



CHRIST MISSIONARIES (CRUSADERS) CHURCH INT. INC.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL MANUAL

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MANUAL***



FROM THE ARCHBISHOP'S DESK

This subject of Evangelism is the central vision of the entire Ministry - Christ's Missionaries (Crusaders) Church Inc. and that is where my heart belongs. Isaiah 52:7, (KJV) "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of them that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good; that publisheth salvation: that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"

This should also be the vision of the entire children of God, born again, baptized in the Holy Spirit. The principal of Moody Bible School said, "about 85% of Christians born-again, baptized in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, never win a soul before they die". "He that winneth a soul is wise". Prov, 11:30.

Evangelism is presenting Jesus as the only saviour, hope and life to a dying world; that they may live again to fellowship with God, which is God's ultimate from the beginning.

Evangelism is presenting light to a dark world, that they may see the creator, and worship Him through His only son Jesus Christ, who is the WAY.

Evangelism is a holy war against sin. Evangelism is a command and is a task that the church must fulfill before the end comes. Paul also said, "Woe unto me if I fail to preach the Gospel....." 1 Cor 9:16; this is the word of a committed and dedicated Christian.

We are in the last days; on no account should Christians grow weary. The body of Christ is fastly drifting out of the original basics of

Christianity. This is the reason why this book is prepared to remind you of Jesus' plan over the Church.

The Church today is laying much emphasis on Prosperity. Prosperity is good. I am in no way condemning prosperity, but it is the benefit of them that are of the household of faith. Therefore, I pray Christians to balance up the Gospel. Jesus said in Matt. 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you".

The Church is given a duty to prepare people for God's kingdom. In Matt. 24:14, the Gospel is tied together with the end of the world. If there be any sign not yet fulfilled, it is the sign of the preaching of the Gospel which the Church is ashamed of.

In conclusion, I urge you to read this book over and over until you are fully possessed of the Spirit of the Gospel and be able to say like Jesus, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work". John 9.4

***ARCHBISHOP DR. GOD·DOWELL OYIBO AVWOMAKPA
PRESIDENT***

TEACHER'S NOTE

There is no doubt that we are living in the last days since most of the signs predicted in the Scripture are being fulfilled in our time. The need for Evangelism becomes more imperative. Therefore we are focusing our lessons in the booklet on the end-time and soul winning. The first fifteen lessons are on the end-time, though not exhaustive; and our main aim is to motivate our students on the need to snatch men from the "Wrath of God". The other thirty-three lessons' are on soul winning, it's our desire that thorough study of the lessons will impact the desire, and the drive for Evangelism, with the help of the Holy Spirit in the student.

The teacher is advised to prayerfully study each lesson before teaching it to his class. In case where a topic is treated in More than one lesson, the teacher should endeavor to read through all lessons involving such topic before he begins to teach each lesson to his class. Scripture references should be read and properly related to the lessons. The teacher is advised to strictly stick to the facts taught in the lesson not going astray from the subject in hand into other complications.

All enquiries to:

National Sunday School Board

Christ's Missionaries (Crusaders) Church Inc.

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1

END-TIME 1

BIBLE READING: Jude 14, 15, Isaiah 2:1-3

MEMORY VERSE: Zeph. 1:14

*"The great day of the Lord is near, it is near,
and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD....."*

INTRODUCTION

Our God is a loving Father, who will not want His children to be taken unaware by events which He intend to allow to happen' on earth, since God's original intention was for man to have total control over planet-earth (Gen. 1:28). Even after the fall of man, God still has those He reveals His intention to. Examples are Noah, Abraham and Moses. Therefore, the end-time events were revealed to His elects throughout the Bible.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. What is the End-Time
2. What the Old Testament said

1. WHAT IS THE END-TIME

The end-time is the period in which God will allow series of events which will result in the end of the age; this will be climaxed by the return of Christ on earth when He will set up His Kingdom and Judge all mankind.

2. WHAT THE OLD TESTAMENT SAID

- (1) The first Old Testament saint that had revelation of an end-time, event was: Enoch (Jude 14, 15) this prompted his righteous living on earth before he was raptured (Gen 5:21-24), Job also had a revelation of the coming of the Lord (Job 19:25), therefore, he remained steadfast in the midst of trials.

- (2) The Psalmist also spoke of series of events in the end-time. In Psalm 50, he spoke of the nature of the advent of the Lord, the purpose of his coming and the gathering of the Saints. The Psalmist spoke of the future Kingdom of Jesus Christ (Psalm 72:8).
- (3) Prophet Isaiah had revelations of the end-time: predicted the fate of the sinner, the nature of the great tribulation and described it as the "day of his fierce anger" (Isaiah 13:3). In Isaiah 2: 2, 3, spoke of the righteousness that will prevail in the Kingdom of God. He also predicted the establishment of a new earth (Isaiah 66:22)
- (4) Daniel had the most elaborated revelation of the end-time. This include latter-day Kingdom of God (Daniel 2:44, 45, 7:13;14; 9: 23 - 27).
- (5) Other minor prophets such as Joel, Malachi, Zechariah and Zephaniah also prophesied about the end-time (Joel 2:30 Zeph. 1:15, Malachi 4:1).

CONCLUSION

God has a purpose for these revelations about the end-time. It is not the desire of God that His creations should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Therefore, He gave these revelations, so that men should be aware of the need to live right and warn all men to turn to the Lord to avoid His wrath on the wicked.

QUESTIONS

- (1) What is the end-time?
- (2) What did the Psalmist prophesy about the end-time?
- (3) Discuss what other prophets spoke?

2

END-TIME 2

BIBLE READING: John 14:1-6, Luke 21:34-36

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 21:34

"And take heed to yourselves lest at anytime your heart be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness and cares of this life, so that day come upon unawares"

INTRODUCTION

From the last lesson, we have seen that God always reveals what he intended to do on earth to His Elect (Amos 3:7). One of the things Jesus did was to extensively educate His disciples about the end-time. He specifically mentioned His second advent and admonished them on how not to be taken unawares. In this lesson, we are going to mention some Jesus Christ teachings on the end-time.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Jesus Christ Teaching on End-Time
2. HIS Admonition

1. JESUS CHRIST TEACHING ON END-TIME.

- (1) Jesus Christ started teaching his disciples on the end-time to comfort them after He had made them know that he would soon be crucified. He assured them that He "will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3).
- (2) In answer to the disciples question "Tell us when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world" (Matt .24:3). He elaborated events that will occur to precede his second advent". He mentioned that the gospel shall be preached to all nations, this will serve as a witness (Matt 24:14.).He spoke of the Great tribulation that will be experienced by

the earth, and announced His Second Advent on earth after the tribulation. He also spoke of the judgment which He will administer punishment for the wicked and reward of life eternal for the righteous (Matt 25:46).

- (3) The time of these events: He made it clear: "that day and hour knoweth neither man, nor the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matt 24:36).

2. HIS ADMONITION

- (1) In speaking about some of the terrible things that will occur at the end-time, Christ advised on the need to be steadfast, because "iniquity shall abound" (Math 24: 11-13)
- (2) He advised on the need to be watchful because, the time of His second advent is unknown to man (Matt 24:42). He stressed the importance of watchfulness by giving the parable of the Ten Virgins (Matt 25:1-13).
- (3) The need to rest our faith in the Lord was also stressed by Jesus Christ, not living on fear. He advised on being prayerful; and the need to guide our heart from being overtaken by the luxuries and cares of this world (John 14:1, Luke 18:1, Luke 21:34-36).

CONCLUSION:

We have seen that the Lord Jesus Christ spent time to teach on the end-time. The main purpose is for the disciples not to be taken unaware by end-time event, so that they can prepare the world for his return. The best way to prepare the world for Christ return is to carry the message of the Gospel to the world, this is the great commission (Matt 24:14, 28:19-20).

QUESTIONS

- (1) Give some of Jesus Christ's teaching on the end-time
- (2) What role can we play as Christians since we are aware of the things that will happen at the end-time?

3

END-TIME 3

BIBLE READING: II Timothy 4:1;2

MEMORY VERSE: Rev. 3: 11

*"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast
which thou hast that no man take thy crown"*

INTRODUCTION

In our last lesson we saw how Jesus Christ spent time to teach on the end time. This is to make believers to be prepared for the climax of the events which will be his second coming on earth. In this lesson, we shall look at what the early Apostles taught on some of the events of the end-time.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. What they said
2. Exhortation

1. WHAT THEY SAID

- (1) Foretold the second coming of Jesus Christ (Heb 9:28). Thus the early Christians were even expecting it in their time; the Apostles gave exhortation to that effect (Phil 4:5, Heb 10:37, James 5:8).
- (2) They also spoke of the appearance of "Christ in His glory" with the saints being partakers of His glory (2 Tim 2:10, 1 Peter 5:1, Col 3:4.)
- (3) The manner of rapture and those qualified for the rapture were extensively explained by Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 15:50-54, 1 Thess. 4:15-18).
- (4) The purpose of the second coming was also taught. These include:

- (a) Expose the hidden thought of the heart and render praise if necessary (1 Cor. 4:5).
 - (b) Judgment (11 Tim 4:1, 11 Cor. 5:10).
 - (c) Reward for the believers (1 Peter 5:4).
 - (d) Vengeance on those who obeyed not the gospel (11 Thess. 1:7, 8).
- (5) The apostles also taught about the future state of the wicked (2 Thess. 1:9; 2 Peter 2:4).

2. EXHORTATION

Since Jesus Christ promised that he will come back again, Apostle Paul therefore, advised the believers to patiently wait for the Lord, exhort them to live blamelessly (1 Thess. 5: 23) and live in perfect obedience to the Lord's commandment (1 Tim 6:14) that believers should live in hope joyfully expecting the Lord (Titus 2:13). Apostle John exhorts on constant abiding in the Lord, So that when He appear we should not be ashamed (1 John 2:28). The Bible also exhort us on the need for fellowship as the day of the Lord approaches (Heb 10:25).

CONCLUSION

So far, we have seen that the Bible taught so much on the end-time right from the time of the prophets. This is an indication, that it is the desire of God that we should not be ignorant of end-time events. However, this poses a lot of challenges to us, as believers, these will be further discussed in subsequent lessons. Apostle Paul educating Timothy on the second advent of Christ finally charged him to preach the gospel. The need to preach the gospel today cannot be over-emphasized (2 Tim 4:1-2).

QUESTIONS

- (1) Discuss some things spoken by the apostles on the end-time
- (2) What advice will you give since we are living in the last days?

4

THE PURPOSE OF THE END-TIME 1

BIBLE READING: Matt 25:31-46

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 3: 17

*"...and will gather the wheat into his garner,
but the chaff he will burn I with fire unquenchable"*

INTRODUCTION

The Bible says that there is time for everything and there is a purpose for everything under the heaven. God is not an aimless and purposeless God. He is the God of plan, time and purpose, whatever He does is with a purpose. And so when God speaks of the end-time, in other words, this world where there is rain and sun, darkness and light, evil and good is going to have an end, God has a purpose for it. God who wants to put an end to this world has specific purposes in His heart.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. The Believer's Rapture
2. The Unbeliever's Condemnation

1• THE BELIEVER'S RAPTURE

God had a very glorious plan for every believer in Christ at the end of the world. All those who obeyed the word of God and live a Godly life cannot perish with the ungodly in hell fire. Therefore God has promised to take His people home to himself. In fact, God intended for every believer to have an eternal rest from the labour of life struggles, gospel works and persecutions for Christ's sake. God's people must be raptured to be with God in eternal joy and glory. Christ in us the hope of glory (I Thess. 4:16-17 Col11:27, I Peter 5:4)

2. THE UNBELIEVER'S CONDEMNATION

Paul said that his desire and prayer for Israel is that they should be saved. (Roman 10: 1). The Lord God said to the house of Israel that He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. The scriptures also said that God's desire is that all men should be saved (Ezek 33:11, I Tim 2:4). For the above reasons God has invested so much on humanity and even gave His only begotten son as an effort to save all men.

But in spite of all the efforts of God and His Church, many people refused to heed the warning of God and all those who follow the way of darkness and despised the gospel of Salvation shall perish, suffering hell fire with the devil at the end of the world (Rev. 21 :8, Matt 25:41-43, Luke 3:17).

CONCLUSION

There are two major purposes in the heart of God for bringing the world to an end. From the above studies, God wants to bring the world to an end in order to separate His people from the children of darkness and the devil himself. The believers shall be in eternal rest, joy and glory with God and His Christ. Unbelievers shall be with Satan eternally in the hell fire. (Rev. 20:10).

QUESTIONS

God is closing up this present world because He is so tired with the entire human race? **Yes or No**

5

THE PURPOSE OF THE END-TIME 2

BIBLE READING: Eccl 3: 1-8, 8:6

MEMORY VERSE: Rev. 22:12

"... my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be"

INTRODUCTION

In the previous lesson, we learnt that God is the God of time and purpose. And that whatever He does is with a purpose to fulfill something, or to accomplish and satisfy some desires of His people. In this lesson, we shall be looking at some other purposes of the end-time in scriptures. Every child of God needs to be educated or enlightened on the purposes of the end-time in order to be well informed of the events of the end of the world. This will help Christians to take a rightful stand and Godly approach towards the end-time.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. The Eternal Damnation of Satan
2. Labour of Love and Sacrifice

1. THE ETERNAL DAMNATION OF SATAN

We know that this present world is very unstable and full of chaos. There is an entity that is responsible for all these. This entity is Satan the devil. God in His divine counsel has decided to deal with this wicked Satan which had so plagued and polluted the world, He (God) had beautifully and blessedly created. Therefore, God has enacted a decree in His book of law that this particular devil must suffer an eternal damnation in a lake of fire. One of the purposes why God is bringing the world to an end is to ensure that the devil and all his angels and agents are placed under eternal torture as a penalty for their evil works (Rev 20: 10, Matt 25:41, Rev. 19:20).

2. LABOUR OF LOVE AND SACRIFICE

God who is the God of love and sacrifice, who dearly love the world and had sacrificed so much to the world, cannot despise or ignore the labour of love and sacrifice done by His children on earth. Therefore, God had also decided to reward every labour of love and sacrifice done for Christ sake. This is one of the major purposes why God must bring the world to an end to enable Him reward the Saints. Some had labored so much with tears and some even sacrificed their lives for the gospel (Rev. 22:12, Matt 16:27, 1 Cor. 3:8, Daniel 12:3, Psalms 58:11).

CONCLUSION

God wants to put an end to this world in order to put an end to every evil activity. This present world must be forgotten and all the evil in it must cease. God who is the God of justice must do justice to the devil and to humanity. This God would do by rewarding the just with every good thing in His kingdom. The devil, who is the author of every evil, shall be cast into the lake of fire.

QUESTIONS

1. If the world ends what shall be the state of Believers.
2. Where shall the Devil go when the world ends?

6

THE CHRISTIAN PREPARATION FOR THE END TIME 1

BIBLE READING: Eph. 5: 1-12, Gal 5:16-18.

MEMORY VERSE: 1Timothy 5:22

*"Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker
of other men's sins: Keep thyself pure"*

INTRODUCTION

From our previous lessons, we have known from the Prophets and the apostles that this world shall end and the judgment of God shall come upon every one irrespective of language or race (Psalms 9:7,8). To this, all Christians ought to be aware of themselves and prepare their ways for the end-time. Time of ignorance is past, for God is no respecter of persons, we are going to consider our personal life of purity as preparation for the end-time.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. What is Purity?
2. Necessity of Purity
3. Guidelines of Purity

1. WHAT IS PURITY?

From the dictionary meaning of purity; it is the state or quality of being unmixed with any other substance. The element should be free from every type of contamination e.g. pure water, pure gold, and pure air. These have no contaminations. Therefore, Christians ought to keep themselves free from sin and be in the state of purity always. (1 Thess. 4:7, II Cor. 7:1).

2. NECESSITY OF PURITY

It is very necessary that a Christian ought to live an exemplary life in the community where he/she lives. This in turn, fosters

emulation whereby some are won to Christ. It is still very necessary that a Christian should be pure in heart for those who are pure in heart shall see God, (Matt 5:8) and this is the hope we have in serving God (I Peter 1:5-16).

3. GUIDELINES TO PURITY

- (A) Lust of the Flesh (Gal 5:16, 17, 18). One needs to guide against the lust of the flesh for the flesh is against the spirit and they are incompatible (I John 2:15-16).
- (B) Evil Communication: As followers of Jesus Christ, we should avoid mixing up with those that can possibly drag us into sin (I Cor 15:33, 5:11).
- (C) Tenacity On The Word: When we appreciate the words of God and our saviour Jesus Christ and meditate on them always, then we are purifying ourselves (1 John 3:2-3). We are instructed also, to think about what is good, not waving off from faith (Joshua 1:8) then we shall enjoy peace no one can understand (Phil 4:7, 8).

CONCLUSION

This study reveals to us much about the ways and manners a Christian should at least, keep himself pure always; in preparation for the end-time.

We should watch and pray to overcome the evil days (Eph 6:11).

QUESTIONS

- 1. What is purity?
- 2. Why is it necessary to be pure?
- 3. Why should a Christian keep himself from evil communication?

7

THE CHRISTIAN PREPARATION FOR THE END TIME 2

BIBLE READING: Matt 24:42 - 51.

MEMORY VERSE: Matt 24:44

*"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such
an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh"*

INTRODUCTION

In our previous lessons, we highlighted the need for the preparation for the end-time. The message for our generation and indeed ourselves today is loud and clear: "NEVER GIVE UP YOURSELF TO BE DECEIVED" (2 Thess. 2:11-12). In this lesson, we shall look unto ourselves, how we are to be committed to the work of God, in preparation for the end-time.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. The Believer's Responsibilities
2. Personal Life of Prayer

1. THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

The believer has responsibilities that he must uphold unto, and these responsibilities include the following:

- (a) Evangelism: The believer should endeavor to preach the gospel in order to save fellow human beings and to enrich the Kingdom of God as it decreases also the kingdom of Satan (Acts 26:18).
- (b) Care for the church: This is to care for the brethren, the sick, the backslider to be restored, visitation of new converts and those in trouble (Luke 6:36, Matt 25:34-40).

- (C) Giving: Without generous giving by believers, too many things will suffer in the house of God. The gospel cannot move out, Pastors, Missionaries etc. will be discouraged from making major impact (Luke 6:38).

2. PERSONAL LIFE OF PRAYER:

From observations some Christians do not have time to dedicate themselves for prayers. Prayer is the "master Key" to all Christians. An adage states: "a praying Christian cannot sin and a sinning Christian cannot pray".

Our Lord Jesus Christ warned that we should love our enemies and pray for those who spitefully use and persecute us that we may be the children of the most High God (Matt 5:44,25). We should also pray for God to send people for the spreading of the good news (Matt 9:38).

He also advised that we should watch and pray in order that we fall not into temptation (Matt 26:41); to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17) and to pray for one another (James 5:16). Note: (Luke 6:28, Matt 6:6, Matt 26:41).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there is need to stress that we should prepare ourselves to be responsible and that the word of God should be our major concern. We should also bear one another's burden (Galatians 6:2). We should live as prayer warriors, for a prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian. Pray always to overcome the evil days (Eph 6:11)

QUESTIONS

1. Mention some of the believer's responsibilities
2. How many times a believer ought to pray?

8

JUDGEMENT 1

BIBLE READING: Romans 14:10-23.

MEMORY VERSE: Rom 14:10

"we shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ"

INTRODUCTION

The doctrine of Judgement is well supported in both Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament writers understood that there is certain reward ahead for the righteous and certain punishment for the wicked. David declared, "He cometh to Judge the earth, he shall judge the world with righteousness and the people with His truth" (Psalm 96:13). In Paul's letter to the Romans in the New Testament, he stated that, we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (Rom 14:10). The scriptures do not teach that there is a general judgment for all the righteous and the wicked at the same time and place. Seven judgments are identified in the scriptures, however, in this study we shall broadly deal with the believers judgement in the first lesson and the judgement of the children of the wicked one (unbelievers) in the second lesson.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. The judgement of the Believers' sin
2. The judgement of the Believers' work
3. The Believers judgement during this life

1. THE JUDGMENT OF THE BELIEVERS' SIN (*John 12:31-32*)

The judgement of the believers' sin was carried out on the cross of Calvary (Heb 9:25-28; John 19:17-24). This was based on the perfect work of Jesus Christ (I John 3: 16). This resulted death

for Jesus Christ and justification for the believers (Rom 4:1-25; 8:1). This means that Christ received the punishment for all the sins committed by those who believed in Him, therefore, believers can now stand before God in righteousness (as if they have not sinned), (I Peter 3:18; 2 II Cor.5:21). That is why Christ declared in John 5:24 (RV); 'He that heareth my word and believeth Him that sent me, hath eternal life and cometh not in judgement, but passed out of death to life". Jesus Christ indeed was punished for our sins on the cross of Calvary and God has entered a covenant with us to remember them no more (Heb 10:17). However, every of our works must come to judgement. The life of the believer must be reviewed by the Lord (II Cor. 5:9-10).

2. THE JUDGEMENT OF THE BELIEVERS' WORK ***(Romans 14)***

The time of this judgement will possibly be between the rapture and the second advent of the Lord, when the believers will be with the Lord' in the air' (Matt 25:24-30; I Thess. 4:17). This will result in reward or loss of reward, but never the loss of the soul. This judgment deals with the believer as a servant who has an account to render to the Master (Rev. 22:12).

The believer will be judged concerning conducts to others, carnal traits, words spoken whatever idle or words that edify, response to the things of God and things directly affecting Him; these include neglected opportunities and wasted talents (Matt 18:23-25; Rom 14:1-13; Matt 12:36-37)

3. THE BELIEVERS JUDGMENT DURING THIS LIFE - *Heb 12:5-11*

In this life the believer's deeds and conducts are subject to the judgement of the lord; this leads to approval or chastisement from the Lord (Heb 12:5-11) This is a mark of God's special love for believers as His children (Jer. 10:24, Rev. 3:19).

The purpose of this judgement is for our profit "that we might be partakers of His holiness" (Heb 12:10) and "not to be condemned with the world" (1 Cor.11:32). God has given us the word (James 1:25), as a standard of self examination and the Holy Spirit as convictor of sin (John 15:8), so that we can "judge 'ourselves" (I Cor. 11:31) to avoid the judgement of God.

CONCLUSION

From the lesson we have now seen the need to "walk worthy of the vocation where with we are called" Eph 4:1), as our deeds and conducts will be reviewed by the Lord. Therefore, daily, we should examine our ways whether they conform to God's word, so that we can in confidence, be expecting a "never fading" reward from the Lord.

QUESTIONS

1. Where was the believer's sin judged?
2. Name some things the believers will be judged of?
3. Why is the believer's conduct in this life judged now?

9

JUDGEMENT 2

BIBLE READING: Rev 20:1-15

MEMORY VERSE: Heb 9:27

*"And as it is appointed unto men
once to die, but after this; the judgment".*

INTRODUCTION

In our first lesson on judgement we dealt with the judgement of the believers. In this lesson, we shall look at the judgement of the children of the wicked. The time of this event will be after the millennium and the revolt of Satan (Acts 17:31, Rev. 20:5, 7).

In the light of the scriptures, we shall consider the judges, the place of judgement, its purpose and the result.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. The Judges
2. The place
3. The purpose of Judgement
4. The result of the Judgement

1. THE JUDGES

God the Father is spoken of in the Scriptures as the judge of all men (Heb 12:23, 24; Rev. 6:10). God the son is also spoken of as the Judge of the world (John 5: 19-27). Both the Father and the son will be the judges (Acts 17:31; Rom 2.6) God the Father will judge by His Son. The Father will decree and the Son will execute (Acts 17:31; Rom 1:32; 2:16). The saints will have part in the judgment (1 Cor 6:23 Rev 3:21).

2. THE PLACE OF JUDGEMENT

The judgement is to be before the great white throne of God, which will still be in Heaven, for it is not to come to the earth until after the destruction of the Earth by fire and after the New Heaven and the New Earth are completed (Rev 21:1-5). This seems to be proved further by 1 Peter 3:7 where it states that the destruction of the Earth takes place during the final judgement.

3. THE PURPOSE OF JUDGEMENT:

The purpose of the judgement is to judge the secret thoughts of men, their idle words, actions and all their sins (Rom 2:16, Matt 12:36, Rev. 20:12). To give them a fair trial, making them to see the need of condemnation and punishment (Acts 17: 31).

4. THE RESULT OF THE JUDGEMENT

If anyone's name is not found written in the Book of life, he will be cast into the lake of fire. All human beings in Hades - the present abiding place for the souls of wicked dead and in death along with the fallen angels and every rebel against God will be cast into the lake of fire, to be punished forever and ever (Rev. 2: 11; 20: 10, Matt 25: 41-46).

The degrees of torment will be the result of the judgement. Hell, as far as the torment of fire is concerned, will be alike for all the lost, as much as Heaven will be place of comfort and bliss alike for all the redeemed. The degrees of punishment will come through the torment of the conscience and the inward self over the deeds committed, which will eat more deeply into the innermost being as they come and go into the eternal future.

CONCLUSION

We have now known the terrible fate that awaits the unbelievers; this should motivate us as Christians to spend time and energy to preach the gospel to them as to enable them escape the judgment to come.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the place of judgment of the wicked?
2. What is the purpose of this judgment?
3. What will be the result of the judgment?

10 THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS 1

BIBLE READING: Matt 25:1-3

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Cor. 11:2

*"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy
For I have espoused you to one husband
that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ"*

INTRODUCTION

As Christians, we know that the Lord Jesus do not waste away himself in words that are not profitable (Matt 24:35) Since these words of the parable came out of His very mouth, there could be much meaning to it than we have actually known. I believe that through it the Lord is trying to show us what it would look like when He comes to rapture His Church.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. The kingdom of Heaven
2. Who are the ten virgins?
3. And five of them were wise and five were foolish."

1. THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Matt 25 1 "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten Virgins, who took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom"

- (a) The term kingdom of heaven is commonly used in the book of Matthew. It does not refer to heaven itself as used in this parable. The kingdom of God does not contain tares, hypocrites and had fishes. No unclean thing can penetrate it (Eph 5:3-7, Rev. 21: 7- 8, 23-27).
- (b) However, the kingdom of heaven is used in this context to refer to events which take place here on earth, within the

Christian fold. It is said to contain both the good and the bad fishes..... The tares and bad fishes, all represent the hypocrites and the whole bunch of unconverted sinners. These go to Church regularly, but the life of Christ is not in them. They believe in Jesus but Jesus did not believe in them. This is because, they still go where they want to go and live the way they want to (Matt 7: 15-23).

- (c) At the moment, the genuine Christians are in the midst of a "mixed multitude". These days it is even becoming more difficult to know which brother is Cain and that which is Abel. (11 Tim 2: 19-21). However, in the meantime, both the fake and the genuine believers must continue to co-exist until the day of separation by then, the time of playing church would be over (Matt 24:38-41; 13:24-30,47-51).

2. WHO ARE THE TEN VIRGINS

- (a) In the Holy Scriptures, the term "virgin" does not necessarily mean the physical virginity. Unless it is referring to a particular person or group of persons; as in the case of daughters of Philip, the Evangelist (Acts 21:8:9). In the parable; we are told that the ten virgins took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom. Since unbelievers are sinners and do not care about the coming of the Lord. The ten virgins could not be referring to them in any way. However, in the New Testament symbolism, the term "Virgin" represents "purity and separation unto the Lord" (Rev 14:1-5, I Thess. 4:3-7). "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy, as chaste (pure) virgin to Christ" (11 Cor. 11:2), ".....and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride so shall thy God rejoice over thee" (Isaiah 62:5).
- (b) It should be remembered that in God's relationship with the Israelites, whenever their minds stray from His

ways, and are turned unto idols, they are said to have committed adultery or played the harlot (Jer. 3:1-4, Ex. 20:5). This means that they are married to him spiritually (Jer. 3:14).

- (c) The Lord's relationship with His Church is likened to that of husband and wife (Eph 5:22-24). And in the parable, the term "Virgin" is used to indicate the Holy relationship.
- (d) By all these, it could be gathered that, the ten' virgins fully represent the visible Church of Christ here on earth. They are believers in Christ.

3. "AND FIVE OF THEM WERE WISE AND FIVE WERE FOOLISH"

- (a) By this statement, the Lord is making us to understand something very important: That is, by the time He shall come to catch-up His Church, a lot of believers would not be ready. What a big shock, it would be to many; especially to those who are being careless over their spiritual lives (II Cor. 13:5, Mat 25: 13).
- (b) No matter what the case may be, whether some believers would be ready or not, nothing would stop the Lord: He must surely come to take that part of the church that is ready and having no spot or wrinkle (Eph 5:25-27).

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him for the marriage of the lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready..." (Rev: 19:7-8)

CONCLUSION

From the course of our study, we have been made to understand that the parable is about the coming of the Lord to catch-up His church. The kingdom of heaven, as used in the parable, refers to

the different kinds of people that make up the Christian fold, but there would be a separation. The five wise and five foolish virgins, indicate that when the Lord shall come not all believers would be ready - but be ye ready.

QUESTIONS

1. Explain the term "kingdom of heaven" as stated in this study.
2. In the New Testament symbolism, what does the term "virgin" represent and who are the ten virgins?
- 3 What do you know about the term "And five of them were wise, and five were foolish?"

11

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS 2

BIBLE READING: Matt 24: 4 - 13

1 Cor. 15:57 - 58

MEMORY VERSE: Matt. 25:13

*"Watch, therefore, for ye know
neither the day nor hour
in which the Son of man cometh"*

INTRODUCTION

From our study last week, I hope you could still recall some of the things we have learnt about the parable of the ten virgins. Today from the same chapter of the book of Matthew we shall be considering the following features: The virgins and their Lamps, the five foolish virgin.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. The virgins and their lamps
2. The five foolish virgins
3. The delay of the bridegroom.

1. THE VIRGINS AND THEIR LAMPS: Matt. 25: 1

"....who took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom". What does this statement actually mean? Lamps in the Bible are a symbol of God's word.

- (a) Suppose the virgins did not know about the coming of the bridegroom, they would not have been able to prepare for his coming. In the same way, if we as Christians do not study God's word, we won't be able to know those things that are freely given to us by God - including our position and responsibilities in Him (1 Cor 2: 12, Eph 1: 17-18). More so, we won't be able to prepare for His coming. If any believer fails to study the word and daily apply it in his life,

he cannot grow up spiritually - he would begin to put the Lord to an open shame through the way he lives (Heb. 6:4-6, 1Tim. 4:12-16, 2Tim. 2:15 Psalm 119:9-11)

2. THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS: Matt. 25:3-4

- (a) They that were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them; but the wise took oil in their vessels with lamps. How could this be explained? However, in the scriptures, oil is a type of Holy Spirit “....Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him... and the spirit of the Lord came upon David” (1 Samuel 16:13).
- (b) The wise took extra oil in their vessels while the foolish ones did not. This is what makes the difference between them. In the case of the wise virgins their extra oil was contained in vessels. We have stated that the oil represents the Holy Spirit. In the same connection, every born again believer has been bought with a price: his vessel or body becomes God's temple in which the Holy Spirit dwells (1 Cor. 6:17-20) Just as the wise virgins had their vessels filled with oil, so it should be with us – our vessels should be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18)
- (c) The foolish virgins were also prepared at the very beginning, yet they were disappointed at the end. Because they took not extra oil, their lamps went off at the time they needed it most. If we are not to be like the foolish virgins, our vessels must be kept pure and holy on a daily basis (1 Cor. 3:16-17, 2 Cor. 6:16-18, 2 Tim. 2:19-22)

In order to remain filled with the Holy Spirit, we must walk in Him, be led by Him and not grieve or quench Him (Jude 20 Eph 4:30, 1Thess 5:19, Gal. 5:16)

3. THE DELAY OF THE BRIDEGROOM: (Matt 25:5)

- (a) " While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept." What does this statement mean? It is sad to note that, because of the delay of the Lord's coming, a lot of believers have already slumbered and slept in the spirit (Matt 26:38-43). While some are still managing to follow the Lord with a cold heart, others have given themselves over to various idols (Rev. 2: 2-5, 3:14-19).
- (b) Though the Lord may prolong His coming, we should not allow our faith in Him to fail, nor our daily devotion to diminish. We should continue pressing on (Gal 6:8-9, I Cor. 15:58). It also remains to be mentioned that, while waiting for the Lord, we should not allow anyone to set a date for us. No one actually knows when the Lord would come (I Thess. 5:1-2; 4-6, II Thess. 2: 1, 2). All that it demands of us as Christians, is that we keep' prepared and keep watching all day long (Mark 13:35-37, Matt 25.13). "And that knowing the time, that now is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed ..." (Rom 13:11,12).

THE MIDNIGHT CRY - Matt 25:6

"And at midnight there was a cry made. Behold the bridegroom cometh; go out and meet him". What does this mean? In the Bible, we are told of an event that is going to take place. It said, "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with the trumpet call of God..." (I Thess. 4: 16-17). One thing that should be noted is this' from the parable we observed that the midnight cry was followed by the coming of the bridegroom-Verses 6-10. In the same way, both the shout and the sound of the trumpet would be immediately followed by the rapture. Here we can see the meaning of the midnight cry!

Again another thing that should be mentioned is that during the midnight cry, because the foolish virgins had no extra oil in their vessels, they could not go with the bridegroom - Verse 8-12 we have stated that the oil represents the Holy Spirit. .

In the same connection, when the trumpet shall sound only the born- again believers, who are filled with the Holy Spirit shall be raptured (I Cor. 15:51-53, Eph 4:30, 5:18). "....now if any man has not the spirit of Christ he is none of his...." (Rom 8:9. 11-12).

CONCLUSION

Lamps are a symbol of God's word, by it the virgins knew about the coming of the bridegroom. The oil which kept their lamps burning is a type of the Holy Spirit; it also speaks of the need of every believer to be filled by Him, while waiting for the Lord. During this long period of waiting for Him, we should not allow our faith in Him to fall, or our daily devotion to diminish.

QUESTION

1. How did the virgins know about the coming of the bridegroom?
2. What does lamp symbolize in the Scriptures, and how important is it to us as Christians?
3. What is the meaning of Oil in the Scriptures?
4. State the difference between the wise and the foolish virgins?

12

STEADFASTNESS 1

**BIBLE READING: Matt. 24:4-13
1 Cor. 15:57-58**

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Cor. 15:58

*"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast,
unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord"*

INTRODUCTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostles spent time to teach about the future and difficult times ahead, especially in the last days, so that believers can keep control of themselves and remain steadfast (2Tim 4:5, 1 Peter 3: 1-7). In the midst of persecution, abundance of false prophets, evils and lack of love for the things of the Lord Christians are expected to remain steadfast in the faith (Matt 24:11-13).

In this study, we are going to look at how we can remain steadfast, examples and reward of steadfastness.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Meaning of Steadfastness
2. How to remain Steadfast

1. MEANING OF STEADFASTNESS

This is the act of being firm and well established in the word, Immovable even in the midst of persecution, false doctrines and hardship. Remaining faithful in the Lord even unto death and enduring temptation, knowing that a reward awaits the believer (Matt 10:22, James 1:12)

2. HOW TO REMAIN STEADFAST

When a believer live a life that is totally yielded to the Holy Spirit,

and dedicated to the service of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58, 11 Peter 3:11,14), and practices the following, he will be able to remain steadfast in the faith in the midst of all odds.

- (a) Attendance to reading, learning and practice of the Holy Scriptures (11 Tim 3:12-16, 1 Tim 4:13).
- (b) Seeking Christian fellowship where he receives encouragement from other Christians (Heb 10:25).
- (c) Patiently living by faith in the heavenly Father knowing that he has in heaven a better possession which will last forever (Heb 10:34).
- (d) Keeping himself away from those who manifest evil tendencies in these last days (11 Tim 3:5, 11 Cor. 15:33).

CONCLUSION

We have seen the meaning of steadfastness and how we can remain steadfast in the midst of trials. In our next lesson, we shall look at examples of steadfastness and the reward of steadfastness.

QUESTIONS

- (1) What is Steadfastness?
- (2) List things that will help us to remain steadfast.

13

STEADFASTNESS 2

BIBLE READING: Matt. 24:4-13

MEMORY VERSE: Matt 24: 13

*"But he that shall endure
unto the end, the same shall be saved"*

INTRODUCTION

Exhortation to be steadfast was given to believer because the Lord knows that His grace is available to enable His children to remain steadfast in the midst of trials and persecution. In concluding our lesson on steadfastness, we want to look at some examples of steadfastness and reward of remaining steadfast.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Examples of Steadfastness
2. Reward of Steadfastness

1. EXAMPLES OF STEADFASTNESS

The Bible: abounds with examples of those who remained steadfast in the Lord in the midst of tempting circumstances. However, few shall be mentioned in this lesson.

Job remained faithful even after he lost all in his trying moment (Job 23:11,27:6). The three Hebrew captives; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the presence of imminent death steadfastly trusted in the Lord (Dan 3: 18). Our Lord Jesus Christ in going to the cross "steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). Apostle Paul Knowing the ministry the Lord has committed to him, steadfastly held on to the course before him (Acts 20:24)

2. REWARD OF STEADFASTNESS

When we remain steadfast to the end, we shall be saved since our name shall ever be in the book of life (Matt. 24: 13, Rev. 3:5) Jesus shall openly confess us before the Father that we belong to Him, cloth us with the heavenly robe (Rev. 3:5), and reward us with a crown of life. Above all, the same authority that Jesus Christ received from the Father shall be given to us qualifying us to sit beside Jesus in His throne (Rev 21:25-27), and reigning with Him in the Lord's earthly kingdom (Rev 20:6)

CONCLUSION

Let us be conscious of the fact that we have better possessions and rewards in heaven, therefore, we should remain steadfast in the Lord, watching and praying as we patiently wait for His return.

QUESTIONS

- (1) Give examples of steadfastness
- (2) Is there any reward in being steadfast?

14 WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

BIBLE READING: Roman 8:1-2, Gal 5:16-18

MEMORY VERSE: Gal 5:16

*This I say then, walk in the spirit
and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh"*

INTRODUCTION

Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans stated that those who are in Christ who walk after the spirit will receive no condemnation. That means that those who walk not after the spirit will not be part of Christ's Kingdom (Rm. 8.1, 2). Therefore Christians are expected to be yielded to the spirit which now dwell in us, in order to be with Jesus Christ when He comes for his "glorious church" without blemish (Eph 5:27).

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Definition
2. How to walk in the Spirit

1. DEFINITION

From the original Greek text, the term "walk in the spirit" is translated "walk by means, of the spirit", that is counting on Him, relying on Him. As you depend on your feet, muscles and your eyes when you walk, so you now count on the power and intelligence of the Holy Spirit to guide you and to lead you to the end in view, definitely, the Holy Spirit will not disappoint you.

2. HOW TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT

When you do what God wants, the spirit of God takes hold of your faculties and your energy and gives them a positive direction. This is only possible when you walk in the spirit. The following are

some useful guidelines on how to walk in the spirit and maintain the spirit walk.

- (i) Continue and meditate in God's word (John 8:31; 17:17, Eph 6:17.).
- (ii) Be obedient to the Lord and His word (Josh 1:8, Luke 6:45-48).
- (iii) Set your heart and affection on things above and attach the greatest value to heavenly things and issues (Matt 6:33, Col. 3:2).
- (iv) Living a crucified life and surrendered self will to the will of God (Rm. 12:1, 6:6).
- (v) Trust in God's keeping power (II Tim 1:12, I Cor. 10:13, Phil 4:13).
- (vi) Walk by faith and not by sight (II Cor 5:7, Heb 11:6).

This is total reliance and trust in Him at every step.

CONCLUSION

You have seen the guidelines listed, that will help you to walk in the spirit. When these are obeyed, serving the Lord will be a matter of joy, you will be expecting His soon return with JOY.

QUESTIONS

- (1) Explain what it means by walking in the Spirit
- (2) List some useful guidelines that will help you to walk in the spirit

15

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT 2

BIBLE READING: Roman 8:1-2, Ga15:16-18

MEMORY VERSE: Gal 5:16

*This I say then, walk in the spirit
and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh"*

INTRODUCTION

In our last lesson, we emphasized the need to walk in the spirit and listed guidelines to walking in the spirit. Today we shall look at the benefits of walking in the spirit

LESSON EXPLAINED

BENEFIT OF WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

The following are some benefits of walking in the spirit:

1. The Cloud of God's presence: Moses and the people of Israel were led through the desert by following the Cloud of God's presence (Ex 14: 19). And for us Christians, as we follow on after the Lord, and are led in the same way by the presence of the spirit of God, the nearer we are to God, the more we understand His purpose, and the better He can guide us (Isaiah 30:21)
2. Holy life Not Fulfilling the Desire of the Flesh (Gal 5:16) God promises freedom from evil desires of the old nature as we walk in the spirit (Roman 8:2-3). When we accept God's authority, the power of His Spirit subdues the power of the Sin urge in us.
3. The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-25): As we walk in the spirit the power of God is allowed to work in our Spirit.

This allows the fruit of the Spirit to grow in us, therefore manifesting the character of Christ in our daily walk. We therefore, become the sons of God (Romans 8:14).

4. Manifestation of God's power: As we walk In the spirit, the gifts of the spirit operates through us, allowing the manifestation of God's power Men are attracted to God and He receives the glory as miracles are wrought through us (Acts 5:12, 1 Cor. 12: 8-11).

CONCLUSION

God has given us His Spirit so that we live a victorious Christian life and manifest His power through us. By this way, we can be a better witness of the good news of Christ to the unsaved world.

QUESTIONS

- (1) State some benefits of walking in the Spirit
- (2) What challenges have you received today?

16

WHO IS A SOUL WINNER?

BIBLE READING: 2 Cor. 5:18-19

Romans 10:13-15

MEMORY VERSE: Mark 16:15

*"And He said unto them, go ye into all the world
and preach the gospel to every creature"*

INTRODUCTION

A soul winner is a person who leads others from the way of destruction to that of salvation. Every Christian is expected to be a soul winner because he was won by somebody into the fold of God's people. The gospel is the only means through which God speaks to the world of sin and draws men to Himself. In this lesson, we are going to study the qualities a Christian must have in order to be a soul winner.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Assurance of Salvation
2. Passion for Souls

1. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

The soul winner must have the assurance of salvation; he or she must make sure that Christ is truly received into the heart. And that Jesus Christ is his personal Lord and saviour. Christ must save you before you can help others get saved. In fact, it is the testimony of how you get saved, you tell others and persuade them to come and partake. Therefore, a soul winner is somebody who had experienced salvation and is sure he is saved and then go about persuading others to get saved (1 John 5:10, 13, Roman 8:16).

2. PASSION FOR SOULS

The word "Passion" means strong feeling or emotion, violent, desire and love for something. The above meanings of "Passion" must manifest and affect the heart of an individual before he can be devoted to soul winning. In other words, the soul winner is a person with a strong feeling, desire and love for lost souls and is engaged in the business of saving them. Passion for souls is a strong motivating factor in soul winning (Luke 19:10 19:2-9, John 4:10-14; 21:16). Jesus spent time with Zacchaeus a sinner and the woman of Samaria with real passion in order to get them saved.

CONCLUSION

Every member of every local assembly must desire and pray to have the above as an experience. To be saved is inevitable and the passion for lost souls is necessary because every member of the Body of Christ is commanded to be soul winners. The angels of God are not commanded to preach the gospel of Christ. The unbelievers and demons are not qualified to preach the gospel, except the church of Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. How did you get saved?
2. What do you understand by the word Passion for Souls?

17 WHO IS A SOUL WINNER? 2

BIBLE READING: John 4: 1 0-26

John 1 38-46

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 1: 8

*"And ye shall receive power
after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you:
and ye shall be witnesses unto me"*

INTRODUCTION

In our last lesson we started looking at some attributes. We emphasized that a soul winner should have an assurance of salvation and should have a strong passion for souls. We are concluding the study on who is a soul winner today by considering other two attributes.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. From darkness to Light
2. The Care for Souls

1. FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

A soul-winner is a child of God endowed with power specially to preach the gospel of Christ with ability to deliver or turn people from darkness to the light of God. The lost soul is in bondage of Satan (darkness) and he needs to be delivered by a higher power. And the only higher power is the power of Jesus Christ in the gospel, working mightily through the believer. Any person preaching without the power to turn people from darkness to light or deliver people from the power of Satan is a mere philosopher or Intellectual displaying knowledge without God's power (Act 1 :8,26:18, Mark 16:20).

2. THE CARE FOR SOULS

To be a soul-winner, one must have a caring heart for souls and understand the value of souls. By way of caring the soul-winner does not stop his job at preaching and winning a soul, but continues to visit, teach and pray for the new convert to help him to grow. It is when a convert is won and continues in faith to the end and make heaven at last that he is really won. This is only possible when there is somebody who cares. Paul was a good biblical example (2 Cor. 11-28, Act 20:20).

CONCLUSION

A soul-winner is a child of God filled with the Spirit of God, preaching the' gospel of the Kingdom with the demonstration of the authority and power of the Kingdom he is preaching. The power of God must attend to the preaching of the soul-winner as a confirmation that his message is from God. The care for souls or new converts is the nursing of the new born babe (new convert).

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean for one to be turned from darkness to light?
2. Why is care for converts necessary?

18 THE REASONS FOR SOUL WINNING

BIBLE READING: Mark 8:35-38

Roman 1:14-17

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Cor. 9:16

*"for necessity is laid upon me;
yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel"*

INTRODUCTION

One is properly motivated for a task, when he knows the reason for performing such a task. Therefore it is important for us to know some reasons why we should be involved in soul winning. Apostle Paul in writing to the Christians in Rome, explained why he is indebted to preach the gospel "....for it is the power of God unto Salvation"· and added that the righteousness of God is revealed through the gospel (Roman 1: 16, 17).

In this lesson, we shall outline some reasons why we should be involved in soul winning.

LESSON EXPLAINED

1. The Worth of a Soul: We may be the only one who can make an impression on that particular soul and his soul is worth more than all the world (Mark 8:36),
2. The fact of hell (Matt 10:28): If we truly believed that souls were headed for a lost eternity of hell fire, we would surely do all in our power to persuade men to turn from sin to Jesus Christ.
3. The sufferings of Christ on the cross for sinner, did He suffer in vain? (1 Peter 3:18).
4. The emptiness, folly and vanity of this world (Ec.2:1). In

Christ we have found something and we have something positive and enduring to present to our friends.

5. The desire to have the family circle complete in heaven. Wouldn't it be sad to know that one relative was missing because we were lazy or careless?
6. The glories of heaven drive the soul-winner on, to have others share these.
7. The personal rewards that are offered to faithful soul winners (Proverb 11:30, Daniel 12:3)

CONCLUSION

May these reasons discussed so far motivate you to reach the soul that is near you, that is almost at the verge of hell. This may be why the drive to win souls in Apostle Paul was so strong, he declared "....woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel" (I Cor 9: 16)

QUESTIONS

1. Give reasons why we should win souls.
2. What challenges have you received today?

19 THE GREAT COMMISSION 1

BIBLE READING: Matt 28:18-20

Mark 16:14-20

MEMORY VERSE: Mark 16:15

*"...Go ye into the entire world,
and preach the gospel to every creature".*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Jesus Christ coming to earth was to reconcile man to God (II Cor 5:18). After the fulfillment of Christ's ministry on earth, it was His desire that all mankind should hear of this good news of redemption and find their way back to God. He therefore gave an assignment to the disciples, indeed the believers to spread this good news. This commission is what this study is all about.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. The Great Commission Defined
2. To Whom
3. What it entails

1. THE GREAT COMMISSION DEFINED

The dictionary defined commission: as an act of giving charge or trust; an obligation; a body of persons appointed to perform certain duties. It is also defined as an instrument conferring authority. We can therefore say that the "Great Commission" is the Obligation given to the Disciples by the Lord Jesus Christ to hold the gospel in trust and carry the gospel to "every creature" (MK 16: 15).. This they should do with the "authority" conferred on them by the Lord Jesus Christ. The word 'great' is used to qualify the commission, because of its magnitude and the nature of the giver of the commission. The commission is given by the - Most excellent Lord Jesus Christ.

2. TO WHOM

Originally, the commission was given by our Lord Jesus Christ to the eleven Disciples (Apostles), when He appeared to them after His resurrection. Luke reported that "opened ye their understanding; that they might understand the scriptures" and afterward charge them to preach the gospel "among all nations" (Luke 24:45-47) Matthew wrote of the proclamation of Jesus Christ "All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth" before the charge to carry the gospel to all nation. The writer of Mark's gospel added what will happen to nation "that believeth" Matt 28:18-20, Mk 16:16).

It is the duty of all believers today to help to fulfill the Great Commission: After the early Disciples received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, they went out boldly, at the cost of their lives, to proclaim the message of God's love and forgiveness in Christ. Thank God, the Holy Spirit whom they received is meant for every believer today (Act 1:8).

The primary purpose of the Holy Spirit is for believers to witness for Christ.

3. WHAT IT ENTAILS

The great commission entails the following:-

1. The message should be repentance and remission of sin in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 24:47).
2. The extent should be world-wide. "All nations" (Luke 24:47)
3. The message should begin at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47).
4. It should also involve baptism and teaching (Matt 28:19, 20)
5. There is the promise of salvation for believers and damnation for "he that believeth not" (Mark 16:16).
6. Promise of numerous signs to follow them that believe (Mark 16:17-18)

CONCLUSION

In the next Lesson we shall look at the response of the early disciples to the Great Commission. It should be noted that it is the duty of every believer to fulfill the Great Commission. You can begin at your "Jerusalem".

QUESTIONS

1. Define the Great Commission?
2. What does it entail?
3. What have you gained from the lesson today?

20 THE GREAT COMMISSION II

BIBLE READING: Matt 10:1-15

Mark 16:19-20

MEMORY VERSE: Mark 16:20

"...And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following"

INTRODUCTION

In our last lesson we introduced the Great Commission. We said that the commission was originally given to the eleven disciples; however, we noted that it is the duty of every believer today who has received the Holy Spirit to help to fulfill the commission. Today we shall examine how the early disciples responded to the commission. However, we shall begin by looking at how Jesus Christ prepared the disciples for this task.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Ministering with Christ
2. Ministering without Christ

1. MINISTERING WITH CHRIST

Right from the beginning of Christ ministry on earth, he left no one in doubt about His mission to reconcile man to God and establish the kingdom on earth. All His actions and messages were all to fulfill this.

- (a) He choose disciples whom he will impart His vision (Mark 1:16, Luke 5:10, Mark 3:13, 14)
- (b) He spent time to teach them the principles of the Kingdom (Matt 5:1-2).
- (c) He went out with them to minister to the public (Matt 9:18, 19).

- (d) He sent them with authority to preach the gospel (Matt 10:1-9).
- (e) He made them to understand that His stay on earth was short, that they have a duty to carry out His vision. He therefore assured them He will send them a Helper. He promised the "authority" and the "ability" to do greater work than Himself (John 14:12, 16 - 18, 26).
- (f) After His resurrection, He appeared to them and formally commissions them to take the gospel to "all nation". He assured them a "Heavenly power" which will make them to be effective witnesses (Lk 24:47, 49, Acts 1:8).

From the above we can see that all Jesus dealings with His disciples were to prepare them for the Great Commission.

2. MINISTERING WITHOUT CHRIST

Luke recorded that the disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy after the ascension of Christ (Luke 24:52).

However, they were not idle in Jerusalem after they had received the commission. Mark reported that they went about preaching everywhere, "the Lord working with them and confirming the word with signs following" (Mark 16:20). This must have been after they had received the Holy Ghost. (Act 1:8, 2:1-4)

CONCLUSION

In the next lesson we shall study how some of the disciples obeyed the Great Commission. It is recorded that with great power, the Apostles testify of the risen Lord (Acts 4:33). How obedient are you to the call of Christ to help to evangelize the world?

QUESTIONS

1. Name some of the things Jesus Christ did to prepare the disciples for the Great Commission?
2. What have you gained from the lesson today?

21

THE GREAT COMMISSION III

BIBLE READING: Acts 2:1-41

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 4:33

"And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and great grace was upon them all"

INTRODUCTION

In our last lesson we mentioned that the disciples were promised "Power" from on High as part of Jesus Christ preparation of them for the Great Commission. However, they had to wait in Jerusalem (Luke 24:49). This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.

In this lesson we want to look at the disciples' response to the commission after they have "received power". Some individuals will be mentioned.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. After Pentecost.
2. Some Individual Examples

1. AFTER PENTECOST

- (a) Responding to the amazement that came to the people in Jerusalem as a result of the disciples speaking in tongues on the day of Pentecost; Apostle Peter gave a message of salvation through Jesus Christ to the multitude. This resulted in three thousand souls giving their lives to Christ (Acts 2:4).
- (b) The promise of signs following believers (Mark 16, 17, 18) was fulfilled through Peter and John when the lame at the gate of the temple called Beautiful was healed. Peter also

used the opportunity to preach to the crowd that was gathered. He declared "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." (Acts 3: 19) though this was met with opposition but about five thousand responded positively to the gospel (Acts 4:4).

2. SOME INDIVIDUAL EXAMPLES

- (a) The boldness of the Apostles to fulfill the commission is worth mentioning, considering the fact that before Pentecost they were fearful. They were not ready to succumb to the threat of the authority of the land. Peter and John pointed out "For we cannot but speak, the things which we have seen and heard" Acts 4:20. The Apostles greatest desire was for God to grant them boldness to preach the gospel with signs and wonders Acts 4:27-30. They were not ready to submit to distractions in their ministry. They were ready to give themselves "continually to prayer and the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:1-7).
- (b) Stephen, one of the seven appointed to "serve table" (Acts 6:5), stood boldly to help to fulfill the great commission even to the point of losing his life (Acts 6:8, 7:59, 60).

CONCLUSION

We have seen how some of the early disciples were ready at all cost to fulfill the great commission. How willing do you preach the gospel? What cost have you paid in helping to fulfill the Great Commission?

QUESTIONS

- 1. How obedient were the Apostles to the Great Commission?
- 2. Name an individual that was so committed to fulfilling the Great Commission?

22

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SOUL WINNING

BIBLE READING: John 16:7-11, Luke 24:44-49

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 1:8

"But ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me"

INTRODUCTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to save the lost and to build His Church (Matt 18: 11, 16: 18). His work of salvation was completed when He died on the cross. The Apostles were given the great task of winning souls to the church and disciple those won; however this cannot be done by their own power. This is why Jesus Christ instructed his disciples to "tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49). In this lesson, we shall look at the role of the "power from on high" (Holy Spirit) in soul winning.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Soul winner's source of power
2. Convicting the Sinner

1. A SOUL WINNER'S SOURCE OF POWER.

When Jesus started His ministry on earth, He declared that the power of the Holy Spirit was upon him to preach the gospel to the poor (Luke 4 18). Therefore Jesus Christ promised to send this power to the believers so that they can effectively do the work of soul winning which He has commissioned them to do (In 14:16, 17, 16:7, Acts 1:8).

What will the Holy Spirit do for the disciple as a soul-winner?

1. Gives utterance to speak (Mark 13: 11, John 16: 13). The

Holy Spirit will illuminate the right scripture in His spirit at the right time and give him utterance to speak it out.

2. With the power of the Holy Spirit the soul-winner will be able to declare the message of the gospel with signs and wonders even as Jesus Christ did (John 14:12, Acts 10:38). This was true with the ministry of Paul and other Apostles. That is why he declared, "My preaching was not with the enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of Power" (1 Cor. 2:4).
3. The Holy Spirit impacts boldness to witness for Christ in any circumstance (II Timothy 1:7). Peter who was fearful before the baptism of the Holy Spirit stood boldly before the Highest Court of the Jews (Acts 4:13). Stephen remained a bold witness even in the midst of imminent death (Acts 7:8).
4. Direction to the soul-winner.
5. The Holy Spirit prompts the soul-winner to the area where the sinners are: Philip was directed to a desert to meet the Ethiopian Eunuch. (Acts 8:26). Paul and Barnabas were asked to be separated for evangelism in the Gentile land (Acts 13:2) specifically; Paul was directed to take the gospel to Europe through Macedonia (Acts 16:7-9).

2. CONVICTING THE SINNER:

The Holy Spirit, not the soul-winner is responsible for reaching into the sinner's innermost being and bring him to Christ as the gospel is preached to him. Since only the Spirit can know the sinner's inner heart and speak to his spirit, He alone can bring sinners to repentance. The Holy Spirit does this by convicting the sinner of his sin and showing him what his sin did to Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, making him to see his self-righteousness as

nothing before God (Isaiah 64:6), thus depending on the righteousness of God which he can obtain by faith in Christ (John 16:8, 2 Cor. 5:21). The Spirit regenerates the sinner's spirit (John 3:5) and pours out in his heart the Love of God (Romans 5:5).

CONCLUSION

In fact the true soul-winner does not simply use the Spirit he is used by the Spirit Therefore to be successful in winning souls for the Kingdom of God, we should be fully yielded to the Holy Spirit who is able to lead us to the right place at the right time to meet the right person.

QUESTIONS

1. What power did the Lord Jesus Christ depend on during His earthly Ministry?
2. Name some things the Holy Spirit does for the soul-winner.

23

OBSTACLES TO SOUL-WINNING 1

BIBLE READING: Acts. 4:1-31, 5:17-29

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 5:42

*"And daily in the temple, and in every house,
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus"*

INTRODUCTION

Soul winning can rightly be defined as the act of translating men from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ (Col 1: 13). This is the reduction of the kingdom of Satan. Therefore Satan will do everything within his power to obstruct the preaching of the gospel. This may come as distraction within the Church, or direct confrontation with the Church by the agents of the enemy. In this first lesson we shall look at the opposition faced by the early Church and how they were able to overcome it.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Obstacles faced by the Early Disciples.
2. How they overcame.

1. OBSTACLES FACED BY THE EARLY CHURCH:

Immediately after "Pentecost" The efforts of the apostles to win souls for the Kingdom were yielding fruits (Acts 2:41, 4:4), Satan mounted oppositions in various forms:

- (a) The religious authority of the land were grieved that Jesus Christ was being preached. Peter and John were arrested as a result of the "harvest" that came through the healing of the lame at the Beautiful gate. They were harassed and threatened (Acts 4:3).

- (b) In order to stop the evangelistic activities of the apostles, all of them were arrested and put in prison (Acts 5:18).
- (c) A seed of discord was sown in the church as a result of the daily ministration to the widows (Acts 6:1)
- (d) All efforts were made by the authority of the land to stop the spread of the gospel; this led to general persecution of the Church in Jerusalem and her environs. This resulted in the death of Stephen (Acts 7:59) and James (Acts 12:2).

2. HOW THEY OVERCAME

Jesus Christ speaking prophetically about His Church "I Will build my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt 16:18). The activities of Satan cannot stop the mission of the Church. How the early disciples responded to opposition to the spread of the gospel is worthy of mention.

- a. When Peter and John reported their harassment to the Church, there was a prayer meeting which main prayer point was the ability to preach the word with boldness. (Acts 4:23-31). God's response to their prayer was very encouraging.
- b. After the release from prison by the "angel of the Lord", the Apostles were Charged to "Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life" (Acts 5:20). They were determined to obey the command to preach even in the midst of threat (Acts 5:29).
- c. Problem which comes to the Church as a result of daily ministration to the widows was promptly handled by the Apostles so that they could continue their evangelistic activities unhindered (Acts 6:1-7)

- d. Persecution of the Church could not stop the gospel but those who ran from Jerusalem saw it as an opportunity to spread the word in their new environment (Acts 8: 1-4)

CONCLUSION

From what we have studied so far, we have seen that opposition by the enemy cannot stop the work of soul winning. How the early disciples responded to opposition is worthy of emulation today if we are to be effective witnesses for Christ. What obstacles that face the Church in soul winning today will be studied in our next lesson.

QUESTIONS

1. How was the gospel opposed immediately after "Pentecost?"
2. Discuss the response to such opposition

24

OBSTACLES TO SOUL-WINNING II

BIBLE READING: 2 Cor. 10:3-5, Phil 2:1-5

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 5:42

*"And daily in the temple, and in every house,
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus"*

INTRODUCTION

In our last study, we saw the obstacles the early disciples faced during their activities of soul winning, and how they were able to overcome. In the present day, the devil is doing all within his power to hinder the spread of the gospel knowing that his time is short. In this lesson we shall look at obstacles to the spread of the gospel and how to overcome them.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Some obstacles to effective soul winning
2. How to overcome

1. SOME OBSTACLES TO EFFECTIVE SOUL-WINNING

- (a) Activities of "False Christian groups": Falsehood preached and taught by such groups pollutes the mind of men from accepting the true gospel. Apostle Paul recognized the hindrance caused by these groups to the spread of the message of Christ, he therefore warned believers against them (II Cor. 11: 13-15).
- (b) Persecution: Jesus Christ prophesied to us that if they persecute him, believers will also be persecuted (John 15:20). Atheist secular government legislates against Christianity and takes pleasure in persecuting Christians. This is what is happening in China, and previously in the Communist Russia.

- (c) Distractions in the Body of Christ: One of the subtle way in which the enemy hinder the spread of the gospel is to cause distraction. This comes in form of strife within a group, denominational jealousy and other devices that promote disunity in the body of Christ. This shifts the focus of believers from passion for souls; the scripture exhorts us against such (Phil 2:2, 3)
- (d) Lack of Commitment to Aggressive Evangelistic Activities and Mission: When other projects are pursued vigorously in expense of soul winning activities, less people are won to Christ

2. HOW TO OVERCOME:

- (a) Prayerfulness: The Church should be prayerful, taking the full armour of God to pull down the stronghold of the enemy (Eph. 6:11-18, II Cor 10:4). Ask for boldness and utterance on believers to preach, finally for passions for souls (Acts 4:29, Eph 6 19)
- (b) Yielding to The Holy Spirit: When the Body of Christ is wholly Yielded to the Holy Spirit, the Church will be able to discern the tricks of the devil and handle distractions promptly (I Cor.12:8-10) Believers will be able to work with the "Mind of Christ" (Phil. 2:4, 5), there will be compassion for the lost, therefore soul winning activities will be promoted More funds will be budgeted for soul winning.

CONCLUSION

The Devil cannot stop the kingdom of God from expanding as long as we are prayerful, fully yielded to the Holy Spirit and take soul winning seriously.

QUESTIONS

- (1) What are some of the obstacles to soul winning?
- (2) How can the Church overcome them?
- (3) What have you gained spiritually?

25

AUTHORITY OF THE SOUL-WINNER I

BIBLE READING: Luke 10:17-20, Matt 16:18-19

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 10:19

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy"

INTRODUCTION

As previously mentioned, the act of soul winning is the liberation of persons from the captivity of Satan. Therefore, during soul winning, we are bound to meet opposition from forces both visible and invisible master-minded by the devil. In order to overcome this opposition, the soul-winner is to operate with his spiritual authority.

This study will answer some questions we need to know about spiritual authority.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. What is Authority?
2. The source of the Authority.

1. WHAT IS AUTHORITY

The dictionary defined authority as legal power or right; power derived from office or character or prestige. The spiritual authority of the believer is the legal power he has as a result of his position in Christ. Paul told believers to be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might (Eph 6: 10). This is an exhortation to the believers to use the authority they have in Christ Jesus boldly against the enemy.

2. THE SOURCE OF THE AUTHORITY

Jesus says in Luke 10:19: "Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." What Jesus was saying here is that He has given us authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy.

The source of our authority is found in the resurrection and exalting of Christ by God. Jesus death on the cross and His resurrection took away all powers that belonged to Satan and his demons (Col. 2:15). This victory made Him to have all powers in heaven and on earth (Matt 28:19, 20). Jesus Christ placed this authority and power in our hands (Luke 10: 19). The act of God that raised Christ from the dead also raised HIS Body and made Him to sit in "heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph 2:5, 6); this is a position of authority. Therefore, when we go out for soul winning, we are to go in the name of Jesus" to stand against every opposition of Satan.

CONCLUSION

From the study, we have now seen what is authority and its source. The knowledge of the source of the authority of the soul-winner should motivate him to carry out the work of soul winning with boldness.

QUESTIONS

1. Define authority?
2. Discuss the soul-winner's source of authority

26

AUTHORITY OF THE SOUL-WINNER II

BIBLE READING: Luke 10:1-10

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 10: 19

*"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on
serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy"*

INTRODUCTION

When Jesus Christ was on earth, He ministered with authority (Matt 7:29, Mark 1:27). Since the ministering of the Disciples was to be a continuation of Christ ministry on earth, Jesus therefore, delegated authority to the believers. For the soul-winner to properly understand the authority he has, we shall examine some of the statements made by Jesus Christ to the Disciples.

LESSON EXPLAINED

1. In Caesarea Philippi, while revealing His intention to build His Church on earth, He announced that the "gates of hell" cannot overcome the Church. He also said that whatever the Church loose or bound will be sanctioned-by heaven (Matt 16:18-19).
2. When the twelve Apostles were sent forth to preach the message of the kingdom, Jesus Christ "gave them power against unclean spirits, and to heal all manner of diseases" (Matt 10:1)
3. In commissioning the seventy disciples, He told them: anyone that rejects them rejects Him; anyone that hears them, hears Him. Jesus Christ also gave them power to tread upon all the powers of the enemy (Luke 10; 1, 16, 19)
4. After His resurrection, Christ announced to the disciples that

"all power in heaven and earth" have been given to Him, He therefore asked the Disciples to go and preach the gospel in His name with signs and wonders following (Matt 28: 18, Mark 16: 15-18).

All these point out that since Jesus Christ performed His ministry with authority (Matt 7:29), this authority has been delegated to us to preach the gospel of the kingdom.

CONCLUSION

We have seen what authority is and have now known that believers have been delegated with authority by the Lord Jesus Christ to perform the ministry of soul-winning. Why not do it with boldness and zeal?

QUESTIONS

1. Point out a statement by Jesus Christ that we can minister with authority?
2. What inspiration have you received today?

27

AUTHORITY OF THE SOUL-WINNER III

BIBLE READING: 1 Cor. 2:1-5, Acts 14:1-3

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Cor. 2:4

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of Power".

INTRODUCTION

In our previous lessons we saw what authority of the soul-winner is and Christ promises on authority, it is the duty of the believer to stand on the promises of Christ and manifest his authority during soul-winning. In this lesson, we are going to see how the early disciples witness Christ with authority and how we can manifest authority during soul-winning.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Manifestation of spiritual authority by the early soul winners.
2. How to walk in authority during soul-winning.

1. MANIFESTATION OF SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY BY THE EARLY SOUL-WINNERS

1. The seventy disciples sent by Jesus Christ to preach the message of the kingdom returned with testimonies of powers of Satan being subjected to them (Luke 10:17-19).
2. After Pentecost, Peter and other apostles ministered with spiritual authority. This was seen through healing in their ministry and boldness to speak the word.
3. The ministry of Philip in Samaria was laden with spiritual authority, this brought joy to the city (Acts 8:5-8).

4. The success of Paul's ministry and demonstration of the power of God in his ministry were evidence of someone who performed his God's given obligation with spiritual authority. (Acts 13:6-12, 16-18, 1 Cor. 2:4).

2. HOW TO WALK IN AUTHORITY DURING SOUL-WINNING.

God's desire for all believers is for them to preach the gospel with power that is the purpose of the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer (Acts 1:8). The believer should realize that he has "heaven" backed authority in the course of soulwinning. The awareness should be there, that the gospel needs to be preached with demonstration of the power of God (1 Cor. 2:2-4), even today: Therefore this must be done before and during soulwinning:

1. **Organized Prayer Meetings:** Since in course of soulwinning we are going into the territory of the "Strong man" to dispossess him of his goods, well organized prayer meetings should be done. The purpose of which is to "bind the strongman", liberate souls and pull down all the stronghold of the enemy (Mark 3:27, 11 Cor. 10:4).
2. **Ministering with Faith and Boldness:** With the knowledge that you have spiritual authority, your preaching should be with boldness and faith in the transforming power of the word of God (1 Timothy 3:13, Acts 9:29, 14:3).
3. **Ministering under the unction of the Holy Spirit:** This will enable the soul-winner to operate with gifts of the Holy Spirit, enabling signs and wonders to be manifested in his ministration (Acts 14:3, Mark 16:17,20).

CONCLUSION

The early disciples ministered the gospels authoritatively with the Lord confirming their messages with signs and wonders. Let's remember the Lord has not changed (Mal. 3:6, Heb 13:8), He is ready to work miracles through us if we are ready to be obedient to the call to preach.

QUESTIONS

1. Give examples of authoritative soul-winning.
2. How can we minister with spiritual authority?
3. What have you gained from the lesson today?

28

SPIRITUAL ARMOUR OF THE SOUL-WINNER I

BIBLE READING: 1 Samuel 17:5-7, Eph 6:10-18.

MEMORY VERSE: Eph 6: 11

"Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil".

INTRODUCTION

From the study on spiritual authority of the soul-winner, we have seen that soul-winning is a battle to disarm the enemy of his possession. In a battle the combatants have to be in right outfits. Therefore in this study we are going to look at the spiritual armour of the soul-winner

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Armour Defined
2. BELT-TRUTH

1. ARMOUR DEFINED

The dictionary defined armour as a protective covering, defensive dress. In the old days, the soldier has to put on his armour before going to battle. It is described in I Samuel 17:5-7, this includes a helmet, coat, greaves (foot-wear); spear or sword. Apostle Paul graphically described it in Eph 6; using the physical to bring out spiritual truth. He advised believers to "put on the armour of God". This is because in the Christian life we battle against evil forces headed by Satan. To withstand his attack, we must depend on God's strength using every piece of His armour. The soul-winner goes to do battle against "the evil rulers of the unseen world" he fight in the strength of the Church whose power comes from the Holy Spirit.

2. BELT-TRUTH

When Apostle Paul tells us to be girt about with truth he is really telling us to be truthful. If a person is not truthful he will never be successful in Spiritual warfare. A believer going into battle with Satan and his demonic servants should maintain a life of truthfulness, sincerity and integrity of character. If one does not, he may be well assured that Satan knows about it. The sons of Sceva decided that they would cast out devils but the evil spirit said "Jesus I know, and Paul I know but who are ye? (Acts 19:16) "Having your loins girt about with truth", keep that girdle of truth firmly fastened or the enemy will destroy your character and influence. When that is destroyed, your ability to win souls and to be reproductive is gone also.

Loins often used in the Scripture as being part of the reproductive organs. The fruit of the loins (Acts 2:30): "King shall come of the Loins" (Gen 35:11). The Loins also is a symbol of strength, if not fortified by truth will become weak.

A person who is not truthful lacks confidence, faith and power. He is left vulnerable, weak and ineffective in the battle with the enemy because his conscience condemns him. Jesus said "I am the way, the truth" (John 14:6), "Which of you convinceth me of sins" (John 8:46). No one could condemn Him of sin. It left Him invulnerable to all fiery darts of Satan. He was girt about with truth; therefore the believer that is bound with truthfulness is invulnerable before the enemy. Such can stand against the enemy of his soul and bring souls to the kingdom.

CONCLUSION

We have now seen the need to put on the whole armour of God during soul-winning and also discuss one piece of the armour we shall look at other pieces of the armour during the next lesson.

QUESTIONS

1. What is armour?
2. What role does the belt of truth play in the life of the soul winner?

29

SPIRITUAL ARMOUR OF THE SOUL-WINNER II

BIBLE READING: Eph 6:10-18

MEMORY VERSE: Eph 6:11

*"Put on the whole armour of God that
ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil".*

INTRODUCTION

We have known what is spiritual armour, and the various pieces which it is made of during our previous lesson. We also discussed a piece of the armour - the belt. Today we shall continue our discussion by looking at other pieces of the armour, and how relevant they are in soul-winning.

LESSON EXPLAINED

Breastplate - Righteousness

BREASTPLATE - RIGHTEOUSNESS

The breast plate protects the heart and lungs, important organs essential to life. You cannot visualize a warrior going into hand - to - hand battle without a breastplate. The opponent was trained to pierce the breastplate with his dagger or sword as soon as possible. The warrior before going into battle would examine the breastplate carefully to see that it was not in disrepair. Since it was the breastplate of righteousness, we immediately recognize the need to examine ourselves to see that we are in Christ so that our hearts condemn us not (I John 3:21).

We must have a heart free of condemnation as we approach God. If we do have condemnation, God is greater and has solution to that Condemnation. The heart must be free of condemnation as we stand before God, so that we will not feel condemned as we

face the enemy and liberate souls and usher them into the Kingdom. A heart under condemnation lacks confidence and strength necessary to face the enemy and witness for Christ. A heart free of condemnation faces the enemy with the breastplate of righteousness intact, in confidence of victory. There are no broken or torn places that would give the enemy penetration.

HOW IS OUR BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS OBTAINED?

This piece of armour is issued by the Captain of the Army (Jesus Christ). It is something provided. We must put it on and keep it in good condition. Salvation is free gift, but we also "work out" (Phil 2:12), not "work for" our salvation. We must realize that every one of us including the soul-winner was born in sin (Psalm 51:5' Roman 3:10). Roman 3:21-26 shows how we receive the righteousness of Christ. The breastplate of righteousness has been issued. We are to receive it as gift and maintain it as a steward and warrior. It is our duty to put on and in confidence engage the enemy and do works of evangelism. The enemy cannot penetrate it and condemn and destroy us.

HOW IS THE BREASTPLATE MAINTAINED?

As we win souls for the Kingdom, we must be aware that Righteousness is imparted to man by the grace of God (Eph 2:8) However, having received His righteousness, there is the need to maintain this righteousness. This is done by walking in holiness and by righteous acts, unless the warrior acts, his daily life is righteous he will be unsuccessful in spiritual warfare. This truth is brought out by Apostle Paul in Romans 6: 13. We receive the breastplate of righteousness which is Christ's righteousness, and maintain it by holy living, (I John 3:8).

CONCLUSION

In order to be an effective witness for Christ: Rejoice in and stand fast in the righteousness of Christ, but do not neglect the amour of personal righteousness. Should you err, take immediate steps to

repair the armour by confessing your sins (I John 1:9).

QUESTIONS

- (1) Why is the breastplate of righteousness important?
- (2) How can we maintain the breastplate?

30

SPIRITUAL ARMOUR OF THE SOUL-WINNER III

BIBLE READING: Eph 6:10-18

MEMORY VERSE: Eph 6: 11

*"Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able
to stand against the wiles of the devil"*

INTRODUCTION

So far we have seen how the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness are vital in soul-winning. Today we are going to look at the shoes as another piece of spiritual armour.

LESSON EXPLAINED

1. *"Your feet shod....." Eph6:15a*

The charge is to have your feet shod because you are to be engaged in battle and you are required to stand. The feet will carry us into battle, over rough places. We need to have them shod, equipped with adequate footing for the encounter.

Jesus in sending His apostles told them to "shod with sandals" (Mark 6:9). When Peter was supernaturally sprung from Herod's prison the angel said to him' "bind on thy sandals" (Act 12:8). When the word of God says "He maketh my feet like hinds feet, and setteth me upon my high places" (11 Samuel 22:34) Our Lord is teaching us that He will give us sure footing, strength and ability to scale hard, rough and lofty places

2. *"..... With the preparation of the Gospel of peace "Eph. 6: 15b.*

Shoes are generally designed to protect the feet in given circumstance. The shoes we are concerned with, are designed for spiritual warfare They are to give believer sure footing The

believer is advised that he is going into battle with the enemy, therefore he must have his feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. The Gospel Is the truth or good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again for our justification (1 Cor 15: 1-4). That is why the first piece of armour was girdle of truth. the second was the breastplate of righteousness The knowledge of the truth of redemption, with the assurance of righteousness in Christ is indeed a good provision for ability to stand.

The Apostle in this scripture is calling for an ability to stand in the fierce battle with the enemy. He anticipates firm footing, not slipping back. Lack of a firm foundation and unsuitable shoes make slopping back possible. But our Captain provides good shoes and a sure foundation. The foundational Rock Christ Jesus and proper preparation with the Gospel of peace will give the believer advantageous footing.

3. "....Our Walk". Feet, of course, are always identified with a person's walk (conduct). When the priests had the blood applied and the anointing oil to the big toe (Lev 8), it was in reference to their walk. Their walk was to be under the covering of the blood and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Every aspect of their walk was to be to the glory of God.

Proverb 6: 16-19 list seven things that God hates, one of which is "feet that be swift in running to mischief". Feet were intended to carry the Gospel of good news (Isaiah 52:7). The enemy uses the feet to "run to evil" (Isaiah 59:7)

The believer should walk in love (Eph. 5:2), walk worthy of our Christian calling (Eph 4: 1"), Walk in the spirit (Gal 5: 16) and walk in the newness of life (Roman 6:4). Enoch walked with God and was raptured (Gen. 5:24). The Soul winner's walk should qualify him for rapture anytime any day.

We need to be aware that we are in constant encounter with Satan. Therefore we must be "sober and be vigilant" (1 peter 5:8), so that we can stand always, as overcomers. Apostle Paul warned "... Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall ..." (1 - Cor 10:12).

CONCLUSION

We should be able to stand properly on the solid Rock with feet shod with preparation of the gospel of peace in order to effectively battle the enemy and win souls for the Kingdom.

QUESTIONS

1. Why the charge "your feet shod with preparation of the gospel of peace"?
2. How should the believer's walk be?

31

SPIRITUAL ARMOUR OF THE SOUL-WINNER IV

BIBLE READING: Eph 6:10-18

MEMORY VERSE: : Eph 6: 16

*"Above all, taking the shield of Faith,
where with ye shall be able to quench
all the fiery darts of the wicked"*

INTRODUCTION

We shall continue our study on the spiritual armour of the soul-winner by looking at another piece of the armour - the shield of Faith.

LESSON EXPLAINED

1. What is The Shield of Faith? A shield is a broad plate carried to ward off weapons. It is so designed to give one protection. The shield we are dealing with as a part of a spiritual armament is the shield of faith. Carnal or natural shields are of no value in spiritual warfare. The enemy does not attack with a physical body, since he deals with the spiritual that directs the soulish and the physical, he must be dealt with, with spiritual weapons and overcome in the spiritual realm. (II Cor 10:3-5)

Apostle Paul uses physical illustrations to clarify the spiritual. He makes reference to a large shield that with skilful maneuver can cover the total person. While the enemy will attack anywhere he can, his main target is the head and the breast. The shield, therefore, had to be big enough to crouch behind yet strong and light enough to wield and stop the enemy's weapon.

2. WHY FAITH?

Some feel that it is an intangible part but Apostle Paul makes it clear that it is a very essential tangible article in spiritual warfare for without faith defeat is inevitable. He portrays faith as

something the warrior can raise up and use as an object to stop the fiery darts. The faith referred to here is something that has been given to the warrior, something that he possesses, and something that is sure and invincible when utilized and skillfully used. It is referred to in Col 2.5 "Steadfastness of your faith in Christ".

Faith has Its origin in Christ for He is "the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb 12 2) When Christ takes up residence in our lives we receive His Love, Joy, Peace, all the rest of the fruit is developed including faith, By this faith we can overcome the world (I John 5:4).

If you lack this faith you are not equipped to do battle with the enemy. It was through a strong God-given faith that ancient believers became not only survivors but victorious (Heb 11:32-38).

3. Use of the Shield of Faith

The faith of the warrior in the faithfulness of God is the shield with which to face the enemy Job said "Though he slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13: 15). This is an invincible indestructible shield of faith. This is what Apostle John refers to 1 John 5:4. The three Hebrew children had it when they faced the fiery furnace: "Our God is able to deliver us" If He chooses not to and allows us to die, we know there is life hereafter with' Him, but be It known to you that we will rather burn than bow".

Paul had the shield in place at all times. Regardless of the persecution or suffering he encountered, he was indestructible. He declared "for me to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Phil 1:21). When the gift of faith is in operation there is great manifestation of the power of God to heal and perform other miracles to the glory of God, especially during evangelistic meetings (1 Cor 12:9).

CONCLUSION

The proper appropriation of the shield of faith and good use of the shield make our witnessing for Christ profitable. Since with it we are able to surmount all opposition relying on the faithfulness of God and His word

QUESTIONS

1. Explain that shield of Faith?
2. Of what importance is the shield of Faith in soul winning?

32

SPIRITUAL ARMOUR OF THE BELIEVER V

BIBLE READING: Eph 6:10-18

MEMORY VERSE: : Eph 6:11

*"Put on the whole armour of God that
ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"*

INTRODUCTION

So far we have seen that In order to be effective in soul-winning we need to put on the spiritual armour provided by God We have been analyzing each piece of the armour, today we shall dwell on the helmet of salvation

LESSON EXPLAINED

1. WHAT IS A HELMET?

A helmet is a covering of armour for the head. It serves as a protection for the head. If an ancient soldier went into combat, the first thing the opponent would try to do was come down with his sword and split the opponent's head or pierce his breastplate. A warrior would not go into battle without a proper metal helmet to protect the head.

2. HELMET OF SALVATION

The head is the seat of knowledge. The mind must be fortified with the knowledge of salvation. The person who is unsure of his salvation is not going to be effective in bringing salvation to others. The bible teaches us that we must know in whom we have believed (11 Timothy 1:12, Heb. 10:22; 23, 1John 5:10-13). The helmet of salvation literally means to be clothed with the knowledge that you are a child of God; that you belong to Him; that He is yours and you are His; that your sins are forgiven; that you have passed from death to life, that you are a new creature in

Christ; you are hid with Christ in God. Going into spiritual battle without assured mind of where you stand in God makes you very vulnerable to defeat. The enemy will always try to make you doubt your salvation, but to be effective in soul-winning you must have assurance of salvation. This is what is meant by putting on the helmet of salvation."

3. Assurance of salvation should be based on the following:
 - (a) The witness of the Holy Spirit (Roman 8: 16, Gal 4:6): In a believer, the Holy Spirit gives assurance to the heart and grant an Inner rest that confirms to the individual that he really belongs to Jesus now.
4. The word of God (1 John 5:10, 13, John 5:24, Luke 7:7): Let the word of God be the foundation on which you build a strong assurance. This will attract others to you; they will desire to know why you speak with such authority.
5. The Changed Life: (1 John 3:17): The Christian is a new creature in Christ (11 Cor 5:17) and this is manifested in new affection, new likes, new dislikes, new loves and new hatreds. This new life lived assures us that you are a child of God. This gives you confidence to witness for the one who is the Author of this transformation.

CONCLUSION

A Christian, who is not sure of what Christ has done for him, cannot witness for Jesus Christ. That is why Apostle Paul exhorts that we should put on the helmet of salvation so that we can stand against the devil, and liberate men from his kingdom.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the importance of helmet?
2. What is the helmet of salvation?
3. What should we base our assurance of salvation on?

33

THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR OF THE SOUL-WINNER VI

BIBLE READING: Eph 6:10-18

MEMORY VERSE: : Eph 6:11

*"Put on the whole armour of God that
ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"*

INTRODUCTION

We have been discussing the spiritual armour of the soul-winner; all the pieces we have mentioned so far are defensive. They are meant to protect the soul-winner against the wiles of the devil. Possessing all the foregoing armour would give the various confidence, assurance; a sense of preparedness and adequacy to face the enemy. But the warrior is not sent merely to hold his and survive. He has to overcome the enemy; he is therefore given an offensive weapon, a sure tested unfailing weapon. This weapon is what we are going to discuss in this lesson.

LESSON EXPLAINED

1. THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT:

The offensive weapon given to us to do battle with the enemy is described by Apostle Paul as the "Sword of the spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6: 17). It is the weapon that the Captain of the Army used against the arch-tempter and deceiver in the wilderness (Matt 4:4, 7 & 10) effectively wielding the Sword of the Spirit our Lord overcame the enemy.

Using the word of God as sword of the spirit is much more than quoting the scripture. Even the devil could quote the Scripture. When Jesus taught "they were astonished at his doctrine for His word was with power" (Luke 4:32); the word of God becomes a

sharp two- edged sword when it goes forth with power. The ministry of the early church was characterized by the power of the resurrection (Acts 4:33). Peter and John used the sword at the beautiful gate (Acts 3:6). The power of the resurrection was what they depended upon to heal the sick, raise the dead and give life daily to the church. Deliverance can only be ministered through the word when there is genuine anointing of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4: 18).

2. HOW TO EFFECTIVELY USE THE SWORD:

- (a) Study: In order to obtain the Sword which the Captain of the Army has provided, we need to study the written word daily, meditating on it. The Lord admonished Joshua and Timothy to do the same (Jos. 1:8, 11 Tim 2: 15).
- (b) Obedience to His word: This should be coupled with faith in the word of God (Matt 7:24, James 1:25).
- (c) Yieldedness to the Holy Spirit: In order to be able to use the Sword effectively, there is need to be completely yielded to the Holy Spirit, filled with Him. Therefore at the appropriate time the Holy Spirit will remind us of the "Rhema" and empower the Word that proceed out of our mouth to the detriment of the works of Satan (1Cor. 2:4, Heb. 4:12).

CONCLUSION

The soul-winner cannot do anything for the kingdom of God till he learns to appropriate the word of God which is the Sword of the Spirit and use it effectively against the enemy.

QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the Sword of the Spirit?
- 2. How can you use it effectively?
- 3. What have you gained today?

34

PRAYER AND SOUL-WINNING

BIBLE READING: Eph 6:18-20

MEMORY VERSE: : Eph 6:18

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints"

INTRODUCTION

The place of prayer in soul-winning cannot be overemphasized. The success of the battle we wage with our Spiritual armour depends on our prayer life; that is why prayer is mentioned after the pieces of spiritual armour (Eph 6.18). Jesus Christ whose main mission was to win souls, spent so much time in prayers (Mark 1:35 Luke 6:12). The apostles found that they cannot take the gospel to the whole world without prayer, "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). For the soul-winner to turn the heart of men to God, he must learn to spend time with God

LESSON OUTLINE

- (1) Types of prayer
- (2) The need for organized prayer team

1. TYPES OF PRAYER

- a) Intercessory Prayer: The soul-winner should spend time to intercede on behalf of sinners - those he desire to be saved by the Lord.

The Bible is abound with examples of those who interceded on behalf of others. Abraham stood on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 18:32) Moses fasted and prayed for forty days and forty nights on behalf of Israel who had sinned and provoked

the wrath of God (Deut 9:18, 25). It was the prayer of Apostle Paul that Israel should be saved (Romans 9:1-3, 10:1).

- b) Prayer for utterance and boldness: The soul-winner should always pray for utterance and boldness to speak the word of God at any time opportunity arises to preach. (Eph 6:19; 20, Acts 4:29).
- c) Binding the "Strongman" over a given area: There are territorial demons: that control particular area, when these areas are marked for evangelism, there are needs to break the power and influence of the demons over that area (Luke 11:21-22, Eph 2:1, 2).
- d) Prayer for Converts: This involves uplifting the converts' in prayers, always asking for God's grace upon their lives so that they will be well established in the Lord (Eph 1: 15-18, Phil 1: 3-6)

2. NEED FOR ORGANIZED PRAYER TEAM

For a group to be successful in soul-winning and other evangelistic activities there is need to have an organized prayer team. Her functions include waging war against the "Powers of darkness" that hinder men from accepting the gospel. They are to hold. All-night prayers fasting and prayer meetings regularly as led by the Holy Spirit; the Prayer Team should always serve as an advance team to any outreach programme. This team operating under the leadership of the Holy Spirit can discern demons controlling "certain areas, (I Cor 12:8a, 10) and break their hold over that area.

CONCLUSION

We have seen the nature of prayer and its importance in soulwinning; it should be re-emphasized that "A prayer less work, however good will fail to win the crown".

QUESTIONS

- (1) Discuss the importance of prayer in soul-winning
- (2) Which type of prayers should be involved?

35 TOOLS FOR THE SOUL-WINNER

BIBLE READING: 2 Timothy 4:11-13

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Timothy 4:2

*"Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season,
reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine"*

INTRODUCTION

So far we have seen that the soul-winner has spiritual authority and have also need to be properly dressed in the spiritual armour provided by God. Tools are Working instruments which every laborer must have, to carry out assignments given to him. They must be suited for the job assigned. What are the tools the soul-winner need for soul-winning? These are both spiritual and physical

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Spiritual Tool
2. Physical Tool

1. SPIRITUAL TOOLS

- (a) Holy Spirit: In order to be witness for Christ, you must be empowered by the Holy Spirit (Act 1:8) that is promised by Jesus Christ to all believers who desire to spread the Gospel, Luke 24:49 John 16:7-8
- (b) Prayer: Only a person of prayer will be able to win souls for the kingdom Prayer at this time is exchanging your weak human power for the Almighty Power of God. This enables you to liberate men from the grip of Satan; and also to obtain direction from God where to evangelize (1 Timothy 2:1, 2).

2. PHYSICAL TOOLS

- (a) The Holy Bible. The soul-winner should have a copy of the complete Bible. He must be familiar with various verses in the Bible that deals with salvation or verses that point the sinner to Christ. He may have to commit some to memory. Such verses include John 3:16, Acts 4:12, Roman 3:23, Roman 6:23, Roman 10:9-10, Rev. :3:20
- (b) Tracts. Gospel tracts are very useful tools in evangelism: These may be ordered from various publishers. Address of such publishers can be obtained from your local pastors.
- (c) Note Book. The soul-winner should keep a note of all whom he witnessed to, especially those who made decision for Jesus Christ. This will be of help in follow-up and Intercessory prayers.
- (d) Hand Bills: a handbill or white Card that shows place of fellowship and activities of the fellowship can be very useful

CONCLUSION

When the tools are available to the soul-winner, with the abundant grace of God, he may be able to convert more souls to the kingdom.

QUESTIONS

1. Name tools required for soul-winning?
2. Suggest others tool needed

36

METHODS OF SOUL-WINNING

BIBLE READING: Matt 15:29-39, John 4:13-16

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 68:11

*"The Lord gives the word:
great was the company of those that publish it"*

INTRODUCTION

It is the desire of the Lord that the message of the Kingdom be preached throughout the whole world (Matt 24:14), God, through the leadership of the Holy spirit had inspired the church to evolve different methods through which the Gospel is to reach the lost world. The purpose of this lesson is to highlight the various methods, so that believers will know how to support them.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Personal Witnessing
2. Mass Evangelism/Crusade
3. Media Outreach
4. Literature Outreach

1. PERSONAL WITNESSING

This is one to one contact in soul-winning. The soul-winner as lead by the Holy Spirit picks on a sinner, present the message of salvation. This allows for interaction between the soul-winner and the sinner. In most cases, spiritual needs are better ministered to:

Examples include Jesus Christ speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:13-16); Philip witnessing about the Messiah to Nathanael (John 1:45).

2. MASS EVANGELISM/CRUSADE

This may be indoor or outdoor mass outreach. The purpose is for the gospel to reach as many as possible in an area at the same time. Thus, it normally involved careful planning which entails much personal and material mobilization, therefore, it is financially involving.

For the fruit of the meeting to be considered, proper follow-up is required:

Examples:

- (a) Jesus Christ ministering to the multitude (Matt 15:29-39, Luke 5:3)
- (b) Apostle Paul has much of such meetings (Acts 17:22, 23)

3. MEDIA OUTREACH

This is evangelism through mass-media, radio, television, newspaper and social media (Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter etc). This has the advantage of bringing the Gospel to the living room of the sinner. Personal ministration is limited except through telephone communication.

It is a modern trend which was not available to the early Apostles.

4. LITERATURE

The gospel can be effectively preached through tracts, books and letters. Apostle Paul used this medium to minister to his converts effectively, the Epistles in the New Testament are the result. However, this can only be useful to the literate (Acts 1:2, 2Cor 13:10, Gal 6:11).

CONCLUSION

We have seen various methods of soul-winning; we have duties as believers to support and be involved in any method we are privileged to be presented. How much have you contributed to Crusade in which the mission is very involved recently?

QUESTIONS

- (1) Name some methods of soul-winning?
- (2) What disadvantage has media; and literature outreach?
- (3) Give the advantage of each method

37

PROCEDURES AND SOME RULES IN SOUL-WINNING

BIBLE READING: Matt. 10:7-8

MEMORY VERSE: Prov. 11:30

*"the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life;
and he that winneth souls is wise"*

INTRODUCTION

The scripture makes us to understand the spirit which God had given to us, is that of sound mind (2 Tim 1:7). This is to enable us to carry out assignments given to us to preach orderly. When Jesus Christ commissioned the twelve disciples to preach the gospel in Matthew chapter 10 he gave them, procedures and rules which will make their mission successful. Therefore in this lesson, we are going to look at the procedures and some rules in soul-winning.

LESSON OUTLINE

- (1) Procedures
- (2) Some Rule in Soul-winning

1. PROCEDURES

- (1) Seek and pray for opportunities to speak, and then use them. Do not wait for a more convenient season,
- (2) Present the Gospel in a simple language that the hearer will understand.
- (3) Use the Bible; possibly select a verse (Salvation Passage) and allow your client to read. Then use it to present God's plan of salvation.

- (4) Allow the Holy Spirit to do the conviction (John 16:8).
- (5) Give room for decision for Christ (Rev. 3:20).
- (6) Lead the sinner in a confessional prayer (Rm. 10:9, 10).
- (7) Pray for the convert.
- (8) Arrange for follow-up.

2. SOME RULES IN SOUL-WINNING

- (1) Be courteous and friendly.
- (2) Do not be overbearing, too much talking, not too many words do the conversion, but the Holy Spirit.
- (3) Do not be drawn into argument. The devil uses this as a side-track from conversion.
- (4) Do not rely on your own ability or experience. Keep praying silently for guidance.
- (5) Do not be impatient. It is a tremendous decision - the greatest decision in life and it is only right that people consider well before taking the step.

CONCLUSION

Though there are procedures and rules in soul-winning, it must be emphasized that the Holy Spirit is the power and provider of the technique needed to win souls. Every soulwinner should wholly depend on the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

QUESTIONS

- (1) Enumerate procedures in soulwinning.
- (2) What are some of the rules to follow during soulwinning?
- (3) What other truth have you learnt today?

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Peter 2: 12

*"Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles
that they may by your good works which they shall behold
glorify God in the day of visitation"*

INTRODUCTION

The upright conduct of the believer is a powerful force to convince and convert unbelievers to Jesus Christ. The gospel lived by the power of God has far greater impact on men than the gospel proclaimed only as a man. Of God put it: Talk is cheap, Christ-like living is valuable....and rare".

In this lesson we shall consider how believers can through their Christ-like living attract men to Christ.

LESSON OUTLINE

- (1) Times of Trial
- (2) Reactions to "Enemies"
- (3) Behaviour

1. TIMES OF TRIAL

In the times of trial which may be set by the Father to test us; train us; build our character; qualify us for reward and honour to come, and kill out of us everything that is not Godly (1 Peter 1:6-7, 4:12-13), our reaction can attract unbelievers to Christ. When they see our Christ-like uprightness, steadfast loyalty and utter trust in the heavenly Father, when we should be wailing aloud for ourselves; they will realize that our Lord is real. They will see and acknowledge the power of the "Greater Man" in us, holding us up when we should be down.

It was this conduct the centurion saw in Christ Jesus on the cross of cavalry and proclaimed "Truly this man was the son of God" (Mk 15:39). King Darius saw the gospel lived by Daniel In the den of lions and believed God (Dan. 6:20-27). Nebuchadnezzar saw Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego demonstrate the power of God In the midst of the most "Fiery Trial" conceivable, and he believed in God (Dan. 3:26 - 29).

2. REACTIONS TO "ENEMIES"

Reactions to those who wish us evil and use abusive language on us can make others see Christ in us. Jesus Christ on the cross of cavalry prayed for his enemies. When he was abused, he did not abuse in retaliation, but committed himself unto God as the righteous Judge, This is an example for us to follow (1 Peter 2:21-23)

The Scriptures admonished us that when opportunity arises, we should be good to our enemies. (Ex 23:4, Romans12:20, Matt. 5:44) By so doing you can turn their evil heart to loving the Lord. When you desire peace w.th all men you shall be called the son of God (Matt 5:9).

3. BEHAVIOUR

Our good conduct at home even without preaching the gospel can win our spouses who are unbelievers to Christ (I Peter 3:1-2) Our dealing with, and our behaviour to others even the unbeliever should be governed by the fear of God, so that none can have any cause to speak evil of our faith but glorify God through our good conduct (1 Peter 2:12). This is what the people of Antioch saw in the early disciples and called them Christians ("little Christ") Acts 11:26.

A Christian student should exhibit chaste character in his school. He should not be involved in examination malpractices and

demonstration against authority. His character should make unbelievers to be attracted to him, therefore create room for him to minister the gospel.

Ungodly behaviour exhibited by believers in their compounds, market places and places of work can repel others from Christ. New converts won by believers can go back to the world when they see their spiritual parents misbehaving. Believers should realize that they are ambassadors of Christ (II Cor. 5:20).

CONCLUSION

As we take our Lord's example to heart, maintaining obedience to God and good attitude in trial coupled with exhibition of good conduct in our living, many through us will be attracted to our Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

- (1) What should be our reactions during trials?
- (2) How are we supposed to respond to the actions of our enemies?
- (3) What effect will 1 and 2 have in the gospel of Christ?

39

JESUS CHRIST THE MASTER SOULWINNER 1

BIBLE READING: Matt 9:1-13, 32-38

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 19:10

*"For the son of Man is come to seek
and save that which was lost"*

INTRODUCTION

We were told from the previous lessons that the soul of man became dead as a result of sin (Eze 18:20) which originated in the Garden of Eden. However, God gave a promise that the "seed of the woman" shall bruise the "head" of the serpent (Gen 3:15). This was a promise of reconciliation of man and bringing back the lost soul to God. The whole mission of Jesus Christ on earth was centered on this.

LESSON OUTLINE

- (1) His Mission to Save Souls
- (2) His Zeal.

1. HIS MISSION TO SAVE SOULS

The sin of man alienated him from God and brought death penalty (Isaiah 59:2, Rm. 5:12). In order to reconcile man to God and to give man eternal life Jesus Christ came in the fullness of time to "bare our sin in his body" (I Peter 2:24). Eph. 2:15-17). Jesus Christ spelt out His mission in Lk 19:10 "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost".

Jesus was willing to make all the necessary sacrifices in order to fulfill His mission. He spent His time, strength, stayed in hunger and thirst, in the storm, alone in the mountain, and travelled long distances. Above all He gave His life on the cross. Matt 20:28, I Tim 2:6, John 4:7, 31, 32, Matt 14:23.

2. HIS ZEAL

One of the qualities in the life of Jesus Christ that was so remarkable was His burning zeal. It was written concerning him that the zeal of his Father's house ate him up (John 2:17)

His zeal to win the lost made him to reach all classes of people: the publicans, fishermen, the shepherds, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, Priests, Jews and Gentiles were all touched by His ministry.

He travelled through cities and villages in order to preach the message of the Kingdom (Matt. 9:35). He continued his ministry in the midst of accusations and opposition. He identified "plenteous" harvest for the Kingdom of God, and admonished His disciples to pray so that there will be workers who will join in the harvest of souls for the kingdom (Matt 9:37, 38). Jesus Christ went out in zeal that was fueled daily by the compassion for the lost (Matt 20:34).

CONCLUSION

It must be re-emphasized that why Jesus Christ established His church on earth, was for the church with the same zeal, empowered by the Holy Spirit, seek for lost souls. How well as a member of the church of Christ are you seeking for the lost souls?

QUESTIONS

- (1) What is the purpose why Jesus Christ came to earth?
- (2) Discuss the zeal with which Jesus Christ Pursued His mission.

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 19:10

*"For the son of Man is come to seek
and save that which was lost"*

INTRODUCTION

In our last lesson, we saw the mission of Jesus Christ to save souls and the zeal by which He went about the mission. The methods by which He fulfilled this mission is worthy of study, therefore, we are going to take the encounter with the Samaritan woman, in John chapter four as a case study. From this, we will bring out some qualities that made Jesus Christ a Master Soulwinner.

LESSON EXPLAINED

1. Presentation: From a careful study of the Bible, we will discover that Jesus Christ presented the gospel of the Kingdom with materials so as to gain a quick attention of his hearer and to help them understand the gospel without difficulty: To the Samaritan woman at the water well, Jesus spoke of the living eternal water (John 4:7-10). To the fishermen, Jesus talked of making them fishers of men (Matt 4: 18, 19). To Mary the sister of Lazarus (who died) he spoke of the resurrection and life. Soulwinner should be able to use culture and things around them to bring out the message of the Kingdom.
2. Cultural or Tribal barrier was not an excuse for Jesus Christ to present the gospel (John 4:9)
3. Jesus Christ was willing to spend time to gain one soul.

4. His Patience to both listen and answer the woman (John 4:10,13, 21). This must be found in the life of all who will launch out to win souls.
5. Jesus Christ has a thorough Spiritual insight and understanding of the Scriptures. This enabled him to answer the woman without mincing words (John 4:23, 24).
6. Boldness to declare who He was (John 4:26) Soulwinner' should be bold enough through actions and words to declare who they are before the world.
7. The power of God's Spirit upon Him, this brought the word of knowledge concerning the life of the woman. This made the woman to accept the gospel without hesitation (John 4:16-19)
8. Jesus Christ was willing to go "extra length' to bring a soul to the kingdom (John 4:40-42)

CONCLUSION

For us to be successful Soulwinner apart from qualities we have enumerated in our studies, we should desire to have these qualities which were manifested by the Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

- (1) How did Jesus Christ present the gospel?
- (2) Enumerate some qualities exhibited by Jesus here?
- (3) What Spiritual truth have you learnt today?

41

PHILIP THE EVANGELIST 1

BIBLE READING: Acts 8:4-40

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 8:35

*"Then Philip opened his mouth and
began at the same scripture and preached unto him Jesus"*

INTRODUCTION

We have seen from our lessons so far, that it is the duty of every believer to be involved in fulfilling the Great Commission. Therefore we are to be actively involved in Soulwinning and promote activities that encourage Soulwinning.

In this lesson we are going to look at life and ministry of Philip-an early disciple who was so involved in Soulwinning.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Lesson Explained
2. Personal Qualities

1. LESSON EXPLAINED:

An evangelist is one who is specially empowered to preach the gospel, however, today we think of an evangelist as one who moves from Church to Church holding special meetings or someone who holds big crusades. All members of the early Church did the work of evangelism. Wheresoever they went, they witnessed for Christ (Acts 1:8, 8:4).

However, the author of the book of Acts identified Philip as "Philip the Evangelist" (Acts 21:8). Though the whole members of the early Church were strongly engaged in evangelism, Philip stood out. He must have been an outstanding evangelist to be recognized and noted as "Philip the Evangelist" by the early Church.

In our task of winning souls for the kingdom, Philip's personal qualities, his ministry and relationship with other Apostles are matters to learn from

2. PERSONAL QUALITIES

In Acts 6:3- 5, Philip was introduced as one of the seven Deacons. He is identified as follows:-

- i. "Honest Report" This means he has a good reputation and well spoken of by everyone. His light was shining before men, therefore Showing forth the good work of the Father in heaven (Matt. 5;16)
- ii. Full of the Holy Spirit" He was baptized in the Holy Spirit and fully yielded to Him.
- iii. "Wisdom" This was not the wisdom of men but divine wisdom imparted by the Holy Spirit. The type described in James 3: 17.

Besides the above mentioned spiritual qualities he has an established home with children trained in the fear of the Lord (Act 21 :8, 9) His involvement in the evangelistic ministry was not an excuse to neglect his family responsibilities; the family was not a testimony against the gospel he preached. He was also given to hospitality - one quality of a spiritual leader (Acts 21:8, 1Timothy 3:2).

CONCLUSION

We have seen the personal qualities of the life of Philip. For us to be effective in bringing the world to Christ; these qualities must be seen in us.

QUESTIONS

- (1) Who is an evangelist?
- (2) Name some personal qualities of Philip?
- (3) What have you learnt today that will benefit your Christian life?

42

PHILIP THE EVANGELIST 2

BIBLE READING: Acts 8:4-40

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 8:35

"Then Philip opened his mouth and began at the same scripture and preached unto him Jesus"

INTRODUCTION

In our last lesson, we looked at the personal qualities of Philip which made his ministry of witnessing for Christ effective. It must be re-emphasized here, that for us to be an effective minister of the gospel, there are attributes which must be found in us and the ones in Philip are good examples Philip understood the commission given by Christ to the disciples and he was obedient to it (Mk 16: 15 - 16), Therefore when persecution came to the disciples in Jerusalem, he saw his escape to Samaria as an opportunity to demonstrate this obedience.

Today we still look at the ministry of Philip and examine the relationship of Philip with his "Mother Church".

1. HIS MINISTRY

The following can be noted about the ministry of Philip:-

- i. Signs and wonders followed his Ministry (Acts 8:6-8)
The good news that he proclaimed brought joy to the city of Samaria because it was a message of deliverance for the oppressed, healing for the sick and liberty to the captives.
- ii. Obedience to the Instruction of the Lord (Acts 8:26-28)
In obedience to the instruction of the Lord, he took the gospel to Samaria. Another opportunity of obedience came when the Lord passed an instruction to him through an angel. He was asked to leave the great revival in Samaria

to a desert. Continued successful Soulwinning demands obedience to the Lord. Philip's obedience gave him another opportunity to witness for the Lord.

iii. Listening to the Holy Spirit - Acts 8:29 - 31.

Philip moved to the desert but was not told what to do but there was a chariot travelling. He was ready to depend on the Holy Spirit for guideline. The Spirit now gave the next instruction, "....go near and join....." Sensitivity to the voice of the Holy Spirit is a quality which should be cultivated by every witness for Christ. We cannot obey Christ unless we hear Him through His Spirit.

iv. Using the Scripture Acts 8:32 - 35

In witnessing for Christ, Philip used the Scriptures. He was able to use the Scripture because he himself understood the Scripture. Probably, Philip could have used the portion which the Ethiopian was reading and did not understand. Using the Scripture is key to successful soulwinning.

v. He goes to any field - Act 8:40.

No matter the success he has obtained in one area, he was ready to explore new ground for the Lord.

2. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE APOSTLES

Philip was not cut off from the Mother Church in Jerusalem (Acts 8:14). When the news of his success came to Jerusalem, older Apostles Peter and John were sent to oversee his work. He gave them freedom to minister to the congregation in the area of their need (Acts 8: 15), He realized that the converts were not his, but belong to the Lord.

Successful soulwinning should not make believer proud and disobedient to- His Church authority - Heb. 13:7-17. Submission to the Lord will make the Lord to use you to achieve more for His Kingdom.

CONCLUSION

Philip the evangelist did not rest upon his past evangelistic success; he went on witnessing for Christ. He was a man who obeyed the Lord, listened to the Spirit and used the Scriptures. To be successful in soulwinning, we must emulate Philip.

QUESTIONS

- (1) What are the marks of Philip's ministry?
- (2) What relationship has Philip with the Church authority?
- (3) What can we derive from Philip's ministry?

43

APOSTLE PAUL A SOUL WINNIER TO EMULATE 1

BIBLE READING: Acts 22:3 - 16

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 9.6

*"And he trembling and astonished said;
Lord, what will thou have me to do"*

INTRODUCTION

We shall continue our study on soul winning today by considering the activities of Apostle Paul as a soulwinner, the zeal with which he pursued the goal of the commission Jesus Christ gave him is something to emulate.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. His early Life
2. His Conversion and Commission

1. HIS EARLY LIFE

He was known in early life as Saul, his Latin name, Paul was first mentioned at the beginning of his Gentile ministry (Acts 13:9) He belong to Tarsus in, Cilicia (Act 9:11), was a Pharisee and a pupil of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3) He was active in. the persecution of Christians (Acts 8:3; 26:10, Gal 1:13) and took part in the martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 7:58; 8:1). He started for Damascus for purpose of further persecution (Acts 9:1) and on the road saw a vision of the Lord Jesus, which changed the whole current of his life (Acts 9:4-19), 22.7, 26:14).

2. HIS CONVERSION AND COMMISSION

The account of the conversion of Paul is recorded in Acts 9: 1-20. The account is remarkable in the sense that it was on the way to persecute those that belong to the Lord, that the Lord Jesus Christ met him. He immediately submitted to the Lordship of Christ and

asked what Christ will have him to do. From then on it was a life of obedience to the commission. Confirming the commission before Ananias, the Lord said; “.....for he is a chosen vessel unto me to bear my name before the Gentiles and Kings and the children of Israel” (Acts 9: 15). After the events that led to the infilling of the Holy Ghost and recovering of sight, it is recorded that “straightway” he preached Christ in the Synagogues that he is the son of God” (Act 9:20).

CONCLUSION

In what we have studied so far about Apostle Paul, we can see that God can pick any man as His instrument to reach the unsaved. The response of Paul to the call of Jesus Christ is worthy to emulation. Can you ask the same question “Lord what wilt thou have me to do?”

QUESTIONS

- (1) How did Paul spend his early life?
- (2) Narrate his conversion
- (3) What lesson have you learnt today?

44

APOSTLE PAUL A SOULWINNER TO EMULATE 2

BIBLE READING: Acts 14:1 - 7, I Cor. 4:10-13

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 1:6

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ;
for it is the power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believeth...."*

INTRODUCTION

In our last lesson we saw the early life of Paul and his conversion and commission by our Lord Jesus Christ. In this lesson we are going to look at his zeal to fulfill the commission and his response to his converts.

LESSON OUTLINE

- (1) His Zeal
- (2) Care for Converts

1. HIS ZEAL

The following points portray Apostle Paul's zeal and peculiarity of his Soulwinning ministry

- (I) Preached Christ Immediately After His Conversion (Act 9:20): Having been convinced of his calling without consultation, he preached the gospel with zeal (Acts 9:22).
- (ii) He Was Not Deterred By Persecution: He was so persuaded of his calling to win souls, so that persecution was not a hindrance, (Act 14:1-7, 19:2, I Cor4:10-13, II Cor4:8 - 9).
- (iii) He Has A Goal: When the Lord commissioned Apostle Paul to be a messenger of the gospel, the area and extent of his

ministry was spelt for him (Act 5:15, 16). He was determined to achieve the goal of his commission, that is why the statement in Phil 3:14.

- (iv) He was bold to declare the Gospel (Acts 9:29; 19:8, 28:30-31).
- (v) He preached with demonstration of Power of God. (Acts 13:4-13), I Cor. 2:2-4, 5)

2. CARE FOR CONVERTS

Apostle Paul's relationship with his converts is an attitude which every soulwinner must learn from:

He was determined that his converts were established in the Faith, he therefore spent time to teach them and appoint elders who will properly take care of them in his absence (Acts 14:21, 22).

He planned visits to his converts to see to their welfare (Acts 15:36). His epistles were responds to what he heard about his converts and the need for them to be presented blameless before the Lord. He specially trained his associates - (Timothy, Titus and others) to minister to the convert and properly organized them. His prayer for the converts were also unique (Romans 1:9, Eph 1:16-19, Phil 1:3-4).

CONCLUSION

The soulwinning ministry of Paul is worthy of emulation he does not only preach with zeal, but was able to conserve the harvest by good follow-up.

QUESTIONS

- (1) What can you learn from Paul's evangelistic ministry?
- (2) How did he care for his converts?

45

THE RESULT OF SOUL WINNING

BIBLE READING: Luke 15:4-10

MEMORY VERSE: Daniel 12:3

*"and they that turn many
to righteousness as the stars forever and ever"*

INTRODUCTION

Soul winning has a great result that is so tremendous and rewards attracting. In all of God's creatures, the soul of man is the most closest to God. Man was created to be a partner with God, a representative of God and above all to be an image of God. If there is anything that attracts God in this earth, if there is any entity that is possessed of the Spirit of God on earth is human beings. Therefore, if the soul of man is lost, God's heart is broken and restless. And when a soul is saved God rejoices with His angles (Ezek 33: 11).

LESSON OUTLINE

1. The joy of the Soulwinner
2. The joy of the Soul won
3. The joy in heaven.

1. THE JOY OF THE SOULWINNER

The soulwinner, having done a successful job of winning a soul or souls, first, he has the joy of the spirit and a spiritual satisfaction of a right job well done. Secondly, joy of the soulwinner continues, wherever he sees a soul he had won to the Lord. Above all the soulwinner is in anticipation of great weight of reward in Heaven for souls won to Christ. (Daniel 12:3, Matt 25:23, Romans 2:10, II Timothy 4:7-8).

2 THE JOY OF THE SOUL WON

Just as the soul-winner anticipates great reward, the soul won or the person saved, rejoices for his deliverance from sin and the power of Satan.

The saved person having been born again into the family of God, brought out of darkness into the light of God, rejoices for his new life (Rev 5:9, 10).

3. THE JOY IN HEAVEN

Soulwinning also has so much effect on the Kingdom of God for it arouses jubilation among the angels of God in heaven. Right in heaven the heart of God is gladdened and the angels rejoice over a soul that is saved from darkness to light (Luke 15:7, 10).

CONCLUSION

Soul winning is the number one job of the Church and its result is glorious and rewarding. Whenever and wherever a soul winner is engaged in the business of soulwinning, God always move by His spirit to help convince the sinner in order to save him. This is because the positive result always enriches God's Kingdom and the joy is unspeakable.

QUESTIONS

- (1) What are the benefits of a soulwinner when a soul is won?
- (2) What is God's response to a soul won?

46

THE REWARDS OF SOULWINNER

BIBLE READING: Psalm 26:5, 6, Luke 15:7-10

MEMORY VERSE: Prov. 11:30

*"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life;
and he that winneth souls is wise"*

INTRODUCTION

From the lessons we have had so far, we have seen that Soulwinning is not an easy task: It involves a lot of commitments and sacrifice. However, there are rewards for the faithful soulwinner. This is what we shall discuss in this lesson.

LESSON EXPLAINED

- (1) The Lord considered the soulwinner as wise (Prov. 11:30) and the scripture promises glory and favour for the wise servant (Prov. 3:35, 14:35).
- (2) Everlasting Glory: (Dan 12:3) There is a promise to those who "turn many to righteousness", the glory of the Lord in them shall be forever. Apostle Paul speaking through the power of the Holy Spirit said "glory, honour and peace to every man that worketh well". (Roman 2:10). There is no job better than soulwinning in the sight of the Lord.
- (3) Radiant Crown: At the appearing of the Lord, as the soulwinner meets the Lord with his converts, he shall be rewarded with an incorruptible radiant crown, After Apostle Paul has completed the mission given to him by the Lord Jesus Christ, he boldly declared that a Crown of Righteousness" is laid for him (II Timothy 4:8, I Cor 9:18-25).

CONCLUSION

The awareness that soulwinning is with a reward which is not from man but from God should motivate us to be ready to make any sacrifice in order to "turn many to righteousness".

QUESTION

1. What are the rewards of soulwinning?
2. What inspiration have you received today?

47

MAINTAINING THE HARVEST 1

BIBLE READING: Acts 14:21-23 Acts 20:28

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 15:36

*"And some days after, Paul said unto Barnabas
let us go again and visit out brethren and see how they do"*

INTRODUCTION

The need to conserve the harvest of any endeavor cannot be over emphasized. It is therefore important for the soulwinner to know how to care for the won soul, so that he does not go back to the world, and nurture him to the stage of being useful to God and the Church.

In this lesson, we are going to look at the act of following up of new converts.

LESSON OUTLINE

- (1) What is Follow-up.
- (2) The importance of Following-up

1. WHAT IS FOLLOW UP

Follow-up is an act of caring and nurturing a new convert .till he stand on his own. It is naturally clear that if a mother gives birth to a baby. for the baby to grow-up to maturity there is the need for provision of the right diet and environment daily caring for the baby is necessary because if the baby is abandoned it will die of starvation. In the same way the new convert as a "new born babe" requires the parental guidance and special feeding on "the milk of the word" (I Peter 2:2). Without spiritual parental care, the new covert will not grow in the grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 3: 18)

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOW-UP

If the new convert is to grow in the Lord, there is the need for proper follow-up. When a soul is converted to the Lord, know that the work has just started. After conversion, the most important work of making the soul to stand in the Lord and grow in Him begins. "Take heed.....feed the flock of God" Paul emphasized in Acts 20: 28. Jesus said in Matt 28:19: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations....." that is to preach to sinners and bring them to repentance. Then in verse 20, Jesus commanded "teach them to observe all things whatsoever".

In Acts 15:36, Paul said to Barnabas "Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord and see how they do". The purpose of this was to follow them up and get them well established in the faith. The church in Jerusalem also sent Barnabas to follow-up the new believers in Antioch (Acts 11:20-23).

Follow-up enables the soulwinner to know the state of his converts and see how they are doing. Whether they know how to pray, relying on the Lord; whether they are living victorious Christian lives, counting on the Lord (Prov. 27:23)

CONCLUSION

We have been able to know through this lesson, what is follow-up and its importance. In the next lesson we are going to consider what to do in follow-up and the result of its negligence.

QUESTIONS

1. What is follow-up?
2. Which of the apostles took follow-up seriously?
3. What is the importance of follow-up?

48

MAINTAINING THE HARVEST 2

BIBLE READING: Acts 15:36-41, Acts 16:1-5

MEMORY VERSE: Prov. 27:23

*"Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks,
and look well to thy herds"*

INTRODUCTION

From our last lesson, we saw how important follow-up is. The early A postles were very good at the act because they knew that without it they cannot build a prepared church for Christ.

Today we are going to consider what to do in follow-up and the result of its negligence.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. What to do in Follow-up
2. Result of Negligence of Follow-up.

1. WHAT TO DO IN FOLLOW-UP

There are lots of things to be done in follow-up, but we are going to mention some of them here. The soulwinner is expected to pass across to his converts the things he has heard and learnt from the lord (II Tim 2:2). The things he has heard in the Bible studies, in his quiet times, and make sure he gives them the right diet so that they can also win others and be able to teach them. The soulwinner is expected to teach new convert how to do the following:

- (a) How to pray and spend time with God (Luke 18:1, Matt 26:41)
- (b) How to witness to others (John 1:40-43, 45, and 46, John 4:28, 29)
- (c) How to support the gospel with his money/goods (Acts 2:44, 45)

- (d) How to live a victorious Christian life (Matt 10:37-39, Luke 9:23-26)
- (e) How to develop the habit of studying God's word by attending Bible studies, fellowships and reading the Bible daily (I Peter 2:2, Act 2:2, Acts 2:42-46).

The soulwinner is expected to be wise in his dealing with the new convert knowing his level of maturity. He is to know his needs and able to pray for him (Eph 1:16-17, 3; 14-19).

(2) THE RESULT OF NEGLIGENCE OF FOLLOW-UP

This has caused backsliding to many souls in the Body of Christ. Many converts have gone back to the world because they had no contacts with their spiritual parents. Many converts who needed comfort encouragement and counseling and did not find any, have been swept away by the wind of temptation and false doctrines: This is because the Soulwinners who brought them to the Lord were busy in other areas and did not follow-up the converts. The soulwinner who neglects his converts is like a nursing mother who abandoned her baby. Jesus charge to Peter should be taken into our hearts "Feed my lamb" (John 21:15).

CONCLUSION

We have seen the importance of follow-up. There is a great need to have well organized follow-up activities, so that our new converts will be well established in the Lord.

QUESTIONS

- (1) Give reason why follow-up is important
- (2) What is the effect of its negligence?



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