Thy God shall be my God." Ruth 1:16

Subject: God's Greatest Gift
A Study of 1 Corinthians 13
Malayan and Philippine Island Union Missions

The fields to which the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for December 29, 1934, will go, the Malayan and Philippine Island Union Missions, are included within the dot-and-dash lines on the map. Remember that when the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering reaches $60,000, $1,000 of the amount will be considered an "overflow" to these two union mission fields. In addition, 10 per cent of the excess above $60,000 will be added to the overflow. Make your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering a liberal one this last quarter of the year, that these needy mission fields may have a generous overflow.

The places indicated by the large black dots are the locations of enterprises helped by the Thirteenth Sabbath overflow offerings of past years, a list of which follows:

**Overflow Gifts to Malaysia and the Philippines**

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>1917</td>
<td>Philippine Islands Press</td>
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<td>Malayan Press</td>
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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

"With what wonder his amanuensis must have looked up, as the apostle broke into this exquisite sonnet on love! His radiant spirit had caught a glimpse of the living Saviour. Jesus sits for His portrait in these glowing sentences, and of Him every clause is true. Substitute His name for love throughout the chapter, and say whether it is not an exact likeness. With Paul love stands for that strong, sustained, and holy subordination of self for others, which begins in will and act and is afterward suffused by emotion, as a cloud lying in the pathway of the rising sun. But if you want the divine love, you must get it after the manner of the bay which opens its bosom to the incoming tide. God is love, and if you would love, you must abide in Him and He in you... . Love is the best of all, because it is eternal. All else will perish. Our highest attainments will be as the babblings and playthings of childhood. But when we are in touch with the reality of things, love will be all in all."—"Through the Bible Day by Day," F. B. Meyer, vol. 6, pp. 123, 124.

In this rather intensive study of this greatest of subjects,—a theme deeper than faith, more transcendent than hope, more excellent than all other graces of the Holy Spirit's gift (1 Cor. 12:31)—it is desired that the student may obtain a richer experience in that love in which the apostle expresses the hope that every believer may be “rooted and grounded” till each in God's time and at His will may be “filled with all the fullness of God.” Eph. 3:16-19. There is room for deeper searching than is possible in these lessons to find that love “which passeth knowledge.” As each pupil searches, may the Son of Love, as with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, walk beside him in the way and make known to him that which is written concerning, Himself.

Note.—In this series of studies on 1 Corinthians 13, the word “love” has been substituted from the Revised Version in place of the word “charity” used in the King James Version.

Lesson 1—October 6, 1934

DAILY LESSON STUDY: Place a check mark in the proper space.

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OFFERING RECORD: Fill in each space with the weekly record.

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Love and Speech

MEMORY VERSE: “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.” 1 Cor. 13:1.


The Lesson

IMPORTANCE OF RIGHT SPEECH

1. What prayer is offered by the psalmist concerning the speech of his lips? Ps. 141:3.
2. What counsel is given by the apostle James concerning hearing and speaking? James 1:19.

3. For what reason does the Saviour say we should watch our utterances? Matt. 12:37.

4. How did God reply to Job and his companions for their eloquent, but misleading speeches? Job 38:1, 2.

Note—Job, afflicted and suffering, had met the arguments and accusations of his friends with an eloquent defense of his own life and position before God. In chapters 38 to 41, God contrasts man's vanity in speech and knowledge with His own power as Creator. In chapter 40 Job answers God in humility, saying, "I am vile; what shall I answer Thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth." In chapter 42, he replies to the Lord, "Therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. . . . I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth Thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Job's powerful replies to his friends availed him nothing. His humble submission to God's revelation of his foolishness in wasting words without knowledge brought the divine blessing of God and the continued companionship and love of his friends.

5. What may be the result of a godly walk and conversation? 1 Peter 2:12.

Note.—Not a profession of godliness, but a straightforward course in life speaks eloquently of our relation to Christ and may cause even our enemies to glorify God.

6. What attitude is assumed by those who are careless of their utterances? Ps. 12:4.

7. What will God do to those who thus speak? Verse 3.


Note—"Every seed sown produces a harvest of its kind. So it is in human life. We all need to sow the seeds of compassion, sympathy, and love; for we shall reap what we sow."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 84.

The sowing of the lips, proceeding as it does from the abundance of the heart, either tells for Christ and love, or for the enemy and self. Love speaks more eloquently by acts than by words, yet words spoken from the heart and accompanied by a life of love have unmeasured influence and power for good.


Note.—All nature speaks silently of its Creator. The heavens above, the earth beneath, and the waters under the earth are a comprehensive revelation of His creative power, His sustaining hand, and His love. Their voice is heard
in the rolling ocean waves, in the sighing night winds, in the whispered con-
verse of the leafy glade, in storm and in calm, in the delicate coursings of the
life-giving sap in the forest giant as in the microscopic development of the tiny
plantlet. The voice of nature may speak in the rumble of the quaking earth,
or the sudden, destructive eruption of a volcanic cone. There may be a vast
difference in the quality of the vocal tones, and the eloquence of the message
they bring to human hearts, but there is expressed therein a love beyond
human comprehension, a love in the mind of that Power which is behind the
speaking voice, which can bring help and healing to the souls of men.

10. Upon what occasion did Paul seek by well-planned argument to per-

Note.—The eloquent appeal of the missionary apostle fell for the most part
upon deaf ears. Yet “his labors in Athens were not wholly in vain. Dionysius,
one of the most prominent citizens, and some others, accepted the gospel mes-
gage, and united themselves fully with the believers.”—“The Acts of the Apos-
tles,” p. 240. The fruitage, however, was comparatively meager, for the men
of Athens failed to recognize the love of the Saviour.

11. After his experience at Athens, what decision did Paul make con-
cerning his aims and objectives? 1 Cor. 2:1, 2; Gal. 6:14.

Note.—“Viewing the wisdom of the world in the light of the cross, Paul
‘determined not to know anything, . . . save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.’ ”
—Id., pp. 127, 128.
Paul had learned that eloquence or skill in debating over doctrine availed
but little in behalf of the cause of his Lord, and he recognized that only the
love expressed by the cross of Calvary could reach the hearts and transform
the lives of men.

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

12. In what spirit should all public or private speech be made? Eph.
4:15, first clause.

13. What reason does Christ give why men should believe His teachings?
John 14:10, 11.

Note.—“Believe Me for the very works’ sake.” The life of Christ, His
works of mercy and love done in behalf of needy men, were an evidence in
themselves which should have spoken more eloquently than speech.

14. In what way did Christ exemplify His teaching and demonstrate
His love? What spirit should we cherish in following His example? 1 John
3:16.

15. What contrast does the apostle show between eloquence and love?
1 Cor. 13:1.

Note.—Our speech may be fluent in the sight of men, our eloquence of utter-
ance may greatly impress them, our very prayers may make an impression upon
human listeners, but if we have not the love of God in the heart, they will not
reach the throne. Eloquence of speech either from the pulpit, or in private
conversation, counts for nothing if the loving spirit of our Master is not pres-
ent in the life of the one who utters the words.

“Many offer prayer in a dry, sermonizing manner. These pray to men, not
to God. If they were praying to God, and really understood what they were
doing, they would be alarmed at their audacity; for they deliver a discourse
to the Lord in the mode of prayer, as though the Creator of the universe needed special information upon general questions in relation to things transpiring in the world. All such prayers are as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal."—"Testimonies," vol. 2, p. 581.

Lesson 2—October 13, 1934

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Love and the Prophetic Gift

MEMORY VERSE: "Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; . . . and have not love, I am nothing." 1 Cor. 13:2.


The Lesson

SOURCE OF THE PROPHETIC GIFT


2. Who then speaks through the human agent? Ex. 4:11, 12.

3. How did the Lord say He would make known His will to a prophet? In what very personal and direct way did God speak to and through Moses? Num. 12:6-8.

4. By what may we know that God has called an individual to prophesy? Jer. 28:9; Num. 16:28-32. (See also Isa. 8:19; 20; Matt. 7:16; 1 John 4:1-4; Deut. 13:1-4.)

Note.—Moses had through the years of Israel's sojourn in the wilderness been God's spokesman, His prophet. In Israel's experience a time had come when through the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, his inspiration and leadership were challenged. Under inspiration and direction of Heaven Moses accepted the challenge and named the conditions of the test, the fulfillment of the word he had received from God. "The eyes of all Israel were fixed upon Moses, as they stood, in terror and expectation, awaiting the event. As he ceased speaking, the solid earth parted, and the rebels went down alive into the pit, with all that pertained to them, and 'they perished from among the congregation.' The people fled, self-condemned as partakers in the sin."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 400, 401.

PROPHECY WITHOUT LOVE VALUELESS

5. What experience demonstrates that the prophetic word is not governed by the desires of the prophet? Num. 23:5, 12, 20, 26; 24:13.

Note.—"Disappointed in his hopes of wealth and promotion, in disfavor with the king, and conscious that he had incurred the displeasure of God,
Balaam returned from his self-chosen mission. After he had reached his home, the controlling power of the Spirit of God left him, and his covetousness, which had been merely held in check, prevailed. He was ready to resort to any means to gain the reward promised by Balak. Balaam knew that the prosperity of Israel depended upon their obedience to God, and that there was no way to cause their overthrow but by seducing them into sin. He now decided to secure Balak's favor by advising the Moabites of the course to be pursued to bring a curse upon Israel:

"In the war of Israel against the Midianites, Balaam was slain. He had felt a presentiment that his own end was near when he exclaimed, 'Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.' But he had not chosen to live the life of the righteous, and his destiny was fixed with the enemies of God."—Id., pp. 451, 452.

**THE PLACE OF PROPHECY IN THE CHURCH**


**Note.**—God reveals to His servants those things which are to come. So far as it is for His children's good to know His purpose, He withholds no knowledge. "Man cannot by searching find out God. Let none seek with presumptuous hand to lift the veil that conceals His glory. 'Unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out.' It is a proof of His mercy that there is the hiding of His power; for to lift the veil that conceals the divine presence is death. No mortal mind can penetrate the secrecy in which the Mighty One dwells and works. Only that which He sees fit to reveal can we comprehend of Him. Reason must acknowledge an authority superior to itself. Heart and intellect must bow to the great I AM."—Testimonies," vol. 8, p. 285.


8. With whom are the secrets of the Lord? Prov. 3:32; Matt. 13:11, 35.

**SEEK KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF MYSTERIES**

9. What deep spiritual mystery has it been given the saints to understand? Col. 1:25-27.

**Note.**—The mystery revealed to every saint of God is "Christ in you, the hope of glory." As this mystery is revealed, Christ becomes a reality to the individual.

"When we trust God fully, when we rely upon the merits of Jesus as a sin-pardoning Saviour, we shall receive all the help that we can desire. Let none look to self, as though they had power to save themselves. Jesus died for us because we were helpless to do this. In Him is our hope, our justification, our righteousness."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 431.

"If we are Christ's, our sweetest thoughts will be of Him. We shall love to talk of Him; and as we speak to one another of His love, our hearts will be softened by divine influences. Beholding the beauty of His character, we shall be 'changed into the same image from glory to glory.'"—"The Desire of Ages," p. 83.

10. What counsel does Solomon give to the youth? Prov. 2:1, 2.

**Note.**—"The knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ expressed in character is an exaltation above everything else that is esteemed on earth or in heaven.
It is the very highest education. It is the key that opens the portals of the heavenly city. This knowledge it is God's purpose that all who put on Christ shall possess."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 457.

11. How diligently should one seek for understanding of the word of God? What is promised to those who strive earnestly to obtain wisdom? Verses 3-6.

12. Whence may wisdom and knowledge be obtained? Col. 2:3.

13. To whom will wisdom be given? What will be the experience of one in whom the word of God dwells? Col. 3:10, 16.

   Note.—"God is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the strength they need, and to give them the wisdom that their varied necessities demand. He will more than fulfill the highest expectations of those who put their trust in Him."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 242.

14. Although prophecy, the understanding of the mysteries, and knowledge are to be desired by the Christian, what surpasses them all? 1 Cor. 13:2.

   Note.—One may be endowed with many gifts, God's bounties and blessings may have been richly bestowed in knowledge and understanding, and with the ability to foretell future events, yet what are these without the spirit which sent our Saviour to earth to die for men? God loved. Christ loved to the end. Without this priceless gift and attribute of Christian life all else is nothing.

Lesson 3 —October 20, 1934

DAILY LESSON STUDY: Place a check mark in the proper space.

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Faith and Love

MEMORY VERSE: "Though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing." 1 Cor. 13:2, last part.


The Lesson

FAITH ESSENTIAL TO THE CHRISTIAN


   Note.—"Faith is trusting in God,—believing that He loves us, and knows what is for our best good. Thus, instead of our own way, it leads us to choose His way. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness. Our lives, ourselves, are already His; faith acknowledges His ownership, and accepts its blessing. Truth, uprightness, purity, are pointed out as secrets of life's success. It is faith that puts us in possession of these. Every good impulse
or aspiration is the gift of God; faith receives from God the life that alone can produce true growth and efficiency."—"Gospel Workers," p. 259.

2. What example of the faith of a righteous man is given by the apostle Paul? 2 Cor. 4:8, 9, 16-18.

Note.—"In the religion of Christ there is a regenerating influence that transforms the entire being, lifting men above every debasing, groveling vice, and raising the thoughts and desires toward God and heaven. Linked to the Infinite One, man is made partaker of the divine nature. Upon him the shafts of evil have no effect; for he is clothed with the panoply of Christ’s righteousness."—"Counsels to Teachers," pp. 51, 52.

3. What promise is made to the man whose faith lays hold on God? Isa. 26:3.


Note.—"They [the children of Israel] had not realized that their faith was only a nominal faith, and had lost its power to prevail with God. The law of God, contained in the ark, was also a symbol of His presence; but they had cast contempt upon the commandments, had despised their requirements, and had grieved the Spirit of the Lord from among them. . . . They looked to the ark as the idolatrous nations looked to their gods, as if it possessed in itself the elements of power and salvation. They transgressed the law it contained; for their very worship of the ark led to formalism, hypocrisy, and idolatry. Their sin had separated them from God, and He could not give them the victory until they had repented of and forsaken their iniquity."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 584.

THE FRUITAGE OF FAITH

5. By what means is peace brought to the human heart? Rom. 5:1; Isa. 32:17.

Note.—"Sin has destroyed our peace. While self is unsubdued, we can find no rest. The masterful passions of the heart no human power can control. We are as helpless here as were the disciples to quiet the raging storm. But He who spoke peace to the billows of Galilee, has spoken the word of peace for every soul. However fierce the tempest, those who turn to Jesus with the cry, 'Lord, save us,' will find deliverance. His grace, that reconciles the soul to God, quiets the strife of human passion, and in His love the heart is at rest."—"The Desire of Ages," pp. 336, 337.

6. By whose power does true faith stand? 1 Cor. 2:5.


Note.—"Bear in mind, the time will never come when the hellish shadow of Satan will not be cast athwart our pathway to obstruct our faith. . . . Our faith must not stagger, but cleave through that shadow. We have an experience that is not to be buried in the darkness of doubt. Our faith is not in feeling; but in truth. The inspired apostle speaks of our being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone."—"Testimonies to Ministers," p. 387.


Note.—Should there be any difficulty in understanding this text, it may be made plain by Moffett’s translation:
“My brothers, as you believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Glory, pay no servile regard to people.” That is, do not neglect one and honor another on account of the rich clothing of one and the poor garments of another, as the three verses following point out.

9. Upon whom is a blessing pronounced? To what is he compared? Jer. 17:7, 8.

Note.—“When the testing time shall come, those who have made God’s word their rule of life will be revealed. . . . The false-hearted professor may not now be distinguished from the real Christian, but the time is just upon us when the difference will be apparent. Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the half-hearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, than in days of prosperity.”—“The Great Controversy,” p. 602.

10. What did Christ say had brought about the healing of a sorely afflicted woman? Matt. 9:22.

11. What may one who rests his faith in God expect to receive? 1 Peter 1:7, 9.

Note.—“God has always tried His people in the furnace of affliction. It is in the heat of the furnace that the dross is separated from the true gold of the Christian character. Jesus watches the test; He knows what is needed to purify the precious metal, that it may reflect the radiance of His love. It is by close, testing trials that God disciplines His servants.”—“Patriarchs and Prophets,” p. 129.

12. How much is possible to him who has faith? Mark 9:23.

Note.—“Faith is an essential element of prevailing prayer. . . . With the persevering faith of Jacob, with the unyielding persistence of Elijah, we may present our petitions to the Father, claiming all that He has promised. The honor of His throne is staked for the fulfillment of His word.”—“Prophets and Kings,” pp. 157, 158.

VICTORY THROUGH FAITH WITH LOVE


Note.—“In life’s conflict, we must meet evil agencies that have arrayed themselves against the right. Our hope is not in man, but in the living God. With full assurance of faith, we may expect that He will unite His omnipotence with the efforts of human instrumentalities, for the glory of His name. Clad with the armor of His righteousness, we may gain the victory over every foe.”—Id., p. 111.

“Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power.”—“Gospel Workers,” p. 261.

14. After steadfastly maintaining his faith, what cry of victory did Paul utter near the close of his life? 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

16. What statement concerning faith was made by the Saviour to His disciples? Mark 11:23.

17. How did the apostle Paul use a similar statement to emphasize the need of love in Christian experience? 1 Cor. 13:2, last part.

Note.—“Love, true love for our fellow men, evinces love to God. We may make a high profession, yet without this love it is nothing. Our faith may lead us to even give our bodies to be burned, yet without self-sacrificing love, such as lived in the bosom of Jesus, and was exemplified in His life, we are as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.”—“Testimonies,” vol. 2, p. 116.

Lesson 4—October 27, 1934

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Love and Christian Duty

MEMORY VERSE: “Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, ... and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.” 1 Cor. 13:3.


The Lesson

IN BEHALF OF THE NEEDY


Note.—“Practical work will have far more effect than mere sermonizing. We are to give food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, and shelter to the homeless. And we are called to do more than this. The wants of the soul, only the love of Christ can satisfy. If Christ is abiding in us, our hearts will be full of divine sympathy. The sealed fountains of earnest, Christlike love will be unsealed.”—“Christ’s Object Lessons,” p. 417.

2. What attitude were His disciples to maintain toward earthly possessions? Where would their treasure be? What were they to seek? Luke 12:33, 34, 31.

3. Because the poor should never cease out of the land, what were the children of Israel instructed to do for them? Deut. 15:7, 8, 11.

Note.—“At times following the return of the exiles from Babylon, the wealthy Jews had gone directly contrary to these commands. When the poor were obliged to borrow to pay tribute to the king, the wealthy had lent them money, but had exacted a high rate of interest. By taking mortgages on the lands of the poor, they had gradually reduced the unfortunate debtors to the deepest poverty. Many had been forced to sell their sons and daughters into slavery.”
servitude; and there seemed no hope of improving their condition, no way to redeem either their children or their lands, no prospect before them but ever-increasing distress, with perpetual want and bondage. Yet they were of the same nation, children of the same covenant, as their more favored brethren."


The instruction given of God to ancient Israel contains principles of truth and equity that should be heeded by the church to-day. The man who has love for God will not burden the lives of his brethren. He will seek to ameliorate the hardships, provide for the needs, and soften the blows that fall upon the helpless and improvident.

4. What were those who possessed this world's goods to practice in their Christian living? 1 Tim. 6:17, 18.

5. Even though the needy were strangers, what attitude should Israel take toward them? Lev. 25:35, 37.

6. What experience should have made Israel sympathetic toward the stranger? Ex. 23:9.

Note.—Had Israel obeyed these injunctions and shown kindness toward those not of their race and religion, their influence upon surrounding nations would have been much wider and more effective. Likewise were every believer to-day truly representative of the kindly, loving, long-suffering Man of Calvary, the influence of the life would be beyond computation in drawing men to Christ.

THE MEASURE AND PURPOSE OF GIVING

7. What commendation is given to one who gives even a cup of cold water to another? Mark 9:41.

8. In what spirit should all giving be done? Whom are we told God loves? 2 Cor. 9:6, 7.

9. For what purpose is no gift or liberality to be manifest? What assurance is given that the Father beholds our secret acts? Matt. 6:1-4.

Note.—"Jesus had shown in what righteousness consists, and had pointed to God as its source. Now He turned to practical duties. In almsgiving, in prayer, in fasting, He said, let nothing be done to attract attention or win praise to self. Give in sincerity, for the benefit of the suffering poor. In prayer, let the soul commune with God. In fasting, go not with the head bowed down, and heart filled with thoughts of self. . . . It is he who yields himself most unreservedly to God that will render Him the most acceptable service. For through fellowship with God men become workers together with Him in presenting His character in humanity."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 312.

10. For whom is every kindness and gift of love to others reckoned? Matt. 25:35-40.

11. Who is pleased with the sacrifices made in sharing our possessions with others? Heb. 13:16.

12. What is an acceptable part of the fast God has chosen for His people in the last days? Isa. 58:6, 7.

13. What cannot be accepted in place of definite help for those in need? James 2:15, 16.
NOTE.—"Divine truth exerts little influence upon the world, when it should exert much influence through our practice. The mere profession of religion abounds, but it has little weight. We may claim to be followers of Christ, we may claim to believe every truth in the word of God; but this will do our neighbor no good unless our belief is carried into our daily life. Our profession may be as high as heaven, but it will save neither ourselves nor our fellow men unless we are Christians. A right example will do more to benefit the world than all our profession."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 383.

JUSTICE AND LOVE MUST ACCOMPANY GIVING


15. With what must our gifts to those in need always be accompanied to be acceptable to the Lord? 1 Cor. 13:3.

NOTE.—It is love alone which draws man to Christ. It matters little what may be the greatness of our gifts, of money, of ministry, of ourselves,—if the gift carry not with it the love of an overflowing heart, it is profitless to the giver.

"However wretched may be the specimens of humanity that men spurn and turn aside from, they are not too low, too wretched, for the notice and love of God. Christ longs to have care-worn, weary, oppressed human beings come to Him. He longs to give them the light and joy and peace that are to be found nowhere else. The veriest sinners are the objects of His deep, earnest pity and love. He sends His Holy Spirit to yearn over them with tenderness, seeking to draw them to Himself."—Id., p. 226.

Lesson 5—November 3, 1934

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Love With Long-suffering and Kindness

MEMORY VERSE: "Though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing. Love suffereth long, and is kind." 1 Cor. 13:3, 4.


The Lesson

LONG-SUFFERING COUNSELED

1. What did the apostle Paul endure that he might stand approved as the minister of God? What qualities of heart and mind are included in this list? 2 Cor. 6:4-6.

2. In the ministry of God's word to the lost, what spirit is to be shown? 2 Tim. 4:2, last clause.
3. What spirit should be shown by believers one to another? Whose example do we thus follow? Col. 3:12, 13.

   NOTE.—"Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate, and see as little as possible of their errors and failings. When tempted to complain of what some one has said or done, praise something in that person's life or character. Cultivate thankfulness. Praise God for His wonderful love in giving Christ to die for us. It never pays to think of our grievances. God calls upon us to think of His mercy and His matchless love, that we may be inspired with praise."—"Gospel Workers," p. 479.


   NOTE.—"If impatient words are spoken to you, never reply in the same spirit. Remember that 'a soft answer turneth away wrath.' And there is wonderful power in silence. Words spoken in reply to one who is angry sometimes serve only to exasperate; but anger met with silence, in a tender, forbearing spirit, quickly dies away. Under a storm of stinging, faultfinding words, keep the mind stayed upon the word of God. Let mind and heart be stored with God's promises."—Id., pp. 475, 476.

5. Of what is long-suffering the fruitage? Gal. 5:22.

THE LAW OF KINDNESS


7. What should be the attitude of one who ministers to the weak and erring? For what reason? Heb. 5:1, 2.

   NOTE.—"There is tactful work for the under shepherd to do as he is called to meet alienation, bitterness, envy, and jealousy in the church; and he will need to labor in the spirit of Christ to set things in order. Faithful warnings are to be given, sins rebuked, wrongs made right, both by the minister's work in the pulpit and by personal labor. The wayward heart may take exception to the message, and the servant of God be misjudged and criticized. Let him then remember that 'the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.'"—Id., pp. 185, 186.

8. How should the Christian relate himself toward his neighbor? Rom. 15:1, 2, 5.

9. What will be the reward of a merciful, kindly attitude? Matt. 5:7.

10. How deep should the feeling of kindness go? Zech. 7:9, 10.

   NOTE.—We have this comment on the text: "Rich were the rewards, both temporal and spiritual, promised those who should put into practice these principles of righteousness."—"Prophets and Kings," p. 704. God blesses abundantly the man or woman who manifests the spirit of love and kindness, who does not judge his brother, but shows mercy and compassion toward all, especially to those in need or to those who suffer through the neglect of others. For a time the one showing mercy, compassion, or true brotherly kindness may apparently see little to reward his services of love. But God sees. He does not forget, and to those who obediently carry out these principles in their lives, sure rewards are promised.

{[14]}
11. What does the wise man say is one of the attributes of a true woman? Prov. 31:26.

12. What should be our attitude toward one who has been overtaken in a fault? In bearing the burdens of others, whose law are we fulfilling? Gal. 6:1, 2.

13. With what should our love for the brethren be accompanied? 1 Peter 3:8.

Note.—"Courteous is one of the graces of the Spirit. To deal with human minds is the greatest work ever given to man; and he who would find access to hearts must heed the injunction, 'Be pitiful, be courteous.' Love will do that which argument will fail to accomplish. But a moment's petulance, a single gruff answer, a lack of Christian politeness and courtesy in some small matter, may result in the loss of both friends and influence."—"Gospel Workers," p. 121.

LOVE THE IMPELLING POWER


15. In our relations with others, what alone demonstrates that this love dwells in us? 1 John 3:17.

Note.—"In placing among them the helpless and the poor, to be dependent upon their care, Christ tests His professed followers. By our love and service for His needy children we prove the genuineness of our love for Him. To neglect them is to declare ourselves false disciples, strangers to Christ and His love."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 205.


Note.—"The Son of God is Himself the great intercessor in the sinner's behalf. He who has paid the price for its redemption knows the worth of the human soul. With an antagonism to evil such as can exist only in a nature spotlessly pure, Christ manifested toward the sinner a love which infinite goodness alone could conceive. In the agonies of the crucifixion, Himself burdened with the awful weight of the sins of the whole world, He prayed for His revilers and murderers, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.' "—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 140. In the same loving spirit of forgiveness, Stephen, under the stoning of his enemies, cried, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." This spirit of love and long-suffering must dominate Christ's followers. No spirit of revenge, no reaction of hatred—only pity, kindness, long-suffering—can be permitted in the life of the Christian.

17. Though the surrender of the life to Christ seems to be complete, what alone reveals it to be genuine, and therefore acceptable to God? 1 Cor. 13:3, 4.

Note.—It is possible to suffer, even to die without complaint upon our lips, and still fall far short of the ideals of God and our Saviour. Though we give our all and pass away in physical and mental agony, and yet carry with us a bitter hatred for those who made us suffer, it will be unavailing, for only those who love are Christlike. "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:44, 45. "Love suffereth long, and is kind" is closely akin to "His compassions" that "fail not." Lam. 3:22.

[15]
Lesson 6—November 10, 1934

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Love and Our Neighbor

MEMORY VERSE: "Love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up; doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil." 1 Cor. 13:4, 5.


The Lesson

THE SIN OF ENVY

1. In what spiritual condition did the psalmist at one time find himself? What caused his backsliding? What did he say further of his experience? What did God make known to him that changed his heart? Ps. 73:2, 3, 12-14, 17, 18.

Note.—The psalmist was envious of the temporal prosperity of the worldly, pleasure-seeking men all about him, just as so many to-day stand covetously looking upon their neighbor's abundance. To the psalmist God gave a vision of the latter end of the transgressor, who, though he might apparently prosper in this world, could not hope to escape the penalty of his pleasure seeking, of his grasping selfishness, or of his flaunting disregard of the claims of the needy, or those to whom he might have given temporal or spiritual comfort. Far more to be desired is poverty with righteousness than abundance with no future hope. This the psalmist finally realized.

2. Of whom should we never be envious? To whom is the wayward man an abomination? Prov. 3:31, 32.


"FRET NOT;' "GRUDGE NOT"

5. Against what other evil does the psalmist warn us? What does he counsel us to do? Ps. 37:1, 7.


Note.—The meaning of "grudge" is to grumble, begrudge, or to envy, and also "to be loath to give, or to give with reluctance."—Webster. To envy others, to begrudge them what is theirs, is but to condemn ourselves. To allow this evil spirit to take possession of our hearts would be to bring condemnation from the Judge who "standeth before the door."

7. Why cannot envy enter a heart that loves? 1 Cor. 13:4, second clause.

[ 16 ]
8. From the example of Israel, what may we learn concerning the danger facing God's children in prosperity? If God be forgotten and pride enter, what is inevitable? Deut. 8:11-14, 17-20.


Note.—"It is God who gives men power to get wealth; and in the hands of him who acts as God's steward, using his means unselfishly, wealth is a blessing, both to its possessor and to the world. But many, absorbed in their interest in worldly treasures, become insensible to the claims of God and the needs of their fellow men. They regard their wealth as a means of glorifying themselves. They add house to house, and land to land; they fill their homes with luxuries, while all about them are human beings in misery and crime, in disease and death. Those who thus give their lives to self-serving are developing in themselves, not the attributes of God, but the attributes of the wicked one."—"Ministry of Healing," pp. 212, 213.


11. With what sins of the last days is pride associated? 2 Tim. 3:2.


Note.—"Whenever pride and ambition are indulged, the life is marred; for pride, feeling no need, closes the heart against the infinite blessings of Heaven. He who makes self-glorification his aim will find himself destitute of the grace of God, through whose efficiency the truest riches and the most satisfying joys are won. But he who gives all and does all for Christ will know the fulfillment of the promise, "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it." With the gentle touch of grace, the Saviour banishes from the soul unrest and unholy ambition, changing enmity to love, and unbelief to confidence. When He speaks to the soul, saying, 'Follow Me,' the spell of the world's enchantment is broken. At the sound of His voice, the spirit of greed and ambition flees from the heart, and men arise, emancipated, to follow Him."—"Prophets and Kings," p. 60.

SELF-SEEKING AND ANGER


Note.—"Let Christ, the divine Life, dwell in you, and through you reveal the heaven-born love that will inspire hope in the hopeless, and bring heaven's peace to the sin-stricken heart. As we come to God, this is the condition which meets us at the threshold, that, receiving mercy from Him, we yield ourselves to reveal His grace to others."—"Mount of Blessing," p. 167.

16. What natural traits of character will not therefore be seen in the life of one who loves God? 1 Cor. 13:4, 5, first part.

Note.—Love, through Christ's dwelling in the heart, will manifest itself in every attribute of life. Envy cannot abide where Christ reigns supreme. Pride is utterly absent from the life of the surrendered Christian, and with Paul he will exclaim, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our
Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the
world.” Gal. 6:14. If we follow “in His steps,” our conversation and our ex-
ample will be such as will cause us to “lead a quiet and peaceable life in all
godliness and honesty.” 1 Tim. 2:2. Such is the influence of Christ’s love upon
the heart of His followers.

**Lesson 7—November 17, 1934.**

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**Love and the Thought of Evil**

**MEMORY VERSE:** Love “thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoic-
eth in the truth.” 1 Cor. 13:5, 6.

**LESSON HELP:** “God’s Greatest Gift,” chapter 7.

**The Lesson**

**AS A MAN THINKETH**

1. What naturally follows the thought of the heart? Prov. 23:7, first part.

   **NOTE.**—“As man thinketh in his heart, so is he.’ The heart must be re-
   newed by divine grace, or it will be in vain to seek for purity of life. He who
   attempts to build up a noble, virtuous character independent of the grace of
   Christ, is building his house upon the shifting sand. In the fierce storms of
   temptation it will surely be overthrown. David’s prayer should be the peti-
   tion of every soul: ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit
   within me.’ And having become partakers of the heavenly gift, we are to go
   on unto perfection, being ‘kept by the power of God through faith.’”—“Pa-
   triarchs and Prophets,” p. 460.

   “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he; for ‘out of it are the issues of
   life.’ What a man is, in the most secret desires and purposes of his soul, that is
   his character and life record in the sight of Heaven. ‘The Lord seeth not as
   man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh
   on the heart.’”—“Mount of Blessing,” p. 86, old edition.

2. What is one reason for our being lenient with those in fault? Eccl. 7:22.


   **NOTE.**—“He [God] hates sin, but He loves the sinner, and He gave Him-
   self in the person of Christ, that all who would, might be saved, and have
eternal blessedness in the kingdom of glory. What stronger or more tender
language could have been employed than he has chosen in which to express His
love toward us? He declares, 'Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she
should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget,
yet will I not forget thee.' Isa. 49:15.'—"Steps to Christ," pp. 59, 60.

LOVERS OF TRUTH

5. What does God desire should be in the hearts of His children? Ps.
51:6, first part.

6. Upon what are we admonished to think? Phil. 4:8. Answer—"What-
soever things are true."

7. Whom did John say the world beheld dwelling among them? With
what was He filled? John 1:14.

Note.—"John had begun to discern the glory of Christ,—not the worldly
pomp and power for which he had been taught to hope, but 'the glory as of
the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.' The depth and fervor
of John's affection for his Master was not the cause of Christ's love for him,
but the effect of that love. John desired to become like Jesus; and under the
transforming influence of the love of Christ, he did become meek and lowly.
Self was hid in Jesus. Above all his companions, John yielded himself to the
power of that wondrous life. He says, 'The life was manifested, and we have

Like John, the follower of Christ must see in Jesus the one altogether
lovely, full of grace and truth, the center of his affection. Christ so revealed
will be seen in our lives, and we in turn will have a "saving, transforming in-
fluence upon the lives of others."


UNITED TO CHRIST BY LOVE OF TRUTH

9. If we regard iniquity in our hearts, from whom are we separated?
Ps. 66:18.

Note.—"Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. The eye
of faith will discern God very near, and the suppliant may obtain precious
evidence of the divine love and care for him. But why is it that so many
prayers are never answered? Says David, 'I cried unto the Lord with my
mouth, and He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart,
the Lord will not hear me.' By another prophet, the Lord gives us the prom-
ise, 'Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your
heart.' Again, He speaks of some who 'have not cried unto Me with their
heart.' Such petitions are prayers of form, lip service only, which the Lord
does not accept."—"Testimonies," vol. 4, pp. 533, 534.

10. Who only will be able to dwell in God's holy hill? Ps. 15:1-3.

Note.—One who "speaketh the truth in his heart" is not a "man of pre-
tenses; speaking one thing, and meaning another. He professes nothing but
what he feels and intends;—with him there are no hollow friendships, vain
compliments, nor empty professions of esteem, love, regard, or friendship. His
mouth speaks nothing but what his heart dictates. His heart, his tongue, and
his hand, are all in unison. Hypocrisy, guile, and deceit, have no place in his
soul."—Adam Clarke.

12. What will the Lord do for such a one? Verse 13.

**NOTE.**—"The only power that can create or perpetuate true peace is the grace of Christ. When this is implanted in the heart, it will cast out the evil passions that cause strife and dissension. 'Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree;' and life's desert 'shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.'"—"The Desire of Ages," p. 305.

The transforming influence of Jesus Christ upon the lives of men and women sunk in the depths of sin and heathen superstition has been amply demonstrated in modern missions. In Africa, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea, His Spirit has changed robbers into soul winners, blood-thirsty cannibals into peace-loving people, drunken debauchees into sober Christian leaders, examples of transforming grace, while drawing from the depths of superstition and darkness tens of thousands whose lives have been illuminated by grace and given a fadeless hope of eternal life. To the prophet it was as the transformation of a thorn into a fir tree and of a brier into a myrtle tree. These transformations are to God "for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

13. If we love God with all the heart, whom also will we love? 1 John 4:20, 21.

14. What, therefore, will be our attitude toward those we love? 1 Cor. 13:5, 6.

**NOTE.**—The spirit of love cherishes no evil thought against another; that spirit in pity and true sympathy seeks to lift the guilty to new heights in Christ; it develops the truest and best in individual life and character. Such was the Christ. Such is true love.

**Lesson 8 — November 24, 1934**

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**Love the Companion of Patience and Perseverance**

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Love . . . beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." 1 Cor. 13:7.

**LESSON HELP:** "God’s Greatest Gift," chapter 8.

**The Lesson**

**LOVE BEareth AND Endureth**

1. What counsel does the Lord give concerning the Christian’s enduring hardness? 2 Tim. 2:3.
2. What is one necessary qualification of God's servants? 2 Tim. 4:5. 

Answer—"Endure afflictions."

3. Although the servant of Christ may sometimes fall into discouragement, what hopeless condition cannot be his? Why? Ps. 37:24.


NOTE.—"The Saviour had not come to set aside what patriarchs and prophets had spoken; for He Himself had spoken through these representative men. All the truths of God's word came from Him. But these priceless gems had been placed in false settings. Their precious light had been made to minister to error. God desired them to be removed from their settings of error and replaced in the framework of truth. This work only a divine hand could accomplish. By its connection with error, the truth had been serving the cause of the enemy of God and man. Christ had come to place it where it would glorify God, and work the salvation of humanity."—"The Desire of Ages," pp. 287, 288.

The warning of the apostle to the church to beware lest they be "led away with the error of the wicked," is timely for the church to-day. As in Christ's day the tendency in the church to-day is to mix error, the false philosophies of men, with sacred truth; to destroy not by direct attack but by compromising with the thought of evil, by specious reasoning that glosses over unrighteousness and destroys the high standards of Christian teaching and practice.

5. What trying experiences does the apostle Paul mention as not being sufficient to separate us from the love of Christ? Of what was he fully persuaded? Rom. 8:35-39.

NOTE.—"Though now He has ascended to the presence of God, and shares the throne of the universe, Jesus has lost none of His compassionate nature. To-day the same tender, sympathizing heart is open to all the woes of humanity. To-day the hand that was pierced is reached forth to bless more abundantly His people that are in the world. 'And they shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.' The soul that has given himself to Christ is more precious in His sight than the whole world. The Saviour would have passed through the agony of Calvary, that one might be saved in His kingdom. He will never abandon one for whom He has died. Unless His followers choose to leave Him, He will hold them fast. Through all our trials we have a never-failing Helper. He does not leave us alone to struggle with temptation, to battle with evil, and be finally crushed with burdens and sorrow."—Id., pp. 480, 481.

6. What is reserved for those who are faithful? Heb. 11:39, 40.

7. What should the loyalty of those of old encourage us to do? In so doing, whose example do we follow? Heb. 12:1, 2.

NOTE.—"Love for souls for whom Christ died, means crucifixion of self. He who is a child of God should henceforth look upon himself as a link in the chain let down to save the world, one with Christ in His plan of mercy, going forth with Him to seek and save the lost. The Christian is ever to realize that he has consecrated himself to God, and that in character he is to reveal Christ to the world. The self-sacrifice, the sympathy, the love, manifested in the life of Christ, are to reappear in the life of the worker for God. . . .

[21]
“Beyond the poverty and humiliation of the present, He pointed the disciples to His coming in glory, not in the splendor of an earthly throne, but with the glory of God and the hosts of heaven.”—Id., p. 417.


9. How is this promise of salvation stated by the revelator? Rev. 2:10, last part.

Note.—“The season of distress before God’s people will call for a faith that will not falter. His children must make it manifest that He is the only object of their worship, and that no consideration, not even that of life itself, can induce them to make the least concession to false worship. To the loyal heart the commands of sinful, finite men will sink into insignificance beside the word of the eternal God. Truth will be obeyed though the result be imprisonment or exile or death.

“He who walked with the Hebrew worthies in the fiery furnace will be with His followers wherever they are. His abiding presence will comfort and sustain. In the midst of the time of trouble,—trouble such as has not been since there was a nation,—His chosen ones will stand unmoved.”—“Prophets and Kings,” pp. 512, 513.

LOVE BELIEVETH

10. When in danger of discouragement, to whom did the psalmist turn? Ps. 42:11.

Note.—“Nothing more quickly inspires faith than the exercise of faith.”—Id., p. 351. Speaking of the experience of Elijah at Carmel, the same volume, page 157, says, “Faith such as this is needed in the world to-day,—faith that will lay hold on the promises of God’s word, and refuse to let go until Heaven hears. Faith such as this connects us closely with Heaven, and brings us strength for coping with the powers of darkness. . . . And through faith we to-day are to reach the heights of God’s purpose for us.”


Note.—“Another element of prevailing prayer is faith. . . . The assurance is broad and unlimited, and He is faithful who has promised. When we do not receive the very things we ask for, at the time we ask, we are still to believe that the Lord hears, and that He will answer our prayers. We are so erring and shortsighted that we sometimes ask for things that would not be a blessing to us, and our heavenly Father in love answers our prayers by giving us that which will be for our highest good.”—“Steps to Christ,” p. 100.

13. What is the sustaining power in the lives of the just and true? Rom. 1:17.

Note.—“A living faith like threads of gold should run through the daily experience in the performance of little duties. . . . Then all the daily work will be of such a character as to promote Christian growth. Then the vital principles of faith, trust, and love for Jesus will penetrate into the most minute details of daily life. There will be a looking unto Jesus, and love for Him will be the continual motive, giving vital force to every duty that is undertaken. There will be a striving after righteousness, a hope that ‘maketh not ashamed.’ Whatever is done will be done to the glory of God.”—“Testimonies,” vol. 6, p. 171.
LOVE HOPETH

14. What was Job’s attitude in God’s dealings with Him? Job 13:15.

15. When Paul’s long conflict in service for Christ was near its end, of what was he supremely confident? 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

Note.—“Ransomed by the sacrifice of Christ, washed from sin in His blood, and clothed in His righteousness, Paul has the witness in himself that his soul is precious in the sight of his Redeemer. His life is hid with Christ in God, and he is persuaded that He who has conquered death is able to keep that which is committed to His trust. His mind grasps the Saviour’s promise, ‘I will raise him up at the last day.’ His thoughts and hopes are centered on the second coming of his Lord. And as the sword of the executioner descends, and the shadows of death gather about the martyr, his latest thought springs forward, as will his earliest in the great awakening, to meet the Life-giver, who shall welcome him to the joy of the blest.”—“The Acts of the Apostles,” pp. 512, 513.

16. What, then, may the world expect of every Christian who has Christ’s spirit of love in the heart? 1 Cor. 13:4, 7.

Note.—If love abide in the heart of the follower of Christ, forbearance will be an attribute of the soul. If love is an indwelling presence, its possessor will see the good, the spark of divine fire, in every heart, and will seek to fan it into flame. If love be the glass through which our eyes behold, hope will spring anew from every cheerless prospect and after every crushing blow. Yea, if love supreme, Christlike, be the current that revivifies our beings, no torture of human devising, no conflict that may rage within or without, can eradicate its holding power—it will endure as seeing Him, who to others, is invisible, for love endures.

Lesson 9—December 1, 1934

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Unfailing Love

MEMORY VERSE: “Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.” 1 Cor. 13:8.


The Lesson

THE BOND OF PERFECTNESS

1. What did the apostle Paul expressly desire for both himself and the believers? 1 Thess. 3:12.

[ 23 ]
2. After an experience of repentance and revival, in what graces did the church at Corinth abound? What wish did Paul express concerning another grace? To whose example did he refer? 2 Cor. 8:7, 9.

Note.—“You know the height from which He [Christ] stooped, the depth of humiliation to which He descended. His feet entered upon the path of sacrifice, and turned not aside until He had given His life. There was no rest for Him between the throne in heaven and the cross. His love for man led Him to welcome every indignity, and suffer every abuse.

“In the life of Christ, everything was made subordinate to His work, the great work of redemption which He came to accomplish. And the same devotion, the same self-denial and sacrifice, the same subjection to the claims of the word of God, is to be manifest in His disciples.”—“Ministry of Healing,” pp. 501, 502.


4. What other attributes are coupled with love? Verses 12, 13.

5. How would men recognize the spirit of love in the lives of the disciples? John 13:34, 35.

LOVE EVER SERVES

6. In what manner did Christ manifest His love in the upper chamber? Verses 14, 15.

Note.—Christ taught His disciples in the service of humility the lesson of humble, loving ministry. It was the duty of one of their number to wash the dusty feet of his fellows before partaking of the evening meal. Instead, pride filled their hearts. Each was waiting for some other to perform this humble service. But no one moved. All were seemingly unconcerned. Before this hour of the Passover supper they had been contending among themselves as to who should be greatest. Under these conditions the Saviour instituted the service of humility, a continuous reminder that we should, like Him, be willing to serve others under any conditions, and in any manner, if by this means we might win them as followers of our Lord.


Note.—“Those whom Christ commends in the judgment, may have known little of theology, but they have cherished His principles. Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them.

“His [Christ’s] followers are not to feel themselves detached from the perishing world around them. They are a part of the great web of humanity; and Heaven looks upon them as brothers to sinners as well as to saints. The fallen, the erring, and the sinful, Christ’s love embraces; and every deed of kindness done to uplift a fallen soul, every act of mercy, is accepted as done to Him.”—“The Desire of Ages,” p. 638.

8. How had the believers in Paul’s day given evidence of having found salvation? Heb. 6:9, 10.


10. What is the end or object of the commands of God? 1 Thm. 1:5.
NOTE.—"Ten precepts, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, cover the duty of man to God and to his fellow man; and all based upon the great fundamental principle of love. ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.’ In the Ten Commandments these principles are carried out in detail, and made applicable to the condition and circumstances of man."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 305.

The end of the law—its objective—its goal—is to restore love between God and man and between man and his fellow man. Without an acceptance of these principles and the practice of them in the life, love is impossible.

THE FORBEARANCE OF LOVE

11. How may we fulfill the law of Christ? Gal. 6:1, 2.

12. How will this spirit manifest itself among the brethren? Eph. 4:1, 2, 32.


NOTE.—"In a special sense, Christ has laid upon His church the duty of caring for the needy among its own members. He suffers His poor to be in the borders of every church. They are always to be among us, and He places upon the members of the church a personal responsibility to care for them."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 201.

LOVE NEVER FAILETH

14. If we follow Christ's example, how long will this spirit of self-sacrificing love continue? John 13:1.

15. Though all else should fail, what will endure eternally? 1 Cor. 13:8.

NOTE.—Men may fail,—their plans, their prophecies, their wisdom, even their regard for one another. God's love is stronger than the strongest known human tie. Christ's love led Him to give Himself to death for man. That love imparted to His followers will give them also a love that "never faileth" in its attitude toward the Giver, toward God's own, and toward our enemies. Matt. 5:44, 48. God's love never fails.

‘Love 'never faileth.' It can never lose its value; it is the attribute of Heaven. As a precious treasure, it will be carried by its possessor through the portals of the city of God. . . . Let each ask himself: Do I possess the grace of love? Have I learned to suffer long, and to be kind? Talents, learning, and eloquence, without this heavenly attribute, will be as meaningless as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. Alas that this precious treasure is so lightly valued and so little sought by many who profess the faith!'—"Testimonies," vol. 5, p. 169.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

December 29, 1934

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS AND MALAYSIA
From Christian Childhood to Christian Manhood

MEMORY VERSE: "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. 4:18.


The Lesson

THE BIRTH OF THE CHRISTIAN


2. Through what agency does this experience come? Verses 5, 8.

   NOTE.—"While the wind is itself invisible, it produces effects that are seen and felt. So the work of the Spirit upon the soul will reveal itself in every act of him who has felt its saving power. When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the light of heaven. No one sees the hand that lifts the burden, or beholds the light descend from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see, creates a new being in the image of God."—"The Desire of Ages," pp. 172, 173.

3. How does Christ again speak of the spiritual birth? What will be the result of failure in this experience? Matt. 18:3; Mark 10:15.


   NOTE.—"It was not enough for the disciples of Jesus to be instructed as to the nature of His kingdom. What they needed was a change of heart that would bring them into harmony with its principles. Calling a little child to Him, Jesus set him in the midst of them; then tenderly folding the little one in His arms He said, 'Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.' The simplicity, the self-forgetfulness, and the confiding love of a little child are the attributes that Heaven values. These are the characteristics of real greatness."—Id., p. 437.

6. What ordinance indicates to the world that one has been “born again”? Rom. 6:3-5.

NOTE.—“Baptism is a most solemn renunciation of the world. Those who are baptized in the threefold name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, at the very entrance of their Christian life declare publicly that they have forsaken the service of Satan, and have become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King.”—“Testimonies,” vol. 6, p. 91.

THE GROWING CHILD

7. As the Christian develops, what change of spiritual food is suggested as desirable? 1 Cor. 3:2.

8. What condition and need may develop even with one who is an older Christian? Heb. 5:12-14.

9. What should be the natural development of the Christian convert? Prov. 4:18.

NOTE.—“Many who are already members of God’s great family know little of what it means to behold His glory, and to be changed from glory to glory. Many have a twilight perception of Christ’s excellence, and their hearts thrill with joy. They long for a fuller, deeper sense of the Saviour’s love. Let these cherish every desire of the soul after God. The Holy Spirit works with those who will be worked, molds those who will be molded, fashions those who will be fashioned. Give yourselves the culture of spiritual thoughts and holy communings. You have seen but the first rays of the early dawn of His glory. As you follow on to know the Lord, you will know that the ‘path of the righteous is as the light of dawn, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day!’”—“Ministry of Healing,” pp. 503, 504.

“We need constantly a fresh revelation of Christ, a daily experience that harmonizes with His teachings. High and holy attainments are within our reach. Continual progress in knowledge and virtue is God’s purpose for us. His law is the echo of His own voice, giving to all the invitation, ‘Come up higher. Be holy, holier still.’ Every day we may advance in perfection of Christian character.”—Id., p. 503.

10. Of what was Paul confident in connection with the work at Philippi? What description is given of successful Christian development? Phil. 1:6, 9-11.

11. What will be the fruitage of such a life? Col. 1:10.

NOTE.—“In all the busy activity of his [Paul’s] life, he never lost sight of the one great purpose,—to press toward the mark of his high calling. Paul carried with him the atmosphere of heaven. All who associated with him felt the influence of his union with Christ. The fact that his own life exemplified the truth he proclaimed, gave convincing power to his preaching. Here lies the power of the truth. The unstudied, unconscious influence of a holy life is the most convincing sermon that can be given in favor of Christianity.”—“Gospel Workers,” p. 59.

THE END OF THE ROAD

12. What may we expect to see in every Christian experience? 2 Peter 3:18.
13. While in this world, what will be true of our knowledge of the plans of God? When will our knowledge be more complete? 1 Cor. 13:9, 10.

Note.—The newly born son of God, the convert to Christ, is but a babe in his knowledge of spiritual things. Yet that babe in confident faith, submitting its life to the guidance of the all-wise Father, rapidly learns the needed spiritual lessons, quickly becomes able to take solid food, and develops into Christian manhood or womanhood. Nevertheless, even with a lifetime of knowledge and experience of spiritual things, how meager is the measure of wisdom obtained! Even those things which are seen by faith are but partly understood. It will take the endless ages to reveal the fullness of God to His children.


Note.—As a child in Christ one may be excused for his fears or for his lack of confidence or of knowledge. But with the dawn of Christian manhood, when strong meat is required for food, no longer can the excuses of childhood be made. It is as if one physically broken in health begins anew to feed on liquid food, the food of babes, until the body is built up and able to take solid foods again. But when the spiritual structure is restored (he has become a man), faith and confidence and an unquestioned knowledge of God will be his, his childish shortcomings are put away.

Lesson 11 — December 15, 1934

DAILY LESSON STUDY: Place a check mark in the proper space.

SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SABBATH

OFFERING RECORD: Fill in each space with the weekly record.

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The Unknown Becomes the Known

MEMORY VERSE: “Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” 1 Cor. 13:12.


The Lesson

PEACE MIDST SIN AND STRIFE


2. Where does God promise to hide those who trust Him while living in the midst of the evils of the world? Ps. 31:20.

3. What did Christ know would come to His followers due to their acceptance of His teachings? Matt. 10:34-36.

Note.—“The Prince of Peace, He was yet the cause of division. He who came to proclaim glad tidings and to create hope and joy in the hearts of the
children of men, opened a controversy that burns deep and arouses intense passion in the human heart. And He warns His followers, 'In the world ye shall have tribulation.'”—“The Acts of the Apostles,” p. 84.

4. In spite of suffering, what should be the state of the Christian's mind? John 14:27.

Note.—“'Peace I leave with you,' He said, 'My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.' This peace is not the peace that comes through conformity to the world. Christ never purchased peace by compromise with evil. The peace that Christ left His disciples is internal rather than external, and was ever to remain with His witnesses through strife and contention.”—Ibid.

THE HOPE OF HIS PEOPLE


6. While outward circumstances may seem dark and forbidding, to what may we also look forward? Verses 13, 39, 40.

Note.—“Those who are children of Abraham will be seeking the city which He looked for, 'whose builder and maker is God.'”—“Patriarchs and Prophets,” p. 170.


Note.—“The patriarch Job, looking down to the time of Christ's second advent, said, 'Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not a stranger.' To His faithful followers Christ has been a daily companion and familiar friend. They have lived in close contact, in constant communion with God. Upon them the glory of the Lord has risen. In them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ has been reflected. Now they rejoice in the undimmed rays of the brightness and glory of the King in His majesty. They are prepared for the communion of heaven; for they have heaven in their hearts.”—“Christ's Object Lessons,” p. 421.

8. What did Paul assure the church would result from the steadfast holding of their confidence? Heb. 10:35-37.

9. Of what was John the beloved confident? What would every man who had this confidence do? 1 John 3:2, 3.

Note.—Christ “taught that the Christian must be pure in heart and life. Never should he be satisfied with an empty profession. As God is holy in His sphere, so fallen man, through faith in Christ, is to be holy in his sphere.”—“The Acts of the Apostles,” p. 559.

THE FULLNESS OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

10. What glorious prospect lies beyond the horizon of faith for every Christian? 1 Thess. 4:14-18. Answer.—To “ever be with the Lord.”

11. How has the provision made for God's children been described by the revelator? Rev. 21:1, 10-27; 22:1-5.

Note.—“Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it. No finite mind can comprehend the glory of the paradise of God.
"In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called a country. There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the widespreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God's people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home."—"The Great Controversy," p. 675.

12. How does Isaiah, the prophet of hope, describe the sinless land? Isa. 65:21-25.

13. What is the character of the companionship promised to those who dwell in the new earth? In view of the nearness of our seeing Him face to face, what are we admonished to do? 2 Peter 3:13, 14.

Note.—"The greatest praise that men can bring to God is to become consecrated channels through whom He can work. Time is rapidly passing into eternity. Let us not keep back from God that which is His own. Let us not refuse Him that which, though it cannot be given without merit, cannot be denied without ruin.

"As your soul yearns after God, you will find more and still more of the unsearchable riches of His grace. As you contemplate these riches, you will come into possession of them, and will reveal the merits of the Saviour's sacrifice, the protection of His righteousness, the fullness of His wisdom, and His power to present you before the Father 'without spot, and blameless.'"—"The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 566, 567.

14. In the words of the apostle, how are the experiences of this sinful world and of the new earth contrasted? 1 Cor. 13:12.

Note.—"There the redeemed shall know, even as also they are known. The loves and sympathies which God Himself has planted in the soul, shall there find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages, who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, the sacred ties that bind together the whole family in heaven and earth,—these help to constitute the happiness of the redeemed. 'There, immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There is no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body.'"—"The Great Controversy," p. 677.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

December 29, 1934

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS AND MALAYSIA
The Greatest of These Graces

MEMORY VERSE: “Now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Cor. 13:13.


The Lesson

MORE ACCEPTABLE THAN SACRIFICE


2. What did Christ say was the first commandment? What did He say of the second? What comparison did the scribe who questioned Christ make? Mark 12:29-33.

NOTE.—“Both these commandments are an expression of the principle of love. The first cannot be kept and the second broken, nor can the second be kept while the first is broken. When God has His rightful place on the throne of the heart, the right place will be given to our neighbor. We shall love him as ourselves. And only as we love God supremely is it possible to love our neighbor impartially.

“The scribe was near to the kingdom of God, in that he recognized deeds of righteousness as more acceptable to God than burnt offerings and sacrifices. But he needed to recognize the divine character of Christ, and through faith in Him receive power to do the works of righteousness. The ritual service was of no value, unless connected with Christ by living faith. Even the moral law fails of its purpose, unless it is understood in its relation to the Saviour. Christ had repeatedly shown that His Father’s law contained something deeper than mere authoritative commands. In the law is embodied the same principle that is revealed in the gospel. The laws points out man’s duty and shows him his guilt. To Christ he must look for pardon and for power to do what the law enjoins.”—“The Desire of Ages,” pp. 607, 608.

3. What does God regard as more important than gifts and offerings to His work? Luke 11:42.

NOTE.—Love to God and for one’s fellows will lead to loyalty in the payment of tithe and offerings, but faithfully carrying out every requirement of God in the tithing of our goods can never be substituted for love manifest toward others, itself an evidence of our love for God.
THE MEASURE OF TRUE LOVE

4. For what did Paul pray in behalf of the Philippian church? Phil. 1:9.

5. What is the perfect bond which binds the church together? Col. 3:14.

Note.—"The fact that we are under so great obligation to Christ, places us under the most sacred obligation to those whom He died to redeem. We are to manifest toward them the same sympathy, the same tender compassion and unselfish love, which Christ has manifested toward us. Selfish ambition, desire for supremacy, will die when Christ takes possession of the affections."—"Testimonies," vol. 5, p. 170. Love eliminates from the life all selfishness, and hence becomes the bond that binds heart to heart, and all hearts to their Father.

6. How closely does the spirit of true love unite us with our Father? 1 John 4:7.

Note.—An Oriental story says that a prince asked two of his wisest counselors how he might make his people most happy; and allowed them two months to prepare their reply. At the required time the two wise men stood before their master,—the one bending beneath a great roll of papyrus leaves containing two hundred written rules, the other walking empty-handed. The reading of the two hundred rules sadly wearied the prince, who then called upon the other counselor to produce his reply, which was given in two words: "Love God." "How?" said the prince. "Did I not require to know how I might render my people most happy? And thou only directest me to love God." "True," replied the wise man; "but thou canst not love God without loving thy people also."—Sunday School Times.

7. How will this union with God affect our earthly relationships? Verses 11, 12.

Note.—"Selfishness and cold formality have well-nigh extinguished the fire of love, and dispelled the graces that should make fragrant the character. Many who profess His name have lost sight of the fact that Christians are to represent Christ. Unless there is practical self-sacrifice for the good of others, in the family circle, in the neighborhood, in the church, and wherever we may be, then whatever our profession, we are not Christian."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 504.

8. What relationships of life are to be subordinated to our love for Christ? Matt. 10:37.

9. What will a comprehension of true love enable the Christian to understand? Eph. 3:17, 19.

Note.—"Here are revealed the heights of attainment that we may reach through faith in the promises of our heavenly Father, when we fulfill His requirements. Through the merits of Christ, we have access to the throne of infinite power. 'He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?' The Father gave His Spirit without measure to His Son, and we also may partake of its fulness."—"The Great Controversy," p. 477.

"Christ’s gracious presence in His word is ever speaking to the soul, representing Him as the well of living water to refresh the thirsting soul. It is our privilege to have a living, abiding Saviour. He is the source of spiritual power implanted within us, and His influence will flow forth in words and
actions, refreshing all within the sphere of our influence, begetting in them desires and aspirations for strength and purity, for holiness and peace, and for that joy which brings no sorrow with it. This is the result of an indwelling Saviour.”—“Testimonies to Ministers,” p. 390.

**LOVE’S LIMITS—LOVE’S REWARD**


Note.—“Ever since the fall of man, Christ had been the Revealer of truth to the world. By Him the incorruptible seed, ‘the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever,’ is communicated to men.

“The word of God is the seed. Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is infolded. So there is life in God’s word. Christ says, ‘The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life.’ ‘He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life.’ In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God.”—“Christ’s Object Lessons,” p. 38.


Note.—“Supreme love for God and unselfish love for one another,—this is the best gift that our heavenly Father can bestow. This love is not an impulse, but a divine principle, a permanent power. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate or produce it. Only in the heart where Jesus reigns is it found. ‘We love Him, because He first loved us.’ In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the ruling principle of action. It modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, and ennobles the affections. This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life, and sheds a refining influence on all around.”—“The Acts of the Apostles,” p. 551.

12. Surrendered to the control of God’s unfathomed love, to what may every Christian look forward? James 1:12; 2 Tim. 4:8.

Note.—“However short our service or humble our work, if in simple faith we follow Christ, we shall not be disappointed of the reward. That which even the greatest and wisest cannot earn, the weakest and most humble may receive. Heaven’s golden gate opens not to the self-exalted. It is not lifted up to the proud in spirit. But the everlasting portals will open wide to the trembling touch of a little child. Blessed will be the recompense of grace to those who have wrought for God in the simplicity of faith and love.”—“Christ’s Object Lessons,” p. 404.

**NEXT QUARTER**

Beginning with the first quarter of 1935, all divisions of the Sabbath school will join in studying lessons on “The Life and Teachings of Jesus.” This privilege we feel sure will be greatly appreciated by all our people. The series will continue for one year and nine months.
Lesson 13 — December 29, 1934

DAILY LESSON STUDY: Place a check mark in the proper space.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SABBATH |

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The Best Gift

MEMORY VERSE: “Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” 1 Cor. 13:13.

THE REVIEW

I.
What relationship must be sustained between speech and love? 1 Cor. 13:1.
For what did the psalmist pray? Ps. 141:3.

II.
Even though receiving the gift of prophecy, with what must it be accompanied? 1 Cor. 13:2, first part.

III.
How only can we please God? Heb. 11:6.
Yet with what must supreme faith be accompanied? 1 Cor. 13:2, last part.

IV.
Who were ever to be remembered in the land of Israel? Deut. 15:11.
For whom is such loving service performed? Matt. 25:35-40.
What must accompany every such service? 1 Cor. 13:3, first part.

V.
What spirit should be manifest in the life of every believer? Col. 3:12, 13.
Though willing to give my all, life itself, what spirit must accompany the gift if it is acceptable to God? 1 Cor. 13:3, last part.

VI.
Opposed to the natural tendencies of the heart, what virtues will appear in the life of a true Christian? 1 Cor. 13:4.

VII.
What will follow the thinking of a man’s heart? Prov. 23:7, first part.
Who only will dwell with God? Ps. 15:1-3.
What attitude will we maintain toward those we love? 1 Cor. 13:5, 6.
VIII.
What may the world expect of the Christian? 1 Cor. 13:7.
Whose example do those follow who bear, hope, and endure? Heb. 12:1, 2.

IX.
What may we expect of true love? 1 Cor. 13:8, first part.

X.
What experience must come to every Christian? Matt. 18:3.
What natural development should follow? Prov. 4:18.
What will ultimately result? 1 Thess. 3:12, 13.

XI.
In the midst of a wicked world, to what should the Christian constantly look forward? Heb. 11:13, 39, 40.
How does the apostle describe the experience of the faithful? 1 John 3:1-3.

XII.
What relationships of life are to be subordinated to our love for Christ? Matt. 10:37.

XIII.
Where does love rank in the list of Christian attributes? 1 Cor. 13:13.

A Sabbath-School Lesson Help

Many Sabbath school members will be interested in securing the little book which has just been published as an aid in studying the lessons for this quarter on 1 Corinthians 13. The author is S. A. Wellman, associate secretary of the Sabbath School Department, and the book bears the same title as do the lessons—

G O D ' S G R E A T E S T  
G・I・F・T

There are twelve chapters in the book, a chapter for each week’s study. These were written with the lessons especially in mind, and will give needed help. It will be valuable, however, not only as an aid in studying the senior lessons, but its contents will be prized by any who desire excellent reading material on this most important chapter in the New Testament. It is paper covered, and may be secured for 25 cents.

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as we read the record; but this book covers each point very care-
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"The Sermon on the Mount is Heaven’s benediction to the world,
—a voice from the throne of God. It was given to mankind to be to
them the law of duty and the light of heaven, their hope and conso-
lation in despondency, their joy and comfort in all the vicissitudes
and walks of life. Here the Prince of preachers, the Master Teacher,
utters the words that the Father gave Him to speak."

The chapter headings give an outline of the subject matter:

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