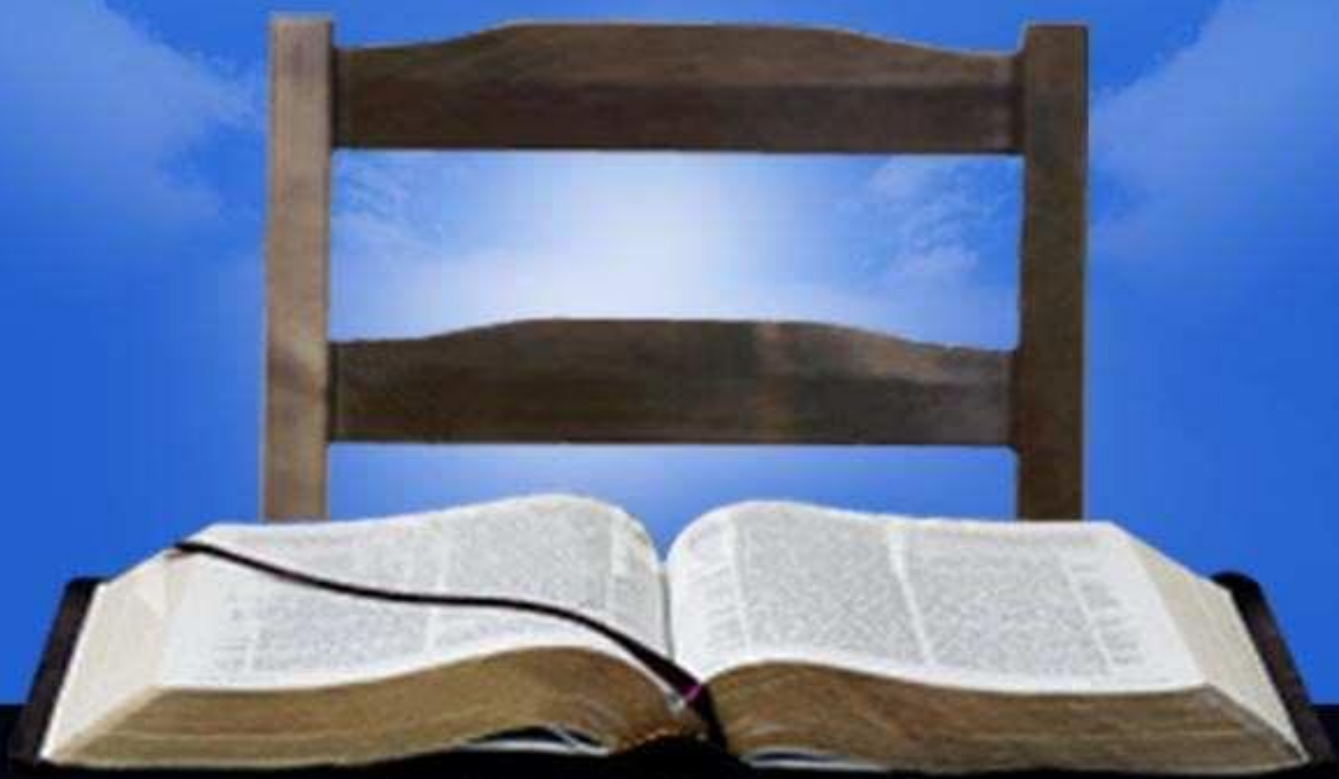




THE BIBLE BOOK BY BOOK



Self Study Guide

THE BIBLE BOOK BY BOOK

NEW TESTAMENT SELF STUDY GUIDE

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TEACHER

Dear Self Study Student,

You are about to embark on a wonderful study of the Bible. This guide contains complete notes for you to use in learning an in-depth overview of the books of the New Testament.

It is more than likely that you have never heard most of what you are going to learn in this course. Be patient and take your time as you go book-by-book through this exciting study and you will be greatly blessed by it.

Please make sure and read the **REQUIRED READING** before you go on to the next session. Also, you are strongly encouraged to do the **BONUS READING**. It will not only give you extra points toward your certificate, but will greatly help you to better understand and relate to the material.

At the end of the program you will receive a certificate recognizing your accomplishment if you have a passing grade. You will be graded as follows for each lesson:

- 50 points for reading each lesson

- 50 points for required Bible reading

- 50 bonus points for reading the entire book of the Bible being reviewed

There are 3,950 possible points, including the bonus points. 2,750 points are needed to pass the course and earn a certificate. You will be “self-grading” using the included grading sheet and then passing that on to the person in charge of overseeing “The Bible Book by Book” program at your church or organization. Just write in the points that you’ve earned for each lesson.

Most of all, pray each and every day for your progress in this course and for greater understanding. The reward in both knowledge and your spiritual life will be well beyond your expectations.

In Christ,

Bob Stone

Lesson No. 1

LESSON THEME: — OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

2 Peter 1:19-21; Luke 16:16-17.

The scriptures are not printed, as one of the purposes of this course is to encourage you to read your own Bible. Please read all of the Scripture references given in each lesson.

- **KEY WORD** – “**HISTORY**”
- **KEY PHRASE**—“**PREPARATION FOR CHRIST.**”
- **KEY VERSE**—Galatians 3:24.

NAME—The Old Testament is God’s record of the creation of man; of His covenant to save him, and of the religious preparations He gave the world for the coming of Christ.

BOOKS—There are 39 books in the Old Testament written by about 30 inspired writers, from the book of Job, probably written by Moses 1520 B.C., to the book Malachi, written about 420 B.C., a period of 1,100 years. The 39 books comprise five of law, Genesis to Deuteronomy; twelve of history, Joshua to Esther; five of poetry, Job to Song of Solomon; seventeen prophecies and sermons on the religious conditions of the times, Isaiah to Malachi.

UNITY OF BOOKS—Dr. G. Campbell Morgan said, “It was out of a deep sense of perplexity that I turned from books about the Bible to the Bible itself. The result was a discovery of unity which to me is the final proof of its divinity. Beginning with the Old Testament and moving systematically forward I saw that each book demanded another, and that when Malachi was reached the whole collection demanded more. In other words, I found that step by step I had proceeded through history and through teaching, all of which pointed to a Coming One. Then turning to the New Testament, I found the answer to all expectations created in reading the Old!”

GREAT PERIODS OF OLD TESTAMENT:—

1. Creation.
2. Re-peopling.
3. Patriarchs.

4. Bondage and Exodus.
5. Conquest.
6. United Kingdom.
7. Divided Kingdom.
8. Captivity.
9. Restoration.

Great Fact I -- Creation to Flood, *4004-2349 B.C.—1,655 Years.

Genesis 1-8.

1. Creation. God created the heavens and earth, and created a man in innocence. He placed him in perfect surroundings, subjected him to a simple test, having first warned him against disobedience.
2. Fall. Satan, acting through a serpent, caused man to doubt and disobey God. This led to his fall from innocence and from communion with God, and to his expulsion from Eden.
3. Covenant. God made a covenant with man to provide a Savior from sin, and instituted sacrifices to teach that without the shedding of blood there could be no remission of sin.
4. After approximately 1,655 years, because of man's exceeding wickedness, God sent a flood upon all the earth, and destroyed all men except Noah and his family.

Great Fact II -- Re-peopling the Earth, 2349-1996 B.C., 353 Years.

Genesis 9-11.

Noah was the head of a new race, which at first failed to spread over the earth. God therefore confused the tongues of the people, and as each tribe spoke only its own language, it gave rise to the beginning of nations.

Great Fact III -- Times of the Patriarchs, 1996-1635 B.C. 361 Years.

Genesis 12-50.

The race having given itself over to idolatry, God called out Abraham to witness for Him and live a life of faith. By covenant and promise God bound Abraham and his seed to Himself. Abraham's faith is seen in that he was willing to offer up his only son. Isaac is noted for being willing to fulfill his father's will. Jacob had his

name changed to Israel for his faith and power in prayer. Joseph when down in Egypt, became the savior of all Abraham's children.

Great Fact IV -- Egyptian Bondage and the Exodus 1635-1490 B.C., 145 Years.

Books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

After the death of Joseph in Egypt, a new king arose who oppressed the Israelites. God raised up Moses as a deliverer, and he, after bringing ten plagues upon Pharaoh for not letting Israel go, then set up the Passover feast, led the Israelites through the Red Sea and brought them to Mt. Sinai. Here God gave them the Moral Law in the Ten Commandments, and the Ceremonial Law in the Sacrifices and Feasts, and Civil Laws which were to be the basis of their social life. A tabernacle was set up and became the center of worship for 400 years. A priesthood was established with Aaron as first High Priest. After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness Moses gave a Review of the Law as recorded in Deuteronomy, called Joshua to be his successor, and then fell asleep in the Everlasting Arms.

Great Fact V -- Conquest of Canaan and the Judges of Israel, 1490-1100 B.C., 390 Years.

Books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth.

Joshua led Israel dry-shod through the River Jordan, and after several battles, in divine might, overcame the tribes of the land, and divided it among the twelve tribes of Israel. Upon the death of Joshua, God raised up at different times 16 Judges to be their rulers and military leaders. This period has been called the Dark Ages of Israel because of their misfortunes through backsliding. At this time, Ruth, a woman of Moab, became an ancestor of the Messiah.

Great Fact VI -- The United Kingdom, 1100-977 B.C. 123 Years.

Book of 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles.

Upon the insistent appeal of the people, Samuel set up a monarchy and appointed Saul to be king. Saul, David and Solomon were the kings of this period and each reigned about 40 years.

This is the golden age of Israel's history, when the kingdom grew to its largest extent, when commercial relations were established with all parts of the world, when literature, science and art, including music, made a great advance. The schools of the prophets were set up by Samuel, and a glorious temple built by Solomon. The Psalms of David were a great blessing to this age.

Great Fact VII -- The Divided Kingdom, 977-587 B.C. 390 Years.

Books of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles.

Rehoboam threatened to make the burdens of the people heavier, so the ten northern tribes revolted and formed the kingdom of Israel, while the two southern tribes were known as the kingdom of Judah. Israel had 19 kings from Jeroboam to Hosea, 977-724 B.C., and then because of their idolatry they were carried into captivity by Shalmanesser, king of Assyria, and never did return. The prophets of Israel were Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Amos and Hosea.

Judah was more loyal to God, and so kept its national life 136 years longer, yet it too frequently turned away from Yahweh, and it was taken away to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, 587 B.C. The prophets of Judah were Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zechariah.

Great Fact VIII -- The Babylon Captivity, 587-536 B.C., 51 Years.

The seventy years captivity is counted from the time that the king of Babylon first captured Jerusalem, 606 B.C., and some, including Daniel, were carried away. It was 19 years later, however, that Jerusalem was destroyed, and their national life ceased. The temple, which had been their glory, was burned, and the people marched off to serve foreign masters. The prophets of the captivity were Daniel and Ezekiel.

Great Fact IX -- The Restoration, 536-391 B.C., 145 Years.

Books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

The Jews were in exile and Jerusalem was in ruins, but after the 70 years of discipline were over, God influenced Cyrus, king of Persia, to allow the Jews to return, (The Persians had conquered and possessed Babylon.)

Zerubbabel led 50,000 back and rebuilt the temple. Ezra returned with 6,000, prevailed upon the Jews to put away their idolatrous wives, restored the Law, and

edited and published the Old Testament. Thirteen years later when Nehemiah returned he built up the walls of Jerusalem which assured some security for national life again. The prophets of the period were Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

The Bible story and message is like a picture wrought out in mosaics; each great fact has an important place, and we cannot understand the chapters and verses unless we have a general knowledge of the Bible as a whole, therefore think about this lesson as often as possible, and keep its nine great divisions clearly in mind.

In the Old Testament God is teaching the people their letters, in the New Testament He is teaching them to put these letters together and arrange them as we will, they spell Christ and nothing but Christ!

**Dates are approximate.*

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Cruel World-Powers—Daniel 7:15-22.
- []—Persia (the ram) and Greece, (rough goat), Shall Wax Strong—Daniel 8:1-8.
- []—The vision interpreted—Daniel 8:15-22.
- []—Antiochus Epiphanes, the King of Syria—Daniel 8:23-27.
- []—Daniel Prays for His People—Daniel 9:3-9.
- []—Four Persian Kings Shall Arise and then Alexander the Great—Daniel 11:1-5.
- []—Antiochus Epiphanes Turns Against the Jews—Daniel 11:21-32.

Lesson No. 2

LESSON THEME:—HISTORY BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

(Inter-Testamental Period)

Daniel 9:15-19.

- **KEY WORD**—“CONFLICT.”
- **KEY VERSE**—Daniel 9:16, *Last Clause*.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“A PEOPLE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF BROKEN COVENANT.”

GREAT PERIODS OF HISTORY:—

1. Persian, 200 Years.
2. Greek, 10 Years.
3. Egyptian, 119 Years.
4. Syrian, 41 Years.
5. Jewish, 100 Years.
6. Roman, 133 Years.

Great Period I -- Palestine a Persian Province, 536-333 B.C.

The events of the book of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther occurred in the first 100 years, and Judah remained a Persian province for about 100 years after the close of the Old Testament history. While other Persian provinces were often in rebellion, the Jews kept loyal to the Persian King, and rapidly increased in wealth and number.

An event of great interest was the building of the Samaritan Temple on Mt. Gerizim, and the setting up of rival Yahweh worship. It came about in this way: Manasseh, the brother of the Jewish High Priest married a daughter of Sanballat, the Persian governor of Samaria. This meant that he to give up his priesthood in Judah. He therefore set up in Samaria, but a few miles from Jerusalem, a rival temple, with Yahweh worship, and the Pentateuch as their Bible. This led to a strife between the Jews and the Samaritans, which existed In the time of our Lord, John 4:20.

A second great event was the union of civil and religious powers, which gave the office of High Priest, and that of governor of Judah, to the same man. The office thus became an object of great ambition, and some disgraceful contests for it took place. Joshua, brother of the High Priest, endeavored to secure the honor for himself, but was slain by Jonadab in the temple itself. For this scandalous act the Persians put a tax of 50 shekels on every lamb sacrificed in the temple. This was a great burden on the temple worship, and discouraged sacrifices as much as if the state were to put a tax of \$3 on every dollar given to missions.

LESSON—The union of church and state is a great evil in any land. Here it led to the state claiming the right to appoint the High Priest, which would be equal to the governor of our state claiming the right to appoint whom he would as pastors of the churches. The office would become one of barter and sale. It also led to the state taxing the contributions of worship, and to the saturating of religion with politics.

Great Period II -- Palestine Under the Greek Empire, 333-323 B.C.

Alexander the Great in a series of battles conquered the entire Persian Empire, and became the master of the world. While besieging Tyre, Alexander sent word to the high priest at Jerusalem demanding that he should transfer his allegiance to him, and send supplies for his army. Jaddua, the high priest, declared he must remain faithful to the Persians. Alexander then marched upon Jerusalem to the great alarm of the Jews. Sacrifices were offered, prayers made unto God, and divine aid sought to appease the wrath of the invader. The high priest, clad in the full regalia of priestly robes, then formed a procession of the priests and people. He marched at the head of it without a sword or spear, with nothing but the sacred scriptures. When the Greek conqueror saw the venerable form of the high priest, he fell prostrate and adored the Holy Name written in golden letters on his hat. Alexander took the high priest by the hand, entered the city and granted them many religious liberties, including the exemption of tribute every seventh or Sabbatic year, when the Jews planted no crops. Daniel 1:6 tells of the transition of empires from the Persian to the Grecian.

Great Period III -- Palestine Under the Kings of Egypt, 323-204 B.C.

On the death of Alexander, in fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel, Daniel 8:21-22, the empire was divided among four of his generals, and to Ptolemy I fell Egypt and Palestine. He treated the Jews with great harshness at first, sending some of them to Egypt. His son, Ptolemy II, is famous for founding the great library at

Alexandria, Egypt, which has a magnificent collection of the writings of all nations.

Under his patronage the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek and the famous version is called the Septuagint—a word meaning “seventy” because 70 elders were sent from Jerusalem to Alexandria to do the translating. Greek had become the language of the world, and this was fortunate for the Bible writers, and indeed for us, for no other language has ever equaled it in expressing delicate shades of thought. The world now had the Holy Scripture in a language that almost every nation under the heaven could read. The translation was one of the memorable events of all time.

Ptolemy IV outraged the religious feelings of the Jews by entering the Holy of Holies of the temple. He was seized, however, with a supernatural terror and carried out half dead. In revenge for this he oppressed the Jews in a scandalous manner. When his son came to the throne, he was but a child of five years, so the king of Syria took the opportunity of snatching Palestine away from Egypt.

Great Period IV -- Palestine Under Syria, 204-163 B.C.

Antiochus III of Syria, having been badly defeated by the Romans, resolved to plunder the temple at Jerusalem to get funds to help him pay the indemnity. His treasurer, however, was struck speechless to the ground as he was entering the sanctuary, and went back home in dismay.

Antiochus Epiphanes now comes to the throne of Syria. As his name means, he was illustrious, but only for cruelty and wickedness. Read Daniel 8:9-14. He went to war with Egypt and was successful, but the Jews heard he had been killed, at which they showed signs of great joy. Hearing of this he went to Jerusalem to punish them. He captured the sacred city, slew 40,000 Jews and sold a like number as slaves. To show his contempt for the Jewish religion, he sacrificed a hog (very much hated by the Jews as an unclean animal) on the altar of burnt offering and sprinkled broth made from its flesh all over the building. He later made a frightful massacre until the courts of the temple ran with blood, and also carried away many into slavery. He then made a decree forbidding the Jews to offer up sacrifices up to God, to obey God’s laws, or to keep the Sabbath day. A statue of the heathen god Jupiter was erected in the temple, and Jewish sacrifices and public worship of God had to cease for three and one-half years. At length God raised up a deliverer in the noble Maccabee family.

Great Period V -- Jewish Independence Under Maccabees, 163-63 B.C.

A priest named Mattathias and his five sons gathered around them a number of faithful men to deliver God's people. The Syrians waged three campaigns against the patriots, but each time were unsuccessful. At length civil war broke out in Syria itself, and peace was concluded with the Jews, with Judas Maccabas as governor of Palestine. The motto of his banner was Exodus 15:11. The Jews then cleansed and rededicated the temple and public services were resumed. Judas being again attacked by the Syrians, applied to the Romans for help, but fell in battle before it came. His brother Jonathan succeeded him but being murdered, was followed by another brother, Simon. With the help of Rome he established the kingdom, and handed down the throne to his son, John Hyrcanus. At this time the Pharisees and Sadducees became strongly opposed to each other and caused a good deal of strife. A grandson of John sought to defend Jerusalem against the Romans under Pompey. 63 B.C., but after three months siege, the city was taken, the walls broken down, and a yearly tribute to Rome imposed.

Great Period VI -- Palestine Under the Romans, 63 B.C. to 70 A.D.

The Romans were now the masters of Judea. They sent a general named Herod to be king, and to please the Jews he pretended to accept their religion. In reality he was a fierce and wicked man. Seeing that he was still hated, he decided to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem, in hope that this would make the Jews more willing to have him rule over them. The temple, which then stood on Mt. Moriah, was the one built by the Jews after they had returned with Zerubbabel from Babylon. It was nearly 500 years old, and was much broken and decayed. Herod took it down a part at a time, and built it up again, with great stones of white marble, covered in places with silver and gold. Ten years were spent and ten thousand men were employed at the task before it was ready to be dedicated. A much longer time was spent in finishing the exterior, justifying the remarks of the Jews in John 2:20. When finished it was a magnificent temple, far superior to what it had ever been. It was destroyed, however, by Titus in 70 A.D., as our Lord prophesied in Matthew 24:1-2.

The same Herod slaughtered the infants at Bethlehem, as told in Matthew 2:6-18, in an effort to destroy Jesus, who was born king of the Jews. He died, however, an unhappy death as told in Acts 12:23, while Christ's kingdom has spread "where'er the sun doth its successive journeys run!"

The last 70 years of the Roman period belong to New Testament history and will be considered later.

LESSON—

1. The subjection of the Jews is a fulfillment of prophecy. Jerusalem has been under the rule of the Gentiles since 588 B.C., when Nebuchadnezzar first destroyed the city. For over 2,500 years the Jews have been under the sovereignty of the others, but have always been longing for the coming of the Lord in glory when Jerusalem shall again be the glory of the whole earth.
2. The Jews teach us to have unshaken faith and hope in the sure covenants of Yahweh.

The subjection and dispersion of the Jews was brought about by their sins and rejection of Christ. They would not have Him for their Savior. The most dangerous and most ungrateful thing is the rejection of Christ. When Ulysses returned with fond expectation to his home in Ithaca, his family did not recognize him. Even the wife of his bosom denied her husband, so changed was he by an absence of twenty years at the wars. Like Christ, he came unto his own, but his own received him not. The Savior comes to us as He came to the Jews. What shall our answer be?

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Jesus Christ the Child,—Luke 2:41-52.
- []—Jesus Christ the Master,—Matthew 4:18-25.
- []—Jesus Christ the King,—John 12:12-19.
- []—Jesus Christ the Prophet,—Matthew 21:1-11.
- []—Jesus Christ the Priest,—John 17:7-21.
- []—Jesus Christ the Sin-bearer,—Matthew 27:27-34.
- []—Jesus Christ the Lord over death,—Mark 16:1-8.

Lesson No. 3

LESSON THEME:— THE FOUR GOSPELS

Luke 2:41-52.

- **KEY WORD**—“**CHRIST.**”
- **KEY VERSE**—John 20:31
- **KEY PHRASE**—“**A FOURFOLD PICTURE OF CHRIST.**”

NAME, NEW TESTAMENT. Means the “New Covenant” of grace which God made with man in Jesus Christ, in contrast with the Old Covenant of law given through Moses.

LOGICAL ORDER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:—

1. In the Four Gospels the Divine Christ enters the world, and dies for the world after founding His church.
2. In Acts, Christ is preached in the Power of the Holy Spirit, and the doors of the churches are thrown open to all believers.
3. In the Epistles, life in Christ is revealed in all its fullness, and the doctrines, ordinances and practices of the churches are set forth.
4. In Revelation, profound interest is shown by Christ in the spiritual state of the churches, and their glorious future as His bride as foretold.

Each division of the New Testament has also a relation to the experiences of each individual Christian.

1. In the Gospels, Christ comes to the Believer to redeem him.
2. In Acts, Christ fills the Believer with spiritual power for service.
3. In the Epistles, the believer has blessed and exalted communion with Christ.
4. In Revelation the believer comes with the returning Lord that he may reign with Him, and share His eternal glory.

NAME—GOSPEL. Means God’s message of salvation through Jesus Christ, and when we speak of The Gospel according to Matthew we mean Matthew’s story of salvation.

WRITERS—The gospels were written by the men whose names they bear, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

ORDER OF THE GOSPELS—While some scholars think that Mark's gospel was written first, yet many others agree that they were written in the order that they stand, with Matthew as the Genesis of the New Testament, containing within itself the beginning of all New Testament truths.

SYNOPTIC GOSPELS—The first three are called synoptic gospels, because they give the same general view of the life and teachings of Jesus, in contrast with the fourth gospel which deals especially with the divinity of Christ, and the deep spiritual meaning of gospel facts.

PURPOSE—To give a picture of who Christ was, how He wrought, and what He taught, how He died to save us from our sin, and how He rose again for our justification.

THE WORLD PREPARED FOR CHRISTIANITY—The gospel could never have spread with the speed it did, but for three important world-wide events.

1. The conquest of the world by Alexander the Great, and the spread of the Greek language, which made it possible for the gospel to be preached in a language which was understood in every land.
 2. The rise of the Roman Empire, with its good laws, and well-organized government, which offered protection to those preaching the gospel.
 3. The scattering abroad of the Christians, through persecution in Palestine, which spread their influence over the known world, and made their meetings rallying places for those who longed for something better than paganism.
- We thus see how providence prepared the way for grace to triumph.

GREAT FACTS:—

Christ as:—

1. King.
2. Servant.
3. Man.
4. God.

Great Fact I -- Christ as King of the Jews.

In Matthew: Key Verse:—

Matthew 2:2.

The Old Testament assured the Jews again and again that a Messiah would come who would be the King of the Jews. They therefore looked forward with passionate longing and patriotism to the coming of that King in pomp and power. Matthew proves that Christ was truly that King.

1. While Luke traces Christ's descent back to Adam to link Him up with man, Matthew traces it back only to David and Abraham to show His royal descent.
2. Only Matthew records the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ-child, because these royal visitors with their royal gifts help to prove the royalty of Christ.
3. The Sermon on the Mount is given fully only in Matthew, because it gives the divine constitution for the righteous government of the earth in the kingdom age, when its teachings will be literally carried out. On the other hand, the spiritual application of its teachings is for all ages and all men.
4. A king speaks with authority, therefore, this gospel records how Jesus with kingly authority uttered woes against those who rejected His claim. Matthew 23:13-25.
5. The Kingdom of Heaven is a key phrase in Matthew, and occurs 32 times here, and nowhere else in the New Testament. It means the rule of the heavens over the earth, through the presence of the King.
6. Christ was crucified for many reasons. In John the reason given is because He claimed to be the Son of God, in Matthew the reason given is because He claimed to be King of the Jews, Matthew 27:37.

LESSON—With fervent loyalty we should yield our hearts, minds and wills to Heaven's glorious King. A young man wore a ring with three words engraved on it that he made the slogan of his life, "Make Jesus King!" What a noble ambition! Be it ours to be true-hearted, whole-hearted, faithful and loyal to the King, and to seek to extend His reign throughout the earth.

Great Fact II -- Christ as the Servant of Yahweh.

In Mark: Key Verse:—

Mark 10:45.

After Matthew's picture of Christ's kingly majesty, Mark pictures His lowliness and would have us see His simple garb, worn sandals, and unshorn hair, Mark 10:44.

1. No line of descent is given in Mark as no one wants to know the family tree of a servant, but they do in the case of one claiming to be a king.
2. He is never called Lord in Mark before the resurrection.
3. The four parables of Mark are all parables of service.
4. The word “Straightaway” occurs forty-one times in the book, showing this gospel to be a vivid picture of the earthly acts of Jesus.

LESSON—Christ is our example in humility and service, Mark 10:45. Although He was God in the flesh, He was willing to live in humble circumstances to labor hard and to obey his inferiors. His wonderful life was made up of simple acts of love. We can best show our love of God by serving our fellow men. On the walls of a Sunday school was a picture of an ox standing between an altar and a plough, with the words underneath, “Ready for either!” The ox stood ready to be laid on the altar, or to be yoked to the plough, although the altar meant suffering and the plough meant service. So we should, like the Master, be ready for either. Our lives will be poor withered things, unless we serve our own generation faithfully for Christ’s sake!

Great Fact III -- Christ as the Son of Man.

In Luke: Key Verse:—

Luke 19:10.

1. In Luke, Christ’s line of descent is traced back to Adam, the father of the human race, to connect Him up with the whole race, and not merely with the Jews.
2. While Matthew referred 65 times to the law and the prophets, to show that Christ fulfilled the law, Luke omits all such references, and unfolds a full and free gospel, not for a certain race or class but for all men. Christ is the Savior of all mankind.
3. In Luke, Christ’s tender human sympathy is seen all through it. He is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. He is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. He wept over Jerusalem, healed the wound caused by Peter in the Garden, Luke 22:51, and shows compassion to the thief on the cross, Luke 23:43.

LESSON—Christ has tender sympathy for us in all our experiences, because as Man, He was tried by toil and temptation, hunger and pain, sorrow and death. Sometimes it seems hard to make even your doctor understand what the pain is

like. Words do not seem to convey it, and after you have explained the best you can, you still feel that the suffering is not fully understood. But Jesus went through all our feelings, and fears and troubles, therefore He is able to comfort all that are tempted, Hebrews 22:18.

Great Fact IV -- Christ as the Son of God.

In John: Key Verse:—

John 1:1.

Matthew wrote for Jews, Mark for Romans, Luke for Greeks, but John for all Christians.

1. In this gospel Christ's line of descent is traced to God. He is declared to have been in the beginning with God, and to be God the Son.
2. Over thirty times in John there are statements by Christ in which He claims to be divine, 4:25-26.
3. John taught that Christ was divine,
 1. Because He was a perfect teacher,
 2. He set a perfect example,
 3. He was a perfectly sinless man,
 4. All prophecies were fulfilled by Him,
 5. He wrought the works of God in His miracles,
 6. He arose from the dead.

All the gospels, give an account of Christ atoning death, resurrection, and of His commission to the churches to evangelize the world.

LESSON—We shall not be saved by obeying the Sermon on the Mount of the King of Jews as set forth in Matthew, nor by imitating the humility and service of Christ as set forth in Mark, nor by trusting to the sympathy of Christ as set forth in Luke, but we may be saved by believing in Christ the Son of God, as set forth in John. Only the sacrifice of the divine Lamb can take away the sin of the world. A king made a law, the punishment for breaking which was to be the loss of both eyes. His son, the heir to the throne, was the first to break it. Here was the supreme test. How could the king be just and spare his son? First he asked the officer to burn out his own right eye with a hot iron, and then that of his son. So the law was honored and atonement made. Only through God the Son bearing our own sins in His body on the cross, can God's holy law be honored, and the sinner saved.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Messiah-king enters upon His work,—Matthew 4:13-25.
- []—Teaching about the kingdom,—Matthew 5:1-12.
- []—Divine origin of the church,—Matthew 16:13-20.
- []—Discipline in the church,—Matthew 18:16-20.
- []—Multitudes recognize the King,—Matthew 21:1-11.
- []—The King goes away and will return,—Matthew 26:14-30.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

[] The entire Gospel of Matthew

Lesson No. 4

LESSON THEME:—MATTHEW

Matthew 2:1-6.

- **KEY WORD**—“FULFILLED.”
- **KEY VERSE**—Matthew 2:2.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“CHRIST FULFILLS THE MESSIANIC PROPHECIES.”

WRITER—Matthew followed the much despised and hated profession of tax-collector, in Capernaum. When he heard the wonderful words and saw the wonderful works of Christ he rose up and followed Him. To celebrate the beginning of his discipleship he gave a feast to his friends that they, too, might sit at the feet of the Master and learn of Him. Christ changed his name from Levi, which meant “he who cleaves to the old ways,” to Matthew, meaning “the gift of Yahweh.” He was one of the twelve apostles, probably devoted his ministry to the Jews in Palestine, and wrote the gospel that bears his name about 60 A.D.

PURPOSE—To show that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah promised in the Old Testament, and the King of the Jews.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Proof.
2. Entrance.
3. Teachings.
4. Suffering.
5. Triumph.

Great Fact I -- Proof that Jesus was the Messiah.

Matthew 1-2.

1. The Jews looked for the Messiah to be of the seed of Abraham, and also to be of the royal line of David, therefore Matthew is very particular to bring out these two facts in giving Christ’s line of descent, showing that Jesus was the Messiah by His human ancestry, Matthew 1:1-17.

2. Matthew next proves Jesus was the Messiah by His divine origin for He was begotten not by a human father but by the Holy Spirit, Matthew 1:20.
3. Matthew also proves that Jesus is the Messiah, because His early history fulfils to the letter the things spoken of Him by the prophets. He was born at Bethlehem, of the house of David, came out of Egypt, lived at Nazareth, etc.

Great Fact II -- Entrance of the Messiah Upon His Work.

Matthew 3-4.

While Jesus is still living at Nazareth, John the Baptist, after a solitary life in the desert, suddenly appears to the Jews, and breaks the prophetic silence of 400 years. His startling message bid the people to lay aside indifference, hypocrisy and false doctrines and receive Christ as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Tidings of the revival travelled northward to the province of Galilee, and among the numbers who came to hear the heart-stirring preaching were five young men, who afterward became Christ's disciples, John, Andrew, Simon, Phillip and Nathanael. Before long another made the long journey from Nazareth to Bethany beyond Jordan to be baptized of John. When He offered Himself, John was amazed that the Messiah should seek baptism at his hands, but Jesus said, "*it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.*" Christ was circumcised in order that He might fulfill the Law, and baptized in order to be an example to those under Grace, 1 Peter 2:21.

Before Christ could enter upon His public ministry, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness for the Temptation experience, which was to strengthen His trust in God, and bring out the principle that He would take orders only and always from God. The first two temptations were a challenge to prove Himself the Son of God. The last was the presumptuous offer of the usurping prince of this world to give to Christ the Kingdoms of this world, if He would fall down and worship Satan. Each test is met with scripture quoted from Deuteronomy, the book of obedience. Matthew 8:3; 6:13-14. Satan, who so easily triumphed over Adam, retires from our Lord in utter defeat. If we compare Christ's experience with Eve's temptation in Genesis 3:1-5, we shall see that the same old tempter is ever trying to cast doubt upon God's goodness to men, and seeking to twist scriptures in order to deceive.

Christ now begins His public ministry in the northern province of Galilee, and calls Andrew, Peter, James and John to be His disciples. Those who are called by Christ must separate themselves to Him, learn of Him as Teacher, and follow Him as Master.

Great Fact III -- Teachings and Miracles of the Messiah.

Matthew 5-25.

In the parables and sermons of Christ He set forth spiritual truths in an impressive form. The most famous of them all is the Sermon on the Mount delivered during the first year of His public ministry. In it Jesus lays down the principal laws of the kingdom. It begins not with commands but with blessings, and reveals the riches of poverty, the royalty of meekness, and the blessedness that shall come out of sorrow and persecution. He taught that He came not to abolish the Law, but to obey and fulfill it. In memorable words He urged:—

1. That character is the secret of happiness. That men of purity, self-control, humility and loyalty shall inherit the earth.
2. That everything we do is judged by whether it is done with right motives.
3. That kindness is binding upon all, even to doing good to our enemies.
4. That because God is our Father we should be free from anxiety, sincere in prayer, charitable to the poor, and ever seeking to be perfect as our Father in Heaven is perfect.

He warned those who heard His sayings and did not do them, that they were like a foolish man who built his house upon a foundation of sand, and in the path of storms, bringing upon himself certain destruction.

The miracles of our Lord proved beyond doubt that He had supreme command over nature, for He made the winds and the waves obey Him, multiplied a few loaves and fishes, made incurably sick bodies whole, and even gave life to the dead. His miracles were acts of love and parables of mercy, proving that He was indeed the Savior of the world. He opened blind eyes to show His power over spiritual blindness He fed hungry bodies to show that He alone can satisfy hungry hearts, He raised the dead to show that He can give spiritual life to those who are dead in trespasses and sins.

The teachings and works of Christ should take hold of our very hearts, for they lead us to do everything that is good with the highest motives, and lead us of our own accord to hate sin.

Great Fact IV -- Sufferings of the Messiah.

Matthew 26-27.

Although Jesus was believed in and followed by a large number of disciples, yet the opposition of the Jews was bitter and they determined to put Him to death. He therefore instituted the Lord's Supper as a memorial ordinance of His death, was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane, and tried before Annas, the ex-high priest, before Caiaphas, the high priest, before Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, before Herod, governor of Galilee, and again before Pilate.

On the grounds of blasphemy, and of claiming to be the King of the Jews, thus making Himself the enemy of the Roman empire, Jesus was delivered up by Pilate to be crucified in the year 30 A.D.

In the early morning, on Calvary's summit, in fulfillment of Psalm 22:18, the soldiers parted His garments among them. For His undergarments they cast lots, and there between two thieves He was nailed upon a cross of wood. At noon a miraculous darkness descended upon the land, followed by a great earthquake that rent the rocks and the mountains, and split in two the veil which separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place in the temple. This signified that it was now possible through the shed blood of Christ, for every believer to enter God's presence in prayer. At 3 p. m., after hanging on the cross for six hours, the Savior died, not from physical suffering alone, but of a broken heart, crushed by the sins of the world. When in triumph He cried, "It is finished!" the debt of the world was paid, the types and symbolism of the Old Covenant were all fulfilled, and every iota of the law was magnified, so that all who believe in Him shall have everlasting life!

Great Fact V -- The Resurrection Triumph of the Messiah.

Matthew 28.

The body of Jesus was in the tomb part of Friday, all of Saturday, and part of Sunday, but as a part of a day was counted a day by the Jews, Jesus had said, "After three days I will rise again!"

Early Sunday morning the women found the tomb empty except for the angel who announced that Christ had risen from the dead, and we can well imagine the boundless joy of their hearts as they realized that the great stone no longer sealed their Master's doom and their own failure.

There is no fact better proved in history than the resurrection of Christ, for twelve times he appeared to His disciples. Three times we are told that His disciples

touched Him after He rose. Matthew 28:9; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; and twice we are told that He ate with them, Luke 24:42; John 21:12-13.

Among the supreme benefits of Christ's resurrection are the following:

1. It is a proof that Christ actually atoned for our sins. Romans 1:4.
2. Believers share the resurrection life of Christ. Romans 6:4.

It is the guarantee and pattern of believers' resurrection. As Christ arose and put on a spiritual body so shall we. As the caterpillar is changed into a beautiful butterfly, and the charcoal into a brilliant diamond, so we shall be changed into His glorious image.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—The coming of the Servant,—Mark 1:1-11.
- []—The Testing of the Servants,—Mark 1:12-20.
- []—The work of the Servant,—Mark 2:1-12.
- []—The Transfiguration of the Servant, Mark 9:1-9.
- []—The rejection of the Servant,—Mark 15: 24-37.
- []—The sacrifice of the Servant,—Mark 16:9-19.
- []—The exaltation of the Servant,—Mark 16:9-19.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire Gospel of Mark

Lesson No. 5

LESSON THEME:—MARK

Mark 10:35-45

- **KEY WORD**—“**STRAIGHTWAY**” (*Occurs 41 Times*).
- **KEY VERSE**—Mark 10:45
- **KEY PHRASE**—“**CHRIST IS OUR EXAMPLE IN SERVICE.**”

WRITER—Mark was a man of means, and the cousin of Barnabas. Colossians 4:10. He was converted under the preaching of Peter, and went with Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey. It is thought that the reason he turned back from the work (Acts 13:13) was because he objected to the offer of salvation to the Gentiles on condition of faith alone. Two years later Barnabas wanted to take Mark on the second missionary journey, but Paul would not hear of it, so Barnabas and Mark together went to Cyprus, Acts 15:39. Eleven years later Paul had forgiven Mark, called him his fellow-worker and said he was a comfort to him. He was one of the faithful few among the Jewish Christians who stood by Paul in Rome at this time. It was here likely that Mark wrote his gospel. Having also spent much time with Peter, 1 Peter 5:13, he wrote his gospel from facts supplied by, and from the viewpoint of Peter. Mark was not an apostle.

DATE—About 65 A.D. Events cover a period of 37 years.

PURPOSE—To present Jesus as the wonder-working Servant of Yahweh, and thus our Example in service.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Coming.
2. Work.
3. Rejection.
4. Sacrifice.
5. Exaltation.

Great Fact I -- The Coming of the Servant.

Mark 1:1-18.

Nothing said in Mark of Christ's line of descent, nor of His miraculous birth, nor of the visit of the Wise Men. He is seen here as the Servant going at once about His serving. The account of the ministry of John the Baptist is the briefest in Mark. John did a great work, and created a great stir, Mark 1:6. Jesus, having served during the silent years at Nazareth, now becomes our example in baptism. He had a vision of the opened heaven and received the approval of the Father, Mark 1:9-11. Immediately after the honor of heavenly recognition, Christ had His faith tried for 40 days in the wilderness by Satan, with the result that He came off more than conqueror, was strengthened spiritually for His work, was made more able to sympathize with the tempted, while Satan was weakened by defeat.

LESSON—We shall ever have temptation, but we may ever have the sympathy and help of Christ, and find as He did that the Scriptures furnish the truth that will defeat the tempter. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Great Fact II -- The Work of the Servant.

Mark 1:14; 10:52.

There is continuous, unbroken service and activity in this gospel. Thirteen out of the sixteen chapters begin with the word "and" AND He did this, AND He did that, He must teach them. Men were hopeless, He must cheer them up with the gospel tidings. Men were sick and suffering, He must relieve and heal them. Men were under the power of Satan, He must set them free. Men were sinful, He must pardon and cleanse them, and give them eternal Life.

LESSON—It is our blessed privilege to follow Christ's example in doing good. He is worth serving, the work is worth doing, and souls are worth saving. We should immediately answer in the affirmative when the Lord bids us do His work. The builder builds for a century, we for eternity. The painter paints for a generation, we forever. The mason cuts out the marble that soon perishes, but we may mold characters in the likeness of Christ that forever will endure! Christ teaches that he who would be the leader must serve the most!

Great Fact III -- The Rejection of the Servant.

Mark 11-13.

Christ presented Himself at Jerusalem according to the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9; and the people at first welcomed Him in the hope that He would secure them

material freedom and glory. When, however, at the cleansing of the temple He proved that His mission was a spiritual one, He was hated by the religious leaders with a Satanic hatred, and as they plotted to put Him to death they fulfilled Isaiah 53:3.

LESSON—The greatest sin anyone can commit is to reject Christ, and yet everyone to whom the gospel is preached must either commit that sin or accept the Lord as his Savior.

A father who had a prodigal son, one night begged him not to go out to spend the night drinking and gambling. The father stressed that the boy's ways had killed his mother and were sending him in sorrow to his grave. Since the boy would not yield, the father laid down at the door and said. "You are determined to go to ruin, so you must go over this old body tonight." The son walked over the form of his father, trampled the love of his father under foot, and went out. This is the way of the rejecters of Christ; they trample His blood underfoot, and go down to death.

Great Fact IV -- Sacrifice of the Servant.

Mark 14-15.

The great message of Isaiah is that the Son of God shall become the Servant of God in order to provide salvation for men. Isaiah 53 is the golden passion chapter of the Old Testament, in which the world's sin is seen to be laid upon the divine sacrifice.

Mark records how the prophecies of Isaiah were fulfilled in the suffering of Gethsemane and Calvary. The key verse shows that Christ came not only to minister, and thus be our example in service, but also to be the world's sacrifice, by giving His life a ransom for many. He was sold for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave. He was executed as only slaves were; indeed, He was the slave of mankind!

LESSON—The best sacrifice to a crucified Savior is a broken and contrite heart, a life crucified to the world and the flesh. Let the ambitious lay their pride in the dust. Let the covetous lay up for themselves treasures in heaven. Let the self-indulgent deny themselves. In response to the divine sacrifice, we should become a grateful living sacrifice. Romans 12:1.

Great Fact V -- The Exaltation of the Servant.

Mark 16.

After the Servant has served and given His life as a ransom, He rises from the dead, gives the Great Commission also recorded in Matthew 28:19-20, and then ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God, Matthew 16:19. He took upon Himself the form of a servant and is now highly exalted Philippians 2:7-9. Seated at the place of honor and power He is constituted Head of the church. He acts as our heavenly representative or advocate. Through his divine intervention He is ever securing our increasing holiness and usefulness here, and our perfect happiness hereafter. His exaltation also explains why He is with us always. He went away in the flesh that He might be ever near in the Spirit. Yes, He is with us all of our days!

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Mary's Songs of Praise,—Luke 1:46-55.
- []—Jesus Prays and Teaches Prayer,—11:1-10.
- []—Gospel Sent to the Gentiles,—10:1-12.
- []—Poor Invited to the Supper,—14:16-24.
- []—Parable of Good Samaritan,—10:25-37.
- []—Parable of Prodigal Son,—15:11-22.
- []—The Rich Man and Lazarus,—16:19-31.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

[] The entire Gospel of Luke

Lesson No. 6

LESSON THEME:—LUKE

Luke 19:1-10

- **KEY WORD**—“**COMPASSION.**”
- **KEY VERSE**—Luke 19:10
- **KEY PHRASE**—“**CHRIST IS THE UNIVERSAL SAVIOR.**”

WRITER—Luke was a native of Antioch in Syria, and in Colossians 4:14 is called the beloved physician. He is the only one of the Bible writers who was a Gentile. As a companion of Paul in his missionary journeys he was with him in his first and second imprisonments in Rome, and remained faithful to him when others forsook the apostle. He was a fellow-laborer of Saul and so had abundant opportunity of learning all about Christ’s life and teachings. It was probably at Paul’s earnest request that Luke wrote the gospel in 63 A.D. and also the Book of Acts about 64 A.D.

PURPOSE—To show that the infinite love and compassion of Jesus was not for the Jews only, but for all mankind.

GREAT FACTS: —

Luke Is a Gospel of:—

1. Praise.
2. Prayer.
3. Gentiles
4. Poor.
5. Parables.

Great Fact I -- A Gospel of Praise.

Among the psalms of praise in Luke is the lofty hymn of Mary rejoicing in the promised Messiah. It is sometimes called the Magnificat, because in the Latin version it begins with the word, Luke 1:46-55. Then the song of Zacharias, in which he praises God for the wonderful gift of a child who became John the Baptist, Luke 1:68-69. Then the song of the angels announcing the birth of Christ, and with happy adoration singing “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,

good will toward men.” Luke 2:8-14. None on earth ever heard the angels sing, except these humble shepherds of Bethlehem, and none will hear them sing again unless they become devout believers like the shepherds. Then Simeon’s hymn of thanksgiving, because he had lived to see the coming of the Savior, and thus had the dearest wish of his heart fulfilled, Luke 2:29-33.

LESSON—Christianity has given to the world more poems, hymns, anthems and expressions of triumph and joy than any other influence in men’s lives. As the window that lets light into the house does not benefit the light, but the house into which the light shines, so the benefits of praise do not go to God but come back to us to comfort and refresh us.

All God’s works praise Him, but man should be the leading singer in the great choir. There is a beautiful legend that explains the origin of song. It says the angels came down to a sacred wood, and there played and sang. All creatures came to listen and learn a fragment of the celestial song. The listening wood learned its rustling, the stream its roar, the wind its echoing, and the birds the prelude of the song. Man was the only one who grasped it all, and so his song alone touches the depths of the human heart, and goes upward to God. Because it is true that man’s music is the sweetest of all before the throne of God, each of us ought to find a tongue to bless God. We must not leave the choir and the organist to praise God for us, and ourselves stand dumb images in the pews. There’s no praise by proxy, He has blessed us therefore we will glorify Him. Gratitude ought to make singers of us all.

Great Fact II -- A Gospel of Prayer.

Jesus prays at His Baptism, Luke 3:21; and before choosing His twelve disciples, Luke 11:1-10. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray and urged perseverance in prayer, 11:1-10. He commanded to watch and pray that we might escape the snares that shall come upon the world, 21:36. On the cross He prayed for His enemies, 23:24, and spent His last moments in prayer, 23:46.

LESSON—

1. Christ taught the importance of prayer, for the condition of receiving God’s blessings is that we ask. We should do this in secret, family and public prayer.
2. We must also feel that we cannot get along without God. All the prayer is the cry of felt weakness as was Peter’s cry, “Save Lord, or I perish.”

3. We must put away all doubts as to the reality of divine answers to prayer. We must believe “that God is and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”
4. Holiness of life is necessary if we would have answers to our prayers. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” By example and teaching Christ emphasized prayer more than any other one thing. Let us therefore find success and happiness in constant prayer.

Great Fact III -- A Gospel for the Gentiles.

Perhaps the hardest lesson that the Jews and early Christians had to learn was that the vast Gentile world might have full and free admission to the kingdom and the churches. Yet here Simeon teaches that salvation is a light to lighten the Gentiles, Luke 2:32. Christ sent the seventy disciples not to the lost sheep of the house of Israel but to “every city and every place,” Luke 10:1. Christ’s Perea ministry over the eastern side of the Jordan was to the Gentiles, Luke 8:1-9:28.

LESSON—The Jews having received bitter treatment from the Gentiles in Babylon, regarded them with extreme scorn and hatred. They held them to be ceremonially unclean and would have no friendly intercourse with them. Gentiles were thought to be the enemies of God and of His people, to whom the knowledge of God was denied unless they became proselytes, and even then they could not be admitted to full fellowship. Luke, however, pictures Christ as tearing down all local and national barriers, and making repentance and faith the only conditions of admission into the kingdom, Luke 24:47. Then in Acts 10:44; we find the Holy Spirit given to Gentile believers as He was to the Jews at Pentecost. This shows that the religion of Christ is not merely one of the religions of the world, but the great world religion, adapted to all nations and all classes, under the power of which every kindred and every tribe will one day crown Him Lord of all.

Great Fact IV -- A Gospel for the Poor.

Luke records the parents of Jesus offering a pair of turtle-doves, because they were too poor to present a lamb, Luke 2:24. Christ pronounced a special blessing on the poor comforting them with the thought, that although they must work hard, and fare hard, yet if they follow Him they should have all the privileges and graces of the kingdom hereafter, Luke 6:20. In a parable of the Gospel Feast, Christ turned away from those who were too full of pride, or business, or pleasure, and offered His bounties to the poor and crippled, Luke 14:21.

LESSON—Christ taught that money cannot buy love, contentment, friendship, salvation, or heaven. Indeed, experience has taught that it is much easier to be contented without riches than with them. Dr. Curler said the happiest heart he ever knew was a poor crippled woman. He never saw a frown on her face, and when she came to church it shone like the face of an angel. She lived every day on the sunny side of providence and fed hungrily on the promises. So near did she live to Jesus that she often caught the music of that “marriage supper” for which she had her wedding garment on. Would that some of the sour-spirited, blue, discouraged Christians could borrow a vial of her sunshine!

Great Fact V -- A Gospel of Parables.

The one and only teacher of parables in the New Testament is Christ Himself, and Luke has seventeen more of His parables than all the other three gospel writers put together. A parable both reveals and conceals the truth. It revealed the truth to His disciples but concealed it from His enemies. When Jesus saw in the second year of His ministry that the nation still clung to the carnal ideals of what the Messiah would be, and would not accept Him, He then spoke to the multitudes in parables, and by and by when He was alone with the Twelve, He would explain the parables to them.

LESSON—We must take heed how we hear, and then sit at the feet of the Blessed Teacher Himself if we would know all the secrets of divine truth. While most men learned nothing from the lily, the fig tree, the sowing of grain, the bramble and thorn, the mustard seed, the wheat and the tares, Jesus has taken us by the hand and led us into their imperishable lessons as we would lead a child into an enchanted castle. All through the Bible, and not only in the stories themselves, we have lost sheep, and lost coins, unjust stewards, prodigal sons, virgins, talents, good Samaritans and laborers in the vineyard. Happy are we if we turn these parables inside out and find their golden lessons. Happier still if we find all nature and life to be parables full of heavenly lessons.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—The divine Christ existed in the beginning,—John 1:1-10.
- []—The spiritual birth,—John 3:1-12.
- []—Spiritual worship,—John 4:19-24
- []—Jesus gives eternal life,—John 10:22-30.
- []—Jesus and the Father are one,—John 14:7-15.

- []—The promise of the Spirit,—John 14:16-26.
- []—The fruitful life,—John 15:1-14.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

[] The entire Gospel of John

Lesson No. 7

LESSON THEME:—JOHN

John 1:1-10

- **KEY WORD**—“**BELIEVE.**”
- **KEY VERSE**—John 20:31.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“**CHRIST IS THE DIVINE SON OF GOD.**”

WRITER—The Apostle John who wrote five books in all—this gospel, the three epistles and Revelation. His father, Zebedee, a fisherman of Bethsaida, was in good circumstances, and his mother, Salome, was a devout follower of the Lord. John was about 25 years of age when called by Christ early in His ministry, and so devoted was he to the Master that he was called “the beloved disciple,” John 12:23. With James and Peter he was selected by Christ to witness His transfiguration, and go with Him in the garden of Gethsemane. John was present at the raising of Jairus’ daughter, and at the crucifixion, and was the first disciple at the tomb after the news of the resurrection. In His later life he is thought to have been the pastor of the church at Ephesus, and was banished from there to the Isle of Patmos where he wrote the Revelation.

DATE—About 90 A.D. **Place**—Ephesus.

PURPOSE—“That ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might live through His name,” John 20:31.

GREAT FACTS:—

John Is a Gospel of:—

1. Divinity.
2. Eternal Life.
3. Spirituality.
4. Trinity.

THE TIMES OF JOHN—Jerusalem had been destroyed twenty years previously, and the temple with it, which weakened the religion of the Jews. The gospel had been preached all over the Roman Empire and had made a great impression everywhere. All the books of the New Testament except this gospel and Revelation

had been written, so that the facts and doctrines of the gospel were getting to be well known. Already, however, false teachers were arising who denied that Jesus Christ was truly the Son of God come in the flesh. John therefore, writes just those scenes, works, and words of Jesus that reveal His divine person and power, grace and glory.

Great Fact I -- The Gospel of Christ's Divinity.

The gospel of John is the most read and the best loved because it focuses on the person of Jesus Christ. If John did not know Christ, then no one knew Him, for John had not only the best, but the latest knowledge of Jesus. With John everything in heaven and earth, of time and eternity all centered about Christ. John taught that

1. Christ was God the Son,
2. that He existed back in the beginning with God the Father,
3. that in Him the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled,
4. that He was the perfect teacher;
5. perfectly sinless,
6. the perfect example,
7. that He wrought miracles as no one else ever did,
8. that He arose from the dead,
9. that He will return for His servants.

LESSON—Because Christ was divinely sent, divinely announced, and divinely attested. Because He spoke divinely, lived divinely and created divinely. Because of His perfect character, perfect teachings, and perfect salvation, we should say with Thomas, “Thou are my Lord and my God!” We should always reverently speak of Him as the Lord Jesus Christ, and take every opportunity of praising that Name as being above every name!

Great Fact II -- The Gospel of Eternal Life.

John teaches that the soul by sin has lost its spiritual life, its first purity, its harmony and happiness arising from peace and friendship with God. The soul left God like a falling star from its central sun, and is truly described as being dead; dead in sin, dead to God, and dead to heaven. In John 5:24 we see that Christ came to give us eternal life. Eternal because it is not temporary and fading. Eternal because it is not material and eternal because it is the life of God, which restores His image to the soul. This eternal life comes by believing in Christ. As we believe, the Holy Spirit applies the very life of Christ Himself to our hearts, and a spiritual nature is born in us, John 10:10.

LESSON—The “I Ams” of Christ are not only beautiful, but full of meaning. “I am the life,” means a new nature from Christ. “I am the Way,” means progress in Christ. “I am the Vine,” means fellowship with Christ. “I am the Good Shepherd,” means the watch-care of Christ. “I am the Bread of life,” means spiritual food from Christ. “I am the Light of the World,” means spiritual instruction from Christ. “I am the Resurrection and the Life,” means final triumph in Christ.

Many years ago a friend who had an orange orchard told the great Evangelist D.L. Moody to take some fruit whenever he wanted any. He, therefore, did not go to an orange tree and pray that the oranges would fall into his pocket, but walked up to a tree, reached out his hand and took the oranges. The friend said “Take,” and he took. God offers us the gift of eternal life. Romans 6:23. He says, “Take!” Shall we take it?

Great Fact III -- It Is a Spiritual Gospel.

John’s gospel is known as the spiritual gospel because it deals much with the heavenly origin and life of our Lord, and of the spiritual facts of the Christian life. It is the gospel of

1. The spiritual birth. In reply to Nicodemus, John 3:3, Jesus taught that all must be born again, which means that every sinner must have the change of heart that is wrought by the Holy Spirit when he repentantly believes in Jesus Christ. Natural birth makes us like our earthly parent, and spiritual birth makes us like our Heavenly Father. If you had an incurable thief in the family, it would help little to give him a change of clothing, or supply him with fine shoes or adorn him with jewelry. No, nothing on the outside would help; it would take a complete change in the man’s thoughts, desires and nature. Thus when the Holy Spirit would change a lost wicked man, He begins not with his outward words and acts, but with his heart. He makes him to hate every sin and to love every virtue. A new spiritual nature leads to new ritual conduct.
2. Spiritual worship. While the heathen worshipped the sun, moon, etc., “Greeks their unknown God,” and the Samaritans the God of the temple, Jesus taught that true worship did not depend upon so-called holy places, or holy ordinances, or holy ritual, but rather upon the sincere, reverent prayer and praise of each heart, John 4:24. Worship is the loving attempt to pay our unpayable debt of love—the expression of devoted hearts. Public worship of God in the presence of His people is a necessity of the Christian’s life, but spiritual Christians will always

think less of the forms and ceremonies than they will of the power and spirit of worship.

3. Spiritual growth. Christ is ever represented as giving better, larger, more abundant life, John 10:10. It is more abundant life than that which was forfeited by sin, more abundant than that which was promised by the law of Moses, yes it is far exceeding abundant, more than we are able to ask or think. This larger life must have an ever-growing fruitfulness. Jesus had often said to His disciples, “Come unto Me, Follow Me, Learn of Me, Abide In Me,” but in the fifteenth chapter He says, “Be increasingly fruitful for Me.” He expects us all to be third-degree fruit bearers, not only to bear fruit and more fruit, John 16:2, but much fruit, John 15:8. This fruit which is ninefold and is specified in Galatians 5:22-23, will prove the reality of our religion, and also glorify the Father.

Great Fact IV -- The Gospel of the Holy Trinity.

John teaches that there is only one true God, but that in the Godhead there are three eternal distinctions, which are represented to us under the figure of persons and these three, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are equal. Christ declares that He and the Father are one, John 10:30. In John 14:16, all Three Persons are brought together in one verse. Indeed as we read through this gospel, particularly John 15-16, we clearly see three manifestations of the one God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Results of Pentecostal sermon,—Acts 2:37-47.
- []—Preaching and Holy Spirit given to Gentiles,—Acts 10:34-48.
- []—First missionary journey,—Acts 13:3-13.
- []—Church council at Jerusalem,—Acts 15:1-20.
- []—Second missionary Journey,—Acts 18:23-28.
- []—Third missionary journey,—Acts 19-21.
- []—Paul’s Roman ministry,—Acts 28:16-31.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire book of Acts.

Lesson No. 8

LESSON THEME:—ACTS

Acts 1:1-8

- **KEY WORD**—“**WITNESS**” (*Occurs 30 Times*).
- **KEY VERSE**—Acts 1:8.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“**THE GOSPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**”

NAME—This book is by no means a complete account of all the acts, or doings of all the apostles, but rather of some of the acts of some of the apostles.

WRITER—Luke, who wrote the third gospel. The only Gentile writer of the Bible was chosen to record the giving of the gospel to the Gentiles. He was chosen to collect and carry the gracious offerings of the Gentile Christians to the church at Jerusalem, 2 Corinthians 8:18. He was the faithful, and often the only companion of Paul in his missionary journeyings and imprisonments. The Christian world owes him a great debt for his two important writings.

DATE—About 64 A.D. Period covered A.D. 32-64, 32 years.

PLACE OF WRITING—Probably Rome.

PURPOSE—To record the doings of the Spirit-filled apostles and churches after the Lord Jesus Christ had ascended into heaven.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Jerusalem.
2. Palestine.
3. First Journey.
4. Council.
5. Second Journey.
6. Third Journey.
7. Arrest.

Great Fact I. The Gospel Preached at Jerusalem.

Acts 1-7.

Our Lord having promised a special impartation of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, they waited in the upper room at Jerusalem for ten days. In the meantime Mathias was chosen by lot to succeed Judas, Acts 1:26. Fifty days after the crucifixion, at the time of the Jewish feast of harvest or Pentecost, the assembled disciples heard a sound like the rushing of a great wind, and flames of fire in the shape of tongues rested above the head of each disciple. Then they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and gifted for special service. This enabled them to preach, not only with divine power, but in the different languages represented that day at Jerusalem, Acts 1:2-4. The multitude accused the apostles of being drunk, but Peter pointed out that it was only 9 a.m., before which hour no Jew would taste wine. He urged them that this was the coming of the Spirit, prophesied in Joel 2:28, told them they had wickedly put the Son of God to death, and pleaded with them to repent of their sins and be baptized. Great numbers believed and three thousand persons were baptized, and added to the church that day. After a short period of delightful Christian fellowship this large number of converts went home to tell their countrymen how God had visited His people.

At the beautiful Gate of the Temple, Peter healed an incurable cripple which brought a great crowd of people to Solomon's porch. This gave Peter another chance to preach that the Christ whom they had crucified was the long-promised Messiah. So powerful was the appeal that the number of converts now reached 5,000. Acts 4:4.

This so stirred up the same Jewish leaders who had crucified Christ that the Apostles were forbidden to preach Jesus, Acts 4:18. The church became so self-denying and enthusiastic that many sold their possessions, and gave the proceeds to the Apostles for distribution according to each man's needs. Ananias and his wife sought to deceive the apostles and God in this matter and were punished with instant death, Acts 5:4. The apostles continued their wonderful work, which again aroused the opposition of the Sanhedrin (or Jewish ecclesiastical court of 70 judges). The Apostles were beaten with rods, and prohibited to preach, but rejoicing they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus Christ, Acts 5:42.

Seven deacons are now chosen to look after the growing business of the church, 6:3. Stephen, the leader among them, a man full of faith and power, becomes the first Christian martyr because of his heart-searching preaching.

LESSONS—

1. Note that the first period of Acts is taken up with the work at Jerusalem, with Peter as the leader.
2. Our Lord Himself founded the church, (Matthew 16:18) out of His inner circle of baptized disciples, but the organization within the same came after Pentecost, Acts 2:47.
3. The baptism of the Spirit must not be confused with the filling of the Spirit. Every believer is born of the Spirit, John 3:6, indwelt by the Spirit, 1 Corinthians 6:19, and should be filled with the Spirit, Ephesians 3:12.

Great Fact II -- The Gospel Preached in Palestine.

Acts 8-12.

The death of Stephen, instead of being a calamity was really a great blessing, for it scattered gospel preachers all over Judea and Samaria. In the city of Samaria, there were many conversions and great joy, through the preaching of Philip (8:8). The Ethiopian Eunuch was converted and baptized, Acts 8:26-38. The bitter but brilliant Saul was converted, and became Paul the great apostle of the Gentiles, 9:1-30. Peter, who had used the keys of the Kingdom of God at Pentecost, Matthew 16:19, now uses them again in opening the gospel door to Gentiles, Acts 10-11. Persecution again comes upon the church, with the martyrdom of James, and the arrest of Peter. Peter however, is delivered by an angel, and Herod the persecutor, died a shameful death. Acts 12.

LESSONS—

1. In this section the center of Christianity is changed from Jerusalem in Antioch, where the disciples were first called Christians. The new church proves to be a worthy one for it was the first to send out missionaries to the heathen, and first to take up a collection for the mother church at Jerusalem, when it was suffering from famine.
2. Acts 10:44 is one of the pivotal points in scripture, for it marks the Pentecost of the Gentiles. Here is no laying on of apostolic hands, and no delay but the Holy Spirit is immediately given upon simple faith in Christ. This is the normal order for the gospel age.

Great Fact III -- Paul's First Missionary Journey.

Acts 13-14.

The church at Antioch in a great sacrificial spirit now sends out the first foreign missionaries. Barnabas and Paul, with John and Mark, (*who wrote the 2nd gospel*) set out for Asia Minor with the motto, “Christ for all the world, and all the world for Christ!” It is interesting to trace their progress through fourteen cities, with the aid of a map. At Perga, Mark turns back from the work and goes home to the deep regret of the apostles. The reason probably was because he objected to the offer of salvation to the Gentiles, on condition of faith alone, but an exact reason is not given. Two years later Paul was unwilling to try Mark a second time, but afterwards forgave him, counted him a fellow-worker, and found him a great comfort, Philemon 24.

SOME RESULTS—An imposter stricken blind, Acts 13:11. Many Jews believe, but others bitterly oppose, so that the apostles turned to the Gentile, Acts 13:43, 45-46. An incurable cripple healed and an attempt made to worship the apostles as gods, Acts 14:8-11. Paul afterward stoned and left for dead, Acts 14:19. After full consultation with the brethren, officers were appointed in every church, 14:23.

Great Fact IV -- The Church Council at Jerusalem.

Acts 15.

After Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch, certain Jewish Christians urged that the Gentiles could not be saved unless they were circumcised, and kept the Law of Moses. The church at Antioch therefore decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to consult with the other apostles and elders about the matter. On their arrival a meeting was called, at which the question was earnestly discussed. Peter urged that they should not put under the Law those to whom God had given the Spirit, and James, the brother of the Lord, agreed with him. The council therefore decided that Gentile converts need not be circumcised, but should abstain from idolatry, fornication, from blood and from things strangled. This decision reaffirming that men are saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus alone. Acts 15:11 was of far-reaching importance to the early churches.

Great Fact V -- Paul's Second Missionary Journey.

Acts 15:36-18:22.

Before starting on the second journey there were two disagreements among the apostles. Paul rebuked Peter for drawing a caste line between Jews and Gentiles in the church. Galatians 2:11-14. And then being unwilling to take Mark on the

second journey, he himself with Silas went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches, and Barnabas and Mark went to the Island of Cyprus. At Lystra Paul finding a young man named Timothy, who was wise in the scriptures, he led him to Christ, and chose him as a companion in order that he also might learn to become a preacher of the blessed gospel, Acts 16:1. At Troas, the Holy Spirit in a vision directed the apostles to take the gospel for the first time to Europe, the starting point being Phillipi, in Macedonia. Luke has now joined the missionary party, Acts 16:10. The first convert in Europe was Lydia, a seller of purple-dyed garments. Phillipi is famous for Paul's imprisonment, the earthquake, and conversion of the jailer. The church at Thessalonica is founded, Acts 17:4. Also the church at Corinth, where the apostles stay 18 months, Acts 18:8. At the famous city of Athens Paul found an altar to "The Unknown God," and preached a sermon on Mar's Hill. The apostles then return to Antioch by way of Ephesus, after an absence of three or four years.

Great Fact VI -- Paul's Third Missionary journey.

On the third tour the apostle with Timothy directed his attention chiefly to Ephesus where they stayed for three years, and where multitudes of the Jews and Gentiles of Asia heard the gospel preached. Ephesus was notorious for its luxury, licentiousness, and the worship of the goddess Diana. Enthusiastic converts burned their books of magic, and turned away from their silver idols. The silversmiths therefore stirred up a riot, and the apostles were rescued from danger only by the help of one of the city officials. At Ephesus Paul wrote First Corinthians, 1 Corinthians 16:8. At Troas Paul preached with great success, and at Phillipi wrote Second Corinthians. He now collects money for poor Christians in Judea. Hearing that Judaizing teachers were misleading the church at Galatia, he wrote the epistle to the Galatians to overthrow the errors. Three months are spent at Corinth, and the epistle to the Romans written and sent by Phebe. Paul now makes a last visit to Jerusalem where he was received kindly by the church, and much encouraged them by telling what God was doing among the Gentiles.

Great Fact VII -- Paul's Arrest and Closing Ministry.

Acts 21:27 – Acts 28.

The Jews of Asia now accuse Paul of slighting the law and of bringing Gentiles into the temple. In the midst of an uproar he is arrested, and makes his defense before the multitude, and before the Roman governor, Felix at Caesarea. After two years' imprisonment because of the wavering policy of Felix, Paul was tried again

by the new governor, Festus, but Paul appealed from him to Caesar, the emperor of Rome. After a most exciting voyage, with a shipwreck off the coast of Malta, Paul arrived in Rome and was kept a prisoner for another two years, during which, soldiers and even servants in Nero's palace were converted. In these two years the epistles to Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians and Philippians were written. Paul is now freed, spends two years in Spain, Romans 15:28; returns to Ephesus and Crete, and finding false teachers busy, writes First Timothy and Titus. Being again arrested and hurried to Rome, he writes Second Timothy in jail, expecting any hour to be "offered up." He is now condemned and beheaded, and his body buried in the catacombs of Rome in which other noble martyrs often hid in times of fierce persecution.

NOTE—Churches had now sprung up all over the known world. Most of the New Testament had been written. The gospel had outgrown its Jewish clothes and was seen to be the world-gospel. Jerusalem, Antioch and Rome were the early centers of Christianity.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—The whole world is guilty,—Romans 1:14-23.
- []—Justification is the gospel remedy,—Romans 3:21-31.
- []—Some results of justification,—Romans 5:1-8.
- []—Deliverance from Indwelling sin,—Romans 6:1-13.
- []—God's purposes through the gospel,—Romans 8:28-39.
- []—Cause of God's rejection of the Jews,—Romans 9:30-10:10.
- []—Christian consecration and duties,—Romans 12:1-8.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

[] The entire book of Romans.

Lesson No. 9

LESSON THEME:—ROMANS

Romans 5:1-8

- **KEY WORD**—“JUSTIFICATION.”
- **KEY VERSE**—Romans 4:5.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“A GUILTY WORLD NEEDS JUSTIFICATION BEFORE GOD.”

WRITER—Paul. He was born of pure Jewish descent at Tarsus, the capital of Cilicia, in Asia Minor, 80 miles northwest of Antioch. While Christ was preaching he was receiving his education from Gamaliel, the great teacher of the Pharisees. Like all Jewish boys he learned a trade, that of tent-making. He became a leading persecutor of those whom he believed were following a false messiah, but was miraculously converted while on a heresy-hunting trip to Damascus. After his baptism and commission to preach the gospel, he retired to Arabia for study and meditation for three years. He then evangelized Cilicia for three years, worked one year at Antioch, went forth on his three great missionary journeys, founded many churches, wrote thirteen epistles, and after a life of constant and exalted sacrifices, sealed his testimony with his own lifeblood.

THE CHURCH AT ROME Founded not by Peter, for he confined his ministry to the Jews, Galatians 2:9, but most likely by visitors from Rome who were converted at Pentecost.

OCCASION—

1. The Jews and Gentiles were inclined not to recognize one another as having equal standing in grace.
2. They were inclined to the error that the more they sinned the more grace would abound, Romans 6:1.

PURPOSE—To show that the need of Jew and Gentile alike is justification by faith, and sanctification by the Holy Spirit.

PLACE OF WRITING—Corinth, while on third missionary journey.

DATE—58 A.D.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Guilt.
2. Justification
3. Sanctification.
4. Jews.
5. Consecration.

Great Fact I -- The World's Guilt Before God.

Romans 1-2; Romans 3:20.

After Paul's greeting to the church, and his thanksgiving for their faith, he then glories in the gospel, Romans 1:16, for its power, and for the righteousness it reveals and imparts. In Romans 1:19-23 he describes how some of the former worshipers of God, who were the descendants of Noah, drifted into heathenism. In graphic words he told of the seven downward steps that has landed the millions of the race into heathen darkness.

1. They would not worship or obey God.
2. They attributed to luck and chance things they should have traced to God.
3. Their hearts became perverted and darkened.
4. Relied upon their own wisdom instead of upon that which comes from above.
5. Although cultured in other respects, in religion they became fools, or superstitious.
6. Against the solemn warning in the Ten Commandments they set up idols in the forms of Jupiter, dogs, cats, serpents, etc.

With this turning away from the true and living God, the Gentiles went into the blackest night of vice and cruelty, so that virtue and conscience seemed almost extinct. Paul next reminds the Jews that although they possessed scriptures, the covenants and the Sabbaths, yet they so dishonored God that His name was blasphemed among the Gentiles because of them, Romans 2:24. The conclusion is given in Romans 3:9-20.

LESSON—History, conscience and the scriptures all bear witness to the fact that “there is none righteous, no, not one.” In thought, word, deed or motive we are all guilty before God. Neither can the outward observances of religion, nor the Law save us. The Law simply gives us a knowledge of sin. The wife of a drunkard once

found her husband with torn clothes, matted hair, and bruised face, asleep after a drunken party. She took a picture of him in his wretched condition, and placed it beside another which showed him handsome and well dressed as he had been in other days. When he became sober and saw the two pictures he became aware of his true condition and started living a better life. The picture did not save him, but it showed him his true state. In a similar way, we should be aroused by Paul's wonderful picture of the degradation to which sin leads.

Great Fact II -- The Gospel Remedy Is Justification by Faith.

Romans 3:21-5:11.

Justification means that God freely gives that righteousness that man can neither merit nor otherwise obtain, and yet without which he will perish. "It is like a house that with open door invites ALL MEN to take shelter from the coming storm of judgment, but for THE BELIEVER it is like a broad and effectual shield that wards off all condemnation."

1. Grace is the SOURCE of justification, Romans 3:24, because it originated in the mercy and loving kindness of God. God provided it, Christ performed it, and the Holy Spirit applies it.
2. The blood of Jesus Christ is the GROUND of justification, Romans 5:9, because Christ's atonement met every claim of eternal justice, and God can justly accept us when clothed in His righteousness.
3. Faith is the MEANS by which we receive justification, Romans 5:1, for faith lays hold upon God's grace and Christ's sacrifice, and claims them for its personal saving possession.
4. Works are the EVIDENCE of justification. James 2:4, for real vital faith will manifest itself in real vital works. and holy deeds accompany Heavenly hopes.

The seven fold results of justification are seen in Romans 5:1-5.

1. Peace with God.
2. Access into grace.
3. Rejoicing in the hope of God's final triumph over all evil.
4. Glory in tribulation.
5. Patience.
6. Deepening religious experience.
7. Love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Justification therefore takes care of all the sin and guilt upon us, buries all this sin and guilt upon us, buries all this sin and guilt in the grave of Christ, and sits us in Heavenly places together with Him.

Great Fact III -- The Sanctification of the Believer.

Romans 5:12-8:39.

As Christ in justification delivers us from the guilt of sin, so the Holy Spirit in sanctification delivers us from the power and habits of sin. From the first Adam we inherited a sinful nature and physical death. In Christ the believer receives a spiritual nature, eternal life and glory. The signs of sanctification are:—

1. Crucifixion of sin, Romans 6:6;
2. the Holy Spirit dwells in us, Romans 8:9,
3. the Spirit leads us into all the privileges of Sonship, Romans 8:14;
4. the Spirit pleads with God for us, Romans 8:26;
5. We are more and more conformed to the image of God's Son, Romans 8:29;
6. Nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ, Romans 8:28-29.

In the seventh chapter is seen the struggle in the soul between the law of God and the law of sin, between grace and corruption, but the blessed eighth chapter where the work of the Spirit is mentioned 19 times, is full of the believer's deliverance, privileges and assurance. In Romans 8:28 the believer sits in God's arm-chair, and in Romans 8:29 has around him God's golden chain of Foreknowledge, Predestination, Calling, Justification and Glorification.

Great Fact IV -- God's Dealing With the Jews.

Romans 9-11.

Here the apostle sorrows over the Jews' rejection of Christ, but assures them that the gospel does not set aside the covenants God has made with them. He claims, however, that God had a perfect right to turn to the Gentiles, because the Jews would not seek righteousness by faith, Romans 9:32. In Romans 10 Paul pleads with the Jews to confess with their mouths the Lord Jesus, and to believe on Him with their hearts. In Romans 11 we are told that the blindness of Israel is not a perpetual blindness, and that a time is coming when the Jews, as a nation, shall be

restored to God's favor, and become a still greater blessing to the Gentiles, Romans 11:12-15. In the meantime the Gentiles are not to boast for they could be as easily cast off as were the Jews, Romans 11:21.

LESSON—It is as if a king returned from a far country and found his whole kingdom in revolt. He first appeals to that section with which he has the closest and most tender ties. But his claims are ignored and treated with contempt. Collecting, however, a loyal few he begins to subdue his own provinces. Thus, Jesus, King of the Jews, first came into His own, but when His own received Him not, He, with His apostles, turned to the Gentiles, and not in vain as the history of the centuries has proved. However, the conversion of the Jews is one of the important events of the future, and will mean the enrichment of the world.

Great Fact V -- The Christian's Consecration and Duties.

Romans 12-16.

Out of gratitude to God for all His spiritual blessings, we are to yield our bodies as living, willing and daily sacrifices unto Him. The old dispensation was one of blood and death. Daily, weekly, monthly and yearly the altars ran with the blood of slain beasts. But the gospel says, "No more!" For there has been offered one sacrifice for sins forever, and what is wanted now is YOUR bodies, not the bodies of beasts and of birds, but YOUR bodies, and LIVING, not dead, Romans 12:1-2. In the spirit of meekness and faithfulness we should use the spiritual gifts God has given us, Romans 12:3-8. What the Christian's attitude should be to those inside the church is given in Romans 12:9-16, and to those outside the church in Romans 12:17-21. The Christian's attitude as a citizen is given in Romans 13:1-10, and watchfulness for the Lord's return enjoined in Romans 13:11-14. The Christian's attitude to those who are weak in the faith is given in Romans 14; Romans 15:3, and then this great epistle closes with personal matters, greetings and benedictions.

LESSON—Romans makes much of the believer being "In Christ." In Christ for pardon and purity, for rest and resurrection. These words were very familiar and precious to the early Christians. So much so that they inscribed them on the tombs of their departed friends. And mourners wiped away their tears when they saw over their loved one's graves. "In Christ!"

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Divisions in the church,—1 Corinthians 1:10-17.
- []—An unspiritual state prevents growth,—1 Corinthians 3:1-11.
- []—Fornication rebuked,—1 Corinthians 5:1-3.
- []—Saints forbidden to go to law,—1 Corinthians 6:1-8.
- []—Disorders at Lord's Supper,—1 Corinthians 11:17-34.
- []—Spiritual gifts should be used in love,—1 Corinthians 13.
- []—The order of the resurrection,—1 Corinthians 5:20-25, 51-58.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

[] The entire book of 1 Corinthians.

Lesson No. 10

LESSON THEME:—1 CORINTHIANS

1 Corinthians 1:10-17.

- **KEY WORD**—“DISORDER.”
- **KEY VERSE**—1 Corinthians 1:10.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“INSTRUCTIONS, AS TO ORDERS, GIFTS, DISCIPLINE AND DOCTRINE.”

WRITER—Paul.

TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING,—57 A.D. at Ephesus.

THE CITY OF CORINTH—Corinth in Paul’s day was the largest and richest city of Greece, with a population of about 400,000. It was a seething mass of Jews, merchants, philosophers and adventurers, but the Greeks stamped their own character upon the majority of the inhabitants. They became known all over the world for their readiness to quarrel, for their vain fancies in religion, and for their moral sins. Due to the debasing worship of the heathen goddess Aphrodite, there was much dishonesty, drunkenness and immorality, and it was against these sins that the apostle so strongly preached and wrote.

THE CHURCH AT CORINTH—Paul preached at Corinth for eighteen months, at first to the Jews, until their hatred turned Him to Gentiles. In Acts 18, we see that Paul lived with Aquila and Priscilla, and joined them in the trade of tent-making. From the light thrown upon the condition of the church we see that the evil practices of the city soon crept into the church. Christian went to law with Christian before heathen judges, the sacredness of the Lord’s Supper was forgotten, the women of the church forsook the old standards of modesty in the name of Christian liberty, and the members were divided on questions of marriage and spiritual gifts. They therefore wrote the apostle asking his advice on these matters, and he replied in two epistles, First and Second Corinthians.

PURPOSE—To correct divisions and disorders in the church and to show that the problems of everyday life should be decided by great Christian principles.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Divisions.
2. Disorders.
3. Liberty.
4. Supper.
5. Gifts.
6. Resurrection.

Great Fact I -- Divisions in the Church.

1 Corinthians 1-4.

Paul here earnestly warns the church against the party spirit. The defeating and disputing spirit of Greek party politics had entered into the church, resulting in four separate parties, each striving for the mastery. The Paul, Apollos and Peter parties each adopted the name and views of their favorite preacher and leader, while the Christ party degraded into a party watchword the sacred name of Christ, claiming that they had an exclusive interest in that Name, which, in reality, is the precious possession of every true believer, 1 Corinthians 1:12-13. In astonished indignation Paul replies, “Can you follow a mere man as though he had been crucified for you? Has Christ been parceled into fragments? Is there a Pauline or a Petrine Christ?” “Your party spirit is a sin, and all the worse a sin because it is paraded in the name of holy zeal!” Such trusting in human wisdom is foolish, and makes the cross of Christ of no effect. Christ alone is the power of God and wisdom of God, 1 Corinthians 1:24. Gospel truth owes nothing to human wisdom, but God revealed it to men who were prepared by His spirit, 1 Corinthians 2. Their divisions had made them weak, fleshy and childish, but Christian service is acceptable only when done in the spirit of Christ and for the glory of Christ, 1 Corinthians 3. Paul then declares that the one thing needed is not smartness, nor knowledge, nor success, but faithfulness, 1 Corinthians 4:2, and he then compares the inflated pride of the church with the humility and patience of the apostles, 1 Corinthians 4:9-13.

LESSON—The greatest danger to churches arises from within, and is the danger of divisions and factions. If two ships at sea of the same squadron are scattered by storm from each other, how can they help each other, as they were so intended? If again they clash together, how can one endanger the other without hurting itself? An old proverb says if we knock each other we sink together!

Great Fact II -- Disorders in the Church.

1 Corinthians 5-6.

Here is a case where a member actually had sexual relations with his own step-mother, which was socially immoral even among the heathen, let alone among Christians. Yet the church was so unspiritual that it was utterly unconcerned about the matter. Paul, however, urges that no evil be tolerated among those who are Christ's. Just as the Jew put away all leaven before eating the Passover, so all corrupt men must be excluded from the Lord's table, for just as leaven spreads all through the dough, so a bad man's spirit is contagious in the church. The church should, therefore, promptly exclude the wrong-doer as evidence that it does not condone the wrong, 1 Corinthians 5:13. The apostle next urges that it is a shame for Christians to go to law with each other in heathen courts, for in so doing they dishonor God and deny their relationship to Him. The proper way to settle such matters is given in Matthew 18:15-17. The believer should abstain from over-eating and drunkenness and fornication, for the body exists not for excesses, but for the Lord, and it is the temple of the Holy Spirit, 1 Corinthians 6:13-19.

Great Fact III -- Liberty in the Church.

1 Corinthians 7-11:16.

Here the apostle discusses the relation of the Christian to marriage, and to things offered to idols, and of the Christian woman's head-covering. Some in the church sought to discredit marriage, and would divorce a heathen partner. The apostle however, because of the evil conditions existing in the city, advised every man to have his own wife, and every woman her husband. He further declares that a believer should not divorce a heathen partner, for the association of that unbeliever with Christ's people will likely lead to his or her salvation, 1 Corinthians 7:16. 2 Corinthians 6:14, however, forbids mixed marriages. He declared that when a Christian bought meat that had been offered to idols, because he realized that the idol was a mere lifeless, powerless image and not a god, then he was free from sin, but if his action was misunderstood by those who did not have this perfect knowledge, then the strong Christian should not let his liberty be a stumbling block to the weak in the faith, 1 Corinthians 8:9. Again some of the women of the church were inclined to carry their Christian liberty too far by discarding their veils, which with the Greeks, were signs of womanly modesty. This created a wrong impression among unbelievers, and reacted against the church, so the apostle argued against the practice, 1 Corinthians 11:5-16.

LESSON—It is remarkable that the scriptures do not lay down petty little rules as to conduct, but allow all the scope of action that a devout heart could wish. However, Christian liberty does not mean the right to do as we like, but rather to do as we ought. Because we are members one of another, and our example harms or blesses, we should not do a questionable thing because we think it does not harm us. The question is, does it harm younger or weaker Christians? Does it harm the church? Does it hold back the coming of the kingdom in the world?

Great Fact IV -- The Lord's Supper in the Church.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

It was the custom of this church to eat a meal in connection with the Lord's Supper, and this led to excesses and to the unworthy observance of the Supper itself. Paul, therefore, reminds them of the deep spiritual meaning of the hallowed ordinance.

1. It is a remembrance of Christ's dying love.
2. It is a spiritual feasting upon Christ, 1 Corinthians 10:16.
3. It proclaims to the world, not a new sacrifice, but the ever-new sacrifice of Calvary.
4. It is a pledge of His coming again, 1 Corinthians 11:26.

Therefore, we should not eat or drink in an unworthy manner, and what is very important never eat without self-judgment, spiritual insight, thankful love and holy resolves.

Great Fact V -- Spiritual Gifts of the Church.

1 Corinthians 12-14.

In Paul's time some ignored and sneered at gifts, while others thought them to be everything, especially the showy gifts, like speaking with tongues. The apostle teaches that the possession of a gift makes a believer a doubter to others, and he mentions nine gifts of the Spirit. Gifts like healing, miracles and tongues, we believe were sign gifts (2 Corinthians 12:12) to prove to the world that Jesus was the true Messiah, and that the apostles were His divinely appointed representatives. Man is to believe, to trust, to walk by faith. We must covet earnestly the best gifts, the spiritual gifts of wisdom, knowledge and faith, 1 Corinthians 12:31. Also these gifts must be used in love, 1 Corinthians 13.

Great Fact VI -- The Resurrection of the Body.

1 Corinthians 15.

Some members of the church doubted the resurrection of the body. Their false belief made preaching, faith, and hope all vain. In fact, no resurrection meant no gospel. The apostle, therefore gives the many proofs of Christ's resurrection, 1 Corinthians 15:4-9 ; then the order of events.

1. Christ's resurrection.
2. His second coming 1 Corinthians 15:23.
3. Resurrection of believers.
4. Overthrow of Christ's enemies and His glorious reign, 1 Corinthians 15:24-25.

Also we shall leave behind our material bodies and be given spiritual bodies which are fitted for a spiritual state. These will resemble the old bodies in appearance, but without defects, and with new powers and new glories.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—An honest ministry,—2 Corinthians 5:1-7.
- []—Looking away from trials,—2 Corinthians 4:1-18.
- []—The motive of Christian service,—2 Corinthians 5:14-21.
- []—An appeal for liberality,—2 Corinthians 8:7-15.
- []—Paul defends his right as an apostle,—2 Corinthians 11:1-12.
- []—Paul qualified by visions,—2 Corinthians 12:1-8.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire book of 2 Corinthians.

Lesson No. 11

LESSON THEME:—2 CORINTHIANS

2 Corinthians 1:1-7.

- **KEY WORD**—“COMFORT.”
- **KEY VERSE**—2 Corinthians 1:3-4.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“GOD’S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT.”

WRITER—Paul,

DATE 57 A.D. A few months after the first epistle.

PLACE OF WRITING—Probably Philippi.

OCCASION—After Paul had sent the First Epistle condemning the church for its lack of discipline, he was in great anxiety because of the state of the church, and as to how they would receive his recent rebukes. He, therefore, sent Titus to Corinth to find out the effect of his epistle. While Paul was at Philippi on his third missionary journey, Titus brought back the good news that the First Epistle had been received in the right spirit, and the offenders had been promptly dealt with. Paul was so thankful for the encouraging news that he wrote the Second Epistle.

PURPOSE—

1. To express the comfort their repentance had given him.
2. To urge a collection for famine stricken Christians in Palestine.
3. To defend his right as an apostle.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Ministry.
2. Collection.
3. Defense.

Great Fact: I. Paul’s Faithful Ministry.

2 Corinthians 1-7.

In 2 Corinthians 1; Paul declares that he has a clear conscience as to his sincerity and faithfulness while laboring among them, and explains that he has sent his first epistle instead of visiting them in order that when he did come he might be able to praise and not to scold them. In 2 Corinthians 2; he begs the church to forgive the noted offender who has repented, in order that Satan may take no advantage of the affair. In 2 Corinthians 3; he declares that he needs no letters of commendation, for the church at Corinth. In his letter of commendation, a letter written not with ink upon paper, but with the Spirit upon Christian hearts. In 2 Corinthians 4 he declares that his ministry was honest, and the gospel message understandable to those who were spiritually capable of receiving it. He suffered much in his ministry, but was optimistic because afflictions here will increase our glory yonder. In 2 Corinthians 5 he finds comfort in the thought that our suffering bodies will soon be exchanged for bodies of painless glory, therefore, whether we live or die we should keep the judgment of reward in view. As Christ's ambassador he sought for men to be reconciled to God. In 2 Corinthians 6 he appeals to his fellow workers not to receive God's loving kindness in vain, but also to open their hearts to Him, and to prove their love by separating themselves from unbelievers. In 2 Corinthians 7 he tells of his anxiety while waiting for a report from them by Titus. He notes that they were at first grieved by his sharp letter, but afterward followed his counsel and stood firm for the truth. Thus Godly sorrow leads to repentance and brings salvation, which one will never regret he possessed.

LESSONS:—

1. When in trouble we should find comfort, not in forgetfulness or in dissipation, or in complaining, but in the God of all comfort, for all true comfort comes from Him. Then as with Paul, the comforted shall become comforters.
2. Although Paul had to say severe things to his friends at Corinth, he was not blind to their good qualities, but praised them at every opportunity and never disparaged them to outsiders. If we wish friendship to last, and stand the strains to which all human ties are subject, we must never forget this rule: "Praise somewhat!"

Great Fact II -- The Collection for Famine-Stricken Christians.

2 Corinthians 8-9.

In 2 Corinthians 8 Paul reminds the brethren at Corinth of the liberality of the Macedonian churches to the Palestine famine fund. Although poor they begged an

opportunity to give, and gave beyond their power, because they first gave themselves to the Lord. He therefore urges the Corinthians to excel not only in faith, teaching and earnestness but also in the spiritual gift of giving, following the example of our Lord, 2 Corinthians 8-9. They were the first to start the offering for their Jewish brothers, now they are asked to complete it that Paul's praise of them to the other churches may be justified. Let each one give, not grudgingly, but cheerfully and liberally, and God will enrich with spiritual graces, and material supplies to repay gifts made to Him. These gifts will strengthen the ties of brotherhood between the Jewish and Gentile Christians. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift!

LESSONS—The Macedonian churches, were shining examples in the grace of giving, for:—

1. They gave out of deep poverty, 2 Corinthians 8:2.
2. They gave largely, 2 Corinthians 8:3.
3. They gave spontaneously, of their own accord, without being begged, 2 Corinthians 8:3.
4. They counted it a privilege to give, and gave with much joy, 2 Cor. 8:4;
5. All this was because they first gave their own selves to the Lord.

This is what the Savior desires. The important problems of tithing and stewardship will be solved when we first give our own selves unto the Lord.

Great Fact III -- Paul's Defense of His Apostleship.

2 Corinthians 10-14.

A minority of Judaizing Christians in the church accused Paul of being bold toward them in his letters, but cowardly with them in person. They said that he was no apostle because he worked with his own hands to support himself, and did not live on the gospel as did the other apostles. Paul replies that if false teachers boast of their power and authority, even while seeking to put them under the bondage of the Law, he, therefore, will boast somewhat, and show that he is ahead of them all because of his countless sufferings on land and sea. Yes, his very sacrifices and successes prove his apostleship. Besides all this, the Lord had given him marvelous visions and revelations, indeed he was caught up into paradise and heard things that could not be put into speech, 2 Corinthians 12:4. It was because of these exalted experiences that he had a thorn in the flesh, 2 Corinthians 12:7. He did not want to boast but to show that he had produced all the mighty deeds of an apostle.

2 Corinthians 12:12. He would yet come to them a third time and would not spare those who were impenitent or who opposed the gospel, 2 Corinthians 13:2.

LESSONS:—

1. Paul was a highly gifted man but he did not rely upon his personal ability for his apostolic authority. Also he and the other apostles declared again and again that they did not receive their commissions from man but from the Lord. He convinced his opponents that he was truly an apostle because he had seen Jesus, 1 Corinthians 9-11. Had received a call to the work of an apostle, 1 Corinthians 1:1, and could point to the signs and seals of his apostleship, 2 Corinthians 12:12. The other apostles perceiving the grace that was given him, recognized Paul as apostle to the Gentiles and gave him the right hand of fellowship, Galatians 2:9.
2. Paul's thorn in the flesh is thought to have been chronic eye trouble that made him look contemptible to others. What it actually was, however, is not stated, in order that the grace sufficient which he received may be available for all to whom a thorn is given.
3. God always hears the prayers of faith, but sometimes answers "No," because He sees we will be better off with the thorn than without it. Perhaps no verse in Scripture has brought more strength and comfort than 2 Corinthians 12:9. The sufficiency of divine grace was the great comfort of Paul in times of weakness, hardship and danger. So with us, for unusual tasks we are given unusual strength, for unusual suffering we are given unusual patience. In all grace is always sufficient!

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—He who perverts the gospel must expect a curse,—Gal. 1:1-9.
- []—Keeping the ceremonial law is unnecessary,—Galatians 2:11-21.
- []—The law should direct men to Christ,—Galatians 3:19-29.
- []—Do not go back to a formal religion,—Galatians 4:1-14.
- []—Stand fast in Christian liberty,—Galatians 5:1-13.
- []—Works of flesh versus fruits of Spirit,—Galatians 5:13-25.
- []—Be kind and spiritual, 6:1-10.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire book of Galatians.

Lesson No. 12

LESSON THEME:—GALATIANS

Galatians 5:22-26.

- **KEY WORD**—“**LIBERTY.**”
- **KEY VERSE**,—Galatians 5:1.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“**FREEDOM FROM WORKS AND CEREMONIES.**”

WRITER—Paul. **DATE**—Probably 57 A.D. from Corinth.

THE COUNTRY—Galatia was a province of the Roman Empire in Asia Minor, and derived its name from the Gaul or Celtic tribes who settled it 279 B.C. The people were impulsive and quick to receive impressions, so that they gave an enthusiastic welcome to Paul on his second missionary journey, and eagerly embraced Christianity, but were soon led away by false teachers.

THE CHURCHES—This letter is addressed to the churches of Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pesidia, which were in the province of Galatia. Remember that Antioch in Pesidia was 300 miles northwest of the great missionary church at Antioch.

OCCASION OF THE EPISTLE—Semi-Christian Jewish teachers were claiming that even if Christianity were true, Christians should be circumcised, and do all the works of the Law. The reason Paul did not teach this, these false teachers urged, was because he was not a true apostle and had learned his doctrines from others.

PURPOSE—

1. To trace Paul's gospel back to God Himself.
2. To show that the believer is free from the Law and is saved by faith alone.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Teaching.
2. Contrasts.
3. Freedom.

Great Fact I -- Paul's Teaching Was Authorized by God Himself.

Galatians 1-2.

Paul marvels that his recent converts should so quickly give up the gospel of freedom, and take up with a Jewish message that was no gospel at all. If an angel from heaven were to preach any gospel other than that Paul preached he would be accursed. To prove that Paul's apostleship and gospel were of divine origin he urges the following facts:

1. Only God could have changed him from a bitter Pharisee to a humble preacher of the gospel.
2. He did not consult men as to what he should preach, but retired to Arabia for three years and there consulted with God.
3. He was with Peter and James but fifteen days so could not have learned much from them.
4. When he went to the church council at Jerusalem, the apostles added nothing to his message, but gave him the right hand of fellowship into the company of the apostles and approved his message.
5. To show that Peter was not a greater apostle than he, he points out how he had openly rebuked Peter for being two-faced about Jewish customs. This proves he was not dominated by Peter's teaching.

LESSON:—

1. Just as the Galatians were urged to supplant Paul with Peter, when in reality they both stood for the same Christ and the same gospel, so today unwise voices cry, down with this leader and up with another to the injury of the common cause. If a church or denomination instead of unitedly rallying around Christ breaks up into different parties, then the tempter blights the influence of all the parties concerned.
2. Perverters of religion did not die out with the Galatians. They are a type of those who worship Christ plus somebody else! Who believe the Bible plus the keys or decrees of man! Who trust their salvation to faith plus ordinances or masses or penances! The wonder of all wonders is that any man would give up a gospel of freedom and faith for a religion of tyranny and works.

Great Fact II -- Contrasts Between Law and Grace.

Galatians 3-4.

Here the apostle reminds them that they received the Spirit not as a result of obedience to Law, but because they heard the gospel with faith. Not the circumcised, but those whose lives are based on faith are the true sons of Abraham. The Law cannot give righteousness, but it does curse all who do not keep everything in it. God's covenant of faith with Abraham was not made of none effect by the Law given 430 years afterward. If the Law cannot give the Spirit, nor righteousness, nor a blessing, nor affect the faith-covenant with Abraham, of what use is it? To show man his guilt, and to direct him to Christ! For this reason all distinctions between Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, male and female have vanished, for all are one in union with Christ Jesus. As long as the heir is under age there is no difference between him and a slave for he is subject to the control of guardians. So with us, we are under the trifling, childish teachings of this world, but since Christ came to ransom us, we are no longer slaves, but possess all the privileges of full-grown sons and heirs. Paul reminds them that they welcomed him as if he had been an angel of God, or even the Lord Himself! And how they would have torn out their own eyes and given them to him. Now he wants to be assured that they are as loyal to the gospel of grace as when they first received it! Illustrating again their exalted state as freeman in Christ he reminds them that Abraham had two sons, one Ishmael, the child of Hagar, the slave, and the other Isaac, the child of Sarah, the free woman. Ishmael did not enjoy the blessings of Abraham's house but was cast out, so it must be with those who seek to be saved by keeping the Law. But as Isaac was the child of promise, so all who become sons through faith in Christ, are heirs of spiritual promise.

LESSON—Notice the remarkable contrasts.

1. **Grace vs. Law.** Under Grace God graciously bestows salvation, but the law demands that we should deserve it.
2. **Faith vs. works.** Through faith we trustingly receive salvation, but works would keep us ever feverishly seeking to earn it.
3. **Spirit vs. flesh.** Living in the Spirit gives one daily victory over sin, but walking after the flesh makes one ever prone to sin.
4. **Cross vs. world.** The principles of the Cross are those of love, sacrifice and consecration, but those of the world are force, selfishness and pleasure.

Great Fact III -- Freedom From Works and the Flesh.

Galatians 5-6.

Paul beseeches the Galatians to hold fast to their gospel liberty, for if they seek to be saved by keeping a part of the Law that binds them to keep the whole Law. As Christ's freemen they ran such a splendid race, why be hindered? If they are so anxious to keep Law then love one another, for this is the summing up of the whole Law. Not only so but free yourselves from the cravings of your earthly nature, for these result in seventeen evil works, Galatians 5:19. Far better it is to yield the nine-fold fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:11-23. He that soweth to the Spirit will reap spiritual harvest, but he who sows to the lower appetites will reap moral weakness and suffering, Galatians 6:7-8. Show a gentle spirit to one caught committing a sin, remembering that you also may be tempted, Galatians 6:1. False teachers glory in the number of their converts, but God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! Galatians 6:12-14.

LESSON—The most common fault of Christians is, that when converted, they do not cut loose from old habits, unscriptural beliefs and unscriptural friends. They are like two drunken men who one night went down to where their boat was tied and sought to return home. They got in and began to row, but when morning dawned they saw that they had never loosed the mooring line nor raised the anchor. That is just the way with many who would like to grow in grace. They get into the good boat "Conversion" but they never let the Spirit pull up the flesh anchor, and the world and the devil have pretty strong lines upon them. To consciously realize the abiding presence of the Spirit gives the believer a victorious life (5:16), creates Christian character 5:22), inspires prayer, Ephesians 6:18, helps our weakness, Romans 8:26, and makes real the rights, privileges and wealth of sonship (6:6-7).

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION::

- []—The believer's position in Christ,—Ephesians 1:1-14.
- []—A prayer for knowledge and power,—Ephesians 1:15-23.
- []—Once aliens now fellow citizens,—Ephesians 2:1-13.
- []—Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ,—Ephesians 2:14-22.
- []—Gentiles being fellow heirs used to be a mystery,—Eph. 3:1-13.
- []—The walk of God's children,—Ephesians 5: 1-17.
- []—Warfare of spirit-filled believers,—Ephesians 6:10-18.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

[] The entire book of Ephesians.

Lesson No. 13

LESSON THEME:—EPHESIANS

Ephesians 1:1-7.

- **KEY WORD**—“IN CHRIST.”
- **KEY VERSE**—Ephesians 1:3.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST.”

THE CHURCH was probably founded by Jews from Pentecost, but Paul visited it twice, and on the second visit preached there for three years. So effective was Paul’s work that the Diana idol-makers were afraid they would lose their business. The Apostle John was later a pastor there.

PURPOSE—To give a deeper knowledge of the believer’s high calling in Christ Jesus.

WRITER—Paul.

DATE and PLACE—62 A.D. during the first imprisonment at Rome. He wrote at the same time Philemon, Colossians and Philippians. These four are known as the Prison Epistles.

EPHESUS was the capital of the Roman province of Asia and was famous for the beautiful temple of Diana which was one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Also for the theatre which would seat 50,000 and was the largest ever built by the Greeks. To it rushed the mob that had seized Paul, Acts 19:29. The city also possessed a great stadium or circus where men fought with wild beasts, 1 Corinthians 16:32.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Position.
2. Mystery.
3. Godliness.
4. Domestic Life.
5. Warfare.

Great Fact I -- The Believer's Position in Christ.

Ephesians 1-2.

We have here the saint's inheritance in the Land of Promise, or the spiritual blessings with which God has blessed us in heavenly things in Christ. There are at least nine blessings unfolded in this section for the believer who is in union with Christ through faith. He is:

1. Chosen in Christ to be holy and blameless, Ephesians 1:4. In the remote ages of past eternity God was thinking about us, loving us and planning to bless us. Before Satan ever appeared to spoil the innocence and happiness of earth, God laid plans to make all who should believe in Christ to be holy and blameless.
2. Prepared for adoption to Himself, Ephesians 1:5. We become children of God by the new birth, but we enter immediately upon all the privileges of full-grown sons by God's act of adoption.
3. Redeemed from the bondage of sin, Ephesians 1:4. By nature man belongs to sin and Satan, death and hell, but Christ with the infinite price of His own blood has released us from these things.
4. Given insight into the will and ways of God, Ephesians 1:9. The world knows nothing of God's ways with man in the past or in the future, but God opens up His secret things to the believer.
5. Sealed by the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 1:15. God stamps upon man's spirit all the blessed traits of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, etc.
6. Made alive through Christ, Ephesians 2:5. It takes half a dozen pallbearers to carry a dead man, but a live man can carry himself and somebody else besides. Christ's life throbbing in the heart makes us alive to enjoy everything from God and to do everything for God.
7. Raised to the realm of heavenly things, Ephesians 2:6. When we are born again, we share the resurrection privileges of Christ, and as we grow in grace we share the ascension privileges of Christ. We rise above the trials, temptations and fascinations of the world, and have a joyful experience in heavenly things that this world can never afford.
8. Brought nigh by the blood, Ephesians 2:13. We were as prodigals in the far country, away from Christ and the right to heaven. The blood of Christ, however, has brought the believer into the covenant, into precious nearness to Christ, and into eternal nearness hereafter.

9. The believer, whether Jew or Gentile, is made part of the one glorious church, Ephesians 2:21. The church is Christ's body, and all true believers are joint-members of the body, but note carefully that:
 1. Christ, and He alone, is the Head of the body.
 2. He was also the foundation of it.
 3. The church should be a holy and growing thing.
 4. When completed it will exhibit the manifold glory of God.

LESSON—We may come to this wonderful epistle as some go shopping. They will go into a store that has a hundred thousand dollars' worth of goods, buy a packet of pins and walk out; that is what they went for. Rather let us become the happy possessor of all the blessed spiritual truths in the storehouse of God's grace.

Great Fact II -- A Mystery of God Revealed.

Ephesians 3.

Paul here tells how God held back from other generations the secret that the Gentiles should be heirs of and shareholders in the gospel, and have free admission to the church on equal terms with the Jews, whether in heaven or on earth as forming one family and deriving its name from God, Ephesians 3:15. The petitions of Paul's exalted prayers are four:

1. To be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man.
2. To have Christ dwelling in the heart by faith.
3. With all saints to understand the breadth and length, the depth and the height of the love of Christ.
4. To be filled with all the fullness of God.

Great Fact III -- Appeals for Godliness.

Ephesians 4–5:20.

Paul here entreats us to walk worthily of our heavenly citizenship, to be humble, gentle and patient, and to keep the seven unities of the Spirit. These are one church, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. Use the spiritual gifts that the ascended Christ bequeathed to the church and thus attain ideal spiritual manhood. Lay aside like an old garment the old life, and put on like a new garment the new life. Let all bitterness, passion, anger, malice and harsh language be banished from among you, and be kind to one another,

tender hearted, ready to forgive one another, just as God for Christ's sake forgave you. Have nothing to do with deeds of darkness for you are children of light and should live in the open. Arise from spiritual death, and Christ shall give you light. Make the most of every opportunity for good. Find exhilaration not in wine but in the power of the Spirit. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, and always give thanks for everything.

LESSON—Godliness is having the heart and eye turned towards God until we become like God. We should have Godly fear, Godly sincerity and Godly zeal and Godly compassion. Every created thing has its bounds, but Godliness has none. God's wells can never be too full of water. The tree of righteousness cannot bear too many fruits of the Spirit. Godliness with contentment is great gain.

Great Fact IV -- Domestic Life Should Be Spiritual.

Ephesians 5:21–6:9.

Let wives acknowledge the headship of their husbands, even as the church acknowledges the headship of Christ. Let the husbands serve their wives, and love them as they love themselves, for Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it to purchase, cleanse and make it perfect. Children, obey your parents, as children of the Lord, for this is but right, besides it will mean long life and prosperity. Servants, always obey your earthly masters, not only when their eyes are on you. Give your service heartily and cheerfully as if working for the divine Master, for everyone will be rewarded by this Master for any honest work he has done. Masters, show the right spirit to your servants, and do not threaten them, for both your Master and theirs is in Heaven, and before Him there is no distinction of rank.

LESSON—No man can love his wife too much unless he loves her more than Christ loves the church. No wife can have the home too spiritual for if many a husband is to get to heaven, he must be helped through the gracious life of the wife. The Christian family is the cradle and protection of the Christian faith. Parents, lead your boys and girls to Jesus. Children, obey to succeed.

Great Fact V -- The Christian Life Is a Warfare.

Ephesians 6:10-24.

Find strength in your union with the Lord, and in the power of His might, for life is a campaign against the various powers of evil that hold sway in the darkness

around us, against the spirits of wickedness in the air. Therefore, as spiritual soldiers put on the whole armor of God, with your breastplate, and the shoes of Peace. In every battle take up Faith for your shield, for this will protect you from the fiery depths of the Evil one. Let the hope of Complete Sanctification be your helmet, and for a sword use the Word of God.

LESSONS:—

1. Armor is God's, not ours.
2. We are to put it on.
3. We are to put on the whole of it.
4. The results of putting it on are security, comfort, victory.
5. No armor is provided for the back, showing that the Christian soldier was not meant to run from his enemies.

Fight the good fight with all thy might. Christ is thy strength and Christ thy light; Lay hold on life and it shall be; Thy joy and crown eternally.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Rejoicing over suffering,—Philippians 1:8-21.
- []—Rejoicing in lowly service,—Philippians 2:1-11.
- []—Rejoicing in Christ's righteousness,—Philippians 3:1-9.
- []—Rejoicing in the hope of the prize,—Philippians 3:10-14.
- []—Rejoicing in the hope of His coming,—Philippians 3:15-21.
- []—Rejoicing in His strength,—Philippians 4:1-13.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

[] The entire book of Philippians.

Lesson No. 14

LESSON THEME:—PHILIPPIANS

Philippians 4:4-8.

- **KEY WORD**—“REJOICING.”
- **KEY VERSE**—Philippians 4:4.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“THE JOY OF CHRISTIAN UNITY SHOULD BE PRESERVED.”

WRITER—Paul.

DATE and PLACE—62 A.D., during his first imprisonment at Rome.

PHILLIPI was named after Phillip II King of Macedonia, and father of Alexander the Great. It is famous in Roman history as the place of the defeat of the republic and the rise of the empire, 42 B.C. A spirit is supposed to have appeared to Brutus, the leader of the republican army, and said to him, “I am thy evil genius, we will meet again at Philippi!”

It will be always famous for Paul’s imprisonment, the earthquake and the conversion of the Philippian jailer. It was here that the first church in Europe was set up by Paul in 62 A.D. Acts 16:12-32.

THE CHURCH was founded by Paul on his second missionary journey, and seems to have been free from Jewish troubles, and the errors in doctrine, that so endangered most of the other churches. Indeed, it was Paul’s favorite church, ever showing their loyalty to him and their affection for him by messages of love and mission offerings.

OCCASION—The church had sent Paul a contribution for his support while in prison and unable to provide for himself. The bearer of the gift, Epaphroditus, was taken dangerously sick at Rome, but having recovered and being about to return home, Paul takes the opportunity of writing this letter to the noble church.

PURPOSE—

1. To express Paul’s Christian love to the church for their devotion to him.

2. To exhort them to press toward the mark of high Christian character, and to sound the depths of real Christian joy.

GREAT FACTS:—

Rejoicing in Christ:—

1. Life.
2. Example.
3. Righteousness.
4. Strength.

Great Fact I -- Rejoicing in Christ's Life.

Philippians 1.

Paul first assures the church that every recollection he has of them is a cause of gratitude, and that the good work done in them would go on until it was perfected. He prays that of excellent things they may choose the best, and that they may bear a rich harvest of righteousness. He tells them that although he is in prison and chained to a soldier, yet the people gather to hear him preach, and even the guards were so interested in the gospel that they spread the message around. This encouraged other Christians to preach the gospel fearlessly. Some, however, with envy in their hearts, preached deceitfully, hoping to add to Paul's sorrows, but he rejoices that Christ is preached, whether by his enemies or by his friends. He is determined to magnify Christ, either with his restored liberty or by his death. To live is to work FOR Christ, to die is to be WITH Christ. He would rather die than live, but he would rather live than die before his work was done.

LESSON—To some, both life and death have seemed like evils, but to the apostle they are both supreme blessings, and he did not know which to choose. In spite of his hardships he was still willing to be a living sacrifice, for the sacrifice of life is more noble, more heroic, and more divine than the sacrifice of death. This was the secret of Paul's life, which made him the greatest apostle and missionary of all time. As some men lose themselves in a great ambition or a great art, so he lost himself in Christ. He saw God's purposes as Christ did. He magnified God's grace as Christ did. He had Christ's virtues, Christ's vision, Christ's strength, and Christ's spirit. Oh, that the virtues and spirit of Christ may breathe out from our lives, then we, too, shall be nobler, more heroic, more divine.

Great Fact II -- Rejoicing in Christ's Example.

Philippians 2.

Paul here exhorts the church to make his happiness complete by living together in unity, love, humility and unselfishness, bearing in mind the example of Christ, who although He was equal with the Father, yet emptied Himself of His heavenly glory and in a seven-fold way humbled Himself, Philippians 2:5-8. Therefore God highly exalted Him in His resurrection and ascension and appointed that every tongue should confess Him to the glory of the Father. Man must work out his own salvation, for it is absolutely a personal matter, and one cannot repent, believe and love for another. Further, man must seem to enjoy the experience, and yield the fruits of a FULL salvation for God is working in us to that end. Following the example of Christ still, we should not complain or dispute, but rather be blameless and pure in the midst of an evil-disposed world. If the church will make such scriptural progress, then Paul will count it a great joy to have poured out his life-blood for them.

LESSON—If our lives would at all approach the blessed example of Christ we must:

1. Empty ourselves of honors and gains that may be fairly ours. “Our richest gains we must count but loss and pour contempt on all our pride!”
2. We must imitate Him who although Lord of all, became the servant to all!
3. We must become obedient even unto death. Christ to be obedient laid aside omnipotence and took upon Himself our human frailties, He exchanged His glory throne for an awful cross, surely “Love so amazing. So divine, demands my life, my soul, my all!” Then, as with Christ, humiliation shall soon be followed by exaltation; if we share His cross we shall also share His throne.

Great Fact III -- Rejoicing in Christ's Righteousness, Fellowship and Coming.

Philippians 3.

Paul here warns the church of the Judaizers who make so much of the circumcision. He affirms that the real circumcision are those who live a spiritual religion and look only to Christ for deliverance from sin. When it comes to boasting of lineage and pedigree, he outranks them all, yet he counts all natural

honors and privileges as trash compared with the exceeding value of a personal and saving knowledge of Christ Jesus. He would lose everything to gain Christ; he would turn his back upon the Law and its righteousness if only he might be clothed in Christ's righteousness. Then indeed he would know Christ fully and the power of His resurrection. Not that he had attained to the resurrection from the dead, neither was he perfect with the perfection of heaven, but he was stretching every power of his soul to reach the goal of spiritual excellence. Let all mature Christians have this spiritual ambition and not follow those who are enemies of the Cross, and live only to satisfy their earthly appetites. For our citizenship is in heaven, therefore we should live as heavenly citizens, ever looking for Christ's coming, when He will change these bodies of humiliation into bodies of glory like His own.

LESSON—Just as a sailor will throw his precious cargo overboard in order to save the ship and his life, so must we throw overboard all trust in our own righteousness in order to gain Christ. We may have come from a good family and from a Christian background. We may have always attended Sunday school and church, and always had good moral principles. Yet Paul here agrees with Isaiah in declaring that “All our own righteousness is as filthy rags.” The supreme thing is to place entire dependence in the righteousness of Christ, and to seek to gain it, not by tears, or work, or gift, but by repentant faith.

Great Fact IV -- Rejoicing in Christ's Strength.

Philippians 4.

Paul prays that the Christian may have joy at all times in union with his Lord, and not to be weakened by worry but to carry everything to God in prayer. Then the peace of God, surpassing all thought will stand guard over our hearts and minds. Be careful of your thoughts, wherever you find anything true or honorable, pure or virtuous, then meditate on these things. He rejoiced in their gift to him, not because he was in want, for he had learned the secret of contentment in all circumstances. In all human experiences he could do all things in the strength of Him who makes strong. Their gifts, however, were a fragrant and acceptable sacrifice unto God, and as they had supplied his need God would supply all their needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

LESSON—Here is a beautiful picture of the omnipotence of the Christian. In Christ's strength he is:—

1. Able to undergo every trial.

2. Brave in every suffering.
3. Overcoming every temptation.
4. Performing every duty.

If therefore strength is available, then there is no excuse for weakness. He who protects the young birds in their warm nests and braces the oak tree to wrestle with the storm, will either hide His own in the cleft of the rock until the storm passes, or give them strength to bravely conquer the storm out in the open. The infant, fostered by his mother, will soon become strong and useful; the saplings, fostered by the gardener, will soon become fruitful. How much more then shall the believer, blessed and strengthened by Christ, abound, be fruitful, and triumph over every obstacle!

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Greetings and seven-fold prayer,—Colossians 1:1-14.
- []—Seven superiorities of Christ,—Colossians 1:15-23.
- []—Danger of putting shadow MI substance,—Colossians 2:1-8.
- []—In Christ dwells all fullness,—Colossians 2:9-17.
- []—Old nature and the new man,—Colossians 3:1-11.
- []—The graces of the new man,—Colossians 3:12-17.
- []—Pray and redeem the time,—Colossians 4:1-6.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire book of Colossians.

Lesson No. 15

LESSON THEME:—COLOSSIANS

Colossians 1:15-19.

KEY WORD—“**PRE-EMINENCE.**”

KEY VERSE—Colossians 1:18.

KEY PHRASE—“**CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH AND OF ALL THINGS.**”

WRITER—Paul. **DATE** and **PLACE** of writing, 62 A.D, during his first imprisonment at Rome.

COLOSSAE was the third-rate town in size, situated about 100 miles east of Ephesus in Asia Minor.

THE CHURCH was probably founded by Epaphras, Colossians 1:7, although Paul kept in close touch with the people, and was known and loved by the people.

OCCASION—Epaphras went to Rome to meet with Paul concerning the errors that were creeping into the church. The false prophets argued:—

1. That God is pure and good, but that matter is evil, therefore the world could not have come from God. This wrong theory of matter prevails in Christian Science today.
2. Therefore, they argued, there must be different degrees of angels, who created us, so we should worship angels. Angel worship is still acknowledged in the Roman catechism.
3. The only way to give our bodies is to discipline them with penances. This is still practiced by Catholics.
4. They made too much of ceremonies, ordinances and fast days, a serious error of Catholicism. These false teachings placed Christ in the background, and denied His headship, so to combat them, Paul sent this letter back to Epaphras.

PURPOSE—To exalt the person of Christ, and to teach that He is the Creator of the universe and the supreme Head of the church and of all things.

GREAT FACTS:

1. Pre-Eminence.
2. False
3. Teaching.
4. Graces.

Great Fact I -- The Pre-Eminence of Christ.

Colossians 1.

Paul first thanks the Father for their faith in Christ, their love for the saints, and their hope laid up in heaven, Colossians 1:1-8. He then prays that they may experience a deeper insight into spiritual truth, may live lives worthy of the Master, and be fruitful in every kind of good deed, Colossians 1:9-14. He next glowingly describes Christ's seven superiorities over all other created beings.

1. He is the exact likeness of the unseen God.
2. He existed before all creation.
3. He was the producer of all creation.
4. All things were created by Him.
5. He is the supreme authority over the church in all matters.
6. He is the Bringer-forth of the dead.
7. In Him all the fullness of the divine nature dwells.

Not only is He superior in His blessed person, but also in His saving work, for He has made peace through the shedding of His blood offered on the Cross, and by this sacrifice reconciled all believers to God, Colossians 1:20-23. Paul rejoices that he could suffer for Christ, and preach to the Gentiles the truth hidden from former generations, that Christ is in us, the Hope of glory, Colossians 1:24-29.

LESSON—

1. If it is Christ's glory to be the exact likeness of God, then It should be our glory to be the exact likeness of Christ in knowledge, Colossians 3:10; in holiness and righteousness, Ephesians 4:24. We were predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, Romans 8:29.
2. If Christ made saints and angels then we should worship Him and not them.

3. The fullness of Christ's wisdom will keep us from error, the fullness of his grace will subdue our sins, the fullness of His mercy will comfort us in times of trouble, the fullness of His joy will delight our souls, Colossians 1:19.

Great Fact II -- Warning Against False Teachings.

Colossians 2.

Paul here longs for the Christians to keep in view the full blessedness of firm conviction and to strive for a perfect knowledge of God's truth, so that no shrewd false teacher should deceive them. The Gnostics, (so called because they claimed to know the doctrines of Christ, but in reality were mixing Greek philosophy with Christianity) taught that Christ was only one of the mediums of communication between God and man. On the contrary, He is the Head of all spiritual and human beings, the almighty Deliverer from sin's tyranny, and when He died on the cross He put the powers of evil to open contempt, Colossians 1:15. The believer should remember that he is emancipated from all ordinances of the Law, and need not keep fast days, for undue self-denial does not curb the lower appetites or passions, Colossians 2:21-23. Let none trick you into the worship of angels, but rather be ruled by the Head of the church who will nourish you, so that you may grow with a divine growth, Colossians 2:18-19.

LESSON—

1. Whoever robs Christ of His pre-eminences and glory robs us of our salvation. By so much as His position is lowered and His fullness diminished, by so much is our spiritual life imperiled and impaired. Whatever is taken away from the completeness of His person and the sufficiency of His mediation is taken away at the same time from our assurance of pardon, from the ground of our faith, from our motive of holiness and from the certainty of our heavenly prize. He does not share with others the blessed work of saving and keeping the believer. Neither angels, nor saints, nor virgins, nor prophets, nor martyrs rank with Him, for He is the very embodiment of the divine fullness.
2. There is nothing religious in punishing the body, or in denying it necessary food, or in arraying it in uncomfortable clothes as the ascetics have done and do now. The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit and not a weakened body; a corrupt heart often dwells in a fasting body.

3. All Jewish feasts and sacred days were connected with the shadowy Law. From the shadow the Christian turns to Christ the substance, and observes and enjoys only the gospel realities.

Great Fact III -- The Old Nature vs. The Graces of the New Life.

Colossians 3-4.

The apostle here pleads that old nature should be destroyed together with all its vices, such as immorality, impurity, passion, greed, malice, slander, and unworthy talk. In their place we should put on as a new garment the graces of the new life such as tenderness of heart, kindliness, humility, patience, forgiveness and love. By practicing these things we are living as heavenly citizens in a spiritual realm, rooted indeed in Christ! In the Christian family, wives should submit lovingly to their husbands, and husbands should never be harsh with their wives. Children should obey their parents in everything, for that is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers should never irritate their children lest they become disheartened. Servants should render all service with honesty of heart, and masters should do what is right and fair by their servants. We should persevere in prayer, praying particularly that God will open a door for the gospel. Be cautious in dealing with unchristian men. Buy up the time for doing good. Our conversation should always be kindly.

LESSON—

1. The destruction of the old nature is a gradual process. There will be remains of the old life, but it should not be in power, but should be crucified daily.
2. Sin does not die out by itself; we must kill it with the help of the Spirit. In the past we were delivered from the guilt of sin, in the present we should be delivered from the power of sin, and in the future we shall be delivered from the presence of sin.
3. The graces of the new life include a new nature for we are born from above. Also a new citizenship for we should have heavenly ideals. Also new conduct for we should be emancipated from old failures, and grow out of old faults. Too often the fruits of the Spirit are as small wild fruit grown in the woods. Man's highest action is to reach up higher. Trees cannot grow up into the sky, but they can grow up towards it. As life is unceasing change, let it be from good to better, and from better to best. The old nature should die, let it die. The graces of the new life should abound more and more unto the perfect day. Our life-long ambition should be to master every sin and to possess and practice every virtue.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—A picture of a spiritual church,—1 Thessalonians 1.
- []—Paul's example and exhortation,—1 Thessalonians 2:1-12.
- []—Walk to please God,—1 Thessalonians 4:1-2.
- []—Comfort concerning departed loved ones,—1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
- []—Watchfulness for Christ's coming,—1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.
- []—The man of sin must first come,—2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.
- []—Consistent Christian conduct,—2 Thessalonians 3:1-13.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

[] The entire books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

Lesson No. 16

LESSON THEME:—1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS

- **KEY WORD**—“SECOND COMING.”
- **KEY VERSE**—1 Thessalonians 4:17.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“THE HOPE OF THE SECOND COMING INSPIRES, PURIFIES and COMFORTS.”

WRITER—Paul.

DATE—About 52 A.D. from Corinth.

THESSALONICA, whose modern name is Salonica, was a commercial center about 100 miles west of Philippi. Paul visited it on his second missionary journey, and finding a synagogue of the Jews there, preached on three successive Sabbaths, when quite a number of Jews, Greeks and women of high standing became converts. His success roused the jealousy of the unbelieving Jews, who raised a commotion and caused the apostle to escape by night to Berea.

THE CHURCH AT THESSALONICA was a strong and flourishing one composed of Gentiles rather than Jews. Paul longed to visit it again soon after his departure, but feared it would involve the converts in danger. He therefore sent Timothy from Athens to strengthen the faith of the Christians amid their hardships and persecutions, and he brought back a favorable report that was a great comfort to Paul.

OCCASION—The church on the whole was in a good state considering the fact that its members had been out of heathenism but a few months. Some, however, were in danger of accepting the heathen standard of morals. Others were so full of religious excitement and emotion that they neglected their daily labors, 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12. While others who had lost friends were mourning lest at the second coming of Christ these who had fallen asleep would not share in the rapture and glory.

PURPOSE—

1. To instruct new converts concerning the Christian's duties in this life.
2. To inspire comfort, patience and watchfulness because of the Lord's coming.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Spiritual Church.
2. Holiness.
3. Coming.
4. Man of Sin.

Great Fact I -- A Picture of a Spiritual Church.

1 Thessalonians 1.

Paul thanks God for this church because of the wonderful growth of their faith and their increasing love for one another. So marked was this that the apostle proudly held them up as an example to all other churches. Indeed, their “work of ‘faith, and labor of love and patience of hope” had made a profound impression all over northern and southern Greece (Macedonia and Achaia.). Everywhere that Paul went it was talk of the Christians, what a wonderful work God had done in Thessalonica.

LESSON—Dr. Scofield points out that when he put verses three and nine together we get the past, present and future tense of the Christian life. In the past the believer’s work of faith was to turn to God from idols, John 6:28-29. In the present, the believer’s labor of love is to serve the true and living God. In the future, the believer’s patience of hope is to wait for His Son from heaven. This three-fold order is seen also in Titus 2:11-13.

Great Fact II -- The Apostle’s Example of and Exhortation to Holiness.

1 Thessalonians 2-4:12.

Paul reminds the church that in spite of ill-treatment and great opposition he preached the gospel to them. Not as a flatterer or seeker of wealth, but with the simplicity of a child, and as gentle as a woman caring for her own children, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-7. You are the witnesses of how we used to toil with our hands night and day, and to plead with you that you should make call lives worthy of God who is calling you into the glory of His kingdom, 1 Thessalonians 2:8-12. We thank God also that you bravely endured persecutions from your heathen neighbors as did the churches in Judea from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, 1 Thessalonians 2:13-15. How glad we were to hear from Timothy that

you stand firm in faith and in love, and that you think kindly of us, and long to see us as we long to see you. May the Lord fill you to overflowing with love for one another, and make your hearts strong and your lives pure beyond reproach, 1 Thessalonians 3. It is God's purpose that you abstain from all immorality, live quietly, attend to your own business, and work with your own hands, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12.

LESSON—There are at least three kinds of people:—

1. Self-pleasers.
2. Men-pleasers.
3. God-pleasers.

The apostle charges us to please God in our religion, our morals, and in our daily work. A great statesman said, "We have lived too long for our fortunes, and our own interests, it is high time we began to live for God." Another said when he was dying, "I count all that part of my life lost which I spent not in communion with God, or in doing good!"

Great Fact III -- Comfort of and Watchfulness for Christ's Coming.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11.

Those whose loved ones have fallen asleep in death should not give way to hopeless sorrow, for at the Coming of the Lord, it is not the living who shall greet Him first. But when the arch-angel with a loud shout and the trumpet-call of God shall announce the Lord's coming, then the dead in Christ shall first rise to meet Him, and those who remain alive shall then be caught up in the clouds to share with them the rapture and glory, and to be forever with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these truths, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. As to the time of the Coming, it will be as unexpected as the coming of a thief, but while others sleep, let us be watchful and self-controlled. We should not live the night lives of sleep and indulgence, but day lives of faith, love and hope, encouraging one another and building up one another's characters, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

LESSON—

1. The second coming was one of the great themes of all the apostles, and the bright hope of the early churches. The grandest fact of the past is that Jesus Christ the Lord of Glory was made in the likeness of men and became obedient unto the death on the cross for our salvation. The most important

fact of the present is, that this same Lord Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us. The greatest prophesied event of the FUTURE is that this same Lord Jesus shall come again, Acts 1:11. All who keep before them this hope will purify themselves, 1 John 3:3, renounce irreligious ways and worldly ambitions, and live Godly in this present world. Titus 2:12.

2. This doctrine should not only supply us with comfort, but inspire us to watchfulness, Matthew 24:42. We should do nothing we should not like Him to find us doing. We should go nowhere that we would be ashamed for Him to find us. If we are always ready, then we are bound to be ready when the blessed hour shall come.

Great Fact IV -- The Man of Sin Must First Come.

2 Thessalonians 2.

As to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul begs them not to let their minds be disturbed by any letter which is supposed to have come from him to the effect that the Day of the Lord is come. That Day will not come until after the Great Apostasy, and the appearing of the Anti-Christ, that Incarnation of Wickedness, who will set himself in the temple and display himself as God. Wickedness is already at work in secret, but the Holy Spirit at present restrains it somewhat, but when He is removed out of the way, then Wickedness Incarnate will appear, only to be destroyed by the Lord Jesus with the breath of His lips, and annihilated by the glory of His coming. For at the Coming of the Lord there will be great activity on the part of Satan in the form of deceptive miracles, signs and wonders, as well as a wicked attempt to delude those who never received and loved the Truth to their own Salvation. Sentence will be passed on them because they refused to believe the Truth and delighted in wickedness, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

LESSON—

1. The man of sin is identical with the Anti-Christ referred to by Daniel in Daniel 11:31, and by our Lord in Matthew 24:15, and by John in Revelation 13:11. He will set himself up in Jerusalem, Matthew 24:15.
2. Will utter blasphemous things against the Most High, and deny the Father and the Son, Daniel 11:36.
3. Will appropriate divine honors, and establish idolatry. 2 Thessalonians 2:4.
4. Will take away the restored sacrifice of the Jews. Daniel 19:19.

5. His wicked activities will continue only three and a half years. Revelation 13:5.
6. He will be cast into the Lake of Fire at Christ's coming, Revelation 19:20.

We see then just as Christ's first coming occasioned an unusual outburst of demon activity, so Christ's second coming will be resisted by a final desperate effort of Satan, who, imitating Christ, will incarnate himself in human form, and will be called the Anti-Christ, because he will be a counterfeit Christ.

It is important that we should understand the many scriptures on this subject, and be able to read the signs of the times.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—We should war a good warfare,—1 Timothy 1:8-18.
- []—Prayer for all men,—1 Timothy 2:1-10.
- []—Qualifications of church officers,—1 Timothy 3:1-13.
- []—Godliness is profitable,—1 Timothy 4:1-8.
- []—The care of widows,—1 Timothy 5:1-8.
- []—The care of ministers,—1 Timothy 5:17-25.
- []—Things to follow after,—1 Timothy 6:1-12.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire book of 1 Timothy.

Lesson No. 17

LESSON THEME:—1 TIMOTHY

1 Timothy 3:14-16.

- **KEY WORD**—“**BEHAVIOR.**”
- **KEY VERSE**—1 Timothy 3:14-15.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“**SOUND DOCTRINES AND CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR.**”

WRITER—Paul.

DATE—About 65 A.D. probably from Philippi.

TO WHOM WRITTEN—**TIMOTHY**, was one of Paul’s own converts, and was called by him “his beloved and faithful son in the Lord,” 1 Corinthians 4:17. He was born at Lystra in Asia Minor, was converted there during Paul’s first missionary journey, and although he knew all about Paul’s persecutions and afflictions, was willing to cast in his lot with him. His father was a heathen Greek, but his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, were Jewesses. He was not circumcised as an infant, probably because his father objected. When, however, he became the co-worker of Paul in order to appease the Jewish Christians, who would have weakened Timothy’s position as a gospel preacher, Paul took Timothy and circumcised him. But Paul refused to have Titus circumcised, because he, unlike Timothy, was a Gentile by birth. Timothy was ordained as an evangelist, and did much valuable service for Paul and was greatly loved by him. His name is mentioned with Paul’s first imprisonment at Rome for two years, he was the apostle’s faithful helper, and later, when Paul’s life was about to be offered up, he affectionately urged Timothy to come to him. It was while Timothy was pastor at Ephesus that he received the two letters known as 1 and 2 Timothy.

OCCASION—The apostle had hoped to go to Ephesus to counteract false teachings, and instruct the church in sound doctrines and church government. Being unable to make the journey, and realizing that the apostolic period was nearing its end, he, therefore, set down in writing for the guidance of all churches, some clear revelations.

PURPOSE—

1. To encourage Timothy to fight a good fight.
2. To instruct the churches in sound doctrines and church government.
3. To inspire Christian behavior in the house of God.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Doctrines.
2. Worship.
3. Church Officers.
4. Conduct
5. Classes.

Great Fact I -- Unsound Doctrines Rebuked.

1 Timothy 1.

Paul here charges those who teach new and strange doctrines, not to mix fables and legends with the gospel. The Law is excellent in that it proves to men that they cannot be righteous of themselves, and therefore directs them to Christ, 1 Timothy 1:4-8. Paul is grateful that the Lord in His loving kindness has appointed him to be a minister, although once he blasphemed, persecuted and insulted, 1 Timothy 1:13. The exhaustless patience of Christ was shown towards him that he might be an example to all who afterwards believe of how Christ can save and use a great sinner, 1 Timothy 1:12-15. He urges Timothy to wage a noble war, with faith and a clear conscience, for some having thrust aside have wrecked their lives, 1 Timothy 1:18-20.

LESSON—When men come to die, the religion they have thought out and invented for themselves will yield them no comfort, but will be like the religion of a certain sculptor. On his death-bed a priest pointing to a beautiful cross the sculptor had made, said, “Behold your God, who died for you.” “Alas!” said the sculptor, “I made it.” There was no comfort for him in the work of his own hands. In religion, that which is created in one’s own brain will yield no comfort to one’s own heart. The most important question of all is, “What does God say?”

Great Fact II -- Public Worship.

1 Timothy 2.

Paul first exhorts the members of the church to pray regularly for those in authority over them and for all men, that Christians may be able to lead quiet, profitable and religious lives. This is acceptable in the sight of Christ our Savior who is the one mediator between God and men, and who gave Himself as the ransom price for all, 1 Timothy 2:1-6.

The apostle desired that the men should lead the prayers and that they should not pray angrily against their fellow-Christians, 1 Timothy 2:8. Women should dress quietly and modestly and not with jewelry and costly clothing, and the apostle would not consent to a woman teaching men in public, for Adam was made before Eve, and women find the place of highest well-being in family life, 1 Timothy 2:9-15.

LESSON—Christ desires that we worship Him in such a way that recognizes Him, fully and unconditionally, as the Son of Almighty God.

Great Fact III -- The Qualifications of Church Officers.

1 Timothy 3.

A pastor should be a man of blameless character, having only one wife, not quarrelsome, nor greedy for money, but a skilful teacher, and one who makes his own children behave well. Not a new convert lest he be intoxicated with pride, and above all he should have a good reputation among the people outside the church, 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Deacons and deaconesses must have the same moral qualifications, be tested first and only appointed to their office if no objection is raised against them. They too, must rule their households well, and they who serve nobly gain an honorable position and much freedom of speech in the faith, 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

LESSON—Paul is here emphasizing the need for Christian behavior. Some people think that behavior is not a very important thing, and yet behavior reveals character. It is not “do-havior” but “be-havior.” What we DO may be accidental, what we ARE is everything. It is an every-hour sermon. The victory of the early church was won by its behavior. “See how these Christians love one another,” it was said. “How unblameably we behave ourselves,” said Paul to the Thessalonians.

“I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way,” said the psalmist.

Great Fact IV -- Conduct of Good Servants of Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 4.

Warn the brethren that in later times some will turn away from the faith, giving themselves up to spiritualism, and making use of the hypocrisies of lying teachers. These teach that holiness is obtained through abstinence from marriage and from certain kinds of food. It is not, however, for man to place restrictions upon what God has given with liberal hand for our use. Only receive it gratefully as God's gift. 1 Timothy 4:1-5.

Lead a Godly life, for while bodily exercise is profitable for some things, yet Godliness is profitable for both this life and the life to come. Let your conversation and conduct, your love, faith and purity be an example to those who hold the faith. Apply yourself to reading, preaching and teaching and do not neglect the divine gift that many at your ordination prophesied was in you. By doing these things he would save himself from the dominion of sin and unto more blessed likeness to Christ, and save his hearers from the guilt and penalty of sin, 1 Timothy 4:6-16.

LESSON—A man had a camel that was wasting away. "See," he cried to a simple son of the desert, "I have tried cordials and elixir, balsams and lotions, yet all in vain." The son of the desert looked at the hollow sides and staring bones and said, "Your camel needs but one thing, food, good food and plenty of it." "Dear me," said the traveler, "I never thought of that." So when we are in low spirits there is our cure. We don't need pity, we don't deserve it. We must give our starved souls more prayer, more meditation on the Word and more communion with God. This is a sure cure for all our spiritual ills.

Great Fact V -- The Right Attitude Towards Various Classes.

1 Timothy 5-6.

Deal wisely and fairly with the different classes in the church. Only those widows sixty years old should be placed on the widow's list. Young widows should marry, be loyal wives and rear Christian children. Officers of the church should be honored and supported. Be slow in receiving accusations, but rebuke offenders publicly so that others may take warning. 1 Timothy 5. Christian servants should not think any less of their masters because they are their fellow-Christian, but should rather serve them better, 1 Timothy 6:12. Beware of discussions and wranglings with those who do it for gain, for it is Godliness with contentment that

gives great gain, 1 Timothy 6:5-6. Urge upon rich Christians that the love of money leads to all kinds of evils. They should rather be rich in good deeds, open-handed and generous, storing up for themselves a good foundation in the future life. Paul charges us before the life-giving God, and Jesus Christ who, before Pilate, (John 18:37) made the great profession of faith, to keep ourselves pure and unblameable until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Timothy 6:7-21.

LESSON—When the gladiator would enter the Coliseum at Rome, he would look up to the 87,000 people who were assembled to see if he acquitted himself well, and then his eye would rest upon the emperor and his court. The thought of the watching eyes, of the applause he might win, and of the reward of victory all nerved him to do his best. So, Oh Christian, one infinitely greater than Caesar, is looking down upon your arena. He it is who now commands you, “Take the cross and win the crown!” It is He who charges you, “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life.”

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Stir up thy gift,—2 Timothy 1:1-9.
- []—Hold fast to sound teaching,—2 Timothy 1:10-18.
- []—Endure hardness as a good soldier,—2 Timothy 2:1-15.
- []—Pursue righteousness,—2 Timothy 2:16-26.
- []—Perilous times will come,—2 Timothy 3:1-8.
- []—All scripture is profitable,—2 Timothy 3:9-17.
- []—Last charge of the apostle,—2 Timothy 4:1-8.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

[] The entire book of 2 Timothy.

Lesson No. 18

LESSON THEME:—2 TIMOTHY

2 Timothy 2:1-7.

- **KEY WORD**—“ENDURE.”
- **KEY VERSE**—2 Timothy 2:3.
- **KEY PHRASE**,—“BE A WORKMAN THAT NEEDETH NOT TO BE ASHAMED.”

WRITER—Paul.

DATE—68 A.D.

PLACE—During his last imprisonment at Rome.

OCCASION—Paul was now a prisoner in Rome for the second time, awaiting a hearing before the emperor. He was not being treated with the consideration shown him before, and because of the danger and shame, all his friends but Luke had deserted him. Knowing the wicked emperor, Nero, Paul felt sure his own death would not be long delayed, and longing for the presence of his beloved son in the faith, Timothy, he sends this letter, bidding him come with all speed to Rome. Then fearing that Timothy might arrive too late to receive his last instructions face to face, the condemned apostle pours forth his soul with all the earnestness of a dying man.

PURPOSE—

1. To inspire Timothy to Christian heroism.
2. To instruct him in his pastoral duties.
3. To charge him to combat false teachings.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Boldness.
2. Endurance.
3. Resource.
4. Last Charge.

Great Fact I -- A Call to Boldness.

2 Timothy 1.

Paul thanks God without ceasing for Timothy's sincere faith, and for his religious training received at the hands of his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice. He begs him to keep in active exercise the spiritual gifts received at his ordination, for the 'Spirit Which God gave was not a spirit of cowardice, but a spirit of power, love and self-control. Therefore, Timothy should not be ashamed of his Lord, nor of Paul the Lord's prisoner, but should rather join him in suffering for the gospel's sake. God's purposes and grace were made known to us by the appearing of our Savior, who has put an end to death, and brought life and immortality from darkness into light by the gospel. "I have perfect assurance that Christ will keep me until the Day of His Coming. Hold fast to the sound teaching that you have heard from me."

LESSONS—

1. Timothy had gifts and graces imparted to him through ordination at Paul's hands. None, however, but the apostles had the power of imparting these gifts. Our gifts come in regeneration and sanctification and should be stirred up by reading, meditation and prayer.
2. Cowardice is unworthy in us, who have received as a sacred trust the gospel truth to spread everywhere. The fear of man is very common, but those who fear God ought to know no other fear. Proverbs 14:26.

Great Fact II -- A Call to Endurance.

2 Timothy 2.

The truths you have learned from me entrust to reliable men, who in their turn will be able to teach others. Endure hardships as a brave soldier of Christ, not entangling yourself in ordinary affairs, but seeking to please your superior officer. No athlete wins the wreath of victory unless he does this. As the farmer is the first to partake of the fruits of his labor so shall it be with you. Keep in mind that Christ is risen from the dead, as told in the gospel entrusted to me, in the service of which I am suffering hardships even to being put in chains as a criminal. But I gladly submit to anything, just so the gospel is not chained! Urge the people to shun foolish and ignorant discussions, for they only breed quarrels, and a servant of the Lord should never quarrel, 2 Timothy 2:24. As one of God's workmen, do your

utmost to win God's approval, by handling aright the word of truth, Vs. 16. Banish all evil desires, but rather follow after righteousness, faith, love and peace, in company with those who out of pure heart call on the Lord, 2 Timothy 2:22.

LESSONS—

1. We must watch lest the comforts and innocent enjoyments of life make us to love ease too much, and make us less sturdy and brave than a good soldier ought to be. Endurance is not merely bearing difficulties and disappointments, but bearing them manfully and with the spirit of a hero. Samuel Rutherford, when imprisoned for the gospel's sake, used to date his letters from "Christ's Palace," and when Madame Guyon was shut up in a castle, she said, "Now the Lord has allowed me to be placed in a cage; I have nothing to do but sing."
2. If we would be God's workmen who win His approval, we must like the apostle, "Be always abounding in the work of the Lord." Only so can Christians definitely accomplish something worthy, have a good conscience, and live under God's smile. Faithful service is the highway to the hills of happiness, and the world needs as never before buoyant, radiant workers.

Great Fact III -- The Resource of the Believer in Perilous Times.

2 Timothy 3.

Be sure of this that in the last days perilous times will come when men will be laden with sins, and while they retain the outward form of religion, they will not allow it to influence them. Turn your back upon such men as these, for their minds are corrupted, and as regards the Faith they are utterly worthless, 2 Timothy 3:8. All who seek to live a religious life in union with Christ Jesus must suffer persecution, but wicked people and imposters will go from bad to worse deceiving others as they themselves have been deceived, 2 Timothy 3:12-13. Have unshaken faith in the Holy Scriptures, for they lead unto salvation, and being inspired by God are profitable for teaching, for refuting error, for giving guidance, and for training others in righteousness, so that the man of God might be noble and equipped for every work, 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

LESSONS—

1. As people progress in error there will be widespread moral decay. Wickedness will make the times perilous. It will be a time of danger to the faith of God's people, and a time of peril to their lives.
2. The believer's resource, however, is to be found in the Holy Scriptures. In the bright light of its truth, errors and heresies will be exposed, the deluded shall be set straight, those who waver will be established, the weak strengthened, and the believer shall find ever-new supplies of comfort and hope, and gain new insight into the depths of revelation. Let us then delight ourselves in the triumphant certainties of Scripture, for happy is that man who knows the ways of God.

Great Fact IV -- The Last Charge of the Great Apostle.

2 Timothy 4.

I solemnly charge you before God and Jesus Christ, who will judge you and who will soon appear; spread the gospel everywhere whether it is convenient or inconvenient to do so. Convince, rebuke, exhort, for a time will come when people will not endure sound teaching, but will rely upon fictions. But be thou temperate, face hardships, do the work of a missionary, and discharge all the duties of your office. As for me, my life's blood is already being poured out, and the time of my departure is come. I have run the great race, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. Now the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me in the crowning day, and not to me only, but to all who have loved His appearing, 2 Timothy 4:1-8.

LESSONS—

1. These tender farewell words from the greatest man God ever made have a solemn message for every Christian as well as for Timothy. We should seriously consider that the gospel-truth as a priceless pearl is entrusted to us for the salvation of others and that soon we must give an account of the trust reposed in us. Happy shall we be if we have been good trustees.
2. Life's evening hour for Paul was full of glory. He forgot that the lions, the flames or a cruel cross would end his earthly life; the good fight was ended, the long, hard race was run, and the memories of a noble life gave him great peace at eventide. Thus we learn that God's good men:—
 1. Welcome death or the Lord's Coming.
 2. That they look forward with certainty to the crown of righteousness.

3. They are anxious for the good work to go on after their death with uninterrupted power and success. Let us walk by faith that we too may have a coronation in the everlasting summer of the saints.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—A church officer should be a man of blameless character,—Titus 1:1-9.
- []—Rebuke false teachers,—Titus 1:10-16.
- []—Some virtues to be practice,—Titus 2:1-8.
- []—Christians should be a select people,—Titus 2:9-15.
- []—Live as one regenerated and renewed,—Titus 3:1-7.
- []—Messages to Timothy and Titus have same emphasis,—1 Timothy 6:1-12.
- []—Be devoted to good works,—Titus 3:9-15.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire book of Titus.

Lesson No. 19

LESSON THEME:—TITUS

Titus 2:11-15.

- **KEY WORD**—“GOOD WORKS.”
- **KEY VERSE**—Titus 2:7.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“THE VIRTUES AND GRACES OF CHURCH OFFICERS AND CHURCH MEMBERS.”

WRITER—Paul.

DATE—About 65 A.D. the same as I Timothy.

TO WHOM WRITTEN—Titus was a Gentile and Paul’s child in the faith, Titus 1:4. Also one of his co-workers, 2 Corinthians 8:23. When the church council was held at Jerusalem, Acts 15:13-19, to decide whether the Gentile Christians must be circumcised or not, Titus was made the test case and Paul’s plea for freedom from Jewish ordinances was granted. As Paul’s trusted friend, he went to Corinth with both the first and second epistles and tactfully and successfully persuaded the church to do the right thing in discipline and in the matter of divisions. Paul made a missionary journey to the island of Crete, and left Titus there in charge of the work. It was during Titus’ stay at Crete that the apostle wrote this letter.

OCCASION—Apollos was about to journey to Crete, and Paul, hearing that certain converts from Judaism were deceiving whole families with false teachings, he took the opportunity of sending a letter to Titus full of practical advice. He suggests that the way to counteract the harmful influences is to lay more emphasis upon sound doctrines and holy character.

PURPOSE—To set forth the virtues and graces that should exist in church officers and church members, and that these virtues and graces should be expressed in good works.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Church-Officers.
2. Church-Members.
3. Good Works.

Great Fact I -- The Kind of Officers a Church Should Have.

Titus 1.

Officers of the church should be men of irreproachable character, having one living wife, and whose children are not accused of being unruly. Not self-willed or quick-tempered, not addicted to drink or to fighting, or to questionable money-making. On the contrary, he should be hospitable, a lover of the right, discreet, just, a man of holy life and capable of self-restraint. One who holds doctrines that are according to the scripture that he may be able to encourage others by sound teaching, and to refute opponents. There are false teachers who for money will pervert the message of the gospel, and the Cretans themselves, as one of their teachers have said, “Are always liars, base brutes and lazy gluttons.” Rebuke such, sharply, that they may be sound in the Faith and pay no attention to those who would turn their backs upon the Truth. Everything is pure to the pure minded, but to those whose minds are polluted, and who are unbelievers, nothing is pure. They profess to know God, but disown Him by their actions, being degraded and disobedient, and are worthless as far as every good work is concerned.

LESSONS—

1. A minister must have but one living wife, but he is not compelled to be married, neither should he be compelled to remain unmarried.
2. A minister will be judged by his family life, he who cannot rule his own children well cannot rule the church of God, 1 Timothy 3:5.
3. He must have all the moral and social qualities of a good man, and should be known for his virtues and sympathies.
4. He must be doctrinally sound, not always running after new and novel theories, not a creator of the truth, but a teacher of it, remembering that the Truth has been sacredly entrusted to him.
5. These qualifications which are applied to ministers here are applied to other church offices in 1 Timothy 3:8-10.

Great Fact II -- Becoming Conduct for Church Members.

Titus 2.

Older men should be temperate, serious and discreet, strong in faith, love and endurance. So too, the older women should be reverent in their manner, avoiding scandal and not given to drink, that they may teach what is right and train the

younger women to love their husbands and children. Young men should exercise self-control, and be models of a noble life in everything. Servants should be obedient to their masters, trying to give satisfaction in everything, not contradicting or stealing, but showing praiseworthy loyalty so as to recommend the teaching of God our Savior in everything. For the loving-kindness of God leads us to renounce irreligious ways and live upright in this present world while we await the Appearing of our great God and Savior. For He gave Himself for us that He might deliver us from all wickedness, and to purify for Himself a select people zealous in good works.

LESSONS—

1. Paul not only soars high into the unspeakable mysteries of God and into the heights and depths of God's eternal purposes, but also goes into every detail of practical Godliness. He lifts up the humblest duties to a heavenly platform; he would bring every relationship into accordance with the laws of righteousness, and seeks to make all human life pure and happy.
2. John Selden was so thoroughly convinced of the superior value of the Holy Scriptures, as to declare that Titus, Titus 2:11-14, afforded him more solid Satisfaction than all he had ever read.

Great Fact III -- Church-Members Should Be Devoted to Good Works.

Titus 3.

Be submissive to rulers and authorities and be ready for every good work. Speak ill of no one, avoid quarrelling and show a gentle spirit in dealing with others. Remember the time when we ourselves had all the faults that we hate in others. But through the kindness of God our Savior we were saved, not as a result of the good works we had done, but in fulfillment of His merciful purposes. He saves us by that washing which was a New Birth to us, and by the renewing power of the Holy Spirit, which power He poured out on us richly through Christ Jesus our Savior. Have nothing to do with foolish discussions and controversies, for these are useless and futile. If a man is causing divisions among you, after warning him once or twice, have nothing more to say to him. You may be sure that such a man has forsaken the Truth and is in the wrong, he stands self-condemned. Let all our people devote themselves to doing good, so as to meet the most pressing needs, and that their lives may not be unfruitful.

LESSONS—

1. The washing and the renewing in Titus 3:5 are both done by the Holy Spirit. Regeneration always consists of two elements, first cleansing, second, renewing, or the giving of new life, John 3:5, and Titus 3:5, both mean this. “Except a man be cleansed by the Spirit’s application of the blood of Christ, and except the Spirit give him new life, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” See also Hebrews 9:13-14, where we are told that it is the blood of Christ that purges our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Also Revelation 7:14 where the white-robed ones are said to have been washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb.
2. The doctrines of grace are the true fountains from which all good works flow. We should, therefore, devote ourselves to good works,
 1. They are a blessing to man, James 1:25.
 2. God remembers them, Hebrews 6:9-10.
 3. They will be an evidence of faith in the judgment, Matthew 25:34-40

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—The character of Philemon,—Philemon 1:1-7.
- []—Paul pleads for the runaway,—Philemon 1:8-16.
- []—Put the sins of the runaway to Paul’s account,—Philemon 1:17-25.
- []—Instruction in forgiveness,—Luke 17:1-10.
- []—A forgiven servant,—Matthew 18:21-25.
- []—Much forgiveness begets much love,—Luke 7:41-50.
- []—Be tender-hearted toward one another,—Ephesians 4:20-32.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire book of Philemon.

Lesson No. 20

LESSON THEME:—PHILEMON

Philemon 1:10-16.

- **KEY WORD**—“**BROTHER.**”
- **KEY VERSE**—Philemon 1:16.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“**UNPROFITABLE SINNERS MADE PROFITABLE.**”

WRITER—Paul.

DATE and **PLACE** of writing, same as Colossians, 62 A.D., during his first imprisonment at Rome.

TO WHOM written—Philemon. Philemon was a member of the church at Colossae, and was probably converted at Ephesus, during Paul’s three-year stay there. He was a man of wealth and celebrated for his hospitality for the church met at his house. It was customary in those days for people of means to own a number of slaves, and to keep less than ten was hardly possible for a man who wished to move in high society. APPHIA was the Christian wife of Philemon, and ARCHIPPUS, his son, and a fellow laborer with Paul in the gospel.

ABOUT WHOM WRITTEN—Onesimus. He was a slave of Philemon, and still a heathen when he robbed his master and ran off to Rome. There he came into touch with Paul, who was a prisoner in his own hired house. It is probable that at his master’s house, where the Christians met to worship he had often heard him speak of Paul to whom Philemon owed his conversion. This meeting of the runaway slave with the great apostle led to his conversion, Philemon 1:10, and he at once began to assist Paul in the work. The apostle would have gladly kept Onesimus with him, but as he could not do this without the knowledge and consent of Philemon, he sent Onesimus back to his master. Paul also recommends Onesimus to the Church at Colossae as a “Faithful and beloved brother who is one of you.” This recommendation would be of great value at Colossae, assuring the Christians there that Onesimus was not now merely a heathen slave, but is Paul’s spiritual child.

PURPOSE—To show that the gospel has the power to win a thief and a runaway, and to soften the harsh relationship that existed between a master and his slave.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Greeting.
2. Faith and Kindness.
3. Plea.

Great Fact I -- The Apostle's Greeting.

Philemon 1:1-3.

Paul begins this letter, as was his custom, with words of appreciation, calling his friends, “our dearly beloved, our fellow-laborer, our fellow-soldier.” He did this not from a desire to please or to say nice sounding things, but because he always recognized good in others, and had a heart full of love for them. The best way to secure the doing of further good is to give deserved praise for good already done.

Philemon, by throwing open his house for prayer and worship, sets us an example for today. When a church-house is not nearby, it is a very worthy thing for a man to make his house “a house of prayer.” House-to-house prayer meetings have done a vast amount of good, and the custom should not be allowed to pass away.

Great Fact II -- Philemon's Faith and Kindness.

Philemon 1:4-7.

Paul here thanks God for the faith which Philemon had toward the Lord Jesus, and for the love and kindness which he showed toward all of the Lord's people, and the apostle prays that Philemon's faith may ever result in everything that is good and Christ-like.

LESSON—Faith in Christ is a saving grace, the very principle of the Christian life, and of good works. This faith is manifested in love to fellow-Christians for these graces never exist separately, for those who love Christ must and will love those also who are begotten of Him, 1 John 5:1.

Great Fact III -- Paul's Plea for the Runaway.

Philemon 1:8-21.

The apostle here claims to have authority to command Philemon in this matter, and yet for love's sake, he, the grey-haired Paul now a prisoner for Christ's sake,

pleads for his new spiritual child Onesimus, the runaway slave, whom he is sending back, who once was of little service, not only to Philemon but to the apostle as well. He had become so dear to Paul that it was like tearing out his very heart to send him back, yet he would not keep him without Philemon's consent. This temporary separation of the slave from his master was intended by God, that his master might have him back, forever, no longer as a slave, but as something better—a dearly beloved brother.

The apostle further pleads with Philemon to receive Onesimus back as he would receive him—Paul—and if the fugitive has caused any loss or owes anything, then charge it to Paul for he will repay it, although Paul will say nothing about Philemon owing his very self to him. Paul would gain something from Philemon because of his union with the Lord, and has confidence that he will do even more than is asked.

LESSON—

1. It must not be thought that because Paul returned a slave to his master that therefore, Christianity endorses slavery. The truth is that the law as it then stood gave certain rights to Philemon, and an apostle would be the last of all men to violate the law. His mission was to set forth such truths as the fatherhood of God for believers, the sonship of Christ, and the brotherhood of man, so that masters would recognize their responsibility to God, and see that their Christian slaves were fellow-citizens of the household of God. As Christian nations have come to believe these Bible truths, slavery has been abolished. Notice that when Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon, it was not as a slave to be punished for deserting, but as a dearly beloved Christian brother.
2. As Paul found Onesimus wandering from his master's house and his place of duty, so the Lord Jesus found us wandering from God, Luke 19:10. The story is told of a mother, who although she had eleven children buried in the little graveyard, wept not for the dead, but for a living son who had run away from home. As she sent a friend to find him, she said. "If you find my boy, sick, or in prison, or in want, do all you can for him and I will repay you." She had the streets and alleys of a great city searched until she found him. If parents, "being evil," are so moved to find their prodigals, how much more the Savior who is all love?
3. As Paul pleaded that all of the slave's demerits be placed to his account, and all of Paul's merits be placed to the slave's account, so Christ has taken upon Himself all our sin and guilt, and in exchange has bestowed upon us His

righteousness and His divine nature, 2 Peter 1:4. How happy we should be that Christ will pay all our debts, and so identify Himself with us that we all shall be received as Himself!

4. As Philemon received Onesimus, so God will receive us and make us profitable. Grace changed a criminal, in this case, to a Christian brother, from unprofitable to profitable. How many of the world's greatest characters were nobodies, lost amid a lost multitude, until Christ called them by name, put a new heart and a new spirit within them, and made them somebodies in the realm of noble service. Who would ever have heard of Peter, James and John if Christ had not made them profitable to the world? Augustine, Luther and Muller would have been just ordinary failures, common worldlings, but for the enriching grace of the Lord Jesus, which made some of the most valuable men who have ever lived. If our lives are not counting for as much as they should, let us give ourselves utterly to Him who magnifies and makes valuable every life laid upon the altar.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Christ is superior to prophets and angels,—Hebrews 1.
- []—Christ is superior to Moses,—Hebrews 3.
- []—Christ is superior to Aaron.—Hebrews 5:1-10.
- []—The New Covenant is superior,—Hebrews 8:6-13.
- []—A superior worship,—Hebrews 10:19-31.
- []—The faith-way is superior,—Hebrews 11:1-14.
- []—Christ is the Author and Finisher of faith,—Hebrews 12:1-15.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire book of Hebrews.

Lesson No. 21

LESSON THEME:—HEBREWS

Hebrews 1.

- **KEY WORD**—“SUPERIOR.”
- **KEY VERSE**—Hebrews 1:1-2.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“THE GOSPEL IS SUPERIOR TO THE LAW.”

WRITER—Most probably Paul, although scholars are divided on the question of authorship, and some think that Apollos or someone else wrote it.

DATE—About 65 A.D., before the destruction of the temple.

TO WHOM WRITTEN—To the converts from Judaism, probably in the church at Alexandria in Egypt, which was founded by Mark.

OCCASION—These Jewish Christians were subject to severe persecutions and to constant arguments and contempt from the non-Christian Jews. This so weakened their resistance and faith that they were in danger of abandoning their allegiance to Jesus Christ, and of going back into Judaism.

PURPOSE—

1. To prove that the Old Covenants and Ceremonial Laws of Moses came to an end in Christ.
2. To warn against the leaving of the substance of the gospel and the going back to the shadow of the Law.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Prophets and Angels.
2. Moses.
3. Old Testament Priesthood.
4. New Covenant.
5. Faith.
6. Privileges.

Great Fact I -- Christ Is Superior to Prophets and Angels.

Hebrews 1-2.

God, who in former generations spoke to our forefathers through His prophets, has in these latter days spoken to us by the Son, the Heir of all things, through whom He made the universe. For He is the radiance of His glory, and the very expression of His Being, the Upholder of the universe, and the Deliverer of men from sin. Christ is as much superior to angels as His name, Son, is superior to theirs, servants. Therefore, it is dangerous to reject the great salvation, offered, not by angels, but by the Lord Himself, whose testimony was confirmed by God with signs and miracles and the imparting of the Holy Spirit. God has not given to angels the control of the future world, but will place all things under man. Jesus tasted the bitterness of death for mankind, in order that He might render the Devil powerless, who has the power of death, and to deliver men from fear of death. Jesus came not to the help of angels, but to 'the help of men, in order that He might prove a sympathetic and faithful High Priest in all man's relations with God.

LESSON—

1. We see something of the dignity of the Christian, for God cares for him, and angel's minister unto him.
2. We see the dignity of service, for angels, the highest order of created beings, are but ministering servants and minister unto the heirs of salvation.
3. We see the supreme dignity of the Son of God for He is the Lord of angels, is surrounded by a thousand thousands of them, who veil their faces before His glory while they praise Him.

Great Fact II -- Christ Is Superior to Moses.

Hebrews 3-4.

As Moses was faithful in all his affairs, consider how faithful to the God who appointed Him was Jesus, the High Priest of our religion. He was worthy of far higher honor than Moses, just as the master of the house has more honor than its steward. Moses was faithful as a witness, but the faithfulness of Christ was that of a son.

Take warning from the unbelief of Israel which prevented them from entering the Land of Rest promised them by God. They did not enter into the real spiritual rest

that God had promised because of unworthiness. True rest comes when we are perfectly in tune with God, as all nature was when God finished the work of creation, and rested on the seventh day. Let us make every effort to come into harmony and true rest with God, for nothing can be hid from His sight. Because Christ is our High Priest let us draw near boldly to the Throne of Love, to find pity and love for the hour of need.

LESSONS—

1. Moses was only a part of the household of faith; Christ was the Founder of it.
2. Moses was but a servant in God's house, Christ was the Lord of it.
3. Moses' life and work was but a type of things to come, Christ was the Reality. So everything on earth that we value is only a symbol of something better in Christ. Happy are we if before the symbol fades we have grasped the reality, if when Moses passes out of sight. Jesus is left!

Great Fact III -- Christ Is Superior to the Old Testament Priesthood.

Hebrews 5-8:6.

Christ not only has the qualifications which Aaron, the earthly high priest, had but in addition He is a priest forever after the order of the eternal Melchizedec priesthood. We should leave behind us the elementary teachings about Christ and press on to maturity, not going back to the first stages of the Christian life, to start it all over again. For if it were possible for those tasting of the heavenly gift and partaking of the Holy Spirit, to fall away, It would be impossible to bring them to repentance again, for they have recrucified the Son of God and exposed Him to open contempt.

The order of Melchizedec, after which Christ was made a priest, is superior to that of Aaron because this priesthood is continuous and will never end. Abraham, and the priests in the Aaronic line, paid tithes to Melchizedec showing him to be the greater, also he, the superior, gave his blessing to the Aaronic line, the inferior. Further, the Aaronic priests could not make men perfect, because they themselves were mortal and sinful, but Christ is eternal and sinless, wherefore He is able to save and sanctify to the uttermost all who come to God through Him.

LESSONS—

1. Christ's priesthood, like that of Melchizedec, was:—

1. A royal priesthood, they were both Kings of peace and righteousness.
2. Was for all mankind, and not for the Jews only.
3. Had no human ancestry.
4. Remains forever without a successor. When Melchizedec passed away no one stepped in his place, so the priesthood of Christ continues forever.
5. It awakens gratitude which will be shown in the payment of tithes for promoting the gospel.

Great Fact IV -- The New Covenant Is Superior to the Old.

Hebrews 8:7-10:39.

First, because of its superior spiritual promises to write God's law upon men's hearts and minds, and to be merciful to their wrong doings.

Second, because Christ officiates in heaven, a superior sanctuary.

Third, because in the old temple the priest entered the Holy of Holies only once a year, but Christ has entered it once for all.

Fourth, Christ has not offered the lives of calves and goats which gave ceremonial purification only, but He sacrificed Himself as a lamb without blemish, to cleanse our conscience from dead rituals, to serve the living God.

Therefore we should boldly approach God through Christ, the new and living way. Let us have hearts full of faith, and never have our hope shaken. Let us incite ourselves to love and noble actions, and not neglect the assembling of ourselves together for worship, especially as the Lord's coming is drawing near.

Great Fact V -- The Superiority of Faith.

Hebrews 11.

Remember the heroes Of faith who subdued kingdoms, ruled righteously, gained the fulfillment of God's promises, shut the mouth of lions, quelled the fury of the flames, escaped the edge of the sword, found strength in the hour of weakness, were mighty in war and routed hostile armies—all this through faith which is the title deed to things hoped for, and gives us a foretaste of things not seen. These heroes endured every kind of torture, because in their sublime conquering faith they saw the reward that awaited them. As yet they have not entered into all that

God promised them, but in fellowship with us will enter into the complete realization of all spiritual blessings.

LESSON—It is impossible to be a hero in anything unless one is first a hero in faith. Faith will make us to live like kings, and our only crown is worn in the heart, and our deeds are written down only by angels. The exalted lives of these brave men of old should inspire us to be strong, and to quit ourselves like men, yea, to live and die full of faith.

Great Fact VI -- The Superiority of the Christian's Privileges and Duties.

Hebrews 12-13.

Because of the great company of onlookers from heaven, we should be willing to give up every sinful habit, to run life's race with patience, to endure chastening, follow peace and purity of heart, ever looking to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

We have not come to Mt. Sinai, from which came the Law, and which showed the abiding places of God's nature, but to Mt. Zion (which stands for the churches, the abiding places of God's spiritual presence) which show forth the greatness of God's love.

However, we must be very careful not to turn away from Him who teaches from Heaven and we should practice Christian virtues, and be loyal to Christ and the leaders in the church, Hebrews 13:7.

LESSON—What a wonderful contrast there is between the Old and New Covenants.

1. Sinai, an earthly mountain surrounded by gloom and storm, vs. Zion representing the churches, full of Heavenly light and comfort.
2. Israel gathered around the mountain, were forbidden to touch it and were afraid, vs. Christians gladly receiving the word, baptized, added to church, glad fellowship, praising God, shrouded in darkness, revealed in fire, drawing near to God with true hearts and full assurance of faith.
3. The priests offering the sacrifices of slain beasts, vs. the Christian offering his body as a living sacrifice, offering the fruit of his lips, praise and offering his substance.

4. The blood sprinkled on the people to ratify the old covenant, did not cleanse the conscience vs. the ever-cleansing blood of Christ that makes complete atonement for sin.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Faith will be tested by trials,—James 1:1-12.
- []—God does not tempt men,—James 1:13-21.
- []—Have respect for rich and poor alike,—James 2:1-13.
- []—Faith without works is a dead faith,—James 2:14-26.
- []—True faith will control the tongue,—James 3:1-12.
- []—A rebuke of worldliness,—James 4:1-10.
- []—The prayer of faith shall save the sick,—James 5:7-20.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire book of James.

Lesson No. 22

LESSON THEME:—JAMES

James 2:14-20.

- **KEY WORD**—“WORKS.”
- **KEY VERSE**—James 2:20.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“SHOW YOUR FAITH BY YOUR WORKS.”

The epistle of James is the first of the seven General Epistles, so called because they are not addressed to any particular person or church, but to Christians in general.

WRITER—James, “the Lord’s brother.” Our Lord’s other half-brothers were Joseph, Simon and Jude (the latter wrote the epistle bearing his name). They were all unbelievers until after Christ’s resurrection, John 7:5. But the fact that they with the other disciples, continued steadfastly in prayer, and waited for the gift of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:14, shows that they were ardent believers in the Lord by that time.

James became pastor of the church at Jerusalem, took a leading part in the spreading of the gospel among the Jews and Gentiles, and did much to reconcile the strict Jews who thought that Christianity would tear down Judaism. So much did he love the ways of wisdom and peace that he was called, James “the Just.” He was stoned to death in 62 A.D., on the charge that his doctrines superseded the Jewish law. Scripture references in regard to him will be found in Matthew 13:55; Mark 3:21-31; John 2:12; 7:2-9; Acts 12:17; 21:18-25; Galatians 1:19, 2:9-12.

DATE, PLACE and OCCASION—About 60 A.D., from Jerusalem. The Christians to whom it was written had not ceased to be Jews. Many of them, converted at Pentecost, had carried home only a partial understanding of Christianity. On their enthusiasm at having found the true Messiah, they neglected Christian virtues, graces and works, and proclaimed everywhere that in order to be saved, all that was necessary was to believe that Jesus of Nazareth was the true Messiah and Savior.

They also were in danger of sore discouragement because of the persecutions from unbelieving Jews.

PURPOSE—To exhort Christians to show their faith by their works and to be patient under trials.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Patience.
2. Dead Faith
3. Tongue.
4. Worldliness.

Great Fact I -- Patience in Trials.

James 1.

Rejoice when you are subject to various trials for this testing of your faith develops endurance, and when you can endure anything, you are altogether a mature Christian. When you need wisdom pray with confidence unto God, who never reproaches, but grants unto us freely. Let the brother of humble rank glory in his Christian dignity, and the rich in being poor of spirit. God tempts no man to do wrong, but in every case a man is tempted by his own passions. Passions give birth to sin, and sin, when it is fully developed produces death. Instead of any wrong thing, it is the good and perfect gifts that come from above, from the Maker of the lights in the heavens, who Himself is never subject to change or eclipse. Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry for the anger of man does not further the righteous purposes of God. Put the gospel into practice, and be not merely listeners, deluding yourselves. If anyone is a hearer and not a person who puts it into practice, he is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror, goes his way, and forgets what he is like. But he who looks carefully into the scriptures and practices them, will be blessed in what he does. If any one imagines himself to be religious, yet does not bridle his own tongue, he imposes upon his own conscience, and his religious observances are valueless. The religion that is pure in the eyes of our Father is this—to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself uninfluenced by the world.

LESSON—The world says. “Run from trials.” Some sects say, “Ignore trials,” but the Bible teaches, “Use your trials!” Many a time the people of God are bound with the cords of unworthy habits, until He throws them into the fiery furnace of affliction, and burns off their bonds. Failure often leads to success by rousing a man to more prayer and energy. Failure in a work for which a man is unfitted often brings him to his true place. Of a truth there is a paradise within a hedge of trials.

Great Fact II -- A Dead Faith Cannot Save.

James 2.

Christians should not try to combine faith in Christ with worship of rank, showing every consideration to the rich, and showing scant courtesy to the poor. God has chosen those who are poor in worldly goods to be rich in their faith,

Therefore, it is a sin to worship rank and insult the poor. By so doing one breaks that law which says, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," and he who breaks the Law in one point breaks it in all, and justice will be merciless to him who has not practiced mercy. James 2:1-13.

What is the good of a man saying that he has faith if he does not prove it by his actions? Can such dead faith save him? Suppose a brother is in great distress for the want of food, and you should say, "Oh I am so sorry for you! Go away. I hope you will get warmed and fed elsewhere." What good would it do him? In the same way, faith that is not followed by actions is a lifeless thing.

You do right to believe that there is one God, but demons have that much faith, and tremble at the thought. Remember how, in the case of Abraham, faith, and actions went together. Rahab, in like manner, showed her 'faith by righteous actions. Exactly as a body is dead without a spirit, so faith is dead without actions.

LESSONS—

1. James Russel Lowell said, "We have gone on far too long on the principle, 'I am as good as you,' this is a principle of selfishness that has made the world sick almost unto death. We should act rather on the other principle, 'You are as good as I,' for this is the note of brotherhood and of humility, which the Lord and his apostles first declared unto men."
2. James dwells much on works, Paul on faith, Peter on hope, and John on love, but it takes a combination of all these graces to make up a true Christian life. Before men we are first recognized as Christians by our works; before God we are first recognized as Christians by our faith. Faith and works, like two oars in a rowboat, are both necessary if progress is to be made. Either one by itself would merely turn the boat around and around, and never get it to the shore, when we have both we are sure to get to the Haven of Rest. Faith should show itself in the works of

1. Confession, Romans 10:10;

1. Baptism, Mark 16:16.
2. Obedience, John 15:14.

Great Fact III -- True Faith Will Control the Tongue.

James 3.

Anyone who does not err when speaking is indeed a perfect man, able to restrain his whole body. When we put bits into the mouth of horses we control their whole bodies and even large ships are controlled by a very small rudder and steered in any direction the person steering may decide. So the tongue, small though it is, is a great boaster. As a tiny spark may set the largest forest ablaze, so the tongue proves itself a very world of mischief; it infects the whole body, it sets all the affairs of life on fire, and is itself set on fire by the flames of the Pit. While all sorts of beasts have been tamed by man, no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless plague. It is charged with deadly poison! With it we praise God the Father, and with it we curse men who were made in His likeness! But this should not be so, for the wisdom from above is, before everything else, pure; then peace-loving, gentle, open to conviction, rich in compassion and good deeds, and free from partiality and insincerity. Indeed, righteousness shall abound in the lives of those who work for peace.

LESSON—We should be constantly prayerful and careful to avoid those sins of the tongue, into which we are most in danger of falling, such as swearing, lying, gossiping and slander. On the other hand it is impossible to over-estimate the blessedness of that tongue that is ever ready to testify for Christ, and to praise Him who is greatly to be praised!

Great Fact IV -- Worldliness Rebuked.

James 4-5.

The cause of quarrelling is found in the unholy desires within. Men fail to pray, or when they pray receive not because they ask with a wrong purpose, to spend what they get upon their pleasures. However, to be friends with the world means to be at enmity with God. Subject yourself therefore to God, and repel the Devil and he will flee from you. Brethren should not speak against one another, for he who disparages his brother defames the Law. It is wicked to boast of what you will do tomorrow, for your life may disappear like a vapor. Rather say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that!" The rich should not oppress the poor or

calamities will come upon them. If anyone is in trouble, let him pray; if anyone is happy, let him sing hymns; if anyone is sick, let him send for the officers of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord will raise him from his bed, and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

LESSONS—

1. Satan has organized the world of unbelieving mankind upon principles of force, greed, selfishness, ambition and pleasure. The believer, however, should be crucified to the world and the world to him, Galatians 6:14. We should despise its pleasures, honors and treasures, and be unmoved by its threats or attractions.

The officers of the church are to anoint the sick with oil, for oil is a symbol of the gracious influence of the Holy Spirit, the divine healer, Exodus 30:31; Acts 1:8; Mark 6:13. If the prayer of faith is offered in the spirit of Matthew 26:42, then God has promised to heal and forgive. The prayer of faith includes, however, confession of sin, humility, a surrendered will, and an earnest intention of consecrating to God's service the restored life. Nowhere in the Bible is the use of medicine forbidden, but the prayer of faith is enjoined.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—The incorruptible inheritance,—1 Peter 1:3-12.
- []—Holiness and love,—1 Peter 1:13-25.
- []—Christians should live a consecrate life,—1 Peter 2:1-10.
- []—Our daily lives should be upright,—1 Peter 2:11-25.
- []—Christian sympathy and patience,—1 Peter 3:8-22.
- []—Renouncing the old life,—1 Peter 4:1-11.
- []—The more sufferings, the more glory,—1 Peter 4:12-19.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire book of 1 Peter.

Lesson No. 23

LESSON THEME:—1 PETER

1 Peter 1:13-19

- **KEY WORD**—“HOPE”
- **KEY VERSE**—1 Peter 1:13
- **KEY PHRASE**—“THE NEW LIFE SHOULD BE ONE OF UNDYING HOPE.”

WRITER—The Apostle Peter, who, before his conversion, was called Simon. He was a fisherman by occupation and lived first at Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee, and afterwards at Capernaum. He was brought to Jesus by Andrew, his brother, and our Lord changed his name from Simon to Cephas, in Aramaic; or Peter, in Greek; which means “a rock.” He became the leader of the apostles, and was always the spokesman. He was one of the three inner friends of Christ. At a time when men were calling Christ an imposter, Peter confessed that Jesus was the true Messiah and the Son of God, Matthew 16:16. His loyalty failed, however, at the crucial hour and he denied Christ, which lapse he repented of, Matthew 26:69-75. He preached the first gospel sermon at Pentecost, Acts 2. He performed many miracles, journeyed much, preaching to the Jews in Palestine, Syria, and the countries around, and at last died a martyr to the faith by crucifixion under the Roman emperor, Nero. At his own request he was crucified head upside down, deeming himself unworthy to resemble His Master in his death. He was courageous, hopeful, loving and faithful, and was one of the greatest men of the Bible.

DATE—About 65 A.D., during Nero’s Persecution.

PLACE FROM WHICH WRITTEN—Babylon on the Euphrates. The place to which the Jews were taken in the captivity, and at which many remained.

OCCASION—Trials and afflictions of the severest sort were coming upon the Christians from hostile Jews and fanatical Gentiles. Because the Christians would not join their heathen neighbors in their idolatry, wine-feasts and lusts, they were called “haters of the human race,” and classed with thieves and murderers. A savage effort was made to suppress them altogether, and so great were the

persecutions and trials that followed, that the apostle speaks of them as “fiery trials.”

PURPOSE—To hearten persecuted Christians with the grace of hope and to direct their thoughts to the glorious inheritance that awaits them.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Hope.
2. Duties.
3. Persecutions.

Great Fact I -- The Christian's Hope of Full Salvation.

1 Peter 1:2-10.

Blessed be God who has, in His great mercy, given us a new life of undying hope. A hope of an imperishable inheritance that awaits us when we are saved, not only from the guilt of sin, but from its very presence. We suffer for the moment from various trials, that the genuineness of our faith—a thing far more precious than gold—may be tested by fire, and may win praise and glory at Christ's appearing. It was this full salvation that the prophets desired to know about, and to know the time of its coming. With strictest self-control, fix your hopes on Christ's appearing. Do not be swayed by the passions of the old life, but rather live in a spirit of reverence, for it was not by perishable things such as silver and gold that you were redeemed from your ancestor's aimless way of living, but by the precious blood of the unblemished Lamb of God. Love one another earnestly with all your hearts. Abandon all vice and deceit, pretence, envy and slandering, and like new-born babies crave the pure spiritual milk of the Word that you may grow thereby. While many stumble because they do not accept the gospel, yet you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, God's own people, so that you may display the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

LESSON—The gospel hope is a living hope because it invigorates the Christian and helps to keep him alive amid fiery trials. The delusive hopes of the unregenerate are vain and perishing, while the hypocrite and his hope both die together, Job 27:8. The believer, therefore, hopes for:—

1. All the blessings of full salvation.
2. The coming of Christ.
3. The resurrection of the body.

4. Eternal reward for his faithfulness.

Let us then be always hopeful and glad in expectation of the good things God has promised.

Great Fact II -- The Christian's Duties.

1 Peter 2:11-4:11

Refrain from indulging in the cravings of your earthly nature for they make war upon the soul. Let your daily life be upright, that evil-doers as they watch you may learn to praise God. Submit to properly constituted authorities for the Lord's sake, for it is God's will that you should silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing what is right. Servants should obey their masters with respect, not only those who are good and considerate, but also those who are arbitrary. Wives should submit to their husbands, so that if any of them reject the gospel, they may be won over by the blameless conduct of their wives. Christians should be united, sympathetic, kind hearted, humble minded; never returning evil for evil, or abuse for abuse, but on the contrary blessing.

Who can harm you if you prove yourselves eager for what is good? Even if you should suffer for righteousness, count yourself blessed! Do not let men terrify you, or allow yourselves to be dismayed. Christ Himself died to atone for sins once for all—the good on behalf of the bad—that He might bring you to God, having been physically put to death, but spiritually living, It was Christ's Spirit, who in the days of Noah, preached to those whose spirits are now in prison. At that time a few were saved by the Ark rising above the water, and water typifies baptism and the cleansing that comes through a crucified Savior, 1 John 1:7.

Surely in times past you have spent time enough living as the ungodly delight to live, for you have lived among scenes of debauchery, revelry and profane idolatry, and because you do not practice these things now men wonder at you and malign you. But they will have to answer for their conduct to Him who is ready to judge both the living and the dead.

LESSONS—The apostle gives us an excellent prescription for a happy life in an ill-natured world. He quotes Psalm 34:12-14, which is as true for our times as it was for David's. The best way of making this life comfortable and prosperous is to refrain from evil speaking and slandering, and to be ever ready to overcome evil with good

Great Fact III -- The Christian's Persecutions and Trials.

1 Peter 4:12-5:14.

Do not be astonished at the fiery trials that you are passing through, as though something strange were happening to you, for the more you share the sufferings of Christ the more you will share His glory. Count yourselves blessed when you are abused for Christ's sake, for that shows that the Spirit of God is resting upon you. Of course no one among you should suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or a criminal, or for interfering in matters which do not concern Christians, but if a man suffers for Christian principles he should not be ashamed. The right place to begin judgment is at the house of God, and if first with us what will be the end of those who reject the gospel? If a righteous man is saved only with difficulty what will become of the godless and sinful? Therefore, let those who suffer because God wills it so, commit their lives into the hands of a faithful Creator, and persevere in doing right.

LESSON—A Christian should not be bewildered and shocked by the fiery trials that come, His religion does not exempt him from pain, misfortunes, bereavement, or death. Besides this, evil men will persecute the true Christian, because the flippant dislike the earnest, the unclean are angry with the pure, the lovers of error hate the lovers of truth. However, the Christian should rejoice under sufferings, because they make him like Christ, and they will be the cause of exceeding joy when He shall crown His faithful servants.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—The great Christian virtues,—2 Peter 1:1-11.
- []—The transfiguration,—2 Peter 1:12-21
- []—God will not spare false prophets,—2 Peter 2:1-8.
- []—Unrighteousness shall receive its reward,—2 Peter 2:9-16.
- []—Backsliders' evil ways,—2 Peter 2:17-22.
- []—Scoffers disbelieve the Lord's coming,—2 Peter 3:1-9.
- []—Look for and hasten His coming,—2 Peter 3:10-18.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

[] The entire book of 2 Peter.

Lesson No. 24

LESSON THEME:—2 PETER

2 Peter 1:4-8.

- **KEY WORD**—"KNOWLEDGE."
- **KEY VERSE**—2 Peter 3:18.
- **KEY PHRASE**—"GROW IN GRACE AND SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE."

WRITER—The Apostle Peter. Addressed to Christians in general.

PLACE OF WRITING—Uncertain, but probably Babylon.

DATE—About 67 A.D., a short time before his martyrdom. Second Timothy and Second Peter have much in common. Both Paul and Peter were facing a cruel death at the time they wrote them, yet both epistles are full of hope and joy, and both urge faithfulness amid errors and suffering.

PURPOSE—To show that the best way to guard against false teachings is to grow in grace and in full knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Virtues.
2. Transfiguration.
3. Warning.
4. Defense.

Great Fact I -- The Great Christian Virtues.

2 Peter 1:1-12.

God has given us everything that is needful for a life of holiness, as we advance in knowledge of Him. Through His goodness He has given us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through them we might partake of the divine nature, having fled from the corruption that is in the world through human passions. Therefore, supplement your faith by goodness, goodness by full knowledge, knowledge by self-control, self-control by endurance, endurance by piety, piety by kindliness,

kindliness by love, for when these virtues are yours in increasing measure, you will have a fuller knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But the man who does not possess these virtues is short sighted even to blindness, and forgets that he has been purified from his past sins. Therefore, do your best to put God's call and election of you beyond all doubt, for if you do this you will never fail, but have a triumphant entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

LESSON—Here, Peter agrees with Paul in urging Christians not to remain babes in Christ by halting and faltering around the first stages of Christian experience, but to grow and to be ever growing. We are to add grace to grace until our virtues are multiplied and this for two reasons:—

1. That we might have a fuller knowledge of our blessed Lord. Not knowing ABOUT Him, or TECHNICAL knowledge of Him, but an INTIMATE PERSONAL knowledge that gives the joy of fellowship, power to conquer, and likeness to His own blessed Self, Philippians 3:10.
2. That we might have an abundant entrance into the eternal kingdom. Not getting into harbor with sails torn, dismasted, and towed in by a salvage tug, but with every mast standing, every sail set, a valuable cargo in good shape, and precious passengers all safe, with waving flags, and greeted by the playing bands and booming batteries of the Fair Haven of Rest! To have such an abundant entrance to the life eternal should be the holy ambition of every Christian.

Great Fact II -- The Transfiguration and the Teaching of the Prophets.

2 Peter 1:13-21.

As long as my soul tabernacles in my body I will awaken in your memories of the past, that after my departure you may call these truths to mind. We were not telling you fairy stories when we told you of the coming in power of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we were eye witnesses of His glory. Indeed, when we were with Him on the sacred mountain He received honor and glory from the Father, and a voice declared "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," Matthew 17:5. And still stronger is the assurance that we have in the teachings of the prophets, to which you will do well to pay attention, recognizing that no prophecy of scripture can be interpreted by man's unaided reason, for no prophetic teaching ever came at the mere wish of man, but men, moved by the Holy Spirit, spoke direct from God.

LESSONS—Peter is here teaching that there was a sense in which the Transfiguration set forth Christ's Second Coming, because, as outlined by Dr. Scofield:—

1. Christ was not then the Messiah in rejection, but the Lord in Heavenly glory.
2. Moses in a glorified state was a type of the redeemed who will pass through death into the kingdom.
3. Elijah is a type of the redeemed who will enter the kingdom by translation, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.
4. Peter, James and John, not glorified, are a type of the Jews who will not share the Lord's glory at the time of His Coming. Ezekiel 37:21.
5. The multitude at the foot of the mountain are a type of the nations, who will be brought into the kingdom after it has been set up over the Jews, Isaiah 11:9-12.

Peter saw the Second Coming unfolded in the Transfiguration, but he teaches that we are not dependent on what he saw. We have the surer word of prophecy, the unerring Word of God. It is like a lamp shining in a dark place, but soon the day will dawn, the day of fulfillment, and then we shall know ALL about these things as God knows ALL about us.

Great Fact III -- Warnings Against False Teachings.

2 Peter 2.

The apostle here warns against the Gnostics who taught that Christ was not equal with the Father. That the soul does not sin, so it does not matter if the body gets drunk or goes into sin, one can do just as one pleases because we are not under moral law. Such were the false teachings of these people who set themselves up against the apostles, and for money taught doctrines that were pleasant rather than true.

In reply, Peter points out that whoever goes into sin or teaches heresy shall certainly be punished. That God did not even spare the angels who sinned, but is keeping them under guard for judgment. That He sent the Flood upon a godless world in the days of Noah. That He reduced Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes as a warning to the godless of what was in store for them. The apostle then vividly describes how these wicked teachers malign even the apostles that God had appointed, and they entice weak souls by promising them freedom while in reality they are making them slaves of corrupt habits. Peter has in mind Zechariah 3:1-2;

where the high priest was seeking to rebuild the temple. Satan, however, appeared before God, and said the people were not worthy of having the temple restored, and then accused and reviled the high priest. The angel of the Lord, however did not make a railing accusation against Satan as Satan had against the high priest, but calmly said, “God rebuke thee.” But said Peter, while angels who excel men in power, would not make bitter accusations, yet these wicked teachers malign those of whom they know nothing, but they will assuredly perish with their own corruption.

LESSONS—

1. Many evil spirits are abroad, and the credentials they display are gifts of the mind, or truths beautiful or original. We should, however, be as cautious as the saint in the legend. When an evil spirit showed himself radiant with royal robes and crowned with a jeweled diadem and said, “I am the Christ, follow me!” The saint thought and looked awhile and said, “I will not believe that you are the Christ unless you show me the wounds of the Cross!” and the evil spirit fled. So any religious teacher that does not center all his doctrines around the Cross should be driven from the life.
2. Like the angels we should not publish the faults of our fellowmen, and mingle reproaches with accusations, but leave the wicked to the Lord who will avenge all injustice.

Great Fact IV -- A Defense of the Second Coming.

2 Peter 3.

Here the apostle divides the history of the world into three sections and mentions some of the characteristics of each.

1. The old world, 2 Peter 3:6. The world which the Flood overwhelmed. The scoffers said, “Where is the promise of His coming?” From the beginning of creation, Nature has pursued the even tenor of its way. There has been no sign of any change, and no change is possible. The promise of His coming fails!” But Peter reminds the skeptics that a Mighty flood did drown the world, therefore their mocking question is foolish.
2. The present world, 2 Peter 3:7. He asserts that the present world contains within itself the agency by which it may be consumed. It is held in store not for a second flood but for fire. Stored up within the earth are oils and gases, which when released by God shall cause such physical revolutions as shall

transform this planet into something more glorious. Therefore, what holy lives we ought to lead while we await and hasten the coming of the Day of God.

3. The new world, 2 Peter 3:13. This is the Paradise restored of Revelation 21:1. Where we are told that He who created the world, will recreate it, clearing it of every vestige of sin, misery and imperfection, fitting it for the dwelling place of perfect beings, and for His own glorious presence. In expectation of these things we are to make every effort to be found by Him, spotless, blameless and at peace. The delay in the fulfillment of these things should be regarded as forbearance on the part of the Lord, in seeking to bring more to salvation.

LESSON—Too often men have set one time for deliverance, and God another, but He will not fail to keep the day He has appointed. In Exodus 12:41 we see that God kept His engagement to the very day to deliver Israel out of Egypt. What men count slackness is truly forbearance upon the part of God. Enthusiastic impatience must be checked. God is still saying to the unconverted, “How shall I give thee up!” and as He sees the unfruitful Christians, He says. “Let them alone this year also.” Let us then not abuse the patience and long-suffering of God by abandoning ourselves to a course of impenitence or worldliness, for the Lord shall come suddenly, and at a most unlikely time, and the cry shall ring out, “Behold the Bridegroom cometh!” Matthew 25:6.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Fellowship with the Father and Son, 1 John,—1 John 1.
- []—Test of fellowship in obedience and love,—1 John 2:3-14.
- []—Warning against the Anti-Christ,—1 John 2:18-29.
- []—Father’s love and the children’s lives,—1 John 3:1-10.
- []—Love of the brethren,—1 John 3:11-24.
- []—Faith is the overcoming principle,—1 John 5:1-13.
- []—Walking in the truth, —3 John.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire books of 1, 2, and 3 John.

Lesson No. 25

LESSON THEME:—1, 2 AND 3 JOHN

1 John 5:10-15.

- **KEY WORD**—“ASSURANCE.”
- **KEY VERSE**—1 John 1:5-13.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“FULL ASSURANCE IS THE BASIS OF THE VICTORIOUS LIFE.”

WRITER—John, the apostle who wrote also the fourth gospel and Revelation.

DATE and PLACE—Soon after the fourth gospel, about 90 A.D., while John was pastor at Ephesus.

TO WHOM WRITTEN—The first epistle to the churches in general, the second, to “the elect lady and her children,” the third, to a devout Christian named Gaius.

OCCASION—Three classes of heretics had sprung up by this time.

1. The Edomites, who denied that Christ was really divine.
2. The Docetists, who said He was truly divine, but that He had no human side to His nature.
3. The Cerinthians, who claimed that Christ was not perfectly human and perfectly divine until after His baptism. These errors concerning the person of Christ were unsettling believer’s faith in and fellowship with the Lord.

PURPOSE—

1. To set forth the true doctrine that Christ was perfectly divine and perfectly human.
2. To teach how they may know that they have eternal life, and rejoice in full assurance of the truth.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Light.
2. Righteousness.
3. Love.

4. Truth.
5. Fellow-Helpers.

Great Fact I -- God Is Light.

1 John 1:2-28.

John's first message is that God is Light, and walking with Him in the light means fellowship with Him, and with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. We may know that we are walking in the light if we lay His commands to heart, especially the commandment to love the brethren. This keeping of God's commandments, however, is inconsistent with the love of the world and with fellowship with false teachers. Walking in the light and abiding in Christ is the only hope of safety, for in Him we have eternal life.

LESSON—The world under Satan's dominion is in spiritual darkness and death. Unspiritual people are blinded and have no light from heaven upon their daily pathway. We are commanded, however, to walk in the light, because:—

1. Light is purity, but darkness is impurity.
2. Light is love, but darkness is hatred.
3. Light is truth, but darkness is falsehood.
4. Light is peace but darkness is fear.

Great Fact II -- God is Righteousness.

1 John 2:28-4:6.

The apostle's second message is that God is righteous; therefore, fellowship with Him depends on doing righteousness. He who lives sinfully belongs to the devil for he has sinned from the beginning, but the MOTIVE for living righteously is, that when we see Christ we shall be like Him, 1 John 3:2. The TEST of whether we are living righteously is whether we love the brethren, 1 John 3:14. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and a murderous temper excludes him from eternal life. The REWARD for living righteously is a full assurance of salvation. Over forty times John uses the word "know" in his epistles, because true religion is more than doctrine, something must be known and felt! We KNOW that Christ was manifested to take away our sins. We KNOW we have passed from death unto life. We KNOW that whatsoever we ask we shall receive of God. We KNOW that we

are in union with Christ and He with us, because He has given us some measure of His Spirit.

LESSON—The apostle is here contrasting one who lives a life of righteousness with one who lives a life of sin, and in 1 John 3:9 he teaches that the truly regenerated man does not continually practice sin. It is one thing for a Christian because of a strong temptation to temporarily fall into sin, and the divine remedy for this is seen in 1 John 1:9. But if a Christian continually practices a sin he may well doubt his conversion. We should be as serious in our attitude towards sin as is God. He gave a Law to condemn it, a Savior to redeem from it, a Spirit to destroy it, a gospel to testify against it, and a whole family of new-born sons to be living witnesses of His deliverances from its power.

Great Fact III -- God Is Love.

1 John 4:7-5:21.

We are called sons through the love of the Father, 1 John 3:1, and He manifested that love by sending His Son to be an atoning sacrifice of our sins, 1 John 4:10. We should show our love to Him by loving one another, 1 John 4:7. He who loves has fellowship with God, 1 John 4:16. But the absence of love destroys this fellowship, 1 John 4:19-21. Victory over the world comes only through love and faith in Jesus Christ, whose coming was attested to by water and by blood, and by the Spirit. Yes, God Himself testifies that His Son came into the world, 1 John 5:9. In Christ we not only overcome the world, but have eternal life, 1 John 5:13.

LESSON—We have not seen the greatest gift of all—the heart of God, the love of His heart, the heart of His love, and yet when we look at the cross we have a glimpse of it. The Cross was the only way God had of showing us His heart. It was Infinite Love striving to reveal itself, seeking to pour out its fullness. Christ did not die that God might love men. He died because God had from everlasting to everlastingly loved man. The Cross is not the cause, but the effect of the love of God. It is not even necessary that we should be worthy for God to love us. He loves us because of Himself. We are saved by grace. Our salvation does not depend upon what we are, but upon what God is—and God is love!

Great Fact IV -- God Is Truth.

2 John.

John here declares his joy at finding some guided by the Truth. Walking in truth is to love one another, but this love is manifested in keeping God's commandments, and in steadfast loyalty to the genuine doctrine of the gospel. There are many impostures in the world, but whoever in the name of progress departs from Christ's teachings does not possess God. One should not extend any hospitality or show any friendliness to false teachers for by doing so one shares in their wicked work, 2 John.

LESSON—To countenance a teacher of error, to wish him God-speed, is to approve his evil works and to share his guilt. We are “partakers of other men's sins,” not only when we take their side of the question, but also when we keep silent instead of condemning them.

Great Fact V -- God Needs Fellow-Workers.

3 John.

John had sent out some preachers with letters of commendation to the various churches, and among others to that of which Gaius and Diotrephes were members. Diotrephes, however, through jealousy or some other personal reason, declined to receive these preachers and exerted his authority to make the church act the same way, even threatening to exclude those who differed from him in the matter. Gaius alone had not been intimidated, but had welcomed to his home the repulsed preachers, who, when they returned to the church at Ephesus, testified of his courage and kindness. John hoped soon to visit the church and bring the proud Diotrephes to account for his overbearing conduct.

LESSONS—

1. Preachers going forth for the sake of the Name, whether at home or abroad, should be welcomed and entertained worthily by churches and individuals. By such action, one shares in the missionary's labors and becomes a fellow-helper.

Churches should not encourage those who are eager for pre-eminence in the church, and who insist on having their own arbitrary way. A healthy and happy church is one in which every member esteems each other more highly than himself, Philippians 2:3.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—Contend earnestly for the faith,—Jude 1-7.
- []—False teachers and their doom,—Jude 8-16.
- []—Build, pray keep, look,—Jude 17-25.
- []—God will not spare false prophets, 2 Peter 2:1-8.
- []—Wrong doing shall receive its reward,—2 Peter 2:9-16.
- []—Unsaved professors will get entangled with the world again. 2 Peter 2:1-22.
- []—There will be scoffers, 2Peter 3:1-9.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

[] The entire book of Jude.

Lesson No. 26

LESSON THEME:—JUDE

Jude 1-4.

- **KEY WORD**—"ASSURANCE."
- **KEY VERSE**—Jude 3, *Last Clause*.
- **KEY PHRASE**—"EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH."

WRITER—Jude or Judas, the brother of the Lord and of James, who wrote the epistle that bears his name, Mark 6:3. Neither James nor Jude hint at their relationship to Jesus, their unaffected humility kept them silent.

TO WHOM WRITTEN—It is called a general epistle because it is not addressed to any particular person or church but to Christians in general.

DATE and **PLACE**—It was written in Palestine, probably after 2 Peter, about 68 A.D.

OCCASION—Jude had heard, likely from a traveling evangelist, of the serious spiritual dangers that were besetting some of his fellow believers.

PURPOSE—To exhort Christians to earnestly contend for the faith.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Contend.
2. Examples.
3. Build.

Great Fact I -- Contend Earnestly for the Faith.

Jude 1-4.

Jude, while writing about our common salvation, was impelled to urge the "Beloved of God the Father" to fight in defense of the Faith that has once for all been entrusted to the saints. For there had crept in craftily among them certain godless people, who had made the mercy of God an excuse for vicious living, and disowned our only Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

LESSON—

1. The Faith referred to is that body of gospel and church truth contained in the scriptures.
2. The Faith was delivered by God and not discovered by man.
3. The Faith was delivered “once for all.” No other faith will ever be given. Although the truth may be stated in new terms, no new doctrines are to be added to the present body of truth.
4. We may contend for the faith by maintaining that all scripture is given by the inspiration of God, 2 Timothy 3:16; and by shaping all our religious beliefs and practices strictly according to its holy teachings.

Great Fact II -- Examples of Divine Vengeance.

Jude 5-19.

Jude here gives three examples of God’s punishment of collective wickedness:—

1. He destroyed the Israelites whom He had delivered from Egypt, because they refused to believe in Him.
2. The angels who did not keep their first state of holiness. He is keeping under guard in the spirit-land of darkness for the great Day of Judgment.
3. Sodom and Gomorrah, who gave themselves up to foul sensuality, are undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

In spite of these solemn examples there are troublers of the churches who despise authority, and sneer at sacred things of which they know nothing, all because they themselves are corrupt.

They are like three wicked men of old who called forth divine vengeance. Like Cain, who rejected redemption by blood, like Balaam, who was a hireling prophet, anxious only to make money. Like Koran, who took honors unto himself by intruding upon the priest’s office.

These present evil men are selfish, empty, fruitless and Godless, ever complaining of their lot, and ever flattering men for the sake of what they can get out of them. We should not, however, be surprised at finding such men, for the apostle foretold us they would come.

LESSONS—

1. Every Christian ought to know the Bible in order to know how God deals with men. We should often reread it and not trust to memory, for memory is often “like a sieve which holds the bran and lets flour go.”
2. God deals first in mercy but afterwards in judgment. The world, like the wilderness of old, is strewn with the graves of those who were offered high privileges, but who turned their backs upon God’s mercies and became their own worst enemies.
3. God will not spare sinners, whether in low or high places, for He spared not the angels, but as soon as they developed an evil nature He saw they were not fit for the holiness and joys of heaven, and cast them out. “It is hard to be high and not high minded!”
4. Troublers of the churches are like dreamers. They live in an unreal world and have no true idea of the serious nature of sin. They are insensible to all the warnings of coming judgment. They are unconscious of the dangers that threaten their immortal souls.

Great Fact III -- Build Up Our Own Spiritual Lives.

Jude 20-25.

If others will be unspiritual, yet we should build up our characters on the foundation of our most holy faith, praying under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and keeping within the love of God, while waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring us into the eternal state. To those who are in doubt, show piety and save them from the fire. To others show pity, but with caution, hating the very clothing polluted by their touch.

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to bring you into His glorious presence, blameless and rejoicing, to the only God, our Savior, be glory, majesty dominion and power as it was before time began is now, and ever shall be for all time to come, Amen.

LESSONS—Having laid well our foundation in gospel faith, we must build upon it, or be ever making progress in spiritual things. This is what Paul meant when he said, “Grow in grace.” We can build ourselves up by:—

1. Praying in the Holy Spirit. He makes our prayers fervent, for cold prayers ask the Lord not to hear them. He makes them loving because all prayers should be perfumed by love to our fellowmen and to Christ. He makes them believing, for a man prevails only as he has faith.

2. Keeping ourselves in the love of God. This will keep our own love deeply stirred, and keep us from error and worldliness.
3. Waiting for the Lord's mercy. The blessed hope of final happiness and reward will make us faithful in the discharge of all our duties, and patient in bearing our trials.

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—The Lord appears to give the Revelation,—Revelation 1:9-20.
- []—Urgent messages to the churches,—Revelation 2:1-11.
- []—Some of the events of the Tribulation,—Revelation 6:1-7.
- []—Anti-Christ and false prophets arise,—Revelation 13.
- []—Coming of Christ and doom of Anti-Christ and false prophet,—Revelation 19:11-21.
- []—The Millennium and doom of Satan and wicked dead,—Revelation 20.
- []—The blessedness of the eternal future,—Revelation 21:1-10.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

- [] The entire book of Revelation.

Lesson No. 27

LESSON THEME:—REVELATION

- **KEY WORD**—“FINAL THINGS.”
- **KEY VERSE**—Revelation 1:1.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“FINAL JUDGMENTS AND GLORY.”

WRITER—The apostle John. It is remarkable that John the Beloved, who was nearer to the heart of Christ than any other, he who filled his gospel and epistles with the warmth of divine love, should be the chosen vessel to make known the most terrible judgments. This at least, suggests that he would not over-draw the picture.

TO WHOM WRITTEN—The seven churches of Asia Minor, and through them to all churches.

DATE and PLACE—Likely 96 A.D., from the Isle of Patmos, to which John was banished for being a Christian preacher by Emperor Domitian of Rome.

OCCASION—There was a bitter persecution of the Christians in Asia, and the last of the apostles was about to go to his reward. It was therefore very fitting that God should use him to draw the veil of the future, that man might know of this crisis that should afterward come to pass.

PURPOSE—

1. To describe the wonderful events connected with the end of the age.
2. To encourage Christians to be faithful by giving them an inspired picture of Christ's final triumph over all evil.

GREAT FACTS:—

1. Introduction.
2. Churches.
3. Tribulation.
4. Second Coming.
5. New Things.

Great Fact I -- The Introductory Vision.

Revelation 1.

1. God is the source of the Revelation, Christ was the channel through whom it was given, an angel interpreted it, John recorded it, the churches were to proclaim it, and there is a special divine blessing promised to those who read and heed its sayings. The time for the fulfillment of its prophecies is always to be regarded as near at hand.
2. On the Lord's Day, while under the special influence of the Holy Spirit, John had a vision of the Glorified Lord, who appeared with priestly robe, yet with kingly glory, walking among the churches, observing and cherishing them. John was bidden not to fear, but to write down the things concerning the churches, and the things that should afterward take place.

LESSON—While we cannot understand all about this remarkable book nor be certain about all of its interpretations, yet we should study it, keep its truths in our memories and practice its doctrines, for it is a window of hope through which we look into eternity, and the only book in the Bible that promises a blessing to those who study it.

Great Fact II -- The Message to the Churches.

Revelation 2-3.

The number of the churches is seven, and each message has seven parts:—

1. Name of church.
2. Mention of some sublime attribute of speaker.
3. An assertion that Christ knows all about the duties and doings of each church.
4. A description of the state of each, with praise or blame.
5. A reference to His promised coming.
6. A command to give special attention to what the spirit says.
7. Promises to those who overcome.

Notice what the Lord knows about the churches: “I know thy faith, works, love and ministry.” I know if their last works are better than the first. Knows all about their persecutions, and outward poverty, although spiritually they were rich in faith, hope and love.

Notice what the Lord holds against the churches. Some had left their first love and were acting as though they were rich, although spiritually they were paupers; another had a reputation for being a living church, yet was almost dead. Another had in its fellowship those who were unsound in doctrines and wicked in life. From all such our Lord said He would turn away in disgust.

Notice what the Lord promises to the churches. Overcomers shall be readmitted to Paradise and the Tree of Life from which Adam was excluded. They shall triumph over afflictions and escape death. The door to the storehouse of God's manna shall be opened unto them. They shall reign over the nations. They shall have a robe and a crown, and indeed enjoy the same honors in Heaven that Christ enjoys.

LESSON—These inspired promises give a many sided view of the future possessions of the saints. Taken together, they give the most complete description of the World of God of the good things God has prepared for those who love Him. How they should quicken our faith, kindle hope, and inspire zeal.

Great Fact III -- The Judgments and Events That Will Immediately Precede Christ's Second Coming.

Revelation 4-18.

This is the Great Tribulation of three and a half years of plagues, trials and judgment spoken of in Jeremiah 30:7; as the time of Israel's trouble, spoken of by Christ as a Great Tribulation such as never was before, Matthew 24:21, and referred to by many others.

The causes of the Tribulation are:—

1. The special working of Satan, who will have great wrath because his time is short—
2. Unprecedented activity of demons. At Christ's first coming they sought to control men, causing them to blaspheme and to resist God; they will again afflict men with mental and spiritual diseases.
3. Satan will incarnate himself in the Anti-Christ. Daniel refers to him in 12:11; Christ in Matthew 24:15. Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:3; and John in Revelation 13:1, etc. This Anti-Christ will appropriate divine honors, imitate Christ, appoint false prophets, overcome nations. He and the false prophets will be cast into the Lake of Fire at Christ's coming.

4. There will be plagues similar to the plagues of Egypt. Plagues of blood, hail, fire, locusts, darkness, famine, sores, earthquakes, war, martyrdoms and death. As before the purpose will be to discredit the religion of the ungodly and direct them to the true and living God.
5. The gathering of the nations to the battle of Armageddon under the Anti-Christ and false prophet. In great wrath they will be besieging Jerusalem, when they will be alarmed by the signs of Christ's coming, and will be smitten with a sudden blow from which they will never recover.
6. The judgment of the nations as to the treatment they have accorded to God's people, the Jews, Matthew 25:31-46.

LESSONS—Before these terrible events shall come to pass, the saints will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, 1 Thessalonians 4:17. How earnest we should be to be found in Him, for rebellion against Him is death. Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker.

Great Fact IV -- The Second Coming and the Millennium.

Revelation 19; Revelation 20:6.

The prophets and apostles made Christ's Coming the blessed hope of Israel and the church. They taught that He would strike down the wicked nations, gather Israel to its own land, set up His government upon the throne of David, reign in justice and be King of all.

Whether the Lord will come before or after the Millennium has stirred the faithful for all generations, and perhaps orthodox Christians are about evenly divided. The Post-Millennialists think that the processes of education and the preaching of the gospel will bring universal peace and make men spiritual and holy. The Pre-Millennialists believe that it will take the coming of the King, the literal restraining of Satan before universal righteousness will prevail. The reasons for this position are:—

1. The Anti-Christ is to be destroyed, not gradually, but by His coming, 2 Thessalonians 2:8.
2. The Son of Man comes IMMEDIATELY after the Tribulation, Matthew 24:29, there is nothing said of a Millennium between the Tribulation and His coming.
3. The world will be in a mixed condition when the Lord comes, not all saved. There will be "wheat and tares," Matthew 13:38-40. There will be

unconverted as in the days of Noah, Matthew 24:37. These verses do not point to a Millennium of universal righteousness BEFORE Christ comes.

The destruction of the Anti-Christ, the restraint of Satan, and the return of the Lord Jesus, will usher in the Millennium.

1. There will be universal peace. Men will beat their swords into plough shares, Isaiah 2:4.
2. There will be a Paradise condition in the earth so that the lion shall lie down with the lamb, etc., Isaiah 11:6. There will be a great spread of knowledge, Isaiah 11:9. All prophecies of the earthly glory of Jews will be fulfilled in this age. All promises in the Sermon on the Mount, like “The meek shall inherit the earth” will find their fruition.

LESSON—The Second Coming is mentioned from one end of the Bible to the other. In the New Testament there are 300 references to it. It is bound up with every sublime promise of likeness to Christ, satisfaction of soul, victory over sin and Satan and death, and the deliverance of the earth from bondage and corruption. Are we exhorted to meet together on the Lord’s day, or to take the Lord’s Supper, it is in order to “show forth His death until He comes.” Are we exhorted to love one another, or to be holy, it is in view of His coming! Yes, it is the central chord of all vital Christian life! Dr. Broaddus said, “If I am always ready to meet Him, I am bound to be ready when He comes.”

Great Fact V -- The Last Judgment and the Seven New Things.

Revelation 20:7 to end.

1. Here we have the judgment of the Great White Throne set up after the Millennium, before which will be judged the unbelieving dead. The righteous rose before the thousand years and lived and reigned with Christ, Revelation 20:4.
2. The unjust are now judged by the things written in the books, and awarded different degrees of punishment according to their words.

The apostle now has a glimpse of the blessed things of the eternal future, and reveals that there will be at least seven new things.

1. A renewed heaven. There will be no more death-dealing thunder bolts of lightning flashes from the sky.

2. A renewed earth. No more weeds or snakes, no more slums or hospitals or graves.
3. No more nationalities for that is what we believe is meant by “no more sea.” All men shall speak one tongue and be brothers.
4. The capital of the Heavenly world shall be the New Jerusalem, whose beauty and glory will be beyond compare.
5. New peoples, for God shall dwell with them, and they will never weep, never suffer, never sorrow, never die, for the former things are passed away.
6. New sanctuary, no particular place will have a temple, for the presence of God and of the Lamb will make every part of it a sanctuary.
7. A new Paradise, with its crystal river, and the tree of life yielding its fruit of complete blessedness. There will be no more nurse, and no night there, for the Lord God will give them light, and they shall serve Him, and see His face and be known by Him, and they shall reign forever and forever.

LESSON—The last verses of Revelation are full of the sunshine and music of the word “NEW.” “Behold, I make all things new.” We should study more the Bible teachings about Heaven, and remember that upon every stone of its walls, and above its pearly gates is inscribed the word “GRACE!” “Grace!” All who enter and forever enjoy its bliss will do so by God’s wondrous grace! As travelers often lay up rich treasures of pictures, statuary, vases, etc., to place in their homes upon their return, so let us lay up as treasures for heaven, faithful service and noble sacrifices!

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- []—The last words of Christ,—Luke 24:46-53.
- []—The last words of James,—James 5:10-20.
- []—The last words of Jude,—Jude 17-25.
- []—The last words of Peter,—2 Peter 3:10-18.
- []—The last words of Paul,—2 Timothy 4:1-9.
- []—That last apostle living at Patmos, Revelation 1:1-11.
- []—The last message of the Bible,—Revelation 22:8-21.

Lesson No. 28

LESSON THEME:—NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY

Luke 1:1-4.

- **KEY PHRASE**—"N.T. EVENTS IN THEIR ORDER."
- **KEY VERSE**—Luke 1:1-4

GREAT FACTS:—

Periods of History, Period of:—

1. Christ.
2. Peter.
3. Paul.
4. Other Apostles.

Great Fact I -- Period of Christ's Life and Ministry. 4 B.C.-30 A.D.

Augustus was emperor of Rome, and Judea was a Roman province with Herod as its king, when Jesus was born 4 B.C. The calendar was changed to date from Christ's birth through the efforts of Gregory, but it was afterwards found that a mistake of about four years was made; Christ's birth is therefore dated 4 B.C.

1. CHRIST'S BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD.—

1. The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Savior.
2. Jesus was born at Bethlehem.
3. Was visited and worshipped by the shepherds and the wise men.
4. Was secretly taken down into Egypt to avoid death at the slaying of the babies by Herod, and after two years returned to live at Nazareth.
5. Nothing is recorded of Him again until in His twelfth year He went with His parents to the Temple and in His reply to His mother showed that He was conscious of His divine mission.

2. HIS MINISTRY—Nothing more is recorded until He reached His thirteenth year, when:—

1. John the Baptist announced the coming of the Messiah.
2. He was baptized by John.
3. Was tempted by Satan in the wilderness for 40 days.
4. He called His twelve disciples.
5. Cleansed the temple by driving out the traders and grafters.
6. He taught Nicodemus about the new birth.
7. He preached to the woman at the well of Samaria.
8. Was rejected by His fellow-citizens at Nazareth.
9. Performed many miracles and cured many that were sick, proving Himself to be the Son of God.
10. Preached the Sermon on the Mount, the most wonderful religious teaching in the world.
11. John the Baptist was martyred.
12. Peter made his great confession, proclaiming that Christ was truly the Messiah, and the Son of God.
13. Christ was Transfigured with heavenly glory to strengthen the faith of the disciples.
14. He gave many parables.
15. Raised Lazarus from the dead.
16. On the Sunday before He was crucified on Friday, He made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
17. He cleansed the Temple the second time.
18. On Thursday, the day before His crucifixion, He instituted the Lord's Supper.

3. HIS DEATH, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION—

1. On Friday, April 7th, 30 A.D., at 9 a.m., Christ was crucified, as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world.
2. Early Sunday morning He rose again from the dead for our justification, a proof and assurance of the believer's resurrection.
3. During 40 days He appeared on ten different occasions to the disciples.
4. He gave the Great Commission to the 500 disciples on the Mount.
5. In the presence of the eleven disciples He ascended into Heaven, having promised to come again in like manner.

LESSONS—

1. We should believe with Peter and John that Christ was God come in the flesh to die for the sins of the world, and to provide us with an everlasting salvation.
2. He should be our example in humility and service. When we think of how He obeyed His inferiors, how He laid aside every thought of ease and underwent every hardship, how He sacrificed friendships and family joys for the sake of us and our salvation, we should, with utmost devotion, be willing to follow in His steps, 1 Peter 2:21.

Great Fact II -- The Events of Peter's Period 30-48 A.D.

For 18 years the church at Jerusalem, with James as its pastor, and Peter as the leading apostle, directed the spread of the gospel.

1. **MATTHIAS** was elected to succeed Judas as an apostle.
2. **PENTECOST**—Ten days after Christ's ascension, on the Day of Pentecost, the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, and able to preach in various languages with the result that 3,000 were converted.
3. **ANANIAS** and **SAPPHIRA** sought to deceive God and the apostles and were punished with instant death.
4. **FIRST DEACONS**—Seven deacons were chosen to look after the financial affairs of the church.
5. **STEPHEN**,—who earnestly preached the true Faith, was stoned to death on the charge of speaking blasphemy words against the Temple and the Law.
6. **PAUL'S CONVERSION**—The bitter but brilliant Saul was converted, and became Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles.
7. **CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS**—Cornelius, who was a commander of 100 Roman soldiers, became interested in the gospel and sent for Peter, who preached to him and the Gentiles who were in his house, with the result that they were converted and filled with the Spirit. This established the fact that Gentiles should receive the same blessings, and have the same standing in the churches, on the same conditions as the Jews.
8. **ANTIOCH**—The gospel was now preached at Antioch for a year, by Barnabas and Paul with great success, and it was here that the disciples were first called Christians.

Great Fact III -- The Events of Paul's Period 48-68 A.D.

1. The church at Antioch sent forth Paul and Barnabas for the FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY, and they preached in fourteen cities in Asia Minor for two years.
2. Paul and Barnabas attended the CHURCH COUNCIL at Jerusalem where it was re-affirmed that the Gentiles need not be circumcised, nor have to keep the Law of Moses, but are saved by grace alone.
3. Paul and Silas, in the SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY, revisited some of the towns of Asia Minor, and then took the gospel to Europe for the first time. The first city they preached in was Philippi and the first convert was Lydia. This journey occupied three years.
4. Paul and Timothy in the THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY revisited the churches in Asia Minor, staying about three years at Ephesus, and returning this time to Jerusalem.
5. While on these missionary journeys, Paul WROTE SIX EPISTLES: Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and 1 and 2 Thessalonians.
6. PAUL'S CLOSING MINISTRY—Jews of Asia brought about Paul's arrest on the charge of profaning the Temple. He was kept in prison in Caesarea for two years and for two years more at Rome, where he preached to all with whom he came in contact, and wrote the four Prison Epistles of Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philippians. He was freed for two years, during which time he wrote the Pastoral Epistles of First Timothy and Titus, but being arrested again, he wrote Second Timothy just before he was beheaded in 68 A.D., and received the crown of righteousness.

Great Fact IV -- The Other Apostles. 30-100 A.D.

1. JAMES, the brother of John, was put to death with the sword by King Agrippa, in 44 A.D.
2. JAMES, THE BROTHER OF OUR LORD, who also wrote the epistle that bears his name, did a great work in leading many Jews to accept Christ as the Messiah, which so enraged the Sanhedrin that they stoned him to death.
3. THOMAS preached the gospel in Persia, and likely in India.
4. ANDREW labored in South Russia, and is said to have been crucified on a cross formed like the letter X, hence called St. Andrew's Cross.
5. PHILLIP preached in Phrygia, which was in central Asia Minor.
6. BARTHOLOMEW labored in Arabia, and likely in Armenia.
7. MATTHEW is said to have labored in Egypt, Asia and Europe.

8. SIMON, not Peter, but another of the Twelve, is supposed to have spent his missionary life in Egypt, Cyrene and Great Britain.
9. JOHN, after the death of Peter and Paul, became the leader among the Christians. He was pastor for a long time of the church at Ephesus, and won many to the Lord Jesus. When the emperor, Domitian of Rome, persecuted the Christians John was banished to the island of Patmos where he received the wonderful visions recorded in the book of Revelation, and wrote the seven short letters to the churches in Asia. It is said that when John was too old and weak to preach, he would be carried into the church, and holding forth his hands would say, "Little children, let us love one another!"

THE CLOSE OF SACRED HISTORY Christ lived and died to make the gospel possible and to found His church. The apostles were inspired to preach the gospel all over the known world, and in the scriptures that they left to reveal the gospel in all its fullness, with its doctrines and church ordinances. Henceforward, until the Son of Man shall come in His glory, there will be no authoritative religious teaching for man, except as it shall come from the Holy Scriptures and be made plain by the Holy Spirit! "Unto Him who loved us, and freed us from our sins by His own blood, and made us kings with free access to God, His Father, to Him be glory and power to the end of the ages! AMEN."

GRADING SHEET

NEW TESTAMENT COURSE

	Read Lesson (50 points)	Required Reading (50 points)	Bonus Reading (50 points)
Lesson 001			
Lesson 002			
Lesson 003			
Lesson 004			
Lesson 005			
Lesson 006			
Lesson 007			
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Lesson 025			
Lesson 026			
Lesson 027			
Lesson 028			
	Total: _____	Total: _____	Total: _____
Add Totals Together: _____			

NOTE TO SELF-STUDY STUDENT: Give 50 points for Reading the Lesson, 50 points for Required Reading, and 50 Bonus Points if you read the entire book of the Bible. The Lesson sections that do not include points are blacked out.

Possible Totals: Attendance: 1,400

Required Reading: 1,350

Bonus Reading: 1,200

Minimum Total to pass & earn certificate – 2,750

