



A Light Unto My Path



Bible Study Lessons for
Young People and Adults
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A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH

Summary of Publications to Date

This leaflet contains a summary of 19 Bible Study booklets written by ordained ministers of the Progressive Primitive Baptist denomination and published in the series titled *A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH*. Each summary includes the Title, Author, Publication Number, Introduction, and list of Lesson Titles. Each booklet contains 13 lessons for weekly or other studies.

Bible Studies In This Series

<i>Marriage And The Family</i> —Various Elders	2
<i>Doctrinal Millennialism and Its Impact</i> —Elder Keith Hamilton	3
<i>The Role of a Godly Man</i> —Elder Lee Chambers	4
<i>Overcoming Adversity: A Study in I Peter</i> —Elder Steve Taylor.....	6
<i>A Study in Christian Ethics</i> —Elder Pat McCoy	7
<i>A Chronology of the Old Testament</i> —Elder Keith Hamilton.....	9
<i>Using Life's Experiences to Promote Spiritual Growth</i> — Elder Steve Taylor.....	13
<i>Living Godly In This Evil World</i> —Elder Pat McCoy	14
<i>A Study of the Philippians</i> —Elder Lee Chambers	16
<i>Priesthoods Of The Old Testament</i> —Elder Keith Hamilton	18
<i>Spiritual Growth</i> —Elder Steve Taylor	19
<i>Created Unto Good Works</i> —Elder Pat McCoy.....	20
<i>Practical Principles Of Prayer</i> —Elder Lee Chambers	21
<i>Christ And The Cults</i> —Elder Keith Hamilton	23
<i>Loving God</i> —Elder Craig Campbell	24
<i>The Master's Design For The Church</i> —Elder Pat McCoy	26
<i>Duties of Church Membership</i> —Elder Keith Hamilton	27
<i>The Christian's Moral Compass</i> —Elder Mike Newman	28
<i>Personal Discipleship</i> —Elder Keith Hamilton	29
[To purchase copies of these publications.....	32]

This Summary Compiled by Elwyn Deal, January 3, 2017

Marriage and the Family

Various Elders
Volume 10-06-1

Introduction

Our theme for this quarter is marriage and the family. This is a very important theme for it is the root of all civilization. The family is the first institution established by the Lord God Almighty. The greatest enemy of the family is Satan. It was in the first family that he made his first attack. He has not changed his tactics since he attacked Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. His ultimate goal was, and still is, to separate the family from God, the Creator. Let us not get the idea that Satan only attacks the family unit for Peter states, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

- Lesson 1. Responsibility of Husbands and Wives to Each Other
- Lesson 2. Making Your Marriage Last a Lifetime
- Lesson 3. Dealing with Adultery in Your Marriage
- Lesson 4. Christian Life After Divorce
- Lesson 5. Helping Adult Victims of Adultery and/or Divorce
- Lesson 6. Biblical Responsibilities of Fathers, Mothers and Children
- Lesson 7. Handling Anger and Jealousy Between Siblings
- Lesson 8. Helping Children Evaluate Secular Activities by Biblical Standards
- Lesson 9. The Biblical Position on Corporal Punishment
- Lesson 10. Helping Children Deal with Divorce in Their Family
- Lesson 11. Rearing Children As a Single Christian Parent
- Lesson 12. Helping Children from Abusive Or Dysfunctional Families
- Lesson 13. Dealing with Aging Family Members

Doctrinal Millennialism And Its Impact

Elder Keith Hamilton
Volume 03-08-1

Introduction

The object of this series of lessons is to take a look at some of the new things that came into the Baptist Church in the early 1800s as a result of social changes in early American culture. Because of the new freedoms and the individualism that grew in America after the Revolution, big social changes were developing in American life. As a result, new ideas about how things should be done carried over into how the church should make converts and spread the Gospel. Organizations such as Benevolence groups and Tract and Mission Societies put a new spin on the ancient work of the church and to some people were important tools to change America and the world. Groups like these that are not organized as part of the primitive, scriptural structure of the church are called para-church or extra church organizations. Many old Baptists viewed these groups as plainly unscriptural and held to the conviction that they interfered with the Gospel authority of the church.

Early advocates for these kinds of changes in church government and ministry declared that men had become too sophisticated in their knowledge and understanding of the world, and the old ways of the church could not work as well as these new institutions in making converts. Along with the new organizations also came some new twists on old Bible teachings, and not surprisingly, these twists made the teachings of salvation to be more and more dependent upon man. In the new way of modern thinking, some people viewed these innovations and new institutions as more necessary to the cause of the Gospel than the church itself.

- Lesson 1. New Things
- Lesson 2. The Universal, Mystical Church
- Lesson 3. Biblical Baptism
- Lesson 4. Biblical Church Membership

- Lesson 5. Baptism and Church Membership
- Lesson 6. Biblical Evangelism
- Lesson 7. The Evangelistic Model
- Lesson 8. Blue, Blue Sunday
- Lesson 9. Temperance Movement
- Lesson 10. The Itinerant Ministry
- Lesson 11. Church Autonomy
- Lesson 12. Associations, Conferences and Conventions
- Lesson 13. The Pastor and His Work

The Role of a Godly Man

Elder Lee Chambers

Volume 03-08-2

Introduction

One of the areas of greatest debate and greatest confusion in our society today involves the identity of and the role of a man – as a person, as a husband, as a father. What is the role of a godly man in the lives of his family and of the church body? Study after study has declared that the greatest need in family units is the presence of a strong father. Dr. James Dobson has written a book on raising young boys in our culture and one of his conclusions is that much confusion exists in the minds of young boys about what they should be because they see no clear role models before them. Governmental surveys have shown, even from a humanistic perspective, that the presence of a strong male role model as father in the family is a key factor in sparing children from much confusion and crisis.

Why is this such a vital area? It is vital because it is an issue at the core of God's structure for the family and when this structure is bypassed or changed, only damage and confusion can result.

This quarterly on the *Role of a Godly Man* is aimed at the examination of what the Word of God says a man ought to be in his relationships and in his actions. The first three lessons in the series examine the basic role of leadership that God has assigned to the

male and the specific place in creation that man has. These focus on the role of the man as leader in the home and family and in the church congregation. The remainder of the lessons will focus on issues which a man must face in his behavior, issues such as dealing with death, dealing with betrayal, and dealing with a balanced family among others.

These lessons are in no way designed to be exhaustive in scope. They are aimed at raising our awareness of the Bible's instruction and causing us to consider our own views and behavior. Several of the passages of Scripture used in these various lessons are very closely related. However, each lesson is specific in its aim and intent. These lessons do not need to become so general they repeat each week for there is plenty of area for discussion about each subject. It is the hope of the writer that these lessons will challenge your thoughts about the role of a god-fearing man as God has intended it to be.

May God bless us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and of our place in His service.

- Lesson 1. In God's Image
- Lesson 2. The Head of the Family
- Lesson 3. The Leader in the Church
- Lesson 4. For the Love He Had for Her
- Lesson 5. Not What He Expected!
- Lesson 6. Lead on Softly
- Lesson 7. Years of His Sorrow
- Lesson 8. Coming to Grips
- Lesson 9. Life in the Pit of Betrayal
- Lesson 10. How Can I Do This?
- Lesson 11. Sticker Shock — High Cost of Obedience
- Lesson 12. But the Lord Was With Joseph
- Lesson 13. A Father's Dilemma

Overcoming Adversity: A Study in I Peter

Elder Steve Taylor
Volume 03-08-3

Introduction

After the Day of Pentecost, the Church of Jesus Christ was growing in a very quick manner. The Lord was adding to the Church daily such as should be saved. The Pharisees became very concerned as converts were added to the Church. They were afraid their position in the temple and in society would be taken away. This was the chief concern when they crucified our Lord. We find the Pharisees and chief priests gathering together as a council after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. "Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all *men* will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation" (John 11:47,48). This same mindset continued after the day of Pentecost when the Spirit of God came down in such a mighty way.

As a result of this envy and jealousy, Stephen was stoned to death. A young man by the name of Saul stood by and watched this terrible act of hatred. After Stephen's death, the violence became more furious. Saul had authority to go from house to house dragging the people out and putting them in prison. Because of the persecution, the people were scattered into strange lands. Peter is writing to a group of these individuals in his first epistle. We will study his instructions to them concerning their outlook, their position, and their approach to life as a result of adversity.

In studying their situation, we will compare society as it is today and seek to find instruction for our lives as we endure the negative attitude shown by most of today's society.

- Lesson 1. Adversity in a Strange Land
- Lesson 2. God Loves You - Even in Adversity
- Lesson 3. Sustained by a Lively Hope

- Lesson 4. The Saving of Your Souls
- Lesson 5. Obedient Children
- Lesson 6. Struggle Brings Growth
- Lesson 7. A People of Purpose
- Lesson 8. Christ's Example in Adversity
- Lesson 9. Family Unity in Adversity
- Lesson 10. Sanctify the Lord God in Adversity
- Lesson 11. Carry the Message in Adversity
- Lesson 12. God Cares for You
- Lesson 13. Care for One Another

A Study In Christian Ethics

Elder Pat McCoy
Volume 03-08-4

Introduction

Modern culture, no longer held together by a common world view, is in the midst of an ethical crisis. Today there is only a faint memory of biblical norms. Modern philosophies have made it their goal to critique and replace traditional values based on the Judeo-Christian world view. Moral values, say the humanists, are not based on the revelation of a deity but are the product of human experience.

Secular man's values have been changed. Any claim to ultimate or final significance is removed. They are no longer the direct expression of the divine will. Today's values have become what certain people at a particular time and place hold to be good.

While more than just a list of "do's" and "don'ts," the Bible does give us detailed instructions on how to live as a Christian. However, the Bible does not explicitly cover every single situation we will face in our lives. How then is it sufficient? That is where Christian Ethics comes in.

Science defines ethics as, "a set of moral principles; the study of morality." Therefore, Christian Ethics would be the principles,

derived from the Christian faith, by which we act. While God's Word may not cover each and every situation we face throughout our lives, its principles give us the standards by which we must conduct ourselves in those situations where there are no explicit instructions.

For example the Bible does not say anything explicitly on the use of illegal drugs, yet based on the principles we learn through scripture we can know that it is wrong. The Bible tells us that our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and that we should honor God with it (I Corinthians 6:19-20). Knowing what these drugs do to our body, the harm they cause to various organs, we know that by using them we would be destroying the temple of the Holy Spirit. That is certainly not honoring to God. The Bible also tells us that we are to follow the authorities that God Himself has put into place (Romans 13:1). Given the illegal nature of the drugs today, by using them, we are not submitting to the authorities, but rather, rebelling against them. Does this mean if illegal drugs were legalized it would be ok? Not without violating the first principle.

- Lesson 1. Why Study Christian Ethics?
- Lesson 2. What Shall I Do?
- Lesson 3. Becoming A Person of Character
- Lesson 4. The Christian and Justice
- Lesson 5. The Christian and Peace
- Lesson 6. Peace, The Illusive Fruit
- Lesson 7. The Christian and Speech
- Lesson 8. The Christian and Purity
- Lesson 9. The Christian and the Preservation of Life
- Lesson 10. Is Honesty the Best Policy
- Lesson 11. Adultery - How to Affair Proof Your Marriage
- Lesson 12. A Proper Work Ethic
- Lesson 13. What Happened to "Overcome Evil With Good?"

A Chronology Of The Old Testament

Elder Keith Hamilton

Volume 04-09-1

Introduction

Part One: Traditional Arrangement of the Old Testament

The 39 books of the Old Testament are arranged in the traditional, familiar order according to the style of their writings. This arrangement has no correlation to the sequential order of events depicted in the Old Testament Scriptures, and while it is an efficient, custodial array of these ancient books, this order contributes to the disjointed perception of the Old Testament. This also makes the task of grasping the fluid transition of people and events in the old Scriptures more difficult.

There are five major divisions in the traditional arrangement of the Old Testament; the Pentateuch, History, Poetry, the Major Prophets and the Minor Prophets. The Pentateuch is comprised of the first five books from Genesis to Deuteronomy. The History division contains the next twelve books from Joshua to Esther. Poetry consists of the five books from Job to Solomon's Song. The Major Prophets division is the five books from Isaiah to Daniel, and the Minor Prophets are the remaining twelve books from Hosea to Malachi.

About 4,000 years of history are intertwined with the people, places and events in the Old Testament. The biblical record begins in Genesis 1:1 with human pre-history in the apt expression "in the beginning God..." and carries us all the way through ancient history to the 400 "silent" years just prior to Christ. The study of these people and events in the sequential, historical order in which they occurred is a very valuable and insightful tool for grasping the beautiful mosaic of God's providential grace in His revealed plan of salvation and the majestic, prophetic portrait of Christ the Messiah.

Part Two: Historical Chronology of Old Testament Events

The historical events and places reported in the Old Testament can be correlated with much of what is known from ancient secular

history. The traditional arrangement of the Old Testament does not give us the events, people and places of the Bible in the order in which they happened, but these things can be arranged in chronological order, as they actually happened over time. By placing the familiar Bible accounts in chronological order, we are able to match up the key elements that are common to both biblical and secular history and place the Old Testament accounts of history in context to the broad history of the world.

In chronological order, the historical relationships of the various Old Testament patriarchs and events become very obvious, and the development of the Hebrews into the nation of Israel becomes much easier to follow and remember. From this we can also gain an understanding of what else was going on in the rest of the world during any particular biblical event and piece together a more thorough understanding of the Scriptures. If we view the Old Testament as the particular history of the Hebrew nation, we can set it in the context of world history. This gives real-world context to the various biblical events and deepens our understanding of both our place as God's children in the world (not of the world) and how our Heavenly Father performs His will among the (heathen) nations of the Earth.

An awareness and appreciation of particular events and rulers in secular history help us develop a fuller understanding of pivotal developments in the messianic and national histories of Israel. In studying the parallels of biblical and secular histories, an important lesson is quickly realized; to wit, we must not divorce our biblical knowledge and understanding from the natural and human history of the world around us. The Hebrew people did not develop as a nation in a vacuum far removed from the other ancient civilizations of the Middle East. They were formed into a nation that was molded and formed under God's providence by those ancient world empires about which we have read and of which we learn on the History and Discovery channels!

Part Three: Chronological Arrangement of the Old Testament

The chronology of the Old Testament can be arranged and studied in five periods that correlate well to secular world history. The five

chronological periods for this series of lessons are Pre-history (in the beginning), the Exile, the Age of the Judges, the Kingdom Period, and the Captivity. The 39 books of the Old Testament can more or less be regrouped into these five historical periods and give us a continual narrative of the full span of 4,000 Old Testament years.

The book of Genesis narrates the first 3,000 years or so of human history. In addition to its Pre-history record, Genesis also spans the Abrahamic covenant and the events leading into the Hebrew exile in Egypt. For this reason, Genesis is grouped into the Pre-history period, but also makes contributions to the Exile period of study. The first portion, about 2,500 years, of the Genesis narrative is chronological and self-explanatory. Because of this, most of the 13 lessons in this series will investigate the 1,500 years of Hebrew history documented in the remainder of the Old Testament. For reasons that will become obvious later, the book of Job is grouped with Genesis in the Pre-history period of chronological study.

The Exile period of study consists of five books, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy and Joshua, and a portion of Genesis. This period will look at the Exile and Exodus of the Hebrew children, and the formative period of history in which Israel gained its national identity and developed into an independent nation under Jehovah's providence. This includes the conquest of the Canaan land and the development of Hebrew self-government.

The Age of the Judges spans a 300 year history of Israel as a theocracy. During this time, Israel had no king. The Hebrew people conducted their lives and civil matters in observance to the law as given to Moses, and their society was ordered and governed by their religious observance. There were cyclical periods of obedience, disobedience, captivity and deliverance during this time. The Age of the Judges consists of two books, Judges and Ruth, and a portion of I Samuel.

The Kingdom period spans 508 years. It can be divided into two sub-periods, the United Kingdom and the Divided Kingdom. The United Kingdom period endured 120 years during the reigns of Saul, David and Solomon. In the Divided Kingdom period, the Hebrew

people split into two nations, Israel in the north and Judah (with Jerusalem) in the south. Israel stood independently for 254 years, and Judah stood independently for 388 years. The Kingdom period includes historical, prophetic and poetical books of the Old Testament. In all there are 19 books in the Old Testament pertaining to the 508 years of the Kingdom period. There are six historical books: I & II Samuel, I & II Kings and I & II Chronicles: nine prophetic books; Isaiah, Amos, Joel, Hosea, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Jonah and Nahum: and four poetical books; Psalms, Proverbs, Solomon's Song and Ecclesiastes.

The Captivity period spans roughly 187 years from the exile of Judah in 587 B.C. to about 400 B.C. and the beginning of the "400 silent" years prior Christ. This period includes the 70 years of Babylonian/Persian captivity and the rebuilding of the City of Jerusalem during the returns of Nehemiah and Ezra. There are eleven books that fit into this period; Esther, Nehemiah, Ezra, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Obadiah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

- Lesson 1. Traditional Old Testament
- Lesson 2. In the Beginning
- Lesson 3. The Abrahamic Covenant
- Lesson 4. Into Egypt
- Lesson 5. Through the Depths
- Lesson 6. There Was No King in Israel
- Lesson 7. The United Kingdom
- Lesson 8. The Kingdom Divided
- Lesson 9. Judah and Israel
- Lesson 10. Notable Kings of Judah and Israel
- Lesson 11. The Carrying Away of Israel
- Lesson 12. The Diaspora, Judah Scattered
- Lesson 13. The Captivity and Return

Using Life's Experiences To Promote Spiritual Growth

Elder Steve Taylor
Volume 04-09-2

Introduction

Other than the Lord Jesus Christ, Solomon was probably the wisest man who has ever lived on the face of the earth. As king of Israel, the first thing he did was to ask God for wisdom that he might conduct himself in a proper manner as king. He acknowledged his lack of wisdom and understanding and expressed a desire to do the very best job to be a proper king for God's people. God granted that wisdom to Solomon. Throughout his life, Solomon "broadened his horizons" in learning about the societies of the nations around him. At some point in life, he became charmed by the beauty of women and desired to surround himself with hundreds of wives and concubines. As he married women from other nations, he allowed their gods to be brought in and idols erected throughout the nation. This became the downfall of Solomon and ultimately the reason he lost his place in the kingdom.

God inspired Solomon toward the end of his life to share the bits of wisdom that he had learned through lessons of life. God moved Solomon to write the book of Proverbs and the book of Ecclesiastes. As we study this wonderful book of Ecclesiastes, we shall see that in the life of Solomon, he endeavored to find fulfillment, contentment, and happiness through "things" of the world. In each instance, he repeats the theme that "all is vanity." There is no fulfillment to be found in this world. God did not intend for us to be completely content in this world, for it is not our eternal home. Solomon brings us to the conclusion that the most important thing in life is to love God and His Word and to apply ourselves to seeking to please the Almighty God.

Paul was inspired of God to tell us in the book of Colossians where we can and will find contentment and fulfillment. "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after

Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:8-10). May God bless us to study this book with the desire to apply God’s wisdom in our lives.

- Lesson 1. Nothing New Under the Sun
- Lesson 2. The True Meaning of Life
- Lesson 3. A Time to Everything
- Lesson 4. God at Work
- Lesson 5. The People We Meet in Life
- Lesson 6. Dealing With Others in Life
- Lesson 7. Living the Better Life
- Lesson 8. Thoughts on Wisdom
- Lesson 9. Who Is Our King
- Lesson 10. Keep Up the Good Work
- Lesson 11. The Common Denominator of Life
- Lesson 12. Solomon’s Practical Instructions
- Lesson 13. Conclusion of the Whole Matter

Living Godly In This Evil World

Elder Pat McCoy

Volume 04-09-3

Introduction

The Scriptures and life itself tell us we live in an evil world. We, as Christians, are to live above the world. God has standards for us to live by and live out. We are to be “Light” in this world of darkness. As we distinguish between light and darkness we must understand where the darkness comes from and how it is presented in the world. We are to fight against and overcome the darkness. This is summed up in three terms: the world, the flesh, and Satan.

In this series we will endeavor to identify the evil we are to overcome and how we can overcome through the Holy Spirit and the scriptures. God has given us all we need to fight the fight of

faith. Paul wrote to the Ephesians and in chapter six told them to “Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

To fight the enemy we need to understand his tactics and his methods. We also need to be certain that what we are fighting is the enemy. There are things that happen in our life that come from different sources; for instance, we face the disciplines from God, test and trials from the Lord and temptations from Satan. We need to know the difference and realize how to fight the temptations from Satan in this evil world.

I hope these studies will be a benefit to all of us so that we can be shining lights in this world of darkness and that we can live godly in this present evil world.

Theme: Being light in a world of darkness. Overcoming the flesh, the world, and Satan.

Look at the three things we fight - flesh, world, Satan.

We all face Discipline from God, Test/trials from the Lord, and Temptations from Satan. We need to know the difference and realize how to fight the temptations of Satan in this evil world.

Lessons will include the following ideas, but not necessarily with these titles or final order:

1. When Trouble Comes, What Kind is it?-Discipline. Heb. 12:5-11
2. When Trouble Comes: Finding Purpose in Your Trials.
James 1:1-4
3. When Trouble Comes. Temptations. James 1:12-18
4. Satan’s Devices (1). 2 Corinthians 2:1-11
5. Satan’s Devices (2). 2 Corinthians 2:1-11
6. Getting Tripped by the Flesh. Joshua 7:1-26
7. Know The 17 Works of the Flesh. Gal. 5:13-21
8. The Fight With the Flesh (1). Rom. 7:14-25
9. The Fight With the Flesh (2). Rom. 8: 1-17
10. Living in a Hostile World. I Peter 3:13-17
11. The Reality of Spiritual Warfare. Eph. 6:10-12
12. Victory over the World, Flesh, and Satan. I John 5:4-5
13. Increased Fellowship With God- Overcoming the World.
I John 2:15-17

- Lesson 1. When Trouble Comes, What Kind Is It?
- Lesson 2. Finding Purpose In Your Trials
- Lesson 3. Trials and Temptations: Who's Responsible?
- Lesson 4. The Devil and His Devices (1)
- Lesson 5. The Devil and His Devices (2)
- Lesson 6. Getting Tripped Up by the Flesh
- Lesson 7. Know the 17 Works of the Flesh
- Lesson 8. The Fight with the Flesh (1)
- Lesson 9. The Fight with the Flesh (2)
- Lesson 10. Living in a Hostile World
- Lesson 11. The Reality of Spiritual Warfare
- Lesson 12. The Victory Over the Flesh, the World, and Satan
- Lesson 13. Increased Fellowship with God

A Study Of The Philippians

Elder Lee Chambers

Volume 04-09-4

Introduction

The Epistle to the Philippians is a brief but dynamic letter from the Apostle Paul to a group of people whom he addresses as dearly beloved and longed for. The letter is rich in doctrinal truth. The letter is also filled with practical encouragement. The two are hand in hand in this Epistle. The doctrinal truth is the reason for the practice and affects everything from our money to our worship services.

This will not be an exhaustive study but a series of selective studies through the letter. The study begins with an overview of the establishment of the church and of those men and women who were involved. This overview will also provide many connections that will make the book very personal to us. It is my prayer that the individual studies will cause us to grow in our knowledge of Bible truth but also to cause each individual to examine himself or herself as to how this truth effects and shapes his or her life.

These lessons are designed to be studies. You will have to take

your Bible and search for the answers. As you gain confidence in the Scriptures you will gain comfort in sharing them with others.

You will quickly notice a new format for these lessons. In some ways the changes will be cosmetic but in other ways they will be deeper. You will no longer have a different reading designated for each day. There will be a list of Scriptures that you will *Need to Read*. The first in this list will be the principle lesson scripture for the lesson. There will be a key verse that you will *Need to Remember*. This verse will be a pivotal verse for the entire lesson. You will generally find questions that will serve to lead you through the study. The comments made will strive to serve to cement the answers to the questions into key points that will be more easily remembered.

I pray that God will bless you in this study and that you will find the richness of Paul's love and wisdom given to the early church at Philippi.

- Lesson 1. The Early Converts
- Lesson 2. Paul's Confidence
- Lesson 3. Four Aims of Personal Christian Growth
- Lesson 4. Christ Is Preached—The Main Concern
- Lesson 5. Christian Conversation—Our Lifestyle
- Lesson 6. At the Name of Jesus
- Lesson 7. Work Out Your Own Salvation
- Lesson 8. He Hath Served in the Gospel
- Lesson 9. Finally Rejoice in the Lord
- Lesson 10. Pressing for the Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ
- Lesson 11. Think on These Things
- Lesson 12. Learning to be Content
- Lesson 13. Trust in the Supplier

Priesthoods In The Old Testament

Elder Keith Hamilton
Volume 05-10-1

Introduction

The work of the priest is to direct men in the faithful and true worship of God and to do so according to only those precepts and requirements that God has set forth as acceptable. In the true sense of this work, the priest receives the precepts and instructions directly from God and delivers them to the people. In doing this rightly, the priest becomes an intermediary. He becomes the representative of God before the people, and a representative of the people before God. He is in every way “in the middle”.

Smith’s Bible Dictionary gives a good working definition stating, a priest “is man’s representative in things pertaining unto God.” We know from examples in the Bible that priests, such as Adam and Moses, were also given authority to speak on behalf of God and declare the Lord’s will and commands unto the people. This work is of a spiritual nature and bears the responsibility of leadership in worship.

A man may be required to do the work of a priest by virtue of his position of civil leadership or by consecration to the office. Most commonly, we think of the priesthood in terms of the Levites under the Hebrew system of temple worship. That is a valid and prominent function of the priesthood that will be explored in later lessons in this series. Equally important but not as clearly understood is the priestly work a man may do by virtue of his position, as the head of a household, a village or even a territory, and not under the formal unction of a consecration or ordination. This type of priesthood is also an authentic Bible model and is frequently illustrated in man’s relationship towards God in the Old Testament.

- Lesson 1. Adam Before God
- Lesson 2. Noah, Preacher of Righteousness

- Lesson 3. Melchizedek, Like No Other
- Lesson 4. Father Abraham
- Lesson 5. Moses
- Lesson 6. Aaron, Priest of God
- Lesson 7. The Levities and the Priesthood
- Lesson 8. Office of the High Priest
- Lesson 9. Zadok and Priestly Reforms
- Lesson 10. Zerubbabel and the Second Temple
- Lesson 11. Ezra and the Restoration
- Lesson 12. The Samaritan Priesthood
- Lesson 13. Formation of the Pharisees
- Lesson 14. Jethro, Priest of Midian

Spiritual Growth

Elder Steve Taylor
Volume 05-10-2

Introduction

Our lives are constantly being molded by those around us. From early life, we sought to imitate our parents or our friends. We wanted to be like those whose lives impacted us. We had a favorite ball player, teacher, friend, or someone who influenced our lives. Today’s lesson seeks to re-instill within us the desire and even the need to imitate someone in our daily activities. It is the intention of this lesson to remind us that there is Someone who is worthy of our imitating and which imitation will help enrich our lives. God help us to take a closer look at Jesus in the light of seeking His influence upon our hearts and our actions.

- Lesson 1. Jesus, Our Spiritual Model
- Lesson 2. God’s Power
- Lesson 3. God’s Assurance
- Lesson 4. God’s Forgiveness
- Lesson 5. The Word
- Lesson 6. Prayer

- Lesson 7. Spiritual Revival
- Lesson 8. Spiritual Fruitfulness
- Lesson 9. Fellowship
- Lesson 10. Witnessing
- Lesson 11. Spiritual Warfare
- Lesson 12. Spiritual Direction
- Lesson 13. Spiritual Fulfillment

Created Unto Good Works

Elder Pat McCoy
Volume 05-10-3

Introduction

True Christians are hard working people. They are never lazy. They do honest work to take care of themselves, and they work hard for God. The Church of Jesus Christ is a working church. It is not a society that meets to enjoy pleasures. It is Christian people who willingly work for God. A lazy man will be a failure as a Christian.

The New Testament has much to say about doing good works. While Christians must do good works, they also must understand the purpose of good works. A person cannot earn salvation by good works. Salvation comes from God's grace, through faith, as a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8,9). Christians do not do good works to earn salvation. They do good works to show their love to God who has forgiven their sins. Good works show the Christian's love and appreciation to God for forgiveness and salvation.

Are good works necessary? Yes! God saved us, made us Christians in order for us to do His own good works (Ephesians 2:10). Jesus died for us in order that He might have His own people who are "zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14). Those who believe in God must be careful to maintain (continue) good works (Titus 3:8). Read James 1:22-25. People who listen to God's word, but do not do God's teachings, lie to themselves. Those who hear the word, but refuse to do it, are like a man who looks in a mirror and sees his

dirty face, but then forgets to wash off the dirt. That man received no benefit from looking into the mirror. Those who are hearers only, receive no benefit from hearing. It is the man who is a doer of the word that shall be blessed.

This study will cover various aspects of "good works" in the Christian life. Do not wait until the end of the study to apply the principles, but be "doers of the word" now.

- Lesson 1. What We Were Before Salvation
- Lesson 2. Our New Position in Christ
- Lesson 3. The Devils Believe Also
- Lesson 4. Created to Do Good Works
- Lesson 5. Prepared For Good Works
- Lesson 6. What About Faith and Good Works? (1)
- Lesson 7. What About Faith and Good Works? (2)
- Lesson 8. What About Faith and Good Works? (3)
- Lesson 9. Titus: Salvation and Good Works
- Lesson 10. An Attitude For Good Works
- Lesson 11. Jesus Went About Doing Good
- Lesson 12. Why Do Good Works?
- Lesson 13. What Are Good Works?

Practical Principles Of Prayer

Elder Lee Chambers
Volume 05-10-4

Introduction

Prayer is a spiritual exercise. It is the communion between the heart of God's child and God Himself. James Montgomery, in the words to the hymn *Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire*, speaks of that communication when he says,

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Unuttered or expressed;
The motion of a hidden fire,

That trembles in the breast.
Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye,
When none but God is near.

Just as it is true that prayer is a deeply spiritual experience, it is also true that prayer is something God's child can learn to do by repeated experience in life. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples" (Luke 11:1). They understood there were some things they could learn in practice.

These lessons are designed to cause us to note the practical applications and how our practice of praying should be affected. The first four lessons deal with the basic understanding of prayer while the remainder of the lessons deal with specific subject areas. You will observe that many of these lessons will seem to be brief in terms of the length of the lesson. This is by design. The questions are designed to lead the class through discussion. Each class member is encouraged to take time before class to read each suggested scriptural passage and to consider the answer. The answers will give ample room for class participation.

While some of the thoughts included in the lessons will seem basic to those who have been in the Lord's service for much of their lives, keep in mind that one of the reasons we seek to learn is to be able to clearly teach and pass on to the next generation the truths of the Word of God. Discussion of the basic practical matters of prayer should help us to understand them in clear terms and be better able to teach our children and new believers.

It is the prayer of this writer that God would bless this material to stir your hearts in worship and in spiritual growth in the soul's sincere desire.

- Lesson 1. Prayer Is
- Lesson 2. Teach Us To Pray
- Lesson 3. Prayer Requires Us To
- Lesson 4. When Prayers Seem Unheard or Unanswered

- Lesson 5. Fasting and Prayer
- Lesson 6. Constancy In Prayer
- Lesson 7. Effective Through the Intercessory Work
- Lesson 8. In Jesus' Name
- Lesson 9. Praying for Specific Needs
- Lesson 10. Prayer for Public Officials
- Lesson 11. Prayer for the Good of the Church
- Lesson 12. Prayer for Personal Needs
- Lesson 13. The Ultimate Purpose of Every Prayer

Christ And The Cults

Elder Keith Hamilton
Volume 06-11-1

Introduction

This series of Bible Study lessons began as the "Christ and the Cults" seminar workshop during the 2009 Southern States Bible Conference at St. Simons Island. Feedback from participants in that program led to the expanded development of the workshop materials into this present series of lessons. Oft repeated comments which led to this Bible Study format regarded the timely nature of the subject matter and the informative substance of its content.

The various lessons in this quarterly examine primarily two different types of cults which are predominant in American culture and look at specific beliefs in which some of the better-known cults depart dramatically from orthodox Christianity. The first type of cult mimics Christianity in some ways, using familiar terms and names but ultimately possess theologies that are radically different from those presented in the Holy Scriptures. The second type of cult has very little or nothing at all in common with Christianity and has no theologies compatible with the Christian Scriptures.

There is a grave danger that young or weak Christians could be confused or even deceived by the tactics and terms used by many cults and drawn away from Biblical truth. It is of preeminent importance that the faithful Christian be well versed in the literal language of the Bible to guard against heresies and false doctrines creeping in and taking hold. To that end, it is also helpful for the

Bible student to gain an understanding of the basic premises and teachings declared by these false religions.

It is the hope and purpose of the author that this series will assist you in gaining a greater understanding and resolve of the *absolutely essential nature of the most simple, basic and straight-forward principles of our Christian faith, namely: that Jesus is the Christ of God; that Jesus is the incarnate image of God the Son; that the Holy Bible is the inspired and inerrant word of God; and that the Holy Bible is (and must be) the only rule of faith and practice for the true Christian.*

- Lesson 1. Thou Art the Christ
- Lesson 2. The Spirit of Anti-Christ
- Lesson 3. The Son; The Christ
- Lesson 4. What are Cults?
- Lesson 5. World Religions
- Lesson 6. What about Judaism?
- Lesson 7. Man's Natural Condition
- Lesson 8. Measure of Perfection
- Lesson 9. Wicca and Paganism
- Lesson 10. Christian-like Cults
- Lesson 11. The Mormons
- Lesson 12. Jehovah's Witnesses
- Lesson 13. Essential Christianity

Loving God

Elder Craig Campbell
Volume 06-11-2

Introduction

This study is designed to lead you in not only a study of God's Word concerning the essential issue of loving God, but as well, is designed to prompt you in obediently applying that Word to your life. The questions are almost always reflective questions. Therefore, the answer will not normally be in the written lesson, but rather will be in how you respond to the material of the lesson.

The time required of you is significant, at least an hour of study and preparation prior to class. Less time than one hour will leave you discouraged by the study. Please do the entire first lesson with detailed and thoughtful answers prior to the beginning of the first group gathering of the class.

It is recommended that you have a dedicated notebook for this study. Without a dedicated notebook the study will lose effectiveness. Hopefully the answers to these questions will serve as a scrapbook of your wonderful journey of growing in your love relationship with the Lord of your life.

If some of the questions in this study are answered with the depth and self reflection that is called for, these answers may not be appropriate to share. Please pray for Biblical wisdom concerning what to share and what not to share. Your class leader has a responsibility to protect class members' privacy and safeguard the unity of the body of believers. With that guidance given, the strength of the class setting is dependent upon you and other participants sharing answers so that all can learn from each other.

Lastly, for this type of reflective study to be effective it must begin with, end with, and be thoroughly bathed in prayer. Please pray for yourself and for all the others in your class. May the Lord bless us to grow in our love for Him.

- Lesson 1. Time to Take Inventory
- Lesson 2. God is Love
- Lesson 3. God's Love in Salvation
- Lesson 4. You Must Be Born of the Spirit
- Lesson 5. The Greatest Commandment
- Lesson 6. Reading a Letter of Love to You, Part 1
- Lesson 7. Reading a Letter of Love to You, Part 2
- Lesson 8. Why Have a Vibrant Prayer Life?
- Lesson 9. Principles of a Vibrant Prayer Life
- Lesson 10. Worship - Our Expression of Love, Part 1
- Lesson 11. Worship - Our Expression of Love, Part 2
- Lesson 12. Daily Dying to Self and Living to God
- Lesson 13. In Love with God

The Master's Design for the Church

Elder Pat McCoy

Volume 06-11-3

Introduction

From the very beginning God has worked in the world in different ways. He worked through individuals, nations and groups of people. God's present work is through the Church. The work of God in calling men and women to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior, which was begun in the scriptures, continues today for Jesus promised that He would build His church. The church Christ is building is God's main instrument through which He ministers to the world. Christ was sent into the world by the Father and now He sends us with the word of reconciliation to the world (John 20:21).

The church has suffered confusion and unrest. Many people are skeptical of the church and those who are a part of it. Confusion lies in the fact that there are so many different beliefs and divisions among professing Christians. Salvation is presented by some as solely the work of God while others teach it is by your good works and your righteousness that you are saved. The unrest comes within the church because of people disagreeing over interpretation of scripture, morality, church authority, and numerous other matters. What is needed is a concerted effort to seek God's will and ways in continuing the building process. God's purpose remains and His church will endure.

The turmoil stems from church leaders stepping back from the Lord of the church and His patterns for church life. Questions arise concerning the nature of the church, the role of the ministry, and the very purpose of the church itself. These questions can only be answered by a return to the origins of the church in the word of the Lord. Advancement comes, not by advancing beyond the biblical pattern, but from building upon the biblical pattern.

There are basic guidelines for answers to the problems facing the church today. The Master Builder of the church has left us a blueprint for its structure. His word presents patterns of church structure and life which are for our instruction. We all agree that times have changed and so have circumstances; however, to hold to the revealed word of God as the norm for the principles of the

church and to observe the course on which the church was set in its foundational period is the only hope of building on a firm base.

- Lesson 1. The Meaning and Use of the Word Church
- Lesson 2. The Nature of the Church (Part 1)
- Lesson 3. The Nature of the Church (Part 2)
- Lesson 4. The Nature of the Church (Part 3)
- Lesson 5. The Pattern of the Church
- Lesson 6. The Church's Ministry
- Lesson 7. Elders, Deacons and the Congregation
- Lesson 8. Godly Leaders - Elders
- Lesson 9. Church Leaders - The Calling
- Lesson 10. Qualified Servants for the Church: Deacons (Part 1)
- Lesson 11. Qualified Servants for the Church: Deacons (Part 2)
- Lesson 12. The Mission of the Church (Part 1)
- Lesson 13. The Mission of the Church (Part 2)

Duties of Church Membership

Elder Keith Hamilton

Volume 06-11-4

Introduction

This quarterly series of lessons touches on thirteen of the principle duties of church membership. Due to the limitation of only thirteen lessons, not all pertinent subjects could be included or exhaustively addressed. Among other items of members' duties are personal conduct, personal finances, professional and social associations and family obligations. A worthwhile study of this quarterly will require advance reading of both the lesson text and Scripture verses prior to Bible Study Class discussions. It is the great desire of the writer that with advance study and preparation, Bible Study Class time will be used for discussion of lesson content with a minimal amount of in-class time used for reading the lesson texts.

- Lesson 1. Baptism and Church Membership
- Lesson 2. Worship Attendance
- Lesson 3. Participation in Church Ministry
- Lesson 4. Personal Bible Study
- Lesson 5. Personal Discipleship
- Lesson 6. Personal Evangelism
- Lesson 7. Personal Prayer Life
- Lesson 8. Finances — Church Support
- Lesson 9. Pastoral Support
- Lesson 10. Communion
- Lesson 11. Conference
- Lesson 12. Lay Leadership
- Lesson 13. Discipline

A Christian's Moral Compass

Elder Mike Newman
Volume 07-12-2

Introduction

Moral issues greet us continuously: in the morning newspapers; in the memos on our desks; on our children's sports fields; on the evening news; and all places in between. We see issues at the highest level of government, in our churches and in our everyday decisions. We are constantly bombarded with questions and choices about morality. It is a huge issue.

Dealing with moral issues is often perplexing. How, exactly, should we work our way through them? Where do we seek guidance? What questions should we ask? What factors should we consider?

The first step in analyzing moral issues is obvious – but not always easy: Get the facts! Some issues create controversies simply because we do not bother to check the facts. This first step, although obvious, is one of the most important but also most frequently overlooked.

Just having the facts is not enough. Facts by themselves only tell us what is; they do not tell us what ought to be. In addition to getting the facts, resolving a moral issue also requires the application of values. Those values are found in God's Holy Word.

We clearly need a solid foundation from which to conduct our own lives, to live at peace with and help others, and to rear our children in ways that are pleasing to our Lord.

Our prayer is that this series of lessons will help prepare us to deal more effectively with moral issues and to 'take the high road' in all of life's decisions.

- Lesson 1. Authority In Morality
- Lesson 2. Sexual Immorality
- Lesson 3. Abortion
- Lesson 4. Alcohol
- Lesson 5. Dancing
- Lesson 6. Domestic Violence
- Lesson 7. Euthanasia
- Lesson 8. Gambling
- Lesson 9. Homosexuality
- Lesson 10. Immodest Apparel
- Lesson 11. Tobacco
- Lesson 12. Dishonesty
- Lesson 13. The Institution of Marriage
- Lesson 14. Walking In the Fear of the Lord

Personal Discipleship

Elder Keith Hamilton
Volume 08-14-1

Introduction

In 1 Peter 3:21, baptism is described as "...the answer of a good conscience toward God...". It is an obedient act of faith in Christ Jesus, following an explicit example that He left for us. It is to be the

first step in a life-long pattern of obedience and devotion to the person, nature and work of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship is more than just believing and professing; it is living the practical applications of the faith we profess and deliberately patterning our words, thoughts and actions to the examples and teachings of Christ. Discipleship does not merely "happen" to us; it is achieved. For the blood-bought, born-again Child of God, it is a life-long quest of deliberate and intentional labors to become as much like Christ as we possibly can while we live in this low-ground of sin and sorrow.

The Kingdom of God in the Earth is filled with an abundance of people who profess faith and belief in Christ and particular things about Him; but true and faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ are rare and precious. They are the ones who "...having put his hand to the plough..." have never looked back and unfailingly "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." If we are blessed in our walk with the Lord, we likely have known at least a few of such precious saints. If we have indeed been a blessing to others in their walk with the Lord, we very well might be ourselves, one of the true disciples!

- Lesson 1. Pathway to Discipleship
- Lesson 2. Discipleship
- Lesson 3. Know These Things
- Lesson 4. Students and Scholars
- Lesson 5. Pray to The Father
- Lesson 6. Pray as One Believing
- Lesson 7. Being Something Different
- Lesson 8. Unto Perfection
- Lesson 9. Personal Discipline
- Lesson 10. Drawn Away and Enticed
- Lesson 11. Fruit of the Spirit
- Lesson 12. The Father Glorified
- Lesson 13. Even Unto Death

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