

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

**A STUDY OF THE SONGS WE SING
TO WORSHIP OUR LORD**

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Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs-Table of Contents

Introduction		
Lesson 1	It Is Well With My Soul	05
Lesson 2	Count Your Many Blessings	06
Lesson 3	Almost Persuaded	08
Lesson 4	To God Be the Glory	10
Lesson 5	None of Self and All of Thee	12
Lesson 6	Follow Me	14
Lesson 7	I Must Tell Jesus	16
Lesson 8	Trust and Obey	17
Lesson 9	God Give Us Christian Homes	19
Lesson 10	God Shall Wipe Away All Tears	21
Lesson 11	Yield Not to Temptation	23
Lesson 12	How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts?	25
Lesson 13	The Church's One Foundation	26
Lesson 14	Does Jesus Care?	28
Lesson 15	This Is My Fathers World	30
Lesson 16	Open My Eyes, That I May See	31
Lesson 17	Living by Faith	33
Lesson 18	Have Thine Own Way Lord	34
Lesson 19	Take Time to be Holy	35
Lesson 20	Blest Be the Tie That Binds	37
Lesson 21	I Believe in Jesus	38
Lesson 22	How Great Thou Art!	41
Lesson 23	There's a Light Shining	42
Lesson 24	Angry Words	43
Lesson 25	He Leadeth Me	45
Lesson 26	Take the Name of Jesus with You	47
Lesson 27	Wonderful Words of Life	49
Lesson 28	When We All Get to Heaven	50
Lesson 29	Living for Jesus	52
Lesson 30	Soldiers of Christ, Arise	54
Lesson 31	Blessed Assurance	56
Lesson 32	Hark! The Gentle Voice	58
Lesson 33	The Great Physician	59
Lesson 34	Heaven Came Down	61
Lesson 35	There Is Much to Do	63
Lesson 36	Stepping in the Light	65
Lesson 37	What Shall It Be?	67
Lesson 38	I Am Thine O Lord	68
Lesson 39	To Christ Be True	70
Lesson 40	Each Step I Take	71
Lesson 41	Jesus Loves Me	72
Lesson 42	Do You Know My Jesus?	74
Lesson 43	On Jordan's Stormy Banks	75

Lesson 44	The Precious Book Divine	77
Lesson 45	Anywhere Is "Home"	79
Lesson 46	Let Him Have His Way With Thee	81
Lesson 47	Our God, He Is Alive	83
Lesson 48	Heaven Holds All To Me	84
Lesson 49	I Am the Vine	86
Lesson 50	One Step at a Time	87
Lesson 51	Hold to God's Unchanging Hand	89
Lesson 52	No Tears in Heaven	90
Lesson 53	The Greatest Commands	92
Lesson 54	I Have Decided to Follow Jesus	93
Lesson 55	?	

**Do you have a Psalm, Hymn or Spiritual Song that you would like us to examine in depth?
Let us know; it might become Lesson 55.**

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs-Foreword

The following lessons are studies of songs that are familiar to all of us in the Church. If we are to teach and admonish one another with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs and worship God, then it is imperative that we know the meaning of the songs we are singing.

We are fortunate to have Doug Yopp among the membership at the church of Christ at Beverly Shores (Leesburg, FL, USA). Doug has been involved in music almost all his life; first as a band student and for the past 32 years as a middle and high school band director and as an elementary school music instructor. His knowledge of music has been put to good use in the Lord's service as a song leader and teacher of songs and song leaders. Now he has applied his abilities to preparing the outlines that follow. It is his hope (and ours) that you might put these outlines to good use as sermons or Bible studies.

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs-Introduction

- I. Singing is a commandment of God.
 - A. Eph. 5:19
 - B. James 5:13
- II. Why study songs?
 - A. To learn better how to teach each other through songs.
 - B. To understand what we are teaching through songs.
 - C. To understand what the writer was feeling and trying to convey through the song.
- III. What we will try to do through this study:
 - A. Explore the lyricists' and composers' life and times.
 - B. Try to understand the meaning of the phrases and words used.
 - C. Talk about musical symbols, notations and directions that may be different for each song.
 - D. Discuss whether the meanings conveyed are in accordance with the scriptures.
 - E. Sing the Song!

LESSON 1-IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

I. "Inner peace through an implicit trust in the love of God is the real evidence of a mature Christian Faith."

Read Psalms 46:1-4, and Proverbs 3:5,6

Horatio Spafford (1828-1888, Lyricist) had known peaceful and happy days as a successful attorney in Chicago. He was the father of five children. Without warning, however, a series of unexpected events occurred. First, his only son passed away. Then the great Chicago Fire of 1871 wiped out the family's real estate investments. Mr. Spafford and the rest of his family then went to Europe to assist a friend in an evangelistic campaign. In November of 1873, he sent his wife and daughters on to Europe by boat as he had been detained on business and planned to join them shortly. Halfway across the Atlantic the ship was struck by another vessel and sank in 12 minutes. All four daughters were among the 226 drowned. His wife was among the few who were saved. On the voyage to rejoin his grieving wife in Cardiff, Wales, as the boat passed over the spot where his daughters were killed, He wrote "When sorrows like sea billows roll...It is well with my soul."

II. Verse 1-READ

A. Peace

1. Jn.16:33-We find peace in Jesus--Why?
2. Romans 5:1-What causes us to be justified in God's sight so that we may have peace?
3. Eph. 2:14-God through Christ has made both one, breaking down the middle wall of partition, abolishing the law of commandments and creating in Himself that which makes peace.
4. Phil, 4:7-This peace, which passes all understanding, then guards our hearts and minds through whom?
5. Col. 3:15, 16-Is not it interesting that psalms, hymns and spiritual songs are mentioned in these verses that talk about the Peace of God and the Word of Christ.

B. "Peace like a river" - Is 66:12-Whom does Is. 66 refer to? Do we not see that true peace is through Jesus Christ?

C. "Attendeth My Way" - Ps. 23:1-3-If we let God lead us through his word we will find peace.

D. "Sorrows like sea billows roll."

1. 1 Thess. 4:13-Losing a loved one should cause sorrow but we need to understand that through Christ we have hope; hope that will overcome the sorrows so that we do not drown in them.
 2. Is. 53:3-Christ was the "Man of sorrows" that brought this hope to us.
- E. "Whatever my lot...it is well with my soul."
1. 2 Cor. 4:16-18-Look to the things that are eternal and it will be well with your soul!
 2. 2 Tim. 2:8-13-Endure and Succeed!

III. Verse 2-Read

- A. Rom. 6:10-We are dead to sin because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- B. Heb. 9:26-This sacrifice was made once, but its workings in the lives of man are innumerable.
- C. Eph. 1:7-Redemption and forgiveness.
- D. Titus 2:14-We are a special people!
- E. Col. 3:10-We are new. Our previous sin is not held to our charge.

IV. Verse 3-Read

- A. 2 Cor. 5:7-We walk by Faith and not by Sight now, but when we are with Jesus, faith in him and his coming will be replaced by sight and actual association with Jesus.
- B. 1 Cor. 15:52-When all this occurs, if we are faithful followers of Jesus, IT WILL BE WELL WITH OUR SOULS!

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT AS YOU SING THIS SONG--

CAN I TRUTHFULLY SAY THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES
MAY BE THAT SURROUND US---IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL?

LESSON 2-COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS

I. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Eph. 1:3

"For the Christian, gratitude should be a life attitude."

Johnson Oatman, Jr., (1856-1922, Lyricist) "Count Your Blessings" was written by one of the prolific gospel songwriters of the past century. In addition to writing more than

5,000 hymn texts, he was also a successful businessman, engaged in a shipping business and in his later years as an administrator for a large insurance company.

In the first two verses, he develops the thought that counting our blessings serves as an antidote for life's discouragements and in turn makes for victorious Christian living. The third stanza of this hymn teaches us that counting our blessings can be a means of placing material possessions in proper perspective when compared to the eternal inheritance awaiting believers. Then as we review our individual blessings, we certainly would have to agree with Mr. Oatman's fourth verse: The provision of God's help and comfort to the end of our earthly pilgrimage is one of our choicest blessings.

II. Verse 1-READ

- A. When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed.
1. This is very similar to the phrase in last weeks lesson-Sea billows roll.
 2. Mk 4:37-41-The apostles were concerned to the point of asking Christ whether he cared that they were perishing. Christ's' response was two fold. First, he stopped the storm, and then he asked them, "How is it that you have no Faith?" The blessing here for the apostles is that Christ saved them from the sea, but more importantly, he conveyed to them the blessing of understanding that faith dispels fear!
 3. Job 42-Job was blessed in the fact that he had faith in the Lord. Even through all the trials that he endured, he understood the blessing of following the Lord. His statement of faith in verses 2-6, results in the blessings by God in the remainder of the chapter. Our lesson is that when we understand what God has for us, we will be blessed.
 4. Daniel 3:16-26-Another example of how understanding the blessing of being acceptable to the Lord can result in even greater blessings.
- B. Name them one by one - Ps. 146-147 How many things has the Lord has blessed us with that are not named here in some form?

III. Verse 2-Read

- A. Mt. 13:22-The cares of this world can help to choke the word and cause us to be unfruitful. We need to do as the next verse says and hear and understand the word and use it to dispel the ill effects of the cares of the world.
- B. Mt. 16:24-We each must follow Christ and in so doing, endure the problems and trials inherent in taking up the cross. This burden may at times seem light and at other times seem heavy, but we are obligated because of the cross that he bore, to endure and overcome. If we will but remember the blessings that accrue to us because of his suffering and enumerate these, we will overcome.
- C. Eph. 5:18-20-Giving thanks and singing go hand in hand here with being filled with the Spirit and with being pleasing to God.

IV. Verse 3-Read

- A. Eph. 1:18, 3:8, Col. 2:2-3-True riches are found in Christ, riches that will not be corrupted. Mt. 6:19-20
- B. Heb. 11:26, Col. 1:27, Heb. 9:15, Rom. 6:23-Treasures found in Christ cause all earthly riches to pale in comparison.
- C. Acts 3:6-Money was not the gift that Peter gave to this man; it is the power of Jesus Christ from the Father that is greater.

V. Verse 4-Read

- A. Eph. 1:21, 3:7, Rom. 13:1-God is Omnipotent; he has power over everything, even death (I Cor. 15:53-55)
- B. Acts 16:25-34-God demonstrated his power over nature and, through the conversion of the jailer, his power over Satan
- C. Angels will attend
 1. Daniel 6:22-Note that he was found innocent before God.
 2. Daniel 3:28-Notice, "who trusted him."
 3. 1 Kings 19:1-10,18-Elijah thought he was alone, he was discouraged, he was hungry, he was persecuted, he was hunted, but because of his faith in God, he was comforted, uplifted and BLESSED. It is a great blessing to know that God is with us!
 4. Acts 12:7-11

When we understand that all we have in this world and in the world to come is from God and is a blessing from him, will we not appreciate and cherish these more?

LESSON 3-ALMOST PERSUADED

I. Read Acts 26:28

When Philip Bliss (1838-1876, Lyricist and Composer) heard this end to a sermon, "...to be almost saved is to be entirely lost," he penned "Almost Persuaded," one of the most effective of all invitation songs.

The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Pacific Express plowed through the drifts into the darkness, but kept losing time. A howling gale off Lake Erie, driving a blinding blizzard, raged fiercely. At 7:28 pm on December 29, 1876, the Chicago-bound train neared Ashtabula, Ohio--but eternity was the immediate destination for nearly a hundred passengers. As the train crawled across, the Ashtabula River Bridge

suddenly broke and began to sink. The lead engine reached the other side safely, but the coupling broke, the bridge gave away, and the second locomotive and all eleven cars plunged into the seventy-foot chasm. A moment of stunned silence preceded screams and pandemonium. Cars were piled in a V-shaped tumble from one bank to the other; dead, dying and injured sprawled everywhere. Almost immediately, fire broke out from overturned stoves and lamps. Volunteers arrived on the scene, but their frantic efforts were tremendously handicapped by the difficulty of getting down the slope through the deep snow, in the howling wind--and probably also by an overwhelming sense of futility.

Above the roar of wind and flames, as well as screams and shouts, a powerful bass voice rang out:

*Jesus, Lover of my soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high!
Hide me, O my Savior hide, Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last!*

Philip Bliss, known as the "Sweet Singer", sang the third stanza in a clear voice, then with a gasp was silenced. Philip Bliss, born on July 9, 1838, in Clearfield County Pennsylvania, had survived the train wreck but frantically returned to the wreckage in an attempt to rescue his wife. As a result, he perished with her. Neither body was recovered.

II. Verse 1-Read

- A. Now to Believe-Rom. 10:9,10. How do we come to believe?
 - 1. With the heart.
 - 2. By hearing. Rom. 10:14
 - 3. Believing is connected to prayer. Mt. 21:22
 - 4. The result should be belief in God, which results in obedience and ultimately eternal life. Jn 3:16
- B. Christ to receive-Col. 2:6,7, Acts 2:41, 1 Thess. 2:13. When we receive Jesus, we walk in him, we are baptized, we are added, we gain truth, and the word of God effectively works in us.
- C. Remainder of vs. 1-Mt. 7:7,8, Mt. 21:42, Jn 12:48, Mt. 10:33 When we reject the word, we reject the Spirit that brought us the word. That word will judge us in the last great day! To reject the word is also to reject Jesus, which can be then taken as a denial of Jesus. We must confess him before men, so that he will confess to the father that we are one of his! To say "some more convenient day" is to deny him and the eternal result will be a denial of us by him to the Father - Eternal Damnation!

III. Verse 2-read

- A. "Jesus invites you here"-Mt. 11:28

- B. "Angels are lingering near"- See lesson 2: V. C. 1-4; Lk. 15:10
- C. "Prayers rise from hearts so dear, O wand'rer come."-Js. 5:16, Eph 4:14

IV. Verse 3-read

- A. "Harvest is past"-Mt. 9:37, 13:39
- B. "Sad, sad that bitter wail"-Lk 13:28

Final thought

ALMOST- very nearly but not succeeding.

PERSUADED- to induce to believe.

To be very nearly induced to believe is not good enough with the Lord. We must believe, act and commit our very all to the Lord because that is what Jesus Christ did--the supreme sacrifice, his crucifixion, demands this of us.

LESSON 4-TO GOD BE THE GLORY

I. Read Romans 15:6

When Fanny Crosby (Lyricist, 1820-1915) was 6 weeks old, because of improper medical treatment, she became blind but never revealed bitterness or depression. At one time, a well-intentioned minister remarked to her, "I think it is a great pity that the Master, when he showered so many gifts upon you, did not give you sight." "Do you know," replied Fanny, "If at birth I had been able to make one petition to my Creator, it would have been that I should be born blind." "Why?" he asked her. "Because when I get to heaven, the first sight that shall ever gladden my eyes will be that of my Savior!"

Fanny Crosby did not begin writing songs until her mid-forties. She wrote 8,000 song texts, lived to be 95 years of age, and traveled extensively throughout the country as a guest speaker.

To give glory to God should be the greatest desire of every Christian. Not only should this be the supreme goal for our individual lives, but it should also be true whenever we gather.

II. Read verse 1.

- A. Read Psalms 105:1-6
 - 1. Some great things that God has done:
 - a. He created us.
 - b. He gave us a beautiful world to live in.

2. He gave us the ability to think and reason. (We should use this to worship, praise and obey him.)
 3. He blesses us every day with those things we need.
 4. And the greatest thing that he has done is to send his Son. See: John 3:17, Gal. 4:4, 1 John 4:8-10
- B. "Who yielded his life an atonement for sin." - Heb. 9:13-15, Ex. 30:10, Romans 5:6-12
- C. "Opened the life-gate that all may go in"
1. John 6:35 Jesus is the provider of life. Those that come to him will receive a life that does not worry about hunger or thirst; it is eternal!
 2. Romans 2:10, Eph. 2:14--Salvation for every man is now available through ONE: JESUS CHRIST!

III. Read verse 2.

- A. Redemption-Romans 3:24, Eph. 1:17, Hebrews 9:12-To redeem is to buy, payoff or clear by payment. Because of man's sins, it is necessary to pay the debt incurred back to God. We could not or cannot as individuals or as a group ever be able to pay back to God enough to redeem us when we have separated ourselves from him because of Sin. Therefore, it was necessary for the perfect sacrifice (Jesus Christ) to be offered in our behalf.
- B. Purchase of Blood-Acts 20:28
- C. "To every Believer, the promise of God"-John 1:12, 1 Tim. 1:16
- D. "Vilest Offenders"--Mt. 9:10-12, Romans 5:8, I Tim. 1:15--Paul called himself the "Chief of Sinners." Paul, through true obedience, became not only an Apostle and Author of many Epistles but an Example to us today!

IV. Read verse 3.

- A. Great--1 Thess. 4:9, Psalms 71:19, Psalms 21:1
- B. Greater--2 Tim. 2:10-12a, Romans 6:22,23

V. Read Chorus - Isaiah 34:1, Psalms 67:3

We must always be alert in recognizing the fact that God leads us and we must acknowledge his hand of blessing in all that we have and do!

LESSON 5-NONE OF SELF AND ALL OF THEE

I. Matt. 19:16-22: Living the Christian life involves: Commitment and Sacrifice.

The word Commitment means to pledge, promise or to have an obligation. To sacrifice means to surrender something of value for the sake of greater gain. Therefore, we, as Christians, must pledge to surrender our will to Jesus Christ because of our obligation to him incurred by his sacrifice. If we do this the greater gain that we receive is an eternal home. The Rich Young Man was not willing to sacrifice for the greater gain, being in harmony with Jesus Christ. As we discuss this song, we are going to talk about our obligations that we have as Christians toward Jesus, Ourselves, and Others!

James McGranahan (Composer 1840-1907) was a friend of Phillip Bliss (see Lesson 3). He took over many of the things that Phillip Bliss was working on at the time of Bliss' death.

II. Read verse 1 - "All of Self and none of Thee"

- A. Prov. 17:24--The things of this world can never bring us the understanding that we need to obtain wisdom. To think that this world will bring us this wisdom is foolishness. 1 Cor. 10:12--"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall."
- B. Isaiah 2:12-This is a very sobering statement-"Everything proud and lofty shall be brought low." James 4:6
- C. 1 Tim. 6:3-5-He who is so proud as to lift himself above the teaching of Jesus Christ knows nothing and we are to withdraw ourselves from this type of person. This is because of the evil influence that can be exerted upon us.
- D. 2 Cor. 7:10-The point here is: What kind of sorrow do we possess, the Godly sorrow that produces repentance or the sorrow of the world that produces death?

Has there been a time in our lives that we regretted actions where selfishness produced bitter pain and sorrow? Hopefully the result was a turning away from sin and the wisdom to follow the Lord!

III. Read verse 2 - "Some of Self and Some of Thee"

- A. If we can comprehend the pain and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and its significance to our souls' salvation, it can satisfy the wistful (longing, yearning) heart. Man, in general, is looking for relief from and salvation from the cares of this world. This can only be found in belief and obedience to Jesus Christ! Rom. 1:16, Rom. 6:17,18

- B. The purpose of the Lord's Supper is to turn our thoughts from the cares and the love of this world to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and our need for it. As human beings we need this reminder every week to combat the idea that we can find salvation in ourselves or in this world.

IV. Read verse 3 - "His tender mercy-healing, helping full and free"

- A. Tender Mercy-Luke 1:77-79-Jesus gives us the knowledge of salvation, remission of sin, and through the tender mercy of God (GIVING HIS SON); we receive light that saves us from darkness and the shadow of sin, and a guide for our feet into the way of peace.
- B. Luke 4:18,19, Belief in and obedience to Jesus Christ will not only heal and help us physically, but more importantly, spiritually. His example of humility, if accepted in our hearts, will cause us to be humbled! Thus the result-Less of self and more of thee!

V. Read verse 4 - The love of God.

- A. Rom. 8:38-The Love of God, which is in Jesus Christ, can overcome any obstacle in our lives if we accept and obey him! I John 4:16
- B. Titus 3:4-6-The Love of God was magnificently manifested through Christ!
1 John 3:16, 4:9, 4:10.
- C. 1 John 2:5-How do we know if we have the Love of God in us? By keeping his word!
- D. 1 John 3:1-When we have the Love of God within us we are called the Sons of God!
- E. 1 John 4:12-how do we perfect this love of God? By loving one another! If we Love God by keeping his commandments, understanding the need for the sacrifice of Christ, have a correct appreciation for it, and love one another-love of self will be swallowed up and we can obtain peace and salvation not only in this world but more importantly in the world to come.

Do we, through our lives that we live every day, show that Jesus has conquered self? Does the Love of God exhibit itself in our lives through prayer, obedience, concern for others, and a persistent longing for the word of God? If not, then we truly cannot sing one of the greatest proclamations of faith, "None of self and all of Thee."

LESSON 6 - FOLLOW ME

I. Matt. 10:38,39--Read

- A. Ira Stanphill (Composer and Lyrist, 1914-), created his gospel songs from his varied experiences during his life. As a child, he traveled by covered wagon from Arkansas to New Mexico, and then later moved to Oklahoma and Kansas. He began preaching at age 22 in Florida, Pennsylvania, and Texas. At 17, he wrote his first Gospel Song. He employs the unusual practice of creating a text from titles suggested from the congregation during a service. He explains:

"The basic reason I have written songs is that I love God and Christ has loved me. Most of my songs are the outgrowth of real experiences. I think they appeal to people because I have had trials, heartaches, and sorrow in my own life, and I know what I write about."

- B. We are commanded to take up our cross and follow Christ. To take up our cross, must be in definition, to be willing to endure and to hope for, the suffering and persecution that will be upon us--if we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We do this by believing on him, following his word, growing as Christians, and being the example to the world that will sometimes bring us grief, persecution, and trials.

II. Verse 1-Read

- A. "I traveled down a lonely road." Eccl. 4:10, Rom. 11:2-4: Sometimes it may seem that, because of the road that we follow in our service to Jesus, that all have deserted us. When we fall, we have our family of God to help. Moreover, even if they are not available we always have Jesus with us, as long as we follow his road for our lives.
- B. "And no one seemed to care." Matthew 11:28-30, 2 Cor. 1:3-7: One of the other songs in our book is "Does Jesus Care?" This song addresses many of the times in our lives when we feel alone, deserted, or abandoned. We need to always be aware of the fact that if it seems no one cares; Jesus and God will care. We may not be "rescued" from these problems in this life, but we have assurance that we will be in the next.
- C. "Burden" Ps. 55:22, Matt. 11:30, No matter how heavy we may think our "burdens" are-- if we exchange our burdens for the light burden of following Christ--he shall sustain us, in this life and in the one to come. In addition, we need to compare our "burdens" with those of Paul, Peter, and Christ. How ours pale in comparison!
- D. "Complained to Jesus" Numbers 11:1: We should be thankful that God does not deal with us when we complain in the same way that he did with the Children of Israel! Jesus instead has left us an example of how to endure without griping and complaining; look at remainder of verse.

- E. "Be faithful weary pilgrim" Matt. 25:21, 1 Tim. 1:15: The morning that we look forward to is that promise of eternal life that we have through Jesus Christ. Being faithful to him, lifting our cross, and following close to him, is the only way that we can find the "morning"!

III. Verse 2-Read

- A. "I'm worth a lot to thee" 2 Chron. 34:27: God listens to us when we humble ourselves before him. To think that anything that we could do would be enough to balance what God and Christ has done for us is to live a sinful delusion!
- B. "But now we'll make the journey with your hand safe in mine." Prov. 3:20-23: To know and to follow the words of the Lord is to walk safely and our feet will not stumble.

IV. Verse 3-Read

- A. John 15:13 Christ gave his life for all of mankind. The sacrifice of our life, in his cause, would not be repayment enough for all that he has done, is doing and will do for us!
- B. "Cup of water" Matt. 10:42, Mark 9:41
- C. "But if by death to living" Rom. 6:11: Our good example to others is just one way that we "repay" Jesus for what he has done for us. If we do not uplift one another through our example of attending services, help each other by word, deed, and example, and teach all that we meet through our example, we have not even begun to "repay" God and Jesus for what they have done for us!

To follow means to: move behind in the same direction, to accept as a guide or leader, to conform to, to imitate, to move forward along a road or path, to attain to, to attend or serve, to carry to a conclusion, and to pursue closely. Let us take each of these and examine our following of Jesus Christ!

LESSON 7 - I MUST TELL JESUS

I. 1 Peter 5:7

- A. Elisha A. Hoffman, (Composer and Lyrist, 1839-1929) in visiting with a woman, who had experienced many sorrows and afflictions, was asked by her "What shall I do? What shall I do?" He replied to her, "You cannot do better than to take all of your sorrows to Jesus. You must tell Jesus." On his way home he heard echoing in his head, "I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus."
- B. 2 Tim. 4:17

II. Verse 1-read

- A. 1 Peter 1:7-9, 4:13, Matt. 11:28-29 Jesus encourages us to come to him. In this life we come to him by obeying his word. However, we come to, and communicate to the Father and to Jesus through prayer. Talking about problems has long been recognized as a source of relief from problems. But through prayer, not only do we talk about our problems, but also if it is God's will these problems may be taken away.
- B. 2 Sam 22:7, Psalms 4:1, Isaiah 25:4, Romans 8:35-39: When we experience distress-- Jesus will help us, love us and care for us. And just the simple fact of knowing that he is listening can do all of this. But does he do more?

III. Verse 2-read

- A. Troubles--Psalms 34:4-6. The difference between trials and troubles can be seen in the definition of troubles. It is to disturb the mental calm and contentment of. Trials seem to be the problems and burdens that this life hands us. But troubles, in addition to these, can be mental anguish that we bring upon ourselves. In other words, REAL and IMAGINED problems. One of the definitions of trouble is worry.
- B. "Kind, Compassionate Friend"-Proverbs 18:24, II Sam. 22:2, Romans 11:26. Jesus is the ultimate deliverer. Not only can he deliver us from the troubles and cares of this world, but also he can deliver us from the judgment that is to come. His sacrifice enables us to escape the consequences of our sins. They are done away with and more importantly, remembered no more!

IV. Verse 3-read

1 Cor. 10:13, Heb 2:18, Acts 5:31, Luke 2:11, 1 Tim. 2:4, 4:10, Titus 3:4,5, 1 John 4:14,15. Jesus can rescue us from our troubles and trials in this life and in the life to come, only if we: believe, confess and obey him. We ask him to deliver us by believing and following him.

V. Verse 4-read

- A. "Evil allures, tempted to sin." Col. 2:4, Psalms 62:4, Prov. 2:12-15, Prov. 20:9, Romans 3:23. We all must realize that temptations are everywhere and are constantly a threat to our salvation. But to only realize this and not act is to fall short. The actions that we are to take involve study of the word, having fellowship with one another, resisting and most importantly to our study here- PRAYER.
- B. "Victory"-1 Cor. 15: 57,58, 1 John 5:4 It is important to understand the relationship between our faith and victory over the world. Victory over the world of sin is contingent upon not being of the world, being in Christ (who overcame spiritual death-one of the consequences of love of the world), and asking him for help through prayer. Faith is a necessary ingredient for being IN CHRIST. See Heb 11:6.
- VI. **"I must tell Jesus"-James 5:15, 16**-The power of Faithful Prayer: it saves the sick, causes the Lord to raise us up, causes God to forgive sins, can heal others, and availeth much!

One of the loneliest feelings we can have, comes when we face a time of need without having a loving friend to talk to about it. Everyone needs at least one trusted friend in whom to confide. For the Christian, this friend will always be Jesus!

LESSON 8 - TRUST AND OBEY

I. I Samuel 15:22

- A. The lyricist for this song was John H. Sammis (1846-1919) and the composer was Daniel B. Towner (1850-1919). After a young man made this statement concerning what he would do in his life: "I am not quite sure-but I am going to trust and I am going to obey", D. L. Moody sent these words to J.H. Sammis who wrote the 5 stanzas that we have.
- B. Life can often be a restless, disrupted existence until we give ourselves wholeheartedly to something beyond ourselves and follow and obey is supremely. Such implicit trust in God's great love and wisdom with a sincere desire to follow his leading should be every Christian's goal. Our willingness to trust and obey is always the first step toward God's blessings in this life and in the one to come.

II. Verse 1-Read

- A. "Walk with the Lord"-Gen. 17:1, Leviticus 26:3, Deuteronomy 30:16, Psalms 119:1-2-- The underlying theme in all these verses and many others is that, to walk with the Lord is to Obey his commandments!
- B. "In the Light of His Word"-Psalms 119:105, Isaiah 8:20- Light and darkness are used throughout the scriptures synonymously with righteousness and unrighteousness. The

only way that we can stay out of darkness, while seeking to walk with the Lord, is to obey the "light" of His Word!

- C. "What a glory he sheds on our way"-II Peter 1:17 Christ and him sacrificed is the glory that God has shed on our way! It is through Christ that we receive God's word and can walk in the light. Christ is God manifested in this world.
- D. Remainder of Verse 1-I John 2:6, I John 2:14-17, II John:9. Please notice that if we do not abide in the doctrine of Christ, we do not have God. But if we trust and obey the doctrine of Christ, we have both the Father and the Son and the blessings from both!

III. Verse 2-Read

II Cor. 6:4-11-For God to Smile upon us is for us to meet with his approval. Nothing can harm us spiritually by separating us from God, except our own foolishness. Romans 8:34-39.

IV. Verse 3-Read

II Tim. 4:1-8, Our toil (light affliction-II Cor. 4:17) upon this earth can never measure up to the reward that God and Christ will give us in the judgment, if we trust and obey. That reward, (crown of righteousness), is eternal life with them in heaven. When we add up all that we must endure here on this earth, while following him, the reward so greatly outweighs these trials that it takes the grace of God to make up the difference-manifested in the sacrifice of his Son!

V. Verse 4-Read

Eph. 5:2, Rom. 12:1, Phil 2:17, Heb 13:15- Christ sacrificed all for us, we present our bodies a living sacrifice, Paul sacrificed himself to others, and we sacrifice praise to God. But the point already made in verse 3 is that for all we may do-God gifts to us are greater.

VI. Verse 5-Read

- A. "We will sit at His feet"-Luke 10:39, Just as Mary and the Apostles were able to sit at the feet of Jesus to be taught and to have fellowship with him, we sit at his feet and have fellowship with him when we read and heed the words of Jesus.
- B. "Or we'll walk by his side in the way"-Eph 4:17-19, Eph. 5:8,9, Col. 1:10-12, I Thess. 4:1. To walk by his side in the way is to do all these things and more!
- C. "What he says we will do, where he sends we will go, never fear"-Mark 16:15, Luke 12:4,5.

VII. "Trust and Obey"

- A. Trust-Belief in and reliance on the integrity, strength, ability, and surety of a person or thing. Heb. 2:13-15
- B. Obey-To comply with, or follow the commands, restrictions, wishes, or instructions of. Acts 5:28-31

When we put our belief and reliance on the commands and wishes of God, we have committed our selves to the greatest purpose that we as human being can do, giving ourselves hope-confidence that God will save us from our sins!

LESSON 9 - GOD GIVE US CHRISTIAN HOMES

I. Col. 3:18-21

- A. I could not find any information concerning B. B. McKinney, the lyrist and composer of this song.
- B. The need for children to be brought up in Christian Homes can be seen in many aspects of today's life. Being a schoolteacher, I have seen a lack of moral influence on the children of today and the subsequent problems that follow. Many children are not given any religious or moral guidance at home but are instead given examples of immoral and atheistic behavior. The resulting disrespect to authority and the increasing discipline problems in school and in the community have become overwhelming. Teachers no longer are just teachers, but have become counselors, policemen, mothers and fathers to today's schoolchildren. Juvenile crime has increased dramatically and courtesy, politeness, consideration for others has all but vanished.

Some adults will say that they have a Christian home, when in actuality, their lack of respect for God and God's word is evident in all aspects of their life. When a child is exposed to hypocrisy, and told by their parents' actions that its ok-why should we then wonder why the numbers of children who remain in the church has dwindled to such a small number.

II. Verse 1-Read

- A. "Where the Bible is loved and taught."
 - 1. Psalms 119 This chapter is unique, in that, every verse contains a word that refers to God's word-law, testimonies, ways, statues, commands, etc.
 - 2. I John 2:5, I John 2:14-17. To love the word of God is to love God. His love is in us if we cherish and keep his word. Please note that this is not just giving lip service to loving the word of God, but it is implementing it in your life and using your example and influence on others to bring them to a love of God's word! If our children do not see in us a love of God's word-how can we expect them to

have that love in their lives? What will follow is a lack of respect for and a rebellion against, the authority of God!

3. Psalms 119:26, II Tim. 4:2, Titus 2:15. We are commanded by God to teach his word. If we have the love of his word in us we will follow it. In following his word, we must fulfill the command to teach. We teach by our words and by our example in public and in private life. There is always something that we as Christians can do-whether it is teaching a class, teaching our neighbor or being a right kind of example, we are all obligated to teach! We all have an obligation to teach each other and just as important, to teach each other's children! A child who strays from God's word, is a tragedy that not only must be borne by it's parents, but on all who did not do all they could in trying to teach and influence that child.

- B. "Thy love hath wrought." - Psalms 56:11, one of the things of beauty that God's love will produce in us is addressed in this verse. Why should we be afraid of what man can do to us? God and his love in us is greater than anything man can do. Luke 12:4

III. Verse 2-Read - "Homes where the Father is true and strong."

- A. Psalms 86:15, 16 Please notice that in his request for God's strength, David also asks that God save the son of thine handmaid. Also, notice the things in verse 15 that were characteristics of God's strength.
- B In his book, *"Show Thyself a Man"*, Herschel Patton quotes Jim McDonald, a former preacher at Second and Walnut Street Church in Paragould, Arkansas:

"There is an urgent need for men-for strong, fearless, mature, wise, kind and honorable men: for men who bear pain without whimpering; criticism without cowering and persecution without complaining: for men who have convictions-deep, vibrant, urgent and compelling convictions to whom compromise is cowardice; surrender unthinkable and triumph inevitable. We need men who have faith, a faith that is farsighted, giving strength for the present and future; faith that is able to provide hope in adversity; love in turmoil and which placates present disappointment by future expectation: a faith that moves to act at the slightest command of God, nothing doubting; a faith that moves brethren to step forward because it is fight-despite the fact that there is doubt of personal ability."

IV. Verse 3-Read

"Homes where the mother....Strives to show others thy way is best...where the Lord is an honored guest." I Sam. 12:20-24, Titus 2:5, Gen. 18:1-8, Acts 16:14. Abraham and Sarah did more than lip service in attending to the needs of the angels that appeared to them. They were treated as honored guests in their home. Women, can treat the Lord as an honored guest in their home today, by looking out for the needs of the family-not just physical but spiritual also, by helping others, by being the right example to the family, and yes, as Lydia did, by being a businesswoman. Proverbs 31:10-28

V. Verse 4-Read - "Where the children are led to know Christ"

- A. Lev. 10:9-11, Deut. 11:18, Eph 6:1-3. When Children have knowledge and an appreciation for the love of Christ and what it means in their lives, they will have a better chance of fighting against the influences of this world. Peer pressure has become a great problem in the lives of today's youth. The feeling of being ostracized by the group has great influences on the actions of the young. The only hope that they have is to have had instilled in them from a very early age, an appreciation for God's word and his authority. Without this there is no hope in their lives or in our own.
- B. "Where the altar fires burn and glow." Our responsibility in serving God is not a quiet one. If our altar fires only burn without giving out light (glow- influencing others, being seen by others), then we are not fulfilling our roles as Children of God!

In closing let me remind all of us that a successful Christian home is one in which all take responsibility for its success, by assuming those responsibilities and roles that we each have as servants of God. This relates to teaching, example, worship to God, attending services, prayer, caring for others, caring for ourselves, and above all loving God, Christ and his word!

LESSON 10 - GOD SHALL WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS

I. Rev. 21:3-4

- A. When God wipes away every tear from their eyes, He will do this by eliminating these things:
1. No more death-Prov. 12:28, Rev. 20:6 After the destruction of the world by fire and brimstone-death will not be a factor for us. Death's power will have been taken away when we inhabit our new eternal bodies. But most important is the elimination of the fear of death. If we as Christians will dwell upon this fact, its fear will not adversely affect our lives now.
 2. Nor sorrow-I Thess. 4:13 If hope (Col. 1:5) eliminates sorrow here in this life concerning those who are asleep, eternal life, which is the fulfillment of hope, will eliminate all sorrow!
 3. Nor crying-Isaiah 65:19-In talking about the new heavens and the new earth, Isaiah says that the voice of weeping and the voice of crying will be heard no longer. The result is an elimination of the cause of tears.
 4. No more pain-Psalms 25:18- With the saints in eternity, there will be no sin or need for forgiveness of sin, which will alleviate the mental and sometimes physical, pain and affliction caused by sin. Jer. 30:23-Pain will be reserved for the wicked after the judgment.
 5. For the former things have passed away-Matt 24:35-Jesus's promise to us is that God will wipe away tears when the former things pass away; but more importantly, his word will not pass away. His promises are forever. II Peter 3:10-13 Please notice the phrase "wherein dwelleth righteousness." No need for these

things listed above, because righteousness and eternal life take their place.

B. I had no information on Wesley Daniel or J. R. Baxter.

II. Verse 1-Read

A. "Lay our burdens down." Matt. 23:2-9-Men lay many burdens on other men, but Christ helps us with our burdens now and will eliminate all burdens when we are with him in eternity. Gal. 6:2-Here we are to bear one another's burdens, but the need for this will not exist in the new heavens and the new earth.

B. "When we join the saints and wear a robe and crown."

1. Col. 1:2-5 The saints at Colosse were told that they had a hope laid up for them in heaven. When we also follow the words of Christ, we will join them in heaven! Col. 1:12-13, I Thess. 3:13, II Thess. 1:10, Jude 3, 14- 15, Rev. 14:12.
2. Matt. 27:28-29, I Cor. 9:25, Phil. 4:1, II Tim. 4:8, Rev. 6:11 Jesus was given a robe and a crown by Pilate and the others, and because he suffered through this humiliation and received a more glorious crown and robe from the Father-so shall we if we follow him!

III. Verse 2-Read

A. "When the pearly gates unfold."-Rev. 21:21-24. The magnificence of heaven can be seen in this depiction by John. His human description of this is only to give a glimpse (in our minds eye) of the true glory of the city. For we, as humans, cannot completely comprehend the beauty of our eternal home.

B. "When we see the Christ who set the captive free." I Peter 1:8, Mark 14:62, Luke 4:18. Death and sin are the things that in this life enslave us. We are all subject to physical death; but, as we have already said, death will be done away with. Sin will also be non-existent in the new heaven and the new earth, so the saints will not be held captive by it.

IV. Verse 3-Read

A. "When we sweetly sing with all the ransomed throng."

1. Rev. 15:3, Rev. 5:9, 10 To be able to sing praises to God while here in this life is a truly great blessing. How much more glorious will it be to be able to sing the Song of Moses and the New Song with the saints that have gone on before!
2. Isaiah 35:10, I Tim. 2:6 The sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which paid the ransom for all, will redeem those who follow him. Rev. 5:9, I Peter 1:18, 19.

B. "No more partings come to mar that happy song." Rom. 8:38, Rom. 6:23, II Tim. 2:10- Life with Christ is eternal. Those things that separate us from the things we love will be done away with in eternity. Losing a loved one, or parting with friends because of earth trials or situations, will not be a factor in our eternal life with Christ.

V. Chorus-Read

- A. "Joy for all our fears."-Luke 2:10 Fear gives way to Joy, when Christ is involved.
II Tim. 1:7, Heb. 2:15-18, Heb. 13:6, I John 4:18, 19, Rev. 2:10
- B. "When we meet him in that home beyond the sky."- I Thess. 4:17, II Cor. 5:1

*This glorious hope revives our courage for the way,
When each in expectation lives and longs to see the day,
When from sorrow, toil, pain and sin, we shall be free,
And perfect love and joy shall reign throughout all eternity.*

-John Fawcett

LESSON 11 - YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION

I. Introduction

Temptations are common to everyone, even mature Christians. The noblest souls are often the ones most tempted. It seems that Satan assaults Christians in positions of leadership with his strongest weapons. Therefore, we must all be on our constant spiritual guard.

Jesus' 40-day temptation in the wilderness dramatically instructs us how to overcome Satan's attacks. In each temptation, Jesus answered the devil with Scripture. All of the scriptural quotations Jesus used were from the book of Deuteronomy, an indication of the importance of being well-acquainted with the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4)

It is impossible to isolate ourselves from all of life's temptations. The allurements of modern living are ever near. But we are not alone in this struggle. "We have One who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). And "because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18). Regardless of the temptation, our Lord understands what we are facing and stands ready to provide the strength to resist and to emerge victorious.

Horatio Palmer, lyricist and composer (1834-1907), was an American musician. One day while he was working on a music theory exercise, the idea for this hymn suddenly came to him. He wrote it down as quickly as possible and with few exceptions; the hymn has remained as it was originally written. The hymn has been an excellent teaching song for both young and old in learning how to face the daily temptations of life.

II. Verse 1-Read

- A. "Yield not to temptation...is sin."--Mt. 26:41, Lk. 8:13. I Tim. 6:8, I Jn. 2:16 Temptation (Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes, Pride of Life) + Yielding (Giving into) = Sin. Lk. 22:40 Tells us about the power of prayer when we are tempted. I Cor. 10:13 Tells us that God is faithful and will not desert us when we are tempted-if we do not desert him.
- B. "Each victory...Win." James 1:12 When we are tempted, tried and we endure-we receive the crown of life. When we overcome a temptation, the next trial may not be easier to overcome, but we understand what it takes to endure. If we develop a pattern or habit of saying no to temptation-it should be easier for us to say no. In addition, our conscience should hurt when we give in.
- C. "Dark passion subdue." I Jn. 2:16. Mk. 7:21, James 3:2-6, Mt. 5:28, Mt. 12:35, Mt. 15:18-19 Dark passions are those worldly thoughts that are temptations to us. Christ is the light-the world is darkness. Satan is the originator of temptation, and he is the prince of darkness. Following dark passions is sin and sin separates us from God.

III. Verse 2-Read

- A. "Shun evil companions" Pr. 13:20, I Cor. 15:33, Phil. 3:2, I Thess. 5:22. The influence of others is something that all of us should be aware of. We may enter a relationship with others with the best of intentions-only to be caught ourselves in the evil we are trying to save others from.
- B. "Bad language disdain." Mt. 26:73, Col. 4:6 Influence and example are greatly dependent on proper speech. The Christian should always be aware of the effects of bad language. Rom. 12:14
- C. "God's name in vain." Acts 4:10, I Cor. 6:11 We are washed, sanctified and justified in the name of Jesus and by the spirit of God. These advantages, plus the love we should have for God and his son, should motivate us to revere his name and not use it in vain. How do we take the Lords name in vain?
- D. "Be thoughtful and earnest" Heb. 2:1, I Cor. 13:3, Eph. 4:32, Phil. 4:8 It is not enough to refrain from temptation, we must, through our actions show that we have overcome.

IV. Verse 3-Read

- A. "To him...crown" II Tim. 4:8. I Cor. 9:25 (See II.B)
- B. "through Faith...conquer" I Jn. 5:4 To be born of God is to be an adopted son (chosen). Notice that this is a two-way street; to be born of God we must also choose him. Being born of God overcomes the world, and it is our faith that produces this victory!

C. "He who is our Savior...carry you through. Mt. 28:18, II Pet. 1:2-4

V. **Chorus - Acts 10:29-31, Phil 4:6, James 5:15-16**

We as Christians should always be ready to ask God (through prayer) to make us victors over temptations, so that we can achieve the crown that awaits us in eternity!!

LESSON 12 - HOW SHALL THE YOUNG SECURE THEIR HEARTS?

I. Introduction

At an early age, Isaac Watts (1674-1748) displayed unusual talent in writing poetic verse. As a young man, he became increasingly concerned with the congregational singing in the English speaking churches. Only ponderous metrical psalms were used until this time. To use any words other than the actual words of scripture would have been considered an insult to God. Challenged by his father to "write something better for us to sing," young Watts began to create new versions of the psalms with inspiring and expressive style, eventually, at the age of 25; he published an important hymnal titled *The Psalms of David in the Language of the New Testament. How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts* is based on Psalms: 119:9.

II. Verse 1-Read

A. "How Shall...from sin?" Psalms 119:9, John 8:34-35, Romans 6:15-18, James 2:10 This question has great validity during the times that we live in. The temptations of this life are easily accessible to today's youth. We as parents and as fellow Christians must ask this question and seek for answers. The blame for the rapid decline in church membership and the massive exodus of young people from the church in the 70's-90's must be shouldered by all. Proper teaching and strict adherence to God's word is the foundation that we must lay to secure their hearts.

B. "Thy word the choicest rules imparts to keep the conscience clean." - Matt. 4:4, Luke 8:11-15, Romans 10:17, Eph. 6:17-18, Hebrews 4:12 Without the word of God to guide us our consciences cannot be trained to discern Good and Evil. Only constant study of the word of God, prayer and application to our lives will help us to keep our conscience clean.

III. Verse 2-Read

A. "Tis like the sun...all the day." Psalms 19:1-6 How appropriate this verse is. The word of God is being discussed and not only does the psalmist use the Sun in illustrating it but all things of nature declare God and his handiwork. His word will guide us in our lives just as the sun guides travelers and sailors.

- B. "And through the dangers..." Psalms 43:3, Luke 1:78-79 It is the Word of God (which includes the teachings of Jesus) that can light our way here on this earth. Without the word of God, we would be like someone entering a dark room full of hazards with no way to detect what is around us.

IV. Verse 3-Read

- A. "Thy word is..." Psalms 100:5, Psalms 119:142, 160. Young people tend to think that they will live forever or at least that they are invincible. Our job in teaching them is to convey the fact that only the word of God (everlasting truth) can provide for them the ability to live forever and that the only thing that we can ultimately depend our eternal souls on in this life is God's promises!
- B. "That holy book shall guide our youth..." Psalms 25:8-10, Acts 8:27-35. The Eunuch requested Philip to guide him in understanding the passage that he was reading. Philip's response was to take that scripture and preach Jesus to him. Philip used the scripture as a guide to lead the Eunuch to the Savior.

The bible is truly an amazing book. It has rightfully been called "The book of books." The first book ever printed was the bible-the German Gutenberg Bible, between the years 1450-1455. Today, it is printed in more than 600 languages, and portions of it are printed in more than 1,000 tongues and dialects. It has long been the world's bestseller.

In addition to being God's love letter and self-disclosure of himself, the bible clearly spells out his plan for our redemption and fellowship with him. It is also our final authority for all matters of faith, morals, and practice. Through the inspired word, God, the Holy Spirit, illuminates and guides believers in their Christian walk and prepares them for their future heavenly destination.

Our finite minds will never be able to comprehend all the teaching of scripture, but the essential truths related to our redemption and Christ like living cannot be misunderstood. Abraham Lincoln once observed, "Read the Bible for whatever reason you can accept and take the rest on faith, and you will live and die a better man."

LESSON 13 - THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

I. Introduction

I Cor. 3:11, Eph. 2:20, 5:23 The goal of Samuel Stone (Lyricist 1839-1900) was to make the local church what it was meant to be-a spiritual hospital for hurting humanity, never an exclusive club for self righteous Christians. God calls us out from the world for Himself. The Church consists of people who meet regularly for worship, inspiration, instruction and fellowship.

II. Verse 1-Read

- A. "The Church's one foundation...Lord." I Cor. 3:11-14, Eph. 2:18-22. When Christ is the foundation of the church-we become fellow citizens, we grow unto a holy temple in the Lord, a habitation of God through the spirit, and we receive a reward for our work.
- B. "She is His new...word." Eph. 5:25-27. The purpose of the water and the word is to sanctify and cleanse. Baptism (in water) washes away sin through the Blood of Christ. The Word shows God's way as opposed to unrighteousness.
- C. "From Heav'n...holy bride." John 3:13, 28-29 The Church was purposed to be his bride from the beginning. It is the instrument through which we worship him, encourage each other, and help each other. And most importantly, we show our love for Christ by our love for the brethren.
- D. "with His own blood...died." Acts 20:28, Rev. 5:9-10, Col.1:18-20

III. Verse 2-Read

- A. "Elect...birth." II Tim. 2:9-13, Acts 10:35, Eph. 4:4-5 All are able to become one in Christ. However, the important thing to remember is that this true unity can only come through the following of one standard of authority-His Word!
- B. "One holy name she blesses...word." Acts 10:46-48, Matt. 21:9, See Eph. 5:25-27 again.
- C. "And to one hope...endued." I Cor. 15:19-26, Col. 1:4-5, 23-24, II Thess. 5:8- 10.

IV. Verse 3-Read

- A. "Tho' with...distressed." Gal. 1:8, Acts 20:29-30, Rom. 16:16. II Thess. 2:14.
- B. "Yet saints...song." Rev. 6:10, Mark 9:19, Psalms 30:5, 59:16.
- V. **Is the church as we see it in the New Testament**, the church that we should be today, and are the instructions to that church, those that we should embrace today? Christ died with an eternal purpose in his mind and in the mind of God.
 - A. Gen. 12:3, Eph. 3:9-12. Christ's plan for the church was not a stopgap measure. It has had and continues to be part of the eternal purpose for us.
 - B. Christ is our eternal High Priest and King. Acts 2:30, I Cor. 15:24-25, Heb. 6:20, 8:1-13. He is our mediator, High priest, and King forever. His church (which is his bride) is also forever. The blessings that come to us in being a part of his church are part of the eternal covenant that God has made. Heb.8:6. Christ made one sacrifice for all. To say that the church that he established is not to be the church of today is to cheapen the all-

encompassing sacrifice of Jesus Christ. His sacrifice is from the time that he made it until his enemies become his footstool. I Peter 1:23 tells us that the word of God abides forever. Jesus is the word -his redemption of us abides forever. We are added to the church when we obey. If our goal in life is to obey Christ then we are automatically added to his church-which he left instructions for through his words and the words of his Apostles!

- C. Jesus redeemed us once and for all. John 1:17, Eph. 1:1-14, 2:7. The riches that WE (ages to come) receive are through Jesus Christ. Again, the church is his plan for all. Who are we to try to change his plan?
- D. Is Christ married to more than one Bride? To say that membership in Christ's church is for some but not for others, is to cheapen his sacrifice, contradict the idea that he is our mediator, High Priest and King forever, and to make him an adulterer!

Christ's plan for us is the same as the plan for the First Century Church!

LESSON 14 - DOES JESUS CARE?

I. II Cor. 1:3-7, Matt. 28:20, 11:28-30

Frank E. Graeff (1860-1919) during a time of severe agony, doubt and despondency, turned to I Peter 5:7 for comfort and strength. It says, "Casting all your care upon him; for He careth for you." This became especially meaningful to him in this time of need. He wrote the lines of "Does Jesus Care?" to express the feelings of assurance that came to him.

II. Verse 1- Read

- A. "When my heart...song" Psalms 55:1-4, 28:7, Proverbs 14:12-13, Matt. 6:25-34. When we are so down that we neither want to sing or laugh, God and Jesus can help. They can help through our trusting in them! Great comfort and strength are available through our knowing that we can trust in the words and the promises of Jesus Christ!
- B. "As the burdens press...long? Matt. 11:28-30, Gal. 6:1-2. We as Christians have two great sources of comfort. The first is that, we can cast out burdens on Jesus. To take on the light burden of following him is to abandon the heavy burdens that this life places on us. When we set our priorities straight by concentrating on our duties as Christians---all else will fall into its proper place. Our second source of comfort is from each other. However, it is not enough for us just to help each other, but we must also let others know of our cares and problems so that in letting them help us, we help them to fulfill their obligations toward others.

III. Verse 2-Read

"When my way ...near" John 8:12, 12:35, II Cor. 4:6. The only cure for the dread and fear of darkness is light. Jesus is that light. By providing light for us in this world, he proves that he does care. He is the only one who can guide us out of the darkness of this world into the glorious light of the Father.

IV. Verse 3-Read

"When I've tried and failed...tears flow all the night long?" Matt. 9:12, Acts 5:31, II Cor. 7:9-10 Jesus is the Great Physician. He can heal any grief we suffer because of sin. His sacrifice makes it possible for us to obtain forgiveness. God then, not only forgives, he forgets! Repentance of sin not only relieves the guilty feelings from sin but also relieves the eternal consequences. However, I think it is important to point out that even though the eternal consequences of sin may be relieved, sometimes we must still suffer the physical, earthly consequences.

V. Verse 4-Read

"When I've said goodbye...see?" John 11:32-35, Heb. 2:17-18, 4:14-16 I Thess. 4:16-18. Jesus cares so much for us that he has provided a way that we can be with God, Himself, the Holy Spirit, the Angels and the Saints that have gone before. That way is the same way we have been talking about all along, casting our cares, burdens and problems on him, by following his word!

Only those who are following in his footsteps can receive the answers that we are looking for in this life. Jesus cared enough to take on himself the sins of the world. Our obligation to him is to care enough about him and his word that we accept it exactly as it is and apply it to our lives. Only then can we truly understand that Jesus does indeed care--
I KNOW MY SAVIOR CARES!

In your time of darkness or sorrow, rest in the security of the truth that Jesus truly cares deeply. Then try to comfort someone else with these same thoughts.

LESSON 15 - THIS IS MY FATHERS WORLD

I. Introduction

Even though we are constantly reminded of the violence, tragedy, and ugliness in today's world, we can still rejoice that the beauty of nature all around is ours to enjoy. Who can deny the pleasure that comes from the sight of a glowing sunset of a majestic mountain, the sound of chirping birds or the roar of the surf, and the smell of new mown hay or roses or lilies?

Maltbie D Babcock (Lyrist, 1858-1901) revealed his great admiration for nature in this lovely hymn text. Dr. Babcock was a skilled athlete who enjoyed all out door activities, especially early morning walks. He would always comment, "I'm going out to see my father's world." In addition to being a tribute to nature, this hymn is a triumphant assertion of the unfailing power of God and the assurance of Christ's eventual reign- "and earth and heav'n be one."

II. Verse 1-Read

- A. "And to my listening ears...spheres." Psalms 8:3-9, 103:22, 97, 65:8-13. The phrase music of the spheres is a metaphor for the harmony found in nature. One dictionary definition of sphere is the place or environment in which a person or thing exists. God's existence can be clearly seen by his handiwork in nature. The order that exists comes from purpose and planning, not just some accidental happening.
- B. "I rest me in the thought...wrought." Psalms 77:13, 104. God created everything in nature-all things are subject to his wishes and commands. The peace that we receive in knowing that God is in control no matter what may happen can be derived from seeing his power in nature.

III. Verse 2-Read

- A. "The birds...praise." Matt. 6:26-29, Psalms 148
- B. "He shines..." Psalms 139:7-12

IV. Verse 3-Read

- A. "O let me ne'er forget...yet." Psalms 145:13, Daniel 5:18-21.
- B. "The battle is not won...one." Ephesians 1:10-14, I John 5:7-13, Amos 4:6-13

V. Conclusion

As we follow Dr. Babcock's example and give praise to God for all the beauty of his world we should be concerned that much of the loveliness is being destroyed by human carelessness and greed. Even though our goal as Christians is a heavenly one, we still must be responsible for how we treat God's creation. We should be good stewards, however to so engross ourselves in the preservation of nature to the exclusion of our main goals-serving God, obtaining eternal life, and teaching others distorts our purpose in life.

LESSON 16 - OPEN MY EYES, THAT I MAY SEE

I. Introduction

- A. The Scriptures teach that our faith in Christ employs all of our God-given senses:
SIGHT--"Look unto me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 45:22)
HEARING--"Hear, and your soul shall live." (Isaiah 55:3)
SMELL--"Thy name is like ointment poured forth." (Song of Solomon 1:3)
TOUCH--"If I may but touch His garment, I shall be well." (Matthew 9:21)
TASTE--"O taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalms 34:8)
- B. In order to receive God's truth properly, we must have our entire being alive and alert to His every command. In general, most of us do not deliberately disobey God. Instead, we simply do not heed Him by being sensitive to His leading in the small details of our lives. How important it is to learn the lesson taught by this hymn that we should have seeing eyes, hearing ears, a verbal communication of the truth, and a loving heart for sharing God's Love.
- C. Clara Scott (Composer and Lyrist 1841-1897) taught music and was a prolific composer of vocal and instrumental music. Her purpose in this song was to help us have a greater awareness of God's will for our lives and a readiness to obey!

II. Verse 1-read---EYES

- A. "Glimpses of Truth..." John 8:31, 17:17, Ephesians 1:13-14, I Thess. 2:13.
The truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ has great power---the power to deliver us from the destruction that will come upon us because of sin. The reason that truth is important in describing the Gospel is that, on this earth there are many things that claim to be true. We will sometimes put our trust in them and subsequently be disappointed. The truth that is from God will never disappoint. God will always hold to his promises. If there were no truth to base our faith and hope in eternal life on, we would be above all men most miserable. I Cor. 15:19

- B. "Place in my hand the wonderful key..." Acts 14:27, Luke 13:25. God gives us the key to open the door to salvation--His Word. This great key is accessible only to those who use it properly--for Christ will acknowledge us in the last great day, if we acknowledge him in the life and do his commandments.

III. Verse 2-read---EARS

- A. "Voices of Truth thou sendest..." First, see the comments under II.A. Psalms 19:7-9, Romans 16:25-27, Col 1:26-29, Prov. 8:8-9, 15:19. The truth contained in God's word is not only available to all who seek him but is understandable by all. God would not be truthful if he gave a book of commandments that we could not understand and then held us accountable!
- B. "Everything false will disappear." Psalms 119:104, Proverbs 12:17-19. That which is truth will, when put beside that which is false, expose it as such through the conflict that is created. Since God's word is truth, any teaching, when put beside the truth will either be shown to be in accordance with his will or opposed to it.

IV. Verse 3-read---MOUTH & HEART

- A. "bear gladly the warm truth everywhere." Psalms 51:10-13, Matt. 24:14, I Peter 1:25, Mark 16:15. We as Christians have a responsibility--share the gospel. Someone taught us and showed us the truth in God's word. This necessarily gives us the responsibility to teach and share His Word with others.
- B. "Love with thy children thus to share." II Thess. 1:3, Gal. 6:2-3, I Thess. 4:9, I Peter 1:22-23. The greatest way that we show our love of God, is to love each other. I John 4:12

V. Refrain-read

"Silently now I wait for thee..." Ecc. 9:17, 10:12, Prov. 18:6-7. The wise man lets God speak to him through his word and learns through quiet listening.

The word "illumine" means to supply with light, to light up. God is light- Evil is darkness. Our prayer should be that the light of God (His Word) illuminates us to the point that all darkness is exposed to the light and eliminated.

LESSON 17 - LIVING BY FAITH

I. Hebrews 11-Read

- A. Faith-Verse 1-To be able to believe that something exists or that something will happen, without the benefit of first hand knowledge - Seeing, Touching etc..., this is FAITH! John 1:18
- B. Through Faith we know that God created the world. Verse 3-Gen. 1:1-5

II. Verse 1-Read

"I care not today...worry is vain." Matt 6:19-21, Psalms 23:4, 107: 25-28, 103:19, Eccl. 1:1-9, 12:1-14. The Lord is in control of everything around us. This should not only comfort us but also serve to increase our faith and build up our hope of eternal life. Because he is in control and knows all that happens, we should conduct our lives, every second of every day, with the knowledge that He will bring us into account for all we say and do!

III. Verse 2-Read

"Tho Tempest...looks on at the strife." Isaiah 32:1-3, 54:11-14, Matt. 8:24-27, Nahum 1:3-7, Psalms 84:10-11, II Samuel 22:12-18, Proverbs 17:1- 3. As we encounter many trial and problems in this life, we need to understand that God, not man, is in control. The things that happen to us may not be those that we wish for, but the Lord knows more than we do what is best for us. We need to put our trust and our hope in him, and then and only then, will we find true peace from the storms of this life.

IV. Verse 3-Read

- A. "I know that he safely...Jesus walks close to my side." Ezekiel 38:14, Proverbs 19:23, John 12:35-36, Romans 8:1, Col. 2:6. I Thess. 4:1-2
- B. Jesus will safely carry us through by walking with us if we walk with him. It may be our lot in this life to suffer greatly. How can we compare the suffering of Jesus with anything we must endure? If we do not forsake him, he will not forsake us. Jesus is prepared to stand behind us at the most important time for us-in judgment- if we walk by him in this life!

V. Verse 4-Read

"Our Lord will return...heavenly shore." II Peter 3:10-14, Isaiah 65:17, Rev. 7:17 The prize of an eternal life beyond that bless heavenly shore is worth all the pain suffering and troubles that we may have to endure-- NEVER DOUBT THIS!

VI. REFRAIN-Read

- A. "Trusting, confiding in his great love." Romans 8:38-39, I Peter 1:7-9, John 3:16. Jesus loved us first-we can trust his love and the promises made because of his sacrifice-the ultimate demonstration of love.
- B. "From all harm safe in his sheltering arm" Psalms 119:116-117, Prov. 29:25. Even if we are called upon to sacrifice our very lives for the cause of Jesus Christ-he is true and just and will save us in eternity! This is the greatest knowledge that we can have if we face death.
- C. "I'm living by faith and feel no alarm." I John 4:18

We should look to the examples of Noah, Abraham, Sara, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab. Having faith in God and living this faith may bring us to trials and persecutions, but just as these did, we must endure press forward and conquer or our faith is vain and the hope that we have is a false one.

LESSON 18 - HAVE THINE OWN WAY LORD

I. Isaiah 64:8, Jeremiah 18:3,4

Adelaide Pollard (Lyricist 1862-1934) was at a prayer service one night, when an elderly woman pleaded, "It really doesn't matter what you do with us, Lord, just have your own way with our lives." Mrs. Pollard had been deeply discouraged but was moved by the woman's sincere and dedicated request of God.

II. Verse 1-read

- A. "Thou art the potter..." Romans 9:20-26. We are all vessels-if we allow God to mold us after his will-through his word-we will be vessels of honor.
- B. To become vessels of honor, we must yield to him and *still* our own opinions must be conforming to his. Mark 4:8-Are we the good ground? Romans 6:12-18 When we yield our will to God, we become servants-not of sin-but of righteousness. James 3:8-13 Do we yield our tongue to his works with meekness and wisdom? All aspects of our Christian life must yield to the pattern of Jesus Christ. Psalms 84:4 When you are still-you listen, you pay respect and reverence, you understand and you can be taught.

III. Verse 2-read

- A. "Search me and try me Master today." Psalms 139:23-24, Jeremiah 17:10, Lamentations 3:40. Our prayer to God should be that we desire that the Lord look into our hearts, reveal any wickedness, and lead us in the way to everlasting life.

- B. "Whiter than snow." Psalms 51:6-15. David prayed for deliverance from blood-guiltiness, but the sacrifice of bulls and goats could not accomplish this. Heb 9:13-15 Christ and his sacrifice is the only thing that washes us whiter than snow! Isaiah 2:11 If we do not humbly bow in God's presence here on this earth-we will in judgment. The Lord will be exalted and we will be cast out!

IV. Verse 3-read

- A. "Hold o'er my being absolute sway." Heb. 3:6, Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 10:23, II Thess. 3:5
- B. "Fill with thy spirit..." Eph. 5:18-21, 3:8-12, Romans 13:12-14, I Tim. 4:12, I Peter 2:21-24 When we do his will, we are an example to others and then all will see-Christ living in me!

LESSON 19 - TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY

I. I Peter 1:14-16, Matt. 25:34-40, Heb. 12:14

- A. God requires a holy lifestyle for his people. We sometimes confuse holiness with piety, which can be merely a hypocritical goodness that masks inner deceit or impurity. A truly holy or Christ-like life reveals the virtues mentioned in 2 Peter 1:5,6: Goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. We are surrounded today by so much hypocrisy and insincerity that we are often unconsciously affected by these influences. To maintain the quality of life that is genuinely and consistently holy in every area.
- B. William Longstaff, (1822-1894 Lyrics) after hearing a sermon on I Peter 1:16, wrote this, his only hymn.

II. Verse 1-read

- A. "Speak oft with thy Lord" I Thess. 5:17-18, Romans 8:26-27, II Thess. 1:11-12, I Tim. 2:8, James 5:13-16. There are many things in our lives that cause us to desire to pray - but our goal as Christians should be to always have a prayerful attitude through consistent use of prayer.
- B. "Abide in him always and feed on his word." Psalms 91:1-2, I John 2:21-25, 28-29, Gal. 5:14, Eph. 1:13-14, 5:26, Phil. 2:14-16, Col. 3:16. These two phrases are almost synonymous to Christians. In order to abide in him we must thrive on a steady diet of his word. Without the word to nurture and guide us we will not be pleasing to him and will not abide in him.

- C. "Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak" John 13:34, Romans 13:8, Isaiah 35:3-4, I Peter 1:22-23 The greatest way that we can express our love for God is to love our brethren. Being a friend not only involves love for his or her soul, but a desire to be with them! If we have no compassion toward our weak brethren, how can we expect God to have compassion on us?
- D. "Forgetting in nothing, His blessings to seek" Psalms 24:4-5, 119:2 How can we expect to receive blessings from the Lord, if we do not pray to him and seek these blessings?

III. Verse 2-read

- A. "The world...with Jesus alone." Matt. 6:3-7 Many things that have been done, in the name of religion are simply desires of men to become known by the masses. The resulting "riches" that they accumulate to be seen of men are seen of God-but the reward for these is not the eternal reward that they desire! Our Christian works should never be done with a desire to bring any earthly honor to ourselves-our concern is a heavenly one.
- B. "Abiding in Jesus...His likeness shall see." II Peter 1:1, Eph. 3:8-9, I Tim. 4:12. Our ability to win others to Christ through our daily lives is sometimes underestimated. If others cannot tell that we are "different", should we not examine our lives?

IV. Verse 3-read

- A. "Be calm in thy soul, each thought and each motive beneath his control." Psalms 23:1-3, Romans 2:10, 5:1, Col. 3:15, I Cor. 9:27. To turn over control of our lives to God is to restructure our priorities. God should always be number one in our lives. We must also train our conscience to discern good and evil-through a careful study and application of his word.
- B. "Thus led by His Spirit, to fountains of love...fitted for service above." Romans 8:14, 12:1, 13:8, I Cor. 2:9, James 1:12, Eph. 6:7-8 Our life purpose is not one that should service this body or the desires that are within it, but should be one that has as its goal the eternal blessings that come to us by fulfilling true and *holy* service to God.

If we as Christians are not taking time daily to be holy, what are we doing with our time that is more important to our eternal souls?

LESSON 20 - BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

I. Introduction

John Fawcett (1740-1817) upon hearing the following statement by his wife as they were preparing to leave Wainsgate, England wrote the song: "We just cannot break the ties of affection that bind us to you dear friends." With that, they remained in Wainsgate for the rest of their lives.

Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. (1 John 2:10)

II. Verse 1-Read

- A. "Blest be the tie that binds" The tie that binds is:
1. Our love for the Lord. Psalms 18:1, Matt 22:37
 2. Our love for each other. I Thess. 3:12, II Thess. 1:3-, John 13:34, Rom. 12:10
 3. Our love for our fellow man. I Thess. 3:12, I Peter 2:17
 4. The hope that is in us. Rom. 5:3-5, 12:11-12, Gal. 5:5.
 5. We are fellow citizens Eph. 2:12-22
 6. Our common faith. Eph. 4:4-5
 7. The goal of eternal life. Matt. 25:46, Rom. 6:22, I Tim. 1:16
- B. "Our hearts in Christian Love." Rom. 5:5, Col. 2:1-2. II Thess. 3:5 Being a Christian and experiencing Christian Love is not just an emotional thing, it is logical, and it is thoughtful. To grow in Christian Love we make a conscious effort to do the things that build our love for those things listed above.
- C. "The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above." Acts 2:42, II Cor. 6:14, Eph. 5:11 Kindred means alike, identical, similar, same. If we are to be kindred minds then we need something on which to base our similarities. The standard that we as Christians use to do this is the word of God. If what we each believe differs from the Word of God-we must change. We must align our thinking and our actions with Christ and his word; thus, we will also be in kindred mind with others who do the same.

III. Verse 2-Read

"Before our father's throne..." Matt. 7:7-8, James 5:16, I Peter 3:7-8 When we unite in prayer for each other and see that our fears, hopes and aims are one-eternal life, we acquire a bond that goes beyond just wishing some one well-we are united in God and Christ Jesus!

IV. Verse 3-Read

"We share our mutual woes...sympathizing tear." Phil. 2:1-2, Col. 3:12-13, Acts 20:31, II Cor. 2:4. Sympathizing and even empathizing with some one else seems to bind us together. A common problem or adversity opens a door for help and encouragement that may never have been opened.

V. Verse 4-Read

"When we asunder part...and hope to meet again." I Thess. 4:17 Many times in this life we must part from each other but we, as Christians have the comfort of knowing that no matter how painful or how long that parting may be, there will be a time when we all will be together again. This time there will be no more parting. Rev. 21:4

II Cor. 1:3-7 - The love that binds us together as Christians is the tie that will unite us in eternity!

LESSON 21-I BELIEVE IN JESUS

I. Introduction

- A. Alton Howard (Composer and Lyricist), in his foreword to our songbooks, *Songs of the Church*, makes the statement: "All singing should reveal a living message. Certainly some songs are sung with different feelings and tempos. And as different singers, we prefer one type of song to another. But there is room in the singing of praises to God for a variety of songs. These should include the lively spirited songs that express one's feelings of joy and praise, along with the reverent hymns of love and devotion. As God's people, we have a story to sing about! Redemption, Salvation, Love, Faith, Hope, Heaven. The music of the world reflects the message of the world. The singing of Christian people reflects the good news of Jesus and His message of hope."
- B. The song *I Believe in Jesus* is a reflection of the author's belief in the deity of Jesus, a basis for all the things listed above.

II. Verse 1-read

- A. "I believe" To believe is
 1. to have confidence in the truth, or the reliability of something, without absolute proof
 2. to have confidence or faith in the truth
 3. to have confidence in a statement or assertion of a person.

- B. "in the One they called Jesus. Isaiah 7:14, Matt. 1:20-25, 16:13-18
It was foretold that Jesus would be born of a virgin, given the name Emmanuel, save his people, and give himself up for his people. He was and is more than just a good man who taught people good things. He was and is the Son of God.
- C. "I Believe he stilled Storm Galilee...water" Matt. 14:25-33 Power over the elements is something that man has always desired to have. To control storms, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, has always been in man's thoughts. Imagine what was going on in the thoughts of the disciples when this happened. This great power served to strengthen their faith and belief; it can do the same for us today! It is important to us to have a record of the things that Jesus did while on this earth so that we can strengthen ourselves in time of trial with the reassuring knowledge that he is the Son of God and his promises for us are true!
- D. "He's the answer for me" Matt 25:34-46 If we fulfill our responsibilities in our service to God and Christ, we will be rewarded with eternal life. This is the answer that many lost souls in the world fail to find. JESUS CHRIST IS THE ANSWER TO: Why am I here and what is my purpose in being here.

III. Verse 2-read

- A. "I believe in the words of the Bible" II Tim. 3:16, Rom. 10:16-17, II Cor. 6:4-10
To take parts of the Bible and claim that they are not inspired, are not the words of God, is to effectively nullify its credibility and applicability to your life. We must take it as it is, if we state that we believe the words of the Bible. Or if we hold to only portions of the word, our faith and belief is meaningless!
- B. "How he made the poor blind man to see." John 9 Please note how the Pharisees with all the evidence given could not accept the fact that Jesus had caused this blind man to see. Their inability to see Jesus as he was indicative of the fact that they were blind to God. They even chastised the blind man and threw him out.
- C. "I believe that the deaf ears were opened." Matt. 11:4-5, Mark 7:31-37 Notice that in this miracle, not only was his hearing restored immediately but he was able to speak plainly. Deaf people can still feel the vibrations caused by their voices and are able to utter guttural sounds in trying to match the vibrations. These sounds are not understandable. This is why we have the statement the string of his tongue was loosed. The man did not have to relearn the use of his tongue. This miracle of Jesus was complete; the man was made whole!
- D. "And I believe he's made a difference in me." II Cor. 5:17, Eph. 4:23-24, Col. 3:9-10 If Jesus has not made a difference in our lives, we need to examine our lives and see if we have put on the "new man" and put away the "old man of sin."

IV. Verse 3-read

- A. "I believe that He spoke to dead Lazarus." John 11:1-46 What power Jesus had. By his voice, he was able to raise Lazarus from the dead. The power that Jesus displayed was from the Father, another reason that we should believe on him!
- B. "And he said *unbind and set free.*" John 11:44 The significance of this statement is that Lazarus did not participate in some kind of trickery or deceit. The men had to roll back the stone from the tomb. He was still bound in the clothing that he had been wrapped in at the time of his death. Finally, the statement had been made that after this time the body would stink, illustrating the fact that all who participated in the burial believed him to be dead.
- C. "I believe that he reigns up in heaven." Rom. 8:34, Heb. 12:2 Not only does Jesus reign up in heaven with the Father, but also very important for us, he makes intercession for us!
- D. "And I believe that he is coming again." I Thess. 4:15-18 As we read, we should be comforted in knowing that he will return. If we find no comfort in this, an examination of our lives should be done immediately!

V. Chorus-read

- A. "Yes, I believe in the One they called Jesus, I believe He died on Mount Calvary." Luke 23:33 As I understand it, this location was at the entrance to the city. Many people traveled on the road at this location and it was selected for this so that travelers could see and know that criminals would be punished.
- B. "And I believe that the tomb was found empty." Matt. 27:59-28:7 Even the Jews were afraid that there might be some deceit, so they took precautions to prevent the disciples from stealing the body. What they did not count on or believe in was the deity of Jesus and the fact that his coming was from the Father.

It is important to sing this song with conviction. However, to just sing this song is not enough. We must live our lives in a manner that tells everyone that We Believe!

LESSON 22- HOW GREAT THOU ART!

I. Psalm 145:2,3, 86:8-10

This inspiring Hymn of praise and devotion reminds us of God's unlimited power and love in creation and redemption. Although written in the past century, the hymn has become very familiar since the close of World War II. The original text was written by Carl Boberg. In 1886, while visiting a beautiful country estate, Boberg, was caught in a sudden thunderstorm. The awesome and violent lighting and thunder quickly ended, leaving clear brilliant sunshine and the calm, sweet singing of the birds in the trees. Falling on his knees in awe and adoration of Almighty God, he wrote nine stanzas of praise.

II. Verse 1-read

- A. "O Lord, my God!" Psalms 3:7,8, 7:1, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 6:11, Eph 1:3-6
Please note that in the Old Testament passages we see God referred to as Lord and God. Then in the New Testament passages: God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. God and Jesus work as one and are one. See also John 1:1-5
- B. "When I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds thy hands have made." Gen. 1:14-19, Heb. 1:1-2 If you will walk outside on a clear night and look to the heavens and see the many worlds that the Lord has made, it should have not only a humbling effect on us but also an attitude of appreciation that the God who has made all this would be so concerned about us, that he would send his son to give us hope!
- C. "I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed." Psalms 8:3-4, Ex. 9:23, Psalms 77:16-19, Jeremiah 10:12 Not only can we see the great power of God in his creation of the stars, but nature displays the power of God that has no equal in the universe.

III. Verse 2-read

- A. "When through the woods and forest glades I wander, And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees, When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze." Psalms 29:1-11
- B. The glory of God can be seen in everything, but as we wander through the magnificent forests, the songs of the birds, the breath taking views from mountain tops, a clear clean brook and the gentle breeze on a hot day, we get not only an understanding of his glory but respect for his power and ability.

IV. Verse 3-read

- A. "And when I think that God his son not sparing, sent him to die I scarce can take it in." John 3:16-18, Heb. 1:1-8 See also II.B.

- B. "That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin." Matt 11:28-30, Rom. 6:8-11, Hebrews 9:13-28 Without Christ all are without hope, all are without spiritual help, and all are without God. It is the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ that makes these possible.

V. Verse 4-read

- A. "When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, and take me home what joy shall fill my heart." I Thess. 4:16-17, John 16:20-28
- B. "Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, My God How Great Thou Art!" Matt. 5:5, Psalms 57:9-10, 71:19, Rev. 15:3

LESSON 23-THERE'S A LIGHT SHINING

I. Prov. 4:14-19, John 1:1-9

Light: 1. Something that makes things visible. 2. An illuminating agent or source, as the sun, a lamp, a beacon. 3. Daybreak or dawn. 4. A gleam or sparkle, as in the eyes. 5. The state of being visible; exposed to view. 6. Spiritual illumination or enlightenment. 7. A person who is a shining example. 8. To cause to brighten with joy or animation.

II. Verse 1-read

- A. "There's a light 'long the pathway, it's guiding me home." Job 33:28, Psalms 27:1, 36:7-9, Proverbs 6:23, 13:8-9, John 8:12, II Tim. 1:10 In the pathway, which is our life, which we follow on this earth, we must have a guide to prevent us from saying, doing, or thinking those things that will separate us from our Lord and result in a loss of eternal life. Jesus is the light that has been freely given to us by God to guide us. How many of us would imagine that we would take an extended trip with no knowledge of where we were going or how we could get there. It is sad that this is how most people live their lives: lost, hopeless and purposeless. Jesus can give us purpose, hope, and be our guide.
- B. "Leading to that eternal day." Isaiah 60:19, Gal. 6:8 This light that is from Jesus, but originates from the Father, not only can direct our path in this life, but also will carry our souls into an eternal existence with Jesus and the Father.
- C. "And it beckons me on when the pathway seems dark," Proverbs 2:10-18, Isaiah 42:16, John 1:5, Eph. 4:17-19. Life will often seem to leave us with no way out of our problems, trouble, and trials. The darkness that seems to overwhelm us from these cannot triumph over the light of Jesus Christ!

III. Verse 2-read

- A. "When the way seems so heavy the burdens to bear" Psalms 38:1-15, Matt. 11:28-30 (see also II.C)
- B. "Then I think of my Savior on Calvary there" Luke 23:33, Matt. 10:38, I Cor. 1:18, Gal. 6:14, Eph. 2:14-17, Phil. 2:8, Col. 1:18-20, 2:14-15, Heb. 12:2. There are many aspects of the sacrifice on the cross of Jesus that we can think about. His agony that he endured for us, the sacrifice of the Father, the hope we have because of the sacrifice, and the eternal life that awaits us because of the cross.

IV. Verse 3-read

- A. "I am happy today and I'm nearer my home" John 13:16-17, Acts 26:2, Rom. 14:22, James 5:11, I Peter 3:14, 4:14, II Cor. 4:18 If we are not happier in this life after we have found Jesus and are not anticipating our home with him, should we not examine our attitudes and our lives?
- B. "Just over the way is the mansion above" John 14:2

V. Chorus-read

- A. "He is guiding me home, there the harbor I see." Psalms 61:3, 3:3 A Harbor represents shelter and a shield from the sea and its perils. We have tugboats in this world that guide large boats into the harbor. With out the power of the tugboat and the maneuverability of the tugboat the boats would crash into the docks. Jesus guides us through the perils of this life, if we allow him to.
- B. "Till I'm safe in the fold" Matt. 18:11-14, Luke 15:6-7 Jesus is the loving shepherd. He died so that all lost sheep may be returned to the fold. Only the light of the shepherd can properly guide us into the fold of God.

LESSON 24-ANGRY WORDS

I. Introduction

- A. H. R. Palmer was an American Musician and Composer. We have already talked about him in Lesson 11, "Yield Not to Temptation."
- B. Eph. 4:29-32 Our speech should: 1. Cause those who hear us to be edified. 2. Impart Grace to the hearer. 3. Not grieve the Holy Spirit. 4. Not contain bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil.

II. Verse 1-read

- A. "Angry Words! O let them never from my tongue unbridled slip." James 3:1- 12, Psalms 32:8-9, Proverbs 26:3-5 The comparison made here between the tongue and the bridle of a horse first lets us know that we must not let our speech go unchecked. Think before you speak, is an old saying that has much merit for us. Secondly, the purpose of the bridle is to make sure the horse does not stray from the direction it is to go. If we do not check our speech, it will lead us into circumstances that we do not want to be in.
- B. "May the heart's best impulse ever check them ere they soil the lip." Prov. 23:7, Matt. 5:8, John 7:37-39, Col. 3:15, Phil. 4:5-7 Some of the things that I think are referred to as the best impulse of our heart, are:
1. Our conscience. If we train our conscience correctly, it will check our speech.
 2. Prayer. If we are in a constant mind of prayer, our speech will be guarded. Ask yourself next time you use improper speech-would I use this in a prayer to God.
 3. Gentleness. The ability to be gentle in speech must be developed by some of us. To approach any situation calmly and controlled is a skill we all must be striving to develop.

III. Verse 2-read

- A. "Love is much too pure and holy." I Pet. 1:22, Eph. 1:4, 5:25-27, I Cor. 13
Anger can destroy love. All the things that love can accomplish can be easily done away with through one angry outburst.
- B. "Friendship is too sacred far." Prov. 22:24, 18:24, Acts 27:3. To lose a friend over angry words is to lose comfort, love, help, concern, and someone who will listen. But we should be greatly concerned that anger could cause us to lose the greatest friend we will ever have-Jesus Christ!
- C. "For a moments reckless folly, thus to desolate and mar." Numbers 20:1-13
Moses discovered in a difficult way what the results of anger could do. In his case, it resulted in separation from the results of his work for over 40 years! Considering all the great works that Moses had done, and the punishment he received, what will God do to us for the anger that we display?

IV. Conclusion

"Angry words are lightly spoken, bitterest thoughts are rashly stirred, brightest links of life are broken, by a single angry word." Prov. 14:17, 29:22, Eph. 4:26, Psalms 64:1-5. The phrase, "angry words are lightly spoken", refers to the fact that when we are in an angry state of mind we tend not to think as carefully about what we are saying. In a single instant of time, we may undue friendships that have lasted years, alienate all that hear us, and often do irreparable damage to our influence on others for good. A news report that I saw recently said that evidence points to the conclusion that middle-aged men who are

angry, double their chances for a stroke. But more important to us as Christians is the fact that uncontrolled and unrepented of anger can separate us from God!

LESSON 25-HE LEADETH ME

I. Introduction

William Bradbury (1816-1868). The blessedness and awe of being led by God so impresses the author of this text that he wrote these words spontaneously--and these exact words have been sung around the world for more that a century. The 23rd Psalm seems to have been his greatest inspiration for this hymn.

II. Verse 1

- A. "He Leadeth me!" It is important for us to decide what it means for God to lead us and what it does not mean. When a Shepherd leads his sheep, the path that they take to achieve the goal of safety, nurturing (things that are done to cause or enhance our growth), and guidance, is solely dependent on the Shepherd. When one of the sheep strays from the path set by the Shepherd, these goals are endangered. We as Christians must accept God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit as Shepherd. The Word of God guides us to the safety and nurturing that we can receive in this life and most importantly to Eternal Life. Matt. 9:35-38, Matt. 25:32-, John 10:11, Heb. 13:20-21, I Pet. 2:24-25, 5:4.

What this does not mean is for God to be a part time Shepherd in our lives. God must be the guiding force in all that we do. We need to be excited that we can put the responsibility for what we should be and do in God's capable hands. Also, it does not mean that he manipulates our actions outside the realm of our own will.

- B. "O Blessed Thought" How often do we cherish in our thoughts the fact that the Almighty God who created us has considered us worthy of his time and effort by being our Shepherd! What are we to deserve such attention by him? This attention to our needs even went to the point of him offering up his only son for us! What motivation this should be for us to remember him in our lives.
- C. "O words with heav'nly comfort fraught." The words, He leadeth me, should not only excite us about his concern for us but should serve to comfort us. When we turn our lives over to God, we should be comforted by the fact that the universe's creator is in control of our lives. Worry and anxiety should vanish as we depend on God and his word to guide us. Matt. 6:25-34
- D. "Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me." Let us get down to the practical details of what we are talking about. This is a statement of our commitment. When we are confronted with questions in our lives about what we should say or do--it is the word of God and its guidance that we look to. When we try to make decisions concerning dancing, smoking, drinking, gambling, pornography, drugs, premarital sex,

filthy conversation, what type friends to have, who to marry, whether to attend services, how to treat each other, what type job to have, whether to attend certain functions, how to approach our duties at school or work, which church to attend, etc., our decisions must be based on what God would have us to do. If we could imagine Jesus Christ literally being with us as we confront every issue in our lives would we behave differently? Guess what-He is to turn away from the sin of this world, should create such joys that it is hard for us to express it! God has given us the freedom to put the responsibility for what we should do and be on him. What a burden to lift from our shoulders!

III. Verses 2 and 3-Read

"Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine; content whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me." John 6:42-48, I Cor. 10:1-12 A Bower is a leafy shelter or recess. Man must understand that in and of ourselves we are nothing. The children of Israel were not content in wilderness with the way God took care of them. The resulting problems that they had were from discontentment. It is only when we put our faith and confidence in God and Christ, and embrace their word, without murmuring and repining, that we can find contentment. If we find ourselves content with what we have in this life, we will not look for and find those things that are unrighteous, but will seek the Lord and his righteousness.

IV. Verse 4-Read

"And, when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vict'ry's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me." I Cor. 15:52-57, I John 5:4. Our victory over death is made possible by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is through the grace of God, that we have made available to us the blood of Jesus, which cleanses us from sin and gives us the victory over spiritual death. When God leads our lives, we not only benefit in this life but also receive eternal life in the next.

V. Chorus

"Faithful follower" Eph. 5:1-2, 1Pet. 3:13-17 To be a faithful follower we must be (as Bro. Roy Whitworth put it) full of faith. It should be evident in every part of our lives that we have God and Jesus as our leader, we can claim that we are followers but if we do not do the will of God, our claim is empty. Being a faithful also will entail suffering on our part, but this suffering that we endure will be accounted to us for righteousness.

LESSON 26-TAKE THE NAME OF JESUS WITH YOU

I. Introduction

Lydia Baxter (1809-1874) In Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet, the question was asked, "What's in a name?" Christians have long realized that the name of "Jesus" can bring comfort to someone suffering or bereaving, and it can bring joyful hope to the fearful or depressed heart. We will explore these thoughts today, but we also will try to take this a little further and try to understand how we through our actions and words can take Jesus and his name with us anywhere we go. Mrs. Baxter wrote this song while she was very ill. This illness eventually led to her death four years later. She apparently was one who loved to discuss the significance of Bible names, such as Samuel, which means, "asked of God," Hannah--"grace," Sarah-"princess," and Naomi-"pleasantness." But the name that she loved to talk and sing about the most was the name "Jesus."

II. Verse 1-*Take the name of Jesus with you, Child of sorrow and of woe; it will joy and comfort give you-Take it, then, where'er you go.*

Many times in life we are confronted with experiences that bring sorrow and woe to our lives. Sorrow is defined as-affliction or distress, of mind; grief; regret. The cares of this life are often so overwhelming that we are crippled in many aspects of our life and are unable to cope with many of life's problems. We have referred to this condition and offered many things to help in this regard in our series of lessons entitled- Our Christian Lives, Reducing Stress and Enhancing Joy. But probably the most effective method that the Christian has in overcoming this is to remember, dwell on, and imitate the teachings of Jesus Christ. When we remember his name and all the thoughts that this brings to us, we become stronger, our courage is enhanced, and we are able to deal with problems and others in a more relaxed, effective manner. Thus, Joy and Comfort are the results. It should give us great joy (1 Thess. 2:18) to know that Jesus Christ, God's son, (Matt. 14:33) gave himself for us (Gal. 1:4), so that we could have a hope of eternal life. We should also be greatly comforted in knowing that because Jesus is truth (Jn. 14:6), and his word is truth (Jn. 8:31-32), we can count on his promises. We should be happy to be able to take the name of Jesus with us. We do this every minute of every day that we follow him. We are Christians-we belong to Christ and wear his name. We proclaim him to the world with our actions and words.

III. Verse 2-*Take the name of Jesus ever, as a shield from every snare; if temptations round you gather, breathe that holy name in prayer.*

A shield covers and protects the person using it. We use the name of Jesus as a shield from the snares of the world not just in word but also in deed. If all we do is say that Jesus is our savior but we do not do acts befitting righteousness, our faith is worthless and hollow. So it is more than just saying Jesus is our shield, we make Him our shield through careful study of his word, helping others, teaching others, and implementing His word in our lives in every way that we can. Col. 3:17

IV. Verse 3- *O the Precious name of Jesus! How it thrills our souls with joy, when his loving arms receive us and his songs our tongues employ!*

Mark 9:35-37, 10:15-16, Matt 62:5-34 If the name of Jesus is with us and in us, there is no problem, no need, no obstacle that can shake the joy and the confidence that we have. This joy and confidence should cause us to want to shout to the world that Jesus is the savior of mankind and that in following him we can have peace, joy, comfort, and confidence.

Many people do not understand the significance of singing as it is connected to an expression of joy and happiness. It not only is an extension of this but also for many it is the direct result of these feelings. Singing about Jesus cannot only express our feelings; it can shape them. Have you ever be feeling down and found that after singing songs about Jesus with other Christians or even by yourself, that your mood has changed? I am afraid that one area that has not been stressed enough concerning worship is the direct relationship that our singing to one another has on our feelings and on the feelings and attitudes of those attending. When you forsake the assembling of ourselves together, you not only deprive yourself of the joy of singing but you deprive others of the comfort and joy that they receive from your participation (whether you can carry a tune or not).

V. Verse 4- *At the name of Jesus bowing, falling prostrate at his feet, King of Kings in heav'n well crown him when our journey is complete.*

II Cor. 5:10, Hab. 9:27. If we carry the name of Jesus with us through this life and do so in a righteous manner, we will be able to stand before him in judgment and be able to hear him proclaim our name to the father. Matt. 7:21-23, 25:31-46

VI. Chorus- *Precious name, O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heaven.*

Rom. 8:24-32, 15:4, Eph 1:18, 2:12-13, Col 1:5 If we do not have the name of Jesus with us, if we cannot be called Christians (followers of Christ), If we do not knew him, we have no hope: This life for us will end in tragedy-eternal damnation of our souls. How important is the name of Jesus and what it means and stands for - if is everything to the Christian!

LESSON 27-WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE

I. Introduction

Phillip P. Bliss (1838-1876) For a more complete history of Phillip Bliss, please see lesson 3. Mr. Bliss wrote this song in 1874. His intention in writing it was to speak to both young and old of the importance of God's Word in our daily lives.

II. Verse 1-*Sing them over again to me-wonderful words of life; let me more of their beauty see-wonderful words of life. Words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty.*

In previous studies we have stressed the importance of a careful and repetitive review of God's word. This is also true about songs. The more we sing a particular song and its message the more we glean from it. This is especially true if we are singing about the importance of God's Word. Please notice that the first statement made in the song is a request for others to sing these words to us. When you sing to me concerning the wonderful words of life, you are teaching, encouraging and admonishing me. You are helping me to follow Jesus and to keep on the straight and narrow path. To say wonderful words of life, is to first acknowledge that they are wonderful. They are full of wonder because of the great message that is contained therein. The message is life to the sinner. This is brought because of the love of God and Jesus shown through the sacrifice of Jesus for us on the cross. The ultimate fulfillment of this great love is the ability that each of us has in obtaining life. This is not only a good, peaceful and rewarding life here on the earth but an eternal life in heaven with God and with Jesus. Read Psalm 119. The true beauty in God's Word is its ability to not only teach us what God would have us to know, but to convict us concerning our sins. It brings us to him and draws us away from evil. A constant study of God's word is essential in being able to fight the forces of Satan that would draw us away from God. Acts 2:41, 4:4, 17:11, 20:32, Rom. 10:17, Eph. 1:13-14, 5:26-27, Phil, 2:16.

When the word has taught us what we should be and do, it then convicts us of our sins, and then it motivates us to fulfill our duty to our creator-obey him! Today's society does not seem to place the emphasis on duty that it once did. To feel that something is our duty, we feel a responsibility to do that thing, to make it happen, to make it work. Our duty as Christians is to obey him, which also involves teaching ourselves and teaching others. Again, a careful study of God's word will reveal to us what we need to do to fulfill our duty to God.

III. Verse 2-*Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life; sinner list to the loving call--wonderful words of life. All so freely given, wooing us to heaven.*

I Tim. 6:15, Rom. 8:32, Rev. 21:6-7, Acts 2:39, Rom. 5:18, 6:22.

Christ is the Blessed and only Potentate. Because of his sacrifice for us the father blesses him and we call him our King, our Lord of Lords. We owe all that we are and will be to Jesus. Without his sacrifice we would be dead in our sins, but because of his sacrifice we are free from sin and alive in his righteousness and have a hope of eternal life. We should

always be thankful that God in his wisdom and Jesus in his love for us gave the Bible. It is something to not only cherish, for its value, but to use and implement in our lives. As mentioned previously, the word has the ability to convict the sinner. This call is not only one of impending doom for the sinner, if the call is not obeyed, but it is also a call of love. It is one of *agape* love. God and Jesus look out for our well-being by offering this chance to pardon us from our sins. However, involved in this call is the importance of listening to the call. An offer that is not heard or received is useless to the person hearing it. God's offer to us is contingent on our listening and obeying. We cannot receive the benefits of heaven if we do not answer the call to follow him.

IV. Verse 3--*Sweetly echo the gospel call--wonderful words of life; offer pardon and peace to all--wonderful words of life. Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever.*

I John 1:9, Rom. 1:16, Acts 10:36, 2 Cor. 13:11, John 17:17, Eph. 5:25-27, I Thess. 5:23. When we sing about the word and its commandments, we echo the call. It is important for us to understand that in many cases we are the world's bible. The only knowledge that some will ever gain about the gospel call is from us. We are God's messengers of his word.

Jesus is the only hope for mankind. He is the only one who can sanctify us through his word. This sanctification will be eternal, when we are set apart with him in heaven.

LESSON 28-WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN

I. Eliza Hewitt (1851-1920, Lyricist)

Eliza E. Hewitt, a schoolteacher from Philadelphia, like many of the other songwriters of her time, wrote her songs with the goal of teaching children the truths of the gospel. This hymn was first published in 1898. She is also the author of the words to the song "More About Jesus."

This song is intended to be a foretaste of that day in heaven when the entire family of God is gathered for an endless celebration of praise. This song will give you hope and will help to brighten your day if you will sing it often and really listen to its message for you of keeping you "true, faithful, trusting, serving" every day!

II. Verse 1--*Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, sing His mercy and His grace; in the mansions bright and blessed, He'll prepare for us a place.*

Isaiah 9:6, Matt 21:14-16, John 13:34-35 To sing concerning the love of Jesus is: to sing of his love for the father which motivated him to come to the earth, to sing of his love for the Apostles and disciples that were with him, and to sing of his love for all of man, in that, he gave his life for all. Love is the greatest of all motivations. We may be motivated to do a particular thing because of fear, greed, lust, responsibility, or commitment, but to do something out of love for someone else is the highest motivation that we can have.

1 Peter 1:3-5, Heb. 2:17 Jesus is the ultimate High Priest, because he is faithful and merciful. The fact that he became a man, "like unto his brethren", and the life of sinlessness that he lived, has made him to be the perfect High priest for us. He is able to understand and help us when we are tempted. Help from another person should always be appreciated, but help that comes from one who has walked a mile in the same shoes, seems to be a greater comforting and encouraging help. Jesus understands what it takes for us to live a righteous life-- he did it. John 1:15-18, Acts 15:7-11

Because we cannot earn our salvation, we are dependent on the grace of Jesus to save us. As we mentioned before, Christ lived a perfect life, however, we sin and fall short of his perfect example. If we received our reward for even one sin, it would be eternal damnation. But because Jesus is merciful and gives us the benefit of his grace, we have a hope of eternal life, if we work diligently to do his will. John 14:2-3, Rev 19-22 "Mansions" really means places of abode. The New Jerusalem is described in detail in the book of Revelation, along with the throne of God. If we are able to live such a life as to obtain a place with God and Jesus in eternity, the prepared place for us will be more beautiful and glorious than anything we can imagine.

III. Verse 2-*While we walk the pilgrim pathway, Clouds will overspread the sky; but when traveling days are over, Not a shadow not a sigh.*

Heb. 11:13, 1 Pet. 11-12. To be a pilgrim is to be a sojourner. In other words to have no permanent place to dwell. We as Christians are only on this earth for a relatively short period, even if we live to what society would term as a ripe old age. Our permanent dwelling should be in the mansions that Jesus has provided for those who follow him.

Have you ever been walking or bike riding and suddenly, the sky that had been so clear before began to become very cloudy, then before you know it you are caught in a rainstorm. Problems in this life are often that way. We go through life thinking all is right, and before we can even think about reacting, problems are upon us. The Christian knows that there will be sunny days and cloudy days. Our faith and confidence in God should make us appreciate the sunny days and to be able to get through the cloudy ones. The clouds that we encounter in our pilgrim walk are the troubles, temptations and obstacles that block our righteous path and work to draw us away from God.

When our sojourning days are over, when we stand before God and are either saved or condemned, the light of God will reveal all, and will cause there to be no need for shadows for God will be The Light. Problems will be left behind and the sighs that result from the seemingly endless work of fighting sin will not plague us anymore! Acts 26:16-18, 1 Pet. 2:9-10

IV. Verse 3-*Let us then be true and faithful, trusting, serving every day; Just one glimpse of him in glory will the toils of life repay.*

To be true and faithful is to be trustworthy, dedicated, and devoted. God and Christ have proven themselves true; we must do the same concerning them. Luke 16:10-12.

To be trusting is to treat others in a credible manner. Gullibility is looked down on by today's society, but the true humble servant of Christ learns to trust God, Christ and others. Even if our fellow man deceives us, God, Christ and the Holy Spirit will not. II Cor. 1:9-10, 3:1-6, 1 Tim. 6:17.

To be serving is to take the attitude and the actions of a servant. Jesus is our greatest example of this. Matt. 20:26-28

The work that we do here in the service of the Lord is a small price to pay for the ultimate reward that we receive if we truly labor for him. When we truly love the Lord, we understand that just to be in his presence will be more reward than we can imagine. Rev. 14:13

- V. **Chorus**-*When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory.* 1 Thess. 2:19, 1 Cor. 15:54-57, Rev. 15:3.

What a glorious thought, that we can live forever with the best of all ages and sing to our God and shout out the victory that Christ has over death, the victory that we share in when we obey him.

LESSON 29 - LIVING FOR JESUS

I. Thomas O. Chisholm (lyricist) 1866-1960

Thomas Chisholm had been an editor, schoolteacher and Methodist minister before ill health forced him to begin a less strenuous life. His favorite endeavor had always been writing poetry. He said, "I have greatly desired that each hymn of poem might send some definite message to the hearts for whom it was written."

Harold Lowden (Composer) had written the music in 1917 and had used it with another text. He, however, was not pleased with it and wrote Thomas Chisholm, asking that he use "Living for Jesus" for the setting. Chisholm felt very inadequate for the task, but within two weeks the words were completed.

For the Christian, a foremost priority must be to live for Christ and to seek his kingdom first. (Matt. 6:33) Therefore, we should not live to please ourselves, but rather to exalt and serve our Lord. "My dearest treasure the light of His smile" (from verse 4)--the ultimate goal of our lives, for, in pleasing him, and doing his commandments, we obtain eternal life.

- II. Verse 1**--*Living for Jesus a life that is true. Striving to please him in all that I do; Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free, This is the pathway of blessing for me.* John 4:23, Eph. 4:24, Phil. 4:8.

In order to discover what a "life that is true" would be, let us look at the opposite. A life that is false is one that deceives those around us, and deceives ourselves. We are often able to deceive others into thinking that we are righteous and well meaning in all that we do, and we may even deceive ourselves but there is one that we cannot deceive-God. To live a life that is true is to be honest with yourself and others, and to be true to God. In living this life and striving to please God, we must follow his word- to do anything else is to be untrue to him.

Allegiance -faithful and loyal--no matter how much pressure we experience to do otherwise.

Glad-hearted -merry, jovial, joyous--no matter what our lot in life may be.

Free -independent, unconnected--sin does not own us.

Eph. 1:1-5, Gal. 3:14, 1 Pet. 3:8-12, Prov. 12:28.

The pathway of blessing is only to be found in Jesus Christ. Many men have tried to find the peace, happiness, and contentment that they would consider as blessings, by following a pathway that Jesus did not set. In the end, they will receive the curse of eternal damnation, rather than the ultimate blessing that we can obtain--eternal life.

- III. Verse 2**--*Living for Jesus who died in my place, bearing on Calv'ry my sin and disgrace; Such love constrains me to answer his call, follow his leading and give him my all.* Rom. 5:6-8, 6:10, 1 Cor. 15:3-4.

Because of our sins, God has the right to demand of us our spiritual life. An eternity in torment is the just recompense of our disobedience of him. But the shame and disgrace of the cross that Jesus endured, relieves us of the consequences of our sin--if we follow him. II Cor. 5:15, Phil. 3:12-14, 4:11-13.

To not give our all to Jesus Christ is to cheapen the sacrifice that he made for us. We have not only an obligation or duty to do his will, but a debt to try to repay. Nothing that we do is enough, but the grace of Jesus Christ is sufficient to make up the difference.

- IV. Verse 3**--*Living for Jesus wherever I am, doing each duty in His holy name; willing to suffer affliction and loss, deeming each trial a part of my cross.* Acts 4:12, 5:41, Matt. 10:37-38, 16:24, I Cor. 1:18.

To do our duty in his holy name is to keep our actions and our words under the authority of Jesus Christ. If we live our life under some other authority (our own for example), we will not have the approval of Jesus Christ. To do anything with out the approval of Jesus is undermine his authority that was given him by the father and to destroy the importance of his death on the cross.

- V. **Verse 4**-*Living for Jesus thru earth's little while, My dearest treasure, the light of his smile; seeking the lost ones he died to redeem, bringing the weary to find rest in him.*
John 12:35-36, Heb. 10:35-37, II Cor. 4:6, Luke 19:10, 15:4, Gal. 4:5, Titus 2:14, Matt. 11:28, Heb. 4:9-11.

Our life upon this earth is a vapor that vanishes away. What we do with it will determine our eternal home. The light that is in Jesus is our greatest comfort and help in this world. It helps us in trying to reach others with the good news. His light, his word teaches everyone that he died for us and will bring us to a rest more glorious than anything we can imagine.

- VI. **Chorus**-*O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee, for thou in thine atonement, didst give thyself for me; I own no other Master, My heart shall be Thy throne; My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ for Thee alone.*

II Tim. 2:18-21, Rom. 6:17, 10:8-9, I Pet. 3:4, Rom. 6:8-11, Gal. 2:19-20, Phil. 1:21.
If Jesus is the master of our hearts, (he is in control), our hearts (minds) will elevate him to the position of King, and all that we do or say will be influenced by what his will is for us. When we do this we surrender our lives to him and in so doing, we gain freedom from sin and eternal life. We are his and his alone. No other person or thing occupies this position in our lives.

LESSON 30-SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE

I. Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Followers of Christ are also His Soldiers--called to do battle with the forces of Satan and evil. Victories are never won while resting in the barracks. God's soldiers must always be alert and dressed in full armor. The armor includes six important pieces: Eph. 6:10-20

- The belt of truth (warriors with absolute integrity)
- The breastplate of righteousness (people must see our good works)
- Sandals of peace (though soldiers, we are called to be peacemakers)
- Shield of faith (for extinguishing all of Satan's doubts and fears)
- Helmet of salvation (one of Satan's chief attacks is the mind)
- Sword of the Spirit--the Word of God (our only defensive weapon)
- In addition to wearing armor, the Christian soldier also faces each situation with another weapon--prayer.

According to history, many of Christ's disciples and followers were persecuted by enemies of their Master with the following fates:

- Matthew--suffered martyrdom by being slain in the city of Ethiopia
- Mark--Died at Alexandria, after being dragged through the streets of the city
- Luke--hanged on an olive tree in Greece
- John--put in boiling oil. Afterward branded at Patmos
- Peter--crucified at Rome with his head downward

- James the Lesser--thrown from a pinnacle of the temple, then beaten to death
- Bartholomew--flayed alive
- Andrew--bound to a cross, where he preached to his persecutors until he died
- Jude--shot to death with arrows
- Mathias--first stoned and then beheaded
- Barnabas--stoned to death
- Paul--after various tortures and persecutions, beheaded at Rome by Emperor Nero

II. Verse 1--*Soldiers of Christ, arise and put your armor on; strong in the strength which God supplies thru his beloved Son.* 2 Tim 2:1-4, Eph 5:8-16, Rom. 13:12, 2 Cor. 6:4-10, 1 Cor. 15:56-57, Heb 9:17

When we become soldiers of Christ and put on the armor we first talked about, the strength of Jesus Christ is ours, if we choose to take advantage of it. His strength can come to us in many ways. Through his word, we are strengthened, in knowing that this is his will for us, that he is truth, and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. Through prayer we access his strength, by knowing that he who created us will not allow us to be tempted beyond that which we can endure. (1 Cor. 10:13)

III. Verse 2--*Strong in the Lord of Hosts and in his mighty pow'r; who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.* Psa. 89:8-9, Rom. 1:16, 1 Pet. 1:5, Rom. 8:36-39

Through Christ, we can overcome any obstacle, even death. We overcome spiritual death through his promise that we will live forever with him, if we follow him. We can overcome the fear of physical death by believing and understanding that there is only one thing that can separate us from God-- ourselves. We are the only thing that can separate us from him. Our lack of faith, our succumbing to sin, our egotistical attitude will separate us from God, when we feel we no longer need him or the cleansing power that he provides.

IV. Verse 3--*Stand, then, in his great might, with all his strength endued; but take to arm you for the fight, the panoply of God.* (Eph. 6:10-11), Job 36:5, Isaiah 40:29, Psa. 3:3, 5:12

Panoply is anything protecting completely, or forming a magnificent covering. When we use all the great things that we have from God that protects us from being led away by sin and evil, all these become a magnificent shield that only the child of God can use.

V. Verse 4--*Leave no unguarded place, no weakness of the soul; take every virtue, every grace, and fortify the whole.* Phil. 4:8, 2 Pet. 1:3-8, Rom. 12:3, 1 Cor. 1:4-5, 2 Cor. 8:7, 2 Thess. 2:16-17

We, because we are human, have things in our life that provide weakness in our defenses against Satan. These may be different for each of us. For some smoking may be the area that Satan attacks us through. For others, it may be money, cars, jobs or anything that can pull us away from God. In order to fortify these weaknesses we first, must be aware of

them, then find a way to overcome them and then do whatever we need to avoid them affecting us in a sinful way.

It is also true that through one weakness a whole wall can be breached, so that one sin that is unchecked and not worked on, may allow in another and then again another.

- VI. Verse 5**--*That having all things done, and all your conflicts past, you may o'ercome thru Christ alone, and stand entire at last.* Rom. 12:21, 1 John 4:4, Rom. 5:2, Gal. 5:1, Col. 4:12

There is only one who can assure us that when we overcome sin and follow him, we will stand complete, acceptable to God. Others may claim to have the answers we need but Jesus and Jesus alone is our savior.

Lesson 31-Blessed Assurance

- I. Fanny Crosby (1820-1915)** was blinded at age 6 weeks, due to poor medical treatment. (See also lesson 4) She wrote more than 8,000 song texts in her lifetime of 95 years. Some of the songs that we sing that Fanny Crosby wrote are, Redeemed, Near the Cross, He Hideth My Soul, I Am Thine O Lord, All The Way My Savior Leads Me, Rescue the Perishing, Praise Him! Praise Him! and To God Be the Glory.
- II. Verse 1**--*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of Salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in his blood.*

The word blessed means: holy, sacred, consecrated, divine, godly, hallowed, pure, sanctified, spiritual and precious. Assurance means: certainty, vow, declaration, pledge, promise or word. Together they form the idea that we are divinely promised that the things that we have and will have through Jesus Christ can be counted as certain. Acts 17:29-31, Col. 2:1-3, I Thess. 1:5, Heb. 6:11, 10:22.

There are great things that belong to the Christian, both now and in the future. The assurance that these will come to us should motivate us to continue to strive to fully obey Jesus Christ. II Pet. 1:3-4 These great and precious promises do include some physical blessings, but to rely on these as a hope is foolishness. The spiritual blessings in Christ are the true treasures. Those listed in the song are:

Heir of Salvation--Gal. 4:1-7, I Cor. 6:8, Heb. 6:10-12, I Pet. 3:9. Following Christ causes us to become adopted children of God. This special relationship brings to us the inheritance of a home with him in heaven; a hope that is greater than any that we could have. However, this is conditioned on the basis that we must follow him and implement his word in our lives.

Purchase of God--Acts 20:28, Gal. 4:5, Titus 2:13-14. Because we wear the name of Jesus Christ, we have been bought with the greatest price that ever could have been

given--the blood of the Son of God! In purchasing us with the blood of Jesus, God has made us both servants and adopted children. Here on earth, we are taught to pay a price for something that we purchase. In exchange, we are given something of equal value. However, when it comes to the purchase that God made in redeeming us, there is nothing that we can give back to him that would equal the price paid. Our duty and obligation to him because of this, is to strive to do his will.

Born of His Spirit--John 3:1-13, I John 4:4-11. To be born of His Spirit, is to set our minds on the things of God. In this world, many things distract us from concentrating on the spiritual mind set that we should have.

The best way to overcome these things, is to replace them with Godly thoughts and Godly activities. Christians should never underestimate the power of prayer, singing, assembling with the brethren, performing acts of kindness and fulfilling Christian duties.

Washed in His blood--Rev. 1:5, 7:14, Rom. 5:8-9, Heb. 9:14. The blood of Jesus Christ is that which we need to clean our lives of the guilt and the consequences of our sins. If we are not washed (purged) of our sins, the consequences will be eternal damnation. Therefore, it is the blood of Christ that redeemed us and will save us in judgment.

III. Verse 2--*Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.* I Thess. 4:14-18,

Submission to Jesus Christ, knowing that we are doing his will, should delight our souls. The scene painted in our minds in I Thess. should calm our souls, inspire trust and obedience, and give us hope. In the thoughts of Jesus' coming again, we should be moved to thankfulness, for his mercy and love on our part because of his love for us.

IV. Verse 3--*Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest; watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.* Rom. 3:17-18, 5:1, 8:6.

Peace in this life can only be achieved through the Savior. The blessing and the happiness that we find by being a follower of Christ, is contained in his word, his path, his life, his death, our death to sin, our hope of eternal salvation, his goodness, and his love. The Christian eyes are not on the world about us but are looking above, waiting for that glorious day when we are called to judgment, a time for extreme happiness and blessing for those who are named by Christ as his own and a time for utter despair and punishment for those who are not.

V. Chorus--*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

How many stories do we share with friends and family? How many exploits do we share with others? How many songs do we sing to ourselves and others? Can you think of anything greater than to spend our time of story and song praising and telling about the one who gave up heaven for all of mankind?

LESSON 32-HARK! THE GENTLE VOICE

I. Introduction

I could find nothing about the composer or lyricist of this song, however, the song is obviously taken from Matt. 11:28-30.

The title of this song would, at first sight, seem to be a contradiction. The word Hark followed by an exclamation point conveys the idea of a phrase that I use in the classroom, "listen up". What I want is to gain the attention of the person(s) that I am talking to. The exclamation point means to put emphasis on the word and to add excitement to the word. Therefore, the idea is listen to what I am saying-it is important to me and to you and I am emphatic about its importance. To follow this with the term gentle would seem to be the contradiction. When we think of emphasizing something, we think of raising the pitch or volume of our voice. To be gentle with our voice, we think of lower pitch and volume, maybe even whispering.

Therefore, I believe the idea that this title is trying to convey is that Jesus is not going to try to force us to obey through intimidation, but will use logic, reason and yes, some emotion to bring us to him. However, if we do not have within us, after hearing his voice, the need to listen and understand the importance of his words, we miss the whole idea.

II. Verse 1-*Hark! the gentle voice of Jesus falleth tenderly upon your ear; sweet his cry of love and pity calleth: turn and listen, stay and hear.* Rom. 10:4-18, Heb. 3, James 1:19-20, Rev. 2:7, Isaiah 63:7-9, Rev. 3:1-3.

Notice the logical progression involved in the process contained in this verse: The voice of Jesus calls tenderly, sweetly with love for us and with pity for our lost condition (he wants all to obey).

In order for this call to affect a difference in us, we must turn toward him; we cannot walk away.

After we turn toward him, we must listen to him. This does not mean just to hear the words that he says; it means to understand and process the information.

Once we hear his words, we must continually stay in the position of listening.

Finally, if we understand and do what he wants we really hear him.

III. Verse 2-*Take his yoke, for he is meek and lowly; bear his burden, to him turn; he who calleth is the Master holy; he will teach if you will learn.* Matt. 21:1-11, Philippians 2:1-11, Gal. 6:1-2, Matt. 8:18-20.

Jesus is the ultimate master. He not only knows of our problems and obstacles, he endured these also. He is our great High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16), our propitiation (Rom.

3:21-26), our redeemer (Isaiah 44:6), and our savior (Acts 5:31). Again, we must be willing to learn about him and he will teach all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3-4).

- IV. Verse 3-***Then, his loving tender voice obeying, bear his yoke, his burden take; find the yoke his hand is on you laying, light and easy for his sake.* Acts 5:29-32, Rom. 5:14-17, Heb. 5:9.

When we think of bearing a burden or taking a yoke, we think of something that adds to the problems or responsibilities that we have. I think we could probably say that taking on the yoke or the burden that Jesus Christ puts on us, does add responsibilities, but it also alleviates the burden or the yoke of sin. The burden of sin is so much more heavy (especially the consequences) that anything that may be required of us as Christians is light and easy.

- V. Chorus-***Ye that labor and are heavy laden, lean upon your dear Lord's breast; ye that labor and are heavy laden, come, and I will give you rest.* Matt. 11:28-30, John 13:21-26, 2 Thess. 1:5-10

Although there may be problems and burdens associated with being a follower of Christ, the rewards of having the comforting knowledge of the Son of God and the rest found in him, will make it worthwhile. The priceless reward of a home in heaven will more than repay any inconvenient trouble that we have here on the earth.

LESSON 33-THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

I. Introduction

A physician is defined as one who is a diagnostician, healer, or specialist. When we associate the term with Jesus, we realize that it refers to his ability to be these things in relation to our soul. Through his word and in a comparison of our lives with his, he can diagnose what is wrong with our soul; he then has the prescription for healing our problem and is a specialist in that he has the ability to empathize with our problems. It is also understood that there are implications to our physical lives and the healing that is in the providence of God through his son. We take advantage of this through prayer. Matt. 4:23, Luke 4:16-19.

- II. Verse 1-***The great physician now is near, the sympathizing Jesus; he speaks the drooping heart to cheer; O hear the voice of Jesus.* Jeremiah 8:19-22, Matt. 9:10-13, Heb. 2:17-18, 4:12-16, Matt. 9:1-8, John 16:33.

Jesus was the balm of Gilead, and the physician that answered the cry of the daughter of Zion. His coming fulfilled the need for healing and redemption that was required. His sacrifice provided a way for those who follow to be lifted out of the despair, gloom and dreaded consequences of sin. As Hebrews said, he was the ultimate physician because he

endured the same temptations and afflictions that every man endures. What greater help could we have than to have one as great as the Son of God as our High Priest, with the added advantage of having his understanding and sympathy towards our problems?

We can understand that what Jesus said to the palsy afflicted man does apply to us today. He said, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." It is interesting that Jesus, in his role of physician, had as the first concern for the man the state of his soul! The healing of his body was secondary to what needed to be accomplished. Our main concern in relation to what Jesus can do for us is the future of our souls! If we hear the voice of Jesus, by obeying him, our drooping heart will be uplifted by the faith we have in him and the hope that now resides in us.

III. Verse 2-*All glory to the dying Lamb! I now believe in Jesus; I love the blessed Savior's name, I love the name of Jesus.* John 1:29-30, 35-36, Isaiah 53:4-9, Jeremiah 11:18-19, Acts 8:32-33, Matt. 9:27-31, Luke 8:49-56, Matt. 1:21, Acts 4:8-12.

In a world where society admires men who fight, men and women who have great athletic ability, men and women who can become actors, politicians who are deceptive and men and women who get ahead in business by stepping on the little people, isn't it interesting that the Son of God chose to be humble, and to be described as a Lamb. The lamb is one of the most unimposing figures we have in the animal kingdom.

Because of his humility and submission to the will of the Father, Jesus was exalted. Phil. 2:5-11 tells us that every knee shall bow at the name of Jesus. We should be proud and humbled to carry the name of Jesus with us!

IV. Verse 3-*His name dispels my guilt and fear, no other name but Jesus; O how my soul delights to hear the charming name of Jesus.* Rom. 3:19-26, Matt. 14:23-27.

The guilt of sin can be a tremendous burden for us to bear, both now in this world and, of course, in the judgment to come. If we call upon the name of Jesus and do his will in our lives, we can be relieved of the guilt of sin and its eternal consequences. Some, however, believe that Jesus will take the physical consequences of our sins away. There is no harm in praying that he help us with these, but to ground our faith on the belief that we will not have to endure consequences because of some sin committed, is foolish. That promise is never made to us.

To have the ability to sing about this great physician and to declare his name in song must be considered one of the greatest gifts that have.

V. Verse 4-*And when to that bright world above, we rise to see our Jesus, we'll sing around the throne of love His name, the name of Jesus.* John 8:12, 12:35, 2 Cor. 4:4, 6, Rev. 21:10-11, 22-24, 15:3, 5:6-10

Jesus is the light. He is the light of this world and the light in the world to come. To be able throughout eternity to sing the name of Jesus is reward enough for those who truly love him.

VI. Chorus-*Sweetest note in seraph song, sweetest name on mortal tongue, sweetest carol ever sung, Jesus, blessed Jesus.* Luke 2:13-14, Eph. 5:19-20, Col. 3:16-17.

The angels praised the name of Jesus at his birth; we praise him through our words and through our songs. What greater blessing can we have than to call him our savior and know that our relationship with him will carry us through all eternity?

LESSON 34-HEAVEN CAME DOWN

I. Introduction

John W. Peterson (1921-) has written over 1,000 gospel songs as well as many other musical works. This all the biographical information I have found on him.

II. Verse 1- *Oh, what a wonderful, wonderful day-Day I will never forget! After I'd wandered in darkness away, Jesus, my Savior, I met.* Acts 2:38-41, 16:33-34, 8:36-39.

The birth of a child is a great event. The day you are married is a great event in your life. But the day that you, your spouse, or your children obey the Lord is the greatest event in any lifetime. This is because it is the basis for our faith and hope in eternal life. I would venture to say that we all can remember the day that we obeyed Jesus by believing, confessing his name, repenting of our sins and being baptized for the remission of our sins. Also, if we have left him for a time and then came back to him, that day is one we will remember. I can still remember clearly, walking down the aisle at the church of Christ in Jonesboro, Arkansas, sitting on the front pew, seeing the face of my father, who was the preacher there, and confessing Jesus as the Christ and being baptized for the remission of my sins. Of course, the next Wednesday night, at the age of 11, they put me to work leading the singing. I mention this because I have always felt it to be important to immediately put new members to work for the Lord, while the passion burns bright. This is not just for male members either; there is work that we can find for young women to do. Acts 26:1-29. Jesus is the light of the world. When we met Jesus on his terms, his light will eliminate the darkness of Satan that enslaves our souls, and give us freedom in his light.

Oh, what a tender, compassionate friend! He met the need of my heart, shadows dispelling, with joy I am telling, he made all the darkness depart. Psalms 145:8-13, James 5:11, Heb. 2:6-18, Acts 2:46-47, Psalms 23:1-4, Matthew 4:12-17, Rom. 13:12.

Earthly friends have the ability to disappoint us, desert us, betray us, deceive us and draw us away from the true path. But our friend Jesus will always be true, dependable and trustworthy. He endured so much for us, that he is the ultimate friend. He understands our

spiritual needs, and has the formula to help us be successful in obtaining eternal life. He is the ultimate light. His light can eliminate the darkness that sin has cast over our soul, no matter what it is. It is so powerful that we can use it to cleanse ourselves of the spiritual consequences of sin. We should feel like shouting with joy, the good news.

- III. Verse 2-** *Born of the spirit with life from above into God's family divine, justified fully thru Calvary's love, oh what a standing is mine.* John 3:1-13, I John 4:1-16, Acts 13:38-39, Rom. 3:23-26.

Because we are God's children, because we are justified through the blood of Christ, we stand justified in the sight of God. (I John 1:7) We may have a good standing in our local community, we may be a great leader in this world, we may have fame fortune and anything our society prizes highly, but if our standing in the sight of the Almighty is not what it should be, all other things are vanity! (Eccl. 12:13-14)

And the transaction so quickly was made, when as a sinner I came, took of the offer of grace he did proffer, he saved me! Oh praise his dear name! Acts 3:19-21, Rom. 1:1-6, 3:24, 5:15-17.

The word proffer means to present and to endorse. Jesus did not just offer us grace through him, he endorsed it by his death and the shedding of his blood. Notice that there is action on our part. We must take him up on his offer by obeying him! Being a Christian is not a spectator sport!

- IV. Verse 3-** *Now I've a hope that will surely endure after the passing of time; I have a future in heaven for sure, there in those mansions sublime.* Acts 24:10-15, Rom. 8:24-25, 15:13, I Cor. 15:16-20, John 14:2.

The hope that we have in the promises of God and of Christ, cannot be changed by anyone but ourselves. God and Christ will not change, they are constant. Our unbelief can destroy the hope of eternal life that we have. Hope will last in us, if we follow him, until hope becomes sight, in the Day of Judgment, when we enter the sublime mansions prepared for us in heaven.

And it's because of that wonderful day when at the cross I believed; riches eternal and blessing supernal from his precious hand I received. Matt. 10:37-38, 16:24, Gen. 17:1-8, Eph. 1:1-6, Psalms 24:4-5, Gal. 3:14, James 1:12.

The great benefits that accrue to us because of the straight and narrow path that we follow in this life, will so overshadow any problems we might encounter that we, throughout eternity will bless the wonderful day that we believed and took up our cross. When we proclaim Christ as our Savior, by confessing his name, we then have the assurance that he will claim us in the presence of the father. What greater comfort can we have here in this world and in the world to come?

- V. **Chorus**-*Heaven came down and glory filled my soul, when at the cross my Savior made me whole. My sins were washed away and my night was turned to day. Heaven came down and glory filled my soul.* Phil. 1:11, Rom. 2:8-11, Acts 4:8-12, Rev. 1:5-6, I Thess. 5:1-8, Rev. 21:24-25.

Just as the impotent man was cured by the power of Jesus Christ, we can be made spiritually whole by the cross of Christ. Our sins are washed away through his blood (we will not suffer the spiritual consequences of sin) and our night is turned to day (the darkness of sin is replaced by the light of Jesus Christ). Jesus left the joys of heaven and the presence of the Father, to glorify the Father through his death on the cross. We can be filled with the glory of the Son and the Father by obedience to demands placed on us by this great sacrifice.

LESSON 35-THERE IS MUCH TO DO

I. Introduction

I have found no information on M. W. Spencer. But the chorus of this song seems to be based on Isaiah 6:8. Isaiah has just described a vision that he saw of the throne of the Lord. The Lord asks the question, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah's reply was, "Here am I; send me." Just as Isaiah was quick and sure to answer the call of the Lord so must we. We will discuss this in detail in this lesson.

- II. **Verse 1**- *There is much to do, there's work on every hand, Hark! the cry for help comes ringing through the land.* I Thess. 4:1-12, Heb. 13:18-21, Psalms 111:3, Proverbs 11:18, Isaiah 32:17, II Tim. 2:19-23, Psalms 79:9, Acts 16:6-10.

There are souls that are searching for the truth. The enormous work in finding these souls that are crying out for God must be taken on by all. Just as it was for Paul and the other Apostles, who were commissioned by Christ to answer the call and take the Gospel to a dying world, so it is our responsibility to answer and to do. There is another song entitled,

"We are the World's Bible." The meaning of this song for us is that if we do not shoulder the responsibility of teaching the word, it will not be done. God in his infinite wisdom chose the foolishness of preaching to reach the world with his good news (I Cor. 1:21). We are the instrument through which this is accomplished. Because we have been cleansed of our sins, the obligation to help others is one that we cannot shirk. If we do, we run the risk of losing what we have.

Jesus calls for reapers, I must active be, What wilt thou O Master? Here am I send me. II Cor. 9:6-7, Gal. 6:7-10. There is a direct relationship between how much time and effort we put into something and the result (or lack of). If we do not try to teach, if we do not try to live a godly example, we will have poor results. Our job, as Christians, is not to count how many people we teach that become members of the Lord's church, but to teach everyone that we can, regardless of whether they obey or not. (I Cor. 3:6)

III. Verse 2- *There's the plaintive cry of mourning souls distressed, and the sigh of hearts who seek but find no rest. Psalms 88:1-7, Psalms 120:1, 2 Chron. 15:15, Isaiah 11:10.*

True rest and peace can only be found in Jesus Christ. Sin, in a heart that seeks to find God, creates this plaintive cry within the individual. Those who are truly seeking to cleanse themselves of sin are burdened down by this sin. Their soul is distressed because of the desire to rid themselves of this sin and be pleasing to God. We are the carriers of the true peace and rest. For it can only be found in this root of Jesse, whose rest is glorious.

These should have my love and tender sympathy, ready at thy bidding, here am I send me. Matt. 19:19, John 15:12-13, Rom. 5:7-8, 13:8, Eph 3:16-17, I Tim. 6:11, Phil. 2:1-2. Our motivation in doing the work of the Lord, should not only be a feeling of responsibility because of his sacrifice for us, but also because of our love and sympathy for our fellow man. Involved in being ready to do the bidding of the Lord, whenever we come upon a person in need of saving, has to be the requirement of being prepared. When we study the word, when we attend the worship service, when we pray, when we sing, we are preparing ourselves for the time when someone that we come across wants to know the reason for the hope that is within us. (I Pet. 3:15)

IV. Verse 3- *There are hung'ring souls who cry aloud for bread, with the bread of life they're longing to be fed. John 6:32-51.*

We have many self-help books on the shelves of our bookstores today. They promise, in some way to give us a better life. We are promised a better life through the right kind of foods to eat, a better life through making more money, a better life through the right kind of exercises. In their own way they can be useful in this life. But, it is the bread of life that comes from a belief, acceptance and obedience of the word of God that is essential. The Bible is the ultimate help book that we need. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6)

Shall they starve and famish while a feast is free? I must be more faithful, here am I send me. John 7:37-38, 2 Tim. 2:2, Luke 17:3-6. It should be the desire of every Christian to grow in the word. When we grow in knowledge of the word, we understand our responsibility and love to our fellow man. If we are not trying to teach others, can we truly say that we are growing in the word?

V. Verse 4- *There are souls who linger on the brink of woe, Lord, I must not, cannot bear to let them go; let me go and tell them brother, turn and flee, Master I would save them, here am I send me.*

This verse is a confession of caring and love on our part. It is also a prayer to God to send us to them to help them turn and flee the condition that their souls are in. When we sing this verse, do we really mean what we say? Do we really care what happens to the lost sinner? Do we really want to help? It has been said that actions speak louder than words.

We may sing this song and we may say these words, but the Lord will be the judge of whether we meant them or not, by the actions that we take!

LESSON 36 - STEPPING IN THE LIGHT

I. Introduction

Eliza Hewitt (1851-1920, Lyricist) See lesson 28 for more information regarding her. I John 1:1-7, I Peter 2:21.

II. Verse 1- *Trying to walk in the steps of the Savior, Trying to follow our Savior and King.* Rom. 6:1-11, Rom. 8:1-5, 2 Cor. 5:6-10, Gal. 5:16-17, 6:14-16, Eph. 2:10, 4:1-3, 5:1-21, Col. 1:9-23, 2:5-7, 4:5-6, I John 2:6. We have read many passages about walking in the steps of Jesus.

To list what is expected of us in following in his steps, would take more time than we have. I would like to say, in general, that our responsibility in this matter first lies in determining that we will follow him, no matter the cost. Then we must find what is involved in following him, by reading his word, praying, having fellowship with others. Finally, we must study and practice the things we read, and then teach others. Jesus followed this same pattern in his service to God. The word trying does not always mean succeeding. There will be many times that we will fail to follow his example as closely as we should. This does not mean that we give up. It just means that we try harder. God expects us to be constantly working to follow Jesus, not giving up when we encounter failures or problems.

Shaping our lives by his blessed example, Happy, how happy, the songs that we bring. Acts 26:15-18, James 5:10-11, Psalms 144:15, 146:5-6, John 13:12-17, I Peter 4:14, Col. 3:16.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus is a privilege afforded to Christians only. We should be happy that we have this great opportunity. The result of happiness is peace, rest, love and singing! People who are truly happy will express their joy through song. As we have said before, God does not care whether you can sing with a great voice. He commands that we sing. Singing can help us to follow him by telling us what we should be and what we should do. It is a direct outgrowth of our love for him and our happiness in following him. When we sing songs to God, we bring him an offering of ourselves. What kind of offering are we bringing him if we do not sing, or if we do not sing with the understanding and the spirit?

III. Verse 2- *Pressing more closely to Him who is leading, When we are tempted to turn from the way.* Phil. 3:14-16, I Cor. 10:12-13, Heb. 2:13-18, 4:14-16.

"When times get tough, the tough get going", is a phrase our society likes to repeat. I contend however that for the Christian when times get tough, the tough turn closer to Christ. When times are rough, there is only one true solace-Jesus Christ. He understands,

sympathizes and provides a way that is truth. There is no other who can do this like He can!

Trusting the arm that is strong to defend us, Happy, how happy, our praises each day.
Rom. 4:13-22, Psalms 20:1-3, 59:1-4, 47:5-7, Acts 16:25-33.

God has given many promises and has never broken even one. We can depend on him for our defense against evil. What greater praise can we offer up than in praising he who has provided such a great set of footsteps for us to follow?

- IV. Verse 3-** *Walking in footsteps of gentle forbearance, Footsteps of faithfulness, mercy and love.* Rom. 2:1-11, 3:25-26, I Cor. 1:19, Gal.6:1, I Tim. 1:15-16, Jude 21, Rom. 8:38-39, II Cor 8:7-9, Eph. 6:24, II Tim. 1:13.

Jesus is the ultimate example of Forbearance, faithfulness, mercy and love. He demonstrated all these by giving his life for each of us. What do we need to do, to in some small way repay him for this? Follow him and do as he did!

Looking to him for the grace freely promised, Happy, how happy our journey above!
Acts 20:32, Rom. 3:24-26, 4:15-16, 5:2, I Cor. 3:10, James 5:11, Phil, 2:16.

How many times have you found that even though you are tired at the end of a long journey, as you approach home you feel better? You are happy that you made it home and that you are home. For the Christian the long journey to heaven will result in such happiness that we in, our feeble ways cannot comprehend!

- V. Verse 4-** *Trying to walk in the steps of the Savior, Upward, still upward we'll follow our Guide.* Psalms 25:9, 31:3, 48:14, 73:24.

As a blind person must put their faith and confidence in some one or something else to guide them, so must we do in regard to God and Jesus. If we allow Jesus to be our guide he will lead us upward toward the high calling of God, (Phil 3:14) a home in heaven.

When we shall see him, "The King in his beauty," Happy, how happy, our place at His side! Isaiah 33:16-17, Matt. 25:31-46.

What a glorious thought! If we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, we will be able to be at his side for all eternity. It helps to lighten the loads that we bear in this life when we realize where we will be and who we will be with in the next!

- VI. Chorus-** *How beautiful to walk in the steps of the Savior, Stepping in the light, Stepping in the light; how beautiful to walk in the steps of the Savior, Led in paths of Light!*
Isaiah 42:15-16, Matt. 4:13-16, II Cor. 4:1-14, I Pet. 2:9-10.

LESSON 37-WHAT SHALL IT BE?

I. Introduction:

I could find no information on either James Robinson (Lyricist) or B. D. Ackley (Composer). Matt. 25:31-46.

II. Verse 1

What will you do with Jesus? The question comes to you! And you must give an answer, for something you must do. Acts 8:26-40, Matt. 19:16-22, Acts 9:1-22.

In our lifetimes we are asked many questions. Some questions are of little or no significance to the big picture of our lives; others have great consequences, depending on the answer given. Such are the questions that Jesus asks of us. The question asked here is a valid question for us all. What will you do with Jesus? Implied in the question is the initial question, who is Jesus? Once we discover who he is and what he stands for, then we must decide what we will do with this information. When the Ethiopian eunuch found out about this Jesus, he asked, "Here is water, what doth hinder me from being baptized?" His response to this question, through his question and subsequent actions was, I will believe in him, trust in him and follow him! The rich young man responded to this question through his actions, I believe in riches, I trust in riches and I will follow after riches! Paul's answer was the same as the Ethiopian Eunuch: obedience all his life and a dedication to the cause of Christ that resulted in many strides for the cause of Christ. The answer that we give through our actions and our examples will determine where we spend eternity!

III. Verse 2

What will you do with Jesus? It comes by night and day; with pierced hands uplifted, he waits, what will you say? Exodus 13:21, Rom. 13:12, 1 Thess. 2:19, Psalms 22, John 20:24-29.

The call of Jesus does not rest during the night or day. Christians must be ready to respond to the call to obey and to teach at any moment. (1 Peter 3:15) The sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the glorious blessings that we receive through him should motivate us answer the question by saying, Here Am I Send Me! (Isaiah 6:8)

IV. Verse 3

What will you do with Jesus? He's knocking at the door! Refuse Him, soul, no longer, lest He should plead no more. Rev. 3:20-21, Eph. 4:1-7, Matt. 11:28-30.

Jesus knocks at the door of our heart through his word, which teaches us about him, the Father, what they have done for us and what is expected of us in following him. When we listen to the word and follow it, we receive him into our heart, and we are justified. There

will come a time that, either we harden our hearts to his knocking and refuse to listen, or time will run out on our opportunity to answer. What will we do with Jesus? Make sure we answer this question correctly!

LESSON 38- I AM THINE O LORD

I. Introduction

Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915. Fanny Crosby wrote more than 8,000 hymns. See also lesson 4.

II. Verse 1

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice, And it told Thy love to me.
Psalms 119:91-96, Isaiah 6:8, II Tim. 1:12-14, I John 3:11.

When we listen to the words of the Lord, contained in his word, we hear his voice. The Holy Spirit, through the words of the New Testament writers, gives us the voice of the Lord. These words convey to us not only the love that God had for us in sending his son, but the example of love that we should have for him, his son, and for our fellow man. Many today claim that they have heard the voice of the Lord and have been given new revelation. They claim to have new words and new meanings to the love of God. Gal. 1:8 discounts their claims.

But I long to rise in the arms of faith, And be closer drawn to Thee.
Eph. 3:11-19, Hebrews 11:1-3, Psalms 145:17-20, Hebrews 7:19, James 4:8.

Faith (belief; trusting in his word) is our only way to come to know God and to draw near to him. The more we know of God, Jesus and the love that they have for us, the closer we will be to God and the stronger our love will be for him. Our acts of worship that we engage in are designed to also draw us near to him. Through song we learn and teach of his love, through the Lord's Supper we commune with him in remembering Christ's sacrifice, and through prayer we communicate with him our love and our praise.

III. Verse 2

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord, By the power of grace divine.
John 17:17, I Thess. 5:22-24, Hebrews 13:12, I Peter 3:14-16, Rom. 4:13-17,
Eph. 2:1-10.

Grace from God was shown to us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is through our obedience and faithfulness that this grace sanctifies or consecrates us to his service. We therefore pray to God that we will take advantage of this grace by following him and doing his commandments. Our service to him is sanctified or consecrated to him only if it is done according to his instructions. When we follow a pattern of instructions correctly,

the result is exactly what the creator of the pattern desired for an outcome. When we alter the pattern, we alter the result!

Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, And my will be lost in thine.
Titus 2:13-14, II Cor. 4:16-18, Phil. 3:20-21, Luke 22:41-42, Rom. 9:20-23.

We can obtain true hope of an eternal life with the father, only when we turn our wills over to him. Our will must be lost in his will. We are no longer servants of sin, but servants of righteousness. We therefore ask, "What does the Lord want me to do.?" We read his word to find out, and then, without questioning his will for us, we do it!

IV. Verse 3

O the pure delight of a single hour that before Thy throne I spend, when I kneel in prayer, and with thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend.
Heb. 4:15-16, Acts 9:39-42, James 2:19-24, Rev. 3:20-21, 7:9-10, 13-17.

When we obey God and follow his commandments, we are afforded a great opportunity that others do not have: we can commune with God. We become fellow heirs, children of God, sanctified believers, and we have the unique ability of being able to communicate with God. Prayer gives us a special way in which we let God know how we feel about him and his creation and we can petition him about our needs. The greatest friends that we could ever have are Jesus Christ and the Father. Abraham was called a friend of God. This was because when God called, he answered. What greater call can we answer than the call of God to follow him and lead others to him? When we do, we participate in the greatest friendship we can have!

V. Verse 4

There are depths of love that I cannot know till I cross the narrow sea; there are heights of joy that I may not reach till I rest in peace with Thee.
Eph. 3:15-21, Matt. 7:13-14, Rev 21:1-7.

We enjoy many benefits of being children of God while here on the earth. However, the things that we will enjoy while in eternity with God and Jesus Christ are unable to be comprehended by our earthly minds.

VI. Chorus

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died; Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious bleeding side.
Matt. 16:24-27, Mark 10:17-22, Psalms 73:25-28, John 19:33-37, Eph. 2:12-13, I John 1:5-7.

The suffering of the cross, the blood that was shed there, and the life that was given, can bring us near to God. The message of the cross is salvation through Jesus Christ. The

message of the shedding of his blood is redemption of sins. In order for us to be in a covenant relationship with God, we must understand these messages, obey his commands, teach others and look forward to the hope of eternal life that they bring!

LESSON 39-TO CHRIST BE TRUE

I. Introduction: See Lesson 7 for information on Elisha Hoffman. Eph. 6:11-17

II. Verse 1

To Christ be loyal and be true; his banner be unfurled, and borne aloft till is secured the conquest of the world.

I Cor. 4:1-2, 2 Tim. 2:2, I Cor. 15:58, Heb. 3:13-15, Psalms 60:4, John 16:33, I John 4:1-12.

Loyalty, true faithfulness, involves putting your trust, your belief, and your actions completely in the hands of the living God. When we are faithful and loyal to him, our actions and our words lift the banner (sign) that we belong to Christ. Others see this and if they have an open heart (mind) will follow. Armies have flags and banners that precede them in battle. It identifies them and instills in them pride, respect and loyalty. We can be a banner in the conquest of the world by living in, but not of the world, and leading others to Christ.

III. Verse 2

To Christ be loyal and be true; He needs brave volunteers to stand against the powers of sin, moved not by frowns or fears.

Rom. 6:17-18, I Cor. 9:19, Acts 26:12-18, Heb. 2:13-15, Psalms 34:1-4, Proverbs 13:13, Matt. 10:28.

The only thing that is able to separate us from our duty in being loyal to God is ourselves. When we understand that the powers of sin, fear and discouragement can be overcome by our faith and loyalty to Christ we become the brave volunteers that Christ needs. We choose to do this. Our free will decides that we will follow him.

IV. Verse 3

To Christ be loyal and be true; in noble service prove your faith and your fidelity, the fervor of your love.

Mark 14:38, I Cor. 10:13, II Cor. 13:5, James 1:1-5, I Pet. 1:1-9, II Cor. 8:7-9.

It is through trials and temptations that our love for Christ is proven. Those who endure such prove their faith (Heb. 11:1) and their fidelity (Titus 2:9-10). We must have an enthusiastic and working love. Many would want us to believe that accepting Jesus into our hearts is enough, that this causes us to be saved completely. But James 2:17 tells us

that faith without works is dead. We prove our love for him by showing it in our lives. Someone who says they love you but does not show it in the way they act, is doubted. We need to say and do!

V. Chorus

To Christ the Lord be true, for he will ever go with you, and help you all your conflicts thru, to Christ the Lord be true. II Cor. 9:8-15, Matt. 6:24-34.

There is no greater assurance that we can have than the promise of God that he will supply to us the things that we need. Many times the things that we think we need are not our real needs. We must trust in God to know what we need and that he will give these to us.

LESSON 40-EACH STEP I TAKE

I. **Introduction:** Nothing is known of Elmo Mercer. Read Psa. 37:23-24.

II. Verse 1

Each step I take my Savior goes before me, and with His loving hand he leads the way.
Psa. 85:12-13, 119:133-136, Prov. 16:9, Jeremiah 10:23, I Pet. 2:20-25, John 3:35-36.

We must take the roll of a child in our Christian lives. When a child is learning to walk someone must hold them by the hand to prevent falling and to prevent them from taking the wrong path. So it is with our Christian walk. We must allow Christ, through his word, to direct our steps. If we do not, we will fall (succumb to sin) or we will take the wrong path (follow after our own ways or the ways of others)!

And with each breath I whisper "I adore thee", O, what joy to walk with Him each day.
Matt 22:37, Rom. 5:1-11, 8:28, I Cor. 2:7-9, James 1:12.

To love God and Jesus is to reciprocate for the love that has already been shown. To truly love God, is to walk with him and with Christ, every day. God does not want an "on again, off again" love. Consistency and sincerity are attributes of those who would experience true joy in following Christ. In addition, it is not enough just to whisper I adore thee, the true follower shows through action the love they have! What a reward is in store for those who walk with him-eternal life!

III. Verse 2

At times I feel my faith begin to waver, when up ahead I see a chasm wide, It's then I turn and look up to my Savior, I am strong when He is by my side.
James 1:1-6, 1:12-15, Heb. 10:22-31.

When we feel our faith wavering there are things that *we* must do in order to take advantage of the strength that is found in Jesus Christ:

- We look to his word for guidance.
- We pray.
- We sing.
- We worship and praise him.
- We do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.
- We exhort and provoke each other.

IV. Verse 3

I trust in God, no matter come what may, for life eternal is in His hand, He holds the key that opens up the way, that will lead me to the Promised Land.

Matt 19:16-26, John 3:14-15, 6:66-69, 17:1-4, Duet. 6:3-5, Rom. 4:13, Hebrews 6:10-20, 4:12-16.

God gave us a key to open the door to eternal life, Jesus Christ. However, to open this door we must use the key. To find this key, we must trust in God and in his word. Matt 7:13-14. This way that is opened up to followers of Christ is narrow. Few will find it, and be admitted to the Promised Land. The Promised Land for us is a home with God and with Christ.

V. Chorus

Each step I take I know that He will guide me; to higher ground he ever leads me on. Until some day the last step will be taken, each step I take just leads me closer home.
Psalms 61:1-3, Isaiah 55:8-9.

Read again Psalms 37:23-24. Inherent in the phrase "Each step I take", is the idea that *we* do this action. God has shown us the way to order our footsteps, but it is up to us to determine to let him guide us. If you are not following him, please ask yourself these questions, "What better way is there for me to follow?" "Where is my life leading me and who or what is guiding it?" "What would be the end result of my steps that I have taken in this life, if I were to die today?"

Lesson 41-Jesus Loves Me

I. Introduction:

Anna B. Warner (lyricist, 1820-1915) The story is told of a professor who always left his graduation class with these words: "Gentlemen, there is still much in this world and in the Bible that I do not understand, but of one thing I am certain--Jesus loves, this I know, for the bible tells me so--and gentlemen, that is sufficient!" Anna Warner in her book *Say and Seal*, used these words to base a poem spoken by one of the characters Mr. Linden, as he comforts Johnny Fax, a dying child. William Bradbury (composer) set these words

to the tune that we know today.

II. Verse 1

Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to Him belong, they are weak but He is strong.

John 15:12-16, Eph. 1:4-6, 5:25-27, Matt. 18:3, 19:13-15, 10:40-42, 18:2-6.

We as human being will very often overestimate our abilities and self worth. This seems to be true for some at any age. The Bible speaks many times concerning humbling ourselves. Jesus' great example of this is seen in the comparisons of his followers to children and little ones. When we are able to think, act, follow and humble ourselves as children then are we beginning to admit that we are weak and the strength that we need is found in the one who loved us most of all. The one who gave his life for ours.

III. Verse 2

Jesus loves me! He who died, heaven's gate to open wide; He will wash away my sin, let His little child come in.

Matt. 7:13-14, Rev. 21:21-27, Psalms 9:13-14, 118:18-23, Acts 22:12-16.

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ gives us the opportunity to enter the narrow gate. Without his sacrifice there would be no hope, the gate would be closed to us because of our sin. Jesus washes away the guilt and spiritual consequences of sin. He brings us to God and does away with the separation that our sins have caused between God and us. Again, only if we become like little children and be obedient to his commands will become children of God and partakers in eternal life.

IV. Verse 3

Jesus, take this heart of mine, make it pure and holy Thine; on the cross You died for me, I will try to live for Thee.

Psalms 24:4-5, Matt. 5:8, 2 Tim. 2:22, Rom. 12:1, I Pet. 2:1-5, Gal. 2:19-20, Phil. 2:5-16.

Our desire as Christians should be that we allow Jesus to shape our heart (mind) to make it pure and holy. This is what is acceptable to God. No other sacrifice made could help us to do this, only the sacrifice of Jesus. We must allow him into our hearts and let him, through his word, shape our very being. We do not shape his word into what we want. To live for him is to die for him. Only when we die to sin can we live in Jesus Christ, and only in Christ is found salvation of our souls.

V. The Chorus

The chorus is an affirmation of verse 1.

LESSON 42-DO YOU KNOW MY JESUS?

I. Introduction

I could find nothing out about Bill Lackey or Vep Ellis. As with many invitation songs, this seems to be based on Matt. 11:28-30.

II. Verse 1

Have you a heart that's weary, tending a load of care; are you a soul that's seeking rest from the burden you bear?

Mark 14:18-19, Luke 21:34, Gal. 6:7-10, Heb. 12:1-11, Psalms 55:22-23.

This song is a song of questions. The questions included in the song are intended to cause thought and inquiry. As we look at this song, we will try to answer the questions to give us a deeper sense of meaning concerning these questions. There are two kinds of burdens that we seek rest from in this life. Burdens that others have thrust upon us and burdens that we bring upon ourselves. Sometimes, our perceptions of which is which are not always correct. Many of these cares and burdens we can handle by ourselves with no problem. But, over the course of time, we either become weary from doing this or we come upon problems that are too large for us to handle. We have two choices. One, we can try to work our way through these by ourselves, and probably fail; or two, we can seek help from Jesus, through his word, or through help from other Christians. There are many in the world that find themselves searching for the correct answer but do not know where to find it. It is our job as Christians to try to reach them.

III. Verse 2

Where is your heart, O pilgrim, what does your light reveal; who hears your call for comfort when naught but sorrow you feel?

Heb. 11:11-16, John 1:1-12, Acts 26:23, I Cor. 4:5, II Cor. 4:4, Rom. 15:4, II Cor. 1:3-4.

As pilgrims, we are searching for something. Many people search for happiness and satisfaction in wealth and possessions. Others seek for them through fame and power. The soul that is searching for truth, peace and comfort, will be drawn to God. In order to find out what we are searching for, we should ask ourselves what does the light of God (Jesus Christ) reveal about us. His light (his life, his example and his word) will show this when we place our thought and actions up against what he says and what he did. Jesus hears our call for comfort from the sorrows of this life, if we are truly doing the things necessary in seeking him!

IV. Verse 3

Who knows your disappointments, who hears each time you cry; who understands your heartaches, who dries the tears from your eyes?

Psa. 5:1-4, Job 28:23-28, Rev. 7:17, Heb. 4:12-16.

Jesus knows and understands what we are going through. He hears each time we cry. He is the ultimate friend because of what he did for us. When we follow him and take advantage of the eternal life that he offers, God promises that our burdens in this life and in life to come will be lifted.

V. Chorus

Do you know my Jesus, Do you know my friend? Have you heard He loves you, and that he will abide till the end?

James 2:23, 4:1-4, John 14:1-15, 17:1-7, I John 5:20, John 3:16, 15:12-14, I John 2:23-25.

We have received many gifts over our lifetimes from those we call friend. However, no greater gift has been given us than the gift of sacrifice by God and Christ, and the hope eternal life available to us if we follow them. This hope is not a hollow promise; it is one that will abide, if we abide in him.

LESSON 43-ON JORDAN'S STORMY BANKS

I. Introduction

Samuel Stennett (lyrist, 1727-1795) was a Baptist Preacher in London England. This arrangement uses his words to the melody written by T. C. O'Kane. The original music can be found in other songbooks, in which the chorus is, "O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land."

II. Verse 1

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye to Canaan's fair and happy land where my possessions lie. Gen. 13:8-12, Num. 33:50-56, Matt. 3:1-6, 3:13-17, Gen. 9:22-26, 11:30-32, 17:1-8, Ex. 6:3-8, II Cor. 4:6-18, II Tim. 4:6-8, James 1:12, I Pet. 5:4, Rev. 2:10.

When Lot and Abraham were looking over the land, Lot chose the rich land associated with the Jordan. However, Abraham chose the Land of Canaan. When Lot had to flee, he went to Canaan. This land was part of the promise made to Abraham. As the Children of Israel were approaching the Promised Land, they had to cross over Jordan to enter the Land of Canaan to receive the promises. We as Christians symbolically look over Jordan to our promised land (Canaan), a home with God in eternity. The hope of this eternal life, is what motivates us to follow him and to try to persuade others to do so.

III. Verse 2

O the transporting, rapturous scene that rises to my sight! Sweet fields, arrayed in living green, and rivers of delight.

I Thess. 4:17, Rom. 2:1-11, Rev. 22:1-5.

We can only imagine what Judgment and eternal life with God will be like. Many passages in the Bible paint a mental picture for us, but are unable to convey to us the true glory of God. Speculating what the New Heavens and the New Earth will be like may encourage us, but our true concern should be to make sure that we will be there to experience it!

IV. Verse 3

O'er all those wide extended plains shines one eternal day; there God, the Sun, forever reigns, and scatters night away.

Gen. 13:10, Rev. 21:10-27, 22:5, Isaiah 60:19.

When we cross the plains of Jordan (life), then cross over Jordan (death) we will reach Canaan's land (New Jerusalem), where there will be no need for the Sun as we know it, God will be the light. Darkness and night (evil) will be done away with by this light.

V. Verse 4

When shall I reach that happy place, and be forever blest? When shall I see my Father's face, and in his bosom rest?

II Tim. 2:10-11, Mark 10:29-31, Rom. 6:23, Ex. 3:6, Psa. 80:3, Luke 16:23-31, Heb. 4:9.

What a goal for us to set for ourselves! Living eternally with the best and blest of all ages. Seeing God's face is a great blessing. Being able to behold the one that created us would be joy enough, but we will be rested from our earthly journey within the bosom of God.

VI. Verse 5

Filled with delight, my raptured soul would here no longer stay; Tho' Jordan's waves around me roll, fearless I'd launch away.

I Thess. 4:17, II Sam. 22:5-7, Matt. 8:23-27, 14:23-33.

We as Christians should be filled with delight, that we have a tremendous hope. It should motivate us to look to the day when our souls are taken up to judgment. Here on this earth, however, there are things that pound against us. We need to be fearless in pushing forward to the goal of eternal life. Waves (problems and temptations) will always beset us, but we need to be fearless in launching our ship (following Jesus).

VII. Chorus

We will rest in the fair and happy land, by and by; just across on the evergreen shore, sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, by and by, and dwell with Jesus evermore.

Psa. 144:15, 146:5-6, James 5:10-11, Rev. 15:3-4, II Cor. 4:11-17.

As we have said in precious lessons, true eternal rest and happiness is found in Jesus Christ. If this is not our goal, we will not dwell with him in eternity, but rather suffer eternal damnation.

LESSON 44-THE PRECIOUS BOOK DIVINE

I. Introduction

L. O. Sanderson (Lyrist and Composer) I could find no information on him. 1 Pet. 1:25. This passage is especially important in connecting the word of the Lord and the Gospel. The preaching of the Gospel makes known to us the word of the Lord. The entire Gospel (good news) is inspired. 2 Tim 3:16-17. We can count on the words of the apostles and writers of the New Testament to bring the word of the Lord to us.

II. Verse 1

How precious is the Book divine, by inspiration giv'n!

2 Tim. 3:16-17, 1 Pet. 2:6-8, 2 Pet. 1:3-4, John 17:13-14, Col. 1:25-29.

To base one's belief on something that has no authority in their life is foolishness. We base our belief that we have traveled a certain number of miles by basing this belief on the authority of a device that tells us so. We have many standard of measure in our lives. If these standards are not dependable, then the results we obtain from them are not. Therefore, to base one's belief in God on anything other than the complete inspiration and authority of the Bible is to accept a standard that is not accepted by God and will surely result in unacceptable service to him.

Bright as a lamp it's precepts shine, to guide my soul to heav'n.

Ex. 27:20-21, 2 Sam. 22:28-29, Psalms 119:1-4, 105, Prov. 6:23, Psalms 61:2, Matt. 7:13-14.

Few of us would attempt to take a journey without an idea of how we would get there. We use maps, road signs, vehicles and the help of others to get there. Our guide in terms of our spiritual life is Jesus Christ and his gospel. Its precepts and its light guide us and protect us as we journey toward eternal life. It nurtures us, gives us light, comforts us, directs us, and insures that we are on the right path.

III. Verse 2

It sweetly cheers my drooping heart, in this dark vale of tears.

Psa. 7:9-10, 119:9-10, Jeremiah 15:16, Rom. 10:8-13, Psa. 39:12, Rev. 7:17.

The word of God has the great ability to raise our spirits when we are down and to help us endure when the trials of life attempt to overcome us.

Light to my life it still imparts, and quells my rising fears.

Psa. 27:1, 34:4, Prov. 1:33, 6:23, John 8:12.

The word also imparts light by revealing the true path to God; it gives us life by leading us to an eternity with God, and has the ability to comfort us by revealing our fears and showing us that God is greater than our fears.

IV. Verse 3

This lamp thru all the tedious night of life, shall guide my way, till I behold the clearer light of an eternal day.

Rom. 13:12, 1 Thess. 5:5, 2 Pet. 1:19-21, I Cor. 3:11-14, Eph. 3:5-7.

The lamp (God's word) guides our way in this life, until the light of his presence is our eternal light. Only those who choose to be led by this lamp will find their way to eternal light.

V. Chorus

Holy Bible Book divine, precious treasure thou art mine! Lamp to my feet and a light to my way to guide me safely home.

Matt. 6:21-23, 12:34-37, Psa. 119:105, 2 Cor. 5:1, Heb. 11:16.

Many people say they know the way to heaven, but it is the person who follows God's light that is safe and secure in judgment, with the promise and fulfillment of eternal joy in the greatest home we can have (God's home for us).

LESSON 45-ANYWHERE IS "HOME"

I. Introduction: Homer F Morris and J: M. Henson. Read Matt. 6:31-34.

Home is:

- A place to share meals
- A place to house your possessions
- A place of protection
- A place of stability
- A place of residence
- A place that is connected to your identity
- A place that you share with those you love
- A place that, when you are traveling, draws you back
- A place that requires a lot of maintenance

II. Verse 1

Earthly wealth and fame may never come to me, and a palace fair here mine may never be. Psalms 49:6-12, 112, Job 21:7-13, Matt. 13:22, Rom. 11:33, Eph. 1:3-7, 17-23.

Home is where our true possessions are. We may never be able to accumulate the kind of possessions that would bring us fame and recognition in this life, but that is not the important thing to Christians because the things of this world are passing. To put your trust in them is to trust in a home that will disappoint. The Christian's true home (Matt. 6:19-21), where treasures count and last, is where we commune with our savior, either in this life or in the next.

But let come what may, if Christ for me doth care, anywhere is home, if He is only there. Joshua 24:15.

Our attitude toward trials and temptations has been discussed at length in previous lessons. We will all face these, but our strength in overcoming these is our mental fortitude. The lack of this results in submission to temptation. Matt 6:25-34. God cared enough for us that he sent his Son. Jesus Christ cared enough for us that he willingly followed the will of the Father and gave himself for us. The problem is not with the Father or the son, the problem is within us. If we believe and obey, Christ will care for us. Maybe not always in the way or manner that we want, but he will care for us. Therefore, our attitude should be that no matter what obstacles come our way, Christ is with us and nothing can defeat us, except our own disobedience. We can feel safe and secure anywhere if we truly understand this and, therefore, anywhere can feel like home.

III. Verse 2

Oft I'm tossed about and driven by the foe, sad within, without, wherever I may go
Eph. 4:11-16.

As we have been discussing at quite some length in our recent classes and in lessons from the pulpit, true Christian growth is the greatest offensive weapon that we have. In order to avoid being tossed to and fro we must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. II Peter 3:17-18. Study, prayer, attendance at every assembly, helping others, attempting to do things that we have not done in the past (i.e. leading prayer, singing, teaching) and visiting the sick (physical and spiritual) are the elements in our lives that lead to true Christian growth. One of the greatest outgrowths of this is true joy and happiness. Rom. 14:17-18.

But I press along still looking up in prayer, for it's home, sweet home if Christ is only there. Phil. 3:8-14

As I have said in previous lessons, the power of prayer is so often overlooked. When we determine to do the will of the father, does it not then follow that we should use the way of communication with him that he has given us? The strength that we can obtain from a healthy prayer life will help us to press on when we otherwise would be tossed to and fro. Finally, on this point, prayer draws us closer to Christ and to God, giving us a great feeling of being at home with them, anywhere we are!

IV. Verse 3

I will labor on till I am called away, till the morn shall dawn of that eternal day, looking unto him who keeps me in his care, anywhere is home, if Christ my Lord is there.
John 6:52-54, I Cor. 3:6-9, James 4:13-17.

We need to make the most of the time that is allowed us upon this earth. To follow Jesus Christ and do his will is the greatest labor that we can perform. It benefits not only us but also others. What greater joy can we have than to be called away to meet the Lord and know that in the dawn of that eternal day, we will spend it with God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and the saved of all time!

V. Chorus

Anywhere is home, let come and go what may, anywhere I roam, he keeps me all the way; so for his dear sake, my cross I'll meekly bear, anywhere is home, if Christ, my Lord is there.
Matt. 16:24-27

Being at home with Jesus anywhere that we are does not come without a price. We must bear our own cross. As Jesus bore the cross to save us, we must bear our cross in order to take advantage of his sacrifice. James 2:17 tells us faith without works is dead. There are

things that we must do in order to follow Jesus and take up our cross. When we do his will, he has promised to be with us no matter what the trial or temptation, making anywhere that we are home!

LESSON 46-LET HIM HAVE HIS WAY WITH THEE

I. Introduction: Cyrus S. Nusbaum. Matt. 16:24-27, Acts 22:10.

We live in a world where the wants and desires of the individual are to come first. Our society has developed an attitude of looking out for ourselves first. This is not to say that all throughout history there have not been those who think this way. But my concern is that no longer is this attitude merely tolerated but accepted, it is approved of and supported. Movies, TV Shows, newspapers, and daily conversations that we have, all seem to push the idea of looking out for ourselves. To allow someone to take advantage of us is unthinkable. To reflect credit for something from ourselves to others would just not be right.

In thinking about the title of this song, I remember the phrase that many of us either heard or used in our childhood, when things did not go the way we wanted; "Just go ahead and have it your own way." The attitude of resistance demonstrated by this and the tone in which it is delivered, is not what we as Christians want to demonstrate. Our ultimate example in carrying out the idea of the title of this song is, of course, Jesus Christ. When he prayed, "Not my will, but Thine be done," he showed obedience to the Father, humility, self-deprecation, and love. As we talk about this song let us keep this attitude in the forefront of our minds. Please review Lessons 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8 in our series: Our Christian Lives: Reducing Stress and Enhancing Joy.

II. Verse 1

Would you live for Jesus and be always pure and good? Would you walk with Him within the narrow road? Would you have Him bear your burdens, carry all your load? Let Him have his way with thee.

2 Cor. 4:10-11, 2 Tim. 2:10-12, Phil. 4:8, Rom. 8:1, Col. 2:6-7, Psalms 55:22, Matt. 11:28-30.

To make the commitment to let Jesus have his way with us is to commit to:

- Being pure and good. Will we make mistakes? Yes! But having an attitude of always working for that which is pure and good will help us to overcome those times that we falter.
- Walking with him within the narrow road. Matt. 7:14. In my classes at school, when we get to the song "Erie Canal" I go to great lengths to explain the reason for the canal and why the job of the workers that used mules and horses to pull the boats through the canal was such a difficult one. I do this because it is the first song in our beginning band book in a minor key. This gives it a sense of sadness and loneliness. But I also point out that without these men and the animals they used, the boats would be unable to navigate the

narrow canal. Please picture our lives as one of these boats trying to navigate through the canal. Without proper help (Jesus Christ), we cannot make it.

- Letting him bear our burdens. Recently, we have spent a great deal of time talking about prayer and its importance. Without communication with God through Jesus Christ, we are cut off from our greatest source of help. To not use this is to eliminate our best weapon against the problems that stem from trying to do everything ourselves. We need to eliminate pride and arrogance from our lives and look to God and Jesus Christ to help bear our burdens.

III. Verse 2

Would you have him make you free and follow at His call? Would you know the peace that comes by giving all? Would you have Him save you so that you need never fall? Let Him have His way with thee. Rom. 6:15-18, John 14:27, Acts 10:42-43, 2:47.

To make the commitment to let Jesus have his way with us is to commit to

- Having him frees us from sin and become servants of righteousness by following his call. Many think of serving Christ as a lack of freedom. They look at the things we are commanded not to do and feel it is an infringement upon their rights as Americans to be able to do whatever we want. However, the true enslavement is to be drawn into sin and self-dedication.
- Peace. True peace cannot be found in this world. Only the things of God, the things not of this world, contain the true happiness that will last throughout eternity.
- Be saved from the condemnation of our sin. Notice that this verse says, "need never fall." Once we become a Christian and commit our lives to God, there is nothing that can separate us from God. Nothing but our enslavement to sin. Knowing this, why would any Christian not desire to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ? Let us take advantage of every opportunity to grow.

IV. Verse 3

Would you in his kingdom find a place of constant rest? Would you prove Him true each providential test? Would you in His service labor always at your best? Let Him have His way with you.

Acts 8:12, Mark 14:38, Eph. 5:7-11, I Cor. 3:6-9.

To make the commitment to let Jesus have his way with us is to commit to:

- Being a part of His kingdom. What greater kingdom is there? The rewards and advantages of being in the kingdom of God outweigh what little he asks from us in comparison. We should be motivated to always seek his will in our lives.
- Remain true to God no matter what the obstacle. We prove him true through trials presented in our lives. The importance of Prayer, Study and help from each other, will help us to remain faithful.
- Doing our best. We need to ask ourselves concerning all that we do for the Lord, did we do our best. If not, remembering the sacrifice of Jesus, should be motivation enough for us to try harder in the future. Remember, labor = hard work!

V. Chorus

His power can make you what you ought to be, His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free; his love can fill your soul, and you will see 'Twas best for Him to have his way with thee. Rom. 1:16, 9:21, 5:8-9, 2 Cor. 5:17-21.

When we allow the potter (God) to mold our lives through His power, the blood of His Son, freedom from sin, and His love, we see that the best thing that we can do for ourselves is to turn over our lives to God.

LESSON 47-OUR GOD, HE IS ALIVE

I. **A. W Dicus.** The February 2001 issue of *With All Boldness* (<http://www.fact-facts.com/wab.html>) contains biographies of many well-known Christian hymn writers.

II. Verse 1

There is, beyond the azure blue, a God, concealed from human sight, He tinted skies with heav'nly hue and framed the worlds with his great might.

John 1:18, Hebrews 11:3, I John 4:11-15, 3 John 11.

Today's scientists claim that the universe was formed by a big bang that occurred 15 million years ago. The real problem with this theory is what caused the big bang? They have no answer to this question. There are several reasons in nature that prove the existence of a powerful being. Ours is an orderly universe. The laws that govern it are precise. If there was not perfect balance between them, the planets and stars could not exist. The second reason is the law of entropy. This law states that anything, which is organized, tends, with time, to become disorganized. What does this tell us? The big bang theory says that order came from chaos. The very laws that they claim to believe in disprove their theories. What is the answer? As our song states, there is a God! He is concealed from our sight. He formed the Universe. He is the reason for the order and perfect balance of nature!

III. Verse 2

There was, a long long time ago, a God whose voice the prophets heard, he is the God that we should know, who speaks from His inspired Word.

John 6:45, 2 Chron. 20:20, Acts 3:20-24, Rom 1:1-2, 16:26-27, Eph 2:19-22, 2 Peter 1:21.

God, in his infinite wisdom used men (prophets) to convey his will to man. These prophets were inspired by the Holy Ghost to accomplish this important message. The words of the prophets point to a savior. It is the word from this Savior and that conveys his Word to us today. To reject the words of this Savior, is to reject the prophets, and,

more importantly, to reject God. God is not dead, he is not asleep, and he speaks to us through his son. He is a living God!

IV. Verse 3

Secure, is life from mortal mind, God holds the germ within his hand, Tho' men may search they cannot find, for God alone does understand.

Gen 1:1, 1:20, 2:7, Ecc 5:18, Matt 6:24-34, 1 Cor 2:7-10.

As scientists attempt to unravel the mysteries of the universe, they come upon more and more questions, and have fewer and fewer answers. What they need to understand is that God holds all the secrets. God understands. Our feeble minds can only comprehend what God reveals to us. What God tells us are the important answers. Man in his limited wisdom, theorizes that he can comprehend all that is around him. We need to look to God for answers and be content to serve him.

V. Verse 4

Our God, whose Son upon a tree, a life was willing there to give, that He from sin might set man free, and evermore with him could live.

Acts 5:29-31, Rom 5:1-11, 2 Cor 4:10-12, I John 5:20.

This living God sent his Son to the earth to give up his life so that man may live eternally. If God is dead, so are we, for it is only through him and his Son that we have hope: hope that we, through accepting and following his Word, can live on. If God is dead, we have no hope!

VI. Chorus

There is a God, He is alive, in him we live and we survive; from dust our God created man, He is our God, the Great I Am. Psalms 55:22, Ex 3:14.

To deny the existence of God is to deny our own existence. Only through a careful examination and a careful walk in the words of God can we ensure our eternal survival and discovery of the greatest being that lives. OUR GOD!

LESSON 48-EARTH HOLDS NO TREASURE (HEAVEN HOLDS ALL TO ME)

- I. Tillet S. Teddlie (1885-1987)** The February 2001 issue of *With All Boldness* (<http://www.faith-facts.com/wab.html>) contains biographies of many well-known Christian hymn writers.

II. Verse 1

Earth holds no treasure but perish with using, however precious they be; yet there's a country to which I am going: Heaven holds all to me.

Prov. 15:16, 21:20, Matt: 6:19-21, 12:35, 13:44, 19:16-22.

Men may store up riches, power and possessions here upon this earth, but none of these will prolong life. Momentary pleasure in these things is just that: momentary, fleeting. No matter what we try in attempting to prolong life, we are all appointed to die. Heb 9:27-28. The true treasure is contained in the things that this world does not value belief in God, respect for his Word, service to him and service to others. We need to constantly examine our attitude toward the things of the world and to examine our value we place upon God and his Word. If Heaven truly holds all for me, my focus in life will be Godly things.

III. Verse 2

Out on the hills of that wonderful county, happy contented and free, loved ones are waiting and watching my coming, Heaven holds all to me.

Heb 11:13-16, 2 Peter 3:1-14, I Thess 4, Luke 16:19-31.

True Happiness, Contentment and Freedom, can only be found in Jesus Christ and the blessings of Heaven that are attainable through a careful study and implementation of his Word. Those that have gone on before are aware of those of us who are still here and wish for us to do his will. Many people do not obey the gospel because they believe it would condemn their loved ones gone on before. Would not it be better to obey God and honor what would be their wishes from heaven?

IV. Verse 3

Why should I long for the world with its sorrows, when in that home o'er the sea, millions are singing the wonderful story? Heaven holds all for me.

2 Cor 7:10, I Tim 6:9-10, Rev. 24:4, 5:8-10, 15:3.

The only thing that this earth holds for us in terms of our eternal soul is sorrow, for if we live our lives slaves to sin and the things of this world, we will have eternal sorrow. On the other hand, if we devote our physical lives to Jesus Christ, our eternal soul will live with him free from sorrow and the cares of this world, singing with the redeemed of all ages around the throne of GOD!

V. Chorus

Heaven holds all to me, brighter its glory will be; joy without measure, will be my treasure: Heaven holds all to me. Luke 6:23, 15:7, James 5:10-11, Rev 21:4.

When we sing this song, are we being true to the words of the song? Do we let the desires and cares of the world push out the things of Christ that we should be doing? Do we

really believe that Heaven holds all for us? Jesus died to give us hope, a hope that results in all that we could ever need or want. A home in heaven, does Heaven hold all for you and me?

LESSON 49-I AM THE VINE

I. Knowles Shaw 1834-1877 -The February 2001 issue of *With All Boldness* (<http://www.faith-facts.com/wab.html>) contains biographies of many well-known Christian hymn writers.

II. Verse 1

"I am the vine and ye are the branches," bear precious fruit for Jesus today; branches in Him no fruit ever bearing, Jesus hath said, "He taketh away."

John 15:1-9, James 3:8-12, 5:7-8, Rom 11:13-21, Rev. 3:14-19.

Have you ever seen a vine for a watermelon, squash or some other plant that looked great, had strong vines, lush looking foliage, but due to a poor root system or lack of rain wilted and died before producing fruit? How about the plant that has great looking fruit, but for some reason the fruit is damaged and therefore not good? We as Christians need to be firmly planted in the Word of God, cared for by each other, and be wary of that which may turn us from the true path. We need to look out for ourselves, our family and others that we have opportunity to influence. Problems sometimes do not appear on the surface and are therefore hard to detect. A careful inspection can help to stop these before the damage is not able to be undone. We are the branches that Jesus depends on to bear fruit (teach and help others). Unproductive branches are useless to the vine. They take nourishment from the other branches without producing fruit. The only course that the vinedresser can follow is one of pruning these to save the vine. We have really discussed in detail in recent weeks the need to grow in the word and to spread the gospel. Let us consider the result of the unproductive branch and determine that such will not be our fate.

III. Verse 2

"Now ye are clean thru words I have spoken, living in Me, much fruit ye shall bear; dwelling in you, my promise unbroken, glory in heav'n with Me ye shall share."

John 15:3, Prov 20:7-11, Eph 5:25-27, Matt 4:4, John 6:51, Acts 17:26,28,
Rom 1:16-19, 14:8, Gal 2:20.

There are three things that we must do to be clean (free from the consequences of our sins). First, we must cherish His Word. His Word must have not only a prominent place in our lives but a special love for, and honor for, the truth of the Word. If we do not honor the truth contained in it and accept it as the guiding force in our lives, we do not cherish it. Second, we live it. To live the Word is to implement its principles in our lives. Third, we must bear fruit; it is our responsibility to share the good news with others. When we

do these things, Christ dwells in us and us in Him. His promises to us will not be broken. We will have eternity with him and with God in Heaven!

IV. Verse 3

Yes, by your fruits the world is to know you, walking in love as children of day; follow your guide, He passeth before you, leading to realms of glorious day.

John 12:24,25, Col 1:5-13, Eph 5:1-2, 2John 5-6, I Thess 5:1-10, Isaiah 11:10.

People see the results of our actions. We are judged every day by others in the things we do. If we walk in love, as children of God, follow the words of our guide (Jesus Christ) we will be led to eternal life and we will through our actions lead others to glorious day. A day that never ends, a day that has no sorrow, a day that gives us the privilege of being with God and enjoying His presence.

V. Chorus

"I am the vine and ye are the branches; I am the vine be faithful and true; ask what ye will, your pray'r shall be granted, the Father loved Me, so I have loved you."

Matt 7:7-8, 18:18-20, 21:22. John 15:9.

We need to understand that we are not saying when we sing this song, and Jesus was not saying in John 15, that anything we ask would automatically be granted. God has promised to answer our prayers. The problem is that He may not choose to answer our request the way that we desire. God knows what is needed in our lives. When we decide to turn our lives over to him, we are taking advantage of the joy and treasures that come to those who love him and do his commandments.

LESSON 50-ONE STEP AT A TIME

I. **James H. Rosecrans (1844-1926)** The February 2001 issue of *With All Boldness* (<http://www.faith-facts.com/wab.html>) contains biographies of many well-known Christian hymn writers.

II. Verse 1

One step at a time, dear Savior: I cannot take any more; the flesh is so weak and hopeless: I know not what is before.

Heb. 12:1-3, 1 Pet. 2:21-24, Psa 37:23, Mark 14:38, Ecc 8:6-7, Gal 2:20.

Jesus wants us to order our steps in this life. We are to be careful to follow in his steps, not to rush into anything that could lead us into sin and a separation from Him and the Father. How many do we see in this life that do not stop and think about the consequences of their actions? The flesh is weak. Those things in this life that tempt us, tempt us by appealing to our fleshly desires and lusts. We do not know what temptations

the future holds for us, so we must be wary of the things of this world and the traps contained therein. A careful study of God's word and implementation of it will help us to avoid problems. The greatest weapon that we have is prayer. The use of prayer helps us to allay our fears of the future and will help us to slow down and examine our lives and our actions.

III. Verse 2

One step at a time, dear Savior: I am not walking by sight; keep step with my soul, dear Savior: I walk by faith in Thy might.

2 Cor. 5:1-9, Col. 2:1-9, John 20:29, Rom. 1:16-17.

When you were small, did you ever follow your father or mother and try to step in the same place where their feet had just been? You were walking by sight. You saw where they were and placed your feet there. They were there in front of you; you could hear them and see them. You trusted them not to lead you into danger. We as Christians place our feet in the steps of Jesus; however, we cannot physically see Him or hear Him, but we trust in Him and place our faith in Him to lead us to eternity. The power of Jesus and His Word leads us through this life. When our flesh is weak and we feel as though there is no hope, that is when Jesus is the strength that can carry us through.

IV. Verse 3

One step at a time, dear Savior: O guard my faltering feet! Keep hold of my hand, dear Savior, till I my journey complete.

Heb 12:11-13, Psa 139:9-11, Isaiah 42:6-7, 2 Tim 4:6-8.

To believe that we do not need help to live this life properly and to receive the eternal crown is the ultimate in egotistical behavior. It is not within man to direct his own feet. (Jeremiah 10:23) If we do not reach out for Jesus, we are without hope. Hope is only found in Jesus.

V. Verse 4

One step at a time, dear Savior: Thou knowest all of my fear; one word from Thy heart, dear Savior, and heaven's mansions appear. Psa 34:3-4, Rom 10:9-11, John 14:1-3.

As previously stated, the Savior has the key to eternal life. He knows what our fears are, and these can be quelled by putting faith, trust, and hope in Him, and praying to God through him.

VI. Chorus

One step at a time, dear Savior, till faith, grows stronger in Thee: one step at a time, dear Savior, till hope grows stronger in me. James 2:17-18.

Doing works of faith strengthens our faith in God and gives us hope. To believe that all we have to do is to profess our belief in him and we will be saved, is to leave our faith weak and our hope lacking God's plan must be followed in its entirety for the full effects to be accomplished. When we shortchange what God can do through us, we shortchange our faith and hope.

LESSON 51 -HOLD TO GOD'S UNCHANGING HAND

I. F. L. Elland - The February 2001 issue of *With All Boldness* (<http://www.faith-facts.com/wab.html>) contains biographies of many well-known Christian hymn writers.

II. Verse 1

Time is filled with swift transition, naught of earth unmoved can stand, build your hopes on things eternal, hold to God's unchanging hand. Ecc. 3:1-8, Gen. 7:21-24, Titus 1:1-4, 3:7-8, Gal 5:4-6, Eph 2:12-17, Col 1:3-5, Titus 2:13-14, Heb 13:7-8, Acts 13:32-34.

Every aspect of our lives is constantly changing. The average person changes jobs about 7 times. Our society thinks nothing of changing our residence. We change our hair, our style of clothes. Change is also all around us. As we get older, it seems that when we do not want things to change, that is when they change the most. The earth is constantly changing. Man has brought about great change all over the world. God has changed the earth in many ways. At one point he destroyed almost everything that can be seen. We, as finite individuals, need things that we can depend on to not change. We depend on the value of the dollar that we use to pay for things to remain constant. But it does not! There is only one thing that will never change. One thing that is eternal and unchanging: God. We can depend on anything that God has told us to be true and unchanging.

III. Verse 2

Trust in Him who will not leave you, whatsoever years may bring, if by earthly friends forsaken, still more closely to Him cling.

Heb. 13:1-6, I Tim 6:19, Prov 13:19-20, Luke 6:22-23, Joshua 23:8-11, Psa 73:28.

How many times have you set up a meeting or a plan with someone, and, without any warning, they cancel? Have you ever had someone desert you in a time of need? Have you ever had someone that you depended on to back you up in a situation leave and not want to get involved? Men will do this. God will not. The closer that we come near to God, God will comfort and protect us. It is only ourselves that can separate us from the love of, God!

IV. Verse 3

When your journey is completed, if to God you have been true, fair and bright the home in glory, your enraptured soul will view. Heb. 10:19-27, 11:5-6, Rev 21:21-26.

One of the things that changes in this life that we need to be especially aware of, is the fact that man comes and goes. Our life is compared to a vapor that vanishes away. (James 4:14) The one aspect of our being that lives on is the eternal soul. When the soul departs this weak and feeble body, the actions and beliefs that guided our lives will determine its future! God has prepared a glorious eternal life for us. All we have to do is to be true to Him, His Son, and His Word!

V. Chorus

Hold to God's unchanging hand, Hold to God's unchanging hand! Build your hopes on things eternal, Hold to God's unchanging hand.

We can depend on God. When we build our lives on Him, His Son, and His Word, we lay up for ourselves eternal treasures that we cannot even imagine here in this life. God extends His Hand to us through His Word; what will our answer be?

LESSON 52-NO TEARS IN HEAVEN

I. **Robert S. Arnold**--The February 2001 issue of *With All Boldness* (<http://www.faith-facts.com/wab.html>) contains biographies of many well-known Christian hymn writers.

II. Verse 1

No tears in heaven, no sorrows given, all will be glory in that land; there'll be no sadness, all will be gladness, when we shall join that happy band.
Ecc. 4:1, Luke 7:37-50, Rev. 21:4, I Thess. 4:13-18, Matt. 24:30, Psa. 128:1-2, James 5:11.

As stated in previous lesson God will wipe away our tears by eliminating the following: (see lesson 10 for more details)

1. Death
2. Sorrow
3. Crying
4. Pain

When the need for tears is replaced by happiness and joy, we can truly serve the Lord, worship him, and give him glory. The sadness and sorrows that we experience in this life are trials that can strengthen or defeat us. Our attitude toward them is important. If we realize that there will come a time when these are eliminated, the resulting hope can help us to endure.

III. Verse 2

Glory is waiting, waiting up yonder, where we shall spend an endless day; there with our Savior, we'll be forever, where no more sorrow can dismay.

Rom. 2:11, 2 Cor.4:17-18, 2 Tim. 2:10, I Pet 5:10.

Compare the short time on earth that we endure pain and sorrow with the eternal joy that we can inherit through Jesus Christ. The only thing that he asks of us, to receive this, is to follow Him and His Word. Our light affliction results, for us, in an endless day. Gone will be the uncertainty of this life, replaced by the ability to worship God forever.

IV. Verse 3

Some morning yonder, we'll cease to pander, O'er things this life has brought to view; all will be clearer, saved ones be dearer, in heav'n where all will be made new.

Ecc. 1:3-11, 2:3, 6:12, 2 Pet 3:13, Rev 21:1.

If we attempted to list all the things in this life that we must seriously think about in order to learn, to succeed, to fulfill our responsibilities, the list would be seemingly endless. Just the wonders of the world that God has created, bring many questions to our minds, many things to think about, one of the great joys of being with God in eternity is that all important things will be brought to our knowledge. For many, this knowledge will bring sorrow and suffering, because of the wrong choices made in this life. Eternal punishment will include the knowledge that there is nothing to do to change your eternal fate. (See the Rich Man and Lazarus). The new heavens and the new earth, will replace the problems and sorrows that come with what we have now.

V. Chorus

*No tears in heaven fair, no team, no tears up there, sorrow and pain will all have flown;
no tears in heaven fair, no tears, no tears up there, no tears in heaven will be known.*

Will the joys of heaven be worth doing the instructions that Christ has left for us? Will the problems and trials that cross our lives prevent us from achieving the ultimate prize? Heaven is worth anything that we have to endure in this life.

LESSON 53-THE GREATEST COMMANDS

I. This song is one that has traditional words and melodies handed down from generations past. There is no composer or lyricist cited.

II. Verse 1 (Altos)

Love one another, for love is of God, he who loves is born of God and knows God.
2 Cor. 13:11, Gal 5:22, Eph. 5:1-2, 1 Thess. 4:9, 2 Tim. 1:7, 1 Pet. 2:15-16,
I John 4:9-13, 2:5, 3:1, 4:7.

The greatest privilege that we have as Christians is to be called sons of God. The blessings and rewards that are promised to the children of God cannot be equaled by anything here on the earth. To be born of God is to know Him. In order to know him, not only do we need to study his Word to learn of Him and His Sort, but also we must follow His directions. The greatest commandments that we have concern love. If we cannot love our brother whom we have seen, how can we love God whom we have not? To be like God is to emulate His love. He loved us so much that He sent Jesus to save us. Should not we, in following His example, have love and concern for our fellow man? The time and effort that we expend in doing this is a small price to pay for the rewards of heaven.

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love, God is love.
John 5:42, 1 John 2:4, 2:15, 4:8, 4:20.

To not love one another, is to not know God. To not know God is to be separated from Him. To be separated from Him is to separate ourselves from the blessings and rewards that are promised to children of God.

III. Verse 2 (Basses)

Love bears all things, believes all things, Love hopes all things, endures all things.
1 Cor. 13:1-13.

God commanded us to love each other. When a person has love shown to them, they will be able to handle the problems in this life. Problems, temptations, trials, and suffering can only be endured properly if we are shown love. Feelings of abandonment, loneliness, and isolation tend to magnify the burdens that we bear. To share with someone else our troubles is to take some of the weight of these away. We, as Christians, also need to understand that, even though earthly friends and brethren may forsake us, God will not. I have, as you may have also, been accused at times of being too naive, quick to believe in someone or something. When it comes to love of the brethren, we may be hurt at times, but we still must believe in God and His power. To allow someone or something to shake our belief in God calls to question our love of God. Love of God will result in belief that He is all-powerful, and that all He has said to us is truth. Eternal life, and the hope thereof, is contingent on believing Him and doing His commandments. And as first stated, love will help us to endure any trial we face.

IV. Verse 3 (Tenors)

God is love. Titus 3:4-7, Rom. 5:6-8, Eph 2:4-7, I Cor. 2:9, 1 John 4:10-11, 4:16-17.

The love of God for man is manifested in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. While we were counted as sinners (separated from God) Christ took our sins upon Himself, enduring the humiliation of the cross. Not only has He taken our sins upon Himself but also through His sacrifice, we are raised to sit in heavenly places. We can be called children of God. He has prepared an eternal dwelling place for us with Him and with Christ. As God is (love), so are we commanded to be (love one another).

V. Verse 4 (Sopranos)

*Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, all thy strength, all thy mind.
Love the Lord with all thy heart, for God is Love, God is love, God is love.*
1 Cor. 8:3, Rom. 8:28, 8:39, James 1:12, Mark 12:30-31.

A commitment to follow God cannot be a half hearted one. The Revelation tells us that those who are lukewarm will be separated from God. Failure to love God with our soul will result in destruction of that soul in torment. It took all the strength that Jesus had to endure the cross for us, should not we give all our strength to the Lord? If our mind set in this life is to be self-serving, how does this compare with the mind of Christ? (Phil 2:5-8) Man is constantly reaching for the best: for the ultimate in life and it's experiences, for the ultimate in happiness and peace. But more often than not, he is looking in the wrong place. The ultimate in love is God; there you find happiness and peace. For God is Love!

LESSON 54- I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

I. This song is a folk melody from India, arranged by Pam Stephenson.

II. Verse 1

I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back. Matt. 8:18-22, Luke 9:57-62, Matt. 9:9, Luke 18:18-30, John 13:34-38, 21:19-25, 1 Peter 2:20-25, Heb. 10:19-27.

To decide to follow Jesus is to commit to a life of serving him and doing those things commanded by Him and set before us by His example. Many commitments made by people today are taken lightly. They may have an intention to follow through in the beginning, but other cares and commitments can prevent them from fulfilling these. We as Christians need to be fully prepared to fulfill our commitment to Christ. The cost of not succeeding is too high. There are ways that we can accomplish this commitment. When we decide to follow Jesus, it is first important that we determine to find out all we can about Him and His word. This knowledge will help us to see problems and be prepared to confront them. Secondly, we need to utilize one of our most powerful tools, prayer. Thirdly, support and knowledge that we gain from association with other

Christians cannot be underestimated. All these will help to increase our faith, belief and commitment to God and to Christ.

III. Verse 2

The world behind me the cross before me; No turning back.

Matt. 13:22-23, 16:25-27, 18:7-9, Rom. 12:1-2, 1 Cor. 1:18-25.

Our commitment to Christ will cost us. For the Christian the things of the world that conflict with the will of Christ must be left behind. We cannot serve God and the world. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross demands that we take up our cross and follow Him. Taking up our cross means leaving behind many of the pleasures we enjoy, and sometimes friends and family because of their unwillingness to follow the authority of the crucified Christ. To turn back to enticements of the world, after we have taken up our cross will have disastrous results to our eternal souls. (2 Pet 2:20-22)

IV. Verse 3

Tho' none go with me, I still will follow; no turning back.

Luke 6:22-23, Joshua 24:1 4-15, Daniel 6:16-24.

Joshua's statement that he and his house would serve the Lord is one of the greatest statements of commitment ever seen. Daniel's courage in facing the den of lions is one of the greatest fulfillments of commitment ever seen. We should let these examples of courage and perseverance strengthen our resolve to always follow the Lord, even if we stand alone!

V. Verse 4

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? No turning back.

Acts 8:26-40, 9:17-20.

The Ethiopian Eunuch and the apostle Paul had one great thing in common: when they learned of the truth, they obeyed the truth. They made the commitment; they followed the Word of the Lord. In the case of Paul, we are told of all the trials he endured. He did not turn back. He was able to say in 2 Tim 4:7-8, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." We need to make the commitment, follow through and be able to repeat the words of Paul when we come to the end of our lives!