SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND SERVICE

SENIOR DIVISION, No. 235, FIRST QUARTER, 1954

INDIVIDUAL SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERING GOAL

"As God hath prospered him"

MY WEEKLY GOAL (Check Amount)

		RECORD		
$5.00		1._____	7._____	13._____
2.00		2._____	8._____	Birthday
1.50	"God loveth a	3._____	9._____	_____
1.00	cheerful giver"	4._____	10._____	Investment
.50		5._____	11._____	_____
.40		6._____	12._____	TOTAL

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 _____

Place a check mark in each space below for the days you have studied.

STUDY RECORD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1st Day's Study													
2d Day's Study													
3rd Day's Study													
4th Day's Study													
5th Day's Study													
6th Day's Study													
7th Day's Study													

"Let the Sabbath school lesson be learned, not by a hasty glance at the lesson scripture on Sabbath morning, but by careful study for the next week on Sabbath afternoon, with daily review or illustration during the week. Thus the lesson will become fixed in the memory, a treasure never to be wholly lost."—"Education," pages 251, 252.

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND SERVICE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The most powerful argument for Christianity is a loving and lovable Christian, one who knows what the Bible says about him and who lives out that instruction in his everyday life. The world is looking for such people, is expecting much from them, and is disappointed when realization falls short of expectation. This series of Sabbath-school lessons on *Christian Life and Service* is designed to set forth the instruction of the Bible and the spirit of prophecy on various phases of the Christian life.

One or more main texts in bold-faced type follow each question. These contain the answer. Frequently, however, supplementary texts are added in italics for those who wish to look up others that have a bearing on the subject.

Lesson 1, for January 2, 1954

God Is Fitting Men for His Eternal Kingdom

MEMORY VERSE: "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?" 2 Peter 3:11.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," pages 647-650 (new ed., pp. 637-643); "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 283, 416-419 (new ed., pp. 285, 426-429).

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Memorize 2 Peter 3:11; Key Thought; Ques. 1-3.
3. Ques. 4-6.
4. Ques. 7-9.
5. Ques. 10-12.
6. Read study helps assignment; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. A Better World to Come

1. Strangers and pilgrims here.
2. Looking for a better country.
3. A glimpse of that better land.
4. The kind of people God wants in His kingdom.

II. As God Sees Mankind

1. Only two classes.
2. The two classes contrasted.
3. God's plea to His people.

III. The Need of Self-Examination

1. Let a man examine himself.
2. Seeing ourselves as God sees us.
3. Looking to God for help.
4. Preparation for the kingdom of God.

Key Thought:

"The Lord is fitting a people for heaven.

The defects of character, the stubborn will, the selfish idolatry, the indulgence of fault-finding, hatred, and contention, provoke the wrath of God and must be put away from His commandment-keeping people. Those living in these sins are deceived and blinded by the wiles of Satan."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 180.

THE LESSON

A Better World to Come

1. What contrasting attitudes should we maintain toward the kingdom of God and toward this world, and for what reason? Matt. 6:33; 1 John 2:15-17. *Compare 2 Peter 3:10.*

2. Like Abraham, for what is the Christian to look, and with what assurance? Heb. 11:10, 14, 16. *Compare Dan. 7:18, 22, 27.*

3. What glimpses of that better land are given by Isaiah and John? Isa. 65:17-19, 21, 22; Rev. 21:1-4. *Compare Isa. 11:6-9; 33:24; 35:1, 2, 5-10; 66:22, 23; Rev. 21:10-13, 21-33.*

NOTE.—"In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called a country. There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God's people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home." —*The Great Controversy,* page 675 (1950 ed., p. 665).

4. What kind of people does God want in His kingdom? Matt. 5:3, 5; Ps. 24:3-5. *Compare Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 5:1-7; 1 Peter 1:16.*

NOTE.—"A man is estimated at his true value by the Lord of heaven. If he is unkind in his earthly home, he is unfit for the heavenly home. If he will have his own way, no matter whom it grieves, he would not be content in heaven, unless he could rule there."—Mrs. E. G. White, in *Review and Herald,* Feb. 21, 1888.

As God Sees Mankind

5. In the judgment, into how many classes does God divide mankind? Matt. 25:31-33; *Ps. 11:4-7.*

NOTES.—"There are only two classes in the world today, and only two classes will be recognized in the judgment,—those who violate God's law, and those who obey it. Christ gives the test by which to prove our loyalty or disloyalty."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 283 (new ed., p. 285).

"The eternal God has drawn the line of distinction between the saints and the sinners, the converted and the unconverted. The two classes do not blend into each other imperceptibly, like the colors of the rainbow. They are as distinct as midday and midnight."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 87. (See also pages 133, 139; and *The Desire of Ages,* page 763.)

6. How are these two classes contrasted? Ps. 15:1, 2; 9:17.

NOTE:—"Those who receive Christ by faith as their personal Saviour cannot be in harmony with the world. There are two distinct classes: One is loyal to God, keep-

ing His commandments, while the other talks and acts like the world, casting away the word of God, which is truth, and accepting the words of the apostate, who rejected Jesus."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 139.

For further study:

The Saints

Work righteousness. Ps. 15:2.
Speak the truth. Ps. 15:2.
Clean hands. Ps. 24:4.
Pure hearts. Ps. 24:4.
Keep tongues from evil. Ps. 34:13.
Depart from evil. Ps. 34:14.
Do good to all men. Ps. 34:14.
Cease from anger. Ps. 37:8.
Manifest love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Gal. 5:22, 23.
Forbear one another, kind, tenderhearted, forgiving. Eph. 4:32.
Behave wisely in a perfect way. Ps. 101:2, 3.

The Sinners

Say, "There is no God." Ps. 14:1.
Plot against the just. Ps. 37:12.
Commit adultery, fornication, uncleanness, etc. Gal. 5:19.
Full of hatred, variance, wrath, strife, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings. Gal. 5:20, 21.
Lying, anger, stealing, bitterness, clamor, evilspeaking, malice, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking. Eph. 4:25, 31.
Whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, deceitful, proud, boasters. Rom. 1:29, 30.
Inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without natural affection, unmerciful, unbelieving, abominable, liars. Rom. 1:30, 31.

7. Of the two ways the Lord has set before His people, which does He plead with us to choose? Deut. 30:15, 19.

NOTE.—"God had set before Israel 'life and death, blessing and cursing;' and how repeatedly they had been urged to choose the way of life, that they might become a praise in the earth, a blessing to all nations." —*Prophets and Kings,* page 393.

The Need of Self-Examination

8. What earnest counsel is given with reference to our personal experience? 2 Cor. 13:5; Lam. 3:40.

NOTE:—"There must be persevering effort to overcome selfishness and self-confidence. Self-examination must be thorough, that there be no danger of self-deception. A little catechizing of self on special occasions is not sufficient. Daily examine the foundation of your hope, and see whether you are indeed in the love of Christ. Deal truly with your own hearts, for you cannot afford to run any risk here. Count the cost of being a wholehearted Christian, and then gird on the armor. Study the Pattern; look to Jesus, and be like Him. Your peace of mind, your hope of eternal salvation, depends on faithfulness in this work. As Christians we are less thorough in self-examination than in anything else; it is no wonder, then, that we make such slow advancement in understanding self."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 332, 333.

9. How does unregenerate man appear before God? Ps. 14:2, 3; *Isa. 64:6.*

10. To whom shall we turn for help? Isa. 45:22; *17:7; Lam. 5:21.*

NOTE:—"Come with your whole heart to Jesus. Repent of your sins, make confession to God, forsake all iniquity, and you may appropriate to yourself all His promises. 'Look unto Me, and be ye saved,' is His gracious invitation.

"The day will come when the awful denunciation of God's wrath will be uttered against all who have persisted in their disloyalty to Him. This will be when God must speak and do terrible things in righteousness against the transgressors of His law. But you need not be among those who will come under the wrath of God. It is now the day of His salvation. The light from the cross of Calvary is now shining forth in clear, bright rays, revealing Jesus, our Sacrifice for sin."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 634, 635.

11. What shall we do to be right with God? Job 22:21; John 17:3.

NOTE.—"Through the knowledge of God and of His Son Jesus Christ, are given to the believer 'all things that pertain unto life and godliness.' No good gift is withheld from him who sincerely desires to obtain the righteousness of God.

"'This is life eternal,' Christ said, 'that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.' . . . Scarcely can the human mind comprehend the breadth and depth and height of the spiritual attainments of him who gains this knowledge.

"None need fail of attaining, in his sphere, to perfection of Christian character. By the sacrifice of Christ, provision has been made for the believer to receive all things that pertain to life and godliness. God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection, and places before us the example of Christ's character. In His humanity, perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil, the Saviour showed that through co-operation with Divinity, human beings may in this life attain to perfection of character. This is God's assurance to us that we too may obtain complete victory." —*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 531.

12. In view of the coming destruction of the world, to what admonition should we give heed? 2 Peter 3:11-14.

Conclusions and Convictions

1. "We can be fitted for heaven only through the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart. . . . It is the work of the Holy Spirit to elevate the taste, to sanctify the heart, to ennoble the whole man."—Mrs. E. G. White, in *Review and Herald,* vol. 69, No. 43.
2. "The life of Christ on earth was a perfect expression of God's law, and when those who claim to be children of God become Christlike in character, they will be obedient to God's commandments. Then the Lord can trust them to be of the number who shall compose the family of heaven."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 315 (new ed., p. 321).
3. It is our chief business in life to permit the Lord to remove all sinful traits from our lives and by His grace to cultivate a Christlike character.
4. This transformation in character must be done for us here and now.
5. Only by examination of our hearts, and daily co-operation with the Holy Spirit, can we be fitted for the society of angels and the redeemed.

Lesson 2, for January 9, 1954

How a Sinner Becomes a Saint

MEMORY VERSE: "For 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: "Prophets and Kings," pages 486, 487, 586-592; "The Desire of Ages," pages 309, 310; "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," page 34.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Key thought; Ques. 1-4.
3. Ques. 5-8.
4. Read selections from study helps.
5. Ques. 9-12.
6. Ques. 13, 14; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Sinner Lost in Sin

1. Sin separates from God.
2. Man born in sin.
3. The sinner described.
4. The wages of sin.

II. The Sinner's Need of a Saviour

1. The cry of the convicted sinner's heart.
2. Jesus is man's Saviour.
3. The gospel of Christ.
4. Saved by grace through faith.

III. Imputed Righteousness

1. Man's first duty.
2. Conditions of entrance into God's kingdom.
3. Man's only hope.
4. Results of imputed righteousness.

IV. Imparted Righteousness

1. Sanctification.
2. Obtained through faith.

Key Thought:

"All who would enter the City of God must during their earthly life set forth Christ in their dealings. It is this that constitutes them the messengers of Christ, His witnesses. They are to bear a plain, decided testimony against all evil practices, pointing sinners to the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world. He gives to all who receive Him, power to become the sons of God. Regeneration is the only path by which we can enter the City of God. It is narrow, and the gate by which we enter is strait, but along it we are to lead men and women and children, teaching them that in order to be saved, they must have a new heart and a new spirit. The old, hereditary traits of character must be overcome. The natural desires of the soul must be changed. All deception, all falsifying, all evilspeaking, must be put away. The new life, which makes men and women Christlike, is to be lived."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 23.

THE LESSON

The Sinner Lost in Sin

1. What alone separates man from God? Isa. 59:1, 2; *Hab. 1:13, first part.*

2. How do men come by a sinful nature? Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12.

3. How are sinners described? Isa. 59:3-8; *Rom. 1:18, 28-32.*

4. What is the end result of sin? Rom. 6:23; *James 1:14, 15.*

NOTES.—"Man was originally endowed with noble powers and a well-balanced mind. He was perfect in his being, and in harmony with God. His thoughts were pure, his aims holy. But through disobedience, his powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love. His nature became so weakened through transgression that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil. He was made captive by Satan, and would have remained so forever had not God specially interposed. It was the tempter's purpose to thwart the divine plan in man's creation, and fill the earth with woe and desolation. And he would point to all this evil as the result

of God's work in creating man."—*Steps to Christ,* page 19.

"In his sinless state, man held joyful communion with Him 'in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.' But after his sin, he could no longer find joy in holiness, and he sought to hide from the presence of God. . . . The sinner could not be happy in God's presence; he would shrink from the companionship of holy beings. Could he be permitted to enter heaven, it would have no joy for him. . . . His thoughts, his interests, his motives, would be alien to those that actuate the sinless dwellers there. He would be a discordant note in the melody of heaven. Heaven would be to him a place of torture. . . . They are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship."—*Ibid.,* pp. 19, 20.

The Sinner's Need of a Saviour

5. When the sinner realizes his helpless condition, what is the cry of his heart? Rom. 7:24; Ps. 51:1, 2, 10.

NOTE.—"By sin we have been severed from the life of God. Our souls are palsied. Of ourselves we are no more capable of living a holy life than was the impotent man capable of walking. There are many who realize their helplessness, and who long for that spiritual life which will bring them into harmony with God; they are vainly striving to obtain it. In despair they cry, 'O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from this body of death?' Rom. 7:24, margin. Let these desponding, struggling ones look up. The Saviour is bending over the purchase of His blood, saying with inexpressible tenderness and pity, 'Wilt thou be made whole?' He bids you arise in health and peace. Do not wait to feel that you are made whole. Believe His word, and it will be fulfilled. Put your will on the side of Christ. Will to serve Him, and in acting upon His word you will receive strength. Whatever may be the evil practice, the master passion which through long indulgence binds both soul and body, Christ is able and longs to deliver. He will impart life to the soul that is 'dead in trespasses.' Eph. 2:1. He will set free the captive that is held by weakness and misfortune and the chains of sin."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 203.

6. To meet this need, what means of deliverance has been provided? Rom. 7:25 to 8:3; Acts 4:12; *John 1:4, 29; 14:6.*

7. How is this salvation revealed? Rom. 1:16, 17; *2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Tim. 1:10.*

NOTE.—"The giving of the gospel to the world is the work that God has committed to those who bear His name. For earth's sin and misery the gospel is the only antidote. To make known to all mankind the message of the grace of God is the first work of those who know its healing power."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 141.

8. How is the sinner saved? Eph. 2:8, 9; *Acts 16:31.*

NOTE.—"It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil,

and we cannot change them. . . . Education, culture, the exercise of the will, human effort, all have their proper sphere, but here they are powerless. They may produce an outward correctness of behavior, but they cannot change the heart; they cannot purify the springs of life. There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ. His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God, to holiness."—*Steps to Christ*, page 20.

Imputed Righteousness

9. What is man's first duty? Matt. 6:33.

10. What are the conditions of entrance into the kingdom of God? Rom. 14:17, 18; *Acts 2:38, 39.*

NOTES.—"The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been, . . . perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness."—*Steps to Christ*, page 67.

"The law requires righteousness,—a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. . . . But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 762.

"Christ perfected a righteous character here upon the earth, not on His own account, for His character was pure and spotless, but for fallen man. His character He offers to man if he will accept it. The sinner, through repentance of his sins, faith in Christ, and obedience to the perfect law of God, has the righteousness of Christ imputed to him; it becomes his righteousness, and his name is recorded in the Lamb's book of life. He becomes a child of God, a member of the royal family."—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, pp. 371, 372.

"The thought that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not because of any merit on our part, but as a free gift from God, is a precious thought. The enemy of God and man is not willing that this truth should be clearly presented; for he knows that if the people receive it fully, his power will be broken."—*Gospel Workers*, page 161.

11. What is man's only hope? Col. 1:27, 28; *Rom. 5:17; Jer. 17:17.*

12. What does imputed righteousness accomplish? Rom. 3:24-26.

NOTE.—"Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 762.

Imparted Righteousness

13. Into what experience is the justified one to be led? 1 Thess. 4:3, first part; Rom. 5:9-11; *Eph. 3:17, 20; Jude 24.*

NOTES.—"More than this, Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 762.

"We are abiding in Christ by a living faith. He is abiding in our hearts by our individual appropriating of faith. We have the companionship of the divine presence, and as we realize this presence, our thoughts are brought into captivity to Jesus Christ. Our spiritual exercises are in accordance with the

vividness of our sense of this companionship. Enoch walked with God in this way; and Christ is dwelling in our hearts by faith when we will consider what He is to us, and what a work He has wrought out for us in the plan of redemption. . . . I want to impress upon your mind that you may have a divine companion with you, if you will, always."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 388.

14. How is this experience made possible? 1 Peter 1:2, 5; *Heb. 11:6; John 17:17.*

NOTE.—"We do not earn salvation by our obedience; for salvation is the free gift of God, to be received by faith. But obedience is the fruit of faith. . . . That so-called faith in Christ which professes to release men from the obligation of obedience to God, is not faith, but presumption."—*Steps to Christ,* page 66.

Conclusions and Convictions

1. All men have sinned, and their sins have separated them from God and His kingdom.

2. The penalty for sin is death. All sin and sinners will be destroyed.

3. Only those who are clothed with the righteousness of Christ will enter God's everlasting kingdom.

4. Man's righteousness is like "filthy rags." Man cannot change or save himself.

5. While we were yet sinners, God gave His Son to become our righteousness. His death paid the penalty for our sins. His righteousness is imputed to us for our justification and imparted to us for our sanctification.

"So we have nothing in ourselves of which to boast. We have no ground for self-exaltation. Our only ground of hope is in the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and in that wrought by His Spirit working in and through us."—*Steps to Christ,* page 68.

Lesson 3, for January 16, 1954

Christianity and the Christian

MEMORY VERSE: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Gal. 2:20.

STUDY HELPS: "Testimonies," vol. 2, pp. 588-594; "Gospel Workers," pages 282, 283.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Key Thought; Ques. 1-4.
3. Ques. 5-8.
4. Read study help from "Testimonies."
5. Ques. 9-12.
6. Read "Gospel Workers" assignment; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. God and Man

1. What is man?
2. God's love for man.
3. Christ's redemption of man.
4. Man built into the temple of the Lord.

II. The One True God

1. There is but one God.
2. Creatorship the mark of the true God.
3. God's supremacy.
4. The prayer of the righteous.

III. The Meaning of Christianity

1. True religion.

2. Christ and Christianity.
3. The indwelling Christ.

Key Thought:

"The Lord Jesus was the foundation of the whole Jewish economy. . . . But the Jews had exalted the forms and ceremonies, and had lost sight of their object. . . . These maxims and traditions became an obstacle to their understanding and practice of true religion. . . . They demanded signs instead of a Saviour. . . . Not by force of arms, not by violent interpositions, was the kingdom of God to prevail, but by the implanting of a new principle in the hearts of men."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 34, 35 (new ed., pp. 28, 29).

THE LESSON

God and Man

1. What questions does inspiration ask concerning man? Ps. 144:3, 4; Job 7:17, 18; *Ps. 8:3, 4.*

NOTE.—"In the apostasy, man alienated himself from God; earth was cut off from heaven. Across the gulf that lay between, there could be no communion."—*Steps to Christ,* page 23.

2. How did God show His love for man? John 3:16; 1 John 4:14; *Rom. 5:8.*

NOTE.—"Through Christ, earth is again linked with heaven. With His own merits, Christ has bridged the gulf which sin had made, so that the ministering angels can hold communion with man. Christ connects fallen man, in his weakness and helplessness, with the Source of infinite power. . . . The only way to God is Christ."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 23, 24.

3. What did Christ do for hopeless, helpless man? Col. 1:13, 14, 21; *Eph. 2:1-5; Rom. 5:6.*

4. What, then, does that mean for those who accept God's gift by faith? Eph. 2:19-22.

The One True God

5. In what words does the Bible emphasize that there is but one true God? Isa. 45:5, 22; *Deut. 6:4.*

NOTES.—"The revelation of Himself that God has given in His word is for our study. This we may seek to understand. But beyond this we are not to penetrate. The highest intellect may tax itself until it is wearied out in conjectures regarding the nature of God; but the effort will be fruitless. This problem has not been given us to solve. No human mind can comprehend God. Let no finite man attempt to interpret Him. Let none indulge in speculation regarding His nature. Here silence is eloquence. The Omniscient One is above discussion."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 279.

"As we learn more and more of what God is, and of what we ourselves are in His sight, we shall fear and tremble before Him."—*Ibid.,* p. 283.

6. How is the true God distinguished? Jer. 10:10-12; Isa. 40:25, 26.

NOTE.—"God's claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is based upon the fact that He is the Creator, and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. Thus it is presented in the Bible."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 336.

7. How is the supremacy of God affirmed? Eph. 4:6; *Acts 17:24-27; Ps. 139:7-12.*

NOTE.—"He 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. He teaches that God cares for every lost soul; that 'like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.' Such a conception of God was never given to the world by any religion but that of the Bible. Heathenism teaches men to look upon the Supreme Being as an object of fear rather than of love,—a malign deity to be appeased by sacrifices, rather than a Father pouring upon His children the gift of His love. . . .

"It is not because of inherent power that year by year the earth produces her bounties, and continues her motion round the sun. The hand of God guides the planets, and keeps them in position in their orderly march through the heavens. It is through His power that summer and winter, seedtime and harvest, day and night follow each other in their regular succession. It is by His word that vegetation flourishes, that the leaves appear, and the flowers bloom. Every good thing we have, each ray of sunshine and shower of rain, every morsel of food, every moment of life, is a gift of love." —*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* pages 113-115.

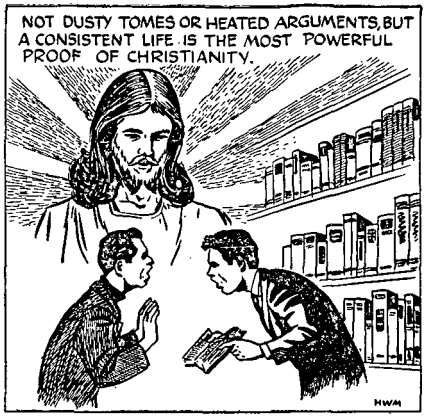
8. What, therefore, should be the trustful prayer of the righteous? Ps. 16:1, 8; *31:1-3, 14, 15.*

NOTE.—"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,* pages 73, 74.

The Meaning of Christianity

9. How is true religion defined? James 1:27.

NOTES.—"Bible religion is not one influence among many others; its influence is to be supreme, pervading and controlling every other. It is not to be like a dash of color



brushed here and there upon the canvas, but it is to pervade the whole life, as if the canvas were dipped into the color, until every thread of the fabric were dyed a deep, unfading hue."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 312.

"Religion, pure and undefiled, ennobles its possessor. You will ever find with the true Christian a marked cheerfulness, a holy, happy confidence in God, a submission to His providences, that is refreshing to the soul."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 377.

10. How is practical religion set forth in the teachings of Jesus? Matt. 25:34-40; 10:42.

NOTES.—"Religion is not merely an emotion, a feeling. It is a principle which is interwoven with all the daily duties and transactions of life. Nothing will be entertained, no business engaged in, which will prevent the accompaniment of this principle. To retain pure and undefiled religion, it is necessary to be workers, persevering in effort. We must do something ourselves. No one else can do our work. None but ourselves can work out our salvation with fear and trembling. This is the very work which the Lord has left for us to do."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 506.

"Our profession of faith may proclaim the theory of religion, but it is our practical piety that holds forth the word of truth. The consistent life, the holy conversation, the

unswerving integrity, the active, benevolent spirit, the godly example,—these are the mediums through which light is conveyed to the world."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 307.

11. What experience is comprehended in Christianity? Col. 1:27; Eph. 3:17-19; *John 15:4, 7; Rev. 3:20.*

NOTES.—Christianity is "Christ in you, the hope of glory." The very nature of Christ must be implanted in you—Christ's mind, Christ's thoughts, Christ's motives, Christ's feelings, Christ's words, Christ's acts, become the very warp and woof of the Christian's life. These will make a man a Christian—a real Christian. That is the meaning of Christianity.

"Gospel religion is Christ in the life,—a living, active principle. It is the grace of Christ revealed in character and wrought out in good works. The principles of the gospel cannot be disconnected from any department of practical life. Every line of Christian experience and labor is to be a representation of the life of Christ."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 384 (new ed., p. 389).

12. How is this fellowship with Christ further emphasized? Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:11; *Col. 3:2, 3.*

NOTES.—"Christianity—how many there are who do not know what it is! It is not something put on the outside. It is a life inwrought with the life of Jesus. It means that we are wearing the robe of Christ's righteousness."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, page 131.

"Christianity has a much broader meaning than many have hitherto given it. It is not a creed. It is the word of Him who liveth and abideth forever. It is a living, animating principle, that takes possession of mind, heart, motives, and the entire man. Christianity—oh, that we might experience its operations!"—*Ibid.*, pp. 421, 422.

Conclusions and Convictions

1. Too many people have a wrong conception of Christianity. They have the idea that Christianity is a philosophy to talk about and debate.
2. The Christian religion is something to be, something to do, something to affect every transaction, every business and social relationship, every phase of everyday life.
3. The strongest and most powerful argument for Christianity is a loving and lovable Christian.
4. God belongs to every man, every tribe, every nation, every people; and you and I who know Him are under obligation to go and make Him known to as many people as we can reach. Making God known by precept and by example, that is the business of Christians everywhere.

Lesson 4, for January 23, 1954

On Becoming a Christian—Steps to Christ

MEMORY VERSE: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Cor. 6:17, 18.

STUDY HELPS: "Testimonies," vol. 9, pp. 165, 166; "The Desire of Ages," pages 519-523; "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 402-404 (new ed., pp. 410-413).

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson, following the outline.
2. Key Thought; Ques. 1-3.
3. Ques. 4-6.
4. Read suggested study helps.
5. Ques. 7-10.
6. Ques. 11-13; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Call to Become Christians

1. The business of the Christian church.
2. Separation from the world.
3. Sons of God.

II. The Call to Surrender

1. The Master's call.
2. The meaning of surrender.
3. Christ the way.

III. Steps to Christ

1. A new birth.
2. Conversion.
3. Repentance.
4. Confession.
5. Justification.
6. Adoption.
7. Sanctification.

Key Thought:

"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. . . . Righteousness is rightdoing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. . . . The works show whether the faith is genuine."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 312 (new ed., p. 319).

THE LESSON

The Call to Become Christians

1. What is the supreme business of the Christian church? Matt. 28:19, 20; *Mark 16:15.*

2. What must be the experience of everyone who would be a true Christian? 2 Cor. 6:17, 18; *Rev. 18:4.*

3. Into what family is the Christian adopted? Rom. 8:14-17; *Gal. 4:4-7; Eph. 2:18, 19.*

The Call to Surrender

4. What is the call of the Master to those whom He chooses? Matt. 4:18-22; 9:9.

NOTE.—"The deeper lesson which the miracle conveyed for the disciples is a lesson for us also,—that He whose word could gather the fishes from the sea could also impress human hearts, and draw them by the cords of His love, so that His servants might become 'fishers of men.' . . .

"In the apostles of our Lord there was nothing to bring glory to themselves. It was evident that the success of their labors was due only to God. The lives of these men, the characters they developed, and the mighty work that God wrought through them, are a testimony to what He will do for all who are teachable and obedient." —*The Desire of Ages,* pages 249, 250.

5. What is the meaning of a full surrender? Luke 14:33; *Matt. 19:27, first part.*

NOTES.—"The surrender of all our powers to God greatly simplifies the problem of life. It weakens and cuts short a thousand struggles with the passions of the natural heart. Religion is as a golden cord that binds the souls of both youth and aged to Christ. Through it the willing and obedient are brought safely through dark and intricate paths to the City of God."—Mrs. E. G. White, in *Youth's Instructor,* Feb. 2, 1893.

"Many who profess to be Christ's followers have an anxious, troubled heart, because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him; for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless

they do make this surrender, they cannot find peace."—*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 480, 481.

6. What is Christ's part in the way back to God? John 14:6; *10:7-9.*

The Steps to Christ—The Way Back to God

7. What essential experience is necessary in becoming a child of God? John 3:3; *1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 3:9.*

NOTE.—"Nicodemus had come to the Lord thinking to enter into a discussion with Him, but Jesus laid bare the foundation principles of truth. He said to Nicodemus, It is not theoretical knowledge you need so much as spiritual regeneration. . . . The Christian's life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 171, 172.

8. What term does the Scripture use to express the experience of turning away from sin to righteousness? Acts 3:19; *Ps. 51:3.*

NOTE.—"The great truth of the conversion of the heart by the Holy Spirit is presented in Christ's words to Nicodemus: 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.' John 3:3-8, margin."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 98 (new ed., p. 95).

9. What is the first step on our part in coming to Christ? Acts 2:37, 38; *Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9.*

NOTES.—"Repentance is turning from self to Christ."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 131.

"But no man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work. Then the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, un-Christlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 159 (new ed., p. 161).

10. What besides repentance is necessary? Prov. 28:13; 1 John 1:9; *Acts 19:18; James 5:16.*

NOTES.—"Those who have not humbled their souls before God in acknowledging their guilt, have not yet fulfilled the first condition of acceptance. If we have not experienced that repentance which is not to

be repented of, and have not with true humiliation of soul and brokenness of spirit confessed our sins, abhorring our iniquity, we have never truly sought for the forgiveness of sin; and if we have never sought, we have never found the peace of God."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 42, 43.

"If there have been difficulties, brethren and sisters,—if envy, malice, bitterness, evil surmisings, have existed, confess these sins, not in a general way, but to your brethren and sisters personally. Be definite."—Mrs. E. G. White, in *Review and Herald,* Dec. 16, 1884.

11. What does imputed righteousness bring to the believer? Rom. 4:22 to 5:1; *3:21-26; Acts 13:39.*

NOTE.—"What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 456.

12. By what formal act do we become members of the family of God? Rom. 8:14, 15; *Gal. 4:4-6; Eph. 1:3-7.*

NOTE.—"If you make the sacrifice, if you have to forsake father, mother, sisters, brothers, wife, and children for Christ's sake, you will not be friendless. God adopts you into His family; you become members of the royal household, sons and daughters of the King who rules in the heaven of heavens."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 510.

13. What is the ultimate purpose of God, and what is this experience called? 1 Thess. 3:13; 4:3, first part; *5:23; 2 Thess. 2:13.*

NOTES.—"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.' [Heb. 6:1; Eph. 4:13.] . . . And Peter sets before us the steps by which Bible sanctification is to be attained. 2 Peter 1:5-10."—*The Great Controversy,* page 470 (new ed., p. 465).

"The sanctification set forth in the Scriptures embraces the entire being,—spirit, soul, and body."—*Ibid.,* p. 473.

"This is true sanctification; for sanctification consists in the cheerful performance of daily duties in perfect obedience to the will of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 360 (new ed., p. 362).

"True sanctification means perfect love, perfect obedience, perfect conformity to the will of God."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 565.

Conclusions and Convictions

1. God wants men everywhere to be saved.
2. To the church has been given the responsibility of carrying the gospel to all the world and through it call out those who would be free from sin and ready for the second coming of Christ.
3. The Christian religion calls men out of sin, apart from the world, into a union and partnership with Christ.
4. The Christian life is one of full surrender to God to be guided and directed by His Spirit.
5. To become true Christians we must experience the new birth, following the steps back to God through repentance and confession on to our experience of justification and sanctification, which is the process of restoring in man the character of God. "Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 560.

PLAN FOR THE THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING, MARCH 27

Lesson 5, for January 30, 1954

The Christian's Heart and Mind

MEMORY VERSE: "My son, give Me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe My ways." Prov. 23:26.

STUDY HELPS: "Testimonies," vol. 3, pp. 333-335; "The Acts of the Apostles," page 566; "Patriarchs and Prophets," page 600.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: Survey the lesson, following the outline.
2. Key Thought; Ques. 1-4.
3. Ques. 5-8.
4. Read suggested study helps.
5. Ques. 9, 10.
6. Ques. 11, 12; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Heart of Man

1. The natural condition of man's heart.
2. God's gracious invitation.
3. The sinner's plea.
4. God's response.

II. The Mind of Christ

1. The need of a change of mind.
2. "Let this mind be in you."
3. Relation of mind to character.
4. Guarding the avenues to the soul.

III. Christ Dwells in the Christian's Heart

1. Meaning of Christ dwelling in the heart.
2. Results of the indwelling.
3. The indwelling Christ revealed in the life.
4. How to become like Christ.

Key Thought:

"From eternal ages it was God's purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator. Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God. Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One. But by the incarnation of the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His temple. God designed that the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high destiny open to every soul. But the Jews had not understood the significance of the building they regarded with so much pride. They did not yield themselves as holy temples for the divine Spirit. The courts of the temple at Jerusalem, filled with the tumult of unholy traffic, represented all too truly the temple of the heart, defiled by the presence of sensual passion and unholy thoughts. In cleansing the temple from the world's buyers and sellers, Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin,—from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 161.

THE LESSON

The Heart of Man

1. What is the natural condition of man's heart? Jer. 17:9; *Matt. 15:19; Mark 7:21-23.*

NOTE.—"Men do not know their own hearts; for 'the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.' But God understands the tendencies of the depraved nature of man."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 688.

2. What gracious invitation does God give to men? Prov. 23:26; Rev. 3:20.

NOTE.—"Let us not keep back from God that which is His own. . . . He asks for a whole heart; give it to Him; it is His, both by creation and by redemption. He asks for your intellect; give it to Him; it is His."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 566.

3. What should be the sinner's plea? Ps. 51:10, 11.

NOTE.—"No man can of himself cast out the evil throng that have taken possession of the heart. Only Christ can cleanse the soul temple. But He will not force an entrance. . . . His presence will cleanse and sanctify the soul, so that it may be a holy temple unto the Lord, and 'an habitation of God through the Spirit.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 161, 162. See also pages 171-176.

4. What will be God's response? Ezek. 36:26; *11:19.*

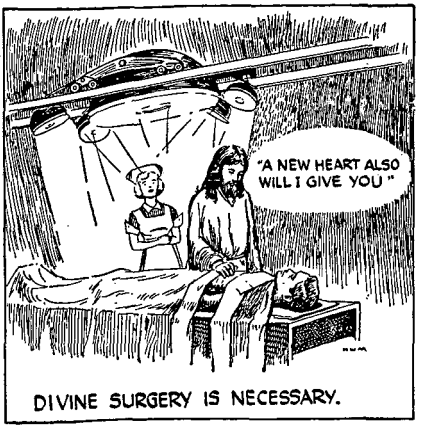
NOTES.—"The fountain of the heart must be purified before the streams can become pure."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 172.

"When Christ is in the heart it will be so softened and subdued by love for God and man that fretting, faultfinding, and contention will not exist there. The religion of Christ in the heart will gain for its possessor a complete victory over those passions that are seeking for the mastery."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 610.

The Mind of Christ

5. Why do we need a change of mind? Rom. 8:5-8; *Col. 1:21.*

NOTES.—"The mind, the heart, that is indolent, aimless, falls an easy prey to evil. It is on diseased, lifeless organisms that fungus roots. It is the idle mind that is Satan's workshop. Let the mind be directed to high and holy ideals, let the life have a noble aim, an absorbing purpose, and evil finds little foothold."—*Education,* page 190.



DIVINE SURGERY IS NECESSARY.

"It is a law both of the intellectual and the spiritual nature, that by beholding, we become changed. The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell. It becomes assimilated to that which it is accustomed to love and reverence. Man will never rise higher than his standard of purity or goodness or truth."—*The Great Controversy,* page 555.

6. Whose mind will the Christian possess? 1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:5.

7. What is the relation of mind to character? Rom. 12:2; *1 Cor. 15:33.*

NOTE.—The transformation of character begins with the changing of one's thoughts. "The words, 'A new heart also will I give you' (Ezek. 36:26), mean, A new mind will I give you. This change of heart is always attended by a clear conception of Christian duty, an understanding of truth. The clearness of our view of truth will be proportionate to our understanding of the word of God."—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students,* page 452.

8. What can and must the Christian

do to see that the mind feeds on right and proper things? Phil. 4:7-9; *Ps. 101:3, 4.*

NOTES.—"The mind, the soul, is built up by that upon which it feeds; and it rests with us to determine upon what it shall be fed. It is within the power of everyone to choose the topics that shall occupy the thoughts and shape the character."—*Education,* pages 126, 127.

"As the mind dwells upon Christ, the character is molded after the divine similitude. The thoughts are pervaded with a sense of His goodness, His love. We contemplate His character, and thus He is in all our thoughts. . . . Here again there is the realization of a personal, living influence dwelling in our hearts by faith."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* pages 388, 389.

Christ Dwells in the Christian's Heart

9. What heart experience should the Christian have? Eph. 3:17; *Gal. 2:20; John 14:23.*

NOTE.—"Christ dwelling in our hearts by faith means the contemplation of Christ, beholding Christ, ever cherishing the dear Saviour as our very best and honored friend, so that we would not in any action grieve and offend Him."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 387.

10. What results will come to the one who is renewed in mind? Eph. 4:20-24; *Col. 2:6, 7, 10.*

NOTE.—"The growth of every Christian is from within, not from without. It is only as the Spirit of Christ dwells in the heart by faith that we can grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ. Only through the grace daily drawn from Jesus can the heart be kept. There can be no safety in extolling self; we must hide self in Jesus. Christ abiding within, is the life of the soul. And we are to receive Christ through His word. It is the truth that sanctifies the soul."—Mrs. E. G. White, in *Review and Herald,* Feb. 16, 1892.

11. Since Christ is holy, what will His indwelling in our heart do for us? 1 Peter 1:15, 16; *Eph. 1:4.*

NOTE.—"Christ abiding in the heart shines out in the faces of those who love Him and keep His commandments. Truth is written there. The sweet peace of heaven is revealed. There is expressed a habitual gentleness, a more than human love."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 102 (new ed., p. 99).

12. How do we become like Christ? 2 Cor. 3:18; *Heb. 12:2.*

NOTE.—"A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust. Your hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ. Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might. So you are not to look to yourself, not to let the mind dwell on self, but look to Christ. Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection, of His character. Christ in His self-denial, Christ in His humiliation, Christ in His purity and holiness, Christ in His matchless love,—this is the subject for the soul's contemplation. It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness."—*Steps to Christ,* page 75.

Conclusions and Convictions

1. God so loved the world that He gave His Son to be my Saviour, and I so loved God that I gave my heart to become His abiding place. "I pray that Christ may make His home in your hearts through your faith." Eph. 3:17, Weymouth.

2. What comes out of a man's heart depends upon what he puts into his heart.

3. Christianity is not so much how to get

a man into heaven by and by, as it is how to get heaven into a man's heart here and now.

4. "There is an eloquence far more powerful than the eloquence of words in the quiet, consistent life of a pure, true Christian. What a man is has more influence than what he says.

"The officers who were sent to Jesus came back with the report that never man spoke as He spoke. But the reason for this was that never man lived as He lived. Had His life been other than it was, He could not have spoken as He did."—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 469.

Lesson 6, for February 6, 1954

The Christian's Body

MEMORY VERSE: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor. 6:19, 20.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 346-351 (new ed., pp. 349-354); "Prophets and Kings," page 489.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: Survey the lesson, following the outline.
2. Key Thought; Ques. 1-3.
3. Ques. 4-6.
4. Read suggested study helps.
5. Ques. 7, 8.
6. Ques. 9-12; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. "Ye Are Not Your Own"

1. Our bodies are the temple of God.
2. Flesh and spirit contrasted.
3. The result of defiling the body.

II. "Present Your Bodies, . . . Holy, Acceptable"

1. "A living sacrifice."
2. The great objective.
3. The body temple.

III. Keeping Fit

1. God's desire for His people.
2. Temperate in all things.

IV. Living for God and His Kingdom

1. God's purpose for His people.
2. The attitude of the true Christian.
3. A commendable example.
4. The essence of the kingdom of God.

Key Thought:

"The body is the only medium through which the mind and the soul are developed for the upbuilding of character. Hence it is that the adversary of souls directs his temptations to the enfeebling and degrading of the physical powers. His success here means the surrender to evil of the whole being. The tendencies of our physical nature, unless under the dominion of a higher power, will surely work ruin and death."—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 130.

THE LESSON

"Ye Are Not Your Own"

1. What is our body declared to be? 1 *Cor. 6:19, 20; 2 Cor. 6:16.*

2. How does Paul contrast the life "after the flesh" and the life "after the Spirit"? Rom. 8:5-9; *1 Cor. 2:14.*

3. What will result from defilement of the body? 1 Cor. 3:17.

NOTE.—"The laws that govern our physical organism, God has written upon every nerve, muscle, and fiber of the body. Every careless or willful violation of these laws is a sin against our Creator. . . .

"The power of the will and the importance of self-control, both in the preservation and in the recovery of health, the depressing and even ruinous effect of anger, discontent, selfishness, or impurity, and, on the other hand, the marvelous life-giving power to be found in cheerfulness, unselfishness, gratitude, should also be shown."—*Education,* pages 196, 197.

Present Your Bodies—Holy—Acceptable

4. What is the Christian enjoined to do? Rom. 12:1.

NOTES.—"It is impossible for a man to present his body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, while continuing to indulge habits that are depriving him of physical, mental, and moral vigor."—*Counsels on Health,* page 23.

"Sanctification is not merely a theory, an emotion, or a form of words, but a living, active principle, entering into the everyday life. It requires that our habits of eating, drinking, and dressing be such as to secure the preservation of physical, mental, and moral health, that we may present to the Lord our bodies—not an offering corrupted by wrong habits, but—'a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.' "—*Ibid.,* p. 67.

"As it is through the body that all the evil that is in the unrenewed heart comes forth in palpable manifestation and action, so it is through the body that the gracious principles and affections of believers reveal themselves in the outward life. The Christian must never forget that as corruption extends to the whole man, so does sanctification."—*Critical and Experimental Commentary,* vol. 6, p. 623.

5. What is the great objective of all Christian living? 1 Thess. 5:23; *Phil. 3:17-21.*

NOTE.—"The body is to be brought into subjection. The higher powers of the being are to rule. The passions are to be controlled by the will, which is itself to be under the control of God. The kingly power of reason, sanctified by divine grace, is to bear sway in our lives.

"The requirements of God must be brought home to the conscience. Men and women must be awakened to the duty of self-mastery, the need of purity, freedom from every depraving appetite and defiling habit. They need to be impressed with the fact that all their powers of mind and body are the gift of God, and are to be preserved in the best possible condition for His service."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 130.

6. In whose heart does God promise to dwell? Isa. 57:15.

NOTE.—Only holy people can dwell in God's presence, and God will dwell only in people whose bodies are holy,—blameless,—without spot or wrinkle.

Keeping Fit

7. What is God's desire for His people? 3 John 2; Ps. 103:1-5.

NOTES.—"We cannot be too often reminded that health does not depend on chance. It is a result of obedience to law. This is recognized by the contestants in athletic games and trials of strength. These men make the most careful preparation. They submit to thorough training and strict discipline. Every physical habit is carefully regulated. They know that neglect, excess, or carelessness, which weakens or cripples any organ or function of the body, would ensure defeat.

"How much more important is such carefulness to ensure success in the conflict of life. . . . We are waging a warfare upon which hang eternal results."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 128.

"Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power,—these are the true remedies."—*Ibid.*, p. 127.

"Health is an inestimable blessing, and one more closely related to conscience and religion than many realize. . . . The importance of caring for the health should be taught as a Bible requirement. . . . No one can properly understand his obligations to God unless he understands clearly his obligations to himself as God's property. He who remains in sinful ignorance of the laws of life and health, or who willfully violates these laws, sins against God."—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students,* pages 294, 295.

8. What part does temperance have in keeping the body under control? 1 Cor. 9:25-27; *Gal. 5:22, 23.*

NOTES.—"With our first parents, intemperate desire resulted in the loss of Eden. Temperance in all things has more to do with our restoration to Eden than men realize. . . . 'Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.' "—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 129.

"I was shown that Sabbathkeepers as a people labor too hard without allowing themselves change or periods of rest. . . . It is not essential to our salvation, nor for the glory of God, to keep the mind laboring constantly and excessively, even upon religious themes."—*The Adventist Home,* page 494.

"The time spent in physical exercise is not lost. . . . Care needs to be exercised in regard to the regulation of hours for sleeping and laboring. We must take periods of rest, periods of recreation, periods for contemplation. . . . The principles of temperance have a wider range than many think."—*Ibid.*

"There are modes of recreation which are highly beneficial to both mind and body. An enlightened, discriminating mind will find abundant means for entertainment and diversion, from sources not only innocent, but instructive."—*Ibid.*, p. 496.

Living for God and His Kingdom

9. What is God's purpose for His people? 2 Cor. 3:2-4; *Isa. 43:10; Acts 1:8.*

NOTE.—"It is God's purpose to manifest through His people the principles of His kingdom. That in life and character they may reveal these principles, He desires to separate them from the customs, habits, and practices of the world. . . .

"God expects those who bear the name of Christ to represent Him. Their thoughts are to be pure, their words noble and uplifting. The religion of Christ is to be interwoven with all that they do and say. . . . God desires His people to show by their lives the advantage of Christianity over worldliness, to show that they are working on a high, holy plane."—*The Adventist Home,* pages 519, 520.

10. What attitude will characterize the followers of Christ? 1 Cor. 10:31; *Col. 3:17; Matt. 26:39, 42.*

11. What commendable example in the matter of food and drink is left on record for our guidance? Dan. 1:8.

NOTES.—"The question of how to preserve the health is one of primary importance."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 153.

"We do not mark out any precise line to be followed in diet; but we do say that in countries where there are fruits, grains, and nuts in abundance, flesh food is not the right food for God's people. . . . We are not to make the use of flesh food a test of fellowship."—*Ibid,* p. 159.

"It is better to know how to keep well than how to cure disease."—*Ibid.,* p. 161.

"Eat only plain, simple, wholesome food." —*Ibid.,* p. 163.

Workers "must consider carefully before they specify just what foods should and should not be eaten" in the various countries of the world. (*Ibid.*)

12. What transcends meat and drink in so far as the kingdom of heaven is concerned? Rom. 14:17; *Matt. 15:15-20.*

Conclusions and Convictions

1. The spiritual nature must control the lower nature, for the lower nature is in a state of enmity to God. Rom. 8:7. The spiritual nature in control means life and peace. Rom. 8:6. Those controlled by the lower nature cannot please God. Rom. 8:8.

2. "Christians have many sources of happiness at their command, and they may tell with unerring accuracy what pleasures are lawful and right. They may enjoy such recreations as will not dissipate the mind or debase the soul, such as will not disappoint and leave a sad after influence to destroy self-respect or bar the way to usefulness. If they can take Jesus with them and maintain a prayerful spirit, they are perfectly safe."—*The Adventist Home,* page 513.

3. Health reform is an intelligent selection of the most healthful articles of food prepared in the most healthful, simplest form.

4. Righteousness is more than eating and drinking. Some people may lose their souls while sitting as judges of other men's diet.

Lesson 7, for February 13, 1954

The Christian's Possessions

MEMORY VERSE: "Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." 1 Tim. 6:6-8.

STUDY HELPS: "Testimonies," vol. 1, pp. 170-178; "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 351, 352 (new ed., pp. 354, 355).

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: Survey the lesson, following the outline.
2. Key Thought; Ques. 1-3.
3. Ques. 4-8.
4. Read suggested lesson helps.
5. Ques. 9-11.
6. Ques. 12, 13; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. God's Plan for Saving Men

1. The plan set forth.
2. By preaching.
3. God's people provide the means.

II. God's Ownership

1. By creation.
2. By redemption.
3. Everything belongs to God.
4. God gives power to get wealth.

III. God's Plan for the Support of His Work

1. Gospel support.
2. The tithe.
3. Tithepayers.
4. Tithe paying endorsed by Jesus.
5. God's blessing bestowed.
6. Faithful stewardship.

Key Thoughts:

"A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. . . . How important, then, is the development of character in this life."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 332 (new ed., p. 335).

"God also entrusts men with means. He gives them power to get wealth. . . . And He asks for a return of His own. Our money has not been given us that we might honor and glorify ourselves. As faithful stewards we are to use it for the honor and glory of God."—*Ibid.,* p. 351.

" 'The tithe . . . *is* the Lord's.' . . . 'The seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.' God reserved to Himself a specified portion of man's time and of his means, and no man could, without guilt, appropriate either for his own interests."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 525, 526.

THE LESSON

God's Plan for Saving Men

1. How is God's plan to save men set forth? Matt. 28:19, 20; *Mark 16:15; Rev. 14:6.*

NOTE.—"To Christ's followers today, no less than to the first disciples, these words are spoken:

" 'All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.' 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.' "—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 106.

2. By what method has God chosen to do all this? Rom. 10:13-15; *1 Cor. 1:17-23.*

3. What ancient example do we have of God's people providing the means for His work? Ex. 35:4-10; *36:5-7; 1 Chron. 29:2, 3, 6, 9.*

NOTE.—"When the people of God were about to build the sanctuary in the wilderness, extensive preparations were necessary. Costly materials were collected, and among them was much gold and silver. As the rightful owner of all their treasures, the Lord called for these offerings from the people; but He accepted only those that were given freely. The people offered willingly, until word was brought to Moses: 'The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 268.

God's Ownership

4. On what original basis is God's ownership founded? Gen. 1:1; *Ps. 33:6, 9.*

5. What additional claim does God have to the world? 1 Peter 1:18, 19; *Eph. 1:14.*

6. How much of the earth belongs to God? Ps. 24:1; 50:10-12; *Hag. 2:8.*

NOTE.—"All the good that man enjoys comes because of the mercy of God. He is the great and bountiful Giver. His love is manifest to all in the abundant provision made for man."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 385.

7. In acquiring means, what should man remember? Deut. 8:18; *Matt. 25:14; 1 Cor. 4:7.*

NOTE.—"God also entrusts men with

means. He gives them power to get wealth. . . . Our money has not been given us that we might honor and glorify ourselves. . . . All we possess is the Lord's, and we are accountable to Him for the use we make of it. In the use of every penny it will be seen whether we love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 351 (new ed., p. 354).

God's Plan for the Support of His Work

8. What is God's plan for the support of His work to evangelize the world? 1 Cor. 9:7, 13, 14; *Prov. 3:9.*

NOTE.—"God's chosen messengers, who are engaged in aggressive labor, should never be compelled to go a warfare at their own charges, unaided by the sympathetic and hearty support of their brethren. . . . Is not the work of disseminating truth, and leading souls to Christ, of more importance than any ordinary business? And are not those who faithfully engage in this work justly entitled to ample remuneration? By our estimate of the relative value of labor for moral and for physical good, we show our appreciation of the heavenly in contrast with the earthly."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 340, 341.

9. What special portion of Israel's income did God claim, and how was it used? Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:21.

10. Name some ancient examples of those who paid a tithe of their increase. Heb. 7:1, 2; Gen. 28:20-22.

11. With what words did Jesus endorse the tithe system? Matt. 23:23.

12. What blessing does God promise to bestow on those who bring all the tithe into the storehouse? Mal. 3:10, 11.

NOTE.—"The Lord created every tree in Eden pleasant to the eyes and good for food, and He bade Adam and Eve freely enjoy His bounties. But He made one exception. Of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they were not to eat. This tree God reserved as a constant reminder of His ownership of all. Thus He gave them opportunity to demonstrate their faith and trust in Him by their perfect obedience to His requirements.

"So it is with God's claims upon us. He places His treasures in the hands of men, but requires that one tenth shall be faithfully laid aside for His work. He requires this portion to be placed in His treasury. It is to be rendered to Him as His own; it is sacred, and is to be used for sacred purposes, for the support of those who carry the message of salvation to all parts of the world. . . . By faithfully obeying this requirement we acknowledge that all belongs to God."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 386.

13. What is required of stewards? 1 Cor. 4:2; *Luke 16:1-3.*

NOTE.—"Every Christian is a steward of God, entrusted with His goods. . . . A steward

identifies himself with his master. He accepts the responsibilities of a steward, and he must act in his master's stead, doing as his master would do were he presiding. His master's interests become his. The position of a steward is one of dignity because his master trusts him."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 246.

Conclusions and Convictions

1. God's plan for the saving of the lost embraces the whole world.
2. God's ownership is based on creation and redemption.
3. In God's plan for the support of His work, He calls upon His people to be faithful stewards.

Lesson 8, for February 20, 1954

The Christian's Time

MEMORY VERSE: "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates." Exodus 20:10.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 342-346 (new ed., pp. 345-349); "Testimonies," vol. 3, p. 146; vol. 4, p. 412.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: Survey the lesson, following the outline.
2. Ques. 1-5.
3. Ques. 6-8.
4. Read suggested study helps.
5. Ques. 9-11.
6. Ques. 12-14; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Allocation of Our Time

1. A time for everything.
2. A time to work.
3. A time to relax.
4. A time to sleep.
5. A time to pray.

II. The Sabbath Is God's Time

1. The Sabbath instituted.
2. The Sabbath sanctified.
3. Man's relation to the Sabbath.

III. God's Memorial a Sign

1. A perpetual memorial.
2. A sign of sanctification.
3. Christ the Lord of the Sabbath.

IV. The Test and Blessing of Obedience

1. The third-angel's message.
2. The question of obedience.
3. The blessings of obedience.

Key Thought:

"Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time.

"The value of time is beyond computation. Christ regarded every moment as precious, and it is thus that we should regard it. Life is too short to be trifled away. We have but a few days of probation in which to prepare for eternity. We have no time to waste, no time to devote to selfish pleasure, no time for the indulgence of sin. It is now that we are to form characters for the future, immortal life. It is now that we are to prepare for the searching judgment."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 342 (new ed., pp. 345, 346).

Allocation of Our Time

1. What does the wise man say regarding the allocation of time? Eccl. 3:1-8.

NOTE.—"Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time.

"The value of time is beyond computation. Christ regarded every moment as precious, and it is thus that we should regard it. Life is too short to be trifled away. We have but a few days of probation in which to prepare for eternity. We have no time to waste, no time to devote to selfish pleasure, no time for the indulgence of sin." —*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 342.

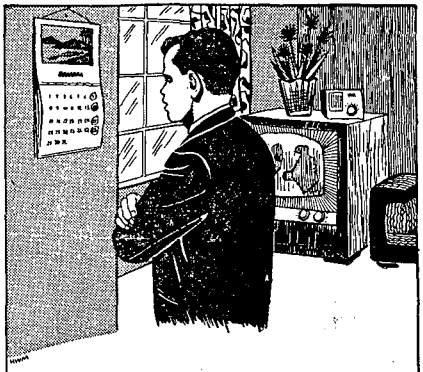
2. What does God say about a time for work? Ex. 20:9; *Eccl. 9:10.*

NOTE.—"God gave Adam and Eve employment. . . . They learned how to till the soil and to care for the things which the Lord had planted. They did not regard labor as degrading, but as a great blessing. . . . God never meant that man should have nothing to do. . . . Labor is to human beings what they make it. . . . Heart and soul are to be put into work of any kind; then there is cheerfulness and efficiency. . . . Faithfulness in the discharge of every duty makes the work noble, and reveals a character that God can approve."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education,* pages 314, 315.

3. What was Christ's instruction to His weary disciples concerning a time of rest? Mark 6:31. *Compare Ps. 46:10, first part.*

NOTES.—"He [Christ] saw, too, that they had become weary in their labors, and that they needed to rest."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 359.

"He did not urge upon His disciples the necessity of ceaseless toil."—*Ibid.,* p. 361.



DO THE RADIO AND THE TV SETS KNOW WHEN THE SABBATH COMES IN OUR HOMES?

4. How can sleep be either a blessing or a curse? Eccl. 5:12; Prov. 6:9-11; *24:33, 34; 3:24.*

NOTE.—"The bright morning hours are wasted by many in bed. These precious hours, once lost, are gone never to return; they are lost for time and for eternity. Only one hour lost each day, and what a waste of time in the course of a year! Let the slumberer think of this and pause to consider how he will give an account to God for lost opportunities."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 412.

5. What example did Jesus set us in finding time to pray? Matt. 14:23; *Luke 6:12; 18:1; 11:1-4.*

NOTE.—"Have a place for secret prayer. . . . We need often to retire to some spot, however humble, where we can be alone

with God."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 125.

The Sabbath Is God's Time

6. At the close of creation what did God do? Gen. 2:1, 2; *Ex. 20:11.*

7. After resting on the seventh day, how did God set it apart? Gen. 2:3.

NOTE.—After *resting* upon the seventh day, God *sanctified* it, or set it apart as a day of rest for man.

"In Eden, God set up *the memorial* of His work of creation, in placing His blessing upon the seventh day."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 48.

8. How should we regard God's time? Ex. 20:10; *Isa. 58:13, 14.*

NOTES.—"God saw that a Sabbath was essential for man, even in Paradise. He needed to lay aside his own interests and pursuits for one day of the seven, that he might more fully contemplate the works of God, and meditate upon His power and goodness. He needed a Sabbath, to remind him more vividly of God, and to awaken gratitude because all that he enjoyed and possessed came from the beneficent hand of the Creator. God designs that the Sabbath shall direct the minds of men to the contemplation of His created works."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 48.

God reserved to Himself a specified portion of man's money—one tenth, the tithe; and of his time—one seventh, the Sabbath. No man can without guilt appropriate either for his own interests or use.

God's Memorial a Sign

9. How long will God's memorial endure? Ps. 135:13; *Isa. 66:22, 23; Ex. 31:16, 17.*

NOTE.—"The Sabbath was not for Israel merely, but for the world. It had been made known to man in Eden, and, like the other precepts of the Decalogue, it is of imperishable obligation. Of that law of which the fourth commandment forms a part, Christ declares, 'Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law.' So long as the heavens and the earth endure, the Sabbath will continue as a sign of the Creator's power. And when Eden shall bloom on earth again, God's holy rest day will be honored by all beneath the sun. 'From one Sabbath to another' the inhabitants of the glorified new earth shall go up 'to worship before Me, saith the Lord.' Matt. 5:18; Isa. 66:23."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 283.

10. Of what is the seventh-day Sabbath also a sign? Ezek. 20:12; *Ex. 31:13-17.*

NOTE.—"All who regard the Sabbath as a sign between them and God, showing that He is the God who sanctifies them, will represent the principles of His government. They will bring into daily practice the laws of His kingdom. Daily it will be their prayer that the sanctification of the Sabbath may rest upon them. Every day they will have the companionship of Christ and will exemplify the perfection of His character."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, pp. 353, 354.

11. How did Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, make clear how the Sabbath is to be observed? Matt. 12:8-12; *Mark 3:1-5.*

The Test and Blessing of Obedience

12. What warning message is borne to the world by the third angel of Revelation 14? Rev. 14:9-12.

13. How is the ultimate question of obedience to be settled? Acts 5:29.

NOTES.—"Every man will be tested. *Obedience* or *disobedience* is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 763.

"The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty; for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not."—*The Great Controversy*, page 605.

14. What blessings are to be enjoyed by those who observe the Sabbath? Isa. 58:13, 14; *56:6, 7.*

Conclusions and Convictions

1. Our days and years are limited. Therefore "teach us to number our days." (Ps. 90:10, 12.)
2. Time is the substance out of which life is made. Time must be used, not saved. When lost it can never be recalled.
3. The seventh-day Sabbath is God's portion of the time He gives to man. The use you make of that time is a measure of your love and loyalty to God.

Lesson 9, for February 27, 1954

The Christian's Home and Family

MEMORY VERSE: "If it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve: . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15.

STUDY HELP: "The Adventist Home," pages 15-28.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: Survey the lesson, following the outline.
2. Key Thought; Ques. 1-3.
3. Ques. 4, 5; read part of suggested study help.
4. Ques. 6-10.
5. Ques. 11-13.
6. Ques. 14, 15; read remaining part of study help; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Home Is of God's Planning

1. God established the home.
2. The ideal wife and mother.
3. Proper relations between husband and wife.

II. God's Ideal of a Home

1. The home of Adam and Eve.
2. The home life of Jesus.

III. Counsel for Parents

1. Love one another.
2. "Fathers, provoke not your children."
3. Results of neglect.
4. Instruction of children.
5. Christ's estimate of children.

IV. Counsel for Children

1. Obedience and filial piety.
2. Best behavior in the home.
3. Accepting Jesus' invitation.

V. The Influence of a Christian Home

1. Maintaining a happy home.
2. Abraham's example.

Key Thoughts:

"Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are 'the issues of life;' and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation, is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon

home influences."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 349.

"One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached. Such a family gives evidence that the parents have been successful in following God's directions, and that their children will serve Him in the church."—*The Adventist Home,* page 32.

"The greatest evidence of the power of Christianity that can be presented to the world is a well-ordered, well-disciplined family. This will recommend the truth as nothing else can, for it is a living witness of its practical power upon the heart."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 304.

THE LESSON

The Home Is of God's Planning

1. How, when, and by whom was the home established? Matt. 19:4-6; *Gen. 1:28, 29.*

NOTE.—"God made from the man a woman, to be a companion and helpmeet for him, to be one with him, to cheer, encourage, and bless him, he in his turn to be her strong helper. All who enter into matrimonial relations with a holy purpose—the husband to obtain the pure affections of a woman's heart, the wife to soften and improve her husband's character and give it completeness—fulfill God's purpose for them."—*The Adventist Home,* page 99.

2. What is God's ideal for a wife and mother? Proverbs 31:10-12, 26-28.

3. What is the proper relationship between husbands and wives? Eph. 5:22-31; *Col. 3:16-19.*

NOTES.—"Neither the husband nor the wife should attempt to exercise over the other an arbitrary control. Do not try to compel each other to yield to your wishes. You cannot do this and retain each other's love. Be kind, patient, and forbearing, considerate, and courteous. By the grace of God you can succeed in making each other happy, as in your marriage vow you promised to do."—*The Adventist Home,* page 118.

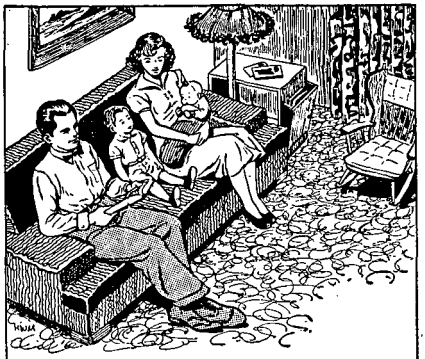
"It was not the design of God that the husband should have control, as head of the house, when he himself does not submit to Christ. He must be under the rule of Christ that he may represent the relation of Christ to the church. If he is a coarse, rough, boisterous, egotistical, harsh, and overbearing man, let him never utter the word that the husband is the head of the wife, and that she must submit to him in everything. . . . The husband is to be as a Saviour in his family."—*Ibid.,* p. 117.

God's Ideal of a Home

4. What kind of home environment did God choose for Adam and Eve? Gen. 2:8.

5. What glimpse is given of the home life of Jesus? Luke 2:39, 40, 51, 52.

NOTE.—"Jesus . . . came as God's ambassador, to show us how to live so as to secure life's best results. What were the conditions chosen by the infinite Father for His Son? A secluded home in the Galilean hills; a household sustained by honest, self-respecting labor; a life of simplicity; daily conflict with difficulty and hardship; self-sacrifice, economy, and patient, gladsome service; the hour of study at His mother's side, with the open scroll of Scripture; the quiet of dawn or twilight in the green valley; the holy ministries of nature; the study of creation and providence; and the soul's communion with God,—these were the conditions and opportunities of the early life of Jesus."—*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 365, 366.



A TRUE CHRISTIAN HOME IS THE GREATEST SERMON TO THE WORLD.

Counsel for Parents

6. What is the most important factor in binding the family together? Col. 3:13-20; *Eph. 5:25.*

NOTES.—"From a worldly point of view, money is power; but from the Christian standpoint, love is power. . . . Pure love has special efficacy to do good, and can do nothing but good. It prevents discord and misery and brings the truest happiness. . . . Parents, give your children love: love in babyhood, love in childhood, love in youth. Do not give them frowns, but ever keep a sunshiny countenance."—*The Adventist Home,* pages 195, 196.

7. What special counsel is given to fathers? Eph. 6:4; *Col. 3:21.*

NOTE.—"The father of boys should come into close contact with his sons, . . . talking with them in such simplicity and tenderness that he binds them to his heart. . . . As the priest of the household, he is accountable to God for the influence that he exerts over every member of the family."—*Counsels to Parents and Teachers,* page 128.

8. What happens when children are left alone? Prov. 29:15.

9. What commandment did God give to Israel concerning the instruction of their children? Deut. 6:4-9; *Ps. 78:4, 6.*

10. What high estimate does Jesus place upon children? Matt. 18:2-6, 10, 14.

NOTE.—"Parents should explain and simplify the plan of salvation to their children that their young minds may comprehend it. Children of eight, ten, or twelve years are old enough to be addressed on the subject of personal religion. Do not teach your children with reference to some future period when they shall be old enough to repent and believe the truth. If properly instructed, very young children may have correct views of their state as sinners and of the way of salvation through Christ."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 400.

Counsel for Children

11. What two great principles are always found in good and noble children? Eph. 6:1-3; Ex. 20:12.

SABBATH-SCHOOL LESSONS IN BRAILLE

The senior Sabbath-school lessons, slightly condensed, are published each quarter in Braille, and they are supplied free to the blind upon request. Address: The Christian Record Benevolent Association, Box 66, Lincoln 6, Nebraska.

12. Where should children manifest their best behavior? 1 Tim. 5:4.

13. What gracious and tender invitation of Jesus should children heed? Matt. 19:14.

The Influence of a Christian Home

14. What is God's ideal for young and old in maintaining a happy home? Titus 2:2-9; *Eph. 4:31, 32.*

15. What worthy example did Abraham set us in this regard? Gen. 18:19.

NOTE.—"God called Abraham to be a teacher of His word, He chose him to be the father of a great nation, because He saw that Abraham would instruct his children and his household in the principles of God's law. And that which gave power to Abraham's teaching was the influence of his own life. His great household consisted of more than a thousand souls, many of them heads of families, and not a few but newly converted from heathenism. Such a household required a firm hand at the helm. No weak, vacillating methods would suffice. Of Abraham God said, 'I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him.' Gen. 18:19. Yet his authority was exercised with such wisdom and tenderness that hearts were won."—*Education,* page 187.

Conclusions and Convictions

1. To a large extent we are what our homes have made us.
2. A home, to be a Christian home, must have Christ abiding there. Jesus makes the difference.
3. "Pleasant voices, gentle manners, and sincere affection that finds expression in all the actions, together with industry, neatness, and economy, make even a hovel the happiest of homes. The Creator regards such a home with approbation."—*The Adventist Home,* page 422.
4. "In His wisdom the Lord has decreed that the family shall be the greatest of all educational agencies."—*Counsels to Parents and Teachers,* page 107.

Lesson 10, for March 6, 1954

The Christian's Friends and Recreation

MEMORY VERSE: "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Prov. 18:24.

STUDY HELP: "The Adventist Home," pages 403-430.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: Survey the lesson, following the outline.
2. Key Thought; Ques. 1-4.
3. Ques. 5-7.
4. Ques. 8-10.
5. Read suggested lesson help.
6. Ques. 11, 12; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. We Must and Will Have Friends

1. Principles in Christian friendships.
2. The influence of friends.
3. The secret of having friends.
4. Be not yoked with unbelievers.

II. True Love the Basis of Friendship

1. The foundation of true friendships.
2. The sign of a true friend.
3. The meaning of love.
4. How to choose a life companion.

III. The Social Life of Jesus

1. Jesus the wedding guest.
2. Jesus the dinner guest.
3. Jesus in the home of His friends.

IV. Christian Recreation

1. Come apart and rest.
2. Instruction to youth on recreation.

Key Thought:

"It is natural to seek companionship. Everyone will find companions or make them. And just in proportion to the strength of the friendship, will be the amount of influence which friends will exert over one another for good or for evil. All will have associates, and will influence and be influenced in their turn.

"The link is a mysterious one which binds human hearts together, so that the feelings, tastes, and principles of two individuals are closely blended. One catches the spirit, and copies the ways and acts, of the other. As wax retains the figure of the seal, so the mind retains the impression produced by intercourse and association. The influence may be unconscious, yet it is no less powerful."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 587.

THE LESSON

We Must and Will Have Friends

1. What basic principle should guide the Christian in the forming of his friendships? James 4:4; *Prov. 22:24; Rom. 14:7.*

NOTE.—"All will have associates and will influence and be influenced in their turn. . . . The company they keep, the principles they adopt, the habits they form, will decide the question of their usefulness here and of their future destiny."—*The Adventist Home,* page 455.

2. What are some of the results of association? Prov. 13:20; *1 Cor. 15:33.*

NOTE.—"It is inevitable that the youth will have associates, and they will necessarily feel their influence. There are mysterious links that bind souls together so that the heart of one answers to the heart of another. One catches the ideas, the sentiments, the spirit, of another. This association may be a blessing or a curse. . . . It has been truly said, 'Show me your company, and I will show you your character.' "—*The Adventist Home,* pages 455, 456.

3. What is the secret of having friends? Prov. 18:24.

NOTES.—Remember, "the best friend to have is Jesus." "Make Christ first and last and best in everything."

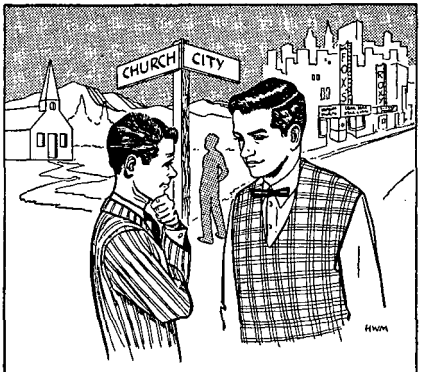
"As the social and generous impulses are repressed, they wither, and the heart becomes desolate and cold. . . . Love cannot long exist without expression. Let not the heart of one connected with you starve for the want of kindness and sympathy."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 360.

4. What care should be exercised in the selection of lasting friendships? 2 Cor. 6:14; *Amos 3:3.*

NOTE.—"We are not to associate with the ungodly and partake of their spirit, for they will lead the heart away from God to the worship of false gods."—*The Adventist Home,* page 459.

True Love the Basis of Friendship

5. What was the foundation of David and Jonathan's friendship? 1 Sam. 18:1, 4.



WHICH WAY DO YOUR FRIENDS WANT YOU TO GO?

NOTE.—"Love will not be a mere exchange of soft and flattering words. . . . Heart will be bound to heart in the golden bonds of a love that is enduring."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 362.

6. What is the sign of a true friend? Prov. 17:17; *Ruth 1:16-18.*

NOTE.—"Those who are themselves 'compassed with infirmity' should be able to 'have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way.' Heb. 5:2. Having been in peril themselves, they are acquainted with the dangers and difficulties of the way, and for this reason are called to reach out for others in like peril. There are souls perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the Unseen; but a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ's stead, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 297.

7. What is the real meaning of love? 1 Cor. 13:4-8.

NOTE.—Here are some questions to ask in choosing a lifelong friend:

"Is your fiancé (or fiancée) usually happy, cheerful, and optimistic? . . .

"Can he discuss controversial questions without indulging in heated arguments?

"Are his emotions stable?

"Is he conservative in matters of morals, politics, and finance?

"Does he co-operate easily with others and work smoothly with his superiors?

"Is he benevolent toward his inferiors and does he delight in assisting the underprivileged?

"Is he able to receive advice graciously?

"Does he give careful attention to the details of his daily work?

"Is he willing to take responsibility, and has he succeeded thus far in his business ventures and enterprises?

"Is he fond of children?

"Is he religious and is his religion the same as yours?

"Do you love him in spite of his faults? . . .

"Do you take pride in your fiancé?"—Harold Shryock, M.D., *Happiness for Husbands and Wives,* page 28.

The Social Life of Jesus Our Example

8. Under what circumstances was the first miracle performed by Christ? John 2:1-11.

NOTE.—"In the festal hall where friends and kindred rejoice together, Christ began His public ministry."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 356.

9. What other instances are recorded of the social life of Jesus? Luke 19:1-10; *Matt. 9:9-13.*

NOTE.—"The entertainment was given in honor of Jesus, and He did not hesitate to

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7.

accept the courtesy. . . . Jesus sat as an honored guest at the table of the publicans, by His sympathy and social kindliness showing that He recognized the dignity of humanity; and men longed to become worthy of His confidence."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 274.

10. In whose home was Jesus a frequent guest? Luke 10:38-42; *John 11:1-6, 21, 34-36.*

NOTE.—"What a busy life He led! Day by day He might have been seen entering the humble abodes of want and sorrow, speaking hope to the downcast, and peace to the distressed. Gracious, tenderhearted, pitiful, He went about lifting up the bowed-down and comforting the sorrowful. Wherever He went, He carried blessing.

"While He ministered to the poor, Jesus studied also to find ways of reaching the rich. He sought the acquaintance of the wealthy and cultured Pharisee, the Jewish nobleman, and the Roman ruler. He accepted their invitations, attended their feasts, made Himself familiar with their interests and occupations, that He might gain access to their hearts, and reveal to them the imperishable riches."—*The Ministry of Healing*, pages 24, 25.

Christian Recreation

11. How did Christ teach His disciples that they could not and should not work all the time? Mark 6:31.

NOTE.—"Christ is full of tenderness and compassion for all in His service. He would show His disciples that God does not require sacrifice, but mercy. . . .

"The rest which Christ and His disciples took was not self-indulgent rest. The time they spent in retirement was not devoted to pleasure making. . . . It is not wise to be always under the strain of work and excitement, even in ministering to man's spiritual needs; for in this way personal piety is neglected, and the powers of mind and soul and body are overtaxed."—*The Desire of Ages*, pages 360-362.

12. In all our enjoyment, what should we remember? Eccl. 11:9, 10; 12:1.

NOTES.—"It is the privilege and duty of Christians to seek to refresh their spirits and invigorate their bodies by innocent recreation."—*The Adventist Home*, page 493.

"Our recreations should not be scenes of senseless mirth, taking the form of the nonsensical. We can conduct them in such a manner as will benefit and elevate those with whom we associate, and better qualify us and them to more successfully attend to the duties devolving upon us as Christians." —*Ibid.*

"Recreation is needful to those who are engaged in physical labor and is still more essential for those whose labor is principally mental."—*Ibid.*, p. 494.

Conclusions and Convictions

1. It is right and proper for Christians to have friends, but let them be *Christian friends.*
2. It is entirely proper for Christians to have recreation, but let it be *Christian recreation.*
3. Jesus was social to save—so may we be.
4. There are certain kinds of people with whom Christians cannot associate. There are certain types of recreation in which the Christian cannot engage.
5. What would Jesus do? Christians are safe in doing as Jesus would do.

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The Christian and His Church

MEMORY VERSE: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief Cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph. 2:19-22.

STUDY HELP: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 309-345 (new ed., pp. 315-349).

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: Survey the lesson, following the outline.
2. Key Thought; Ques. 1-4.
3. Ques. 5, 6; read portion of suggested study help.
4. Ques. 7-9.
5. Ques. 10-12.
6. Read remainder of study help; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Meaning of "The Church"

1. The church in the Old Testament.
2. The church in the New Testament.
3. Called out of the world.
4. Regard for the church of God.

II. Joining the Church

1. Becoming a member of God's church.
2. The process of regeneration.

III. The Work of the Church

1. God's purpose for His church in Old Testament times.
2. The chief service of the church.
3. "Ye are My witnesses."

IV. The Support of the Church

1. God's basic plan.
2. Example of liberality.
3. Cheerful givers.

Key Thought:

"During ages of spiritual darkness, the church of God has been as a city set on a hill. From age to age, through successive generations, the pure doctrines of heaven have been unfolding within its borders. Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 12.

THE LESSON

The Meaning of "The Church"

1. What was the assembly of God's people called in Old Testament times? Deut. 5:22; Acts 7:38; Ezra 10:12.

NOTE.—Someone has said, "The church is never a place, but always a people; never a fold, but always a flock; never a sacred building, but always a believing assembly. The church is you who pray, not where you pray." The church is an assembly or society or community of called-out-ones.

2. How were these assemblies designated in the New Testament? Acts 11:26; 14:27; *1 Cor. 14:23; 1 Thess. 1:1; 1 Peter 2:9, 10.*

3. What experience must come to all who become members of "the church"? 2 Cor. 6:16-18; *Rev. 18:4; Rom. 1:6, 7.*

4. With what regard should the house of the Lord and the congregation of His people be held? Lev. 19:30; Matt. 18:17; *1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Cor. 12:25-27.*

NOTE.—"Christ designs that heaven's order, heaven's plan of government, heaven's divine harmony, shall be represented in His church on earth. Thus in His people He is glorified. Through them the Sun of Righteousness will shine in undimmed luster to the world."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 680.

Joining the Church

5. How does a man become a member of God's church? Acts 2:41, 47; 16:31-34.

NOTE.—The steps by which one becomes a Christian and a full member of the church are outlined in the Bible as follows:

a. Come to Christ. Matt. 11:28.

b. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 16:31-34.

c. Repent—be converted. Acts 3:19.

d. Be baptized. Acts 2:38.

e. Old man must be crucified. Rom. 6:6.

f. Become dead to sin, alive unto God. Rom. 6:11.

g. Be free from sin and become servant of righteousness. Rom. 6:17, 18.

h. This brings holiness and everlasting life. Rom. 6:22, 23.

i. This makes him a member of "the household of God." Eph. 2:19.

6. How does Paul describe the process of regeneration? Rom. 12:1, 2.

NOTE.—Rom. 12:1, 2. The Christian's consecration.

The appeal—"I beseech you."

The act—To "present your bodies."

The sacrifice—"A living sacrifice, holy, acceptable."

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH MEAN TO YOU AS MEASURED BY YOUR GIFTS?

The reason—"Your reasonable service."

The method—"Be not conformed to this world."

"Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

The result—"That ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

The Work of the Church

7. What was God's purpose for His church in Old Testament times? Gen. 12:1-3. *Compare Ezek. 34:26, 29-31.*

NOTE.—"God's church is the court of holy life, filled with varied gifts, and endowed with the Holy Spirit. The members are to find their happiness in the happiness of those whom they help and bless.

"Wonderful is the work which the Lord designs to accomplish through His church, that His name may be glorified. . . . From the beginning God has wrought through His people to bring blessing to the world."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 12, 13.

8. What is the chief service the church must render to the world? Matt. 28:19, 20; *Isa. 56:7.*

NOTE.—"The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to 'the principalities and powers in heavenly places,' the final and full display of the love of God."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 9.

9. What are we as members of God's church to be and do? Isa. 43:10-12; *42:6, 7; 49:8, 9.*

NOTE.—"The church is God's fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. . . . From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. . . . God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 11.

The Support of the Church

10. What basic plan does God have, to provide for His house? Mal. 3:10-12.

NOTE.—"As to the amount required, God has specified one tenth of the increase. This is left to the conscience and benevolence of men, whose judgment in this tithing system should have free play. And while it is left free to the conscience, a plan has been laid out definite enough for all. No compulsion is required."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 394.

11. What example of liberality do we find in the early apostolic church? Acts 4:32-35; *2 Cor. 8:1-5, 7.*

NOTE.—"This liberality on the part of the believers was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit. . . . One common interest controlled them,—the success of the mission entrusted to them; and covetousness had no place in their lives. Their love for their brethren and the cause they had espoused, was greater than their love of money and possessions. Their works testified that they accounted the souls of men of higher value than earthly wealth. . . . Money, time, influence,—all the gifts they have received from God's hand, they will value only as a means of advancing the work of the gospel."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 70, 71.

12. In what spirit should our gifts to God be made? 2 Cor. 9:5-7; *Luke 6:38.*

NOTE.—"Unselfish liberality threw the early church into a transport of joy; for the believers knew that their efforts were helping to send the gospel message to those in darkness. Their benevolence testified that they had not received the grace of God in vain. What could produce such liberality but the sanctification of the Spirit? In the eyes of believers and unbelievers it was a miracle of grace.

"Spiritual prosperity is closely bound up with Christian liberality. The followers of Christ should rejoice in the privilege of revealing in their lives the beneficence of their Redeemer. As they give to the Lord, they have the assurance that their treasure is going before them to the heavenly courts."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 344.

Conclusions and Convictions

1. It is a great privilege to be a Christian and a part of the Christian church.
2. This privilege also carries with it certain very definite responsibilities and duties.
3. The real Christian never thinks of how much he can *get* out of his church, but rather how much he can *give* to his church.
4. "Not until God ceases to bless His children will they cease to be under bonds to return to Him the portion that He claims."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 339.
5. "God has made the proclamation of the gospel dependent upon the labors and the gifts of His people. Voluntary offerings and

the tithe constitute the revenue of the Lord's work. Of the means entrusted to man, God claims a certain portion,—the tenth. He leaves all free to say whether or not they will give more than this. . . . Should means flow into the treasury in accordance with this divinely appointed plan,—a tenth of all the increase, and liberal offerings,—there would be an abundance for the advancement of the Lord's work."—*Ibid.*, pp. 74, 75.

Lesson 12, for March 20, 1954

The Christian and His Community

MEMORY VERSE: "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was anhungered, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me." Matt. 25:34-36.

STUDY HELP: "Welfare Ministry," pages 29-42.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: Survey the lesson, following the outline.
2. Key Thought; Ques. 1-3.
3. Ques. 4-7.
4. Ques. 8-11.
5. Ques. 12-14.
6. Read selections from suggested study help; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Christian's Influence in His Community

1. God's children to be lights.
2. Living to the glory of God.
3. Abounding in good works.

II. Alleviating Poverty and Suffering

1. Attitude toward the poor.
2. God's plan for alleviating poverty and suffering.
3. More blessed to give.
4. A curse follows failure to give.

III. The Christian's Responsibility for Others

1. Am I my brother's keeper?
2. Ye have done it unto Me.
3. Christ's mission.
4. Influence of Christian welfare work.

IV. Be Ye Kind

1. Christ's method.
2. Who is my neighbor?
3. Promise to those who show kindness.

Key Thought:

"Sin has extinguished the love that God placed in man's heart. The work of the church is to rekindle this love. The church is to co-operate with God by uprooting selfishness from the human heart, placing in its stead the benevolence that was in man's heart in his original state of perfection."—*Welfare Ministry*, page 14.

THE LESSON

The Christian's Influence in His Community

1. What are God's children to be to the community? Matt. 5:14-16; *Phil. 2:15.*

NOTE.—"All who are consecrated to God will be channels of light. God makes them His agents to communicate to others the riches of His grace. His promise is, 'I will make them and the places round about My hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower

to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.' Ezek. 34:26.

"Philip said to Nathanael, 'Come and see.' He did not ask him to accept another's testimony, but to behold Christ for himself. Now that Jesus has ascended to heaven, His disciples are His representatives among men, and one of the most effective ways of winning souls to Him is in exemplifying His character in our daily life. Our influence upon others depends not so much upon what we say as upon what we are."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 141, 142.

2. What will be the Christian's influence? 1 Peter 2:9, 12.

3. In what will the Christian be fruitful? Col. 1:10; *2 Cor. 9:8.*

NOTE.—"As soon as she had found the Saviour the Samaritan woman brought others to Him. She proved herself a more effective missionary than His own disciples. The disciples saw nothing in Samaria to indicate that it was an encouraging field. Their thoughts were fixed upon a great work to be done in the future. They did not see that right around them was a harvest to be gathered. But through the woman whom they despised, a whole cityful were brought to hear the Saviour. She carried the light at once to her countrymen.

"This woman represents the working of a practical faith in Christ. Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 195.

Alleviating Poverty and Suffering

4. What instruction concerning the poor has the Lord given? Deut. 15:11; *John 12:8.*

NOTE.—"There are many who complain of God because the world is so full of want and suffering, but God never meant that this misery should exist. He never meant that one man should have an abundance of the luxuries of life while the children of others cry for bread. The Lord is a God of benevolence."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 273.

5. How does God further instruct His children in the alleviation of poverty and suffering? Isa. 58:7; *Matt. 25:35, 36.*

NOTE.—"The Lord has made ample provision for all. He has given to thousands of men large supplies with which to alleviate the want of their fellows; but those whom God has made stewards have not stood the test, for they have failed to relieve the suffering and the needy. . . . If men would do their duty as faithful stewards of their Lord's goods, there would be no cry for bread, none suffering in destitution, none naked and in want."—*Welfare Ministry,* page 16.

6. What is the reward of true benevolence? Acts 20:35; *Matt. 5:7.*

NOTE.—"While the world needs sympathy, while it needs the prayers and assistance of God's people, while it needs to see Christ in the lives of His followers, the people of God are equally in need of opportunities that draw out their sympathies, give efficiency to their prayers, and develop in them a character like that of the divine pattern."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 261.

7. What is said of those who fail to use their means in harmony with God's plan? James 5:1-6.

NOTE.—"It is because the rich neglect to do the work for the poor that God designed they should do, that they grow more proud, more self-sufficient, more self-indulgent, and hardhearted."—*Welfare Ministry,* page 19.

The Christian's Responsibility for Others

8. What lessons should we learn from the experience of Cain? Gen. 4:9, 10; *1 John 3:11, 12.*

NOTE.—"God designs that the sick, the unfortunate, those possessed of evil spirits, shall hear His voice through us. Through His human agents He desires to be a comforter, such as the world has never before seen."—*Welfare Ministry,* page 22.

9. In what way does Christ identify Himself with the poor and needy? Matt. 25:40. *Compare Prov. 19:17.*

NOTE.—"Christ's servants are His representatives, the channels for His working. He desires through them to exercise His healing power."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 823, 824.

10. How did Christ state His mission? Luke 4:18, 19; *Mark 10:45.*

NOTE.—"The world is in need of workers who will labor as Christ did for the suffering and the sinful. There is indeed a multitude to be reached. The world is full of sickness, suffering, distress, and sin. It is full of those who need to be ministered unto—the weak, the helpless, the ignorant, the degraded."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 254.

11. What are the far-reaching influences of Christian welfare work? 2 Cor. 9:11-14.

NOTE.—Phillips's translation reads thus: "Your giving does not end in meeting the wants of your fellow Christians. It also results in an ever-flowing tide of thanksgiving to God. Moreover, your very giving proves the reality of your faith, and that means that men thank God that you practice the gospel."

Let the church beware lest it lose completely its most effective key to open the hearts of non-Christians to the gospel.

"Be Ye Kind"

12. What practical demonstration of Christian service is revealed in the ministry of Christ? Matt. 4:23-25; *Mark 12:37, last part.*

NOTE.—"Christ's way of presenting truth cannot be improved upon. The Saviour gave the disciples practical lessons, teaching them how to work in such a way as to make souls glad in the truth. He sympathized with the weary, the heavy-laden, the oppressed. He fed the hungry and healed the sick. Constantly He went about doing good. By the good He accomplished, by His loving words and kindly deeds, He interpreted the gospel to men."—*Welfare Ministry,* page 56.

13. To whom should we be kind? Luke 10:29-37; *6:27-36.*

NOTE.—"He showed that our neighbor

does not mean merely one of the church or faith to which we belong. It has no reference to race, color, or class distinction. Our neighbor is every person who needs our help."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 376 (new ed., pp. 381, 382).

14. What promises are given to those who are actuated by a charitable spirit? Isa. 58:7-11.

Conclusions and Convictions

1. The Christian is placed in his community as a "light."

2. The Christian lives in his community to represent Christ to his neighbors.

3. The reward for kindness in service will be the blessing of God and an inheritance in God's everlasting kingdom. (Matt. 25:34-36.)

Lesson 13, for March 27, 1954

The Christian and His Eternal Reward

MEMORY VERSE: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Cor. 2:9.

STUDY HELPS: "Testimonies," vol. 1, pp. 127-131; "Prophets and Kings," pages 729-733.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: Survey the lesson, following the outline.
2. Key Thought; Ques. 1-3.
3. Ques. 4-6.
4. Ques. 7-10.
5. Read the suggested study helps.
6. Ques. 11-13; Conclusions and Convictions.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Promised Possession

1. The promise to Abraham.
2. Restoration of first dominion.
3. Promise to disciples.
4. Our inheritance assured.
5. Our attitude.

II. That Better Country

1. The earth created not in vain.
2. The constant hope of God's people.
3. Isaiah's description of the new earth.
4. John's description of the Holy City.
5. Sorrow and suffering no more.

III. We Must Be There

1. Our limited comprehension.
2. Our preparation.
3. Christ's welcome to the saved.

Key Thought:

"The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been,—just what it was in Paradise before the fall of our first parents,—perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled. The way would be open for sin, with all its train of woe and misery, to be immortalized."—*Steps to Christ,* page 67.

THE LESSON

The Promised Possession

1. What promise of eternal inheritance was made to Abraham? Gen. 13:14, 15; Gal. 3:16.

NOTE.—"The heritage that God has promised to His people is not in this world. Abraham had no possession in the earth, 'no, not so much as to set his foot on.' . . . His sole possession in the Land of Promise was that

rock-hewn tomb in the cave of Machpelah.

"But the word of God had not failed; neither did it meet its final accomplishment in the occupation of Canaan by the Jewish people. 'To Abraham and his seed were the promises made.' Abraham himself was to share the inheritance. The fulfillment of God's promise may seem to be long delayed. . . . The gift to Abraham and his seed included not merely the land of Canaan, but the whole earth."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 169, 170.

2. To whom was the first dominion to be restored? Micah 4:8.

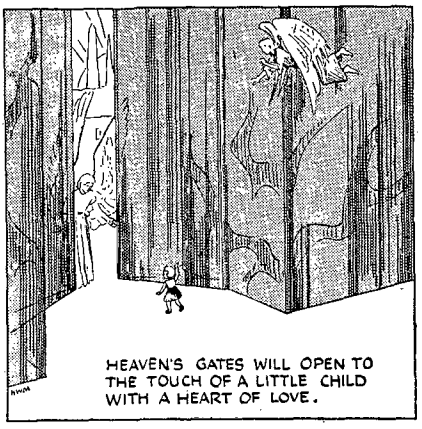
NOTE.—"When man became Satan's captive, the dominion which he held, passed to his conqueror. Thus Satan became 'the god of this world.' He had usurped that dominion over the earth which had been originally given to Adam. But Christ, by His sacrifice paying the penalty of sin, would not only redeem man, but recover the dominion which he had forfeited. All that was lost by the first Adam will be restored by the second."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 67.

3. What comforting promise did Jesus make to His disciples? John 14:1-3.

NOTE.—"Long have we waited for our Saviour's return. But nonetheless sure is the promise. Soon we shall be in our promised home. There Jesus will lead us beside the living stream flowing from the throne of God and will explain to us the dark providences through which on this earth He brought us in order to perfect our characters. There we shall behold with undimmed vision the beauties of Eden restored."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 254.

4. Through whom is our inheritance assured? Eph. 1:13, 14.

5. In view of Christ's promise, what should be our attitude? 2 Peter 3:13; Heb. 10:23, 35.



That Better Country

6. In what words are we assured that God's original purpose for this earth will not be in vain? Isa. 45:18.

NOTE.—"God created the earth to be the abode of holy, happy beings. The Lord 'formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited.' That purpose will be fulfilled, when, renewed by the power of God, and freed from sin and sorrow, it shall become the eternal abode of the redeemed." —*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 67.

7. What has been the buoyant hope of God's people down through the ages? Heb. 11:10, 13-16.

NOTE.—" 'O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion.' The time has come, to which holy men have looked with longing since the flaming sword barred

the first pair from Eden,—the time for 'the redemption of the purchased possession.' The earth originally given to man as his kingdom, betrayed by him into the hands of Satan, and so long held by the mighty foe, has been brought back by the great plan of redemption. All that was lost by sin has been restored. . . . God's original purpose in the creation of the earth is fulfilled as it is made the eternal abode of the redeemed. 'The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 674.

8. Describe some of the glories of the new earth. Isa. 65:17, 21, 22, 25; *11:6-9; 35:1, 2, 7-9.*

NOTE.—"A fear of making the future inheritance seem too material has led many to spiritualize away the very truths which lead us to look upon it as our home. Christ assured His disciples that He went to prepare mansions for them in the Father's house. Those who accept the teachings of God's word will not be wholly ignorant concerning the heavenly abode."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 674, 675.

9. In what sublime language does John describe the City of God? Rev. 21:1-3, 10-27.

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.

10. What unhappy experiences will never mar the joys of the new earth? Isa. 33:24; Rev. 21:4; *7:17.*

NOTE.—"Pain cannot exist in the atmosphere of heaven. There will be no more tears, no funeral trains, no badges of mourning. 'There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, . . . for the former things are passed away.' 'The inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.'

"There is the New Jerusalem, the metropolis of the glorified new earth, 'a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 676.

We Must Be There

11. How limited is the human mind in comprehending all that God has prepared for those who love Him? 1 Cor. 2:9.

NOTE.—"As your senses delight in the attractive loveliness of the earth, think of the world that is to come, that shall never know the blight of sin and death; where the face of nature will no more wear the shadow of the curse. Let your imagination picture the home of the saved, and remember that it will be more glorious than your brightest imagination can portray. In the varied gifts of God in nature we see but the faintest gleaming of His glory. It is written, 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.' "—*Steps to Christ,* page 91.

12. How are we admonished to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ's kingdom? 2 Peter 3:14.

13. With what words will Jesus welcome those who are found worthy to enter the home He has prepared? Matt. 25:34.

NOTE.—"Better than all the friendship of the world is the friendship of Christ's redeemed. Better than a title to the noblest palace on earth is a title to the mansions our Lord has gone to prepare. And better than all the words of earthly praise, will be the Saviour's words to His faithful servants, 'Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.' "—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 374 (new ed., p. 379).

Conclusions and Convictions

1. The road we choose to follow in this life will determine our future destiny.
2. Like Abraham of old, by faith we seek that "better country" and that city "whose builder and maker is God."
3. If we are to enter heaven at last, we must bring all of heaven into this life that we can.
4. "If you are to be saints in heaven, you must first be saints upon the earth."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 145.
5. The Christian's problem is not so much a matter of how to get a man into heaven by and by, as it is how to get heaven into a man here and now.
6. "Heaven's golden gate opens not to the self-exalted. . . . But the everlasting portals will open wide to the trembling touch of a little child."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 404 (new ed., p. 413).

SPECIAL NOTICE

The *Teacher's Edition* of the Senior *Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly* is now available. Because of the many requests received from Sabbath-school members everywhere, it is once more making its appearance. The first-quarter issue of 1954 is the first edition printed.

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THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

March 27, 1954—South American Division

The South American Division is the field to benefit from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow this quarter. The South American Division is one of our largest divisions, and within its territory is the largest European population south of the equator. One of their urgent needs is to train young people to carry on the work in the different countries of this great field. Many schools have been established, and they are full to overflowing with students. But facilities and equipment in many of these schools are altogether inadequate. Therefore the overflow from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help to provide a boys' dormitory at each of our academies in the South Brazil Union.

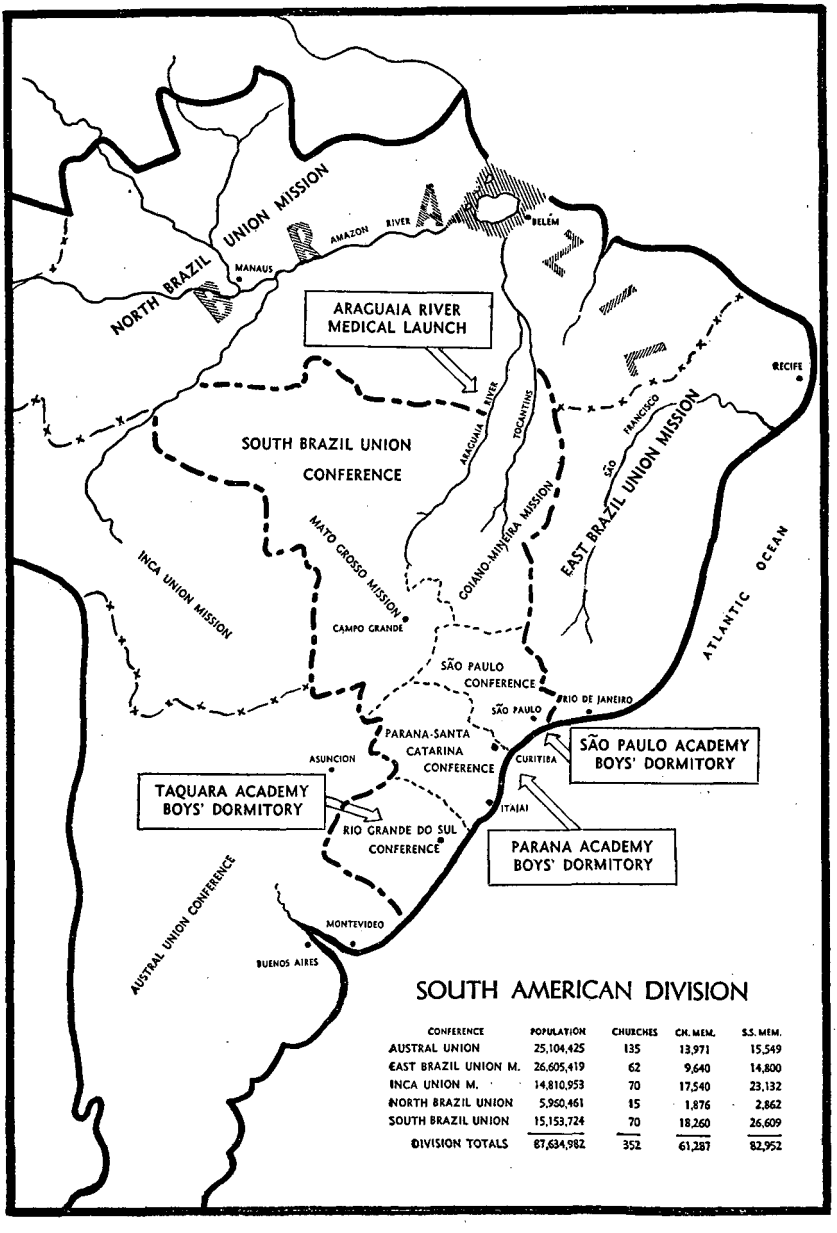
The medical missionary work done on the rivers of South America is one of the most effective pieces of missionary work we know of. This quarter we will help to add another launch to our medical-evangelistic fleet—this one to operate on the Araguaia River. South America is looking to our Sabbath schools around the world for this much-needed help on March 27.

LESSONS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1954

Sabbath-school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the second quarter will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. They will thus be able to follow the daily study of the lesson.

The general topic of the lesson is "Love." The first lesson is entitled "The Way of Love." The memory verse is 1 John 4:7, 8. The study helps are: *The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 70-76; *Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 260-267, 327, 328; *Love,* by Taylor G. Bunch, pages 9-13. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. Ex. 20:17; Rom. 7:7.
Ques. 2. Eph. 5:3-5.
Ques. 3. 1 Cor. 12:31.
Ques. 4. 1 Cor. 14:1.
Ques. 5. Eph. 4:8, 11-15.
Ques. 6. 1 Cor. 1:6-8; Rev. 12:17.
Ques. 7. 1 Cor. 12:1, 4, 7-12, 14-25.
Ques. 8. 1 Cor. 12:31; 13.
Ques. 9. Gal. 5:22, 23; Rom. 5:5, last part.
Ques. 10. 1 John 4:7, 8, 16.
Ques. 11. Matt. 24:9-12.
Ques. 12. 2 Tim. 3:1-5.
Ques. 13. Luke 21:25-27.
Ques. 14. 1 John 4:17, 18.



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NORTH BRAZIL UNION	5,950,461	15	1,876	2,862
SOUTH BRAZIL UNION	15,153,724	70	18,260	26,609
DIVISION TOTALS	87,634,982	352	61,287	82,952