

T. G. Bunch
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON
QUARTERLY



**The WAY to
CHRIST**

**Senior
Division**

**Number 201
Third Quarter, 1945**

INDIVIDUAL SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERING GOAL

"As God hath prospered him"

MY WEEKLY GOAL (Check Amount)

	5.00	2.00	1.00	.50	.30	.25	
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"God loveth a cheerful giver"

RECORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Birthday	Investment	TOTAL
1 \$															

DAILY LESSON STUDY PLEDGE

As one who greatly desires to improve my knowledge of the Scriptures, I pledge myself to the careful and prayerful study of some portion of my Sabbath school lesson each day of the week.

Name.....

If desired, a record of daily study may be maintained in the blank below.

STUDY RECORD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1ST DAY'S STUDY													
2D DAY'S STUDY													
3D DAY'S STUDY													
4TH DAY'S STUDY													
5TH DAY'S STUDY													
6TH DAY'S STUDY													
7TH DAY'S STUDY													

Place a check (✓) mark in each space above for the days you have studied your lesson. Form the habit of regular daily study and record marking.

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

THE WAY TO CHRIST

Lesson 1, for July 7, 1945

God's Love for Man

MEMORY VERSE: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

STUDY HELPS: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "God's Love for Man;" "Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 629-633, 738-740, "The Desire of Ages," pages 19-21, "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 63-66, "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 198-211 (new ed., pages 201-213).

Behold What Manner of Love

1. What does John declare God to be? 1 John 4:8, 16.

NOTE.—"All the paternal love which has come down from generation to generation through the channel of human hearts, all the springs of tenderness which have opened in the souls of men, are but as a tiny rill to the boundless ocean, when compared with the infinite, exhaustless love of God. Tongue cannot utter it; pen cannot portray it. You may meditate upon it every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in order to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavor to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond: . . . Eternity itself can never fully reveal it. Yet as we study the Bible, and meditate upon the life of Christ and the plan of redemption, these great themes will open to our understanding more and more."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 740.

2. In what words did John express his amazement at the unfathomable love of God? 1 John 3:1, first part.

NOTE.—"God is love. He has a care for the creatures He has formed. 'Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.' 'Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.' What a precious privilege is this, that we may be sons and daughters of the Most High, heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 315, 316.

The Quality of Divine Love

3. What is the greatest evidence of human love? John 15:13. How much greater is divine love? Rom. 5:6-8; Eph. 2:4, 5.

NOTE.—"O, the mystery of redemption! the love of God for a world that did not love Him! Who can know the depths of that love which 'passeth knowledge'? Through endless ages, immortal minds, seeking to comprehend the mystery of that incomprehensible love, will wonder and adore."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 63, 64.

4. In what words are we assured of God's unchangeableness? How enduring is His love? Mal. 3:6; James 1:17; Jer. 31:3.

NOTE.—“A golden chain, the mercy and compassion of divine love, is passed around every imperiled soul. The Lord declares, ‘I have loved thee with an everlasting love.’”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 202.

5. How far-reaching is the fullness of God’s love as revealed in Christ? Eph. 3:17-19.

NOTE.—The love of Christ has a breadth that embraces the whole human race, a length that extends from eternity to eternity, a depth that reaches the lowest extremity of the miry pit of sin and saves “to the uttermost,” a height that ascends to the highest heavens and lifts fallen man to the throne of the Most High.

The Supreme Manifestation of Love

6. What was the greatest demonstration of God’s love for a lost world? John 3:16; 1 John 4:9, 10.

NOTE.—“The glorious plan of man’s salvation was brought about through the infinite love of God the Father. In this divine plan is seen the most marvelous manifestation of the love of God to the fallen race. Such love as is manifested in the gift of God’s beloved Son amazed the holy angels. ‘God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’”—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 200.

7. What enormous price was paid for man’s redemption? 1 Peter 1:18, 19.

NOTE.—“All men have been bought with this infinite price.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 326.

8. Who only could redeem man? Acts 4:12.

NOTE.—“Humanity has no power to regenerate itself. It does not tend upward, toward the divine, but downward, toward the satanic. Christ is our only hope. ‘There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.’ ‘Neither is there salvation in any other.’”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 73.

“In all the universe there was but one who could, in behalf of man, satisfy its claims. Since the divine law is as sacred as God Himself, only one equal with God could make atonement for its transgression. None but Christ could redeem fallen man from the curse of the law, and bring him again into harmony with Heaven. . . .

“The angels prostrated themselves at the feet of their Commander, and offered to become a sacrifice for man. But an angel’s life could not pay the debt; only He who created man had power to redeem him.”—*Ibid.*, pages 63-65.

9. How fully is God the Father identified with this matchless demonstration of love? 2 Cor. 5:19.

NOTE.—“He [Satan] had accused God of seeking merely the exaltation of Himself in requiring submission and obedience from His creatures, and had declared that while the Creator exacted self-denial from all others, He Himself practiced no self-denial and made no sacrifice. Now it was seen that for the salvation of a fallen and sinful race, the Ruler of the universe had made the greatest sacrifice which love could make; for ‘God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.’”—*The Great Controversy*, page 502.

The Drawing Power of God's Love

10. With what does God draw us? Jer. 31:3.

NOTE.—“The Lord declares by His prophet, ‘I have loved thee with an everlasting love: *therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.*’ While the sinner is yet far from the Father’s house, . . . the Father’s heart is yearning over him; . . . wooing, entreating, drawing the wanderer to his Father’s heart of love.”—*Steps to Christ*, page 59.

11. What is it that leads the sinner to repentance? Rom. 2:4.

NOTE.—“The love of God still yearns over the one who has chosen to separate from Him, and He sets in operation influences to bring him back to the Father’s house. . . . It is the assurance of God’s love that constrains the sinner to return to God. ‘The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.’” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 202.

12. In response to this wooing of the divine love, what should be the sinner’s attitude? And with what assurance? Luke 15:18, 20; Isa. 55:6, 7.

NOTE.—“Arise and go to your Father. He will meet you a great way off. If you take even one step toward Him in repentance, He will hasten to enfold you in His arms of infinite love.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 206.

Lesson 2, for July 14, 1945

The Sinner’s Need of Christ

MEMORY VERSE: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12.

STUDY HELP: “Steps to Christ,” chapter, “The Sinner’s Need of Christ.”

The Hopeless State of the Sinner

1. How does the prophet describe the condition of the human race as the result of the fall? Isa. 53:6, first part.

2. How universally has mankind been degraded by the curse of sin? Ps. 14:1-3; Rom. 3:10-12.

3. What terrible picture of sin and its results is given by the apostle Paul? Rom. 1:21-23.

4. Before being quickened by the power of the gospel, what is the nature and state of the sinner? How does he walk? Whose spirit controls him? Eph. 2:1-3.

5. How is the hopeless state of those who are without Christ further described? How only is the situation completely changed? Verses 12-14.

NOTE.—“In the religion of Christ there is a regenerating influence that transforms the entire being, lifting man 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*, pages 51, 52.

Man's Great Enemy

6. For what reason is man admonished to sobriety and vigilance?
1 Peter 5:8.

7. What are some of the names applied to this great enemy? How universal has been his deception? Rev. 12:9; 2 Cor. 4:4; John 12:31.

8. Against what devices of Satan are we warned? Eph. 6:11, 16; 2 Tim. 2:26.

NOTE.—“Having been taken captive by him unto his will,” is the American Revised Version of 2 Timothy 2:26. “Taken alive” is the marginal reading which indicates that Satan’s chief ambition is to capture man and place him under the bondage of sin.

The Hope of Deliverance

9. According to prophecy, what would be the glorious results of the gift of Christ to the world? Isa. 42:6, 7; 49:24, 25.

NOTE.—“None have fallen so low, none are so vile, but that they may find deliverance in Christ. . . . No cry from a soul in need, though it fail of utterance in words, will be unheeded. Those who consent to enter into covenant with God are not left to the power of Satan or to the infirmity of their own nature. . . . ‘Thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered.’”—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 93.

10. How comprehensive is the plan of salvation? What is the God-man called? 1 Tim. 2:3-6.

NOTE.—“Among all nations, kindreds, and tongues, He sees men and women who are praying for light and knowledge. Their souls are unsatisfied; long have they fed on ashes. The enemy of all righteousness has turned them aside, and they grope as blind men. But they are honest in heart, and desire to learn a better way. Although in the depths of heathenism, with no knowledge of the written law of God nor of His Son Jesus, they have revealed in manifold ways the working of a divine power on mind and character. . . . The ‘Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world,’ is shining in his soul; and this Light, if heeded, will guide his feet to the kingdom of God. . . . Heaven’s plan of salvation is broad enough to embrace the whole world. God longs to breathe into prostrate humanity the breath of life. And He will not permit any soul to be disappointed who is sincere in his longing for something higher and nobler than anything the world can offer.”—*Prophets and Kings*, pages 376-378.

11. How complete was Christ’s victory over sin? John 14:30; 16:33.

NOTE.—“‘The prince of this world cometh,’ said Jesus, ‘and hath nothing in Me.’ There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan’s sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ’s humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 123.

“The Father’s presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of

Christ abides in Christ. Whatever comes to him comes from the Saviour, who surrounds him with His presence. Nothing can touch him except by the Lord's permission. All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and privations, in short, all things work together for our good. All experiences and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us."—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 489.

12. What experience is possible to those who are born of God? What is the secret of their victory? How complete is their triumph? 1 John 5:18, 19.

NOTE.—The wording of verse 18, according to the Greek, may be rendered: "We know that everyone born of God does not continue in sin (or, does not make a habit of sin), but he that is born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him." The secret of complete victory over the evil one is the keeping power of God through the indwelling Christ."

"When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ, becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies, is impregnable to the assaults of Satan."—*The Desire of Ages*, pages 323, 324.

Lesson 3, for July 21, 1945

Repentance

MEMORY VERSE: "Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin." Ezek. 18:30.

STUDY HELP: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "Repentance."

A Change of Mind

1. On what basis will divine judgment be meted out to the transgressor? What should this knowledge lead the sinner to do? What is the ultimate result of iniquity? Ezek. 18:30.

NOTE.—Repentance is thus defined: "Repentance includes sorrow for sin, and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life."—*Steps to Christ*, page 26.

2. How are the steps in true repentance further described? How is the love of God set forth in His dealings with sinners? Verses 31, 32; 33:11.

3. How completely does repentance change a person's mind toward God and others? Phil. 2:4, 5.

NOTE.—The mind of Jesus will lead us to believe His word and think His thoughts after Him. We are told that as a man "thinketh in his heart, so is he." Therefore thinking with the mind of Christ will result in Christlike conduct and character. Controlled by the Spirit of Christ we will always have the proper attitude toward God and man, as well as all the experiences of life.

4. What did the mind of Jesus lead Him to do? What has been the result of His humble attitude? Verses 6-10.

NOTE.—“This was a voluntary sacrifice. Jesus might have remained at the Father’s side. He might have retained the glory of heaven, and the homage of the angels. But He chose to give back the scepter into the Father’s hands, and to step down from the throne of the universe, that He might bring light to the benighted, and life to the perishing.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 23.

A Prelude to Conversion

5. What effect did Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost have on the hearts of his hearers? What request did the conscience-stricken sinners make? Acts 2:37.

6. What answer did the apostle Peter give? What promise was made? Verse 38.

7. In a later sermon, what accusation did Peter boldly bring against the Jews and their leaders? How did he excuse them? What did their ignorance lead them to do unconsciously? Acts 3:13-15, 17, 18.

8. What appeal was made to those guilty of the sin of ignorance? What will eventually be done with the sins of those who are converted? What experience will accompany the blotting out of sin? Verse 19.

NOTE.—“God calls for a spiritual revival and a spiritual reformation. Unless this takes place, those who are lukewarm will continue to grow more abhorrent to the Lord, until He will refuse to acknowledge them as His children. A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.”—Mrs. E. G. White, in *Review and Herald*, Feb. 25, 1902.

Sorrow For Sin

9. Through what means does God bring conviction of sin? What other convictions come in their order? John 8:9; 16:7, 8; margin “convince.”

NOTE.—The first mission of the Holy Spirit is to prick the conscience and bring conviction of sin. After convincing sinners of what is wrong, the next work of the Spirit is to convince them of what is right or of righteousness. This is followed by conviction of a coming judgment, when all will be judged according to their attitude toward good and evil. The importance of the law in the mission of the Spirit and the work of the gospel is evident from the fact that “sin is the transgression of the law,” and “by the law is the knowledge of sin,” and righteousness is conformity in conduct to the divine standard of right and justice, ruled by the law of God, for the law is God’s standard of righteousness. In the judgment all will be measured by the law: “So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”

10. Through whom only is repentance and confession possible? Acts 4:12; 5:31.

NOTE.—“We can no more repent without the Spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience than we can be pardoned without Christ. Christ is the source of every right impulse. He is the only one that can implant in the heart enmity against sin. Every desire for truth and purity, every conviction of our own sinfulness, is an evidence that His Spirit is moving upon our hearts.”—*Steps to Christ*, page 30.

11. To what does sorrow for sin lead? What, in turn, is the result of godly sorrow for sin? 2 Cor. 7:9, 10.

NOTE.—“We often sorrow because our evil deeds bring unpleasant consequences to ourselves; but this is not repentance. Real sorrow for sin is the result of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals the ingratitude of the heart that has slighted and grieved the Saviour, and brings us in contrition to the foot of the cross. By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin. . . . The tears of the penitent are only the raindrops that precede the sunshine of holiness.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 300.

12. What works of reformation result from genuine repentance produced by godly sorrow for sin? What effect did this transformation of character have on Paul? Verses 11, 16.

NOTE.—This was the work which, operating in the hearts and lives of the disciples in the upper room, banished strife, envy, and suspicion, and produced unity and restored confidence. Pentecostal power was the result. This experience is to be repeated in the remnant of the church, and will be followed by a repetition of spiritual refreshing in the showers of the latter rain. “Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 214.

Lesson 4, for July 28, 1945

Confession

MEMORY VERSE: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9.

STUDY HELP: “Steps to Christ,” chapter, “Confession.”

Acknowledgment of Sin

1. What will always accompany true repentance? What experience should follow conviction and acknowledgment of transgression? Jer. 3:13, 14.

NOTE.—It takes courage to say, “I was wrong,” “I made a mistake,” “I have sinned;” but it gives evidence of largeness of soul and nobleness of char-

acter. It is a princely act that brings the respect of man and the approval of God.

"Confession will not be acceptable to God without sincere repentance and reformation. There must be decided changes in the life; everything offensive to God must be put away. This will be the result of genuine sorrow for sin."
—*Steps to Christ*, page 44.

2. **What blessed experience is available to all sinners? What two steps brought this blessing to David? Ps. 32:1, 2, 5.**

3. **To what sin and experience did David doubtless refer? 2 Sam. 12:1-13.**

4. **What fact was demonstrated in the bitter experience of King David? Num. 32:23, last part.**

5. **What statement shows the impossibility of hiding sin? Heb. 4:13.**

NOTE.—There are no strictly secret sins. Sin lures and deceives its victim and then exposes his guilt. If sin does not tell on us in this life, it will expose us before the heavenly tribunal when the books of record are opened. Then "every secret thing" that was not acknowledged, confessed, and forgiven in this life will be revealed.

"True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. They may be of such a nature as to be brought before God only; they may be wrongs that should be confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them; or they may be of a public character, and should then be as publicly confessed. But all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty."—*Steps to Christ*, page 43.

6. **What beautiful prayer indicates the sincerity of David's confession? For what did he ask in order that the same sin would not be repeated? Ps. 51:1-7, 10.**

The Basis of Hope

7. **On what basis may sinners hope for forgiveness of sin? Rom. 2:4.**

NOTE.—"Miserable as he was, the prodigal found hope in the conviction of his father's love. It was that love which was drawing him toward home. So it is the assurance of God's love that constrains the sinner to return to God. 'The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.' A golden chain, the mercy and compassion of divine love, is passed around every imperiled soul. The Lord declares, 'I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.'"—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 202.

8. **What comfort may sinners find in the Lord's proclamation to Moses concerning His character? What did this revelation cause Moses to do? Ex. 34:6-8.**

9. **What is the sure result of attempting to hide or cover one's sins? To whom only is mercy extended? Prov. 28:13.**

10. **Of what does self-justification and boasting give evidence? What is the attitude of those who are really righteous? Job 9:20, 21.**

Self-Righteousness Condemned

11. How did Jesus illustrate the difference between the self-righteous and the penitent? Luke 18:9-14.

NOTE.—“There is nothing so offensive to God, or so dangerous to the human soul, as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 154.

“No outward observances can take the place of simple faith and entire renunciation of self. But no man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work. Then the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, un-Christlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul.”—*Ibid.*, page 159.

12. When Job got a vision of the character of God, what change took place in his opinion of self? What was the result of the change? Job 40:4, 5; 42:5, 6, 10.

NOTE.—“The nearer we come to Jesus, and the more clearly we discern the purity of His character, the more clearly we shall discern the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the less we shall feel like exalting ourselves. Those whom heaven recognizes as holy ones are the last to parade their own goodness.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 160.

13. What is necessary to continual cleansing from sin? What is said of those who boast that they are free from sin? 1 John 1:7, 8.

NOTE.—“Let the recording angels write the history of the holy struggles and conflicts of the people of God; let them record their prayers and tears; but let not God be dishonored by the declaration from human lips, ‘I am sinless; I am holy.’ Sanctified lips will never give utterance to such presumptuous words. . . . ‘If we,’ says John, not separating himself from his brethren, ‘say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.’”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, pages 561, 562.

14. What definite promise is made to those who confess their sins? Of what terrible sin are those guilty who claim that they have not sinned? What does such boasting prove? Verses 9, 10.

NOTE.—“Confession of sin, whether public or private, should be heartfelt, and freely expressed. It is not to be urged from the sinner. It is not to be made in a flippant and careless way, or forced from those who have no realizing sense of the abhorrent character of sin. The confession that is the outpouring of the inmost soul finds its way to the God of infinite pity. . . . True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. . . . Confession will not be acceptable to God without sincere repentance and reformation. There must be decided changes in the life; everything offensive to God must be put away. This will be the result of genuine sorrow for sin.”—*Steps to Christ*, pages 43, 44.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

Southern Asia Division

Lesson 5, for August 4, 1945

Consecration

MEMORY VERSE: "Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?" 1 Chron. 29:5.

STUDY HELP: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "Consecration."

Consecration of Heart and Life

1. Before Aaron and his sons were permitted to minister in the priest's office, what rites of consecration were observed? Ex. 28:4, 40-43; 29:1-9, 20, 21.

NOTE.—Consecration means devotion or dedication to a cause. It means to make holy or set apart for a holy use.

2. What was involved in the consecration of the Levitical priesthood? Mal. 2:4-7.

NOTE.—"I entreat all, especially those who minister in word and doctrine, to make an unreserved surrender to God. Consecrate your lives to Him, and be indeed ensamples to the flock. Be no longer content to remain dwarfs in spiritual things. Let your aim be nothing short of perfection of Christian character."—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 521.

3. What message to ancient Israel shows that God intended that all His people should measure up to the same standard of holiness set for the priesthood? Ex. 19:5, 6.

4. What beautiful statement sets forth the results of complete consecration on the part of God's people? 1 Peter 2:9.

NOTE.—"Peculiar" as used here does not mean "queer, strange, odd, eccentric, or off-center." It carries the older sense of that which is separated for the owner's special use. "A purchased people" is the marginal reading. "A people for God's own possession," "the people who belong to Him," "a secured people," "a people for a special possession," and "a people belonging specially to God," are other translations. "A purchased people, a private property, belonging to God Almighty, none other having any right in them, and they being under obligation to God alone."—*Dr. Adam Clarke*.

Wholehearted Surrender

5. How completely did Christ surrender His will to the Father? Luke 22:41, 42.

NOTE.—"The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness."—*Steps to Christ*, page 47.

6. What state of mind is necessary to wholehearted surrender and consecration? What is promised to all who seek this experience? 1 Chron. 29:9; Jer. 29:13.

7. What appeal shows that we are all free moral agents with the power of choice? What glorious promise follows? Isa. 1:18, 19.

NOTE.—"Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping

and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not now *choose* to be Christians. Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith."—*Steps to Christ*, page 52.

D. L. Moody said: "All true prayer must be offered in full submission to God. . . . I would a thousand times rather that God's will should be done than my own. I cannot see into the future as God can; therefore, it is a good deal better to let Him choose for me than to choose for myself."—*Prevailing Prayer*, page 102.

8. What prayer did Christ offer in behalf of His disciples? Through what means were they to be sanctified or consecrated? Who were included in this request? John 17:15-17, 20.

Consecration for Service

9. For what purpose did Christ set Himself apart in sanctification? What responsibility does He place on every Christian? Verses 18, 19:

NOTE.—"Christ has made provision that His church shall be a transformed body, illumined with the light of heaven, possessing the glory of Immanuel. It is His purpose that every Christian shall be surrounded with a spiritual atmosphere of light and peace. There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God."—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 19.

10. In God's oath to Abraham, what was included? How long should this devotion continue? Luke 1:73-75.

11. What appeal is made for personal, willing, and daily consecrated service? 1 Chron. 29:5, last part.

NOTE.—"The time demands greater efficiency and deeper consecration."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 27. "We are coming to a crisis which, more than any previous time since the world began, will demand the entire consecration of everyone who has named the name of Christ."—*Gospel Workers*, page 323.

12. Through whom is complete consecration possible? What attitude should we therefore manifest? 1 Cor. 1:29-31.

Lesson 6 for August 11, 1945

Faith and Acceptance

MEMORY VERSE: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Heb. 11:1.

STUDY HELP: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "Faith and Acceptance."

Confidence in the Word

1. How important is faith in Christian experience? What two things are involved in true faith? Heb. 11:6.

2. After relating the parable of the widow and the unjust judge, what question of Jesus indicates a scarcity of faith in the last days? Luke 18:7, 8.

NOTE.—“We may achieve victories which our own erroneous and mis-conceived opinions, our own defects of character, our own smallness of faith, have made to seem impossible. Faith! we scarcely know what it is.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, page 187.

3. How is faith defined? Heb. 11:1.

NOTE.—Most of the things Christians hope for are invisible and can be seen only through the eye of faith. Of Christ’s temptation in the wilderness we read: “In every temptation the weapon of His warfare was the word of God. Satan demanded of Christ a miracle as a sign of His divinity. But that which is greater than all miracles, a firm reliance upon a ‘thus saith the Lord,’ was a sign that could not be controverted. So long as Christ held to this position, the tempter could gain no advantage.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 120.

4. What is the difference between things seen through natural and through spiritual vision? 2 Cor. 4:18.

NOTE.—“The faith of Moses led him to look at the things which are unseen, which are eternal. He left the splendid attractions of court life because sin was there. He gave up present and seeming good that flattered only to ruin and destroy. The real attractions, the eternal, were of value to him. The sacrifices made by Moses were really no sacrifices. With him it was letting go a present, apparent, flattering good, for a sure, high, immortal good.

“Moses endured the reproach of Christ, considering reproach greater riches than all the treasures of Egypt. He believed what God had said, and was not influenced to swerve from his integrity by any of the world’s reproaches. He walked the earth as God’s freeman. He had the love of Christ in his soul, which not only made him a man of dignity, but added the luster of the true Christian graces to the dignity of the man. Moses walked a rough and perilous path; but he looked to the things unseen, and faltered not. The recompense of reward was attractive to him, and it may be also to us. He was familiar with God.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 345.

5. How is the divine definition of faith illustrated? Heb. 11:3.

NOTE.—Only by believing the Scriptural record can we understand and believe in creation. No person living today witnessed the beginning of things material, and, therefore, what man says can be only conjecture. Nor can creation be demonstrated. God was not only a living witness of creation, but He was the Creator and, therefore, His word is the only reliable account available. Believing the Biblical record of creation is evidence of things unseen by man.

6. What further illustration is given in this great chapter on faith? Verse 7.

NOTE.—Since there was no evidence in sight of the coming Flood, faith in the word of God was evidence of “things not seen as yet.” Noah’s faith was demonstrated by his works. “By faith” he “moved.” Genuine faith always moves to action and obedience. Faith that only acknowledges truth, but does not obey, is declared to be “dead,” and therefore worthless.

7. What did "seeing Him who is invisible" lead Moses to do? Verses 24-27.

NOTE.—"Moses did not merely think of God, he saw Him. God was the constant vision before him. Never did he lose sight of His face. To Moses faith was no guesswork; it was a reality. He believed that God ruled his life in particular; and in all its details he acknowledged Him. For strength to withstand every temptation, he trusted in Him. The great work assigned him he desired to make in the highest degree successful, and he placed his whole dependence upon divine power. He felt his need of help, asked for it, by faith grasped it, and in the assurance of sustaining strength went forward. Such was the experience that Moses gained by his forty years of training in the desert. To impart such an experience, Infinite Wisdom counted not the period too long or the price too great."—*Education*, pages 63, 64.

Faith the Victory

8. What experience must accompany faith if we would be victors over the world? 1 John 5:4.

9. In whom must our faith center in order for it to have overcoming power? When and where is this victory promised? 1 Cor. 15:57; 2 Cor. 2:14.

10. What is the secret of increasing faith? Rom. 10:17.

NOTE.—"Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. . . . Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 126.

"It is not enough to believe *about* Christ; we must believe *in* Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power."—*Ibid.*, page 347.

11. What experience of Jesus illustrated the fact that genuine faith is simple dependence on the word of God? What did Jesus say of the centurion's faith? Matt. 8:5-10.

NOTE.—Faith like holiness "is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God; it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in trial, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 51.

12. To what is faith likened? How important is faith in the Christian warfare? Eph. 6:16.

13. What glorious promise is made to those who exercise faith? What plea should this cause us to make? Mark 9:23, 24.

NOTE.—"*Faith and love*,—how destitute are the churches of these!"—*Testimonies to Ministers*, page 149.

Lesson 7, for August 18, 1945

The Test of Discipleship

MEMORY VERSE: "This is love, that we walk after His commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it." 2 John 6.

STUDY HELP: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "The Test of Discipleship."

The Two Kingdoms

1. By what two terms are worldlings designated? To whose kingdom do they belong? Eph. 2:2, 3.

2. What solemn warning is given against the kingdom of darkness? What is the only hope of victory? Eph. 6:11-13.

NOTE.—"There are Christians who think and speak altogether too much about the power of Satan. They think of their adversary, they pray about him, they talk about him, and he looms up greater and greater in their imagination. It is true that Satan is a powerful being; but, thank God, we have a mighty Saviour, who cast out the evil one from heaven. Satan is pleased when we magnify his power. Why not talk of Jesus? Why not magnify His power and His love?"—*The Desire of Ages*, page 493.

3. What does Paul cite as an occasion for thanksgiving? Col. 1:13.

4. How is this new creation brought about? How complete is the change? 2 Cor. 5:17.

NOTE.—"Through the power of Christ men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. They have renounced selfishness. The profane have become reverent, the drunken sober, the profligate pure. Souls that have borne the likeness of Satan have become transformed into the image of God. This change is in itself the miracle of miracles."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 476.

"The Christian's life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 172.

Evidence of Love and Citizenship

5. What promise was made to ancient Israel on condition of diligent obedience? Deut. 28:1.

6. What severe rebuke was delivered to King Saul because of his disobedience? What terms are used to describe the evil of disobedience? How serious was Saul's transgression? 1 Sam. 15:22, 23.

7. Who will inherit the new earth? What will happen to those who refuse and rebel? Rev. 22:14, 15; Isa. 1:19, 20.

NOTE.—"The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 763.

8. What did Jesus declare to be the motive of true obedience? John 14: 15, 21, 23, 24.

NOTE.—“If ye love Me, ye will keep My commandments,” is the Revised Version.

“There are those who profess to serve God, while they rely upon their own efforts to obey His law, to form a right character, and secure salvation. Their hearts are not moved by any deep sense of the love of Christ, but they seek to perform the duties of the Christian life as that which God requires of them in order to gain heaven. Such religion is worth nothing. When Christ dwells in the heart, the soul will be so filled with His love, with the joy of communion with Him, that it will cleave to Him; and in the contemplation of Him, self will be forgotten. Love to Christ will be the spring of action. . . . A profession of Christ without this deep love, is mere talk, dry formality, and heavy drudgery.”—*Steps to Christ*, page 49.

9. How is love defined by the apostle? 1 John 5:3; 2 John 6.

NOTE.—“The fountain of the heart must be purified before the streams can become pure. He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. There is no safety for one who has merely a legal religion, a form of godliness.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 172.

10. How is obedience again set forth as the evidence of love and discipleship? 1 John 2:3-6.

NOTE.—“We may be active, we may do much work; but without love, such love as dwelt in the heart of Christ, we can never be numbered with the family of heaven.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 158.

“It is not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is done, the motive underlying the action, that determines its worth.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 279.

It is the service of love that God values. When this is lacking, the mere round of ceremony is an offense to Him.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 286.

11. How does the apostle Paul set forth the relationship between love and keeping of the law? Rom. 13:8, 10.

12. In what language did the wise man set forth the whole duty of man? What reason is given for the necessity of strict obedience? Eccl. 12:13, 14.

NOTE.—The margin of the Revised Version gives, “The duty of all men.”

13. Why must our lives be regulated by the law of God? James 2:8-12.

14. How did Jesus summarize the two tables of the Decalogue? How much of divine revelation is embraced in the law of God? Matt. 22:36-40.

NOTE.—“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing his service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 668.

Lesson 8, for August 25, 1945

Growing Up Into Christ

MEMORY VERSE: "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." Eph. 4:15.

STUDY HELP: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "Growing Up Into Christ."

Spiritual Growth Begins With New Birth

1. In what experience does an overcoming life begin? What is our part in this transaction? 1 John 5:5.

2. How necessary is this experience? What event is used to illustrate the beginning of spiritual life and growth? John 3:3-7.

NOTE.—The new birth is one of the "musts" of the Bible. Spiritual life is as impossible without a spiritual birth as physical life without a physical birth. Life of all kinds *must* begin with birth.

3. How only can we enter the family of God and become His children? By whose will is the new birth possible? John 1:12, 13.

4. By what instrument is the new birth accomplished? How is the enduring nature of the word illustrated? How is the re-creative word brought to man? 1 Peter 1:23-25.

NOTE.—"The leaven hidden in the flour works invisibly to bring the whole mass under its leavening process; so the leaven of truth works secretly, silently, steadily, to transform the soul. The natural inclinations are softened and subdued. New thoughts, new feelings, new motives, are implanted. A new standard of character is set up,—the life of Christ. The mind is changed; the faculties are roused to action in new lines."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pages 98, 99.

5. What reformation will accompany the new creation? What will be the attitude of the reborn toward the word? What will be the result? 1 Peter 2:1, 2.

Illustrations of Spiritual Growth

6. What illustrations of spiritual growth are taken from nature? Hosea 14:5, 7; Luke 12:27, 28; Mark 4:26-29.

7. How is the growth and fruitfulness of genuine Christians again set forth? What will be their attitude toward the law of God? Ps. 1:1-3.

8. What glorious change is wrought by the gospel, or the "tidings of great joy?" What are these transformed persons called? By whom must these symbolic trees be planted in order to bear the fruits of righteousness? Isa. 61:3.

NOTE.—"The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life, and the development of the plant is a beautiful figure of Christian growth. As in nature, so in grace; there can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the development of the Christian life. At every stage of development our

life may be perfect; yet if God's purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 65.

9. As Christians grow toward maturity, what change in spiritual food becomes necessary? What therefore gives evidence of a lack of spiritual growth? Heb. 5:12-14.

The Goal of Spiritual Growth

10. Before His ascension, what gifts did Christ bestow upon His church? What was the purpose of these spiritual gifts? Eph. 4:8, 11, 12.

11. How long are these gifts of the Spirit to remain in the church? What goal of Christian growth will eventually be attained by God's remnant people? Verse 13; 1 Thess. 5:23.

NOTE.—"Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin and constantly living for Christ. Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome. We know not one day-how strong will be our conflict the next. So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say, I have fully attained. Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, pages 560, 561.

12. How much is embraced in this growth into spiritual maturity? Eph. 4: 14, 15.

NOTE.—"The child of God grows up to the full stature of a man or woman in Christ. There is no limit to his improvement." "Pray that the mighty energies of the Holy Spirit, with all their quickening, recuperative, and transforming power, may fall like an electric shock on the palsy-stricken soul, causing every nerve to thrill with new life, restoring the whole man from his dead, earthly, sensual state to spiritual soundness."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pages 265, 267.

13. As the result of the spiritual growth of its members, what will be the condition of the church as a whole? Verse 16.

NOTE.—"All should consider that God's claims upon them are paramount to all others. God has given to every person capabilities to improve, that he may reflect glory to the Giver. Every day some progress should be made. . . . God designs that Christians shall grow continually,—grow up into the full stature of men and women in Christ. All who do not grow stronger, and become more firmly rooted and grounded in the truth, are continually retrograding."—*Counsels on Health*, pages 400, 401.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

September 29—Southern Asia Division

The "overflow" is to provide simple meetinghouses for worship, and cottages for native workers.

Lesson 9, for September 1, 1945

The Work and the Life

MEMORY VERSE: "In Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." Gal. 5:6.

STUDY HELP: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "The Work and the Life."

The Source of Life

1. What is the source of life, both physical and spiritual? What was the purpose of Christ's advent? John 1:4; 5:40; 10:10.

2. What is the purpose of the gospel? How are the eternal results of sin and righteousness contrasted? How only can eternal life be obtained? Rom. 6:22, 23.

3. How is life only in Christ again set forth? John 3:16; 1 John 5:11, 12.

NOTE.—"Christ became one flesh with us, in order that we might become one spirit with Him. . . . His life has become ours. Those who see Christ in His true character, and receive Him into the heart, have everlasting life. It is through the Spirit that Christ dwells in us; and the Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the life eternal."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 388.

The Evidence of Life

4. By what means is the life and nature of a tree determined? How does Jesus apply the lesson to spiritual life? Matt. 12:33, 34; 7:20-23.

5. What will happen to all spiritual trees not planted by the Lord, and that do not bear fruit to His glory? Matt. 15:13; Luke 13:6-9.

6. What is the ultimate fate of a lifeless and fruitless branch? What is the secret of life, growth, and fruit bearing? John 15:2-5.

NOTE.—"Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service. The channel of communication must be open continually between man and his God. As the vine branch constantly draws the sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus, and receive from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character. . . . The life of Christ in you produces the same fruits as in Him. Living in Christ, adhering to Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit after the similitude of Christ."—*The Desire of Ages*, pages 676, 677.

Faith and Works

7. How was living faith manifested by Noah and Abraham? Heb. 11:7, 8.

8. With what words does James show the relationship of faith and works? James 2:17-20.

NOTE.—"A working church in travail for souls, will be a praying church, a believing church, and a receiving church. A church whose members are found upon their knees before God, supplicating His mercy, seeking Him daily,

is a church that is feeding upon the bread of life, and drinking of the waters of life."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, page 205.

9. What is the ultimate purpose of making known the gospel to all nations? Rom. 16:25, 26.

Love Works

10. Through what agency is righteousness by faith possible? What must be mingled with faith in order to produce good works? Gal. 5:5, 6.

NOTE.—"No matter how high his profession, he whose heart is not imbued with love for God and for his fellow men, is not a disciple of Christ. Though he should possess great faith, and even have power to work miracles, yet without love his faith would be worthless. He might display great liberality, but should he from some other motive than genuine love, bestow all his goods to feed the poor, the act would not commend him to the favor of God. In his zeal he might even meet a martyr's death, yet if destitute of the gold of love, he would be regarded by God as a deluded enthusiast or an ambitious hypocrite."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 168.

11. How is love for God demonstrated? How is the love of God defined? John 14:15; 1 John 5:2, 3.

NOTE.—"There are only two classes in the world today, and only two classes will be recognized in the judgment,—those who violate God's law, and those who obey it. Christ gives the test by which to prove our loyalty or disloyalty. 'If ye love Me,' He says, 'keep My commandments. . . . He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me. And he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him. . . . He that loveth Me not keepeth not My sayings; and the word which ye hear is not Mine, but the Father's which sent Me.' 'If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.'"—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 283.

12. How did Christ commend the good works of the church of Ephesus? What rebuke did He minister? What appeal and warning did He make? Rev. 2:2-5.

NOTE.—"He who loves Christ the most will do the greatest amount of good. There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 250.

"One Christ-loving, devoted member, will do more good in a church than one hundred half-converted, unsanctified, self-sufficient workers."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 114.

13. What severe rebuke is given to God's remnant people for permitting their affection to become lukewarm? What threat is given? What remedy is suggested? Rev. 3:14-18.

14. What does Christ declare His people to be? How does their light become visible to others? Matt. 5:14, 16.

15. Who deserves the credit and glory for all good works? Of what may we therefore be confident? Phil. 2:13; 1:6.

Lesson 10, for September 8, 1945

A Knowledge of God

MEMORY VERSE: "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." John 17:3.

STUDY HELP: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "A Knowledge of God."

The One True God

1. What is said of the value of an idol? Of the number of false gods? How is the true God described and identified? 1 Cor. 8:4-6.
2. How is the Lord again contrasted with false gods? What manifestation of power identified Him as the only true God? How should every human being therefore recognize Him? Ps. 95:3-6; 96:4, 5, 9.
3. What is the only hope of eternal life? John 17:3.
4. In what should men not boast? What wise counsel is given? In what does the Lord find pleasure? Jer. 9:23, 24.

NOTE.—"The world has had its great teachers, men of giant intellect and extensive research, men whose utterances have stimulated thought, and opened to view vast fields of knowledge; and these men have been honored as guides and benefactors of their race; but there is One who stands higher than they. We can trace the line of the world's teachers as far back as human records extend; but the Light was before them. As the moon and the stars of our solar system shine by the reflected light of the sun, so, as far as their teaching is true, do the world's great thinkers reflect the rays of the Sun of Righteousness. Every gleam of thought, every flash of the intellect, is from the Light of the world."—*Education*, pages 13, 14.

Revealed by Created Works

5. With what is the earth full? Ps. 33:5.
6. By what means is the glory of God revealed to all? How constantly is God thus made known? How universally is this revelation proclaimed? Ps. 19:1-4.
7. On what grounds is the wrath of God revealed against false worship? Rom. 1:18-25.

The Testimony of Scripture

8. What did Jesus declare to be the purpose of the written word? Why is this revelation necessary? How did the Jews demonstrate their disbelief of the Old Testament Scriptures? John 5:39, 40, 46, 47.

NOTE.—"The earth, marred and defiled by sin, reflects but dimly the Creator's glory. It is true that His object lessons are not obliterated. Upon every page of the great volume of His created works may still be traced His handwriting. Nature still speaks of her Creator. Yet these revelations are partial and imperfect. And in our fallen state, with weakened powers and restricted vision, we are incapable of interpreting aright. We need the fuller revelation of Himself that God has given in His written word."—*Education*, page 17.

9. What severe rebuke did Jesus give His disciples? What did He then do? Luke 24:25-27, 44, 45.

NOTE.—“God speaks to us in His word. Here we have in clearer lines the revelation of His character, of His dealings with men, and the great work of redemption.”—*Steps to Christ*, page 92.

“The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in the word of God. This word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature, and re-creates the soul in the image of God.”—*Education*, page 126.

10. What did Jesus declare Himself to be? What are the two results of eating the bread of life? How necessary is this spiritual feeding? How did Jesus interpret His language? John 6:35, 51, 53, 54, 63.

11. What are the Scriptures able to do? In whom is this salvation found? 2 Tim. 3:15.

12. What is the source of the Scriptures? For what four things are they profitable? What is the final result of obedience to the instruction given? Verses 16, 17.

13. What earnest appeal is made to God's remnant people? Who only will pass victoriously through the final crisis? How is faith defined and illustrated? Heb. 10:35-39; 11:1, 3.

NOTE.—Faith is taking God at His word with no other evidence in sight. It is dependence on the word of God. The centurion told Jesus to “speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.” Jesus said to those who followed Him: “I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.”

Lesson 11, for September 15, 1945

The Privilege of Prayer

MEMORY VERSE: “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16.

STUDY HELP: “Steps to Christ,” chapter, “The Privilege of Prayer.”

Meaning and Purpose of Prayer

1. How is prayer defined in the spirit of prophecy?

ANSWER.—“Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend.”—*Steps to Christ*, page 97.

2. How are our requests to be made known to God? What blessed results are described? Phil. 4:6, 7.

NOTE.—“It is when we come into difficult places that He reveals His power and wisdom in answer to humble prayer. Have confidence in Him as a prayer-hearing, prayer-answering God. He will reveal Himself to you as

One who can help in every emergency. He who created man, who gave him his wonderful physical, mental, and spiritual faculties, will not withhold that which is necessary to sustain the life He has given."—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 199.

3. As the result of hearing Jesus commune with His Father, what request did His disciples make? Luke 11:1.

NOTE.—God's people need to be taught how to pray, for "we know not what we should pray for as we ought." But we also need to be taught to pray, for prayer is one of the most neglected of all religious duties and privileges. The following definitions of prayer emphasize its importance: "It [prayer] is the soul of religion."—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 163. "Prayer is the most holy exercise of the soul."—*Ibid.*, vol. 5, p. 201. Speaking of prayer further, the spirit of prophecy gives the idea that prayer is a guard to the heart, the citadel of the soul.

Public Prayer

4. What two unworthy motives in prayer are condemned? Matt. 6:5, 7, 8.

NOTE.—"The prayers offered in public should be short and to the point. God does not require us to make the season of worship tedious by lengthy petitions. Christ did not enforce upon His disciples wearisome ceremonies and long prayers. 'When thou prayest,' He said, 'thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men.'"—*Gospel Workers*, page 175.

5. What sample prayer did Jesus give? Verses 9-13.

NOTE.—"Christ impressed upon His disciples the idea that their prayers should be short, expressing just what they wanted and no more. He gives the length and substance of their prayers. . . . How comprehensive this sample prayer! . . . But many offer prayer in a dry, sermonizing manner. These pray to men, not to God. . . . All such prayers are as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. They are made no account of in heaven. Angels of God are wearied with them, as well as mortals who are compelled to listen to them."—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, pp. 581, 582.

Secret Prayer

6. What did Jesus say about the place and results of secret prayer? Verse 6.

NOTE.—"Pray in your closet; and as you go about your daily labor, let your heart be often uplifted to God. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. These silent prayers rise like precious incense before the throne of grace. Satan cannot overcome him whose heart is thus stayed upon God."—*Steps to Christ*, page 103.

7. While Jesus asked His most intimate associates to be near Him during the Gethsemane struggle, how did He face the final crisis? Matt. 26:36-40.

NOTE.—While association in prayer is valuable and even necessary, it is in secret that we open the intimacies of our hearts and lives to God "as to a friend." Alone we must face and conquer the foe in the time of crisis.

"Our crosses are hewn from different trees,
But we all must have our Calvaries.
We may climb the height from a different side,
But we each go up to be crucified.
As we scale the steep, another may share
The dreadful load that our shoulders bear:
But the costliest sorrow is all our own,
For on the summit we bleed alone."

Conditions of Effectual Prayer

8. How important is faith in effectual prayer? How did the centurion manifest his faith in the word? Heb. 11:6; Matt. 8:5-10.

9. What is the relation between obedience and prayer? Prov. 28:9; 1 John 3:22; 5:14.

10. What strong language is used to set forth the need of an unbroken prayer habit? What illustration in the physical life emphasizes the necessity of living in the atmosphere of prayer? 1 Thess. 5:17; Lam. 3:55, 56.

NOTE.—"Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted, and the health of the soul be preserved. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Wellspring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience."—*Gospel Workers*, pages 254, 255.

11. By what parables did Jesus emphasize the importance of continual and persistent prayer? What definite promise do these illustrations emphasize? Luke 18:1-8; 11:5-10.

12. On what conditions does prayer accomplish results? What statement concerning Elijah gives courage to all who pray? What experience of answered prayer is related? James 5:16-18.

13. What counsel is given to God's remnant people? 1 Peter 4:7.

Lesson 12, for September 22, 1945

What to Do With Doubt

MEMORY VERSE: "The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?" Jer. 8:9.

STUDY HELP: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "What to Do With Doubt."

Warnings Against Doubt

1. What is the will of God for all men? What three conditions of answered prayer are given? 1 Tim. 2:8.

2. From the Scriptural record, what made it possible for Peter to walk on the water? What was the cause of his failure? With what words did Jesus rebuke him? Matt. 14:28-31.

NOTE.—"Looking unto Jesus, Peter walks securely; but as in self-satisfaction he glances back toward his companions in the boat, his eyes are turned from the Saviour. The wind is boisterous. The waves roll high, and come directly

between him and the Master; and he is afraid. For a moment Christ is hidden from his view, and his faith gives way. He begins to sink. But while the billows talk with death, Peter lifts his eyes from the angry waters, and fixing them upon Jesus, cries, 'Lord, save me.' Immediately Jesus grasps the outstretched hand, saying, 'O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?'—*The Desire of Ages*, page 381.

3. What warning is given against unbelief? Where does doubt have its source? What are the evil results? Heb. 3:12, 13.

NOTE.—"The word of God, like the character of its Author, presents mysteries that can never be fully comprehended by finite beings. But God has given in the Scriptures sufficient evidence of their divine authority. . . . True, He has not removed the possibility of doubt; faith must rest upon evidence, not demonstration; those who wish to doubt have opportunity; but those who desire to know the truth find ample ground for faith."—*Education*, page 169.

Importance of Faith

4. On what condition does God answer prayer? How fully are the prayers of faith answered? Mark 11:22-24.

NOTE.—"Often men are tempted to falter before the perplexities and obstacles that confront them. But if they will hold the beginning of their confidence steadfast unto the end, God will make the way clear. Success will come to them as they struggle against difficulties. Before the intrepid spirit and unwavering faith of a Zerubbabel, great mountains of difficulty will become a plain."—*Prophets and Kings*, page 595.

5. What promise is made to all who need enlightenment? How is doubting described and illustrated? What appropriate term describes a doubter, and what is said of his character? James 1:5-8.

6. What question did the disciples ask Jesus in regard to their failure to heal the lunatic? How did Jesus answer? Matt. 17:19-21.

NOTE.—"But many have not a living faith. This is why they do not see more of the power of God. Their weakness is the result of their unbelief. They have more faith in their own working than in the working of God for them. They take themselves into their own keeping. They plan and devise, but pray little, and have little real trust in God."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 145.

Appeal to Reason

7. What appeal does the Lord make to every sinner? In what words is the reasonableness of God's requirements stated by Paul? Isa. 1:18; Rom. 12:1.

8. What indicates that some things cannot be understood by man? To whom belongs the revelations of the Scriptures, and what is the result of belief? How fully has God revealed the things necessary to our welfare and salvation? Deut. 29:29; Amos 3:7.

9. What statement of Jesus indicates the simplicity with which truth is revealed? Matt. 11:25.

NOTE.—"The Bible unfolds truth with a simplicity and an adaptation to the needs and longings of the human heart that has astonished and charmed the most highly cultivated minds, while to the humble and uncultured also

it makes plain the way of life. 'The wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.' No child need mistake the path. Not one trembling seeker need fail of walking in pure and holy light. Yet the most simply stated truths lay hold upon themes elevated, far-reaching, infinitely beyond the power of human comprehension,—mysteries that are the hiding of His glory,—mysteries that overpower the mind in its research, while they inspire the sincere seeker for truth with reverence and faith. The more we search the Bible, the deeper is our conviction that it is the word of the living God, and human reason bows before the majesty of divine revelation."—*Education*, page 170.

Certainty of Inspired Truth Basis of Faith

10. How sure are the revelations of God's prophets? To what is prophecy likened? For what purpose does this light shine? How were the prophecies given? 2 Peter 1:16-21.

11. What is the basis of faith? Rom. 10:17.

NOTE.—"In your study of the word of God, penetrate deeper and still deeper beneath the surface. Lay hold by faith on divine power, and sound the depths of inspiration."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 151.

12. What statement and illustration indicate the purity of the word of God? By what divine promise is the preservation of the Scriptures vouchsafed? Ps. 12:6, 7.

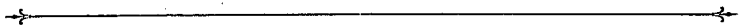
13. What does the psalmist declare concerning the truth of God's word? What is said of the perpetuity of the righteous judgments of the Lord? Ps. 119:160.

NOTE.—"The beginning of Thy word is true," is the marginal reading. This is the portion of the Scriptures most often questioned by doubters. The Genesis record of creation has been the favorite battleground of skeptics. But the Bible stands or falls together. Jesus told the unbelieving Jews that if they believed not the writings of Moses they would not believe His words. The loss of faith in one part of the Scriptures always leads to unbelief regarding divine inspiration and therefore doubts as to the reliability of the Bible as a whole.

14. What did Peter say of the perpetuity of God's word? How did he contrast the enduring nature of the word of God with the transitory things of earth? 1 Peter 1:23-25.

15. What will eventually be the feeling of all who remain willfully ignorant of the Scriptures? Jer. 8:9. See margin.

16. Regardless of skepticism and apostasy, what is said of the Scriptural foundation of the Christian religion? 2 Tim. 2:19.



"The principle laid down by Christ is that our offerings to God should be in proportion to the light and privileges enjoyed. 'Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.' Said the Saviour to His disciples, as He sent them forth, 'Freely ye have received, freely give.' As our blessings and privileges are increased,—above all, as we have before us the unparalleled sacrifice of the glorious Son of God,—should not our gratitude find expression in more abundant gifts to extend to others the message of salvation?"—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 528, 529.

Lesson 13, for September 29, 1945

Rejoicing in the Lord

MEMORY VERSE: "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Phil. 4:4.

STUDY HELP: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "Rejoicing in the Lord."

Good Tidings

1. How did the angel announce the birth of Christ to the shepherds? To how many is this great joy available? What is promised to those who accept the good tidings? Luke 2:10, 11, 13, 14.

NOTE.—The word "gospel" means "good news," or "good tidings." It is "good tidings of great joy." The gospel is the sweetest story ever told. Good news always brings joy to both the bearer and the receiver. Only happy people can successfully preach the gospel. There is something wrong with the religious experience of a person who is morose and melancholy.

2. To what prophecy did Jesus refer in setting forth the nature of His work? What do the "good tidings" bring in place of mourning? Luke 4:16-18; Isa. 61:1-3.

3. How is the world-embracing nature of the final message of salvation illustrated? What term indicates the changeless nature of the gospel? Rev. 14:6.

4. What is the Christian admonished to do? How is the importance of this counsel emphasized? What admonition is given? What special reason is given for rejoicing and moderation? Phil. 4:4, 5.

NOTE.—"Those professed Christians who are constantly whining and complaining, and who seem to think happiness and a cheerful countenance a sin, have not the genuine article of religion."—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 34.

"There is nothing gloomy in the religion of Jesus. If Christians give the impression by a mournful attitude that they have been disappointed in their Lord, they misrepresent His character, and put arguments into the mouth of His enemies. Though in words they may claim God as their Father, yet in gloom and sorrow they present to the world the aspect of orphans."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, page 132.

Reasons for Rejoicing

5. In what did Jesus tell His disciples to rejoice? For what reason did Jesus rejoice? Luke 10:20, 21.

6. What precious boon did Jesus leave with His followers? How complete would be the joy of genuine Christians? John 14:27; 15:11.

7. Where only may peace be found? What can Christians expect from this world? Why should we rejoice? John 16:33.

NOTE.—"Happiness drawn from earthly sources is as changeable as varying circumstances can make it; but the peace of Christ is a constant and abiding peace. It does not depend upon any circumstances in life, on the amount of worldly goods, or the number of earthly friends. Christ is the fountain of living water, and happiness drawn from Him can never fail."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, page 32.

8. What is promised those who sow the precious seeds of truth? How sure is the harvest, and in what spirit will the sheaves be gathered? Ps. 126:5, 6.

9. What did Paul consider to be his crown of rejoicing? 1 ^{Thess.} ~~Tim.~~ 2:19, 20.

Secrets of Happiness

10. What did Paul say he had not yet attained? While pressing toward the prize, what difficult but necessary thing was he able to do? Phil. 3:12-14.

11. What is said of the ability of the redeemed to forget the unpleasant things of this life? What conditions of happiness will therefore prevail? Isa. 65:17-19. See margin of verse 17.

NOTE.—In the supreme happiness of the new-earth state, the troubles of this life will seem too worthless and insignificant to think about. Like the apostle Paul they will “reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed.” Rom. 8:18.

“It is not wise to gather together all the unpleasant recollections of a past life,—its iniquities and disappointments,—to talk over them and mourn over them until we are overwhelmed with discouragement. A discouraged soul is filled with darkness, shutting out the light of God from his own soul, and casting a shadow upon the pathway of others.”—*Steps to Christ*, page 122.

12. What does the psalmist declare to be a cause for rejoicing? Ps. 32:1, 2, 5, 10, 11.

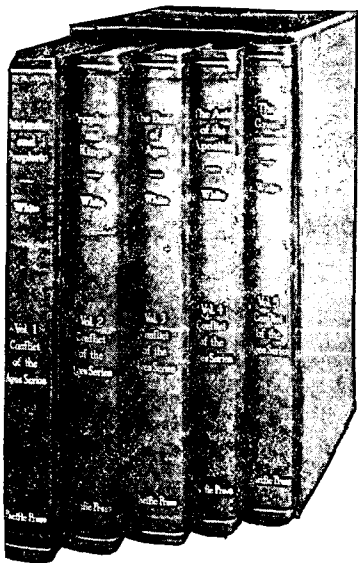
A Day at a Time

13. What is another important secret of avoiding anxiety? Matt. 6:34.

NOTE.—Other translations read, “For tomorrow will bring its own cares,” and “Every day has troubles enough of its own.” “Take no thought” is better translated “Be not anxious.” Each day has enough troubles and problems to keep us busy without stealing or borrowing from either the past or the future. All God expects of us is that we meet the problems today as they come. Tomorrow never arrives. We can never catch up with it. It is always a day ahead. How foolish then to try to live in it by borrowing its anticipated troubles. By this method we must meet the same troubles twice, once in anticipation and again when they become realities. You may break under the double load of tomorrow’s troubles added to those of today. “Divide and conquer” applies with special force to troubles.

14. How is the happy experience of God’s children described? Isa. 26:3; 32:17, 18.

NOTE.—“Nothing of the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence. In perfect acquiescence there is perfect rest. . . . As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins here. We respond to His invitation, Come, learn of Me, and in thus coming we begin the life eternal. Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ. The longer we are in the heaven of bliss the more and still more of glory will be opened to us; and the more we know of God, the more intense will be our happiness. As we walk with Jesus in this life, we may be filled with His love, satisfied with His presence. All that human nature can bear, we may receive here.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 331.



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SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER

The Sabbath school lessons for the fourth quarter are studies of the "Epistles to the Thessalonians and Philemon." For those who do not have a Lesson Quarterly the first Sabbath of the new quarter, we give the following for individual study:

The first lesson, for October 6, is entitled "The Effectiveness of Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica." The memory verse is 1 Thessalonians 1:8. The Study Help is *The Acts of the Apostles*, pages 221-230, which may be read as an introduction to the study of the Thessalonian Epistles. The texts considered in each question of Lesson 1 are:

Ques. 1: 1 Thess. 1:1.

Ques. 2: Verse 2.

Ques. 3: Verse 3.

Ques. 4: Verse 4.

Ques. 5: Verse 5, first part.

Ques. 6: Verse 5, last part.

Ques. 7: Verse 6, first part;

1 Cor. 11:1.

Ques. 8: 1 Thess. 1:6, last part.

Ques. 9: Verse 7.

Ques. 10: Verse 8.

Ques. 11: Verse 9, first part.

Ques. 12: Verse 9, last part.

Ques. 13: Verse 10, first part.

Ques. 14: Verse 10, last part.

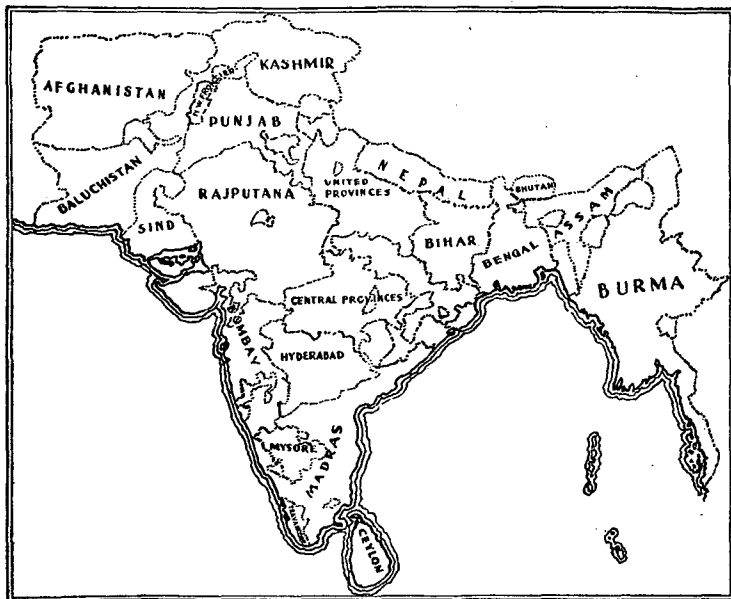
DAILY FOOD FOR DAILY STRENGTH

DAILY food for our spiritual needs is even more important than daily food for our physical needs. We are taught to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," and too often we interpret this petition as relating to our food for bodily nourishment. But the prayer includes far more than sustenance for our physical strength.

"The prayer for daily bread includes not only food to sustain the body, but that spiritual bread which will nourish the soul unto life everlasting. . . . Our Saviour is the bread of life, and it is by beholding His love, by receiving it into the soul, that we feed upon the bread which came down from heaven.

"We receive Christ through His word; and the Holy Spirit is given to open the word of God to our understanding, and bring home its truths to our hearts. We are to pray day by day that as we read His word, God will send His Spirit to reveal to us the truth that will strengthen our souls for the day's need."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pages 164, 165.

Daily, systematic Bible study arms the Christian to meet daily temptations. There is no better method for daily Bible study than the study of the Sabbath school lesson. "Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God's promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 39.



THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

September 29

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

India, with its vast population and multiplied castes! India, with its Hinduism and Mohammedanism, its sacred bulls and its childwives! India, with its endless opportunity for evangelization, calls again for our sacrificial liberality in the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, September 29. The "overflow" from this offering is to provide simple meetinghouses of worship and cottages for native workers. Faithful workers have had to live under almost intolerable conditions, and our work has been hindered because of lack of meetingplaces. A new day has come to our work in this "Gibraltar of heathenism," and we must provide the necessary facilities to care for the great harvest that is yet to be reaped.

The goal for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering is \$225,000. If this goal is reached, it will ensure an overflow of \$35,000 to meet at least a part of this need in India. The latest overflow offering to Southern Asia, given in 1943, amounted to \$24,567.51. Not only was this generous offering heartily appreciated by our brethren in that fruitful field of missionary endeavor, but it also brought great courage to their hearts and blessing to their evangelistic program. What great joy will well up in their hearts if we can furnish every dollar of this \$35,000 overflow offering goal! Let us plan early for a generous gift on Sabbath, September 29.