
“Oh, To Be Like Thee”



Living Day to Day as a Christian
Volume IV

Gene Taylor

Table of Contents

Lesson One: Sincerity	1
Lesson Two: Making Wise Choices	3
Lesson Three: Being Involved	5
Lesson Four: Battling Discouragement	7
Lesson Five: Being a Good Example	9
Lesson Six: The Use of Time	11
Lesson Seven: Keeping Pure	13
Lesson Eight: Persuading Men	15
Lesson Nine: A Godly Marriage	17
Lesson Ten: Avoiding Laziness	20
Lesson Eleven: Receiving and Giving Help	22
Lesson Twelve: Motives for Obedience	24
Lesson Thirteen: Preparing for Death	26

© Gene Taylor, 2020. All Rights Reserved.

Lesson One: Sincerity

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:12

Introduction

1. The above text relates Paul's sincerity in life and in his actions among the Corinthians and the people of the world.
 - a. His every effort to teach them had been of sincerity. (2 Cor. 2:17)
 - b. His motives were pure—"as from God."
2. Sincerity: Pure, unmixed and without alloy (usually applied to motives).
3. Not all religious people are sincere—not even those who preach. (Phil. 1:15-17)
4. This lesson will show how sincerity is an essential part of true religion and answer the question as to whether or not sincerity alone is not enough to please God.

I. The Essential Nature of Sincerity

- A. Sincerity is essential to become a Christian.
 1. One who is insincere or has mixed or impure motives cannot be what Christ would have him to be.
 2. Insincerity was a problem that was prevalent when Jesus was upon the earth.
 - a. It caused some to follow Jesus for loaves and fishes. (John 6:1-2, 22-27)
 - b. Jesus sought to weed out the insincere. (Matt. 16:24; Luke 9:57-58; Mark 10:17-22; Matt. 6:24)
- B. Sincerity is essential to remain pleasing to God: the example of the apostle Paul.
 1. He strove to be sincere. (2 Cor. 1:12)
 2. He prayed for the sincerity of the Philippians. (Phil. 1:9-10)
 3. He told the Corinthians to prove the sincerity of their love. (2 Cor. 8:8)
- C. Love for Jesus is to be in sincerity. (Eph. 6:24)

II. Is Sincerity Alone Enough?

- A. Many have said that it is.
 1. This idea is prevalent among denominations.
 2. This idea has permeated the church.
 - a. From a "brother" in Christ: "I regard every sincere conscientious person on the face of the earth who believes in Jesus as the Son of God as God's child and my brother in prospect. He is God's child because he has been begotten of my Father but he has not been born in the family relationship yet." (*Firm Foundation*, 9/25/62)
 - b. From a "brother" in Christ: "The 'man of faith' is going to be studying these and other matters trying to learn the truth. But if this 'man of faith' is honest and sincere, even if he does not learn the truth...God will overlook his ignorance and error." (*A Journey Toward Jesus*)
- B. Sincerity alone is not enough.
 1. It never has been—neither in the Old Law nor the New.

2. As long as one has sincerity as his only standard for acceptance by God, the prevalence of many condemned things is allowed and the absence of many authorized things is ignored.
- C. Both the Old Testament and the New are filled with examples which show that sincerity alone is not enough.
1. The prophets of Baal in the contest with Elijah on Mt. Carmel. (1 Kings 18:25-29)
 2. Uzzah. (2 Sam. 6:6-7)
 3. The Jews who rejected and crucified Jesus. (Acts 3:17; Luke 23:34; Rom. 10:1-4)
 4. Saul of Tarsus. (Acts 8:1; 9:1; 22:16)
 5. The Laodiceans. (Rev. 3:14-19)

III. Both Sincerity and Truth Are Needed

- A. Along with sincerity, truth is essential for religion to be pleasing to God.
- B. Truth is necessary:
1. For forgiveness of sins. (John 8:32)
 2. To belong to God. (John 17:19)
 3. For acceptable worship. (John 4:24)
 4. It is to be bought and never sold. (Prov. 23:23)
 5. Those who do not love it will perish. (2 Thess. 2:9-12)

Conclusion: He Will Come in Judgment

1. Sincerity is a must for those who want to become Christians and for Christians to remain pleasing to God, yet, sincerity alone is not enough.
2. We must hold to the truth in worship, teaching and practice.

Discussion Questions

1. Define sincerity. How does it relate to the religion of Christ?
2. Why is sincerity essential to become and remain a Christian?
3. Why is sincerity alone not enough to make one pleasing to God?
4. How is the sincerity seen in the following examples.
 - a. The prophets of Baal?
 - b. Uzzah?
 - c. Saul of Tarsus?
5. Why must sincerity be linked with truth?

Lesson Two: Making Wise Choices

Introduction

1. We must make many choices every day—most of them are minor but some are major.
2. Sometimes, making the wrong choice can bring disastrous consequences.
 - a. The example of Lot in choosing to pitch his tent toward Sodom. (Gen. 13)
 - b. The example of David in lusting after another man's wife. (2 Sam. 21)
 - c. New Testament examples.
 - 1) Peter made the poor choice to deny Jesus. (Matt. 26:69-75)
 - 2) Paul made the poor choice to persecute the church. (Gal. 1:13)
3. Seeing the disastrous results that can come from poor choices, we need to know how to deal with the poor choices we make and how we can make wise choices.

I. Responding to Wrong Choices

- A. Continue in your error.
 1. Remain in the choice you have made because of pride or some other reason.
 2. Stubbornly refused to admit you were wrong and remain defiant.
- B. Wallow in your pride.
 1. Feel sorry for your self over your guilt or loss.
 - Judas was sorry that he had betrayed innocent blood but, instead of repenting and seeking forgiveness, he sorrowfully took his own life. (Matt. 27:3-5)
 2. Instead of having a "pity party," learn from your mistake.
- C. Learn from the mistakes of others.
 1. Do what Peter did: "Repent and serve." (Luke 22:31-32)
 2. Do what Paul did: "Accept and live!" (1 Tim. 1:12-16; Phil. 3:13-14)

II. Making Right Choices

- A. Ask God for wisdom. (Jas. 1:5-8)
 1. Asking for wisdom requires diligence. (Prov. 21:1-9)
 2. Fill your prayers with requests for wisdom to make wise choices.
- B. Ask others for advice.
 1. There is safety in having many counselors. (Prov. 11:14)
 2. There is wisdom in heeding the counsel of others. (Prov. 12:15)
 3. Older, mature Christians are a great source to receive counsel.
- C. Commit your choices to the Lord.
 1. Trusting that you have made the choices which are pleasing to Him, put them in His hands. (Psa. 37:5-6, 23-26)
 2. Make all of your choices with the understanding, "if the Lord wills." (Jas. 4:13-15)
 3. Always include God in all your decisions.

Conclusion

1. May the examples of such men as Lot, David, Peter and Paul:
 - a. Teach us the importance of making wise choices.
 - b. Serve as a warning not to make our decisions lightly.
2. May we ever be open to the wisdom from God and the counsel of others to make wise choices in life.

Discussion Questions

1. What common thread ran through the poor choices of Lot, David and Peter?
2. How is pride a factor when one chooses not to right a wrong choice?
3. What is the difference between sorrowing as the world sorrows and sorrowing with Godly sorrow?
4. Why is it important to learn from the mistakes of others?
5. How can the following help you make right choices?
 - a. Asking God for wisdom.
 - b. Asking others for advice.
 - c. Committing your choices to the Lord.

Lesson Three: Being Involved

Introduction

1. To be involved is to contain or include as a part; to have as a necessary feature or consequence; to draw in as an associate or participant; to occupy or engross completely.
2. To be an involved Christian is to be included as a part of the Lord's family; to accept all features and consequences of that relationship; to be drawn in as an associate or participant in that body; to be occupied or engrossed completely—absorbed in being a Christian.
3. Some questions:
 - a. Why do some not really feel they are a part of the local body?
 - b. Why do some seemingly avoid the joys and “consequences” of being a Christian?
 - c. Why do some fail to be participants, associates, in activities of the body?
 - d. Why are some not completely absorbed in being a Christian?
4. This lesson will:
 - a. Cite some reasons why some who claim to be Christians are not more involved.
 - b. Show why every true Christian must be willing to be involved by looking at the “golden text” of involvement: 1 Corinthians 15:58.

I. Why Some Christians Are Not Involved

- A. A lack of conversion.
 1. Conversion is a change of heart, conduct and relationship.
 - If a person has not made these changes, is he really converted?
 2. Instead of being converted, some are just “churched.”
- B. A wrong view of the local church. It is viewed as an agency that:
 1. Will have an impact on the world simply because of numerical strength, size of building, wealth, etc.
 2. Allows one to hire another to do his work.
 3. Exists for the sole purpose of serving its members.
 4. Exists only when it assembles—and it must be served.
- C. A lack of understanding of individual responsibility.
 1. Becoming a Christian means getting involved and being a faithful Christian means staying involved.
 2. One cannot avoid individual involvement by being part of a group.
- D. A lack of sincere dedication and commitment.
 1. Dedicated people such as Abraham, Moses, Peter and Paul, have changed sacred history.
 2. The history of the first century church is a record of people willing to get involved.

II. The Golden Text: 1 Corinthians 15:58

- A. “Therefore.” This connects the content of verse 58 with the context of the rest of the chapter thus connecting involvement with some of the most exalted themes in God's word.
- B. “My beloved brethren.” This reveals who needs to get involved.

- C. "Be steadfast, immovable."
 - 1. The basic motivation for involvement is conviction.
 - 2. A strong faith is absolutely essential to a sustained effort.
 - 3. Those who work hardest and are the most dependable are those of deep faith.
- D. "Always." This stresses the constancy of our involvement.
 - Spasmodic service is of little value.
- E. "Abounding in the work of the Lord."
 - 1. No NT word cries "involvement" more than "abounding."
 - 2. Being a Christian demands an abounding involvement.
- F. "Knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."
 - 1. Our involvement in the work of the Lord will produce much good.
 - 2. "In the Lord," makes all the difference.

Conclusion

May every one of us be more determined to be more deeply involved in the work of the Lord.

Discussion Questions

1. What, in a general sense, does it mean to be involved? What does it mean to the Christian?
2. Why does a lack of conversion on the part of a believer contribute to a lack of involvement?
3. Why does a lack of understanding of individual responsibility lead to a lack of involvement?
4. Show some of the ways that first century Christians were involved in serving the Lord and one another.
5. From 1 Corinthians 15:58, what is involved in:
 - a. Being "steadfast" and "immovable?"
 - b. "Always abounding in the work of the Lord?"

Lesson Four: Dealing with Discouragement

Introduction

1. Discouragement is universal—all of us get discouraged from time to time especially as we face various problems.
2. Discouragement can take many forms and be caused by many things.
3. Whatever it is that causes you to become discouraged, you can overcome it.
4. In this lesson we will see what it takes to be able to deal with the discouragement that is in our lives.

I. Keep Your Mind on the Better World to Come

- A. In due time you will reap a bountiful harvest of blessings in a a better place.
 - Keeping that thought in mind should help you deal with your problems and the discouragement that comes with them. (1 Pet. 1:13; Col. 3:2-4)
- B. Though the apostle Paul suffered many things of an adverse nature, he called them a “light affliction” (2 Cor. 4:16) because he kept his mind focused on the eternal glory that was to follow.

II. Strive to Bear Up Under Trials and Hardships

- A. Consider the thought expressed in 1 Peter 4:12-13 that trials are a part of life.
- B. Everyone will face a certain amount of adversity—some more than others. (Job 14:1; Eccl. 7:14)
- C. We must understand that fiery trials can serve a good purpose. (Jas. 1:2-4)
- D. You must view hardships as an aid rather than a hindrance. (2 Cor. 12:7-9)

III. Continue in the Faith No Matter What Life May Bring

- A. You can have victory through your faith. (1 John 5:4)
- B. When Peter saw Jesus walking on the sea of Galilee, he also wanted to walk on water. (Matt. 14:28-31)
 1. When he saw the strong waves, his faith began to waver.
 2. As he struggled as he began to sink, he knew to look to Jesus for help.
- C. You may not walk on water but you will walk through some tough situations.
 - If you focus on the “waves” of difficulties and hardships without looking to Jesus for help, you too will despair and sink.

IV. Always Look to Jesus

- A. Jesus, your example in all things, is also your example in dealing with trials. (Heb. 12:1-2)
- B. Even as He was facing an excruciating and painful death, Jesus said, “Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)
 - He was able to face such suffering by looking at the joy that was to follow.
- C. Jesus received a lot of unjust criticism.
 1. He was called a “glutton” and a “winebibber.” (Matt. 11:19)
 2. When you are unjustly criticized, look to the Savior and rise above the lies.

V. Continue to Hold to the Truth at All Costs

- A. The truth of God is that which you must prize above all other things. (Col. 3:17; 2 John 9; John 8:31)
- B. You must never decide a matter through emotionalism or your own will but you must always base your attitudes and actions on the truth.

VI. Turn to the Bible for Strength and Comfort

- A. Consider the words of Isaiah 40:28-31.
- B. All humans have their weaknesses but God's power and strength never diminishes.
- C. The Lord and His word can keep you from stumbling. (Jude 24)

Conclusion

1. Disappointments, discouragements and hardships will come.
 - a. You need to trust God and His word for strength to deal with them.
 - b. You need to have the proper attitude toward them and use them to grow to be the type of person God would have you to be.
2. Remember, God made "mountains to climb."

Discussion Questions

1. What is discouragement? What negative effects can it have on a person?
2. Why should thinking of the world to come alleviate the Christian's discouragement?
3. What is to be the attitude the believer has toward trials and hardships?
4. How can faith give victory over discouragement?
5. What aspects of Jesus' example can help one rise above discouragement?
6. What comfort can the believer find in the truth of the Scriptures which will help him deal with discouragement?

Lesson Five: Being a Good Example

I. The Importance of Example

- A. We are creatures of imitation which makes examples important.
- B. The power of example is very great.
 - 1. It is one of the greatest powers known to man.
 - 2. It is a power that all possess, a force that must be handled.
- C. The Bible recognizes the great power of example for both good and evil.
 - 1. Good examples in Scripture.
 - a. Godliness: Noah. (Gen. 6-7)
 - b. Faith: Abraham. (Heb. 11:8-10)
 - c. Patience: Job. (Job 1-2)
 - d. Courage: Daniel. (Dan. 6)
 - e. Endurance: Moses. (Heb. 11:23-27)
 - f. Leadership: Joshua. (Judg. 24:31)
 - 2. Bad examples in Scripture.
 - a. The ten spies. (Num. 13-14)
 - b. Korah. (Num. 16)
 - c. The Pharisees in the time of Jesus. (Matt. 6:2-8; 23:1-3)
- D. Someone has said, "Precepts tell us our duty, examples show us that it is possible."
- E. The Bible gives us many examples that illustrate the great principles of truth by which we are to live thus letting us know that we can live godly.
 - 1. One of the main reasons we possess the OT is so that we can learn from the examples it contains. (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:6)
 - 2. Jesus is set before us as the perfect example for us to follow. (1 Pet. 2:21-25)
 - 3. Paul understood the power of example.
 - a. He was aware of his own example. (1 Thess. 2:10-12; 1 Cor. 11:1)
 - b. He commanded others to set a proper example. (Titus 2:7-8; 1 Tim. 4:12)

II. Christians Are to Be Examples

- A. Christians are to be the "light of the world." (Matt. 5:14-16)
- B. Those who claim to be Christians are influencing people in one way or another.
 - 1. As Christians, we must realize the world is judging Christianity by us.
 - 2. Thomas Jefferson in writing to John Adams: "I always judge a man's religion by his life...for it is from our lives and not our words, that our religion must be read.
- C. 1 Timothy 4:12 reveals those areas in which Christians are to be examples.
 - 1. Word. Be careful what you say and how you say it.
 - 2. Manner of life. Never forget that people are observing your life.
 - 3. Love. For God, Christ and your fellow man.
 - 4. Spirit. What kind of attitudes do you have? Are you an optimist or a pessimist?

5. Faith. Is it weak or strong? Is it little or great?
6. Purity. Can people see in you a desire to remain unspotted from the world or do they see a longing to engage in worldly things?

Conclusion

1. Each one of us as Christians should be setting an example that is safe for others to follow.
2. Can people see Jesus living in us? Do we manifest His qualities to those around us?
3. Someone is observing your life and the example you are setting.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is example such a powerful force?
2. What are some consequences of a good example?
3. What are some consequences of a bad example?
4. Why do you think the Bible gives its readers so many examples—both good and bad?
5. What does it mean to be a “light of the world?” How does one fulfill this responsibility?
6. How can one be a proper example in:
 - a. Word?
 - b. Manner of life?
 - c. Love?
 - d. Spirit?
 - e. Faith?
 - f. Purity?

Lesson Six: The Use of Time

Introduction

1. One of the most popular reasons people give for not being more involved in the work of the Lord is the lack of time.
 - a. It is important for Christians to use their time wisely. (Eph. 5:15-16)
 - b. When we waste time, we are wasting our lives away.
2. Sometimes we face difficulties in the proper use of our money and abilities but never so much as in the use of our time.

I. Time Is Remarkable Stuff

- A. Time is remarkable because of its value.
 1. The value of a thing is normally determined by supply and demand.
 - Time is in short supply but in great demand.
 2. The greatest question we face is not how to add time to life but how to add life to time.
- B. Time is irretrievable.
 1. Many of the valuable things of life can be regained if lost but not time.
 2. Time cannot be recalled—once it is gone it is gone forever.
- C. Time is elusive.
 1. We often marvel at how quickly time slips away from us.
 2. In view of our advances over the past century, this is surprising
 3. We, therefore, need to set priorities.

II. Setting Proper Priorities

- A. We often use inaccurate expressions like “finding time,” “making time,” and “saving time.”
- B. Our problem lies entirely in the realm of use.
 1. We all make decisions as to how we use the time that is at our disposal.
 2. If someone suggests, “Let’s have a Bible study,” our response may be, “I don’t have time.”
 - a. Such is accurate if one means that all 24 hours is completely filled.
 - b. Such is inaccurate if one understands he has 24 hours at his disposal.
 - c. The truth: “I have 24 hours to use but I choose not to use any of it this way.”
- C. In properly apportioning time, we must realize:
 1. Time for the Lord must come first. (Matt. 6:33)
 2. We must “redeem” the time. (Eph. 5:15-16)
 3. We must not use our time mostly for things of the world. (1 Tim. 6:6-12)
- D. Some essential priorities.
 1. Becoming a Christian. (2 Thess. 1:7-9; Heb, 5:8-9)
 2. Gaining knowledge of God’s word. (Col. 3:16)
 3. Leading others to Christ. (Col. 4:5)
 4. Making adequate preparation to meet God. (Jas. 4:13-14; 2 Pet. 3:10-12)

III. The Time to Be Active Is Now

- A. We must act while the sun shines, while it is day. (John 9:4)
 - 1. Where is the “sun” in your life?
 - 2. Many things can make the “sun” go down.
- B. Even if one lives to a “ripe old age,” time goes by rapidly. (Psa. 90:12; 39:4)

Conclusion

If we are going to live properly, we must prioritize our time.

- a. We must put the Lord first.
- b. We must “Take Time to Be Holy.”
- c. We must “redeem the time.”

Discussion Questions

1. Why is wasting time such a tragic mistake especially as it relates to being a Christian?
2. What factors make time so valuable?
3. What things must be realized when one is apportioning time?
4. What are some of the Christian’s essential priorities?
5. Why is “now” the time for the Christian to be active?

If I had met Him walking
By the blue Galilee;
Would He have stopped, I wonder,
And then said, “Follow Me?”
And if He had, I wonder,
When I think it through
How could I have followed Him,
With so many things to do?

- Anonymous

Lesson Seven: Keeping Pure

Text: 1 Timothy 5:22

Introduction

1. Definitions and implications.
 - a. "Keep:" "To attend to carefully, take care of." (J.H. Thayer, *Greek-English Lexicon*)
 - b. "Yourself:" Emphasizes personal responsibility.
 - c. "Pure:" "Pure from defilement, not contaminated." (W.E. Vine, *Expository Dictionary of NT Words*)
2. This lesson will consider the scope of this charge, the means of implementing it and some areas of danger and concern.

I. The Scope of the Charge

- A. While this specific charge was directed personally to Timothy, other passages reflect this same command. (Jas. 1:27; 1 John 5:18; Rev. 16:15; 3:4)
- B. It is evident that "keeping yourself pure" involves guarding against all manner of evil defilements. (1 Thess. 5:22)

II. Implementing the Charge

- A. Implementing this charge is a two-fold procedure: cleansing hands and heart. (Jas. 4:8)
- B. In obeying the gospel one is totally washed and cleansed from all sin.
- C. Keeping pure involves a new mind—renewing it for a new direction, cleansing it of evil thoughts and keeping one's conscience clean.
- D. Keeping pure demands conformance to the image of God's Son. (1 Pet. 2:21-22)
- E. Keeping pure is motivated by hope. (1 John 3:2-3)

III. Avoiding Defilements (Some Areas of Danger and Concern)

- A. In general, Christians are to avoid the defilements of the world. (Jas. 1:27; 1 John 2:15-17)
- B. Some specific areas to watch.
 1. Mental impurities. (Titus 1:15-16)
 2. Emotional impurities such as anger. (Eph. 4:26)
 3. Verbal impurities. (Eph. 4:29)
 4. Fleshly impurities. (1 Cor. 6:18)
 5. Social impurities. (John 17:15-16)
 6. Spiritual impurities. (2 Tim. 2:15-18; 4:1-5; Col. 2:8)

Conclusion

1. As Christians, we must strive to keep ourselves pure because if we do not, the consequences are devastating. (2 Pet. 2:20-22)

2. Reflecting upon the promises we have from God, let us follow the advice of the apostle Paul which he gives in 2 Corinthians 7:1 – “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to “keep yourself pure?”
2. Why is the two-fold process in James 4:8 applicable in keeping oneself pure?
3. Why does keeping pure demand:
 - a. A new mind?
 - b. Conformance to the image of Jesus?
4. What relation does keeping pure have with true religion? (See James 1:27)
5. Describe how each of the following impurities can defile the Christian.
 - a. Mental.
 - b. Emotional.
 - c. Verbal.
 - d. Fleshly.
 - e. Social.
 - f. Spiritual.

Lesson Eight: Persuading Men

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:9-11

Introduction

1. Persuade: "...signifies to apply persuasion, to prevail upon or win over, to persuade, bringing about a change of mind by the influence of reason or moral considerations. (W.E. Vine, *Expository Dictionary of the NT*)
2. As the apostle Paul persuaded men, we also are to persuade them.
3. This lesson will set forth why Paul persuaded people, things people need to be persuaded about, and how and when they are to be persuaded.

I. Why Paul Persuaded Men

- A. To be well-pleasing to God. (2 Cor. 5:9)
- B. To prepare himself and others for judgment. (2 Cor. 5:10)
- C. Out of fear of the Lord. (2 Cor. 5:11)

II. Things Men Need to Be Persuaded About

- A. Their sins. (John 16:8)
- B. Their accountability to God. (2 Cor. 5:10; Ezek. 18:20; Rom. 14:12; Acts 17:30-31)
- C. Their Savior, the remedy for sin. (Matt. 1:21; 2 Cor. 5:21)

III. How Men Are to Be Persuaded

- A. With the word of God.
 1. This is seen in the account of:
 - a. Lazarus and the rich man. (Luke 16:27-31)
 - b. Peter at the house of Cornelius. (Acts 11:13-14)
 2. The word is God's power to salvation. (Rom. 1:16)
 3. The Scriptures are the "word of reconciliation." (2 Cor. 5:19)
- B. With a sense of urgency. (John 9:4)
- C. With a spirit of boldness. (Eph. 6:20; Acts 4:29)
- D. With love and genuine concern. (Eph. 4:15)
- E. With longsuffering. (2 Tim. 4:2)

IV. Who Is to Persuade?

- A. Faithful persons. (2 Tim. 2:2)
 - Only persuaded people can persuade others.
- B. People, who like the apostle Paul, fear the Lord and want to please Him.
- C. People who are persuaded about the judgment and its consequences.

V. When to Persuade

- A. NOW!! (2 Cor. 6:2)
- B. "As we have opportunity." (Gal. 6:10)
 - 1. Lit.: "While we can."
 - 2. Most intend, plan and prepare while opportunities pass and sinners die.

Conclusion

Now is the time to be involved in the great work of persuading people to come to Christ for salvation.

Discussion Questions

1. Define persuasion. How does it relate to God's plan of salvation?
2. What were the apostle Paul's motives in persuading men?
3. What are some things people in which people need to be persuaded?
4. Tell how each of the following relates to how one is to be persuaded.
 - a. The word of God.
 - b. A sense of urgency.
 - c. A spirit of boldness.
 - d. Love and genuine concern.
 - e. Longsuffering.
5. Why should each Christian take advantage of the opportunity to persuade men?

Lesson Nine: A Godly Marriage

Introduction

1. God ordained marriage for the good of humanity. (Gen. 2:18-24)
2. God wants:
 - a. Both husband and wife to be happy in the marriage relationship. (Eccl. 9:9)
 - b. Marriage to be for life, to endure and to be pleasant.
4. The Bible teaches that your spouse is not only your partner by covenant but also your companion—your closest friend. (Prov. 2:17; Mal. 2:14)
 - a. Most of the preaching done on marriage revolves around the covenant aspect, i.e., that God binds a man and woman together for life in marriage but the idea of your spouse being your companion gets little notice.
 - b. The truth is that your spouse is to be your closest friend—the one who gets your undivided attention, heartfelt loyalty and well-deserved trust.
5. Full confidence and trust in your spouse is essential for a good marriage but, sadly, there are things married couples often do that harm or destroy the trust and confidence that one spouse has in the other.
6. In this lesson we will:
 - a. See the attitudes of heart that spouses are to have for one another.
 - b. Consider the sin of adultery and how it not only destroys a marriage but also a soul.
 - c. Note how God intends for your spouse to be your closest friend.

I. Attitudes of Heart Spouses Are to Have for One Another

- A. There are many attitudes of heart we could explore but the attitude of heart that must be present in all marriages is love.
 1. Love is “the bond of perfection.” (Col. 3:14)
 2. Without love, life is empty and meaningless. (1 Cor. 13:1-3)
- B. Husbands are to love their wives. (Eph. 5:25-33)
- C. Wives are to love their husbands. (Titus 2:4)
- D. There are times when it is difficult to love one’s spouse.
 1. Sometimes he/she is not very lovable.
 2. Sometimes when he/she takes you for granted.
 3. Sometimes when he/she becomes an enemy. (Matt. 5:43)
 4. But “love never fails.” (1 Cor. 13:8)

II. Adultery Destroys the Marriage and the Soul

- A. The patriarch Job said adultery was “wickedness.” (Job 31:11)
 1. The KJV and ESV call it a “heinous crime.”
 2. The NIV says it is “shameful, a sin to be judged.”
- B. Adulterers are covenant breakers. (Mal. 2:14-16; Prov. 2:16-17)

- C. The person who commits adultery never commits one sin.
 - 1. Consider the sin of David with Bathsheba.
 - 2. The sin of lying is always present.
- D. We are told to “flee sexual immorality.” (1 Cor. 6:18)
- E. Adultery destroys the soul. (Prov. 6:20-35)
- F. The consequences of the sin of adultery should motivate a person to avoid it.

III. Your Closest Friend

- A. Not only did the writer of Proverbs warn his son about the dangers of adultery, he also told him how to avoid it by spending time with his wife, the woman who is to be his closest friend.
 - 1. The book of Proverbs unashamedly calls for seeking fulfillment of intimate desires within marriage for the enjoyment and good of both husband and wife.
 - 2. As a strong preventive to marital infidelity, the Proverbist admonishes husbands to “drink from your own cistern.” (Prov. 5:15-18)
 - The advice of Proverbs is applicable to our culture in which adultery is so common—in contrast to what we read, see and hear today, the passage in Proverbs 5 urges couples to look to each other for lifelong satisfaction and companionship.
- B. Many temptations entice husbands and wives to leave when marriage becomes dull to find excitement and pleasures elsewhere but God designed marriage and sanctified it and only within this covenant relationship can we find real love and fulfillment.
 - 1. Do not let God’s best for you to be wasted on the illusion of “greener pastures” somewhere else.
 - 2. Instead, rejoice with your spouse as you give yourselves to God and to each other.

Conclusion

- 1. God never intended marriage to become boring, lifeless and dull.
- 2. Real happiness and joy comes when we decide to find pleasure in the spouse God has given us and to commit ourselves to meeting his/her needs.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Why is full confidence and trust in ones spouse essential to a happy and successful marriage?
- 2. What attitude of heart should be present in all marriages? Why?
- 3. What are some of the dire consequences of adultery?
- 4. What are some ways to safeguard against committing adultery?
- 5. What are some of blessings of having your spouse as your best friend?

Lesson Ten: Avoiding Laziness

Introduction

1. Christians are to be energetic. They are to:
 - a. Show a pattern of good works. (Titus 2:7)
 - b. Be zealous for good works. (Titus 2:14)
 - c. Be careful to maintain good works. (Titus 3:8)
 - d. Use their time wisely. (Col. 4:5; Eph. 5:15-16)
 - e. Be the finest, most productive employees. (Eph. 4:28; 6:5-8; Col. 3:22-24; Titus 2:9-10)
2. No Christian is:
 - a. Ever to be lazy. (2 Thess. 3:6-8, 10-13)
 - b. To be a sluggard, lazy man, guilty of slothfulness especially in relation to the good works for which he was created in Christ. (Eph. 2:10)
3. The term “acel.”
 - a. The Hebrew word translated “sluggard” or “lazy man” is “acel.”
 - 1) It is only found in Proverbs.
 - 2) The root meaning is “to be sluggish, stupid.”
 - b. By definition, the lazy man is one who lacks sense.
 - 1) He does not make proper decisions.
 - 2) He cannot make up his mind to do what is most needful and important.

I. Who Is Guilty of Laziness?

- A. Those who want to do nothing. (Prov. 13:4; 19:24)
- B. Those who engage in activities of secondary importance and neglect those activities which should challenge their talents. (Prov. 20:4)
 1. The “one talent man” had been active. (Matt. 25:14-30)
 2. The Pharisees in Jesus’ day were guilty of this. (Matt. 23:23)
 3. Many are guilty of this.
- C. Those who are waiting for the church or elders to tell them what to do. (Prov. 6:6-11)

II. The Causes of Laziness

- A. Tomorrow seems to offer better opportunities than there are today. (Prov. 27:1)
- B. Many have never known the need for hard work and effort—“Let others do it.” (Prov. 216:14-16)
- C. Some quit because they are easily discouraged.
 1. “To avoid criticism, do nothing.”
 2. They see they are inconvenienced, that it’s not as glamorous as they thought it would be, etc.
 3. They do not see immediate results.
- D. Some rarely see anything through to completion—only that which is new intrigues them.

III. The Curse of Laziness

- A. It paves the way for additional sins.
 - 1. “An idle mind is the devil’s workshop.”
 - 2. Consider 1 Timothy 5:13.
- B. It makes room for discontent and complaints: notice how the “one talent man” — the lazy servant— maligned his master. (Matt. 25:24)
- C. It leads to mental and spiritual collapse. (Eccl. 10:18)
- D. It begets beggary. (Prov. 6:10-11; 19:15; 23:21)
- E. It causes one to be repugnant to God. (Prov. 10:26)

Conclusion: What the Lazy Man Must Do

- 1. Realize his condition and awake from it. (Eph. 5:14)
- 2. Awake to righteousness and full, energetic service to the Lord and His cause for opportunities abound. (Jas. 1:22-25)

Discussion Questions

- 1. What are some the Christian’s responsibilities when it comes to doing good works?
- 2. How is it that a lazy person lacks sense?
- 3. What are some of the characteristics of believers who are lazy?
- 4. What are some of the causes of laziness among believers?
- 5. How does laziness:
 - a. Cause additional sins?
 - b. Spawn discontent and complaints?
 - c. Lead to material and spiritual collapse?
 - d. Cause one to be repugnant to God?

Lesson Eleven: Receiving and Giving Help

Introduction

1. It would be interesting to consider the various responses you would hear if you were to ask people to describe a newborn baby in just one word.
 - There is one word that describes all babies: “helpless.”
2. Receiving and providing help is one of the basic functions in life and one that especially applies to Christians.
3. This lesson will examine the principle of helping as seen in Scripture.

I. The Principle of Helping

- A. We are born into this world needing help.
- B. In turn, we are to help others.
 1. It would be a thankless person who took aid and assistance from others all through his life and gave nothing in return.
 2. Help should be out of love and concern for others.
- C. Help can take many forms. It can be physical, emotional and/or spiritual.

II. God’s Help to Man (Psa. 124:8)

- A. Without the help of God, man would be destitute. (Jer. 10:23)
- B. God is our helper:
 1. As a deliverer. (Psa. 40:17; Col. 1:13; Matt. 6:13; 1 Cor. 10:13)
 2. As a protector. (Psa. 33:20; 121:1-2; John 28:29)
 3. In times of trouble, trial or suffering. (Psa. 46:1-3; Rom. 8:31-39)
 4. In assisting our prayers. (Rom. 8:26)

III. Those We Are to Help

- A. Family.
 1. Husbands and wives are to be a source of help to one another. (Gen. 2:18-24)
 2. Children are to be helped by their parents. (Eph. 6:4; 1 Tim. 5:8)
 3. Children, in turn, are to provide help to their parents. (1 Tim. 5:4)
- B. Fellow man.
 1. We are to do good unto all men. (Gal. 6:10)
 2. We can help our fellow man by seeking to bring someone to Christ. (John 1:40-42)
- C. Brethren.
 1. Those who are weak. (Rom. 14:1; 15:1-2; 1 Cor. 10:23-24)
 2. Those who have fallen. (Gal. 6:1)
 3. Those who are burdened. (Gal. 6:2)
 4. Those who are in need. (Jas. 2:14-17; 1 John 3:16-18)
 5. To be strong and remain faithful. (Heb. 10:24-25)

D. Christ and His cause.

1. There is no one among us who does not have his/her place to fill or work to do. (1 Cor. 12:12-27)
2. Jesus, who came into the world to help man, is our example. (1 Pet. 2:21)

Conclusion

1. We need and must have the help of others in both the physical and spiritual realms.
2. We must also be of help to others in the physical and spiritual realms and doing what we can to further the cause of Christ. (Phil. 2:4)

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important for the Christian to be a source of help to others?
2. How is God a helper:
 - a. As a deliverer?
 - b. As a protector?
 - c. In times of trouble, trial, and suffering?
 - d. In assisting with our prayers?
3. How is the Christian to be of help to his family?
4. What are some ways the believer can help his fellow man?
5. How is the Christian to be of help to his brethren in Christ?
6. In what ways can the Christian help further the cause of Christ?

Lesson Twelve: Motives for Obedience

Introduction

1. In consideration of obedience:
 - a. It is not merely isolated acts.
 - b. It is willing submission to the will of God.
2. Obedience is important for a number of reasons.
3. Obedience is a test of:
 - a. Faith in God.
 - b. Friendship with Jesus.
 - c. Knowing Jesus and being known by Him.
 - d. Our profession of discipleship.
4. Disobedience is tragic for it brings on tragic consequences.
5. In Scripture, God not only places great emphasis on obedience but also offers several reasons for us to obey Him.

I. Scriptural Motives for Obedience

- A. Love for God.
 1. All acceptable obedience emanates out of love for God. (1 John 4:19)
 2. Those who are truly obedient are motivated to obey the Savior by the wonderful manifestation of His love for us.
- B. Hope of reward.
 1. This is a basic and legitimate motive to obey.
 2. Since the world is filled with problems and cares we must endure, God offers us the hope of eternal release from the adversities of life in an eternal home with Him.
- C. Fear of God.
 1. Scripture reveals the importance of this motive. (Eccl. 12:13; Prov. 1:7; Heb. 12:28-29)
 2. We ought to be motivated to obey God because of the displeasure incurred when we fail to do so. (2 Thess. 1:9)

II. How These Motives Are Related

- A. The relation of the three motives is illustrated by the “fire triangle.”
 1. Three essential elements—oxygen, heat and fuel—must be present in order to kindle a fire.
 2. Remove one of those elements and a fire is impossible.
- B. Love, hope and fear make up an imaginary “spiritual triangle.”
 1. All must be present for proper obedience.
 2. Remove one of the motivating factors and the triangle breaks down.
 - a. Love and fear without hope is misery. (1 Cor. 15:16-19)
 - b. Love and hope without fear is irreverence. (Rom. 3:9-18)
 - c. Hope and fear without love is selfishness. (Matt. 6:28-34)

C. After initially obeying the gospel, in order to remain faithful one should still be motivated by these three factors.

Conclusion

1. Our hearts should always be kept in such a condition that the Lord remains first, foremost, above and before all.
2. When this truly characterizes us, we will have a love for the Lord, the hope of His promise and the proper fear of disregarding His will.

Discussion Questions

1. Define obedience.
2. Of what is obedience a test?
3. How is each of the following a motivation to be obedient?
 - a. Love for God.
 - b. Hope of reward.
 - c. Fear of God.
4. How are the three motives listed above related to one another?
5. What are some of the consequences of not possessing one of those three motives?

Lesson Thirteen: Preparing for Death

Introduction

1. While our society openly discusses sex, crime, immorality and violence, it does not usually speak of death openly or frankly because most people do not want to think of death, let alone discuss it.
2. There is a time coming when it will weigh heavily on your mind for it is inevitable. (Heb. 9:27)
 - a. Ben Franklin: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."
 - b. Mark Twain: "Death, the only immortal who treats us all alike, whose pity and whose peace and refuge are for all—the soiled and the pure, the rich and the poor, the loved and the unloved."
3. This lesson will set forth the characteristics of death, look at the way people normally deal with the reality of death, present some attitudes people have toward death and see how we can be prepared to face death by looking to the comfort received from the Lord.

I. Characteristics of Death

- A. It was brought into the world by Adam. (1 Cor. 15:21-22)
- B. It is separation of spirit and body. (Jas. 2:26; Eccl. 12:7)
- C. It comes quickly upon all. (Heb. 9:27; Jas. 4:14)
- D. The body returns to dust. (Gen. 3:19; Eccl. 12:7)
- E. The spirit returns to God. (Luke 23:46; Acts 7:59; Eccl. 12:7)
- F. It was devil's greatest power over man. (Heb. 2:14)

II. Attitudes Toward the Reality of Death

- A. The emotions you feel about death are usually the same you have toward life.
 1. Some face it with dread, fear, resentment and hate.
 2. Others face it with contentment, anticipation, and even joy as a welcome to another life.
- B. In her book, *On Death and Dying*, Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, psychiatrist, listed five emotional stages of death.
 1. Shock and denial. "No! Not me!"
 2. Resentment, anger and rage. "Why me!"
 3. A bargaining period: a promise to do something for a longer lease on life. "Yes, but..."
 4. Realistic depression. "Yes, me."
 5. Acceptance. "Yes, me, and I am ready!"

III. Some Wrong Attitudes to Be Avoided (From The Bible on the Life Hereafter, Wm. Hendricksen)

- A. That of the Christian Scientist. His teaching: "Matter, sin, sickness and death have no reality."
- B. That of the escapist. Millions fear death so they avoid all mention of it.
- C. That of the fatalist or stoic. This person tries to make himself and others believe he is not afraid.
- D. That of the blatant infidel. This person curses and defies death.
- E. That of the out and out pessimist. He is utterly tired of life and finally puts himself to death.
- F. That of the sentimentalist This person gushes over death-bed scenes, grows very sentimental and is convulsed with sobs when he reads of a death. He perversely enjoys death.
- G. That of the religious fanatic with a "martyr-complex."

IV. Preparing for Death

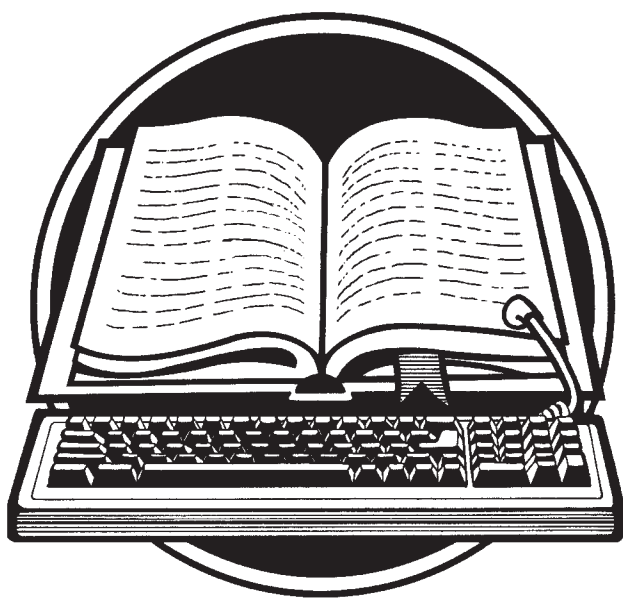
- A. Since death is unavoidable as our only exit from this world, we must prepare for it.
 - 1. Death is not the end but rather the beginning of eternity. (John 5:28-29)
 - 2. Few people make any preparation for eternity. (Matt. 7:14)
- B. It is God's wish for mankind to be delivered from any fear of death.
 - 1. Jesus died and was raised as the Christian's assurance. (1 Cor. 15:20)
 - 2. The Christian can face death without fear. (Psa. 23:4; Luke 23:46; Acts 7:59)
- C. Heaven has done all it possibly can do for us, we must now prepare. To prepare one must:
 - 1. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33), living a life of self-denial to the glory of God. (Luke 6:26, 33)
 - 2. Live in Christ. For to die in Christ, one must live in Him.
 - a. Those who die in Him are blessed. (Rev. 14:13)
 - b. One must abide in Him (John 15:7), His word (John 8:32), His doctrine (2 John 9).
 - c. To be found in Him, one must be baptized into Him. (Gal. 3:26-27)
 - 3. In all things, let Christ have preeminence. (Col. 1:18)
 - a. One must live a life in humble submission to His will, the gospel. (Rom. 1:16)
 - b. One must do His will. (Matt. 7:21)

Conclusion

- 1. The rewards of a life lived properly in preparation for death are many. They include:
 - a. Receiving in the age to come, eternal life. (Mark 10:30)
 - b. Being carried away by the angels into Abraham's bosom. (Luke 16:22)
 - c. Going to Paradise. (Luke 23:43)
 - d. Going to a house with many mansions. (John 14:2)
 - e. Being with Christ, at home with the Lord. (Phil. 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:8)
 - f. Gaining (Phil. 1:21) an eternal inheritance (1 Pet. 1:4) as a joint-heir with Christ (Rom. 8:17), reigning with Him eternally (Rev. 22:5).
- 2. The concluding question is obvious: "Are you living in such a way, that when the time comes, you'll be prepared to die?"

Discussion Questions

- 1. List some of the characteristics of death as seen in Scripture.
- 2. Why is it important to have a proper attitude toward death?
- 3. How can a person be delivered from the fear of death?
- 4. What are some ways a person can prepare for death?
- 5. List some of the rewards one receives when he properly prepares for death.



www.padfield.com

Sermon Outlines
Bible Class Books
Bible Class Curriculum
PowerPoint Backgrounds
Bible Land Photographs
Church Bulletin Articles

This booklet is protected by Federal Copyright Laws. Individuals and local congregations are allowed to reprint this book. No one is allowed change the contents. This book may not be placed on any other Web site, nor is it allowed to be sold.