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SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

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SENIOR DIVISION

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

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THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This epistle was written by Paul from Rome probably in A. D. 61 or 62, during his first imprisonment, noted in Acts 28:16-31.

Paul first visited Ephesus when returning from his second missionary journey, which had taken him into Macedonia and Greece. The people besought him to remain longer with them, but as he had made a vow which required him to proceed immediately to Jerusalem, he bade them farewell, saying, "I will return again unto you, if God will." Acts 18: 21. Later he did return, and during the many months of labor there, some of the most striking incidents of his missionary career took place.

Ephesus was a wicked and licentious seaport. People from every country thronged its streets. The temple of Diana, the pride of the city and surrounding country, was famous in all the lands bordering the Mediterranean. Into such a heathen city, Paul and his colaborers brought the gospel of Jesus Christ with such accompanying power that the worship of the famous goddess was seriously threatened. In Ephesus the first recorded rebaptism took place, and this was followed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Here, too, God manifested His displeasure upon the seven sons of Sceva, the sorcerer, for the unauthorized use of the name of Jesus. The books of the Ephesian sorcerers, valued at fifty thousand pieces of silver, were publicly burned as the converted sorcerers accepted Jesus as their Saviour. From the midst of one of the great strongholds of heathenism, God drew out a faithful, loyal church in Jesus Christ.

Paul's parting words to the elders of the church at Ephesus as he left them, expecting only bonds and imprisonment as the Holy Spirit had revealed to him, is a classic of Christian resignation, heart longing, and faithful warning to sons and daughters in Christ Jesus. Acts 20:18-35. How fitting indeed to follow such an appeal to the loyalty of the Ephesian elders with an epistle, revealing the marvelous richness and depth of God's purpose in all the ages concerning this church, or called-out ones!

In the study of Ephesians, Dean Alford has this to say: "The student . . . must not expect to go over his ground rapidly; must not be disappointed if the week's end finds him still on the same paragraph, or even on the same verse, weighing and judging,—penetrating gradually, by the power of the mind of the Spirit, through one outer surface after another,—gathering in his hand one and another ramifying thread, till at last he grasps the main cord whence they all diverged, and where they all unite, and stands rejoicing in his prize, deeper rooted in the faith, and with a firmer hold on the truth as it is in Christ."—"Introduction to Ephesians."

LESSON 1

CHOSEN IN CHRIST

January 7, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 1: 1-6.

MEMORY VERSE: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Eph. 1: 3.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Seniors: Read the Introductory Note, the Lesson Scripture, and Paul's experiences at Ephesus recorded in Acts 19. Repeat memory verse each day.
   Children: Read the Lesson Scripture, Gen. 1: 1-19. Drill on the memory verse each day. Juniors may also learn the Memory Gem, repeating it each day. Use "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapter on "Creation," as a study help, reading selections each day.
2. Seniors: Study Questions 1-4, and notes. Review the story of our first introduction to Paul, "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 98, 101, 102.
   Children: Study paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson, or Questions 1-7, and notes, of the junior lesson.
3. Seniors: Study Questions 5 and 6, and notes. Continue biography of Paul, "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 112-116.
   Children: Study the work of the first day of creation week.
4. Seniors: Study Questions 7 and 8, and note. Continue biography of Paul, "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 117-122.
   Children: Study the work of the second day of creation week.
5. Seniors: Study Questions 9 and 10, and notes. Continue biography of Paul, "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 123-126.
   Children: Study the work of the third day of creation week.
6. Seniors: Study Question 11, and note. Complete Paul's early history, "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 127-130.
   Children: Study the work of the fourth day of creation week.
7. Review the lessons, memory verses, and Memory Gem. Bring home to the heart the personal questions. Discuss questions in the junior lesson under heading, "Can You Tell?"

THE LESSON

1. Who wrote the epistle to the Ephesians? Eph. 1:1.

2. What is Paul called? Whose apostle was he? Verse 1.

NOTE.—An apostle is one sent. The word "apostle" is a Greek word Anglicized. Twice in the New Testament the word is translated "messenger" or "messengers." Phil. 2:25; 2 Cor. 8:23.

3. By what authority was Paul made an apostle? Answer:—By the will of God. Verse 1.

NOTE.—The will of God was constantly recognized by Paul. Its importance is featured in the six times that it is mentioned in this epistle. It is one of the key words of this chapter.

4. To whom is the epistle addressed? Verse 1.

NOTE.—"To the faithful in Christ Jesus" includes the believers everywhere, in all generations.

5. What is the apostle's greeting? Verse 2.

NOTE.—Ephesians has been called "The Book of God's Grace." The word "grace" occurs in the epistle twelve times, and is magnified

as in no other book of the Bible. "Grace" means "favor," and the grace of God is the favor of God. To all men it is unmerited favor. We all need it, but no one of us deserves it. God does not owe it to us, nor can we buy it. It expresses the love, the kindness, of God to utterly unworthy humanity. Yet God grants it "freely." Rom. 3: 24.

"And peace." Our carnal nature is at enmity with God, not subject to His law, in bondage to sin. But Jesus Christ bore our sin, died in our stead, and is therefore "our peace." Eph. 2: 14.

6. Who is worthy of all blessing and praise? Verse 3, first part.

NOTE.—It is an inviting, hopeful thought that we should think of God as One who blesses and brings blessing to us. And the God who blesses is worthy of all grateful adoration. Rev. 5: 13.

7. What has God done for us? What kind of blessings are they? Where are these blessings found? In whom? Verse 3.

NOTE.—"All spiritual blessings." Not one left out. To our human vision we may lack many temporal blessings possessed for a time by our neighbors, but in God's plan, in the blessings that are eternal, not one is lost. But the blessings are spiritual. They come to us by the Spirit, in the Spirit; and "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Rom. 8:9.

"In heavenly places." The evident meaning is, "In heavenly things" (margin). The key to this thought is found in the words of Jesus to Nicodemus: "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" The word is expressive of condition and character, not merely of place. Spiritual blessings come to those who are on the higher spiritual plane in Christ Jesus. All our hopes and expectations for the future are in heaven, and our faith and life in Christ lifts us to the heavenly plane, where Christ dwells. Separation from the world is fundamental and vital, and in that separation we are blessed with the life and gifts of the Spirit.

8. What had God done for us before the foundation of the world was laid? Verse 4, first part.

9. What is the purpose in the choosing? Verse 4, last part.

NOTE.—That which is of real worth in man or woman is not wealth or beauty, fame or power, education or position, but character. That alone is what God prizes; that alone will endure. 1 John 2:17; Jer. 9:23, 24. These characters have names expressive of the character God purposes to develop in us. If faithful under His discipline to the end, the new name becomes his to all eternity. Rev. 2:17. If unfaithful, his name is blotted out, his case is closed. Rev. 3:5. The inspiring thought to every one should be that we are called by God's love to a character worthy of eternal life.

10. Unto what did He predestinate us? According to what are we called? Verse 5.

NOTE.—It is not the will of our God that any should perish. He has predestinated no one to condemnation and death. "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Gen. 18:25; Isa. 45:22; Eze. 33:11.

11. To whose praise will our salvation redound? In whom are we accepted? Verse 6.

NOTE.—We are not accepted by "works done in righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly, through Jesus Christ our Saviour." Titus 3:5, 6, A. R. V. In God's plan we are sure of acceptance.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. God has called and chosen you; have you chosen Him?
2. What is the will of God concerning your salvation?
3. If you are lost, who is to blame?

LESSON 2

REDEEMED THROUGH CHRIST

January 14, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 1: 7-14.

MEMORY VERSE: "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." Eph. 1: 7.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. **Seniors:** Read Eph. 1: 1-14. Study the close connection between the close of Lesson 1 and the beginning of Lesson 2. Repeat the memory verse each day. Read "Steps to Christ," pp. 53-60, "Faith and Acceptance."
   Children: Read the Lesson Scripture, Gen. 1: 20-31; 2: 1-3. Drill on the memory verse each day. The juniors may also learn the Memory Gem, repeating it each day. Use "Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 44-51, as a study help, reading selections each day.
2. **Seniors:** Study Questions 1-3, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 5, pp. 514, 515.
   Children: Study paragraphs 1-3 of the primary lesson, or Questions 1 and 2, and note, of the junior lesson.
3. **Seniors:** Study Questions 4 and 5, and note. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 8, pp. 247, 248, "God's Purpose for His People."
   Children: Study the work of the sixth day of creation week.
4. **Seniors:** Study Questions 6-8, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 6, pp. 185, 186.
   Children: Study the story of the seventh day of creation week.
5. **Seniors:** Study Questions 9 and 10, and notes. Review Questions 1-10.
   Children: Test your knowledge of what was made on the different days of creation week.
6. **Seniors:** Study Questions 11 and 12, and notes. Try to outline the points in order, verses 1-14.
   Children: Study the steps taken to make the Sabbath.
7. Review the lessons, memory verses, and Memory Gem. Consider "Personal Applications." Follow suggestions in the junior lesson under heading "Things to Do."

THE LESSON

1. In whom and through what do we have redemption? Eph. 1:7, first part.

NOTE.—"In whom." In Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, is our redemption. He bought us by the sacrifice of His own life on

the cross of Calvary. 1 Peter 1:18, 19. "None but the Son of God could accomplish our redemption; for only He who was in the bosom of the Father could declare Him. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it manifest. Nothing less than the infinite sacrifice made by Christ in behalf of fallen man could express the Father's love to lost humanity."—"Steps to Christ," p. 16.

2. What is included in this redemption? According to what measure is this forgiveness granted? Verse 7, last part.

NOTE.—"The humble and broken heart, subdued by genuine repentance, will appreciate something of the love of God and the cost of Calvary; and as a son confesses to a loving father, so will the truly penitent bring all his sins before God."—"Steps to Christ," p. 46. 1 John 1:9. It is the forgiveness of all our trespasses, the complete cleansing of the sinner, and the justification of the pardoned sinner that is taught. Isa. 1:18.

God's love and mercy can not be measured. The sinner's plea is (1) his utter need, which he feebly comprehends; and (2) the "loving-kindness," and "the multitude" of God's "tender mercies." Ps. 51:1.

3. To what extent has this grace been given to us? Verse 8.

NOTE.—"Wherein He hath abounded." That is, in "the exceeding riches of His grace." Eph. 2:7. He is the abounding God in all good things. He revealed Himself to Moses as "abundant in goodness and truth" (Ex. 34:6); His grace is "the abundant grace" (2 Cor. 4:15); therefore His mercy is "shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour" (Titus 3:6); He "will abundantly pardon" those who forsake their evil ways (Isa. 55:7). Does sin abound? Grace does "much more abound" (Rom. 5: 20); and however desperate our condition, the gracious God can do for us "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20); and at the end of our fight of faith "an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord" (2 Peter 1: 11). But God does not give unwisely, but "in all wisdom and prudence."

4. What has God made known unto us? Verse 9, first part.

5. According to what has God made His will known unto us? Verse 9, last part.

NOTE.—"Purposed in Himself." Our God does not do haphazard work. He has a great and all-comprehending purpose, not alone for this earth, but for His universe. Things now may sometimes seem purposeless. Remember the words of Jesus, "An enemy hath done this." The devil is using all his agencies to thwart God's purpose, but it holds. All time is God's, all power and wisdom are His. The waiting will demonstrate the wisdom and love of His purpose. Back of that purpose, so far as this earth is concerned, is God's statement, "I am Jehovah; and there is none else." Isa. 45:18, A. R. V. And He, the all-sufficient One, will fulfill His purpose according to His good pleasure.

6. What is the fullness of God's purpose? Verse 10.

NOTE.—"In the dispensation of the fullness of times." In the years that lie just ahead, when the "fullness of times" shall come, it is God's

purpose to gather "in one all things in Christ." The Redeemer will in that day in actuality as now in God's plan and purpose, be the One in whom are all things both in heaven and on earth. To the individual, however, the important thing is to know he is in God's purpose in Christ Jesus. The mystery is solved to the child of faith, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." You yielding all to Him, and He Redeemer, Saviour, Sanctifier, coming into your life, and making you "to the praise of the glory of His grace." Wonderful, miraculous mystery, but it is ours to know. All things of worth which this world knows can not be compared to its eternal value.

7. What part have we in God's purpose? Verse 11, first part.

NOTE.—"Have obtained an inheritance." It is ours in Christ Jesus. When we receive Him, we receive the inheritance in Him. "By and by the gates of heaven will be thrown open to admit God's children, and from the lips of the King of glory the benediction will fall on their ears like richest music, 'Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.' . . .

"Every sinful tendency, every imperfection, that afflicts them here, has been removed by the blood of Christ, and the excellence and brightness of His glory, far exceeding the brightness of the sun, is imparted to them."—"Steps to Christ," pp. 131, 132.

8. How were we brought into the purpose? Verse 11, second part.

NOTE.—"It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we can not change them. . . . There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ. His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God, to holiness."—"Steps to Christ," p. 20.

9. If we yield to the will of God, who is praised and glorified by our character? Verse 12.

NOTE.—"Praise of His glory." "The revelation of His own glory in the form of humanity, will bring heaven so near to men that the beauty adorning the inner temple will be seen in every soul in whom the Saviour dwells. Men will be captivated by the glory of an abiding Christ. And in currents of praise and thanksgiving from the many souls thus won to God, glory will flow back to the great Giver."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 420.

10. What is the basis of trusting in Christ? Verse 13, first part.

NOTE.—"The word of truth." The importance of the word of truth can not be overstressed. It is absolutely vital. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6. We are sanctified by His word of truth. John 17:17. And He says, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63. Truth is warm, living, mighty. And the basis of truth is the living word of truth, the gospel.

11. What assurance, or pledge, is given that our hope of the inheritance will be fulfilled? Verse 13, last part.

NOTE.—The seal signifies that the transaction is completed. "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," p. 388. The change, the power, the sealing, are not the Spirit; these are wrought by the Spirit.

12. What is this gift of the Spirit said to be? For how long does it serve? Verse 14.

NOTE.—"The earnest of our inheritance." An "earnest" is a part of the price given to bind a bargain. For instance, a buyer purchases a piece of land which he will take possession of in one month. That the seller may know the transaction is dependable, the buyer pays down one hundred dollars, the balance to be paid when possession is given. So God gives His Spirit to the believing sinner as a pledge that when the Master comes for His own possession,—the earth and the redeemed,—the rest of the inheritance will begin to be enjoyed, and the curse be removed forever. Earth and the redeemed shall shine through all eternity to "the praise of His glory."

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Are my sins forgiven?
2. Am I by my own choice a part of the purpose of God, according to the good pleasure of His will?
3. Have I received the "earnest"?

LESSON 3

PRAYER FOR US ALL

January 21, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 1: 15-23.

MEMORY VERSE: "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him." Eph. 1: 17.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. **Seniors:** Read Eph. 1: 1-23. Study the close connection between the close of Lesson 2 and the beginning of Lesson 3. Repeat the memory verse each day.
   Children: Read the Lesson Scripture, Gen. 2: 1-9. Drill on the memory verse each day. The juniors may also learn the Memory Gem, repeating each day. Use "Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 52-62, as a study help, reading selections each day.
2. **Seniors:** Study Questions 1-3, and notes. Read "Counsels to Teachers," p. 66.
   Children: Study paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson, or Questions 1-3, and note, of the junior lesson.
3. **Seniors:** Study Questions 4-6, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 8, "The Power Promised," pp. 19-23.
   Children: Study paragraphs 3-5 of the primary lesson, or Questions 4-6, and notes, of the junior lesson.
4. **Seniors:** Study Questions 7-9, and notes. Read "The Desire of Ages," p. 200, last paragraph.
   Children: Study paragraphs 6 and 7 of the primary lesson, or Questions 7-9, and notes, of the junior lesson.

5. Seniors: Study Questions 10-12. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 8, p. 194.
   Children: Study paragraphs 8 and 9 of the primary lesson, or Questions 10-12, and note, of the junior lesson.
6. Seniors: Study Questions 13-15, and notes. Read "The Desire of Ages," p. 414.
   Children: Study paragraphs 10 and 11 of the primary lesson, or Questions 13-15 of the junior lesson.
7. Review the lessons, memory verses, and Memory Gem. Consider "Personal Applications." Follow suggestions in the junior lesson under "Subjects for Study and Discussion."

THE LESSON

1. What two things had the apostle heard concerning the people to whom he was writing? Eph. 1: 15.

NOTE.—"Nothing more quickly inspires faith than the exercise of faith."—"Prophets and Kings," p. 351.

"When men are bound together, not by force or self-interest, but by love, they show the working of an influence that is above every human influence. Where this oneness exists, it is evidence that the image of God is being restored in humanity, that a new principle of life has been implanted."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 678.

2. What did their faithfulness cause the apostle to do? Verse 16.

NOTE.—No doubt Paul prayed much for the prosperity of the gospel everywhere, but because of his particular affection for the brethren at Ephesus, he mentioned them by name in his prayers.

3. What blessing did Paul desire the Father to give to the Ephesian brethren? Verse 17.

NOTE.—Paul lays emphasis upon God, the Father. Eight times the term "Father" is used, twice as the God of Jesus, and twice as the Father of Jesus. Remembering our adoption as children, God is also our Father, and Jesus is our elder Brother. What a blessed fellowship and relationship it is!

"In the knowledge of Him." "Of Him" refers to the Father. To know God is to be truly wise. To know and understand God, His loving-kindness, righteousness, and judgment is more than earthly wisdom, more than earthly might or riches. Jer. 9:23, 24. The beginning of wisdom lies in the fear of Jehovah. Job 28:28. Measured by what it will bring, to know Him is life eternal. John 17:3.

4. What is the next implied petition? Verse 18, first part.

NOTE.—The American Revised Version reads: "Having the eyes of your heart enlightened." Other authorities give a similar reading. This expression occurs only here in the New Testament, and it is vitally important. Naturally a man goes where his heart is set. Love is more than reason; affection and emotion more often than knowledge and judgment determine human course of action.

5. What will the enlightened heart know? Verse 18, last part.

6. Through whom does the Lord desire to reveal the greatness of His power? Verse 19.

NOTE.—"Exceeding." The word means "more than usual," "more than sufficient," "measureless." Words are piled up and compounded to

express the great thought of God's power. "Greatness" is not enough, but "exceeding greatness" of His power waiting to be manifested in behalf of His children. We may be weak, literally "without strength," having "no might," but with Him, in Him, the outlook is not discouraging; the superabundant power of our God is ours in response to faith.

7. What example is given of the working of "His mighty power"? Verses 19, 20, first part.

8. What does this same mighty power accomplish in the believer? Rom. 8:11.

NOTE.—"Satan can not hold the dead in his grasp when the Son of God bids them live. He can not hold in spiritual death one soul who in faith receives Christ's word of power. God is saying to all who are dead in sin, 'Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead.' That word is eternal life."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 320.

9. What did that power do for Christ? Eph. 1:20, second part.

NOTE.—Do not forget the picture: Jesus arrested, forsaken by His disciples, condemned by the highest court of His own people, condemned under Roman law; crucified, dead, buried, and the rock sepulcher sealed by the empire of Rome, guarded by tried warriors. Earthly power, all earthly power, could do nothing. But God's mighty messenger from heaven appears in a glory which strikes down the strong Roman guard, an angel hand rolls back the stone from the sealed sepulcher, and he speaks the all-powerful message from the throne of the universe, "Thy Father calls Thee." All the powers of earth could not hold the robed figure resting in death. Likewise God's power is exercised to usward to free us from the thralldom of sin and death.

10. Where did that power set Jesus? Verse 20, last part.

11. To what extent was Jesus exalted by the great power of God? Verse 21.

12. In talking to His disciples, what did Jesus say had been given to Him? Matt. 28:18-20.

13. Over how much is our Lord triumphant? Eph. 1:22, first part.

NOTE.—This is God's purpose, although not as yet visible to mortal eyes. But it is assured by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and will in God's good time be fulfilled. 1 Cor. 15:23-28.

14. What relation does Christ sustain to the true church? Verse 22, last part.

NOTE.—"The church is built upon Christ as its foundation; it is to obey Christ as its head. . . . Upon no finite being can we depend for guidance. The Rock of faith is the living presence of Christ in the church. Upon this the weakest may depend, and those who think themselves the strongest will prove to be the weakest, unless they make Christ their efficiency."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 414.

15. How has God honored His church? Verse 23.

NOTE.—"The Lord has a people, a chosen people, His church, to be His own, His own fortress, which He holds in a sin-stricken, revolted

world; and He intended that no authority should be known in it, no laws be acknowledged by it, but His own. . . . His authority should be kept distinct and plain before the world; and no laws are to be acknowledged that come in collision with the laws of Jehovah."—"Testimonies to Ministers," p. 16.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. In my need, what portion of this lesson may I use as a prayer?
2. When I love a questionable thing, am I willing that God should enlighten the eyes of my heart?
3. What should guide me in all the acts of life, Jesus my Lord, my own desires, or public opinion?

LESSON 4

ALIVE FROM THE DEAD

January 28, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 2: 1-10.

MEMORY VERSE: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Eph. 2:8.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. **Seniors:** Read Eph. 2: 1-10. Study Questions 1-3, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 6, p. 426.
   Children: Read the Lesson Scripture, Gen. 4: 1-16. Drill on the memory verse each day. The juniors may also learn the Memory Gem, repeating each day. Use "Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 71-79, as a study help, reading selections each day.
2. **Seniors:** Study Questions 4 and 5, and note. Read "Steps to Christ," pp. 47-49.
   Children: Study paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson, or Questions 1 and 2, and note, of the junior lesson.
3. **Seniors:** Study Questions 6-9, and notes. Read "The Great Controversy," pp. 674, 675.
   Children: Study paragraphs 3-6 of the primary lesson, or Questions 3-7, and notes, of the junior lesson.
4. **Seniors:** Study Questions 10-12, and notes. Read "Steps to Christ," p. 66.
   Children: Study paragraphs 7-9 of the primary lesson, or Questions 8-12 of the junior lesson.
5. **Seniors:** Study Questions 13 and 14, and note. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 4, p. 250.
   Children: Study paragraphs 10-13 of the primary lesson, or Questions 13 and 14, and notes, of the junior lesson.
6. **Seniors:** Think through the lesson, studying especially difficult points.
   Children: The small children and juniors may tell the lesson in detail as a story.
7. Review the lessons, memory verses, and Memory Gem. Consider "Personal Applications." Follow suggestions in the junior lesson under "Find Out."

THE LESSON

1. What change did the apostle Paul say had been wrought in those who believed on Jesus? Eph. 2:1.

NOTE.—The American Revised Version reads: "And you did He make alive, when ye were dead through your trespasses and sins."

Made "alive" is the opposite of "dead." The thought of life comes over from chapter 1:20. Jesus lives, and you hath He made alive from the death of sin. This is a change in life power and relationship.

2. From what are those alienated who are "dead in trespasses and sins"? Eph. 4:18.

3. What had they been doing in the past? According to whose plan had they been walking? In whom does this spirit now work? Eph. 2:2.

NOTE.—They had been walking "according to the course of this world." The meaning is made plain by the words "according to the prince of the power of the air." In other words, to walk "according to the course of this world" is to do the will of Satan instead of the will of God.

4. What does the apostle state the previous condition of the believers to have been? What are we by nature? Verse 3.

5. What is God's attitude toward us? Verse 4.

NOTE.—In chapter 1:19, 20, it was God's power that was dominant; now, added to that power, is His mercy and love,—"rich in mercy," "great" in love.

6. What does God do for the spiritually dead? By what are we saved? Verse 5.

NOTE.—"Transformation of character is the testimony to the world of an indwelling Christ. The Spirit of God produces a new life in the soul, bringing the thoughts and desires into obedience to the will of Christ; and the inward man is renewed in the image of God. Weak and erring men and women show to the world that the redeeming power of grace can cause the faulty character to develop into symmetry and abundant fruitfulness."—"Prophets and Kings," p. 233.

7. What marvelous thing has God done for us? Verse 6.

NOTE.—"By the grace of Christ the apostles were made what they were. It was sincere devotion and humble, earnest prayer that brought them into close communion with Him. They sat together with Him in heavenly places. They realized the greatness of their debt to Him. By earnest, persevering prayer they obtained the endowment of the Holy Spirit, and then they went forth, weighted with the burden of saving souls, filled with zeal to extend the triumphs of the cross."—"Testimonies," Vol. 7, p. 32. This experience should come into the life of every Christian.

8. What will God show in the ages to come? Verse 7.

NOTE.—We are told by the servant of the Lord that "the 144,000 [Rev. 14:1] shall have the privilege of visiting all the worlds and viewing the handiwork of God."—"Early Writings," p. 40. That the redeemed ones who visit these other worlds will serve as an object lesson of what the grace of God can do for sinners is indicated by the following: "The redeemed only, of all created beings, have in their own experience known the actual conflict with sin; they have wrought

with Christ, and, as even the angels could not do, have entered into the fellowship of His sufferings; will they have no testimony as to the science of redemption,—nothing that will be of worth to unfallen beings?"—"Education" (Mrs. E. G. White), p. 308.

9. What can never fully be revealed to the child of God? 1 Cor. 2:9.

NOTE.—The exceeding riches of God's grace and His kindness to the child of God can never be wholly revealed. This is not because God is not willing, but because the human mind can never comprehend such wonders. Therefore it will be an eternal joy, for every day of the years and centuries and ages will reveal new wonders, new riches, new beauties, in God's marvelous love and goodness in Christ Jesus. Redemption will be the science and song throughout all eternity.

10. By what are we saved? Through what? Eph. 2:8, first part.

NOTE.—"Grace floods with affection the sinner who has deserved anger and resentment. If human salvation has its origin in the infinite grace of God, if by that grace it is carried through to its eternal consummation, then our true position is one of immeasurable trust and hope. We have only to receive the infinite blessings of the divine love; we have to surrender ourselves to that stream of eternal benediction which has its fountains in the eternal depths of the divine nature."—"The Sermon Bible," Vol. 10, pp. 181, 182.

11. From whom is this saving grace? Verse 8, last part.

NOTE.—Salvation is all of God,—His free gift. (See Rom. 3: 24.) The great thought in the book of Ephesians thus far is that the choosing, the marking out of characters, the redemption by blood, the forgiveness of sins, the exceeding riches of His grace, the Holy Spirit and the sealing, making us heirs in the eternal inheritance, participants in eternal glory, are all in the gift of Jesus, which we receive through faith. The saving and all that it means is the gift of God.

12. If man could have saved himself, what would he have done? Verse 9.

13. Whose workmanship are we? Unto what have we been created? Verse 10, first part.

14. Who had from the beginning ordained the good works? Verse 10, last part.

NOTE.—"Good works can never purchase salvation, but they are an evidence of the faith that acts by love and purifies the soul. And though the eternal reward is not bestowed because of our merit, yet it will be in proportion to the work that has been done through the grace of Christ."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 314.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Am I willing to accept God's diagnosis in full, of my spiritual condition apart from Him?
2. Have I made the gift of verse 8 mine?
3. What would I undoubtedly do if I could be saved by my works?

LESSON 5

ONE IN CHRIST JESUS

February 4, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 2: 11-22.

MEMORY VERSE: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God." Eph. 2: 19.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. **Seniors:** Read Eph. 2: 1-22. Repeat the memory verse each day.
   Children: Read the Lesson Scripture, Genesis 7. Drill on the memory verse each day. The juniors may also learn the Memory Gem, repeating it each day. Use "Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 90-104, as a study help, reading selections each day.
2. **Seniors:** Study Questions 1-3, and notes. Read "The Desire of Ages," p. 622.
   Children: Study paragraphs 1-3 of the primary lesson, or Questions 1-3, and note, of the junior lesson.
3. **Seniors:** Study Questions 4-7, and notes. Read "Christ's Object Lessons," p. 386.
   Children: Study paragraphs 4-6 of the primary lesson, or Questions 4-6, and notes, of the junior lesson.
4. **Seniors:** Study Questions 8-10, and notes. Read "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 175, 176.
   Children: Study paragraphs 7-9 of the primary lesson, or Questions 7-9, and note, of the junior lesson.
5. **Seniors:** Study Questions 11-13, and note. Read "The Desire of Ages," pp. 335-337.
   Children: Study paragraphs 10 and 11 of the primary lesson, or Questions 10-12, and notes, of the junior lesson.
6. **Seniors:** Study Questions 14 and 15, and notes. Read "The Great Controversy," p. 416.
   Children: Tell the lesson as a story.
7. Review the lessons, memory verses, and Memory Gem. Consider "Personal Applications." Discuss topics in the junior lesson under the heading "Can You Imagine?"

THE LESSON

1. Writing to the Ephesian brethren, what did Paul enjoin them to remember? What were they called? Eph. 2:11.

NOTE.—The Jews knew those of other nations as the uncircumcision, and considered them as outside of the covenant and promises to Abraham, and themselves as the circumcision, and within that covenant. (See Genesis 17:1-14.) But Romans 4:9-11 clearly shows that the blessing of righteousness came to Abraham while he was yet in uncircumcision. The circumcision was but a token; that which brought the blessing was faith in God's promise. The Gentile nations as a whole knew neither the covenant nor the token.

2. What five things do men lack who have not Christ? Verse 12.

NOTE.—(1) "Without Christ" ("separate from," A. R. V.), in whom all fullness dwells; (2) "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel" ("alienated from," A. R. V.); (3) and therefore "strangers from the covenants of promise,"—of the promise literally, the great promise to Abraham centering in Christ, the Seed; (4) "having no hope,"—sinful man has neither hope in himself nor in his fellows (Ps.

146:3, 5); (5) "without God in the world." The text stands as a mighty negation against the theory that God is inherent in every man. Go over the fearful five points again and again, any one of which shuts us out of the kingdom of God.

3. How only are those who are "far off" from Christ "made nigh"? Verse 13.

NOTE.—"There is but one power that can break the hold of evil from the hearts of men, and that is the power of God in Jesus Christ. Only through the blood of the Crucified One is there cleansing from sin. His grace alone can enable us to resist and subdue the tendencies of our fallen nature."—"Testimonies," Vol. 8, p. 291.

4. What, therefore, has Christ Jesus brought to us? Verse 14, first part.

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."—"The Desire of Ages," pp. 336, 337.

5. In accomplishing our peace, what resulted? Verse 14, last part.

NOTE.—"No distinction on account of nationality, race, or caste is recognized by God. He is the Maker of all mankind. All men are of one family by creation, and all are one through redemption. Christ came to demolish every wall of partition, to throw open every compartment of the temple courts, that every soul may have free access to God. His love is so broad, so deep, so full, that it penetrates everywhere. It lifts out of Satan's influence those who have been deluded by his deceptions, and places them within reach of the throne of God, the throne encircled by the rainbow of promise. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free."—"Prophets and Kings," pp. 369, 370.

6. How has our Lord accomplished this? Verse 15, first part.

NOTE.—Carnal, natural man can not abolish his enmity against God. It is a part of his nature. It is intertwined in every fiber of his being. But Jesus took upon Himself our nature of flesh and blood (Heb. 2:14), "in all things . . . to be made like unto His brethren" (Heb. 2:17), "of the seed of David according to the flesh" (Rom. 1:3); He met and "abolished in His flesh the enmity," "the carnal mind" (Rom. 8:7), "the mind of the flesh" (Rom. 8:7, A. R. V.). He conquered sin in the flesh for us forever.

7. In what was the enmity symbolized? Verse 15, second part.

NOTE.—"The law of commandments contained in ordinances." The ceremonial and restrictive laws of the Jews, designed by God to keep them a holy and a missionary people, were perverted by rabbinical misinterpretations, exalting the Jewish rulers in selfishness, and leading them to despise all who were without their walls of tradition, until that perverted system under Pharisaical pride was a fit symbol of "the enmity" of the carnal mind. When type met antitype in the sacrifice

of Christ, the system of types and shadows, having served its purpose, came to an end, expired by limitation, and the whole barrier was abolished, made of no effect, rendered void, empty, useless. The original word is thus variously rendered in our common version.

8. What was one object accomplished by the abolition of the enmity? Verse 15, last part.

NOTE.—All who believe in Jesus become one body in Him. That body is His church, of which He is the Head. Eph. 1:22, 23. In Him Jew and Gentile, bond and free, become one, because in their regenerate condition they are of One, Christ Jesus. The answer to the prayer of Jesus (John 17:21-23) is made possible through His death and in His creative life.

9. What further was accomplished? Verse 16.

NOTE.—"It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 25.

10. As the result of our Lord's sacrifice, what message is sent to this world? Verse 17.

NOTE.—"He who spoke peace to the billows of Galilee, has spoken the word of peace for every soul."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 337.

"But real peace can never be secured by compromising principle. And no man can be true to principle without exciting opposition."—Id., p. 356.

"In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment."—Id., p. 330.

11. By what means do both Jew and Gentile have access to God? Verse 18.

NOTE.—Through Jesus we all have access by one Spirit to the Father. The Spirit binds believers to God, and by the strongest bond to each other. 1 Cor. 12:13.

12. What blessed assurance is thus given? Verse 19.

13. Upon what are these members of the household of God built? Verse 20. (See 1 Cor. 3:11.)

14. What effect has this wonderful corner stone on the building? Verse 21.

NOTE.—"Christ, the true foundation, is a living stone; His life is imparted to all that are built upon Him. . . . The stones become one with the foundation; for a common life dwells in all. That building no tempest can overthrow; for—

> " 'That which shares the life of God,
> With Him surviveth all.' "

—"Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing," p. 216.

15. For what purpose are we builded together? Verse 22.

NOTE.—It is of vital interest to us whether or not we are in God's building; whether or not we have with all our heart accepted His measure of the character written in the book of life, and whether or not we have given ourselves to Him to be fitted for the place, the name, the crown, that belong to the character.

"Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God. Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the divine One. But by the incarnation of the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His temple."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 161.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Is my experience described in verse 12, or in verse 13?
2. Has the "enmity" in me been taken away?
3. Am I a living stone, however small, in God's living temple?
4. Do I act as those should who are truly "fellow citizens with the saints"?

LESSON 6

ONE PEOPLE IN CHRIST

February 11, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 3: 1-13.

MEMORY VERSE: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." 1 Cor. 12: 13.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. **Seniors:** Read Eph. 3: 1-13. Repeat the memory verse each day. Read the story of Paul's conversion, and the commission given to him. Acts 9: 1-20.
   Children: Read the Lesson Scripture, Genesis 8. Drill on the memory verse each day. The juniors may also learn the Memory Gem, repeating it each day. Use "Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 105-110, as a study help, reading selections each day.
2. **Seniors:** Study Questions 1-5, and notes. Read "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 127, 128.
   Children: Study paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson, or Questions 1-3, and note, of the junior lesson.
3. **Seniors:** Study Questions 6 and 7, and notes. Read "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 160, 163.
   Children: Study paragraphs 3 and 4 of the primary lesson, or Questions 4 and 5, and note, of the junior lesson.
4. **Seniors:** Study Questions 8-10, and notes. Read "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 526, 527.
   Children: Study paragraphs 5 and 6 of the primary lesson, or Questions 6-8, and notes, of the junior lesson.
5. **Seniors:** Study Questions 11 and 12, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 6, pp. 12, 13.
   Children: Study paragraphs 7 and 8 of the primary lesson, or Questions 9 and 10, of the junior lesson.
6. **Seniors:** Study Questions 13 and 14, and note. Review the notes following the questions in the lesson.

Children: Study paragraphs 9 and 10 of the primary lesson, or Questions 11 and 12, and note, of the junior lesson.

7. Review the lessons, memory verses, and Memory Gem. Consider "Personal Applications." Discuss the topics in the junior lesson under the heading "Problems."

THE LESSON

1. In whose behalf was Paul a prisoner? Eph. 3:1.

NOTE.—Paul's earnest desire and work for the Gentiles led to the enmity of the Jews, and hence to his imprisonment. But he did not hold against the Jews those things which they caused him to suffer. He would have given his life forever if he could thus have saved them. Rom. 9: 3. When the Master called him, Paul was told of the things he would suffer (Acts 9:16), and the suffering was a part of the service. Now that he is a prisoner, he calls himself, "the prisoner of Jesus Christ." If we will but look upon our trials as God's appointments, we shall find blessings in them.

2. What does Paul infer that the Ephesians had already heard? Verse 2.

NOTE.—The dispensation, the stewardship, of the grace of God for the Gentiles; he presses it home, "to you-ward." The grace of God was dispensed to Paul that he might dispense it to others. Paul was not self-sent. He was not seeking an easy place. Christ called him, bestowed upon him the grace of the gift of an apostleship to the Gentiles, and told him what things he must suffer for the sake of the Master.

3. What had Christ made known to Paul? Verse 3.

4. How was the mystery of the gospel made known to Paul? Gal. 1:11, 12.

5. When the brethren should read the way in which this light was given to Paul, what would they understand? Eph. 3:4.

NOTE.—The mystery which was made known to Paul by revelation from God, not by preaching through human instrumentality, was a revelation of the fullness of Jesus Christ. Called by God's grace, "it pleased God, . . . to reveal His Son in" Paul (Gal. 1:15, 16), that he might preach Jesus among the heathen. It was the revelation of the living Christ in Paul; Christ in him "the hope of glory." Col. 1:27. This mystery of God, this dwelling in human hearts through the Spirit, is the mystery of the gospel, the power of God unto salvation to the believers. Rom. 1:16, 17; Gal. 2:20.

6. By what agency has a fuller revelation of this mystery been made to us? In comparison, what light have other generations had? Verse 5.

NOTE.—The power of the gospel to save was known and understood even when the mystery was not as fully revealed as to Paul and his fellow apostles. The list of the faithful as mentioned by Paul in Hebrews 11, is witness to their grasp of the power of the gospel to save even in their day.

7. To whom was the apostle Paul especially commissioned to declare this mystery? What phase of it is here emphasized? Verse 6.

NOTE.—The idea is not that God was about to save the Gentiles; for that had been predicted. Acts 15:14-17; Hosea 2:23; 1:10. The great mystery was that God's power could take antagonistic Jews and Gentiles and make them one in God the Father, one in Christ, one with each other. The Scriptures show that God does not have different dealings or covenants with Jews and Gentiles. Access into the mystery of His righteousness, love, and power in Christ Jesus are equally open to all through faith in Him.

8. What had God made Paul's relation to the gospel? How was the light of God's grace given to him? Verse 7.

NOTE.—Paul had no merely nominal ministry. In that ministry was the gift of the grace of God; and this not in theory, but by the effectual working of God's power which transformed a persecutor into an apostle.

9. How did the apostle regard himself? What was the purpose of the gift of this grace? Verse 8.

NOTE.—Paul's thought of his unworthiness is ever with him. The gift of preaching to the needy Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ became from that time Paul's life business. He could not be swerved from that mission, and God greatly honored him with abundance of grace.

10. What was Paul to make all men see? How old is the mystery of the gospel? Verse 9.

NOTE.—"The work of the gospel minister is 'to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God.' . . .

"The spirit of the true shepherd is one of self-forgetfulness. He loses sight of self in order that he may work the works of God. By the preaching of the Word and by personal ministry in the homes of the people, he learns their needs, their sorrows, their trials; and, cooperating with the great Burden Bearer, he shares their afflictions, comforts their distresses, relieves their soul hunger, and wins their hearts to God. In this work the minister is attended by the angels of heaven, and he himself is instructed and enlightened in the truth that maketh wise unto salvation."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 527.

11. What is the privilege of the church? Verse 10.

NOTE.—"The Lord Jesus is making experiments on human hearts through the exhibition of His mercy and abundant grace. He is effecting transformations so amazing that Satan, with all his triumphant boasting, with all his confederacy of evil united against God and the laws of His government, stands viewing them as a fortress impregnable to his sophistries and delusions. They are to him an incomprehensible mystery. The angels of God, seraphim and cherubim, the powers commissioned to coöperate with human agencies, look on with astonishment and joy, that fallen men, once children of wrath, are

through the training of Christ developing characters after the divine similitude, to be sons and daughters of God, to act an important part in the occupations and pleasures of heaven."—"Testimonies to Ministers," p. 18.

12. According to what purpose is all this manifestation of God's grace? In whom does the purpose center? Verse 11.

NOTE.—Thank God, the purpose still holds, and God's invitation is still extended to fallen humanity, to come into the purpose of God. God is taking a detailed personal interest in you and me. If we stay by the purpose, we can leave all confidently with Him, and He will work out even our troubles and trials to His glory, and therefore for our highest good.

13. How should this revelation affect us as regards the Lord Jesus? Verse 12.

14. What was the apostle's desire for the disciples? How should his afflictions be regarded by the church? Verse 13.

NOTE.—It was as if the apostle said, "The sufferings, therefore, of your apostle are honorable to you and to your cause; and far from being any cause why you should faint, or draw back like cowards, in the day of distress, they should be an additional argument to induce you to persevere."—Dr. Adam Clarke.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. What does Paul's courage, determination, and faithfulness mean to me?
2. Am I as faithful to my opportunities for service as Paul was to his?
3. Is the experience of Ephesians 3:12 mine?

"Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one can not readily remember God's promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity, they will bring to their remembrance the very truths which are needed."—"The Great Controversy," p. 600.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

March 31, 1928

CENTRAL AFRICA

LESSON 7

ONE UNIVERSAL FAMILY

February 18, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 3: 14-21.

MEMORY VERSE: "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man." Eph. 3: 16.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. **Seniors:** Read Eph. 3: 1-21. Repeat the memory verse each day.
   Children: Read the Lesson Scripture, Gen. 11: 1-9. Drill on the memory verse each day. The juniors may also learn the Memory Gem, repeating it each day. Use "Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 117-124, as a study help, reading selections each day.
2. **Seniors:** Study Questions 1 and 2, and notes. Read "Gospel Workers," pp. 178, 179.
   Children: Study paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson, or Questions 1-3, and note, of the junior lesson.
3. **Seniors:** Study Questions 3-5, and notes. Read "The Great Controversy," pp. 476, 477.
   Children: Study paragraphs 3-5 of the primary lesson, or Questions 4-7, and notes, of the junior lesson.
4. **Seniors:** Study Questions 6-11, and note. Get the scriptures so thoroughly in mind that you can think God's thoughts after Him. Read "Christ's Object Lessons," pp. 283, 312.
   Children: Study paragraphs 6 and 7 of the primary lesson, or Questions 8-10, and note, of the junior lesson.
5. **Seniors:** Study Questions 12 and 13, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 264, also Vol. 8, p. 335.
   Children: Study paragraphs 8 and 9 of the primary lesson, or Questions 11 and 12 of the junior lesson.
6. **Seniors:** Study Question 14. Review all the notes in the lesson.
   Children: Study paragraphs 10 and 11 of the primary lesson, or Questions 13 and 14, and note, of the junior lesson.
7. Review the lessons, memory verses, and Memory Gem. Consider "Personal Applications." Discuss topics in the junior lesson under the heading "Something Interesting."

THE LESSON

1. What was Paul led to do as he contemplated the eternal purpose of God? Eph. 3:14.

NOTE.—The first thought, "For this cause," carries us back to the first verse of the chapter. Verses 2 to 13 are a parenthetical statement that the Holy Spirit introduced.

"Bow my knees." "Both in public and in private worship, it is our privilege to bow on our knees before the Lord when we offer our petitions to Him. Jesus, our example, 'kneeled down, and prayed.' Of His disciples it is recorded that they, too, 'kneeled down, and prayed.'" —"Gospel Workers," p. 178.

Paul's prayer is addressed to the great, loving God of the universe, the "Our Father which art in heaven," to whom Jesus taught us to pray.

2. What does the apostle say further of the Father? Verse 15.

NOTE.—It is a beautiful thought that all the Lord's children, all who acknowledge allegiance to the Creator, belong to one family,—the

family of God; all sprang from one source; all are dependent upon God for life, and breath, and all things; and all respond to the same divine will as the supreme law of life.

3. What was Paul's first petition for the believers? According to what was the request made? Verse 16. (See Col. 1:11.)

NOTE.—Paul knew that God is a royal Giver; he knew that the exceeding riches of His glory, the glory of His grace, never grow less; he knew that what he asked was just what God wants to do.

"All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God, will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own Spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through coöperation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 827.

4. What was the second petition for them? Verse 17, first part.

NOTE.—So Christ lived in Paul; but before Christ could live in Paul, Paul must be crucified with Christ. Gal. 2:20. Paul's prayer was that the believers to whom he wrote might have the same experience.

5. What does this experience accomplish? Verse 17, last part.

NOTE.—Rooted and grounded in Christ, we are rooted and grounded in love.

6. What does true faith always do? Gal. 5:6.

7. What did Jesus say was the test of love to Him? John 15:10.

8. How would such love for Christ affect our feelings toward our brethren? John 15:12-14.

9. How do we know that we have passed from death into life? 1 John 3:14.

10. What statement that we might make would be a falsehood? 1 John 4:20.

11. What is the real proof to our own heart that we love God's children? 1 John 5:2.

NOTE.—"He whose heart is not filled with love for God and his fellow men, is not a true disciple of Christ."—"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 318.

12. When we are "rooted and grounded in love," what further experience may be ours? Eph. 3:18, 19.

NOTE.—These are great thoughts for meditation. Verses 16 to 19 read thus in the Syriac version, one of the oldest, the language spoken by our Lord, translated by Murdock: "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by

His Spirit; that in your inner man the Messiah may dwell by faith, and in your hearts by love, while your root and your foundation waxeth strong; and that ye may be able to explore, with all the saints, what is the height and depth, and length and breadth, and may know the greatness of the Messiah's love; and [that] ye may be filled with all the fullness of God."

13. What is God able to do for believers in Him? Verse 20.

NOTE.—All that He has promised to do He is able to perform, far beyond our poor asking. We can only ask for what we see and think, but we can not see what God has for us. He does exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think according to the power which raised Jesus from the dead. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 264.

14. With what ascription of praise does the prayer close? Verse 21.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Does my heart respond to the closing words of praise?
2. Am I willing to enter here with all my heart into the eternal advanced school of God, knowing that it involves self-denial?
3. Is Christ dwelling in my heart by faith? How may I know this?

LESSON 8

THE ONENESS OF THE DIVINE

February 25, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 4: 1-10.

MEMORY VERSE: "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." John 17: 21.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. **Seniors:** Read Eph. 4: 1-10. Study Questions 1 and 2, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 9, p. 276. Repeat the memory verse each day.
   Children: Read the Lesson Scripture, Genesis 13. Drill on the memory verse each day. The juniors may also learn the Memory Gem, repeating it each day. Use "Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 125-133, as a study help, reading selections each day.
2. **Seniors:** Study Questions 3-5, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 239.
   Children: Study paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson, or Questions 1 and 2, and note, of the junior lesson.
3. **Seniors:** Study Questions 6 and 7, and notes. Read "The Great Controversy," p. 379.
   Children: Study paragraphs 3-5 of the primary lesson, or Questions 3-7, and note, of the junior lesson.
4. **Seniors:** Study Questions 8-10, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 9, p. 196.
   Children: Study paragraphs 6-9 of the primary lesson, or Questions 8-10, and notes, of the junior lesson.
5. **Seniors:** Study Questions 11 and 12, and notes. Read "Christ's Object Lessons," p. 149.
   Children: Study paragraphs 10 and 11 of the primary lesson, or Questions 11-13, and note, of the junior lesson.

6. **Seniors:** Study Questions 13-15, and notes. Read "Christ's Object Lessons," p. 327, also "The Desire of Ages," p. 786.
Children: The primary and junior children may tell the story in detail, each one taking part.
7. Review the lessons, memory verses, and Memory Gem. Consider "Personal Applications." Follow out the two items in the junior lesson under the heading, "Things to Do."

THE LESSON

1. What does Paul again designate himself? Eph. 4:1, first part. (See Eph. 3:1.)

NOTE.—Paul did not count himself the prisoner of the Jews or Romans. He was doing work for God under His commission. As his Master possessed all power to release him but did not, he was the Lord's prisoner, and he held no enmity against those who persecuted him.

2. What is Paul's plea to the believers? Verse 1, last part.

NOTE.—Paul pleads with the brethren to walk worthy of the vocation,—the calling or the life work,—to which they were called. So God's people are called out of sin and darkness, called out from idolatry, and from everything that is low, base, and evil, called out from the world's follies, ambitions, and blindness. They are called out by the word of God to better things. We are "called to be saints" (Rom. 1:7); "called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor. 1:9); called from sin's bondage to liberty (Gal. 5:13). What an appeal is that of this text to us, to walk worthy of the calling to which God has called us.

3. In what spirit are we to walk? Verse 2.

NOTE.—"Lowliness." In the Christian sense it is the soul's humility before God (Isa. 57:15), and loving regard for one's brethren (Phil. 2:3).

"Meekness." Not mere mildness and gentleness. True meekness couples the child of God with God's infinite strength and power. Two of the strongest characters in the Bible were "meek,"—"Moses the man of God," and Jesus, "the Son of God." The thought of teachableness is in the use of the word. Ps. 25:9.

"Long-suffering." Vincent, commenting on James 5:7, says this word has "the sense of strong passion, stronger than anger," "a tumultuous welling up of the whole spirit; a mighty emotion which seizes and moves the whole inner man; hence the restraint implied is most correctly expressed by long-suffering, . . . a patient holding out under trial; a long protracted restraint of the soul from yielding to passion, especially the passion of anger."

"Forbearing." "To put up with, to bear with," to bear with one another in love. We are called to all these.

4. What should God's people do to preserve unity? Verse 3.

NOTE.—"Endeavoring." The definition of the Greek word is "to use speed, to make effort, be prompt or earnest." Heal the break in the unity at once. Let not the break in the bond of peace widen. Keep

strong the bond of peace between you and your Lord, that Christ may be the bond between you and your brethren.

5. What is the first of these unities? Verse 4, first part.

NOTE.—"One body." The body of Christ, His church. Eph. 1:22, 23. It is ever in the singular, but the body has many members. Some are yet scattered.

6. What is the second unity and the life of the union? Verse 4, second part.

NOTE.—"One spirit." The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Comforter, the very life of God that vivifies and binds together His church. "The Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the life eternal."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 388.

7. What is the third of the unities? Verse 4, last part.

NOTE.—"One hope." Hope is based on God's promises. And this blessed hope centers in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the glorious hope of our calling that cheers the Christian pilgrim along the way. There may be rocky steeps, dark valleys, sore trials, fearful sufferings, loathsome prisons, but the rays of the glorious hope lift the load, lighten the way, cheer the heart, and hold steadfast to the end.

8. How many lords have we? Verse 5.

NOTE.—In the great non-Christian world they have "lords many." But the Christian has one Lord, one Master, not an earthly,—save only for a little while when He came to show how much God loved us,—but a heavenly, combining in Himself the divine and human, power and sympathy, life and fellowship.

9. How many faiths have we? Verse 5.

NOTE.—"One faith." This faith yields all God asks and takes all God gives.

10. How many baptisms are recognized? Verse 5.

NOTE.—"One baptism." This is the baptism of which the apostle speaks in Romans 6:3-6. It shows in its symbolism, which is immersion, faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. It is the outward ceremony which symbolizes the death of the "old man" and the union of the "new man" to Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:27.

11. What is the last and greatest of these seven unities? Verse 6.

NOTE.—Sin has interfered with God's plan in a measure, and God has suffered it. For this reason we see all creation groaning and travailing in pain together, in a thousand different ways on this sin-cursed earth. But God calls wandering sinners to break truce with sin. He calls all to return and be sons and daughters of God. Those who yield to Him will be saved and transformed. The faithful will become immortal sons of God, and the whole groaning creation "shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of

the children of God." Rom. 8:19-22, A. R. V. It is for this that God waits, the triumph of His purpose of the ages.

12. In God's great purpose, what is given to every one? Verse 7.

NOTE.—The Lord takes into consideration the individual members of the church and invests each one with a gift of grace to minister more effectively for Him.

13. What scripture is quoted in proof of the bestowal of these gifts? Verse 8; Ps. 68:18.

NOTE.—See the parables of the pounds and the talents. Luke 19: 11-13; Matt. 25:14, 15. "The talents that Christ intrusts to His church represent especially the gifts and blessings imparted by the Holy Spirit. . . . The gifts are already ours in Christ, but their actual possession depends upon our reception of the Spirit of God."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 327.

The captives, "a multitude of captives" (margin), were those raised from the dead when our Lord was raised, and who ascended with Him as the trophies of His triumph over sin. Matt. 27:52, 53.

14. What did Jesus do before He ascended? Verse 9.

15. Why did He descend and ascend? How much is implied in the descending and ascending of Christ, the Son of God? Verse 10.

NOTE.—This wonderful parenthesis of verses 9 and 10 means much. First our Lord descended. Before sin He was with the Father, the Creator under the Father. When sin entered, He gave Himself to save the lost, came down from the throne of the Highest, and took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh, became sin that all who believe in Him might in Him be made the righteousness of God. 2 Cor. 5:21. He was denied, insulted, tormented, crucified. He went to the very lowest depths of human woe, down to the awful nothingness of all,—death,—to redeem those who received all blessings from Him, yet were in rebellion against Him. But death could not hold Him, the righteous One, for perfect righteousness is life forevermore. Therefore, God brought Him out of the tomb and "hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name."

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Do I appreciate the great honor of God's call to me?
2. Am I walking worthy of His calling?
3. Am I one with the Father?
4. Do I accept the gifts and blessings imparted by the Holy Spirit?

"It should be our first care to render our free-will offerings to God. Every manifestation of His mercy and love toward us should be gratefully acknowledged, both by acts of devotion and by gifts to His cause."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 106.

LESSON 9

SPIRITUAL GIFTS; THEIR PURPOSE

March 3, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 4: 11-16.

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.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. **Seniors:** Read Eph. 4: 1-16. Study Questions 1 and 2, and notes. Read "Early Writings," pp. 139, 140. Drill on the memory verse each day.
   Children: Read the Lesson Scripture, Gen. 14: 10-24. Drill on the memory verse each day. The juniors may also learn the Memory Gem, repeating it each day. Use "Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 134-137, as a study help, reading selections each day.
2. **Seniors:** Study Questions 3-5, and notes. Read "Early Writings," pp. 135, 136.
   Children: Study paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson, or Questions 1-4, and note, of the junior lesson.
3. **Seniors:** Study Questions 6 and 7, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 8, pp. 173, 174.
   Children: Study paragraphs 3-5 of the primary lesson, or Questions 5-7, of the junior lesson.
4. **Seniors:** Study Questions 8-10, and notes. Read "Early Writings," pp. 142, 143.
   Children: Study paragraphs 6-8 of the primary lesson, or Questions 8-10, and note, of the junior lesson.
5. **Seniors:** Study Questions 11 and 12, and note. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 7, p. 174, "Coöperation."
   Children: Study paragraphs 9 and 10 of the primary lesson, or Questions 11-13 of the junior lesson.
6. **Seniors:** Reread the Lesson Scripture. Review all the notes in the lesson.
   Children: Study paragraphs 11 and 12 of the primary lesson, or Questions 14-16, and note, of the junior lesson.
7. Review the lessons, memory verses, and Memory Gem. Consider "Personal Applications." Look up the items in the junior lesson under the heading, "Things to Look Up."

THE LESSON

1. Upon how many are the gifts of God's grace bestowed? Eph. 4:7.

NOTE.—Literally, "to each one." Every soul who receives Christ receives in Him not alone the Holy Spirit in general, but at least one spiritual gift in particular. 1 Cor. 12:7, 11. If we are Christ's, we may definitely conclude that we have some divine gift for service, and we may have confidence in Him in the use of that gift to the glory of His name.

2. From what source do these gifts come? 1 Cor. 12:4-6.

NOTE.—"God has different ways of working, and He has different workmen to whom He intrusts varied gifts. One worker may be a ready speaker; another a ready writer; another may have the gift of sincere, earnest, fervent prayer; another the gift of singing; another may have special power to explain the word of God with clearness. And each gift is to become a power for God, because He works with the laborer. To one God gives the word of wisdom, to another knowledge, to another faith; but all are to work under the same Head. The

diversity of gifts leads to a diversity of operations; but 'it is the same God which worketh all in all.' "—"Testimonies," Vol. 9, pp. 144, 145.

3. Who alone can wisely distribute these gifts? 1 Cor. 12:11.

NOTE.—Man does not know his own powers and abilities, consequently he could not wisely choose the gift adapted to him. But God knows. By His Spirit He bestows, divides as He will, according to man's ability, the gifts which will develop man's usefulness in the Lord's service. His choice is better than our choice in proportion as His wisdom is higher, more comprehensive than ours.

4. Where are these gifts set by our Father? 1 Cor. 12:28, first part.

5. What illustrations or representations of these gifts are named in our lesson? Eph. 4:11.

NOTE.—The gifts in Ephesians are noted in the gifted persons,—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers. In 1 Corinthians 12: 4-10, they are noted as gifts which enable man to be what God desires. But in verse 28 of that chapter they appear again as persons endowed. First we have "apostles," sent forth as ambassadors of God, to found churches and guide them. They have authority from God; they also often had the gifts of prophecy and evangelism, and were pastors, and teachers. Prophets possess the gifts of revelation and enlightenment, and oftentimes more. Evangelists are to proclaim the gospel, and so convert men to God. Pastors are to care for the flock of God, as shepherds care for their sheep. They are to teach and feed the church, warn and exhort, and labor to present every one under their care perfect in Christ Jesus. The "teachers" are to instruct young and old in the word of God. About a score of enabling gifts are mentioned in Romans 12:3-6; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; Ephesians 4:11.

6. What are the purposes of the gifts? Verse 12.

NOTE.—God places His Spirit and spiritual gifts upon His people first of all to develop perfection of character, as predestinated or marked out by God in the beginning. The church is to be a divine school in a world of sin, with every gift in operation as needed, in order to build up the church of God through the addition of souls, and training them for service.

7. What illustration is used to show the necessity and benefit of these gifts in the church? 1 Cor. 12:12-27.

NOTE.—The illustration is of the human body and its members. The various organs and members of the body do not work for themselves, but for the other members. Each is served by all the others, and so God designed that it should be in His church. The perfecting of God's church, the building up of His saints in character and service, must come through a reception and a recognition of these gifts, not in ourselves alone, but in others as well. There must be a willingness to learn and receive from others those things in which we ourselves may be lacking; and at the same time give to others that which God in His own way has bestowed upon us for their sake.

8. For how long were the gifts set in the church? Eph. 4:13.

NOTE.—"Till." How frequently are we told that these gifts ceased with the apostolic age. But the apostle does not so teach, neither did Jesus. The people of God have not yet reached their full stature. They do not stand blameless before God. Unsightly spots still mar the beauty of God's spiritual building. The gifts of God are needed to reveal the imperfections, cut them away, polish and refine the living stones, till each one perfectly reflects the glory of Christ's character.

9. The reception of what one gift prepares the way for all others? 1 Cor. 1:4-7.

NOTE.—"Even as." Note the desire expressed that the church should be enriched in everything needed, "even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: so that ye come behind in no gift." "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Rev. 19:10. This gift will be in the remnant church, which keeps the commandments of God and has the faith of Jesus. Rev. 12:17; 14:12.

"Confirmed in us" means Spirit-filled men and women of God.

10. Against what will these gifts guard us? Eph. 4:14.

NOTE.—"No more children." We love children, but it stirs our profoundest pity if they always remain children, needing to be coddled and petted and carried. There are children in God's church who ought to be strong men and women,—burden bearers,—instead of having to be carried, amused, petted, coaxed.

"Every wind of doctrine." The thought is plural. God's doctrine, or teaching, is one, always in the singular; it is the doctrine according to godliness. In Satan's repertoire there are various contradictory doctrines. See Col. 2:22; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 13:9. "Every wind of doctrine" indicates many winds of doctrine,—evil winds which blow to and fro upon the light and uncertain craft of the undecided.

11. Receiving and speaking the truth in all sincerity, to what extent is Christian growth possible? Verse 15.

12. What beautiful figure of Christian growth is given by the apostle? Verse 16.

NOTE.—The thought of the verse, the illustration of a well-developed human body, is that of a perfectly functioning church. Christ in all His fullness is the head. The church with all its diversity of members and gifts is the body. From Christ she received her very existence, her life, her all. The church feeds on His living word. She is filled with the life and power of His Spirit. Through the Spirit she receives a great variety of spiritual gifts for ministry or service, each gift for its designed purpose. Each of these, according to its supply, works for the upbuilding of the church and the glory of her Head. What diversity in members and gifts, and what divine unity is here manifest!

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Have I experienced failures because I have tried to do God's work in my own strength?
2. Does my work bring praise to myself? or does it glorify God?
3. Do I regard crosses and burdens as opportunities and blessings?
4. What will keep me from being led away by false doctrine?

LESSON 10

OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

March 10, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 4: 17-32.

MEMORY VERSE: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Eph. 4: 29.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. **Seniors:** Read Eph. 4: 17-32. Read "The Acts of the Apostles," p. 470. Drill on the memory verse each day.
   Children: Read the Lesson Scripture, Gen. 18: 16-33. Drill on the memory verse each day. The juniors may also learn the Memory Gem, repeating it each day. Use "Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 138-140, as a study help.
2. **Seniors:** Study Questions 1-3, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 1, p. 189.
   Children: Study paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson, or Questions 1-3 of the junior lesson.
3. **Seniors:** Study Questions 4-6, and note. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 5, pp. 172, 569.
   Children: Study paragraphs 3-5 of the primary lesson, or Questions 4-6 of the junior lesson.
4. **Seniors:** Study Questions 7-9, and note. Read "Education," p. 286.
   Children: Study paragraphs 6-8 of the primary lesson, or Questions 7-10, and notes, of the junior lesson.
5. **Seniors:** Study Questions 10-12, and notes. Read "Christ's Object Lessons," pp. 336, 337.
   Children: Study paragraphs 9-11 of the primary lesson, or Questions 11 and 12, and note, of the junior lesson.
6. **Seniors:** Study Questions 13-16, and notes. Read "Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing," pp. 166, 167.
   Children: Study paragraphs 12 and 13 of the primary lesson, or Questions 13 and 14, and note, of the junior lesson.
7. Review the lessons, memory verses, and Memory Gem. Consider "Personal Applications." Discuss topics in the junior lesson under the heading, "Something to Think About."

THE LESSON

1. In view of the past instruction given by the apostle Paul, how are we not to walk? Eph. 4:17.

NOTE.—"Testify." Solemnly declare. Christians are to walk as Christ walked.

2. How do the Gentiles walk? Verse 17, last part; 18.

NOTE.—"In the vanity,"—"emptiness,"—of mind; nothing substantial, good, or lasting.

"Understanding darkened." They do not know the light. They have turned from the life which God gives through Christ. Thus, because they shut God from their knowledge, and walked in their own way in sin, their heart became hardened.

3. To what condition does willful blindness lead? Verse 19.

NOTE.—Separated from God and from all knowledge of Him, they plunge greedily into the lowest depths of sin. Romans 1:18-32 is a description of the life that shuts out God.

4. What contrast is seen in the life of the child of God? Verses 20, 21.

5. To what change in the life does the apostle first direct attention? Verse 22.

NOTE.—The word "conversation" means "general course of conduct or habits; deportment." The American Revised Version reads: "That ye put away, as concerning your former manner of life, the old man," that is, the way in which we used to walk when we were sinners, before we knew Christ. It means the old unregenerate self. Man can not put it away himself; he must be born from above.

6. What is our necessity and privilege? Verse 23.

7. What are we to put on in the place of the discarded old man? Verse 24, first part.

8. What is the origin of the new man? Verse 24, last part.

NOTE.—Not a change in the "old man," not the "old man" made over, but a new man, a new birth, Christ formed within. The law of the Spirit of life in our hearts makes us free from sin and death. See Rom. 8:2; 2 Cor. 5:17.

9. How are we to speak? What reason is given for proving true to our calling? Verse 25.

10. What is said regarding anger? Should we hold anger in our heart? Verse 26.

NOTE.—It is well to have righteous indignation against wrong, oppression, slavery, cruelty, persecution, intolerance. But in it all we must cherish pity, love, and mercy toward the deceived wrongdoer.

11. What warning is given us when we are aroused by evil acts of others? Verse 27.

12. What instruction is given to those who formerly stole? Verse 28.

NOTE.—This verse states a great principle, namely, amendment of life. "Let him that stole steal no more" means, Let him that violated any part of the divine law, cease thus to sin against God. Obedience,—a life animated by a "faith that works by love" (Gal. 5:6), and so transforms the character that the graces of the Spirit appear where once were seen only the fruits of the flesh,—is evidence of genuine conversion.

13. What instruction is given regarding their conversation or speech? Verse 29.

NOTE.—"Harsh expressions grieve the Lord; unwise words do harm. . . . Be gentle in your speech; watch well your words; let no harshness come into your utterances or into your gestures. Bring into all you do and say the fragrance of Christlikeness."—"Gospel Workers," p. 163.

14. How should we regard God's Holy Spirit? Verse 30.

NOTE.—The connection shows that it will be by lying, wrath, dishonesty, and corrupt conversation that the Spirit will be grieved. At the time of our adoption, we were sealed (Eph. 1:13, 14), and then

received the earnest of the Spirit, which it is God's purpose should be retained and received in ever-increasing abundance up to the day of final redemption or deliverance. Yet we are warned that the Spirit, though once given, may be resisted (Acts 7:51), vexed (Isa. 63:10), grieved (Eph. 4:30), quenched (1 Thess. 5:19), so as to depart from us. There is no security of final salvation to any person from his having been adopted in Christ and sealed by the Spirit. We should see to it that we break not the seal.

"Men have the power to quench the Spirit of God; the power of choosing is left with them. They are allowed freedom of action. . . . The Spirit of God is continually convicting, and souls are deciding for or against the truth. How important, then, that every act of life be such that it need not be repented of, especially among the ambassadors of Christ, who are acting in His stead!"—"Gospel Workers," p. 174.

15. What evil things should be put away? Verse 31.

16. How should we regard each other? Verse 32.

NOTE.—"Nothing can justify an unforgiving spirit. He who is unmerciful toward others shows that he himself is not a partaker of God's pardoning grace. In God's forgiveness the heart of the erring one is drawn close to the great heart of Infinite Love. The tide of divine compassion flows into the sinner's soul, and from Him to the souls of others. The tenderness and mercy that Christ has revealed in His own precious life will be seen in those who become sharers of His grace."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 251.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Am I learning from Christ how to use the blessing of speech?
2. Does the world still hold me, so that I long for its fellowship?
3. Am I inclined to shade the truth if it will profit me?
4. Do I forgive as I desire to be forgiven?

LESSON 11

FOLLOWERS OF GOD

March 17, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 5: 1-21.

MEMORY VERSE: "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Eph. 5: 15, 16.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. **Seniors:** Read Eph. 5: 1-21. Study Questions 1-4, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 9, pp. 283, 284. Drill on the memory verse each day.
   Children: Read the Lesson Scripture, Gen. 19: 1-29. Drill on the memory verse each day. The juniors may also learn the Memory Gem, repeating a stanza each day. Use "Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 156-170, as a study help, reading selections each day.
2. **Seniors:** Study Questions 5-7, and note. Read "The Great Controversy," p. 541; also "Gospel Workers," p. 160.
   Children: Study paragraphs 1-3 of the primary lesson, or Questions 1-4, and notes, of the junior lesson.

3. **Seniors:** Study Questions 8-10, and note. Read "Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing," pp. 67, 68.
   Children: Study paragraphs 4-6 of the primary lesson, or Questions 5 and 6, of the junior lesson.
4. **Seniors:** Study Questions 11-13, and notes. Read "Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing," pp. 104, 105.
   Children: Study paragraphs 7 and 8 of the primary lesson, or Questions 7 and 8, and note, of the junior lesson.
5. **Seniors:** Study Questions 14-16, and notes. Read "The Great Controversy," p. 602, also "Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 353.
   Children: Study paragraphs 9 and 10 of the primary lesson, or Questions 9-12 of the junior lesson.
6. **Seniors:** Study Questions 17-20, and notes. Read "Education," pp. 166-168.
   Children: Study paragraphs 11 and 12 of the primary lesson, or Questions 13-17, and note, of the junior lesson.
7. Review the lessons, memory verses, and Memory Gem. Consider "Personal Applications." Discuss topics in the junior lesson under the heading "Can You Imagine?"

THE LESSON

1. In view of our responsibilities as Christians, how does Paul admonish us? Eph. 5:1.

NOTE.—"Followers." As children loved of God, as children in whom God's love has found response, our heavenly Father as exemplified in His Son is the only example safe to imitate.

2. After what manner should we walk? Verse 2.

3. What should wholly be banished from our lives? Verses 3, 4.

NOTE.—That which is low, vulgar, base, or evil should not be themes of conversation among us.

"Covetousness" means more than the love of money. It means an unlawful desire to have that which the heart longs for. Therefore covetousness is called idolatry.

4. What is God's substitute for such evil things? Verse 4, last part.

NOTE.—"God desired that the whole life of His people should be a life of praise. . . .

"The Lord desires us to appreciate the great plan of redemption, to realize our high privilege as the children of God, and to walk before Him in obedience, with grateful thanksgiving. . . . To praise God in fullness and sincerity of heart is as much a duty as is prayer. . . . Far more than we do, we need to speak of the precious chapters in our experience."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 299.

5. Regarding these forbidden things, what do we know? Verse 5.

6. Against what are we to be guarded? What will deceitful words bring upon the disobedient? Verse 6.

NOTE.—"Vain words,"—plausible words which deceive, and explain away the sins of the world. They are sins, and sins and saints have nothing in common.

7. What appeal is made to the followers of the Lord Jesus? Verse 7.

8. What change had they already experienced? What are they called? Verse 8.

9. What fruit is borne by the "children of light"? Verse 9.

10. What will walking as "children of light" do for us? Verse 10.

NOTE.—Walking in the light of the Lord will bring to the child of God the constant proof that His ways are pleasing to God. He will have with him the joy of salvation, and will be upheld with a willing spirit. Ps. 51:12, 13.

11. With what should we have no fellowship? Verse 11.

12. Can there be fellowship between light and darkness? 2 Cor. 6:15, 16.

NOTE.—"Reprove them," not always with words, for that may not be wise. A discreet silence and avoidance of these works of darkness may sometimes be better. Let our conduct be such that it will arouse inquiry or conviction rather than express disapproval. "Those who have learned of Christ will 'have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.' In speech, as in life, they will be simple, straightforward, and true; for they are preparing for the fellowship of those holy ones in whose mouth is found no guile."—"Prophets and Kings," p. 252.

13. What is said of these unfruitful works of darkness? Eph. 5:12.

NOTE.—Eternal life demands that no foreign element shall dominate the life of the Christian, or lower his holy regard for God's standard of conduct. It is Satan's studied effort to present things which will not shock the Christian much, and so lead him on to things of which it is a shame to speak.

"Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
As to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."
—Pope.

14. What ought the light of God's word to do for us? Verse 13.

NOTE.—"Manifestation can come only through light. Whatever is revealed in its true essence by light is of the nature of light. It no longer belongs to the category of darkness. . . . That which is of the truth seeks the light and cometh to the light. That which is evil avoids the light, and loves darkness better than light, but none the less is brought to the light and appears in its own light. See John 3:20, 21. . . . By suffering the tares to grow, their difference from the wheat, which at first is not apparent, is fully revealed."—Vincent. Wise, true, faithful Christian conduct is letting the light shine; and the shining light of Christ in word or conduct will reprove sin.

15. Where, and where only, may we find the light? Verse 14; Isa. 60:1; 62:1.

16. What, then, are we admonished to do? Eph. 5:15.

NOTE.—The American Revised Version reads: "Look therefore carefully how ye walk," referring to the unfruitful works,—verse 11. "Circumspectly,"—cautiously, careful of consequence.

17. What should the evil days lead us to do? Verse 16.

NOTE.—The American Revised Version margin states it thus: "Buying up the opportunity, because the days are evil." Conformity to the world,—feasting, fashions, food, parties, etc.,—will never buy opportunities to save souls. But a strong, true, sweet Christian character which denies itself these things, will arouse inquiry, and will secure opportunities to speak for God. So buy up opportunities for God that the evil days may be to you fruitful days for good.

18. How is duty again pressed home? What is our privilege? Verse 17.

19. What should be substituted for the world's excesses? Verse 18.

20. What will help to build up Christian fellowship among ourselves and bring us nearer to each other and to God? Verses 19-21.

NOTE.—"As the children of Israel, journeying through the wilderness, cheered their way by the music of sacred song, so God bids His children to-day gladden their pilgrim life. There are few means more effective for fixing His words in the memory than repeating them in song."—"Education," p. 167.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Do I delight in talking of the things that are evil?
2. Am I in fellowship with the world or with Christ?
3. Am I buying up the opportunities to help others, and to witness for God?

LESSON 12

PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIFE IN THE HOME

March 24, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 5: 22 to 6: 9.

MEMORY VERSE: "That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph. 5: 27.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. **Seniors:** Read Eph. 5: 22 to 6: 9. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 7, pp. 45-50. Drill on the memory verse each day.
   Children: Read the Lesson Scripture, Gen. 22: 1-19. Drill on the memory verse each day. The juniors may also learn the Memory Gem, repeating it each day. Use "Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 145-155, as a study help, reading selections each day.
2. **Seniors:** Study Questions 1-4, and notes. Read "Ministry of Healing," pp. 356-358.
   Children: Study paragraphs 1 and 2 of the primary lesson, or Questions 1 and 2, and note, of the junior lesson.
3. **Seniors:** Study Questions 5-8, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 6, pp. 129, 130.
   Children: Study paragraphs 3 and 4 of the primary lesson, or Questions 3-6 of the junior lesson.
4. **Seniors:** Study Questions 9-11, and notes. Read "Ministry of Healing," pp. 359-362.
   Children: Study paragraphs 5 and 6 of the primary lesson, or Questions 7 and 8, and notes, of the junior lesson.

5. **Seniors:** Study Questions 12-14, and note. Read selections from "Testimonies," Vol. 5, pp. 323-331.
   Children: Study paragraphs 7-9 of the primary lesson, or Questions 9-12, and notes, of the junior lesson.
6. **Seniors:** Study Questions 15-18, and note. Read "The Acts of the Apostles," pp. 459, 460.
   Children: Study paragraphs 10 and 11 of the primary lesson, or Questions 13-17, and note, of the junior lesson.
7. Review the lessons, memory verses, and Memory Gem. Consider "Personal Applications." Discuss topics in the junior lesson under the heading "Something to Think About."

THE LESSON

1. Introducing the subject of proper family relations, what are wives enjoined to do? Eph. 5:22.

2. In God's plan, what is the husband to be? Verse 23.

3. What example of subjection is given? Verse 24.

NOTE.—"Marriage, a union for life, is a symbol of the union between Christ and His church. The spirit that Christ manifests toward the church is the spirit that husband and wife are to manifest toward each other. Neither husband nor wife is to make a plea for rulership. The Lord has laid down the principle that is to guide in this matter. The husband is to cherish his wife as Christ cherishes the church. And the wife is to respect and love her husband. Both are to cultivate the spirit of kindness, being determined never to grieve or injure the other."—"Testimonies," Vol. 7, pp. 46, 47.

4. What are husbands enjoined to do? Verse 25.

NOTE.—"Neither the husband nor the wife should merge his or her individuality in that of the other. Each has a personal relation to God. Of Him each is to ask, 'What is right?' 'What is wrong?' 'How may I best fulfill life's purpose?' . . . Neither the husband nor the wife should attempt to exercise over the other an arbitrary control. Do not try to compel each other to yield to your wishes. You can not do this and retain each other's love."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 361.

5. What was our Lord's purpose for the church? Verses 26, 27.

6. If this is to be true of the church, what will it mean to individual members? Rev. 14:5; Zeph. 3:13.

NOTE.—It is necessary if the whole is to be perfect to have every part perfect also. No chain can be strong if one of its links is weak. No wall is perfect that contains crumbling stone or defective mortar. We can not, if imperfect, pass the approval of the great Inspector by being assembled with perfect ones.

7. What lesson is drawn for the husband from Christ's purpose concerning His church? Eph. 5:28, 29.

8. What other relationship ought to hold husband and wife in the bonds of peace? Verse 30.

NOTE.—"His flesh, and of his bones." This seems to be a reference to the words of Adam, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh." Gen. 2:23.

9. How strong is the true union of marriage? Verse 31; Gen. 2:24.

10. What lesson is again brought home to us? Eph. 5:32.

NOTE.—This mystery of union with Christ is treated in Ephesians, chapters 1-3. All true unions sanctioned of God are subject to the same principles that exist between Christ and His church. Christ is in the church, and Christ is in each member,—"Christ in you, the hope of glory."

11. What is the apostle's parting word to husband and wife? Verse 33.

NOTE.—"Though difficulties, perplexities, and discouragements may arise, let neither husband nor wife harbor the thought that their union is a mistake or a disappointment. Determine to be all that it is possible to be to each other. Continue the early attentions. In every way encourage each other in fighting the battles of life. Study to advance the happiness of each other. Let there be mutual love, mutual forbearance. Then marriage, instead of being the end of love, will be as it were the very beginning of love. The warmth of true friendship, the love that binds heart to heart, is a foretaste of the joys of heaven."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 360.

12. What is the duty of children? Eph. 6:1.

13. To what great law does the apostle refer? Verses 2, 3; Ex. 20:12.

14. What are parents to remember? Eph. 6:4.

NOTE.—In a personal testimony given to parents many years ago, warnings in harmony with this scripture are strongly set forth: "You have robbed your children of their rights by not interesting yourself in their education, and instructing them patiently and faithfully in regard to forming characters for heaven. Your course has done much to destroy their confidence in you. You are exacting, overbearing, tyrannical; you fret, and scold, and censure, and by so doing wean their affections from you. You treat them as though they had no just rights, as though they were machines to turn in your hands according to your pleasure. You provoke them to wrath, and often discourage them. You do not give them love and affection. Love begets love, affection begets affection. The spirit which you manifest toward your children will be reflected upon you."—"Testimonies," Vol. 2, pp. 94, 95.

15. What instruction is given to servants? Verse 5.

16. What is the character of the service the Christian servant should render? Verse 6.

17. Whom really are they to remember that they are serving? Verses 7, 8.

18. What instruction is given to masters? Verse 9.

NOTE.—Masters are to be true and just and kind, as is their Master, the Lord Jesus, for they, as truly as the servant, have a Master in heaven, and the rights of the lowest are to Him sacred, regardless of his condition or position.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. In my marriage relation, do I want to serve and bless, or do I want only to be served?

2. Do I treat those who are in my employ as I would have the Master in heaven treat me?

3. How do I treat my parents? my children?

LESSON 13

THE CHRISTIAN ARMOR

March 31, 1928

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Eph. 6: 10-24.

MEMORY VERSE: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Eph. 6: 13.

Suggestions for Daily Family Study

1. Seniors: Read Eph. 6: 1-24. Read "The Great Controversy," pp. 509, 510. Drill on the memory verse each day.
   Children: Review the "Creation of the Earth." Drill on the memory verses each day. The juniors may review the Memory Gems.
2. Seniors: Study Questions 1-3, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 2, pp. 515, 516.
   Children: Review the "Story of Eden."
3. Seniors: Study Questions 4-6, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 112.
   Children: Review the "Story of Cain and Abel."
4. Seniors: Study Questions 7-9, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 1, p. 407.
   Children: Review the "Story of the Flood."
5. Seniors: Study Questions 10-12, and notes. Read "Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 190.
   Children: Review the stories of "The Tower of Babel" and "Abraham and Lot."
6. Seniors: Study Questions 13 and 14, and note. Search for the verses in this epistle in which "grace," "peace," "faith," and "love" occur.
   Children: Review the story of "Abraham and Isaac."
7. Seniors: Review the lesson. Study topics under "Personal Applications."
   Children: Review test questions, memory verses, and Memory Gems.

THE LESSON

1. How does the apostle begin his final injunction? Eph. 6:10.

NOTE.—Not by human wisdom, not by knowledge, skill, art, or human combinations, not by any of these singly or altogether, do men stand for God and eternal life, but only by the power and might of God.

2. With what must the soldier of Christ be protected? Verse 11.

NOTE.—"The armor," literally the panoply,—a complete suit of defensive armor,—supplied by God. During Paul's two years of imprisonment, men with complete Roman armor were always in evidence. There were the breastplate, the girdle, the shoes, or greaves, the helmet, the shield, the sword.

"Those who will put on the whole armor of God, and devote some time every day to meditation and prayer, and to the study of the Scriptures, will be connected with Heaven, and will have a saving,

transforming influence upon those around them."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 112.

3. What are the foes the Christian must meet? Verse 12.

NOTE.—The Christian is not at war with men. He is a messenger of peace to men who are in rebellion against God. His warfare is spiritual, not physical; it is against those evil demons, angels of Satan, who stir to the basest purposes men who will yield to them. His warfare is against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the "heavenly." (Margin.) The Syriac reads, "The evil spirits that are beneath heaven." See also Rev. 12:9, 12.

4. How only can these foes be overcome? Verse 13.

NOTE.—"Take unto you" was a technical military term in Paul's day, but he uses it for a different class of persons and for a different purpose. It is no ordinary time for which the Christian is to prepare. There are days of evil, dark days, when the demon hosts thickly gather to deceive, seduce, destroy. Sometimes we see no foe, and all appears to be peace and quietness. Yet the Christian is to stand, watchful, waiting, ready to respond immediately to the call of the Captain.

5. What are the first two parts of the armor mentioned? Verse 14.

NOTE.—Your armor is complete, "stand therefore." Of that armor, first is named "the girdle," encircling the body below the breastplate, holding the armor in place, and holding the sheath of the sword. But the Christian's girdle is truth. The strength and consistency of truth holds his defensive armor in place and carries his only offensive equipment, the sword of the Word. Error has no place where truth controls.

"The breastplate of righteousness." Prophetically, "righteousness" is the breastplate of Jesus. Isa. 59:17. The breastplate covers the heart, the seat of the affections, the emotions; and the dominant thing in the heart of the Christian soldier is righteousness.

6. What is mentioned next in the armor of the Christian? Verse 15; Isa. 52:7.

7. What is then urged as necessary? Eph. 6:16.

NOTE.—"Above all." The shield covers or protects the entire person of the soldier. The shield of faith rests in the person of Christ, and puts Christ before us in all the attacks of the enemy. The great shields used in warfare were sometimes four feet long by two and one-half feet wide. Does not the shield as mentioned in Psalm 5:12 express the confidence that God can and will protect us from our enemy?

8. What special protection is provided for the head? Verse 17, first part.

NOTE.—"Helmet." (See Isa. 59:17; 1 Thess. 5:8.) Inspiration places "hope" in the helmet, covering the brain, the intellect. God wants us to have an intelligent hope, based on what He says, and on our acceptance of His word by faith.

9. What is the only weapon given? Verse 17, last part.

NOTE.—"The sword of the Spirit." That is the Christian's only weapon of offense, the word of God, the mighty gospel message. This is the sword that is "two-edged" (Heb. 4:12), that reveals the deadly enemy, sin, and when used, destroys the power of sin. It is the word given by the Spirit of God, and it is the Spirit that makes it effective in cleansing the Christian (John 15:3), in saving sinners, and in keeping from sin. Let it not hang idle in the girdle of truth, but with shield in the left hand and sword in the right, go forth to win souls from sin to Christ. "We need not say, The perils of the last days are soon to come upon us. Already they have come. We need now the sword of the Lord to cut to the very soul and marrow of fleshly lusts, appetites, and passions. Minds that have been given up to loose thought need to change. . . . Our efforts, our self-denial, our perseverance, must be proportionate to the infinite value of the object of which we are in pursuit."—"Testimonies," Vol. 8, p. 315.

10. Upon what must the Christian depend in his warfare? Verse 18.

NOTE.—"Praying always." By prayer, silent and vocal, private and public, we should keep in touch with God. Persevere in prayer, pray through. Not always should we pray for self alone, but our prayers should include all of God's children.

11. What does the apostle ask for himself? Verse 19.

NOTE.—"For me." How the heart of that man of God must have longed for human sympathy in his need! Paul had labored and prayed for the church in Ephesus; and now he pleads for their prayers, not for his physical comfort, but that he might have utterance and boldness to continue to make known the wonderful mystery of the gospel of salvation.

12. How does he describe his situation? Verse 20.

13. What faithful messenger did he send to Ephesus? For what purposes was he to go? Verses 21, 22.

14. With what words of blessing does he close? Verses 23, 24.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Have I on the whole armor of God? Am I skillful in using the weapons provided?
2. When trial comes, do I give up, or pray through?
3. In what special ways have I been helped by the study of the Book of Ephesians?

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

Next Quarter

"THE LIFE OF DAVID"

Lesson 1: Scripture, 1 Samuel 16.

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