without electricity. We can use candles and heat with fossil fuels.
 - 5. If necessary, we can sleep on a mat on the floor.
 - 6. Conservation and recycling can become a habit, a way of life to which we can become accustomed.
 - 7. A most attractive abode can result from the use of discarded items. Collect catalogs and magazines on the subject. Much information can be obtained from the Library of Congress free of charge.
 - 8. Nearly new clothing can be obtained from places like Goodwill stores at tremendous savings. Usually, all garments are 50% off their usual price on any holiday. We have known some families who were among the best dressed in Church who bought all their clothing at resale shops and used clothing stores.
 - 9. Conserving in the area of transportation does not always mean driving old, broken-down vehicles. This, in fact, is usually a waste of God's money. We will deal more with this matter in lesson 31.
 - B. Being wealthy is not a sin, but abusing that wealth is.
 - 1. In Mexico the plastic bottles we throw away are great treasures.
 - 2. We know of missionaries in Mexico who, in their youth camps, reward

the winner of a game competition with their own roll of bathroom tissue.

3. We need to spend only what we absolutely have to for the necessities of our families so that we have to use to help the needy. Ephesians 4:28
4. Plush living conditions turn off those who have less. Sharing wealth can be an open door to reaching others for Christ.
5. I heard a man speak at a Christian business men's breakfast many years ago. His wife had died and he was retired. He was in his late 60's, but in good health. He had been in construction all his working life and had been careful to wisely invest what God gave him. He had bought a new truck with a gasoline-powered compressor and generator, equipped it with all the tools he would need and was paying his own way to the mission field to spend the rest of his days in construction and maintenance for the missionaries. What a wise man.
6. Missionaries in Mexico bought old steel truck frames, cut the beams apart and made trusses for the roof of a very attractive church building. That building will stand much longer than if built with wooden beams, but cost very little. The same missionaries added a bedroom to the house of a native pastor in the form of an old, but well-preserved bread delivery van truck. An old refrigerator placed on its back on top of a car makes an excellent luggage carrier.
7. A few do-it-yourself books cost a lot less than having commercial companies do a turn-key job.
8. Volunteer Christian craftsmen can save thousands on a construction job for a Christian facility.
9. Christian families can get together and have a share fair with clothing, toys and other items which are still usable, but no longer valuable to the owners.
10. Toys for our children can often be provided by finding good used items and reconditioning them. The more we save, the more there is to invest in God's work.
11. It is no sin to have used clothes, tools, transportation, etc., but it is a sin not to keep the clothes clean, or maintenance the vehicles, etc.
12. An office furniture store I know throws away in their trash, desks, files, etc., which are broken rather than to try to fix them. Parts of many could make one good one. Perfectly good desk tops could be removed, be fitted with folding legs and make beautiful tables.
13. Painted cans with their plastic lids can make very colorful canisters for coffee, flour, sugar, etc.
14. Take good care of what God gives you. If you have something you can no longer use, but it is in good condition, pass it on to others. It can be a blessing to another Christian family, or it can be an open door to reach an unsaved family for the Lord.

III. There is nothing wrong with saving for one's old age, or with investing wisely to have more to use for God's work. I Timothy 5:8. This is being a wise steward. We must, however, remember to do certain things at the same time.

- A. Be sure to be faithful in the area of tithes and offerings.
- B. Be sure to use wisely what God provides.
- C. Be sure to share what God has provided, with those who have less.
I Corinthians 16:15
- D. Do not let wealth become an end in itself. I Timothy 6:10

LESSON 20 - Prejudice

- I. Webster's dictionary defines prejudice as: An opinion, favorable or unfavorable (more often the latter), formed without fair examination of the facts; bias, to bias, to influence, to injure.
 - A. There are many types of prejudice:
 - 1. Racial prejudice
 - 2. Prejudice against certain classes of society
 - 3. Political prejudice
 - 4. Religious prejudice
 - 5. And many more. We will restrict our remarks to those listed above.
- II. Racial prejudice:
 - A. To hold a prejudice against anyone because they are of a certain race is the most reprehensible kind of prejudice.
 - 1. No person chooses the race into which he or she is born. That has to be God's choice. All that God does is for a purpose, many times known only to Him. We do know, however, that He makes no mistakes. Romans 9:14-21
 - 2. While the Bible does tell us that the blessings or the curse placed upon the sons of Noah applied to people who eventually inhabited certain regions of the world, it says nothing of the matter of race. The skin color and physical and personality traits peculiar to a certain race are known to be due to micro-evolution, or genetic changes brought about by one or more of the following causes: heat, chemicals, or radio-activity within the Kind. (Mankind) See Acts 17:24-26. (There is no such thing as a Macro-evolution, the changing of one kind into another.)
 - 3. Adam called the name of his wife Eve because she was the mother of all living. Genesis 3:20
 - 4. Malachi 2:10 condemns dealing wrongly with any man since God made us all.
 - 5. I personally cannot find a Scriptural prohibition against interracial marriage. I believe it is to be avoided on the basis of cultural differences, language differences, and religious differences which contribute to difficulties in marriage. Socially, the children from a mixed marriage are seldom accepted in society. One who enters into an interracial marriage usually does so because of their own desires, not considering the consequences. This, however, has nothing to do with respect for other races than our own. There is no excuse for prejudice on the basis of race.
 - 6. The reason for the prohibition placed on Israel by God in the matter of marriage with people of other nations was a religious one, and was a type of the unequal yoke of II Corinthians 6:14-18. Israelites married people of other nations when they became proselytes to Judaism. (Rahab of Jericho; Ruth, the Moabitess; Zipporah, Moses' wife, an Ethiopian, etc.) This, however, was a prohibition against other nationalities, not other races, and was on religious grounds.

III. Class prejudice

A. This kind of prejudice is usually, although not always, exercised by the rich against the poor, or by the educated against the uneducated.

1. Being poor is sometimes inescapable. Someone born today in the drought-stricken regions of Northern Africa would find it virtually impossible to escape their poverty. It is not because they will not work, but because there is no work, the ground will not bring forth crops, there is not enough water, and they are not allowed by their governments to move.
2. There are cases where the poor are poor because they choose not to work, and want the government to take care of them from the cradle to the grave. This attitude, however, is one fostered by certain politicians to retain that block of votes. This does not merit our prejudice, however. They, as much as anyone in the world, need the Gospel, and need to be educated as to their responsibilities. Paul told the Thessalonians that if a man would not work, neither should they eat. But this was spoken concerning some believers who were not in ignorance of their responsibilities, but had become busybodies in men's matters. Rather than harboring a prejudice against such, we need to recognize a spiritual debt, that their lives might be changed for the better, and that they might become children of God, and productive members of society. In the case of the Thessalonians, Paul went on to write in II Thessalonians 3:15, "Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother."

IV. Political prejudice:

A. A Christian should not blindly embrace any political party just because it is a party. A wise Christian should vote his convictions, no matter what chance his candidate may or may not have. The Christian should always vote for the politically and religiously conservative, and against the political and religious liberal. The Christian should not, however, build a prejudice against someone because he or she does not represent their political view. Our goal should always be to educate and to win to Christ. Only Christ can change a person's thinking and loyalties.

V. Religious prejudice:

A. The Christian should never entertain religious prejudice. The Christian should develop a burden and a love for any person in the darkness of religious error. As with any sin, the Christian should love the sinner and hate the sin which binds them.
Jude Vs 22,23

VI. The entertainment of any kind of prejudice, unless it is against sin, is entertaining both a root of bitterness, and a position of superiority. We should all remember the pit from which we were digged.

LESSON 21 - The Importance of Being a Reader

- I. I Timothy 4:13 - "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."
 - A. Reading is the foundation of learning. A person cannot be saved without hearing the Gospel. One of the most effective ways of communicating the Gospel is through the printed page. We cannot grow in the Lord without studying the Scriptures. II Timothy 2:15 As we study the Scriptures, we learn doctrine, we are reproofed of our error, we are corrected, and we are instructed in righteousness. II Timothy 3:16 The purpose of this is that the person of God might be perfect (mature), thoroughly (completely) furnished unto all good works.
 - B. What should we read? We should read that which passes the Scriptural test. I John 4:1,2
 - 1. That which we read should be edifying. I Corinthians 10:23 and Ephesians 4:29
 - 2. That which we read should be good. I Thessalonians 5:21
 - 3. Most of all, we should read the Word of God. Reading the Word of God over and over again gives us an overview of the Scriptures that will keep us aware of where things are, and what the continuity of the Bible is. Try to read the Bible through at least once a year, and, if possible, twice. Study it as you go.
- II. The well-read man is an educated man. Proverbs 1:7 - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning (principle part) of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."
 - A. In lesson 33 we will talk about building a good library. For now, let us simply emphasize reading the right kind of reading materials which will make us strong in the Lord.
 - B. In many ways the computer has been a real help to the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but it has also been a curse.
 - 1. Many pastors now have all of their reference material on computer and have ceased from reading or referencing sermon material in reference books.
 - 2. Many of the best reference materials are not available on computer.
 - 3. Many, in their busy schedules, have ceased reading inspirational material such as biographies, while some no longer just sit down and read their Bible.
 - 4. Because of the increased use of computers, many parents no longer read to their children. No matter how much technology advances, there will still be an important place for books in the lives of every one of us.
 - C. Most important is that we read the right kind of materials. We will deal with that in lesson 33.

LESSON 22 - The Family Altar

- I. Through our many years in the ministry, people have sometimes asked me for Scriptural support for the family altar.
 - A. If there were no passages to support and promote this important activity in the Christian family I would still ask the question, what is wrong with it, and ask for proof that God does not want us to practice this.
 - B. Let us start with Deuteronomy 6:3-9. The reason God placed such a heavy emphasis on drilling our families in the Word of God is to be found in the latter part of this same chapter. See Verses 10-25
 1. From whom is the child to hear about the things of the Lord if not from his parents? The primary responsibility for education and training is up to the parent.
 2. We must not leave this most important obligation to the local Church, nor to a Christian school. These are wonderful and essential, but the primary emphasis must come from home.
 - C. Proverbs 22:6 is, of course, aimed at the parents. The parents are to train up a child in the way he should go. In the light of Deuteronomy 6:3-9, how better can we do that than in the family altar.
 - D. Saul of Tarsus (Paul the Apostle) was raised in the city of Tarsus which was a major trade center as well as the location of one of the main universities of the Roman Empire. This would make it one of the most unlikely places to raise a child. Paul did not get his education in the Roman university, however, but in the school of Rabbis in Jerusalem. He was a Pharisee of the Pharisees, raised in the strictest sect of the Law because of his parental instruction in obedience to Deuteronomy 6:3-9.
 - E. Paul praised the influence of Timothy's mother and grandmother on his life in the home as that which made him into the strong believer which he was.
 - F. The principle of the family altar is set forth to young Timothy by Paul the Apostle in II Timothy 2:1,2. He was to take the things taught to him by Paul and teach them to others, who in turn, would teach them to others.
 - G. Proverbs 29:17 instructs the Hebrew father to correct his son (Discipline, from which comes the word disciple or teach) and he shall give thee rest and delight your soul.
- II. What is a family altar?
 - A. It should be led by the father. God has made it clear that the father is the spiritual head of the home. In our messed up society today it is often Mother who takes this responsibility. If the father won't, then Mother should.
 - B. It should be based on a set time at which the family gets together to be instructed from the Scriptures and to pray together.
 - C. The family altar can possibly do more to help us stay right with the Lord than any other thing we can do outside of our own personal time with the Lord.
 1. We will many times find that the Scripture we use will find application sometime during the day, to some situation in which we find ourselves.
 2. It has a strong influence in the right direction on our children's lives as

they hear us pray for God's blessing and leading in their lives. The family altar goes a long way toward keeping relationships right in our family.

3. The father, or whoever is heading the family altar will find a great blessing in digging out and preparing something meaty for his family daily. He, himself, will learn and grow through the experience.
 4. If the family is musically inclined, they might want to read the words to a good old hymn, or sing one together in connection with the family altar.
- D. The family that has practiced the family altar from its beginning will find that it will become a strong hedge between them and the influences of the world.

III. When should a family have a family altar?

- A. It is seldom possible with our busy schedules these days, but by far the best time for the family is in the morning. Our family has family altar right after breakfast.
1. You might say, we don't eat breakfast together. It might be wise to begin the practice of eating breakfast together and having family altar afterward. If this is not possible, make a time that is best for your family and announce that your family will observe this practice faithfully each day at this time.
 2. Most families practicing a family altar will probably have it right after the evening meal, or right before bedtime. Some may say, what if our family members are coming and going at all different hours? It may solve a lot of family problems to exercise one's authority as head of the house and lovingly insist that schedules are going to have to coincide with the family altar. If your family has not been doing this, you may be in for some headaches and heartaches before you finally get it going.
- B. Joshua said in Joshua 24:15b, "...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

LESSON 23 - Your Personal Time with God

- I. We live in a time of deepening apostasy. According to II Timothy 3:5, one of the main characteristics of our time is “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. . .”
 - A. The thing that has brought this about is the discarding of our personal time with the Lord. Great men of God in years past have been great men of prayer who realized their need of complete dependence upon the Lord. We accomplish so little for the Lord because we lean on the arm of flesh, not on Him and His Word. John 15:5b reminds us, “...for without me ye can do nothing”, but Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”
 - B. Spend a brief time in prayer before getting into the Scriptures. Ask the Lord to give you what He has for you for that day.
 - 1. Determine you are going to spend a certain amount of time in the Scriptures each day and keep it diligently.
 - 2. Don’t be thinking about other things. If your mind wanders, go back and read the passage again. Look for things of import which speak to your heart. Make a note in your Bible or in a notebook of those things which particularly speak to you.
 - C. Have a prayer request list. It is good to record the day you began praying for a request, the request itself, and the date it is answered. It is particularly rewarding to periodically go back over your list and see all the answers to prayer God has given.
 - 1. Don’t think you have to pray for an hour, or for a particular length of time. Pray as long as you need to pray. As you add to your list of requests, you will find yourself spending longer in prayer.
 - 2. Jesus, in His sample prayer to His disciples, gave us certain categories of things to pray.
 - a. Worship, praise and exaltation of God
 - b. Prayer for the coming of His earthly reign
 - c. Personal needs and requests
 - d. Pray for daily cleansing.
 - e. Pray to have victory over temptation and deliverance from evil.
 - f. Recognition of the need for dependence on Him
 - 3. Be careful, however, not to let your prayer time get mechanical. Just open up your heart to God and share with Him what is on your heart.
- III. Prayer promises:
 - A. Every prayer promise has a condition.
 - 1. In Matthew 18:19 the condition is for two people to agree together concerning a request.
 - 2. In I John 5:14,15 it is to ask according to His will.
 - 3. In John 16:24 it is to ask in Jesus’ name.

4. In Matthew 7:7,8 it is to ask, seek and knock.
 5. In John 15:7 it is abiding in Christ.
 6. In James 1:5,6 it is asking in faith, nothing wavering.
- B. There are many prayer promises, but do not single out one and try to use it to the exclusion of the others.
1. Hebrews 11:6 makes it clear that faith is the key to pleasing God. There are two things, according to that verse, which are necessary to get our prayers answered:
 - a. We must believe that He is.
 - b. We must believe He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (He will do what He says He will do.)

IV. Helps:

- A. It is a blessing to get a good old hymn book and take it with you to your personal time with the Lord. On your knees, read one or two of the old hymns and let the message of them speak to your heart.
- B. Count your blessings before going to prayer, or in prayer. It will give you a thankful heart.
- C. Do not think that you have to get into a particular bodily position to pray. People of Scripture got their prayers answered standing, sitting, walking on water, kneeling, lying prostrate on the floor or ground, etc. It is good, however, to choose a position of humility for prayer.
- D. You might want to read one of the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion before going to prayer once in awhile. It will put you in a thankful state of mind.
- E. The Bible speaks often of “waiting on the Lord”. See Isaiah 40:31. Instead of doing all the talking when you pray, try just waiting on the Spirit of God to speak to you as you focus on Him.
- F. Remember where you are when you pray. Hebrews 4:15,16. You are in the Heavenly Sanctuary.

LESSON 24 - Our Obligation to Government

- I. The sin of lawlessness:
 - A. It is easy to recognize in others, but hard to recognize in one's self.
 - B. Our sin is the result of the conflict of desires. We sometimes break the law trying to accomplish a good thing, but the end does not justify the means.
 - C. Lawlessness is recognized in the Scriptures as sin. I Timothy 1:9 and Romans 13:2
- II. The Biblical basis for Government:
 - A. What is our source of authority?
 - 1. Not the constitution - It is man made, man written, man enforced, man interpreted, and changeable by man.
 - a. If the constitution can give us our religious beliefs, then other man-made documents can too.
 - b. Your religious beliefs should be the same no matter where you live.
 - 2. Not our traditions, or enjoyed liberties. (heritage)
 - a. We all have a responsibility to preserve our heritage.
 - 3. Not our personal thoughts about government or law
 - 4. Not our means to reach a desired goal, or the kind of government which works for us. (Paul the Apostle did not live under a friendly government.)
 - 5. Our exclusive source is the Word of God. James 4:2; II Timothy 3:16; Revelation 22:18,19
 - B. Government was created and instituted by God.
 - 1. It is not man's invention. Genesis 9:5,6
 - 2. God divinely created three institutions.
 - a. The home
 - c. The government
 - b. The Church All three divinely created and equally created by God
 - 3. When we speak of government we should remember we speak of that which God created.
 - C. Government is raised up and sustained by God, both good and bad. Daniel 2:21; Daniel 4:32,25; Proverbs 8:15,16
 - 1. We need to remember that God raised up those officials who give us so much trouble.
 - D. Government is under, and subject to God. Proverbs 21:1; Psalm 83:18; I Chronicles 29:11,12; II Chronicles 20:6
- III. Obedience to government is commanded by God.
 - A. Obedience to government is as unto God. (not for convenience sake)
 - 1. Romans 13:5

2. Not because we are conservative
3. Not because we are patriotic
4. Not because we are good citizens
5. Not because of the nature of the government at the time, be it just or unjust.
6. But for conscience sake. I Peter 3:16 and I Timothy 1:5,19

IV. Two aspects of obedience:

- A. Our actions or deeds - Romans 13:1; Romans 13:7; Luke 20:25; Titus 3:1; Ecclesiastes 8:2 and I Peter 2:13,14
- B. Obedience in our spirit - A matter of honor and loyalty.
 1. Acts without a right spirit are worthless.
 2. I Peter 2:17; Proverbs 24:21; II Peter 2:10; Proverbs 16:14

V. Scope of obedience:

- A. False boundaries of obedience to government:
 1. Not only if I happen to like the law
 2. Not just as long as the law doesn't cause me any problems personally
 3. Not just as long as other Christians are going along with it (Law of the herd)
 4. Not just as long as it doesn't cost me any money or inconvenience
- B. The Biblical boundary is that obedience is required until the Law requires me to disobey God. (Find that boundary with great care)
 1. This is the keeping of a good conscience toward God. Acts 4:19 and Acts 5:29
- C. Problems of personal politics:
 1. Any necessary disobedience to the law must be done with respect. (Always speak as a Christian)
 2. Ecclesiastes 10:12
 3. While working to change the law, obey the law.
- D. The right stand taken the wrong way is as bad as the wrong stand.

VI. Method of necessary disobedience: (Disobedience to government must only be done in obedience to God.)

- A. Protective steps for a Christian's disobedience:
 1. Be sure it is a bedrock conviction backed by Scripture. Psalm 119:105; Deuteronomy 26:16; Acts 5:29
 2. Engage in much prayer and fasting. Mark 14:38; James 1:5; I Peter 4:7; II Corinthians 6:4,5; Matthew 5:44
 3. Check your spirit. (Do you love those who oppose you?) Philippians 2:3,5; Galatians 5:22,23
 4. Only disobey that portion of the law which violates your faith.
 5. Be sure it is not a matter of personality conflict. II Timothy 2:24-26 and

Romans 12:17

6. Be sure it is not a matter of a bull-headed spirit. II Timothy 2:24; Galatians 5:22,23; James 3:17
7. Be sure it is not just a matter of going along with other churches and Christians. Daniel 3
8. Always try to win your opponent to Christ. II Timothy 2:25,26 and Acts 26
9. Be sure you are not suffering for wrong doing. II Corinthians 6:3 and I Peter 2:19,20
10. Always strive to get back to being obedient in all matters. (Don't strive to make your enemies afraid of you.) Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14; Romans 14:19

LESSON 25 - Different Ways to Serve the Lord

- I. Serving the Lord in a full-time capacity: This listing would follow the biblical outline concerning spiritual gifts which are set forth in I Corinthians chapter 12, Romans chapter 12, and Ephesians chapter 4. Each of these spiritual gifts in the form of offices can be broken down into several categories of service, as we will see.
 - A. I Corinthians 12:28
 1. Apostles - There are no Apostles in the New Testament sense today. The office of Apostle ended when John, the last of the twelve died toward the end of the first century AD.
 2. Prophets - This office also came to an end when the Canon of Holy Scripture was complete. I Corinthians 13:8-10
 3. Teachers - A teacher in the classic sense in the New Testament could be an Elder, a Bishop (Who was to be apt to teach) - I Timothy 3), or a Pastor. The biblical qualifications for these are found in I Timothy 3:1-7.
 - B. We find the same offices in Ephesians 4:11,12.
 1. Apostles
 2. Prophets
 3. Evangelists - These too would fall under the same requirements found in I Timothy 3.
 4. Pastors - (Bishops and sometimes Elders) who were overseers of the local Church: spiritual leaders who were responsible for the flock's welfare.
 5. Teachers
 - C. Romans 12:6-18 This list, although it seems to include some additional gifts, is speaking of additional characteristics of the previous officers of the Church.
 1. Prophets
 2. Ministers - Pastors, Evangelists, Teachers
 3. Exhorters - Pastors or Teachers
 - D. These basic offices which call for ordination have been broken down into other areas of specialization as the Church has grown and matured:
 1. Pastors
 2. Assistant or Associate Pastors
 3. Visitation Pastors
 4. Bus Pastors
 5. Evangelists or Revivalists
 6. Chaplains (Military, prison, corporate, etc.)
 7. Missionaries
 8. Helps ministries:
 - a. Missionary pilots

- b. Linguists
 - c. Mission Board Directors and members
 - d. Literature publishers and writers
 - e. Missionary school teachers
 - f. Christian school teachers
 - g. Full-time church secretaries and other full-time Christian workers
- E. Any of these who preach the Word of God on a full-time basis should be:
 - 1. Subject to the requirements of I Timothy 3
 - 2. They should be ordained of God or licensed, by the local Church.
 - 3. The Church should be able to look on them as either Pastors, Bishops, Elders, Evangelists, or Teachers.
 - 4. Unless they work in some area of the ministry where they do not teach, nor usurp authority of men, they must be men.
- II. The second category of Christian workers would be those who are Lay-Ministers, or part-time, volunteer workers in Christian work such as:
 - A. Sunday School Teachers
 - B. Volunteer helpers in the Youth Ministry
 - C. Jail and Nursing Home ministry workers
 - D. Bus workers
 - E. Choir members or soloists, or instrumentalists who minister on a volunteer, part time basis.
 - F. Construction and maintenance workers, etc.
 - G. Any other ministry of helps as set forth in I Corinthians 12
 - H. All of these and any others who work in a lay capacity in Christian work must be:
 - 1. Saved by the grace of God and scripturally baptized.
 - 2. Dedicated to the Lord, and to His service.
 - 3. Faithful in the task which they assume.
 - 4. Living a godly life.
- III. Every Born-again Christian has a primary responsibility, however, and that is, seeking to win all they can to the Lord Jesus Christ, whether they are deemed to be full time in the ministry or not.
 - A. There are many other areas of service, both full time and volunteer in Christianity. We will try to compose a list of as many as we can in class.

LESSON 26 - Handling One's Finances

A basic principle to remember: "To the Christian there is no difference between the secular and the sacred. Every bush is a burning bush, and all ground is holy ground." Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.

I. Serve the Lord with thy substance.

- A. Our substance is everything we own - our property or possessions. In Luke 8:3 we find women whom the Lord had healed, or otherwise were grateful to Him "ministered unto Him of their substance." Our gifts and offerings unto Him are evidence of our appreciation for what He has done for us. Therefore it is only reasonable that our Tithes and Offerings to Him should have first place in consideration of our finances.
- B. One person who was on limited income and wanted to give more to missions, and whose husband was already tithing, prayed and asked the Lord to help her do more. The Lord laid it on her heart to start clipping coupons. The amounts saved with the coupons was set aside for her project. This really mounted up over a period of time. If we make these things a matter of prayer, the Lord will show us how to accomplish our goals. Luke 6:38

II. We serve the Lord with our testimony.

- A. In Philippians 2:15 we read, "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." And in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." The way we handle our finances is definitely part of our testimony before men.

III. Examples of poor financial judgment:

- A. Felicia Moon, wife of the famous basketball player, was in court because of alleged abuse she had received. This was brought on by her misuse of credit cards. She gave a personal Christian testimony of how she received forgiveness and the marriage was restored all because of the blood of Christ. How much more effective could her testimony have been had she not had this weakness.
- B. One family accepted credit cards offered through the mail and charged them to the maximum in order to buy a complete house full of furniture to impress visiting relatives.
- C. Another family in which both parents worked outside the home, went to the grocery store every day to buy, largely on impulse, what they were going to eat for that day, instead of buying by the week and budgeting their groceries. The lack of planning ahead wastes money.
- D. Many families where both parents work outside the home, or in one parent families, the family eats fast food, or pizza or something of that nature ordered in to save time and do not realize that they are sacrificing the health of their family, as well as wasting a lot of money at the same time.
- E. Many families eat out too much and sacrifice time at home together as a family around the table. Restaurants often use too much salt and have an excess of grease in the foods. The family does not get a well-balanced diet, and yet they spend a great deal more than is needed.

IV. Suggestions for good financial planning:

- A. Every pay period make a list of what bills are due and need to be paid.
 - 1. Put your tithe on the top of the list.
 - 2. List such things as utilities, rent, food, and payments on cars or other items. As soon as you have deposited your paycheck, pay these things. Do not put it off. Take care of regular obligations first.
- B. Another good suggestion is to tithe 10% and save 10%. This habit, started early in life, will help throughout life. Teach it to your children. Some of our savings should be placed where we can get to them in case of an emergency. Some should be placed in sound investments where we cannot touch them. You do not have to save large amounts of money. The key is saving consistently.
- C. Do not enter into contract with anyone unless you have good reason to believe you can make the required payments. Plan ahead for the ligation as you can each month.
- D. Let soft drinks and snack foods be an occasional treat, not a regular part of your diet.
- E. Buy in large amounts; apportion out items such as meat and other foods and place the portions in the freezer. Teach your children that one serving bowl must serve all the people at the table. Set the example for them.
- F. Shop for quality in clothing. Take advantage of sales. Check the fabric content and washing instructions. Launder with care. Teach your children to change into play clothes and to hang up their things and take care of them.
- G. Have a place for your bills as they arrive. Keep them in the order in which they are due. Be sure to allow time for them to get to their destination before the due date. Much money is wasted on late charges.
- H. If you are going to use charge cards, try to always pay the entire amount due each month, not the minimum.

V. God is not the author of confusion.

- A. Order in our lives should be of utmost importance. This is especially true with finances.
 - 1. James 4:8
 - 2. Philippians 2:5
 - 3. Psalm 25:4

LESSON 27 – Keeping a Life’s Journal

- I. What is a Life Journal? A Life Journal is a day-by-day running account of incidents and experiences which come to bear upon your life, and in particular, your spiritual life.
 - A. One’s Life Journal could very well begin with a detailed account of his conversion experience, relating as much detail as possible. If at all possible, the individual should record the date, time and place, as well as those who had a part and what part they had.
 - B. One’s Life Journal may begin before that, however. After our salvation we can often look back on our life as an unsaved person and see how God protected and delivered us in various situations to bring us to Christ. It is good to record these. Isaiah 51:1 and Psalm 40:2
 - C. After a person has been saved they would do well to keep a day-by-day journal of experiences, opportunities, trials, testings, victories, prayer requests, answers to prayer, ministries, illnesses, etc., not only on their own life, but also the lives of others as they touch on their own life. One of the most important things the person can do in a Life’s Journal is to record how they reacted and how they felt about certain incidents in their life.
- II. What is the purpose of a Life’s Journal?
 - A. We can constantly remind ourselves of what God has done for us through the years. We can see how what we thought were defeats were really used of God at the time.
 - B. A Life’s Journal can keep us from making mistakes which we have made in the past. A wrong decision can be avoided by looking back at a time when we had to make a similar decision.
 - C. We can repeatedly rejoice in prayers which God has answered in the past, and how all things did work together for good at a time we thought was a real set back. Romans 8:28
 - D. We can look back and see how God protected us from harm in certain situations.
 - E. A Life’s Journal can aid us tremendously in teaching and training our children about life. We can show them the times we made good decisions based on the Word of God, and the consequences of right decisions. We can also use it to warn them of the consequences of wrong decisions as we show them our own experiences.
 - F. Think what a treasure we would have to pass on to our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. I have learned many valuable lessons from my father’s father, whom I never got to see, through my own father. How much better it would have been to have read the thoughts and experiences of my grandfather recorded by his own hand.
 - G. A Life’s Journal could also give us a running account of the names of those whom we had had opportunity to lead to Christ. Let me encourage you to start a Life’s Journal.

LESSON 28 – Preparing for the Future

- I. Many Christians think that when Jesus instructs His own that they should take no thought for tomorrow, He is telling them not to prepare for the future. There are numerous times that our Lord urges preparedness in various areas of life. Generally speaking, if one would prepare for the future as Christ would have him to, he would not have to sit around and worry about how he was going to handle the future.
 - A. Salvation:
 1. James 4:13,14 – “Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”
 2. Proverbs 27:1 – “Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”
 3. II Corinthians 6:2 – “For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”
 - B. The Believer’s preparation for the future:
 1. I Peter 4:12-19
 2. II Peter 3:10-15
 3. Titus 2:11-15
 4. Jude V-20,21
 5. Matthew 24:33-44
 6. II Thessalonians 2:1-15
 - C. Preparing materially and financially for tomorrow:
 1. I Corinthians 4:2 – “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.
 2. Luke 14:28 – “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?”
 3. Luke 14:31
 4. Philippians 3:13,14 – “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”
 - D. The Believer’s enabling for each day:
 1. Hebrews 12:1,2 – “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race which is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

LESSON 29 – How to Look For, Find, and Keep a Job

- I. We will divide this lesson into two parts: (1) As it applies to the secular realm, and (2) As it applies to full-time Christian service. There are some parts of the lesson which apply to both secular and Christian work.
 - A. No matter what kind of employment a Christian is looking for, the first consideration is prayer.
 1. Matthew 7:7,8; Matthew 18:19; I John 5:14,15
 - B. We also need to include lesson 2, “Seeking God’s Will for Your Life”.
 1. We need to be sure that we are seeking where God wants us, not just where we want to be. Matthew 6:33
 - C. With the casual look so common these days, many people do not dress for a job interview in such a way as to favorably impress the interviewer. As in any situation, we need to dress up, not down.
 - D. When you have the leading of the Lord in regard to the line of work in which He would have you, seek employment with companies and firms which would be honoring to the Lord.
 1. Many factory-type companies are nothing but divorce companies. One series of electronic firms in the Phoenix area years ago was known for this very thing.
 2. Many Christians would not seek employment there since they knew there were so many divorced people there just looking for someone support them
 - E. Just write off any place of employment which would cause you to have to go against your convictions.
 1. Before we ever apply at some places we know that they are going to require us to work on the Lord’s Day. Some may say, well I have to make a living and this is the only job that is open. It would be better to cut lawns and wash cars, or do house work than to violate your convictions.
 2. Some will accept employment with companies known to be connected with questionable activities. It is almost automatic that your testimony for Christ will be worthless in such a place.
 3. As in marriage, hold out until God brings the right thing along.
 - F. If you are looking for a place where you will be working an eight hour day and a forty hour week, put in eight hours a day, and forty hours a week looking for the right job.
 - G. Prepare an attractive resume’. Put on it every bit of work experience you have ever had, including regular chores at home when you were a kid. Many times employers like to know if you really know how to work.
 - H. Keep praying as you look, and be patient. Wait on the Lord for His supply. Don’t turn down a job if it is legitimate just because it entails more work than you had expected.
 - I. If you have access to the internet, there are many ways to get contacts for people in certain kinds of work. Don’t think it is sufficient, however, just to send out resumes and sit back and wait for the job to come to you. You still need to be actively looking

and interviewing.

- J. Once you have found the job God wants you to have, keep that job by giving your employer 110%. Give him or her everything they are paying you for, plus some extra.
1. Be neat and clean.
 2. Dress right.
 3. Maintain your Christian testimony.
 4. Don't just use that job as a stepping stone to a better one. Build up some time with the company.
 5. You might leave that job for what seems to be a better one just about the time they planned to make you the supervisor. If this is a secular job, remember that, with the Christian, there is no difference between the secular and the sacred. You would not think much of a Pastor who took a church and used it for a short time as a stepping stone to a better one. Staying power will get you a long way.

II. All of the above things apply in seeking a position in the ministry. There are a few things, however which we must add.

- A. The man seeking a pastorate, or the man or woman seeking a position in a Christian school, or some other position should contact only those kinds of churches or schools in which they know they could conscientiously minister without sacrifice of scriptural convictions. Don't take a position with an unscriptural ministry hoping to change it for the better. "How shall two walk together except they be agreed?"
- B. Men, do not take a position of assistant pastor, bus pastor, etc., unless you are working under a man whose position you can support. It will lead quickly to trouble.
- C. Do not go to the mission field under a mission board with which you do not wholeheartedly agree.
- D. If you have graduated from a good biblical school, ask the school to recommend you to churches which may be open at the time. Ask the Administration for recommendations concerning mission boards.
- E. Once you have contacted a possible position, find out all you can about it before accepting a call.
- F. Be the best person you can be for the position.
- G. Exercise staying power. Don't go around with your resignation in your pocket.
- H. Be a leader and a lover of people. (See lesson 1 and 8.)

LESSON 30 – Our Diet and Our Health

- I. A Christian does not need to spend a lot of money on books about nutrition. God's word tells us what is good for us, and what we should and should not eat and drink. Once we have permanently damaged our bodies through unwise nutrition, we do not have a fit vessel to offer unto the Lord. It is as wrong for a Christian to harm his or her body with the wrong kind of food as it is to harm our body with the wrong kinds of beverages and chemicals. I Corinthians 6:19,20.
 - A. You may say, "The foods God told Israel to eat in the Old Testament were required under the Law, but we are under grace." That is true, but if they were good for Israel they will be good for the Christian. The only difference between Israel under the Law and the Christian under Grace is the reason why we do what God says. It is a scientific fact that pork is not good for most people. We will be healthier if we eat chicken, turkey or fish. It has also been proven that people who eat a lot of red meat have a far greater chance of heart attack and high blood pressure. Chocolate is known to be a mild poison, but we still eat it though we know this. People who eat no chocolate have far less upper respiratory infections than those who do. The Roloff Homes and other similar facilities let their people have no chocolate, caffeine or carbonated drinks. Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14:3-21.
 - B. God originally told mankind to eat vegetables and fruits with the seeds thereof. Many seeds contain substances which are natural antibiotics or other healing compounds. Remote tribes have been found in recent years with no trace of cancer because they ate many nuts and seeds from such things as apricots. Genesis 1:29
 - C. If we would eat the right things, and drink the right things in the right amounts we would get all of the vitamins and minerals we need for good health. Since we now have started processing many of our foods and thus removing most of the nutrition, we have had to supplement our diet with vitamins and minerals.
 - 1. Vitamin C is God's natural antihistamine. It does not help as much to heal colds and allergies as it does to prevent them in the first place. This vitamin will keep the urinary tract acidic. Bacteria cannot live in an acid environment. We now know that vitamin C can help prevent cancer, as well as many other illnesses. It is a little used miracle drug.
 - 2. Vitamin E helps to control blood pressure, prevent plaque build-up in arteries, etc. It has long been used in Canada to help prevent heart attacks and stroke.
 - 3. Vitamin A is known to help the eyes and general health. It is God's natural antibiotic.
 - 4. The B vitamins treat the nervous system and help repair nerve damage.
 - 5. Potassium found in high concentration in bananas is a must for good health.
 - 6. Iron is necessary to build red blood cells.
 - 7. Calcium, found largely in dairy products, is necessary to maintain strong bones and teeth.
 - 8. Most of us need to drink much more water than we do.
- II. Beverages are also an important thing in our diet.
 - A. Water is sometimes called Adam's Ale, but it is needed in a regular supply and in

large quantities daily. Those who substitute other beverages, especially those which contain caffeine, alcohol or carbonation are inviting all kinds of serious illnesses.

B. Alcohol cannot be digested by the human body. It goes immediately into the blood stream and to the brain. It is a killer of all kinds of body cells. The greatest danger, however, is to the cells of the central nervous system, the brain, the heart and the liver. The thing which differentiates between man and animal is the frontal lobe of the brain where we make moral decisions, where we reason and plan. Alcohol renders this area either partially or totally inoperative, reducing man to the level of an animal. Here are some arguments against any alcoholic beverage from the Scriptures:

1. Genesis 9:18-29 Because of the atmospheric conditions being so different after the flood than they were before, Noah was not expecting the wine to ferment and became drunken. We can see in this passage the sin to which his drunkenness led.
2. Judges 13:1-4; 13:14; Numbers 6:1-8 There were three requirements of the Nazarite vow: (1) The man or the woman who took this vow could not eat nor drink anything of the fruit of the vine, nor drink strong drink. (2) They could let no razor come upon their head, and (3) They were to touch no dead thing. These requirements were for the duration of the vow. The Bible is not meant to be a science book, but when it touches on matters pertaining to science it is always completely correct. The prohibition given to Samson's mother were certainly in keeping with what we know today to be best for the health and welfare of the unborn child.
3. What the Greek calls oinon (wine) could be any fruit of the vine in any form. If we are to discern whether the wine in any instance was fermented, it must be on the basis of the context, realizing that God will not instruct His people to do something contrary to His own Word.
 - a. Proverbs 20:1
 - b. Isaiah 28:7
 - c. Proverbs 23:29-35
 - d. Leviticus 10:9 The Old Testament priests were a type of the New Testament believer. They were sanctified unto the Lord, and were Holy. I Corinthians 6:19-20
 - e. Isaiah 5:11
 - f. Ephesians 5:18
 - g. I Timothy 3:3,8
 - h. I Peter 4:3
 - i. Habakkuk 2:15
4. Illustrations of discerning whether wine was fermented or not according to the context:
 - a. John 2:1-11 There are several reasons why we know this wine was not fermented. We will discuss these in class.
 - b. I Timothy 5:23 There are scientific reasons why we know Paul was not speaking of fermented wine here.

- C. Fruit juices were often used in Bible times for a beverage instead of water. There is a high level of nutrition in many fruit juices.

LESSON 31 – How to Look for and Maintain a Vehicle

- I. The Christian who is trying to serve the Lord and maintain a good testimony must be careful to be conservative and practical as possible. For a person in full-time Christian service to own a new Cadillac is certainly not wrong, but it can be detrimental to their effectiveness. At the same time, the person serving the Lord should not drive a car which is a poor testimony. Consider the following:
 - A. Look for a vehicle which has durable construction. Gather as much information as possible on different makes of vehicles.
 1. Missionaries as well as those in full-time or part-time Christian work need to consider their location, weather, road conditions, etc., before purchasing.
 - B. If the Christian knows someone who has access to the dealers' auctions, sometimes they can get an excellent buy on an automobile.
 - C. There are discount outlets for those in Christian service which will offer good discounts on vehicles.
 - D. Watching the classified ads can often lead to a good deal on a low-mileage vehicle which has been well cared for.
 - E. Often it is better to purchase a new vehicle instead of trying to get by with old cars, that are always having mechanical problems.
 - F. If you know a Christian car dealer, they will often look for and let you know about a good deal.
 - G. Be practical. If you have a family, or are anticipating an increase in your family, let that strongly influence your thinking on what to buy. Whatever you do, don't get tied up in payments on a vehicle which is not going to meet your needs next year, or in two years.
 - H. Do nothing about the purchase of a vehicle until you have waited on the Lord for His leading and timing. As in seeking a life's mate, God can take you right to the perfect one.
 - I. Before you go looking, agree with your spouse on what you can afford and don't give in under any circumstances. An offer may get you a discount. Be firm.
 - J. Always think of any possession as something to be used for the Lord. Choose something in which you can haul others to Sunday school and church.
 - K. Try to find what is most economical on gasoline, and still meet your needs. You can do without extras, but you need reliability.
- II. Maintenance is so important in making a vehicle last.
 - A. Follow carefully the manufacturer's specifications on things such as lubrication, tire rotation, etc.
 - B. Get a repair manual on the vehicle and learn to fix the things which you can.
 - C. Use the best grade of oil possible and change oil filters every time you change oil.
 - D. Even if a vehicle starts to use oil, continue to use the best oil you can put in it. An engine will always make room for heavy or low-grade lubricants by excess wear.
 - E. Alignment, good shock absorbers and safe tires are not only important for the ride of

the vehicle, but are basic to vehicle safety. If you are going to be carrying heavy loads, or pulling a trailer, airlift shocks on the rear of a vehicle are a must.

- F. Flush the cooling system and refill with new coolant at least every other year. Be sure you use good products.
- G. Watch for leaks in the lubricant in the engine or transmission. Taking care of them early can save a lot of expense later on.
- H. Have the transmission serviced every 30,000 miles.
- I. Have hoses and belts checked every year. It is always a good idea to buy replacement hoses and belts for your vehicle and carry them with you, along with the tools to change them. Learn how to change them.
- J. It is good to purchase and carry with you replacement bulbs or units for every light in your vehicle. Learn how to replace them. It can save you a lot of money.
- K. There are many businesses that will check your brake linings, pads, rotors and drums free of charge. You need to keep track of about how many miles you have left on your brake linings and pads. On a used car, have these checked before buying.
- L. There are agencies now which can check the history of any vehicle to see if it has ever been in a serious accident. They can also tell you if it has ever been in a flood. Insist on the history of the vehicle before buying.
- M. Keep a written record of mileage, service, etc. People who are in the ministry can deduct these things from their income taxes, but you must have written records. The IRS wants at least blocks of time when each trip and the purpose of the trip is recorded..
- N. Some might want to consider leasing, but don't forget the hard part of a lease comes at the end of it.
- O. Always deal with reputable people. DON'T EVER buy from a fly-by-night dealership. Get everything in writing and make sure such things as extended warranties, etc., are through the manufacturer, not through a second party.
- P. Don't get rid of a vehicle if it is still in good condition and is still meeting your needs.
- Q. Keep your vehicle clean inside and out. It is part of your testimony.

LESSON 32 – How to Find and Maintain Housing

- I. When Christians look for housing they want to look for that which will meet their needs, is a good investment, and which is practical in the light of their circumstances.
 - A. Always make this a matter of much prayer.
 - 1. Once again, do not enter into any lease, purchase or rental contract without making sure that both spouses are agreed and are happy with it.
 - B. Try to steer away from apartment complexes or town houses if it is at all possible.
 - C. If purchasing, request to see construction specifications (if new) or maintenance records if previously owned.
 - 1. Find out if wiring is copper or aluminum.
 - 2. Find out if the structure contains particleboard, or plywood.
 - 3. Check the quality and age of the roof.
 - 4. See if the dwelling has recently been treated for termites, etc.
 - 5. Check to see if the dwelling has hurricane straps on the rafters.
 - 6. Check the foundation for cracks, and the doors for sticking. Check for cracks in sheet rock, etc., which might indicate foundation problems.
 - 7. Check to see if plumbing is galvanized, copper or PVC
 - 8. Check the age of the water heater, heating and cooling units.
 - 9. See if the heating and cooling units and plumbing are up to standard for the area in which it is located.
 - D. If renting, make sure the owner agrees to take care of maintenance items.
 - E. Be careful not to buy a home that is the best home in a poor neighborhood. There will be problems with resale.
 - F. Try to stay away from mobile homes or pre-manufactured homes. They have very little resale value and depreciate rapidly. They also are unsafe in bad weather.
 - G. If you are selling a home, get a copy of a Disclosure Statement and list even cosmetic cracks, etc. Also, be familiar with a Residential Contract.
 - H. You can sell your own home, but will need an attorney to draw up the papers. Call a Title Company in the area for an attorney referral.
- II. Finding housing:
 - A. If at all possible, find a Christian realtor, or housing locator. Be sure you find out up front what all the fees are, including finder's fees.
 - B. Before looking for housing, find a good church and a good Christian school and try to locate close to it so that you can be as active as possible.
 - C. You will often find people in a good fundamental church who can help you find housing.
 - D. Don't rent, lease or buy beyond your means.
 - E. Find out the crime rating of a neighborhood before moving there.

- F. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33

LESSON 33 – How to Build a Good Library

- I. A Christian's library does not have to be extensive to be good. Any Christian should be constantly working at adding good Christian literature and reference books to his library. Building a good library is really a life-long undertaking. The following are some items a Christian should have to build a good library:
- A. Beside your everyday Bible which you take to church with you, and use for everyday reading, you should have a good study Bible such as a Scofield, The Open Bible, a Thompson Chain-reference Bible, etc. Be careful though concerning which one you get.
 - B. You should get a good, complete Bible dictionary.
 - C. If you can afford it, as soon as possible purchase a six-volume set of Matthew Henry's commentaries.
 - D. Try to find a full set of H. A. Ironside's commentaries.
 - E. Try to obtain a copy of Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. You might also want to purchase a copy of Cruden's Concordance, or Young's Complete Concordance.
 - F. An Interlinear, Greek-English New Testament is a great help, along with a Greek-English Lexicon.
 - G. A good Bible Atlas is a great help in understanding the setting of various incidents in the Bible.
 - H. Try to obtain an unabridged copy of The Complete Works of Flavious Josephus.
 - I. If they are still in print, Joseph Free's book in Archaeology and the Bible and Dr. Bowen's book on Strange Scriptures to the Western Mind would be great study helps.
 - J. Every Christian library should have a copy of Pilgrim's Progress by Bunyon and Fox's Book of Martyrs.
 - K. Good Biographies of great Christians are inspiring reading, and will encourage the Christian to greater faithfulness.
 - L. The Pentateuch, by Thomas Holdcroft, is an excellent book on the first five books of the Bible. Many of the Bible types are brought out in this work.
 - M. The Genesis Record, by Henry Morris, as well as any other works by him are excellent.
 - N. The books and video tapes by Kent Hovind are a must on the subject of evolution and the Bible.
 - O. A good Bible handbook is vital. Halley's or the old unrevised Unger's Bible Handbook are very good.
 - P. Another excellent addition to the Christian's library is Bible Characters, by Moody, Talmage and Parker.
 - Q. Of course we should mention the need of a good unabridged Webster's Dictionary and Webster's Treasury of Synonyms, Antonyms and Homonyms.
 - R. How to Work for Christ, by R. A. Torrey is the best on the subject of personal evangelism.
 - S. The Great Doctrines of the Bible, by Evans is a standard.

T. The New Topical Textbook with introduction by R. A. Torrey.