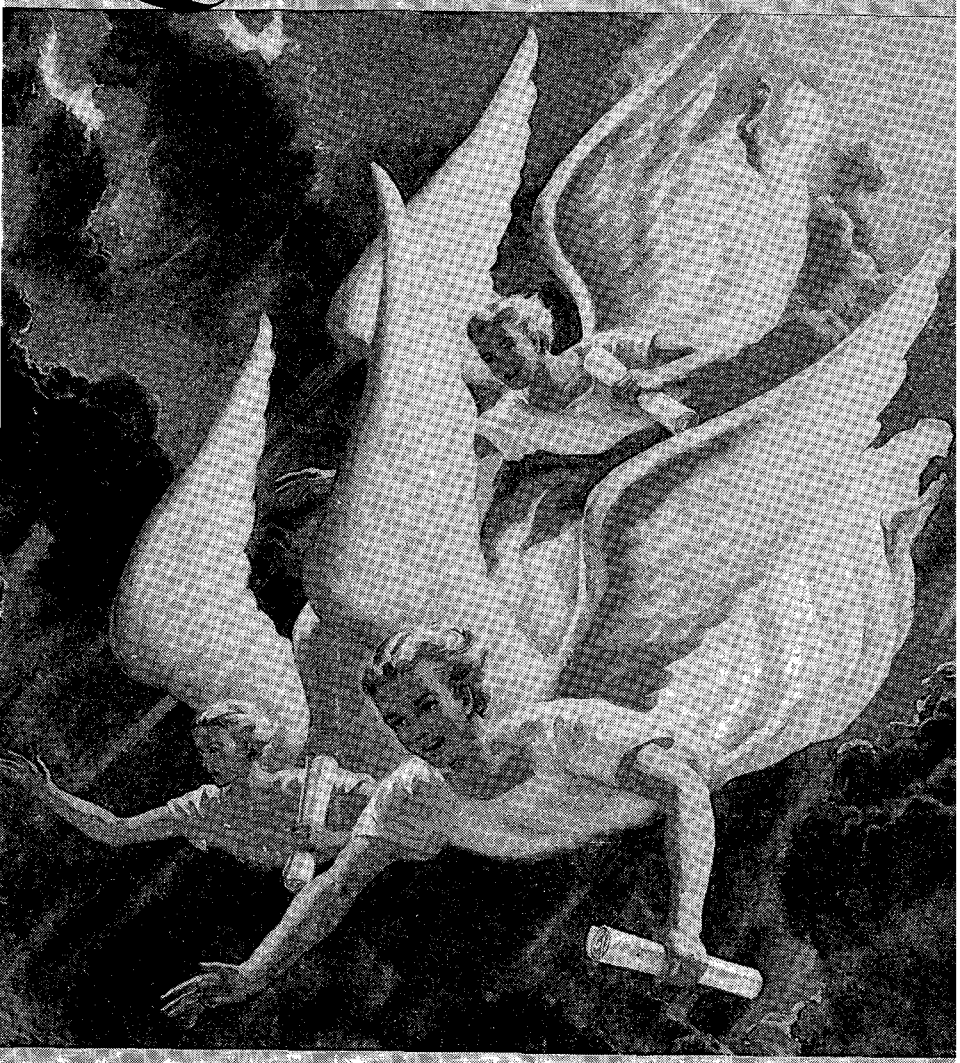
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY



GREAT THEMES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

SENIOR DIVISION, No. 257, THIRD QUARTER, 1959

THE BLESSING OF DAILY STUDY

"He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God. Every seed brings forth fruit after its kind. . . . Receive into the soul by faith the incorruptible seed of the word, and it will bring forth a character and a life after the similitude of the character and the life of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 38.

"Appreciation of the Bible grows with its study."—*Ibid.,* p. 132.

"God will make the most precious revelations to His hungering, thirsting people. They will find that Christ is a personal Saviour. As they feed upon His word, they find that it is spirit and life. The word destroys the natural, earthly nature, and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 391.

"The neglect of the word means starvation to the soul."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work,* page 44.

My Daily Lesson Study Pledge

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

Name .....

LESSON TITLES FOR THE QUARTER

1. The Eternal Fatherhood of God
2. The Word Was Made Flesh
3. Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ
4. The Kingdom of Divine Grace
5. Justification
6. Sanctification
7. Doing God's Will
8. Faith and Trust
9. Love—The Crowning Virtue
10. Christian Maturity and Perfection
11. The Return of Our Lord
12. The Resurrection and Life Everlasting
13. The Coming Kingdom of Glory

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

GREAT THEMES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson 1, for July 4, 1959

The Eternal Fatherhood of God

MEMORY VERSE: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not." 1 John 3:1.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," 1941 ed., pp. 141, 142; "The Desire of Ages," pages 19-23; "Fundamentals of Christian Education," page 309; "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," 1956 ed., pp. 74, 102, 103 (1943 ed., pp. 114, 151, 152); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of June 18.

AIM: A richer appreciation of the Fatherhood of God and of the privilege of being His child.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Key Thoughts; Questions 1, 2.	☐
Monday: Questions 3-6.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-11.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12, 13; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Our Father

1. A meaningful name. Luke 11:2.
2. Our Father cares. Matt. 10:29-31; 18:14.

II. The Father Revealed in Christ

3. Evidence of God's love. 1 John 4:8-10.
4. Knowing the Father through the Son. Matt. 11:27; John 14:6-9.
5. The Father revealed by the Holy Ghost. Rom. 5:5; Gal. 4:6.
6. All things through Christ. Rom. 8:32.

III. The Privilege of Sonship

7. Called sons of God. 1 John 3:1, 2.
8. Adoption; the new birth. John 1:12, 13; Rom. 8:14, 16.
9. Constrained by divine love. 2 Cor. 5:14.
10. Divine discipline. Heb. 12:5-12.
11. Present and future rewards of sonship. Col. 1:12-14.

IV. Approaching God in Sincerity and Confidence

12. In spirit and in truth. John 4:23; Heb. 4:16.
13. Secure in the Father's love. John 10:29; Rom. 8:35-39.

Key Thoughts:

1. God Knows and Cares. The Architect of the universe knows its myriad stars and maintains each in its appointed course. The same Infinite One has given us life and being and desires us to accept Him as the Architect of our lives.

2. Love Constrains God. God makes it His chief business to provide for the welfare and happiness of the creatures of His hand. When the souls and lives of His earthborn children fell under the blight of sin, like a compassionate parent He provided for their full and complete restoration.

3. Divine Love Constrains Us. The love of God shining into our hearts constrains us to reflect His infinite love and to co-operate with Him in the restoration of our lives. Like a wise father He chastens us for our good, supplies our every need, and provides for our present and future security.

4. Our Privileges and Responsibilities. Intelligent creatures, endowed with the power of choice, must co-operate with God if they would share in His blessed privileges for them. He invites us to have confidence in His beneficent purposes, to enter upon the privileges He accords erring members of His earthborn family, and to accept responsibilities befitting sons and daughters of the Eternal One.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The Privilege of Calling God Our Father: "In order to strengthen our confidence in God, Christ teaches us to address Him by a new name, a name entwined with the dearest associations of the human heart. He gives us the privilege of calling the infinite God our Father. This name, spoken to Him and of Him, is a sign of our love and trust toward Him, and a pledge of His regard and relationship to us. Spoken when asking His favor or blessing, it is as music in His ears. That we might not think it presumption to call Him by this name, He has repeated it again and again. He desires us to become familiar with the appellation."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* 1941 ed., pp. 141, 142.

Our Father

1. By what name did Jesus teach His disciples to address God? How should this name be regarded? Luke 11:2.

NOTE.—"Christ's favorite theme was the paternal tenderness and abundant grace of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 40.

"He [Christ] pointed His hearers to the Ruler of the universe, under the new name, 'Our Father.' He would have them understand how tenderly the heart of God yearned over them."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., p. 74.

2. How personal an interest does our heavenly Father take in His children on earth? Matt. 10:29-31; 18:14. Compare Matt. 6:25-33.

The Father Revealed in Christ

3. What supreme evidence is given of God's paternal love? 1 John 4:8-10. Compare John 3:16; Rom. 5:6, 8.

4. What provision has our heavenly Father made to enable us to become acquainted with Him? Matt. 11:27; John 14:6-9.

NOTE.—"To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known.

Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, 'with healing in His wings.' Mal. 4:2."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 22.

5. By what means does God impress our hearts with a realization and appreciation of His great love? Rom. 5:5; Gal. 4:6.

NOTE.—"He who commanded the light to shine out of darkness is willing to shine in your heart, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will take the things of God and show them unto you, conveying them as a living power into the obedient heart. Christ will lead you to the threshold of the Infinite."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 149.

6. In God's gift of His Son to be our Saviour, what else is included? Rom. 8:32.

NOTE.—"Freely give;" literally, "graciously give."

"By pouring the whole treasury of heaven into this world, by giving us in Christ all heaven, God has purchased the will, the affections, the mind, the soul, of every human being."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 326.

The Privilege of Sonship

7. Through Christ what relation is it our privilege to sustain to the Father? 1 John 3:1, 2.

NOTE.—"God stands toward His people in the relation of a father, and He has a father's claim to our faithful service."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 282.

"The more we study the divine character in the light of the cross, the more we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness blended with equity and justice, and the more clearly we discern innumerable evidences of

a love that is infinite and a tender pity surpassing a mother's yearning sympathy for her wayward child."—*Steps to Christ,* 1956 and pocket eds., p. 15.

8. How may we enter upon this new relationship? What evidence do we have of its reality? John 1:12, 13; Rom. 8:14, 16.

NOTE.—The Greek reads literally, "right to become God's sons," and implies that the restoration to sonship takes place *immediately* when the sinner receives Christ as *the* Son of God and believes on His name.

"At the very crisis, when Satan seemed about to triumph, the Son of God came with the embassage of divine grace," and "Deity was glorified by pouring upon the world a flood of healing grace that was never to be obstructed or withdrawn till the plan of salvation should be fulfilled."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 37.

9. What does God intend that His love, operating through Christ, shall do for us? 2 Cor. 5:14. Compare Rom. 8:3, 4.

NOTE.—The word translated "constraineth" means "sustains," "impels," "controls." As an automatic pilot controls an airplane

on a predetermined course, so the love of Christ controls in the strait and narrow way those who have chosen to be guided by it. When the will is surrendered to Christ "duty becomes a delight and sacrifice a pleasure. To honor Christ, to become like Him, to work for Him, is the life's highest ambition and its greatest joy."—*Education*, page 297.

10. As sons and daughters of God, what training may we expect to receive? Heb. 12:5-12.

NOTE.—The word translated "chastening" means "upbringing," "training," "instruction," "discipline," and refers to the whole process by which children are prepared for the responsibilities of adult life. In verse 7 the ancient manuscripts all read, "Endure unto chastening!" Knowing what is best for us, God calls upon us to submit to the training that is necessary in order that we may become mature Christians.

"The trials of life are God's workmen, to remove the impurities and roughness from our character. Their hewing, squaring, and chiseling, their burnishing and polishing, is a painful process; it is hard to be pressed down to the grinding wheel. But the stone is brought forth prepared to fill its place in the heavenly temple. Upon no useless material does the Master bestow such careful, thorough work. Only His precious stones are polished after the similitude of a palace."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 1956 ed., p. 10.

11. What high privileges constitute the present experience and future goal of God's children? Col. 1:12-14. Compare 1 Peter 1:3-5.

NOTE.—By virtue of His death on Calvary the Saviour transferred us from the jurisdiction of Satan to His own "kingdom." We are still in this world, to be sure; but as sons of God we have sworn allegiance to a higher power, and as long as we abide in Christ Satan cannot touch us.

Approaching God in Sincerity and Confidence

12. In what frame of mind are we to approach our heavenly Father? John 4:23; Heb. 4:16.

NOTE.—True worship is willing obedience to all of God's requirements. The new birth purifies the heart, renews the mind, and imparts a new capacity for knowing and loving God. See *The Desire of Ages*, page 189.

13. How securely may we rest in the Father's love? John 10:29; Rom. 8:35-39.

Lesson 2, for July 11, 1959

The Word Was Made Flesh

MEMORY VERSE: "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." 1 Tim. 3:16.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 19-26; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," vol. 5, pp. 917-919, and on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of June 25.

AIM: A deeper understanding of the significance of the incarnation of our Lord, and of His exemplary life, vicarious death, resurrection, and ascension.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Tuesday: Questions 8-10.	☐
Sunday: Key Thoughts; Questions 1-3.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
		Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Divinity and Humanity Reunited

1. God with us. Matt. 1:23.
2. The Word was God. John 1:1.
3. The Word became flesh. John 1:14; Heb. 2:14, 17.

II. A Revelation of Infinite Love

4. Christ gave Himself for us. Eph. 5:2; Titus 2:14.
5. To reveal the Father. 2 Cor. 4:6; John 17:3.
6. To seek and save the lost. Luke 19:10; John 10:10; 18:37.
7. To impart eternal life. Rom. 6:23.

III. Exemplary Life and Vicarious Death

8. Victory over temptation. 1 John 3:5; Heb. 2:18.
9. Made to be sin for us. 2 Cor. 5:21.
10. Reconciled by His death, saved by His life. Rom. 5:8-11.

IV. Resurrection, Ascension, and Intercession

11. Benefits from the resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:16-23.
12. A comforting assurance. Acts 1:9-11.
13. Our great High Priest. Heb. 2:17.

Key Thoughts:

Key Events in Christ's Life. Each of the five major events in the earthly life of the Saviour represents an essential aspect of the plan of salvation. These five are:

1. The Incarnation. Sin estranged man from his Creator, thus severing his connection with the source of life. The reunion of divinity with humanity at Christ's birth makes it possible for our humanity to be united with divinity by the *new birth.*

2. A Perfect Life. The Saviour's life on earth was a perfect example of submission to the Father. Through the Holy Spirit He imparts power to us to follow that example. The process of learning to do so we call *sanctification.*

3. A Vicarious Death. On Calvary Christ died in our stead, and by virtue of His death we have access through faith to His saving grace. Accepting this gift we experience *justification.*

4. A Triumphant Resurrection. Christ's triumph over death is our assurance of the resurrection and of *life everlasting.*

5. A Glorious Ascension. "If I go, . . . I will come again." John 14:3. Christ ascended to heaven to complete the work of salvation begun on the cross, thereby enabling us to prepare for *translation.* When this task is complete He will restore us to the presence of the Father and present us faultless before Him.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Purpose of the Incarnation: "Christ . . . pitched His tent by the side of the tents of men, that He might dwell among us, and make us familiar with His divine character and life. . . . By His humanity, Christ touched humanity; by His divinity, He lays hold upon the throne of God. As the Son of man, He gave us an example of obedience; as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 23, 24.

Divinity and Humanity Reunited

1. What fact makes the birth of Jesus the supreme event of all time? Matt. 1:23. Compare John 14:8, 9.

NOTE.—"Divinity and humanity were mysteriously combined, and man and God became one. It is in this union that we find the hope of our fallen race. Looking upon Christ in humanity, we look upon God, and see in Him the brightness of His glory, the express image of His person."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 1130.

"Christ could have done nothing during His earthly ministry in saving fallen man if the divine had not been blended with the human. The limited capacity of man cannot define this wonderful mystery—the blending of the two natures, the divine and the human. It can never be explained. Man must wonder and be silent. And yet man is privileged to be a partaker of the divine nature, and in this way he can to some degree enter into the mystery."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 7, p. 904.

2. How full and complete was the Deity of the incarnate Christ? John 1:1. Compare Col. 1:15-19; 2:9; Heb. 1:1-3, 8.

NOTE.—"Christ is the pre-existent, self-existent Son of God. . . . There never was a time when He was not in close fellowship with the eternal God. . . . He was equal with God, infinite and omnipotent."—*Evangelism,* page 615.

"Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity, God over all, blessed forevermore. The Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, existed from eternity, a distinct person, yet one with the Father."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 1126.

"In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 530.

The word "first-born" in Colossians 1:15 denotes rank and position, not time or descent. The expression "first-born of every creature" characterizes Christ as being superior in rank to all created beings. This is evident from verse 17, where He is said to be "before all things."

3. How full and complete was the humanity of the incarnate Christ? John 1:14; Heb. 2:14, 17. Compare Phil. 2:5-8.

NOTE.—"Had He not been fully human, Christ could not have been our substitute. He could not have worked out in humanity that perfection of character which it is the privilege of all to reach. . . . In His humanity, He laid hold of the divinity of God; and this every member of the human family has the privilege of doing. Christ did nothing that human nature may not do if it partakes of the divine nature."—Ellen G. White, in *The Signs of the Times,* June 17, 1897.

"Only Begotten." The Greek of John 1:14 literally reads, "only," "unique."

A Revelation of Infinite Love

4. What supreme motive prompted the Saviour to take humanity upon Himself? What were His objectives in so doing? Eph. 5:2; Titus 2:14. Compare Heb. 12:2.

NOTE.—"He who beholds the Saviour's matchless love will be elevated in thought, purified in heart, transformed in character." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 661.

"A peculiar people." The Greek of Titus 2:14 reads literally, "a chosen people," "a people of His own."

5. What supreme revelation became possible through the incarnate Christ? Of what value is this revelation to mankind? 2 Cor. 4:6; John 17:3. Compare John 1:4, 12; 18:37.

NOTE.—"By sin man was shut out from God. Except for the plan of redemption, eternal separation from God, the darkness of unending night, would have been his. Through the Saviour's sacrifice, communion with God is again made possible. We may not in person approach into His presence; in our sin we may not look upon His face; but we can behold Him and commune with Him in Jesus, the Saviour."—*Education,* page 28.

6. In what words did our Lord Himself declare the purpose of His mission to earth? Luke 19:10; John 10:10; 18:37.

7. What supreme gift does God bestow through Jesus Christ? Rom. 6: 23. Compare John 1:4; 3:16.

Exemplary Life and Vicarious Death

8. How completely triumphant was Christ in His personal struggle with sin? What does His victory mean to us? 1 John 3:5; Heb. 2:18. Compare Rom. 8:1-4; Heb. 4:15.

NOTE.—"If we had to bear anything which Jesus did not endure, then upon this point Satan would represent the power of God as insufficient for us. Therefore Jesus was 'in all points tempted like as we are.' Heb. 4:15. He endured every trial to which we are subject. And He exercised in His own behalf no power that is not freely offered to us. As man, He met temptation, and overcame in the strength given Him from God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 24.

9. How fully did Christ accept the responsibility for our sins and reconcile us to God? 2 Cor. 5:21. Compare 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18.

10. What did the death of Christ upon Calvary make possible for us? Rom. 5:8-11.

NOTE.—"Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. 'With His stripes we are healed.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 25.

Resurrection, Ascension, and Intercession

11. What blessed assurances come to mankind because of Christ's triumph over death? 1 Cor. 15:16-23. Compare Rev. 1:18.

12. At His ascension what comforting assurance was given to His disciples? Acts 1:9-11.

13. By virtue of the incarnation, what was Christ enabled to become and to do for us? Heb. 2:17. Compare Heb. 4:15, 16; 7:25.

MAKE NEXT THIRTEENTH SABBATH DOUBLE DOLLAR DAY

Lesson 3, for July 18, 1959

Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ

MEMORY VERSE: "All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." 2 Cor. 5:18, 19.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," 1941 ed., pp. 185-211; "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 63-70; "Steps to Christ," 1956 and pocket eds., pp. 17-22 (1908 ed., pp. 19-25); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of July 2.

AIM: An insight into what Christ has done and is doing to reconcile sinners to God.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Sunday: Key Words; Questions 1, 2.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 3-6.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-10.	☐		

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Without God in the World

1. Enemies of God, dead in sin. Rom. 1:21-23, 28.
2. Living for self. Eph. 2:2-5.

II. Reconciliation Provided

3. God reconciling the world. 2 Cor. 5:18, 19; Col. 1:19, 20.
4. Parables: seeking the lost. Luke 15:7, 10.
5. A vicarious atoning sacrifice. Rom. 5:6-11, 18, 19.
6. Redemption, reconciliation, propitiation, atonement. Eph. 1:7; Heb. 2:17; 1 John 4:10; Rom. 5:11.

III. Reconciliation Applied and Accepted

7. Christ's atoning ministry. Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:1, 2.
8. Appropriating divine grace. John 1:12, 13; Heb. 4:15, 16.
9. Growth in grace. 2 Peter 3:18; 1 John 1:7.
10. Sons of God. Rom. 8:14; 1 John 3:1.

IV. The Transforming Power of Divine Grace

11. A transformation of character. Rom. 12:1, 2.
12. Fellowship with Christ. Phil. 3:9, 10.
13. Fruits of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22, 23.

Key Words:

1. Redemption. Jesus obtained eternal "redemption" for us. Heb. 9:12. This word looks at sin as slavery, and at sinners as slaves to sin. See Rom. 6:16, 17. It sees the ministry of Christ in delivering us from sin as a work of setting slaves free from bondage by paying a ransom for them. Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14.

2. Reconciliation. That God "reconciled" us to Himself by Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:18) is the good news of "reconciliation." Verses 19, 20. Christ became incarnate in order "to make reconciliation" for our sins. Heb. 2:17. These words look at sin as a

state of hostility toward God, and at sinners as enemies of God. See Rom. 5:10; 8:7. They see the ministry of Christ as a work of setting us at peace with God, of restoring friendly relations between us and God. Rom. 5:1, 10.

3. Propitiation. Christ is the "propitiation" for our sins. 1 John 2:2; 4:10. "Propitiation" presents Christ as the Lamb of God, by whom the enmity of sin is removed. See John 1:29. As used in the New Testament, "propitiation" is equivalent to "reconciliation."

4. Atonement. Through Christ we have received the "atonement." As used in Romans 5:11 the word "atonement" simply means "at-one-ment," and is equivalent to "reconciliation."

THE LESSON

Introduction

"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. . . . In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 25, 26.

Without God in the World

1. What is the attitude of the unregenerate heart toward God and spiritual things? Rom. 1:21-23, 28. Compare Rom. 5:10; 8:7; Eph. 2:1, 11, 12.

NOTE.—"Whatever the appearance may be, every life centered in self is squandered. Whoever attempts to live apart from God is wasting his substance. He is squandering the precious years, squandering the powers of mind and heart and soul, and working to make himself bankrupt for eternity. The man who separates from God that he may serve himself, is the slave of mammon."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* 1941 ed., pp. 200, 201.

2. What impulses control the life and conduct of those alienated from God? What characteristic conduct is the result? Eph. 2:2-5. Compare Eph. 4:17-19; Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 1:24-32.

NOTE.—"Satanic agencies were incorporated with men. The bodies of human beings, made for the dwelling place of God, had become the habitation of demons. The senses, the nerves, the passions, the organs of men, were worked by supernatural agencies in the indulgence of the vilest lust. The very stamp of demons was impressed upon the countenances of men. . . . It was demonstrated before the universe that, apart from God, humanity could not be uplifted. A new element of life and power must be imparted by Him who made the world."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 36, 37.

Reconciliation Provided

3. In His love for mankind, what did God do in order that sinners might become reconciled to Him? 2 Cor. 5:18, 19; Col. 1:19, 20. Compare 1 John 4:10.

NOTE.—"The heart of God yearns over His earthly children with a love stronger than death. In giving up His Son, He has poured out to us all heaven in one gift."—*Steps to Christ,* 1956 and pocket eds., p. 21.

4. What causes great joy in heaven? Luke 15:7, 10.

NOTE.—"When sinners are led to give themselves to the Saviour, angels bear the tidings heavenward, and there is great rejoicing among the heavenly host. 'Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repent-

THE FIRST STEP—TURNING FROM TEMPORARY THINGS TO CHRIST.

eth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.' Luke 15:7. A report is borne to heaven of every successful effort on our part to dispel the darkness and to spread abroad the knowledge of Christ. As the deed is recounted before the Father, joy thrills through all the heavenly host."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 154.

"Whatever may have been your past experience, however discouraging your present circumstances, if you will come to Jesus just as you are, weak, helpless, and despairing, our compassionate Saviour will meet you a great way off, and will throw about you His arms of love and His robe of righteousness."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., p. 9.

5. In the sinner's forlorn condition, what was necessary in order that he might become reconciled to God? Rom. 5:6-11, 18, 19. Compare 1 Peter 3:18.

NOTE.—"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,* page 14.

6. What is implied by the words "redemption," "reconciliation," "propitiation," "atonement," as used in Scripture to describe Christ's work of restoring us to divine favor? Eph. 1:7; Heb. 2:17; 1 John 4:10; Rom. 5:11. See definitions under "Key Words."

Reconciliation Applied and Accepted

7. What continuing ministry is necessary on the part of Christ in order to make the merits of Calvary effective in our individual lives? Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:1, 2. Compare 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 1:3.

NOTE.—"Christ is in the heavenly sanctuary, and He is there to make an atonement for the people. He is there to present His wounded side and pierced hands to His Father. He is there to plead for His church that is upon the earth. He is cleansing the sanctuary from the sins of the people. What is our work?—It is our work to be in harmony with the work of Christ. By faith we are to work with Him, to be in union with Him."—Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald,* Jan. 28, 1890.

8. What is our part in securing the benefits of the atonement provided by our Saviour on Calvary? John 1:12, 13; Heb. 4:15, 16. Compare Rom. 3:23-26.

9. What experience must we cultivate in order to retain the blessings of divine grace? 2 Peter 3:18; 1 John 1:7. Compare 1 John 3:3.

10. Into what intimate relationship with God do those enter who accept His grace and submit their lives to His direction? Rom. 8:14; 1 John 3:1.

NOTE.—"Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the

Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 671.

The Transforming Power of Divine Grace

11. What is the attitude of the regenerate heart toward God and toward His revealed will? Rom. 12:1, 2. Compare Col. 1:10-14; Rom. 5:1, 2.

12. Through faith, into what intimate fellowship with Christ is it our privilege to enter? Phil. 3:9, 10.

NOTE.—"All who would receive Christ by faith were united to Him by a tie closer than that of human kinship. They would become one with Him, as He was one with the Father."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 325.

13. What is the result of the transforming power of God in the life? Gal. 5:22, 23.

NOTE.—"On this earth, the earth whose soil has been moistened by the tears and blood of the Son of God, are to be brought forth the precious fruits of Paradise. In the lives of God's people the truths of His word are to reveal their glory and excellence. Through His people Christ is to manifest His character and the principles of His kingdom."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 296.

Lesson 4, for July 25, 1959

The Kingdom of Divine Grace

MEMORY VERSE: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," page 234; "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," 1956 ed., pp. 8, 107, 108 (1943 ed., pp. 20, 159, 160); "Steps to Christ," 1956 and pocket eds., pp. 43-48 (1908 ed., pp. 47-52); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of July 9.

AIM: An awareness of the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship in the kingdom of God's grace.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Key Thoughts; Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Establishment of the Kingdom of Grace

1. The kingdom at hand. Matt. 4:17.
2. The kingdom inaugurated. Matt. 12:28.
3. Victory by virtue of the cross. Heb. 2:14, 15; Rev. 12:10, 11.

II. Nature of the Kingdom of Grace

4. Within human hearts. Luke 17:20, 21; John 18:36.
5. Parables illustrating the kingdom. Matt. 13:24, 31, 33.
6. A transfer of proprietorship. Matt. 21:43.

III. Admission to the Kingdom of Grace

7. Born into the kingdom. John 1:12, 13; 3:3.
8. Naturalization and citizenship. Matt. 5:3-12.
9. Submission to God's will. Matt. 7:21; John 14:15.

IV. Subjects of the Kingdom of Grace

10. Access to the throne. Mark 10:28-30; Heb. 4:16.
11. Essential duties. Matt. 22:36-40.
12. Striving for perfection. Matt. 5:48.
13. Making God first in the life. Matt. 6:33.

Key Thoughts:

1. The Provision of Grace. "Grace" is a translation of the Greek word *charis,* which denotes "favor" or "good will." Despite sin God is still favorably disposed toward those who have rejected His sovereignty. The gospel is the good news of God's good will toward us, of His grace that provides salvation from the blight, power, penalty, and presence of sin.

2. The Kingdom of Grace. A kingdom is an organized form of society consisting of king, subjects, and territory. The kingdom of grace is the church invisible throughout probationary time. Its role complete, the kingdom of grace will eventually merge into God's eternal kingdom of glory.

3. The King of Grace. Jesus Christ is the King of grace. The theme of His earthly ministry was, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. 4:17. The crucifixion was "His true coronation."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 379.

4. Subjects of Grace. God's transforming grace is displayed by the subjects of His kingdom. By divine grace they were justified when they became its subjects, by divine grace they are sanctified as long as they remain loyal to God.

5. The Throne of Grace. The kingdom of grace exists to give its subjects access to the throne of grace, where they can "obtain mercy, and find grace to help" them overcome every inherited and cultivated tendency to evil and thus qualify for admission to the everlasting kingdom of glory. Heb. 4:16.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The announcement which had been made by the disciples in the name of the Lord ["the kingdom of heaven is at hand"] was in every particular correct, and the events to which it pointed were even then taking place. . . . This kingdom was not, as they had been taught to believe, an earthly empire. Nor was it that future, immortal kingdom which shall be set up when 'the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;' that everlasting kingdom, in which 'all dominons shall serve and obey Him.' Daniel 7:27. As used in the Bible, the expression 'kingdom of God' is employed to designate both the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 346, 347.

Establishment of the Kingdom of Grace

1. What was the principal theme of our Lord's preaching during His

earthly ministry? Matt. 4:17. Compare chaps. 3:2; 10:7.

NOTE.—"Is at hand." Literally, "has come near."

2. When was the kingdom Jesus announced established? Matt. 12:28. Compare Matt. 11:12; Luke 16:16; Col. 1:12, 13.

NOTE.—"The kingdom of grace was instituted immediately after the fall of man, when a plan was devised for the redemption of the guilty race. It then existed in the purpose and by the promise of God; and through faith, men could become its subjects. Yet it was not actually established until the death of Christ."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 347, 348.

3. By what event was the establishment of the kingdom of divine grace made possible? Heb. 2:14, 15; Rev. 12:10, 11.

NOTE.—"The 'kingdom of God' which they [the disciples] had declared to be at hand was established by the death of Christ."—*The Great Controversy,* page 347.

"In the matchless gift of His Son, God has encircled the whole world with an atmosphere of grace as real as the air which circulates around the globe. All who choose to breathe this life-giving atmosphere will live and grow up to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus."—*Steps to Christ,* 1956 and pocket eds., p. 68.

Nature of the Kingdom of Grace

4. What is the nature of the kingdom Jesus established at His first coming? Luke 17:20, 21; John 18:36. Compare Matt. 6:10.

NOTE.—"The Pharisees sit in their observation towers in vain; the kingdom, being spiritual and internal, comes right under

UNSEEN, THE LEAVEN OF GRACE WORKS WITHIN.

their noses, and with their unspiritual eyes they never see a thing of it or of its coming."—R. C. H. Lenski, *Commentary,* on Luke 17:21.

5. What method did Jesus use to illustrate the nature and purpose of the kingdom of God's grace? Matt. 13:24, 31, 33.

NOTE.—For a synopsis of the lesson taught by each of these parables, see *The Seventh-day Adventsist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, pp. 205, 206.

6. What transfer of the kingdom became necessary because of Israel's unfaithfulness? Matt. 21:43.

NOTE.—"That which God purposed to do for the world through Israel, the chosen nation, He will finally accomplish through His church on earth today. He has 'let out His vineyard unto other husbandmen.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 713, 714.

Admission to the Kingdom of Grace

7. Through what process do we gain admission to the kingdom of God's grace? John 1:12, 13; 3:3.

8. How did Jesus summarize the principles of the kingdom of divine grace? Matt. 5:3-12.

NOTE.—"In the Sermon on the Mount He [Christ] sought . . . to give His hearers a right conception of His kingdom and of His own character. . . . He told them the conditions of entrance therein, leaving them to draw their own conclusions as to its nature."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 299.

"Throughout the Beatitudes there is an advancing line of Christian experience. Those who have felt their need of Christ, those who have mourned because of sin and have sat with Christ in the school of affliction, will learn meekness from the divine Teacher."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., pp. 13, 14.

9. What requirements do all meet who are subjects of Christ's kingdom? Matt. 7:21; John 14:15.

Subjects of the Kingdom of Grace

10. What privileges and benefits accrue to those who become subjects of this kingdom? Mark 10:28-30; Heb. 4:16.

11. What is the basic law of the kingdom of heaven? Matt. 22:36-40. Compare Matt. 23:23; Micah 6:8.

12. What ideals of character are set before us as subjects of the kingdom of heaven? Matt. 5:48. Compare Phil. 3:8-15.

NOTE.—"Not by the decisions of courts or councils or legislative assemblies, not by the patronage of worldly great men, is the kingdom of Christ established, but by the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity through the work of the Holy Spirit."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 509.

13. What place is the kingdom of heaven to hold in the minds and lives of its subjects? Matt. 6:33.

NOTE.—" 'And the lusts of other things.' These are not necessarily things sinful in themselves, but something that is made first instead of the kingdom of God. Whatever attracts the mind from God, whatever draws the affections away from Christ, is an enemy to the soul."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* 1941 ed., p. 53.

"We cannot serve God with a divided heart. Bible religion is not one influence among many others; its influence is to be supreme, pervading and controlling every other."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 312.

Lesson 5, for August 1, 1959

Justification

MEMORY VERSE: "He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Cor. 5:21.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," 1941 ed., pp. 150-163; "Steps to Christ," 1956 and pocket eds., pp. 23-36 (1908 ed., pp. 26-41); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of July 16.

AIM: To answer the question: How do I stand in the sight of God?

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 13, 14; read from Study Helps.	☐
Sunday: Key Words; Questions 1-4	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-8.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-12.	☐		

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Provision for Righteousness in Christ

1. All have sinned. Rom. 3:10, 23.
2. God's justice in justifying sinners. Rom. 3:23-26.
3. Christ made to be sin for us. Rom. 5:19; 2 Cor. 5:21.
4. His righteousness imputed. Rom. 4:3, 5, 9.

II. Appropriating the Gift of Christ's Righteousness

5. A humble attitude. Luke 18:13, 14.
6. A desire for righteousness. Matt. 5:6.
7. Faith in divine grace. Acts 13:38, 39; Rom. 4:4, 5.
8. Belief and obedience. Rom. 6:13, 16.

III. At Peace With God

9. Joy for sins forgiven. Rom. 4:6-8.
10. Justified by faith. Rom. 5:1.
11. Obedience the fruit of faith. Phil. 1:10, 11; 1 John 2:29.
12. Christ's constraining love. Rom. 8:1-4.

IV. Growing in Grace

13. Pressing toward the mark. Phil. 3:12-14.
14. Paul's admonition. Phil. 3:15-17.

Key Words:

1. Justify and **Justification.** The New Testament words thus translated mean "to set right," "to regard as righteous," "to declare righteous," "to treat as being righteous," "to acquit." To be justified is to be made and declared righteous, to be acquitted of wrongdoing, to have charges canceled, to be brought into a right relation with God.

2. Righteousness. This word usually denotes the quality or state of being right. Among the Greeks "righteousness" consisted of conformity to accepted customs. To the Jews it was a matter of conformity to the requirements of the law as interpreted by the rabbis. But for Christ's followers it means conformity to the principles of the kingdom of heaven.

3. Imputed Righteousness. In the Greek New Testament the original expression sometimes translated "to impute" is also translated "to think" (Rom. 2:3), "to count" (Rom. 4:3), "to reckon" (Rom. 4:4), "to esteem" (Rom. 14:14). In classical Greek and in the papyri the term was used in keeping accounts, to express credit or debit. When God imputes righteousness to the repentant sinner He figuratively places the righteousness of Christ to his credit on the books of heaven, and the sinner stands before God as if he had never sinned.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"As the penitent sinner, contrite before God, discerns Christ's atonement in his behalf, and accepts this atonement as his only hope in this life and the future life, his sins are pardoned. This is justification by faith. . . . Through faith, the believer passes from the position of a rebel, a child of sin and Satan, to the position of a loyal subject

of Christ Jesus, not because of an inherent goodness, but because Christ receives him as His child by adoption. . . . Justification is the opposite of condemnation. God's boundless mercy is exercised toward those who are wholly undeserving. He forgives transgressions and sins for the sake of Jesus, who has become the propitiation for our sins. Through faith in Christ, the guilty transgressor is brought into favor with God and into the strong hope of life eternal."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 6, pp. 1070, 1071.

The Provision for Righteousness in Christ

1. How many stand in need of the righteousness God has provided through faith in Jesus Christ? Rom. 3:10, 23.

2. How can a righteous God, in justice, declare a guilty sinner righteous? Rom. 3:23-26.

3. How did Christ earn the right to impute His righteousness to us? Rom. 5:19; 2 Cor. 5:21 Compare 1 Peter 3:18.

4. How do New Testament writers describe the process by which the righteousness of Christ is transferred to us? Rom. 4:3, 5, 9.

NOTE.—"In ourselves we are sinners; but in Christ we are righteous. Having made us righteous through the imputed righteousness of Christ, God pronounces us just, and treats us as just. He looks upon us as His dear children. Christ works against the power of sin, and where sin abounded, grace much more abounds."—Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 394.

Appropriating the Gift of Christ's Righteousness

5. What attitude must the sinner manifest before God can pronounce him justified? Luke 18:13, 14.

NOTE.—"The sense of need, the recognition of our poverty and sin, is the very first condition of acceptance with God. 'Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' Matt. 5:3."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* 1941 ed., p. 152.

"It is only he who knows himself to be a sinner that Christ can save."—*Ibid.,* p. 158.

6. How is the craving for righteousness rewarded? Matt. 5:6.

NOTE.—"As we discern the perfection of our Saviour's character we shall desire to become wholly transformed and renewed in the image of His purity. . . . If you have a sense of need in your soul, if you hunger and thirst after righteousness, this is an evidence that Christ has wrought upon your heart."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., p. 19.

7. By His grace, what does God accept on our part as entitling us to the

righteousness of Christ? Acts 13:38, 39; Rom. 4:4, 5.

NOTE.—"Faith is the condition upon which God has seen fit to promise pardon to sinners; not that there is any virtue in faith whereby salvation is merited, but because faith can lay hold of the merits of Christ, the remedy provided for sin. Faith can present Christ's perfect obedience instead of the sinner's transgression and defection. When the sinner believes that Christ is his personal Saviour, then according to His unfailing promises, God pardons his sin and justifies him freely."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 6, p. 1073.

8. What will all do who would be justified by faith in Christ? Rom. 6: 13, 16.

NOTE.—"Those who are justified by faith must have a heart to keep the way of the Lord. It is an evidence that a man is not justified by faith when his works do not correspond to his profession. . . . The faith that does not produce good works does not justify the soul."—Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 397.

At Peace With God

9. What blessed release accompanies the divine gift of righteousness? Rom. 4:6-8.

NOTE.—"You are a sinner. You cannot atone for your past sins; you cannot change your heart and make yourself holy. But God promises to do all this for you through Christ. You *believe* that promise. You confess your sins and give yourself to God. You *will* to serve Him. Just as surely as you do this, God will fulfill His word to you. If you believe the promise,—believe that you are forgiven and cleansed,—God supplies the fact; you are made whole, just as Christ gave the paralytic power to walk when the man believed that he was healed. It *is* so if you believe it."—*Steps to Christ,* 1956 and pocket eds., p. 51.

10. What experience do those enjoy who have been justified by faith in the saving merits of Christ? Rom. 5:1.

11. What visible evidence testifies to justification by faith as an accomplished fact in the life? Phil. 1:10, 11; 1 John 2:29.

NOTE.—"Faith works by love and purifies the soul. Faith buds and blossoms and bears a harvest of precious fruit. Where faith is, good works appear. . . . Christ and the believer become one, and His beauty of character is revealed in those who are vitally connected with the Source of power and love. Christ is the great depositary of justifying righteousness and sanctifying grace."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 398.

"Righteousness within is testified to by righteousness without."—*Messages to Young People,* page 35.

12. What enables the person who has been justified by faith to live a life acceptable to God? Rom. 8:1-4. Compare 2 Cor. 5:14; Gal. 3:11.

NOTE.—"Satan had claimed that it was impossible for man to obey God's commandments; and in our own strength it is true that we cannot obey them. But Christ came in the form of humanity, and by His perfect obedience He proved that humanity and divinity combined can obey every one of God's precepts."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 314.

Growing in Grace

13. What was Paul's experience in pursuing the Christian's prize? Phil. 3:12-14.

14. What admonition should we follow? Phil. 3:15-17. Compare 2 Peter 3:18; Eph. 4:15.

Sanctification

MEMORY VERSE: "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Col. 2:6, 7.

STUDY HELPS: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 539-545, 557-567; "Christ's Object Lessons," 1941 ed., pp. 46-61; "Steps to Christ," 1956 and pocket eds., pp. 67-75 (1908 ed., pp. 71-80); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of July 23.

AIM: A clearer understanding of what sanctification is and of how it becomes effective in the life.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Key Words; Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. What Sanctification Is

1. Pressing toward the mark. Phil. 3:12-15.
2. Fighting the good fight. 1 Tim. 6:11, 12.
3. Building character. Col. 2:6, 7; 1 Peter 5:10.

II. What Sanctification Accomplishes

4. A transformation of the life. Rom. 12:1, 2; 2 Cor. 7:1.
5. John a shining example. Mark 3:17; John 13:23.
6. The chastening of God. Heb. 12: 5, 6, 11; Rev. 3:19.
7. Faith to endure testing. James 1:2-6.

III. Clothed With Christ's Righteousness

8. Without a wedding garment. Matt. 22:11, 12.
9. One's own righteousness. Rom. 10:2, 3; Rev. 3:17.
10. Holiness attained in this life. Rev. 22:11.

IV. Like Christ at His Coming

11. Complete in God's will. Eph. 5:27; Col. 4:12.
12. Holy as God is holy. 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Peter 1:15, 16.
13. Faultless at Christ's coming. 1 Thess. 3:12, 13; 1 John 3:2; Jude 24.

Key Words:

1. Sanctification. The Greek word for sanctification, also translated "holiness," describes both the *process* of obtaining holiness and the resultant *state* of holiness. If a distinction is to be made between justification and sanctification it might be said that one focuses attention on the sinner's release from a state of unrighteousness, and the other on his becoming and being righteous.

2. New Testament Terms for Sanctification. New Testament writers use such expressions as: following after righteousness, walking in newness of life, growing up into Christ, growing in grace, adding grace to grace, being built up, strengthened, and established, being transformed, partaking of the divine nature, perfecting holiness—until the Christian is "complete in all the will of God." Col. 4:12.

3. Terms Used in These Lessons. In this series of lessons "justification" (Lesson 5) refers to the transition from a life dedi-

cated to the pursuit of sin to one dedicated to the pursuit of righteousness. "Santification" refers to the process of character transformation that accompanies a normal Christian experience. Lesson 10 focuses attention on the immediate and ultimate objectives of sanctification—"Christian Maturity and Perfection."

THE LESSON

Introduction

Growing Up Into Christ: "Many have an idea that they must do some part of the work alone. They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, but now they seek by their own efforts to live aright. But every such effort must fail. Jesus says, 'Without Me ye can do nothing.' Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness,—all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly, —by abiding in Him,—that we are to grow in grace. He is not only the Author but the Finisher of our faith. It is Christ first and last and always. He is to be with us, not only at the beginning and the end of our course, but at every step of the way."—*Steps to Christ,* 1956 and pocket eds., p. 69.

"The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven, the second is our fitness for heaven."—*Messages to Young People,* page 35.

What Sanctification Is

1. What pathway of continuous advancement opens before the person who has experienced justification by faith in Jesus Christ? Phil. 3:12-15.

NOTE.—"The Scriptures plainly show that the work of sanctification is progressive. When in conversion the sinner finds peace with God through the blood of the atonement, the Christian life has but just begun. Now he is to 'go on unto perfection;' to grow up 'unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 470.

2. What comes into the life of a person who has been justified by faith in Christ? 1 Tim. 6:11, 12.

NOTE.—"A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; we form the character. It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies. We shall have to criticize ourselves closely, and allow not one unfavorable trait to remain uncorrected."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* 1941 ed., p. 331.

3. What is included in sanctification? Col. 2:6, 7; 1 Peter 5:10. Compare Rom. 6:4.

NOTE.—"Sanctification consists in the cheerful performance of daily duties in perfect obedience to the will of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 360.

"True sanctification is an entire conformity to the will of God."—*The Sanctified Life,* page 9.

What Sanctification Accomplishes

4. As the process of sanctification goes forward, what takes place in a person's life? Rom. 12:1, 2; 2 Cor. 7:1.

NOTE.—As "the leaven hidden in the flour works invisibly to bring the whole mass under its leavening process; so the leaven of truth works secretly, silently, steadily, to transform the soul. The natural inclinations are softened and subdued. New thoughts, new feelings, new motives, are implanted. A new standard of character is set up—the life of Christ. The mind is changed; the faculties are roused to action in new lines. Man is not endowed with new faculties, but the faculties he has are sanctified. The conscience is awakened."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 98, 99.

5. What shining example of character transformation is revealed in one of Christ's disciples? Mark 3:17; John 13:23.

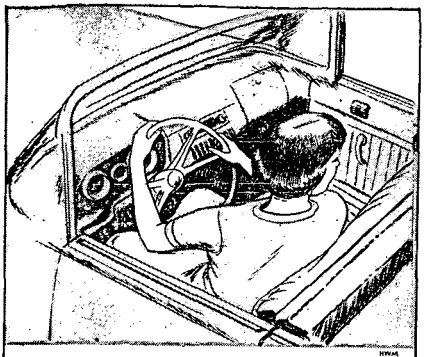
NOTE.—John, one of the "sons of thunder," became the beloved disciple. "John did not naturally possess the loveliness of character that his later experience revealed. By nature he had serious defects. He was not only proud, self-assertive, and ambitious for honor, but impetuous, and resentful under injury. He and his brother were called 'sons of thunder.' Evil temper, the desire for revenge, the spirit of criticism, were all in the beloved disciple. But beneath all this the divine Teacher discerned the ardent, sincere, loving heart."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 540.

"In the life of the disciple John true sanctification is exemplified. During the years of his close association with Christ, he was often warned and cautioned by the Saviour; and these reproofs he accepted. . . . He yielded his resentful, ambitious temper to the molding power of Christ, and divine love wrought in him a transformation of character."—*Ibid.,* p. 557.

6. What discipline is often necessary in the process of sanctification? Heb. 12:5, 6, 11; Rev. 3:19.

NOTE.—"Before we are delivered from Satan's power without, we must be delivered from his power within. The Lord permits trials in order that we may be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from harsh, un-Christlike traits of character. He suffers the deep waters of affliction to go over our souls in order that we may know Him and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, in order that we may have deep heart longings to be cleansed from defilement, and may come forth from the trial purer, holier, happier. Often we enter the furnace of trial with our souls darkened with selfishness; but if patient under the crucial test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine character."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 174, 175.

7. What provision has God made



AS IN POWER STEERING, GOD FURNISHES SANCTIFYING POWER; WE TURN THE WHEEL.

for testing and guidance along the pathway of sanctification? James 1: 2-6.

NOTE.—"God's great object in the working out of His providences is to try men, to give them opportunity to develop character."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 283.

Clothed With Christ's Righteousness

8. In the parable of the wedding feast, what searching question was asked one of the guests? Matt. 22: 11, 12.

NOTE.—"By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ's true followers will possess. To the church it is given 'that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white,' 'not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.' Rev. 19:8. Eph. 5:27. The fine linen, says the Scripture, 'is the righteousness of saints.' It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 310.

"When we submit ourselves to Christ, the

heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness."—*Ibid.*, p. 312.

9. Into what danger are those likely to fall who do not understand and submit to God's program of righteousness? Rom. 10:2, 3; Rev. 3:17.

NOTE.—"The effort to earn salvation by one's own works inevitably leads men to pile up human exactions as a barrier against sin. For, seeing that they fail to keep the law, they will devise rules and regulations of their own to force themselves to obey. All this turns the mind away from God to self. His love dies out of the heart, and with it perishes love for his fellow men." —*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 1956 ed., p. 123.

10. Should we expect to attain to a state of holiness in this life or will that come only after the close of probation? Rev. 22:11.

NOTE.—"There will be no future probation in which to prepare for eternity. It is in this life that we are to put on the robe of Christ's righteousness."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 319.

Like Christ at His Coming

11. What is the goal in the process of sanctification? Eph. 5:27; Col. 4:12.

NOTE.—"A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 332.

12. Toward what ideal is the Christian to strive? What will take place as he does so? 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Peter 1: 15, 16.

13. When will the process of sanctification be complete? 1 Thess. 3:12, 13; 1 John 3:2; Jude 24.

NOTE.—Justification takes but a moment; sanctification requires a lifetime.

"There is no such thing as instantaneous sanctification. True sanctification is a daily work, continuing as long as life shall last." —*The Sanctified Life*, page 10.

Lesson 7, for August 15, 1959

Doing God's Will

MEMORY VERSE: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Rom. 12:2.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," 1941 ed., pp. 272-283; "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," 1956 ed., pp. 147-152 (1943 ed., pp. 211-218); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of July 30.

AIM: To face the question: How faithful am I to my responsibilities as a child of God?

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Key Words and Expressions; Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-10.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-14.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Obedience the Test of Profession

1. Salvation for those who obey. Heb. 5:9.
2. Basis of admission to kingdom. Matt. 7:21-23.
3. Evidence of love for Christ. John 14:15, 21, 23, 24.

II. Christ's Example and Enabling Power

4. Christ's constraining power. Rom. 8:3, 4, 6; 2 Cor. 5:14.
5. Christ and His Father's will. John 5:30; 6:38.
6. Obedient unto death. Mark 14:36; Phil. 2:8.

III. Our Responsibility for Known Truth

7. Obedience commensurate with knowledge. James 1:22-25; 4:17.
8. Hearing and doing. Matt. 7:24-27; 21:28-32.
9. Human tradition versus God's commands. Mark 7:7-9.
10. Faith does not set aside the law. Rom. 3:31.

IV. God's Will and Man's Obedience

11. Seeking to know God's will. Rom. 12:2.
12. Obedience from the heart. Rom. 6:17; Eph. 6:6.
13. The new birth and sin. 1 John 3:6, 9; 5:18.
14. Our Advocate. 1 John 2:1.

Key Words and Expressions:

1. Obey and **Keep His Word.** The usual Greek word for "obey" means literally "to listen attentively," that is, in order to know what one should do. The word for "keep" means "to keep watch over," "to guard," "to protect," "to pay attention to." Obedience, then, reflects diligent purpose to know God's will and to abide by it.

2. Constraineth. "The love of Christ constraineth us." 2 Cor. 5:14. The word translated "constraineth" means "to hold together," "to hold fast," "to urge," "to impel," "to control." Divine love not only paid the penalty for our sins, so providing justification, but also imparts power to triumph over sin, so making sanctification possible.

3. Transformed. The Greek *metamorphoō,* "to transform," is the source of our word "metamorphosis." Each stage in the metamorphosis of a butterfly represents a complete change in nature and appearance. Thus the pupa, for instance, is altogether different from the preceding caterpillar stage, and the mature butterfly, in turn, in no way resembles the pupa. This is the word used in Matthew 17:2 to describe the transfiguration of Christ on the mountain; and in Romans 12:2 and 2 Corinthians 3:18 of the change that takes place in the Christian whereby he comes to resemble Christ.

4. Doth Not Commit Sin. The tense of the verb in the Greek for this expression as found in 1 John 3:6, 9; 5:18, indicates that it is more accurately rendered "does not continue to sin," or "does not habitually sin." The Greek verb forms clearly do not mean that the one who has been born of God will never again fall before temptation. They imply, instead, that he has committed himself to a pattern of life in which he makes no provision for sinning, that it is his continuing firm purpose to live in harmony with that commitment, and that his life gives marked evidence of increasing freedom from sin.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Obedience Prompted by Love: "God does not force the will or judgment of any. He takes no pleasure in a slavish obedience. He desires that the creatures of His hands shall love Him because He is worthy of love. He would have them obey Him because they have an intelligent appreciation of His wisdom, justice, and benevolence. And all who have a just conception of these qualities will love Him because they are drawn toward Him in admiration of His attributes."—*The Great Controversy,* page 541.

Obedience the Test of Profession

1. To whom have the blessings of salvation been promised? Heb. 5:9.

2. What relationship is there between doing God's will and obtaining admission to His kingdom? Matt. 7: 21-23. Compare chaps. 5:19; 6:10.

NOTE.—"Profession is as nothing in the scale. It is character that decides destiny." —*Christ's Object Lessons,* 1941 ed., p. 74.

3. Of what is obedience to God's revealed will the visible evidence? John 14:15, 21, 23, 24. Compare Matt. 22: 37-40; 1 John 2:5.

NOTE.—"God's great object in the working out of His providences is to try men, to give them opportunity to develop character. Thus He proves whether they are obedient or disobedient to His commands. Good works do not purchase the love of God, but they reveal that we possess that love. If we surrender the will to God, we shall not work in order to earn God's love. His love as a free gift will be received into the soul, and from love to Him we shall delight to obey His commandments."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 283.

Christ's Example and Enabling Power

4. What means has God provided by which He enables us to do His will? Rom. 8:3, 4, 6; 2 Cor. 5:14. Compare Phil. 2:13; Heb. 13:21.

NOTE.—"Through the grace of Christ we may accomplish everything that God requires."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 301.

5. How fully did Christ, living as a man among men, submit to the will of His Father? John 5:30; 6:38. Compare Heb. 10:7.

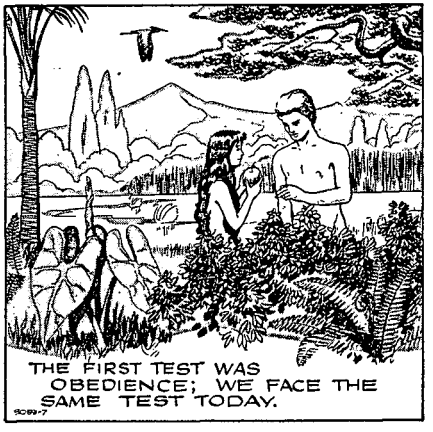
NOTE.—"Jesus emptied Himself, and in all that He did, self did not appear. He subordinated all things to the will of His Father."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., p. 14.

6. With what supreme demonstration of submission to the Father's will did Christ provide us? Mark 14:36; Phil. 2:8.

Our Responsibility for Known Truth

7. What responsibility accompanies a knowledge of God's will? What results from a willful neglect of known duty? James 1:22-25; 4:17. Compare John 15:22; Acts 17:30.

NOTE.—"Every man is given sufficient light for the discharge of the duties required of him. Man's responsibilities are proportionate to his opportunities and privileges. God gives to everyone sufficient light and grace to do the work He has given him to do. If man fails to do that which a little light shows to be his duty, greater light



would only reveal unfaithfulness, neglect to improve the blessings given."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 265.

8. By what parables did Jesus illustrate the danger of neglecting known duty? Matt. 7:24-27; 21:28-32.

NOTE.—"The test of sincerity is not in words, but in deeds. . . . Words are of no value unless they are accompanied with appropriate deeds."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 272.

9. What do men often substitute for strict obedience to God's expressed will? Mark 7:7-9.

NOTE.—"It is the love of self, the desire for an easier way than God has appointed that leads to the substitution of human theories and traditions for the divine precepts."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 409.

10. Does faith make obedience to God's expressed will unnecessary? Rom. 3:31. Compare James 2:17-24.

NOTE.—"Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 313.

God's Will and Man's Obedience

11. How only can we ascertain God's perfect will for us? Rom. 12:2.

NOTE.—"Our condemnation in the judgment will not result from the fact that we have been in error, but from the fact that we have neglected heaven-sent opportunities for learning what is truth."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 490.

12. What kind of obedience alone is acceptable to God? Rom. 6:17; Eph. 6:6.

NOTE.—"The expulsion of sin is the act of the soul itself. True, we have no power to free ourselves from Satan's control; but when we desire to be set free from sin, and in our great need cry out for a power out of and above ourselves, the powers of the soul are imbued with the divine energy of the Holy Spirit, and they obey the dictates of the will in fulfilling the will of God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 466.

"All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses."—*Ibid.,* p. 668.

13. What is the relation to sin of one who is born again? 1 John 3:6, 9; 5:18. Compare Rom. 6:6-16.

NOTE.—"When it is in the heart to obey God, when efforts are put forth to this end, Jesus accepts this disposition and effort as man's best service, and He makes up for the deficiency with His own divine merits."—Ellen G. White, *My Life Today,* page 250.

"So long as we do not consent to sin, there is no power, whether human or satanic, that can bring a stain upon the soul."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., p. 32.

14. Why is the child of God not without hope should he fall into sin? 1 John 2:1. Compare 1 John 1:7-10.

NOTE.—"When we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, we shall have no relish for sin; for Christ will be working with us. We may make mistakes, but we will hate the sin that caused the suffering of the Son of God."—*Messages to Young People,* page 338.

"The character is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts."—*Steps to Christ,* 1956 and pocket eds., pp. 57, 58.

Lesson 8, for August 22, 1959

Faith and Trust

MEMORY VERSE: "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4.

STUDY HELPS: "Steps to Christ," 1956 and pocket eds., pp. 105-113 (1908 ed., pp. 110-118); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of August 6.

AIM: To strengthen my own faith and to apply it more effectively to the problems of life.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Key Words and Expressions; Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8, 9; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. What Faith Is

1. According to your faith. Matt. 9:29.
2. Evidence of the unseen. Heb. 11:1.
3. A shield and breastplate. Eph. 6:16; 1 Thess. 5:8.
4. An essential gift. Heb. 11:6.

II. How Faith Operates

5. Christ as Author and Finisher. Heb. 12:2.
6. Love the motive force. Gal. 5:6.
7. Good works attest faith. James 2:17, 18, 20.

III. How to Cultivate Faith

8. Hearing the word. Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:15.
9. Christ in the heart. Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17.

IV. Applying Faith to Life's Problems

10. Faith to meet trial and temptation. James 1:2-4.
11. Faith to overcome obstacles. Matt. 17:20; 1 John 5:4.
12. Faith for the necessities of life. Matt. 6:31-33.
13. Faith in God's abiding presence. Heb. 13:5; 1 Peter 5:7.

Key Words and Expressions:

1. Author. The word "author" in Hebrews 12:2 is from a Greek word which means "leader," "chief," "founder," "originator." The Greeks used this word in designating the head progenitor of a clan, of heroes, and as a divine name for Apollo. Christ is the "founder," or "source" of our faith. He is also its "finisher," or "completer."

2. Temptation. In the Greek New Testament this word always means "test," "trial," "affliction," "trouble," an "enticement" to sin. In addition to "temptation" in the usual sense it includes such trials and tests as sickness, persecution, poverty, and calamity of various kinds. God tests a person in order to strengthen and develop character, whereas Satan confronts a man with tests in order to break down and destroy character.

3. Take No Thought. The Greek expression means literally, "to care for," "to be anxious," "to be troubled [with cares]," "to think earnestly upon." In old English "to take thought" meant "to be anxious" about something, that is, "to worry" about it.

4. Substance and **Evidence.** The Greek word translated "substance" means literally, "substantial nature," "essence," "actual being," "reality," and in an extended sense as in Hebrews 11:1, "confident assurance." The word translated "evidence" means "proof," "conviction." Genuine faith rests upon a firm underlying "substance" of sufficient evidence to warrant confidence in what is not yet seen. In the ancient papyri *hupostasis* is used of the legal documents by which a person could prove ownership of property. The documents were not the property, but they provided evidence of its existence and of his right to it. Faith is our "title deed" to what God has promised.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Faith Based on Evidence: "God never asks us to believe, without giving sufficient evidence upon which to base our faith. His existence, His character, the truthfulness of His word, are all established by testimony that appeals to our reason; and this testimony is abundant. Yet God has never removed the possibility of doubt. Our faith must rest upon evidence, not demonstration. Those who wish to doubt will have opportunity; while those who really desire to know the truth will find plenty of evidence on which to rest their faith."—*Steps to Christ,* 1956 and pocket eds., p. 105.

What Faith Is

1. What is the measure of our capacity to receive the boundless blessings of heaven? Matt. 9:29.

2. How does the New Testament define faith? Heb. 11:1. Compare Matt. 21:21.

NOTE.—"Faith looks beyond the difficulties, and lays hold of the unseen, even Omnipotence, therefore it cannot be baffled. Faith is the clasping of the hand of Christ in every emergency."—*Gospel Workers,* page 262.

"Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 347.

3. To what do the New Testament writers compare faith? Why is this comparison appropriate? Eph. 6:16; 1 Thess. 5:8.

4. Why is faith essential? Heb. 11:6. Compare Rom. 1:17; 5:2.

NOTE.—"God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as coworkers with Him."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 224, 225.

How Faith Operates

5. Where does the Christian's faith find its source and center? Heb. 12:2. Compare Gal. 2:16.

NOTE.—"Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 331.

6. What makes faith effective in the life? Gal. 5:6. Compare Rev. 3:18.

NOTE.—"The gold tried in the fire is faith that works by love. Only this can bring us into harmony with God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* 1941 ed., p. 158.

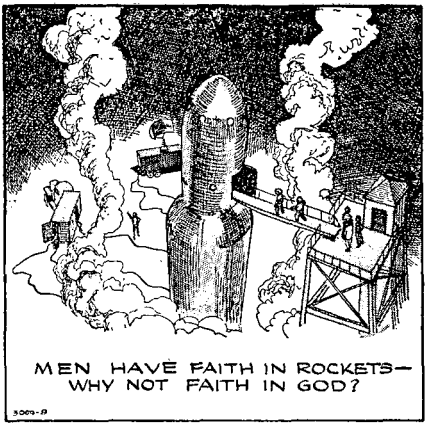
7. What of necessity accompanies genuine faith and attests its sincerity? James 2:17, 18, 20.

NOTE.—"Genuine faith will be manifested in good works; for good works are the fruits of faith. As God works in the heart, and man surrenders his will to God, and co-operates with God, he works out in the life what God works in by the Holy Spirit, and there is harmony between the purpose of the heart and the practice of the life." —Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 397.

How to Cultivate Faith

8. What means has God provided for the cultivation or development of faith? Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:15. Compare Gal. 5:22, 23.

NOTE.—"The Scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character. Christ prayed, 'Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth.' John 17:17. If studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, conforming us in body, soul, and spirit to His own image. Then God can use us to do His will."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 100.



9. What does our faith enable Christ to do in and for us? Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17.

NOTE.—"It is by the invisible union of the soul with Christ, through faith, that the spiritual life is nourished."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 47.

Applying Faith to Life's Problems

10. What is the role of faith in meeting trial and temptation? What Christian grace results when faith proves triumphant under test? James 1:2-4.

NOTE.—"If received in faith, the trial that seems so bitter and hard to bear will prove a blessing. The cruel blow that blights the joys of earth will be the means of turning our eyes to heaven. How many there are who would never have known Jesus had not sorrow led them to seek com-

fort in Him!"—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., p. 10.

11. What is the role of faith in overcoming obstacles and dangers? Matt. 17:20; 1 John 5:4. Compare Heb. 11:33-38.

NOTE.—"If you will seek the Lord and be converted every day; if you will of your own spiritual choice be free and joyous in God; if with gladsome consent of heart to His gracious call you come wearing the yoke of Christ,—the yoke of obedience and service,—all your murmurings will be stilled, all your difficulties will be removed, all the perplexing problems that now confront you will be solved."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 101.

"There is in genuine faith a buoyancy, a steadfastness of principle, and a fixedness of purpose that neither time nor toil can weaken."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 147.

Christ "knew that the life of His trusting disciples would be like His, a series of uninterrupted victories, not seen to be such here, but recognized as such in the great hereafter."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 679.

12. What assurance do we have that God knows our every need and has made provision for it? Matt. 6: 31-33.

13. How confident may we be of the Saviour's presence amid the vicissitudes of life? Heb. 13:5; 1 Peter 5:7. Compare Rom. 8:28.

NOTE.—"Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honor of God supreme will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 330.

Lesson 9, for August 29, 1959

Love—The Crowning Virtue

MEMORY VERSE: "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph. 4:32.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," 1941 ed., pp. 185-192, 376-389; "The Desire of Ages," pages 19-22, 497-505; "Steps to Christ," 1956 and pocket eds., pp. 9-15 (1908 ed., pp. 9-18); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of August 13.

AIM: A deeper appreciation of the love of God; a more consistent application of the golden rule.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Key Words and Phrases; Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-11.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-14; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. God's Love for Us

1. The scope of love. Matt. 5:43-47.
2. Evidence of God's love. Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:8-10.
3. God chastens in love. Heb. 12:6; Rev. 3:19.
4. Appreciating God's love. Rom. 5:5; Eph. 3:17-19.

II. Our Response to God's Love

5. Men love darkness. John 3:19.
6. Love not the world. Col. 3:2; 1 John 2:15.
7. Obedience attests love. John 14:15, 23, 24; 1 John 5:3.

III. Applying the Golden Rule

8. Loving one another. John 13:34; 1 John 2:9-11; 3:14; 4:19-21.
9. As God deals with us. Matt. 6:14, 15; Luke 6:36; Eph. 4:32.
10. The golden rule. Matt. 7:12; 19:19.
11. Our neighbor. Luke 10:30-37.

IV. The Supremacy of Love

12. The best gift. 1 Cor. 13:1-3.
13. Love in action. 1 Cor. 13:4-8.
14. Above all things. 1 Cor. 13:9, 10, 13.

Key Words and Phrases:

1. Love and **Charity.** These words are translated from a word whose wealth of meaning is difficult to express in English. The expression in Greek is not an affectionate, sentimental love based on the feelings, subject to change as the feelings change, but is essentially an expression of the higher powers of the mind and intelligence. In the New Testament it is altogether selfless and reflects a considered interest in the happiness and well-being of others, in recognition of their intrinsic worth in God's sight. It does not exclude feeling, but adds principle to feeling in such a way that principle controls feeling. It is love in its highest and truest form. It is a divine principle of thought and action that modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, and ennobles the affections.

2. Set your affection on. Here the Greek word means "to think of," "to care for," "to set the mind and heart on," "to strive after." It represents the united action of a person's affections and powers of reason, with emphasis on the role of intelligence. In Colossians 3:2 it might be translated, "continually think of," or "continually pay attention to."

3. Chastening. The Greek word means "upbringing," "training," "instruction," "discipline," "correction." It refers to the entire process by which children are prepared for the responsibilities of adult life. It may include, but does not specifically denote, remedial discipline as implied in "punishment" and "chastening." In its true sense, "chastening," or "discipline," includes all training that corrects, molds, strengthens, and perfects character.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Love Is the Golden Rule: "In your association with others, put yourself in their place. Enter into their feelings, their difficulties, their disappointments, their joys, and their sorrows. Identify yourself with them, and then do to them as, were you to exchange places with them, you would wish them to deal with you. . . .

"Oh, what rays of softness and beauty shone forth in the daily life of our Saviour! What sweetness flowed from His very presence! The same spirit will be revealed in His children. Those with whom Christ dwells will be surrounded with a divine atmosphere. Their white robes of purity will be fragrant with perfume from the garden of the Lord. Their faces will reflect light from His, brightening the path for stumbling and weary feet."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., pp. 134, 135.

God's Love for Us

1. What is the scope of the word "love" as it is used in the New Testament? Matt. 5:43-47.

NOTE.—"Love modifies the character, governs the impulses, subdues enmity, and ennobles the affections. This love is as broad as the universe, and is in harmony with that of the angel workers. Cherished in the heart, it sweetens the entire life and sheds its blessing upon all around."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 38.

2. In what is God's infinite love most fully revealed? Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:8-10.

NOTE.—"The glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 20.

3. Of what are the difficult experiences of life an evidence? Heb. 12:6; Rev. 3:19.

NOTE.—"Through conflict the spiritual life is strengthened. Trials well borne will develop steadfastness of character and precious spiritual graces. The perfect fruit of faith, meekness, and love often matures best amid storm clouds and darkness."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* 1941 ed., p. 61.

4. How may we come more fully to understand and appreciate God's love for us? Rom. 5:5; Eph. 3:17-19.

Our Response to God's Love

5. Upon what does natural man place his affections? John 3:19. Compare 2 Tim. 4:10.

6. What admonition is given the Christian with respect to his affections? Col. 3:2; 1 John 2:15.

NOTE.—"Love must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God's government in heaven and earth, and it must be the foundation of the Christian's character. This alone can make and keep him steadfast. This alone can enable him to withstand trial and temptation."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 49.

7. What will sincere love for God lead us to do? John 14:15, 23, 24; 1 John 5:3. Compare Matt. 22:36-40.

NOTE.—"In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the ruling principle of action. It modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, and ennobles the affections. This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life and sheds a refining influence on all around."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 551.

Applying the Golden Rule

8. How does sincere love for God find its truest expression? John 13:34. Compare 1 John 2:9-11; 3:14; 4:19-21.

NOTE.—"Love is the basis of godliness. Whatever the profession, no man has pure love to God unless he has unselfish love for his brother. . . . When self is merged in Christ, love springs forth spontaneously."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 384.

9. What two strong incentives has God given us for being merciful toward our fellow men, even when they may not deserve mercy? Matt. 6:14, 15. Compare Luke 6:36; Eph. 4:32; 1 John 4:11, 12.

NOTE.—"He who refuses to forgive is thereby casting away his own hope of pardon."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 247.

10. What practical measure do we have by which to gauge our love for others? Matt. 7:12; 19:19. Compare Phil. 2:2-4.

NOTE.—"When those who profess the name of Christ shall practice the principles of the golden rule, the same power will attend the gospel as in apostolic times."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 137.

11. Which parable of our Lord aptly illustrates the way in which sincere love for our fellow men will find expression? What principles are therein set forth? Luke 10:30-37.

NOTE.—"Our neighbor is every person who needs our help. Our neighbor is every soul who is wounded and bruised by the adversary. Our neighbor is every one who is the property of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 376.

"We should anticipate the sorrows, the difficulties, the troubles of others."—*Ibid.,* p. 386.

God "permits us to come in contact with suffering and calamity in order to call us out of our selfishness; He seeks to develop in us the attributes of His character—compassion, tenderness, and love. By accepting this work of ministry we place ourselves in His school, to be fitted for the courts of God."—*Ibid.,* pp. 388, 389.

The Supremacy of Love

12. What only can give true value to eloquence, knowledge, faith, good works, martyrdom? 1 Cor. 13:1-3.

NOTE.—"In words which from that day to this have been to men and women a source of inspiration and encouragement, Paul set forth the importance of that love which should be cherished by the followers of Christ. . . .

"No matter how high the profession, he whose heart is not filled with love for God and his fellow men is not a true disciple of Christ. Though he should possess great faith and have power even to work miracles, yet without love his faith would be worthless. He might display great liberality; but should he, from some other motive than genuine love, bestow all his goods to feed the poor, the act would not commend him to the favor of God. In his zeal he might even meet a martyr's death, yet if not actuated by love, he would be regarded by God as a deluded enthusiast or an ambitious hypocrite."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 318, 319.

13. What are some of the characteristics of love? 1 Cor. 13:4-8.

14. How is the supremacy of love stated? 1 Cor. 13:9, 10, 13.

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Christian Maturity and Perfection

MEMORY VERSE: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48.

STUDY HELPS: "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," 1956 ed., pp. 76-78 (1943 ed., pp. 116-118); "Steps to Christ," 1956 and pocket eds., pp. 115-126 (1908 ed., pp. 119-132); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of August 20.

AIM: An understanding of what it means to have a mature Christian experience.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Key Words and Expressions; Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-11.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-14; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Ideal of Perfection

1. "Be ye therefore perfect." Matt. 5:48.
2. Perfection a goal to attain. Phil. 3:12-16.
3. "Perfect" in this life. 1 Cor. 2:6; Phil. 3:15.
4. All things through Christ. Rom. 8:1-4; Phil. 4:13.

II. The Means of Perfection

5. The living Word; the written word. 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 13:20, 21.
6. Looking unto Jesus. Heb. 12:1, 2.
7. Suffering chastening, trials. Heb. 12:11; James 1:12.

III. Marks of Maturity

8. Control of the tongue. James 3:2.
9. Patience under test. James 1:4.
10. Fortitude when tried. Acts 20:24; 2 Cor. 4:8-11.
11. The bond of perfection. Col. 3:14.

IV. Like Christ at His Coming

12. Growth in understanding and practice. 1 Peter 4:13, 14.
13. Christian maturity. Eph. 4:13, 15; Heb. 6:1.
14. Character fixed when probation closes. 1 John 3:2, 3; Rev. 22:11.

Key Words and Expressions:

1. Perfect. The adjective thus translated means "full grown," "mature," "complete," "[what has] reached the goal." In Greek literature it is used of flawless sacrificial victims, of full-grown or mature animals, of mature persons, of trained and fully qualified professional men. The idea of maturity is evident in such passages as 1 Corinthians 14:20 (translated "men"); Eph. 4:13, 14; Heb. 5:13, 14 (translated "of full age"). The verb form means "to finish," "to complete," "to perfect."

2. Lay Aside Every Weight. The picture is of an overweight athlete stripping off excess fat that would be a handicap to him in a forthcoming athletic contest. The Greeks used the expression in this sense, and since Hebrews 12:1, 2 pictures the Christian

race in terms of an athletic contest this is probably Paul's meaning here.

3. Captain. This word in Hebrews 2:10 is from the same Greek word as "author" in chapter 12:2. Read the discussion of this word in Lesson 8.

4. Conversation. The Greek word here translated "conversation" means "manner of life," "conduct," "behavior." It does not mean "conversation" in the sense of "speech," but would include speech as one aspect of behavior, or conduct.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"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 co-operation 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,* page 827.

The Ideal of Perfection

1. What ideal did the Saviour set before those who aspire to enter the kingdom of heaven? Matt. 5:48.

2. What is the meaning of the word "perfect" when used in the New Testament to describe the ideal Christian experience? Phil. 3:12-16.

3. Is Christian perfection a present possibility or a distant goal we are to strive toward, but can never attain in this life? 1 Cor. 2:6; Phil. 3:15.

NOTE.—"At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God's purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* 1941 ed., p. 65.

"While we cannot claim perfection of the flesh, we may have Christian perfection of the soul. . . . The conscience can be freed from condemnation. Through faith in His blood, all may be made perfect in Christ Jesus. Thank God that we are not dealing with impossibilities. We may claim sanctification. We may enjoy the favor of God." —Ellen G. White, in *General Conference Bulletin,* April 23, 1901.

4. How is present perfection made possible? Rom. 8:1-4; Phil. 4:13.

NOTE.—"In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 429.

"As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 333.

"God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 123.

The Means of Perfection

5. What has God provided to enable us to attain perfection? 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 13:20, 21.

NOTE.—"When one turns away from human imperfections to behold Jesus, a divine transformation takes place in the character. The Spirit of Christ working upon the heart conforms it to His image."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 250.

"In every command and in every prom-

ise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God. . . . Receive into the soul by faith the incorruptible seed of the word, and it will bring forth a character and a life after the similitude of the character and the life of God."—*Ibid.*, p. 38.

"Received into the heart, the leaven of truth will regulate the desires, purify the thoughts, and sweeten the disposition. It quickens the faculties of the mind and the energies of the soul. It enlarges the capacity for feeling, for loving."—*Ibid.*, p. 101.

6. What must we do in order to reach perfection? Heb. 12:1, 2.

NOTE.—"Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not, then you can not overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 331.

"We cannot equal the pattern; but we shall not be approved of God if we do not copy it and, according to the ability which God has given, resemble it."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 549.

"Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 331.

7. What experiences in particular contribute to character development? Heb. 12:11; James 1:12. Compare Heb. 2:10.

NOTE.—"The omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit is the defense of every contrite soul. Not one that in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power. The Saviour is by the side of His tempted and tried ones. With Him there can be no such thing as failure, loss, impossibility, or defeat; we can do all things through Him who strengthens us."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 490.

Marks of Maturity

8. What trait of character is singled out as an important mark of Christian perfection? James 3:2.

NOTE.—"The highest evidence of nobility in a Christian is self-control."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 301.

9. What noble grace is mentioned as one evidence of a mature Christian experience? James 1:4.

10. What attitude toward the vicissitudes of life is characteristic of the mature Christian? Acts 20:24; 2 Cor. 4:8-11.

11. What is declared to be the bond of perfection? Col. 3:14. Compare 1 Cor. 13:13.

Like Christ at His Coming

12. What areas of Christian growth and development does Peter single out for special attention? 1 Peter 4:13, 14.

13. What is the ultimate standard of the Christian? Eph. 4:13, 15; Heb. 6:1. Compare 1 Peter 1:15.

NOTE.—"The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. As the Son of man was perfect in His life, so His followers are to be perfect in their life."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 311.

"By beholding Jesus we receive a living, expanding principle in the heart, and the Holy Spirit carries on the work, and the believer advances from grace to grace, from strength to strength, from character to character. He conforms to the image of Christ, until in spiritual growth he attains unto the measure of the full stature in Christ Jesus."—Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 395.

14. Until what time may we expect the process of character perfection to go forward? 1 John 3:2, 3; Rev. 22:11. Compare 1 Thess. 3:13.

NOTE.—"Christ is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts of men." "When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 67, 69.

Lesson 11, for September 12, 1959

The Return of Our Lord

MEMORY VERSE: "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:8.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," 1941 ed., pp. 405-421; "The Great Controversy," pages 640-646; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of August 27.

AIM: A deeper longing for the return of Jesus and increased earnestness in preparing to meet Him.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Key Words; Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7, 8; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9-13.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Hope of Christ's Coming

1. "That blessed hope." Titus 2:11-14.
2. Our Lord's promise. John 14:1-3.
3. To those who await His coming. Heb. 9:28.

II. The Purpose of Christ's Coming

4. To reward every man. Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12.
5. All rewarded together. 2 Tim. 4:1, 8.
6. Resurrected, immortalized, translated. 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:15-17.

III. The Manner of Christ's Coming

7. Jesus' and Paul's descriptions. Matt. 24:31; 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16.
8. Every eye shall see Him. Matt. 24:27; Rev. 1:7.

IV. Preparation for Christ's Coming

9. Watch and be ready. Matt. 24: 42, 44.
10. Purification from sin. 1 John 3:2, 3.
11. The ten virgins. Matt. 25:1-13.
12. Seeming delay; false prophets; pleasure. Matt. 24:4, 5, 48; Luke 21:34-36.
13. Patience. James 5:7, 8; 1 Peter 1:7, 13.

Key Words:

1. Coming. The original Greek word means "presence," or "arrival." In the papyri it is used of the visit of an emperor or a king and of the arrival of a Roman general to celebrate a triumphal procession. The word thus appropriately describes Christ's return as King of kings. Sometimes it stresses presence as opposed to absence. It is the word for "coming" in such passages as Matthew 24:27 and 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 8.

2. Appearing. This is the usual translation of the original Greek word meaning "visible manifestation," "an appearing," "an appearance." In 2 Thessalonians 2:8 it is translated "brightness," but elsewhere usually "appearing," as in 2 Timothy 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13. In classical Greek it describes the sudden appearance of an enemy in war and the supposed appearances of heathen deities to their worshipers. In the papyri it is used of the inauguration of the emperor Caligula. The New Testament applies it to both the first and second advents of our Lord. In 2 Thessalonians 2:8 Paul speaks of the "brightness" of Christ's "coming," and seems to stress the visible presence of Christ following His appearing.

3. Revelation. The Greek *apokalupsis,* "revelation," "disclosure," is used once (1 Peter 1:13) of Christ's second advent. The verb form also occurs once (Luke 17:30). It is also translated "coming" (1 Cor. 1:7) and "appearing" (1 Peter 1:7). John's title for the book of Revelation was "Apocalypse of Jesus Christ." The word stresses the manifestation of Christ to His waiting people after being so long hidden from their view.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord's return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God. 2 Peter 3: 12, margin. Had the church of Christ done her appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would before this have been warned, and the Lord Jesus would have come to our earth in power and great glory."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 633, 634.

In the parable of the ten virgins "the coming of the bridegroom was at midnight —the darkest hour. So the coming of Christ will take place in the darkest period of this earth's history. . . . The great apostasy will develop into darkness deep as midnight, impenetrable as sackcloth of hair. To God's people it will be a night of trial, a night of weeping, a night of persecution for the truth's sake. But out of that night of darkness God's light will shine."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 414, 415.

The Hope of Christ's Coming

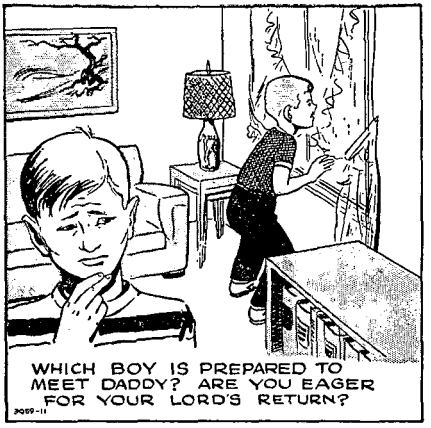
1. In what terms does the apostle Paul speak of the return of Jesus? Titus 2:11-14.

NOTE.—The form of the Greek word of verse 11 translated "hath appeared" makes this a clear reference to the first advent, as the noun form of the same word in verse 13 refers to the second advent.

2. What promise did our Lord make with respect to His return? John 14:1-3.

NOTE.—"Let not." The form of the verb in Greek implies, "stop letting" your heart be troubled. Christ's going away was to be the disciples' assurance that He would come again. Acts 1:11.

The word for "mansions" (*monai*) means "permanent abiding places." Compare Ps. 23:6. "While He [Christ] was building mansions for them [the disciples], they were to build characters after the divine similitude."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 663.



3. Who will be ready for Jesus when He comes again? Heb. 9:28.

NOTE.—"Look for Him." Literally, "wait it out for Him," that is, keep on waiting until Christ actually appears.

The Purpose of Christ's Coming

4. For what purpose does Jesus return to earth a second time? Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12. Compare Heb. 9: 27, 28.

NOTE.—"The weakest saint, as well as the strongest, may wear the crown of immortal glory. All may win who, through the power of divine grace, bring their lives into conformity to the will of Christ. . . . Every act casts its weight into the scale that determines life's victory or defeat. And the reward given to those who win will be in proportion to the energy and earnestness with which they have striven." —*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 313, 314.

5. Why are rewards for faithfulness not bestowed at death? 2 Tim. 4:1, 8. Compare 1 Thess. 4:15-17.

6. What change comes to the righteous at the return of Jesus? 1 Cor. 15: 51-54; 1 Thess. 4:15-17.

NOTE.—"Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved. In the resurrection every man will have his own character."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 6, p. 1093.

The Manner of Christ's Coming

7. How will Christ's coming be announced, and with what results? Matt. 24:31; 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16. Compare John 5:28, 29.

8. What visible manifestation will accompany Christ's appearing? Matt. 24:27; Rev. 1:7. Compare Acts 1:11.

Preparation for Christ's Coming

9. In view of the fact that we do not know the day and hour of Jesus' return, what are we admonished to do? Matt. 24:42, 44.

10. What does the hope of Jesus' return lead every sincere and earnest believer to do? 1 John 3:2, 3.

11. By what parable did Jesus stress the importance of being prepared for Him whenever He shall return? Matt. 25:1-13.

NOTE.—"The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up. . . . They . . . have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 411.

12. Against what particular dangers prior to His return did Jesus warn His disciples to be on guard? Matt. 24:4, 5, 48; Luke 21:34-36.

NOTE.—"The evil servant says in his heart, 'My lord delayeth his coming.' He does not say that Christ will not come. He does not scoff at the idea of His second coming. But in his heart and by his actions and words he declares that the Lord's coming is delayed. He banishes from the minds of others the conviction that the Lord is coming quickly. His influence leads men to presumptuous, careless delay. They are confirmed in their worldliness and stupor."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 635.

"The trouble with us is that almost 2,000 years have passed, and we have come to think that the Parousia [Advent] is still far off."—R. C. H. Lenski, *Commentary,* on James 5:7.

13. What trait of character will all develop who await the Lord's coming? Why? James 5:7, 8; 1 Peter 1:7, 13.

NOTE.—"Girding up the loins refers to the long, loose robes worn by Orientals, which were drawn up and belted at the waist when one wanted to walk or work with energy. This expression is used figuratively with reference to the mind, which includes thinking as well as the resultant willing, and the thought is: 'Make up your minds decisively!' . . . Instead of letting their thoughts, purposes, decisions hang loose while they move leisurely along in life as impulse and occasion may move them, the readers are to gird up their minds like people who are energetically set on going somewhere. To gird up the loins means business, decision, action, not idling, not drifting after this and that momentary attraction."—R. C. H. Lenski, *Commentary,* on 1 Peter 1:13.

Lesson 12, for September 19, 1959

The Resurrection and Life Everlasting

MEMORY VERSE: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," page 530; "The Great Controversy," pages 644, 645; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of September 3.

AIM: A new appreciation of the divine gift of everlasting life.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Tuesday: Questions 6-8.	☐
Sunday: Key Words and Expressions; Questions 1-3.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 9-13.	☐
Monday: Questions 4, 5.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
		Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Hope of the Resurrection

1. Everlasting life promised. Titus 1:2; 1 John 2:25.
2. Death the wages of sin. Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:26.
3. Life through the gospel. John 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:10.

II. Our Assurance of the Resurrection

4. Life in Christ. John 1:4; 1 John 5:11, 12.
5. Christ arose; we, too, will rise. 1 Cor. 15:12, 20; 1 Peter 1:3, 4.

III. Qualifying for Life Everlasting

6. Knowledge and belief. John 3:36; 6:47; 17:3.
7. Enduring to the end. Mark 13:13; Rom. 2:7; Rev. 2:10.
8. Everlasting life a present possession. John 5:24; 1 John 5:10-13.

IV. Immortality Bestowed

9. At Christ's coming. Mark 10:30; Luke 14:14.
10. Admission to life everlasting. 1 Cor. 15:50-55.
11. Our Lord's own assurance. Matt. 24:30, 31; John 5:24-29.
12. All translated together. 1 Thess. 4:13-17.

V. Tokens of Life Everlasting

13. River of life; tree of life. Rev. 22:1-3.

Key Words and Expressions:

1. Sleep. In more than half the instances in the New Testament where the word translated "to fall asleep" is used, it refers to the sleep of death. Our word "cemetery" is from the related noun form. Ancient Greek burial sites have been found bearing an inscription meaning "sleeping place," or "resting place."

2. Life. The Greek denotes the life principle, the antithesis of death. In his original state Adam had conditional possession of this life principle, but when he sinned he forfeited it and became subject to the principle of death. Death is the opposite of life. Rom. 6:23. In Christ all who believe inherit life, but only when immortality is bestowed at the second advent will Adam and his believing descendants exchange their conditional possession of life for unqualified immortality.

3. Immortality. The Greek word translated "immortal," "imperishable," is formed by prefixing a negative to a word meaning "ruin," "destruction," "deterioration," "dissolution," "corruption." Classical Greek writers speak of a "crown of immortality." Another word which literally means "undying," "what does not die," is also translated "immortality."

4. Crown of Life. The Greek word here used for "crown" means a garland of victory, not the crown of rulership. The garland of victory awarded those who excelled in ancient athletic contests or in battle was made of leaves or flowers, which quickly withered. The Greek athlete would endure the most rigorous privation and discipline in order to secure a "corruptible crown," but the "crown of life" for which the Christian strives is "incorruptible." See 1 Cor. 9:25.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The First Resurrection: "The voice that cried from the cross, 'It is finished,' was heard among the dead. It pierced the walls of sepulchers, and summoned the sleepers to arise. Thus will it be when the voice of Christ shall be heard from heaven. That voice will penetrate the graves and unbar the tombs, and the dead in Christ shall arise. At the Saviour's resurrection a few graves were opened, but at His second coming all the precious dead shall hear His voice, and shall come forth to glorious, immortal life. The same power that raised Christ from the dead will raise His church, and glorify it with Him."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 787.

The Hope of the Resurrection

1. In the promise of what glorious hope does the Christian faith center? Titus 1:2; 1 John 2:25.

NOTE.—"One remark I cannot help making; the doctrine of the *resurrection* appears to have been thought of much more consequence among the primitive Christians than it is *now!* How is this? The apostles were continually insisting on it, and exciting the followers of God to diligence, obedience, and cheerfulness through it. And their successors in the present day seldom mention it! . . . There is not a doctrine in the gosple on which more stress is laid; and there is not a doctrine in the present system of preaching which is treated with more neglect!"—Adam Clarke, *Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 15, note 3 at end of chapter.

2. What is the inevitable result of sin? What is death said to be? Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:26.

3. How did God restore the hope of everlasting life to sinners? John 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:10.

Our Assurance of the Resurrection

4. How was this blessed hope made available to us? John 1:4; 1 John 5:11, 12.

5. Upon what supreme historical fact is our hope of the resurrection based? 1 Cor. 15:12, 20; 1 Peter 1: 3, 4.

NOTE.—"The resurrection of Jesus was a type of the final resurrection of all who sleep in Him. The countenance of the risen Saviour, His manner, His speech, were all familiar to His disciples. As Jesus arose from the dead, so those who sleep in Him are to rise again. We shall know our friends, even as the disciples knew Jesus." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 804.

Qualifying for Life Everlasting

6. What must we believe in order to inherit everlasting life? John 3:36; 6:47; 17:3. Compare John 11:25, 26.

7. What must we do in order to inherit everlasting life? Mark 13:13; Rom. 2:7; Rev. 2:10.

NOTE.—"The conditions of eternal life, under grace, are just what they were in Eden—perfect righteousness, harmony with God, perfect conformity to the principles of His law. . . . God has made provision that we may become like unto Him, and He will accomplish this for all who do not interpose a perverse will and thus frustrate His grace."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., p. 76.

8. When does the believing Christian inherit everlasting life? John 5:24; 1 John 5:10-13. Compare John 3:36.

NOTE.—"Christ became one flesh with us, in order that we might become one spirit with Him. It is by virtue of this union that we are to come forth from the grave,—not merely as a manifestation of the power of Christ, but because, through faith, His life has become ours. Those who see Christ in His true character, and receive Him into the heart, have everlasting life. It is through the Spirit that Christ dwells in us; and the Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the life eternal."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 388.

Immortality Bestowed

9. When will those to whom God has promised everlasting life enter

into physical possession of it? Mark 10:30; Luke 14:14. Compare John 6:40; 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

10. What must take place before the redeemed can live forever? 1 Cor. 15:50-55.

NOTE.—"Not until the personal advent of Christ can His people receive the kingdom. . . . We have seen by the scriptures just given [1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17] that when the Son of man comes, the dead are raised incorruptible and the living are changed. By this great change they are prepared to receive the kingdom; for Paul says: 'Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.' 1 Corinthians 15:50. Man in his present state is mortal, corruptible; but the kingdom of God will be incorruptible, enduring forever. Therefore man in his present state cannot enter into the kingdom of God. But when Jesus comes, He confers immortality upon His people; and then He calls them to inherit the kingdom of which they have hitherto been only heirs."—*The Great Controversy*, pages 322, 323.

11. What graphic description did Jesus give of the resurrection? Matt. 24:30, 31; John 5:24-29.

12. How did Paul portray the same event? 1 Thess. 4:13-17.

NOTE.—Modern theologians console the bereaved by assuring them that their departed loved ones are even now enjoying the bliss of heaven. But if the Thessalonian believers who had fallen asleep in Jesus were indeed in heaven, we may properly ask why Paul did not console their living loved ones with this reputed fact. If the apostle believed the righteous dead to be already in heaven he certainly missed a perfect opportunity so to enlighten and console the living!

Tokens of Life Everlasting

13. What tokens of immortality will ever remain before the redeemed in the earth made new? Rev. 22:1-3. Compare Rev. 21:3, 4.

FOREIGN-LANGUAGE SABBATH-SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLIES

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The Coming Kingdom of Glory

MEMORY VERSE: "Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," page 234; "The Great Controversy," pages 675-678; "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," 1956 ed., pp. 8, 107, 108 (1943 ed., pp. 20, 159, 160); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of September 10.

AIM: Reconsecration to the task of preparing for citizenship in the eternal kingdom of the redeemed.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Key Thoughts; Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-10.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Inauguration of the Kingdom

1. Christ's coronation. Matt. 25:31.
2. Proclamation of the kingdom. Rev. 11:15, 17.
3. Conquest of the kingdom. Rev. 19:11-16.

II. The King and His Subjects

4. The King of grace and glory. Heb. 4:16; Matt. 25:31, 32.
5. The saints reign forever. Matt. 13:43; Rev. 22:5.
6. Come, inherit the kingdom. Matt. 25:34.

III. Admission to the Kingdom

7. Through diligence. 2 Peter 1:10, 11; 3:11-14.
8. Through tribulation. Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 2:12.
9. Through patience, faith, endurance. 2 Thess. 1:4, 5; James 2:5.
10. The judgment. Matt. 13:41-43; 25:31-33.

IV. Endless Life in a Perfect World

11. No more curse. Rev. 21:4, 8, 27; 22:3, 15.
12. The earth made new. Rev. 21:1-7, 22-25; 22:1-5.
13. An everlasting kingdom. 2 Peter 1:11; Rev. 11:15.

Key Thoughts:

1. The Kingdoms of Grace and Glory. The kingdom of grace is preparatory to the eternal kingdom of glory. Christ officiates as Priest-King of the one, and as King of kings in the other. Under the one He serves His people as Saviour and Advocate, under the other He stands as Judge and Executioner of those who have defied His grace and authority. Under the one He wore a crown of thorns, under the other He is crowned with many glorious crowns.

Under the kingdom of grace we are justified and sanctified, in the kingdom of glory we are glorified. Under the one we are delivered from the power and penalty of sin, under the other we are delivered forever from the presence of sin. Under the one we

prepare for heaven, under the other we enter heaven. Under the one we receive conditional immortality, under the other we are immortalized. Under one we become heirs of the kingdom, under the other we inherit the kingdom. Under the one we suffer with Christ, under the other we reign with Him.

2. Christ as King of Kings. Rev. 19:16. This title is also used of the Father in 1 Tim. 6:15. It is also used of Christ as He comes forth to take possession of the kingdom of this world (Rev. 11:15; 19:16), and may be considered His official title as King of the kingdom of glory.

3. The Throne of His Glory. Matt. 25:31. In times eternal Father and Son shared the throne of the universe. *Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 36. At the incarnation the Son voluntarily stepped down from the throne of the universe and gave back the scepter into the Father's hands. *The Desire of Ages,* pages 22, 23. At the ascension the Son was enthroned with the Father upon His throne. Rev. 3:21. Upon His return to earth He will be seated upon the throne of His own glory. Matt. 25:31. *The Great Controversy,* page 347. At the close of the millennium His final coronation will take place. *Ibid.,* p. 666.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The Kingdom Restored: "With unutterable love, Jesus welcomes His faithful ones to the joy of their Lord. The Saviour's joy is in seeing, in the kingdom of glory, the souls that have been saved by His agony and humiliation. And the redeemed will be sharers in His joy, as they behold, among the blessed, those who have been won to Christ through their prayers, their labors, and their loving sacrifice. As they gather about the great white throne, gladness unspeakable will fill their hearts, when they behold those whom they have won for Christ, and see that one has gained others, and these still others, all brought into the haven of rest, there to lay their crowns at Jesus' feet and praise Him through the endless cycles of eternity."—*The Great Controversy,* page 647.

Inauguration of the Kingdom

1. What event marks the inauguration of Christ's glorious kingdom? Matt. 25:31. Compare 2 Tim. 4:1.

2. What proclamation in heaven announces the establishment of the kingdom? Rev. 11:15, 17.

3. What dramatic description is given of Christ as He comes to take possession of this world? Rev. 19:11-16.

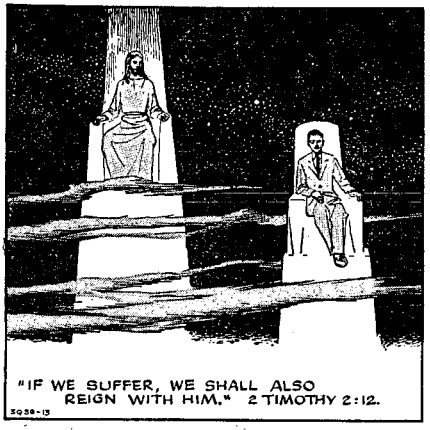
The King and His Subjects

4. What may be inferred from Christ's role as King of the kingdom of grace and of the kingdom of glory? Heb. 4:16; Matt. 25:31, 32.

NOTE.—"As used in the Bible, the expression 'kingdom of God' is employed to designate both the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory. The kingdom of grace is brought to view by Paul in the Epistle to the Hebrews. . . . Hebrews 4:15, 16. The throne of grace represents the kingdom of grace; for the existence of a throne implies the existence of a kingdom. . . . So the throne of glory represents the kingdom of glory; and this kingdom is referred to in the Saviour's words. . . . Matthew 25:31, 32. This kingdom is yet future. It is not to be set up until the second advent of Christ."—*The Great Controversy,* page 347.

5. What honor will the saints have in Christ's eternal kingdom? Matt. 13:43; Rev. 22:5.

6. With what gracious invitation will the King of glory welcome His subjects to their eternal home? Matt. 25:34.



Admission to the Kingdom

7. What concern will be manifested by those preparing for admission to the coming kingdom of glory? 2 Peter 1:10, 11; 3:11, 14.

NOTE.—"It is not possible for us to drift into heaven. . . . If we do not strive to gain an entrance into the kingdom, if we do not seek earnestly to learn what constitutes its laws, we are not fitted for a part in it. Those who refuse to co-operate with God on earth would not co-operate with Him in heaven. It would not be safe to take them to heaven."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* 1941 ed., p. 280.

8. Through what experience will all pass who gain admission to the kingdom? Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 2:12.

9. Who are accounted worthy to become heirs of the kingdom God has promised? 2 Thess. 1:4, 5; James 2:5.

10. By what selective procedure is admission to Christ's everlasting kingdom granted? Matt. 13:41-43; 25: 31-33.

Endless Life in a Perfect World

11. From what will the kingdom forever remain free? Rev. 21:4, 8, 27; 22:3, 15.

NOTE.—"It is no arbitrary decree on the part of God that excludes the wicked from heaven: they are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship. The glory of God would be to them a consuming fire." —*Steps to Christ,* 1956 and pocket eds., p. 18.

12. In that glorious future kingdom, what marvelous privilege will be granted to the redeemed? Rev. 21: 1-7, 22-25; 22:1-5.

NOTE.—"There, immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There will be no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body."—*The Great Controversy,* page 677.

13. What is said of the stability of Christ's glorious kingdom? 2 Peter 1:11; Rev. 11:15.

NOTE.—"The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love." —*The Great Controversy,* page 678.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

September 26, 1959

The Far Eastern Division is the field to benefit from the overflow of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that will be received on September 26. Three worthy projects have been chosen: (1) the establishment of an evangelistic center in Seoul, Korea; (2) needed classrooms for the Indonesian Union Seminary, Bandung, Java; (3) a middle school at the Japan Missionary College.

The needs surrounding any one of these projects are so great that it could easily use the whole overflow offering, but an endeavor has been made to stretch the money as far as possible. It is hoped that our Sabbath school members around the world will be just as liberal as possible in their gifts on this Thirteenth Sabbath. The overflow will go to help train young people to be workers in the cause of God in the great Far Eastern Division and help also to increase the evangelistic efforts in the fruitful land of Korea. In Seoul, Korea, prior to the Korean War we had seven churches. Now, in that same area we have twenty-three organized churches and companies, but many of them do not have buildings in which to meet. The need for an evangelistic center in the heart of the city is great. Let us keep these needs in mind as we plan our offerings this quarter.

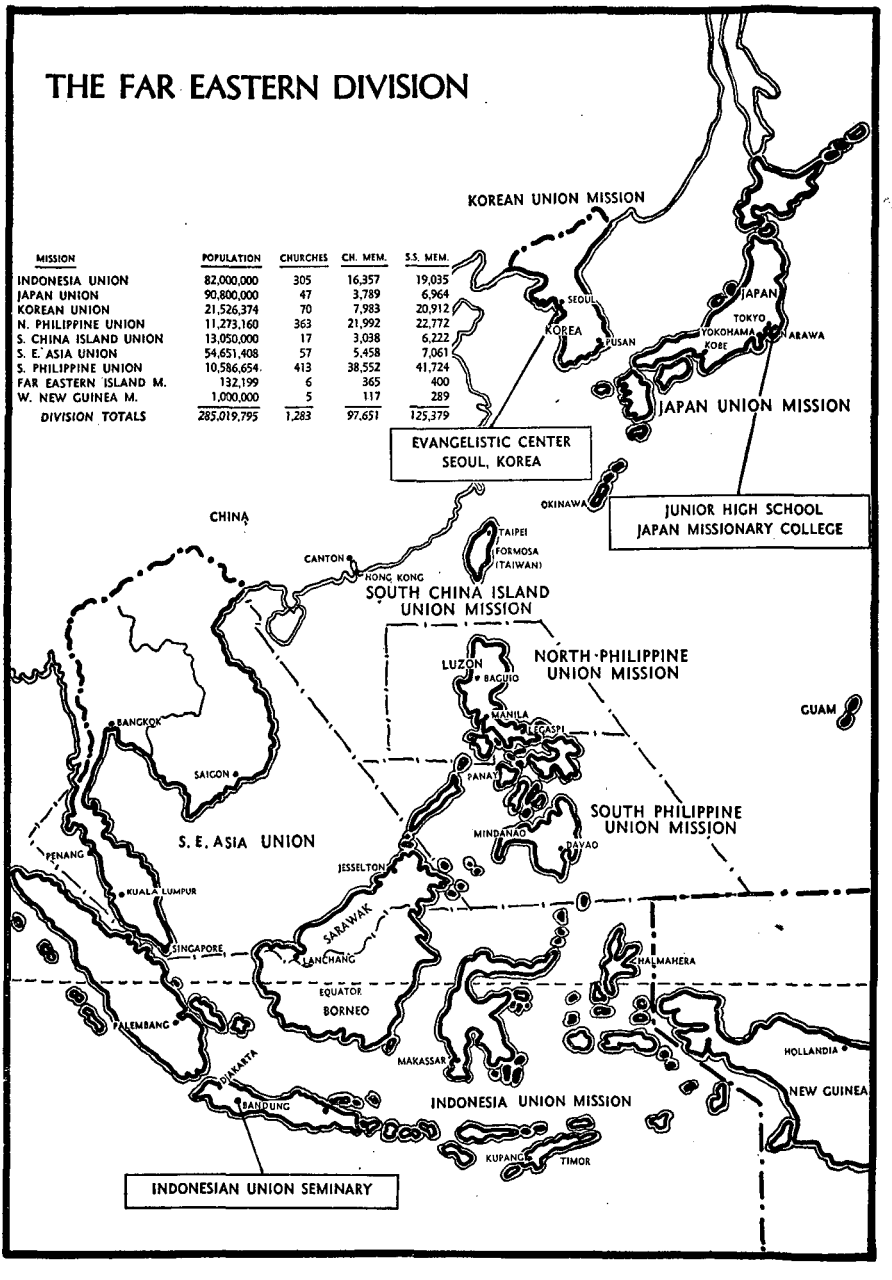
The fields to benefit from the overflow for the next four quarters are:

4th quarter—Southern Asia Division
1st quarter (1960)—Northern European Division
2d quarter—Southern European Division
3d quarter—Australasian Division

LESSONS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1959

Sabbath school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the fourth quarter of 1959 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The subject of the quarter's lessons is "Christian Stewardship in Its Broader Aspects." The title of the first lesson is "God, the Owner of All." The Memory Verse is John 3:16. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. Ps. 24:1; 95:4, 5.
Ques. 2. Col. 1:16, 17.
Ques. 3. Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7.
Ques. 4. Ps. 8:4, 5.
Ques. 5. Matt. 6:9.
Ques. 6. John 3:16; Titus 2:14.
Ques. 7. Gen. 2:15; 1 Cor. 4:1, 7.
Ques. 8. Matt. 22:37-40.
Ques. 9. John 15:15.
Ques. 10. John 15:16, 20; 20:21.
Ques. 11. 1 Peter 4:10.
Ques. 12. Rom. 8:14, 17, 18.
Ques. 13. Gal. 2:20; Phil. 4:13.
Ques. 14. 1 John 3:2.

THE FAR EASTERN DIVISION

MISSION	POPULATION	CHURCHES	CH. MEM.	S.S. MEM.
INDONESIA UNION	82,000,000	305	16,357	19,035
JAPAN UNION	90,800,000	47	3,789	6,964
KOREAN UNION	21,526,374	70	7,983	20,912
N. PHILIPPINE UNION	11,273,160	363	21,992	22,772
S. CHINA ISLAND UNION	13,050,000	17	3,038	6,222
S. E. ASIA UNION	54,651,408	57	5,458	7,061
S. PHILIPPINE UNION	10,586,654	413	38,552	41,724
FAR EASTERN ISLAND M.	132,199	6	365	400
W. NEW GUINEA M.	1,000,000	5	117	289
DIVISION TOTALS	*285,019,795*	*1,283*	*97,651*	*125,379*