SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

LAMBERT

CHRISTIAN IDEALS

SENIOR DIVISION No. 253 THIRD QUARTER 1958

H. L. Rudy

THE BLESSING OF DAILY STUDY

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

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

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

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

My Daily Lesson Study Pledge

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

Name .....

LESSON TITLES FOR THE QUARTER

1. God's Ideal for His Children
2. The Christian and the World
3. The Christian's Banner
4. The Christian Home
5. Christian Character
6. The Conscience
7. Christian Education
8. The Home and the School
9. Church Life and the Christian
10. Christian Social Relations
11. Sabbath Observance
12. The Whole Armor of God
13. Living Up to the Standard

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

CHRISTIAN IDEALS

Lesson 1, for July 5, 1958

God's Ideal for His Children

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

STUDY HELPS: "Prophets and Kings," pages 15-22; "Testimonies to Ministers," pages 15-23; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of June 19.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 11-14.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. God's Chosen People

1. God's portion. Deut. 32:9; 1 Kings 8:53.
2. A special, separate people. Deut. 7:6; Lev. 20:26.
3. His treasure. Ps. 135:4.
4. His purified people. Titus 2:14.

II. God's Ideal

5. Above the nations. Ex. 19:5; Deut. 7:6.
6. His "blessed" people. Mal. 3:12.
7. Holy habitation of God. Eph. 2:21, 22.

III. Attainment of God's Ideal

8. Through Christ's gift. Eph. 4:7, 12-14.
9. Born anew for good works. Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:5.
10. Developing fruit. Isa. 61:3.
11. Displaying fruit. Matt. 7:16, 17.
12. God's answer to Satan. Isa. 43:10; 49:6.
13. Under God's care. Isa. 59:19.
14. Ideal fully realized. Isa. 27:2, 3, 6; Eph. 5:27.

THE LESSON

Introduction

God's ideal for His people is clearly set forth in His word. Only as we acquaint ourselves with that ideal and measure up to it will it be possible to make the necessary progress toward reaching the standards set before us.

God's Chosen People

1. What claim does the Lord lay upon His people? Deut. 32:9; 1 Kings 8:53.

NOTE.—"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.

2. What kind of people did God intend His chosen ones to be? Deut. 7:6; Lev. 20:26.

NOTE.—"Israel was to be distinct from all other nations, not only in their form of worship, but in their ideals, objectives, social and recreational life, diet, and dress. God 'severed' His people from all others, not simply to make them different from all others, but that they might represent in their every habit of life His own perfection of character."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 1, p. 794.

3. In what manner did God express His special esteem for His people? Ps. 135:4.

NOTE.—"His peculiar treasure." The Hebrew word *segullah* signifies God's special jewels, personal property, that He keeps in store for Himself.

4. After one has accepted Christ as his Saviour, what work still remains for Christ to do in his life? Titus 2:14.

NOTE.—Christ died to purify as well as to pardon. He gave Himself to cleanse His church that, at His second coming, "He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph. 5:27.

Luther Burbank, the famous plant wizard, is reported to have said: "If I have made any worthy contribution to the world, it is the advancement and proof of the great principle in botany that a plant born a weed does not have to remain a weed, or a plant degenerated by the conditions of nature does not have to remain a degenerate."

Through Christ, degenerate man can be made "holy and without blemish."

God's Ideal

5. How does God regard His people in relation to the nations of earth? Ex. 19:5; Deut. 7:6.

NOTE.—"It was in order that the Israelites might be a blessing to the nations, and that God's name might be made known 'throughout all the earth,' that they were delivered from Egyptian bondage. If obedient to His requirements, they were to be placed far in advance of other peoples in wisdom and understanding; but this supremacy was to be reached and maintained only in order that through them the purpose of God for 'all nations of the earth' might be fulfilled."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 368.

6. How will the world regard the people of God when they live in harmony with divine instruction? Mal. 3:12.

NOTE.—"The purpose which God seeks to accomplish through His people today is the same that He desired to accomplish through Israel when He brought them forth out of Egypt. By beholding the goodness, the mercy, the justice, and the love of God revealed in the church, the world is to have a representation of His character. And when the law of God is thus exemplified in the life, even the world will recognize the superiority of those who love and fear and serve God above every other people on the earth."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 12.

7. In what special, spiritual terms does God express His ideal for His people? Eph. 2:21, 22.

Attainment of God's Ideal

8. Through whom is God's ideal for His children to be reached, and to what extent will His ministry unify the lives of God's people? Eph. 4:7, 12-14.

NOTE.—"God's ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. The living God has given in His holy law a transcript of His character. The greatest Teacher the world has ever known is Jesus Christ; and what is the standard He has given for all who believe in Him?—'Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.' —Matt. 5:48. As God is perfect in His high sphere of action, so may man be perfect in his human sphere."—*Counsels to Teachers,* page 365.

9. To what kind of life does the new birth lead the individual? Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:5.

NOTE.—"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,* page 172.

10. In the word of God what are those called who have experienced renewal of life through the gospel of Jesus? Isa. 61:3.

NOTE.—God compares the vitalized member of His house, the true Christian, to a fruitful tree.

"Trees of righteousness," or "oaks of righteousness." The oak, or terebinth, has a sturdy trunk and permanent foliage. It stands out in the dry, parched landscape.

11. By what unfailing evidence will it be revealed that God's children have attained to the ideal set for them? Matt. 7:16, 17.

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

12. How does God desire to answer Satan's charges against the principles of righteousness? Isa. 43:10; 49:6.

NOTE.—These principles are to be manifest in the individual Christian, in the family, in the church, and in every institution established for God's service. All are to be symbols of what can be done for the world. They are to be types of the saving power of the truths of the gospel. All are agencies in the fulfillment of God's great purpose for the human race."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 296, 297.

13. What special promise did God give those who truly witness for Him? Isa. 59:19.

NOTE.—"Satan will work with miraculous presentations to confirm men in the belief that he is what he claims to be,—the prince of this world, and that victory is his. He will turn his forces against those who are loyal to God, but though he may cause pain, distress, and human agony, he cannot defile the soul. He may cause affliction to the people of God as he did to Christ, but he cannot cause one of Christ's little ones to perish."—E. G. White Letter 43, 1895. Quoted in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 4, p. 1153.

14. How fully will God's ideal for His people be eventually realized? Isa. 27:2, 3, 6; Eph. 5:27.

NOTE.—"Let Israel hope in God. The Master of the vineyard is even now gathering from among men of all nations and peoples the precious fruits for which He has long been waiting. Soon He will come unto His own; and in that glad day, His eternal purpose for the house of Israel will finally be fulfilled."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 22.

Lesson 2, for July 12, 1958

The Christian and the World

MEMORY VERSE: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 458-461, 563-568; "The Desire of Ages," pages 272-280, 552-556; "The Mount of Blessing," pages 63-72 (1956 ed., pp. 38-44); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of June 26.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 10-12.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Christian and non-Christian Influences

1. Light and darkness. 2 Cor. 6:14, last part.
2. "Children of light" and "children of disobedience." Luke 16:8; John 12:36, first part; Eph. 5: 6-8, first part.
3. "Walk as children of light." Eph. 5:8 (last part), 9, 10.

II. The Christian in His Realm

4. Separate from the world. 2 Cor. 6:17; Eph. 5:11.
5. Avoid unwise relationships. 2 Cor. 6:14, first part.
6. Avoid conformity to the world. 1 John 2:15; Rom. 12:2.
7. Divine fellowship. 2 Cor. 6:15, 16.

III. Sent Into the World, but Not of the World

8. Not of the world. John 17:15, 16.
9. Christ's example. Matt. 9:10-13; Luke 7:34, last part.
10. Christ's association with Zacchaeus. Luke 19:5-10.
11. Sent, as Christ was sent. John 17:18.
12. Let light shine. Matt. 5:14-16.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The Christian's life in this world is restricted in certain respects. He must regulate his conduct in relation to various influences to which he is subjected.

Christian and non-Christian Influences

1. What two distinct influences are designated by the apostle Paul? 2 Cor. 6:14, last part.

NOTE.—Light and darkness indicate two distinct areas of influence that the Christian church should distinguish between.

"Light" as the symbol of truth, virtue, and holiness designates the realm of holiness and the Divine Presence. Matt. 4:16; 2 Cor. 4:4, 6.

"Darkness," the symbol of corruption and ignorance, indicates the region of sin, unbelief, and evil powers.

2. How are those described who belong to the respective realms of light and darkness? Luke 16:8; John 12:36, first part; Eph. 5:6-8, first part.

NOTE.—"Children of light" means the same as "sons of God," those who bear their Father's likeness. Matt. 5:9.

"Children of disobedience" means those who disobey the commandments of God, in contrast to "children of light," whose whole manner of life can bear the searchlight of truth.

3. How are "the children of light" distinguished from "the sons of disobedience"? Eph. 5:8 (last part), 9, 10.

NOTE.—"The important verb in this passage is *walk*. Christians, as *children of light*, are to *walk* in the light."—*The Interpreter's Bible*, Eph. 5:8.

"How shall we walk as the children of light? . . . 'I will tell you,' the apostle answers: 'the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth. Walk in these ways; let your life bear this fruit; and you will be true children of the light of God. So living, you will find out what it is that pleases God, and how joyful a thing it is to please Him (ver. 10). Your life will then be free from all complicity with the works of darkness. It will shine with a brightness clear and penetrating, that will put to shame the works of darkness and transform the darkness itself. It will speak with a voice that all must hear, bidding them awake from the sleep of sin to see in Christ their light of life.' "—G. G. Findlay, *The Epistle to the Ephesians*, page 323.

The Christian in His Realm

4. What should be the attitude of the Christian to the realm of darkness? 2 Cor. 6:17; Eph. 5:11.

NOTE.—"The children of the world are called the children of darkness. They are blinded by the god of this world, and are led by the spirit of the prince of darkness. They cannot enjoy heavenly things. The children of light have their affections set on things above. They leave behind them the things of this world. They fulfill the command: 'Come out from among them, and be ye separate.' Here is the conditional promise: 'I will receive you.' From the beginning, Christ has chosen His people out of the world and required them to be separate, having no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. If they love God and keep His commandments, they

WE ARE "CHILDREN OF LIGHT" WHEN WE "WALK" IN THE PATH LIGHTED BY DIVINE TRUTH.

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will be far from having the friendship, and loving the pleasures, of the world. There is no concord between Christ and Belial." —*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 279.

5. What principle should govern the Christian's relation to unbelievers? 2 Cor. 6:14, first part.

NOTE.—"Do not get into close and incongruous relations with unbelievers."—Goodspeed.

"Become not . . . yoked with one alien in spirit."—Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown.

The word used here is applied to the custom of yoking animals of different kinds together. Deut. 22:10. It is implied in the use of the word, that there is a dissimilarity between believers and unbelievers so great that it is as improper for them to unite as it is to yoke animals of different kinds and species.

This injunction has usually been supposed to refer to marriage, but there is no reason for confining it to marriage. It refers to any other intimate connection—intimate friendships, and to participation in amusements and employments with non-Christians.

6. How does Scripture further set forth this principle of Christian conduct? 1 John 2:15; Rom. 12:2.

NOTE.—"The followers of Christ are to separate themselves from sinners, choosing their society only when there is opportunity to do them good. We cannot be too decided in shunning the company of those who exert an influence to draw us away from God."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 459.

"The very word *conformed* suggests the gradual process by which our alertness to evil is disarmed; by imperceptible stages we drift into acquiescence in the things the world demands. Society as it organizes itself apart from God imposes its own standards, and gradually we come both to judge and to act as it dictates. There is no greater weakness in the Christianity of our day than the fact that so many church members accept without question the dominant intellectual and social atmosphere of the age. The corrosives of secularism have eaten away the imprint of grace."—*The Interpreter's Bible,* Romans 12:2.

"That which is eating out the vitals of God's people is the love of money and friendship with the world."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 657.

7. Why should Christians avoid unsuitable connections with the world? 2 Cor. 6:15, 16.

NOTE.—"Nothing can have a more subtle and positively dangerous influence upon the mind, and serve more effectually to banish serious impressions and the convictions of the Spirit of God, than to associate with those who are vain and careless, and whose conversation is upon the world and vanity. The more engaging these persons may be in other respects, the more dangerous is their influence as companions, because they throw around an irreligious life so many pleasing attractions."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, pp. 42, 43.

Sent Into the World, but not of the World

8. In Christ's intercessory prayer for His children, how did He consider them in relation to the world? John 17:15, 16.

9. How did Jesus exemplify this principle during His earthly ministry? Matt. 9:10-13; Luke 7:34, last part.

NOTE.—"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. Upon their thirsty hearts His words fell with blessed, life-giving power. New impulses were awakened, and the possibility of a new life opened to these outcasts of society."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 274.

10. On what other occasion did Jesus demonstrate that He came to the world to save sinners? Luke 19:5-10.

11. As the Lord's messengers, where does He send us to represent Him? John 17:18.

NOTE.—"Abstract meditation is not enough; busy action is not enough; both are essential to the formation of Christian character. Strength acquired in earnest, secret prayer prepares us to withstand the allurements of society. And yet we should not exclude ourselves from the world, for our Christian experience is to be the light of the world. The society of unbelievers will do us no harm if we mingle with them for the purpose of connecting them with God and are strong enough spiritually to withstand their influence."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 113.

12. As the "children of light," what is expected of us in this world of darkness? Matt. 5:14-16.

NOTE.—"As the rays of the sun penetrate to the remotest corners of the globe, so God designs that the light of the gospel shall extend to every soul upon the earth. If the church of Christ were fulfilling the purpose of our Lord, light would be shed upon all that sit in darkness and in the region and shadow of death. Instead of congregating together and shunning responsibility and cross-bearing, the members of the church would scatter into all lands, letting the light of Christ shine out from them, working as He did for the salvation of souls, and this 'gospel of the kingdom' would speedily be carried to all the world."—*The Mount of Blessing,* pages 68, 69.

Lesson 3, for July 19, 1958

The Christian's Banner

MEMORY VERSE: "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear Thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth." Ps. 60:4.

STUDY HELPS: "Prophets and Kings," pages 479-490, 506-513; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of July 3.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐	Thursday: Read further from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-8.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-12.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. God's Banner

1. A banner given. Ps. 60:4, first part.
2. "The Lord is my banner." Ex. 17:14, 15.
3. "The Lord thy God." Ex. 20:2, 5, 7, 10, 12.
4. Satan's counterfeit. Rom. 1:25.

II. *The Rallying Point for God's People*

5. The center of truth. Ps. 60:4, last part.
6. The exalted standard. Isa. 49:22.
7. Christ the truth. John 14:6.
8. Those with Christ, faithful. Rev. 17:14.

III. The Christian and God's Banner

9. Depart from iniquity. 2 Tim. 2:19; Matt. 7:21.
10. Loyalty, allegiance. Dan. 1:8; 3:16-18.
11. Honored of God. Dan. 1:17.
12. Faithfulness in both small and great things. Matt. 25:21; Luke 16:10.

THE LESSON

Introduction

God has set up a banner, or rallying point, for His people. Success or failure in this life largely depends upon the Christian's relation to the standard (banner) that has been displayed.

God's Banner

1. By what symbol does God describe the manifestations of His truth? Ps. 60:4, first part.

NOTE.—"Banner" or "a standard," "an ensign," "a signal," "a sign." A banner is for display, an ensign or symbol of victory. Banners or standards have played a revolutionary and decisive part in the shaping of human history. Because of God's faithfulness to His promises He gives His people a standard by which to lift up His truth and holiness.

The task of finding a true image whereby to express truth has been the supreme task of thought from the dawn of history until now.

2. On what occasion early in the history of God's people was God's banner especially displayed? Ex. 17: 14, 15. See margin.

NOTE.—"Jehovah-nissi. . . . The name of Moses' altar meant 'the Lord is my banner' and was intended to glorify God for victory over the Amalekites. 'The rod of God' (Ex. 17:9) had been held up by Moses during the battle as soldiers hold up their standards, and as soldiers follow the standard, Israel had followed the directions of God. Thus, the Lord became their standard."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 1, p. 587.

3. What banner is set up in the midst of the Ten Commandments? Ex. 20:2, 5, 7, 10, 12.

NOTE.—The expression "the Lord thy God" appears five times in the Decalogue. The importance of this title is especially emphasized in the first commandment: "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." Ex. 20:3.

4. How has Satan endeavored to set up a counterfeit banner? Rom. 1:25.

NOTE.—Satan set about to change the truth of God into a lie by setting up the creature as the object of worship, instead of the Creator. See 2 Kings 23:4, 5.

The Rallying Point for God's People

5. According to the psalmist, why was the Lord's banner to be displayed? Ps. 60:4, last part.

NOTE.—"Because of truth." Truth is profoundly personal in its character. It has no meaning apart from persons and their response to it. Truth as a banner is more than truth inscribed on a badge; one may be orthodox, wear the badge, yet be a pure pagan at heart and in life. To be a Christian indeed means to follow truth's banner where it leads: to submit to Christ's Lordship in our lives whatever the cost. It is a question of choosing the banner under which to serve: whether that of God or of the devil.

At the Diet of Worms Luther was asked to give a candid reply to the question: "Do you or do you not repudiate your books and the errors which they contain?" Luther replied, "My conscience is captive to the word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise, God help me. Amen."

6. Under what standard does the Holy Spirit gather God's people for the final victory? Isa. 49:22. Compare 59:19.

NOTE.—"In vision I saw two armies in terrible conflict. One army was led by banners bearing the world's insignia; the other was lead by the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel. Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 41.

"God's people are to keep His commandments, discarding all worldly policy. Having adopted right principles of action, they are to reverence these principles; for they are heaven-born. Obedience to God is of more value to you than gold or silver. Yoking up with Christ, learning His meekness and lowliness, cuts short many a conflict; for when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord lifts up a standard against him."—*Ibid.,* p. 95.

MARCHING UNDER CHRIST'S BANNER, EVERY CHRISTIAN WILL SHOW THE SAME EMBLEM IN HIS LIFE.

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7. In what relationship does Christ stand to the truth, or the banner of truth? John 14:6.

NOTE.—"By His humanity, Christ touched humanity; by His divinity, He lays hold upon the throne of God. As the Son of man, He gave us an example of obedience; as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey. . . . He declared Himself the I AM. . . . 'I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 24.

8. What description is given of those who stand with Christ in the final victory? Rev. 17:14.

NOTE.—They are *called* by Christ to be His followers, and to uphold the principles of His kingdom.

They are *chosen* by the Saviour, because they have proved their steadfastness in adhering to the truth and can therefore be relied upon in the warfare against the powers of evil.

"And *faithful.*" In times of temptations and persecution they have shown themselves faithful to the Captain of their salvation.

"In the midst of the time of trouble,—trouble such as has not been since there was a nation,—His chosen ones will stand unmoved. Satan with all the hosts of evil cannot destroy the weakest of God's saints. Angels that excel in strength will protect them, and in their behalf Jehovah will reveal Himself as a 'God of gods,' able to save to the uttermost those who have put their trust in Him."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 513.

The Christian and God's Banner

9. What manner of life will those manifest who belong to Christ? 2 Tim. 2:19; Matt. 7:21.

NOTE.—"Let everyone who names the name of the Lord give up evil."—*The Bible: A New Translation,* by James Moffatt. Copyright 1922, 1935, and 1950 by Harper & Brothers. Used by permission.

"Everywhere are seen wrecks of humanity, neglected family altars, broken-up families. There is a strange abandonment of principle, a lowering of the standard of morality; the sins are fast increasing which caused the judgments of God to be poured upon the earth in the Flood and in the destruction of Sodom by fire. We are nearing the end. God has borne long with the perversity of mankind, but their punishment is no less certain. Let those who profess to be the light of the world depart from all iniquity."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 601.

10. What special characteristics were seen in the lives of Daniel and his three companions as they witnessed for God in the courts of Babylon? Dan. 1:8; 3:16-18.

NOTE.—"Among the children of Israel who were carried captive to Babylon at the beginning of the seventy years' captivity were Christian patriots, men who were as true as steel to principle, who would not be corrupted by selfishness, but who would honor God at the loss of all things."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 479.

"Among those who maintained their allegiance to God were Daniel and his three companions,—illustrious examples of what men may become who unite with the God of wisdom and power."—*Ibid.,* p. 480.

11. What was the result of faithfulness to God as manifested by Daniel and his companions? Dan. 1:17.

NOTE.—"The Lord regarded with approval the firmness and self-denial of the Hebrew youth, and their purity of motive; and His blessing attended them. . . .

"In physical strength and beauty, in mental vigor and literary attainment, they stood unrivaled. The erect form, the firm, elastic step, the fair countenance, the undimmed senses, the untainted breath,—all were so many certificates of good habits, insignia of the nobility with which nature honors those who are obedient to her laws."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 484, 485.

12. What great quality fitted Daniel and his associates for positions of trust and honor? Matt. 25:21; Luke 16:10.

NOTE.—"God brought Daniel and his associates into connection with the great men of Babylon, that in the midst of a nation of idolaters they might represent His character."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 487.

Lesson 4, for July 26, 1958

The Christian Home

MEMORY VERSE: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Ps. 127:1.

STUDY HELPS: "The Adventist Home," pages 31-39, 105-113, 187-189, 292-325; "The Ministry of Healing," pages 349-394; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of July 10.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

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

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. A Moral Citadel

1. The Christian home likened to a temple or palace. Ps. 144:12.
2. The Lord: Architect and Builder. Ps. 127:1.
3. Place of influence. Gen. 18:18, 19.
4. Under God's shelter. Zech. 2:4, 5; Ps. 125:2.

II. Proving Ground of Ideals

5. The marriage vow. Mal. 2:14-16.
6. A fundamental question. Amos 3:3.
7. Conditions for happiness. Col. 3:18, 19.
8. Parents' precept and example. Deut. 6:7.

III. Blessing of Ideals in the Home

9. Promise to obedient children. Eph. 6:1-3.
10. Admonition to fathers. Eph. 6:4.
11. Cause of discouragement. Col. 3:21.
12. Love in discipline. Prov. 13:24.
13. Honored by children. Prov. 22:6.
14. Example: Joseph. Gen. 49:22-26.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The home is the Christian's moral citadel where ideals meet their severest test. It is the first line of defense against the foes from without as well as from within. If the home is not governed by Christian moral principles, the moral forces have suffered their greatest single defeat.

A Moral Citadel

1. To what does Scripture liken the Christian home? Ps. 144:12.

NOTE.—"The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. 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.

2. Upon whom is the Christian home to be founded? Ps. 127:1.

NOTE.—Doubtless the Spirit of the Lord chose a wording of this scripture which would always remind the reader that the building of a home is as important as the building of a house of worship. We are told that the words, "a son," "a daughter," and "a house" all come from the same Hebrew word which means "to build."

"Fathers and mothers who make God first in their households, who teach their children that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, glorify God before angels and before men by presenting to the world a well-ordered, well-disciplined family—a family that love and obey God instead of rebelling against Him. Christ is

not a stranger in their homes; His name is a household name, revered and glorified. Angels delight in a home where God reigns supreme and the children are taught to reverence religion, the Bible, and their Creator. Such families can claim the promise, 'Them that honor Me I will honor.' "—*The Adventist Home,* pages 27, 28.

3. What example of home training and influence is given us in Abraham's experience? Gen. 18:18, 19.

NOTE.—"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.

It has been well said: "Win the family for Christian living and the world is won."

4. What precious promises did God make to Jerusalem which we may claim for the home where God is worshiped? Zech. 2:4, 5; Ps. 125:2.

NOTE.—The walls of ancient Jerusalem were no shelter for the temple without the keeping power of God. Likewise, today, the artificial safeguards around the family—accepted social standards, the influence of the school and church, the power of the police, are no sure protection against the destructive forces of our times, without the abiding presence and blessing of the Lord "as a wall of fire round about."

Proving Ground of Ideals

5. What strong admonition does the Lord give concerning the sacredness of marriage? Mal. 2:14-16.

NOTE.—"It should henceforth be the life study of both husband and wife how to avoid everything that creates contention and to keep unbroken the marriage vows." —*The Adventist Home,* page 85.

6. What fundamental question of human relationships does the Lord propound? Amos 3:3.

NOTE.—A satisfactory marriage relationship is postulated on mutual understanding and agreement on basic issues. As husband and wife walk together in the Lord they will find their lives continuing to blend in greater unity.

"To gain a proper understanding of the marriage relation is the work of a lifetime. Those who marry enter a school from which they are never in this life to be graduated.

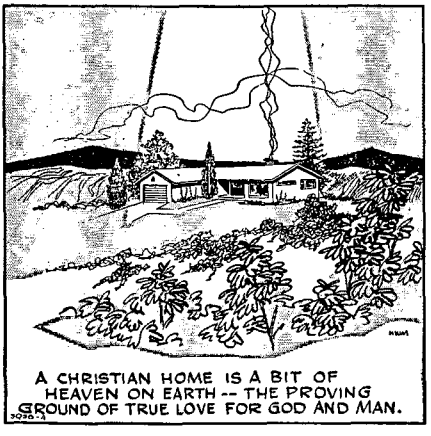
"However carefully and wisely marriage may have been entered into, few couples are completely united when the marriage ceremony is performed. The real union of the two in wedlock is the work of the after years."—*The Adventist Home,* page 105.

7. What basic relationship between husband and wife is essential for happiness? Col. 3:18, 19.

NOTE.—Love, companionship, and agreement are the basis for happiness in marriage.

"As life with its burden of perplexity and care meets the newly wedded pair, the romance with which imagination so often invests marriage disappears. Husband and wife learn each other's character as it was impossible to learn it in their previous association. This is a most critical period in their experience. The happiness and usefulness of their whole future life depend upon their taking a right course now. Often they discern in each other unsuspected weaknesses and defects; but the hearts that love has united will discern excellencies also heretofore unknown. Let all seek to discover the excellencies rather than the defects. Often it is our own attitude, the atmosphere that surrounds ourselves, which determines what will be revealed to us in another."—*The Adventist Home,* page 105.

8. Upon whom rests the responsibility of teaching Christian standards and ideals in the home? Deut. 6:7.


A CHRISTIAN HOME IS A BIT OF HEAVEN ON EARTH -- THE PROVING GROUND OF TRUE LOVE FOR GOD AND MAN.

NOTE.—"In His wisdom the Lord has decreed that the family shall be the greatest of all educational agencies. It is in the home that the education of the child is to begin. Here is his first school. Here, with his parents as instructors, he is to learn the lessons that are to guide him throughout life—lessons of respect, obedience, reverence, self-control."—*The Adventist Home,* page 182.

Blessing of Ideals in the Home

9. What special promise is made to children who honor and obey their parents "in the Lord"? Eph. 6:1-3. Compare Deut. 5:16.

NOTE.—"This is the first commandment with promise. It is binding upon childhood and youth, upon the middle-aged and the aged. There is no period in life when children are excused from honoring their parents. This solemn obligation is binding upon every son and daughter and is one of the conditions to their prolonging their lives upon the land which the Lord will give the faithful."—*The Adventist Home,* page 292.

"'Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord.' Children who dishonor and disobey their parents, and disregard their advice and instructions, can have no part in the earth made new. The purified new earth will be no place for the rebellious, the disobedient, the ungrateful son or daughter." —*Ibid.,* p. 295.

10. What strong admonition does God give to fathers? Eph. 6:4.

NOTE.—"The father should enforce in his family the sterner virtues—energy, integrity, honesty, patience, courage, diligence, and practical usefulness. And what he requires of his children he himself should practice, illustrating these virtues in his own manly bearing."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 391.

11. What disastrous results may come from the harshness of parents? Col. 3:21.

NOTE.—"But, fathers, do not discourage your children. Combine affection with authority, kindness and sympathy with firm restraint. Give some of your leisure hours to your children; become acquainted with them; associate with them in their work and in their sports, and win their confidence. Cultivate friendship with them, especially with your sons. In this way you will be a strong influence for good."—*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 391, 392.

"Never should parents cause their children pain by harshness or unreasonable exactions. Harshness drives souls into Satan's net. . . .

"Words that intimidate, creating fear and expelling love from the soul, are to be restrained. A wise, tender, God-fearing father will bring, not a slavish fear, but an element of love into the home. . . .

"Harsh words sour the temper and wound the hearts of children, and in some cases these wounds are difficult to heal. Children are sensitive to the least injustice, and some become discouraged under it."—*The Adventist Home,* page 308.

12. In what spirit should correction be administered to children? Prov. 13:24. Compare Heb. 12:6.

NOTE.—"If parents work in patience and love, earnestly endeavoring to help their children to reach the highest standard of purity and modesty, they will succeed."—*The Adventist Home,* page 208.

"To manifest severity and to be exacting with children are great mistakes. Uniform firmness and unimpassioned control are necessary to the discipline of every family. Say what you mean calmly, move with consideration, and carry out what you say without deviation.

"It will pay to manifest affection in your association with your children. Do not repel them by lack of sympathy in their childish sports, joys, and griefs. Never let a frown gather upon your brow or a harsh word escape your lips. God writes all these words in His book of records."—*Ibid.,* p. 309.

13. What will be the result of the right kind of training and discipline in the life of the child? Prov. 22:6. Compare Heb. 12:9, 11.

NOTE.—"The training that Solomon enjoins is to direct, educate, develop. But in order for parents to do this work, they must themselves understand the 'way' the child should go."—*Counsels to Teachers,* page 108.

"Parents should themselves be converted and know what it is to be in submission to God's will, . . . before they can rightly represent the government that God designs should exist in the family."—*The Adventist Home,* page 306.

14. How was God's promised blessing upon those who honor Him fulfilled in the life of Joseph? Gen. 49:22-26.

NOTE.—"By communion with God through nature and the study of the great truths handed down as a sacred trust from father to son, he [Joseph] had gained strength of mind and firmness of principle.

"In the crisis of his life, when making that terrible journey from his childhood home in Canaan to the bondage which awaited him in Egypt, looking for the last time on the hills that hid the tents of his kindred, Joseph remembered his father's God. He remembered the lessons of his childhood, and his soul thrilled with the resolve to prove himself true—ever to act as became a subject of the King of heaven."—*Education,* page 52.

Lesson 5, for August 2, 1958

Christian Character

MEMORY VERSE: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:4.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 328-333; "Education," pages 225-229; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of July 17.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 12-14.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-8.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-11.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Fruitage of Character

1. Fruit: glorifies God. John 15:8, 16.
2. "The divine nature," the abiding treasure. 1 Cor. 3:13, 14; 2 Peter 1:2-4.
3. Character development. 2 Peter 1:5-8.
4. "Trees of righteousness." Isa. 61:3.
5. Perfection. Matt. 5:48.

II. God's Standard of Character

6. Perfect Law. Ps. 19:7-10.
7. The foundation of character. Deut. 6:24; Luke 10:27.
8. Love. Rom. 13:10; Gal. 5:14.
9. Obedience and love. John 14:21; 13:34.
10. Discipleship and love. John 13:35.

III. Blessing of Obedience

11. The law of obedience. Isa. 1:19, 20.
12. Blessing after obedience. Heb. 10:36; Ps. 19:11; Rev. 22:14.
13. Fruit in season. Ps. 1:1-3.
14. Receiving His name. Rev. 22:4; 2 Tim. 2:19.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Character is the fruit of the Christian life. It is rooted and grounded in the moral law of God. This law must be operative in the everyday life, where character is developed.

Fruitage of Character

1. How can the Christian best glorify his heavenly Father? John 15: 8, 16.

NOTE.—" 'Herein is My Father glorified,' said Jesus, 'that ye bear much fruit.' God desires to manifest through you the holiness, the benevolence, the compassion, of His own character."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 677.

2. What only can those who are saved from the world take with them to heaven? 1 Cor. 3:13, 14; 2 Peter 1:2-4.

NOTE.—"It is a solemn thing to die, but a far more solemn thing to live. Every thought and word and deed of our lives will meet us again. What we make of ourselves in probationary time, that we must remain to all eternity. Death brings dissolution to the body, but makes no change in the character. The coming of Christ does not change our characters; it only fixes them forever beyond all change."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 466.

3. What eight divine attributes does Peter name in the development of Christian character? 2 Peter 1:5-8.

NOTE.—"Christ's humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 123.

4. By what symbol does Isaiah set forth the fruitage of character in the lives of God's children? Isa. 61:3.

5. What is the goal of Christian character development? Matt. 5:48.

NOTE.—"The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. As the Son of man was perfect in His life, so His followers are to

be perfect in their life."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 311.

"By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. 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, . . . which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 312.

God's Standard of Character

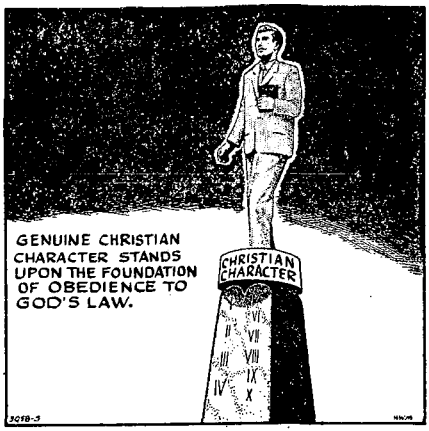
6. In what perfect standard is the character of God revealed? Ps. 19: 7-10.

NOTE.—"We have only a glimmering light in regard to the exceeding breadth of the law of God. . . . Many of those who claim to believe the testing truths for these last days, act as though God took no note of their disrespect of, and manifest disobedience to, the principles of His holy law. The law is the expression of His will, and it is through obedience to that law that God proposes to accept the children of men as His sons and daughters."—E. G. White, in *Review and Herald,* Feb. 4, 1890.

7. What is the only true foundation of character building? Deut. 6:24; Luke 10:27.

NOTE.—"The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 34.

"In every generation and in every land the true foundation and pattern for character building have been the same. The divine law, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart; . . . and thy neighbor as thyself' (Luke 10:27), the great principle made manifest in the character and life of our Saviour, is the only secure foundation and the only sure guide."—*Education,* pages 228, 229.



8. What divine characteristic in Christian living fulfills the law? Rom. 13:10; Gal. 5:14.

NOTE.—Christian love means: to do good as Jesus did; to be a good neighbor to any person in need of help, even to our enemy. It involves forgiveness and reconciliation without resentment or any attempt at retaliation.

"Love is very patient, very kind. Love knows no jealousy; love makes no parade, gives itself no airs, is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful; love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient. Love never disappears."—1 Cor. 13:4-8, *The Bible: A New Translation,* by James Moffatt. Copyright 1922, 1935, and 1950 by Harper & Brothers. Used by permission.

9. What is the relationship between love and obedience? John 14:21; 13:34.

NOTE.—The right disposition—the disposition of love—also produces the right act. The attitude of love vitally affects every kind of human conduct.

10. What is further proof that we are children of God? John 13:35.

NOTE.—"When men are bound together, not by force or self-interest, but by love, they show the working of an influence that is above every human influence. Where this oneness exists, it is evidence that the image of God is being restored in humanity, that a new principle of life has been implanted. It shows that there is power in the divine nature to withstand the supernatural agencies of evil, and that the grace of God subdues the selfishness inherent in the natural heart."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 678.

A Christian once made it possible for one who had harmed him grievously to have a greatly desired position. A brother commented: "I see this afternoon you heaped coals of fire upon the head of the person who wronged you."

"No," replied the Christian, "by that act of graciousness I was simply putting out some smoldering embers of desire in my own life." When love meets hatred it always conquers.

Blessing of Obedience

11. What is the fruit of obedience and of disobedience? Isa. 1:19, 20.

NOTE.—"Isaiah here sets forth the fruitage of obedience. A life of joy and blessedness is the natural result of obedience to the laws of God, for God cannot bless those who do not do their best. The joys of heaven are not arbitrary gifts of God to those who follow Him, but the natural result of compliance with His requirements." —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 4, p. 99.

12. When only may we expect to enjoy the fulfillment of God's promises? Heb. 10:36; Ps. 19:11; Rev. 22:14.

NOTE.—"Obedience was the only condition upon which ancient Israel was to receive the fulfillment of the promises that made them the highly favored people of God; and obedience to that law would bring as great blessings to individuals and nations now as it would have brought to the Hebrews."—E. G. White, in *Signs of the Times,* Jan. 10, 1911.

13. How are the fruitfulness and happiness which follow willing obedience to God's law described? Ps. 1:1-3.

NOTE.—"It is only as the law of God is restored to its rightful position that there can be a revival of primitive faith and godliness among His professed people."—*The Great Controversy,* page 478.

14. Whose name will be given those who have fully identified themselves with God's will? Rev. 22:4; 2 Tim. 2:19.

Lesson 6, for August 9, 1958

The Conscience

MEMORY VERSE: "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Heb. 9:14.

STUDY HELPS: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 47-56; "Steps to Christ," pages 89-96; "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 458-461; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of July 24.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

Check Here

Sabbath afternoon: General survey. ☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4. ☐
Monday: Questions 5-8. ☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-11. ☐
Wednesday: Questions 12, 13; begin reading from Study Helps. ☐
Thursday: Read further from Study Helps. ☐
Friday: Review entire lesson. ☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Conscience

1. Defined. 1 Sam. 24:5; Rom. 2:15.
2. Two types. 1 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 10:22.
3. Purified. Heb. 9:14.
4. A guide. Isa. 30:21; Rom. 9:1.

II. Guidance of the Holy Spirit

5. Agent in regeneration. Titus 3:5.
6. Directed by. 2 Cor. 1:22; Rom. 8:26, 27.
7. Through divine truth. 1 Cor. 2:9-12; John 16:13.
8. As eyes of God. Ps. 32:8; Prov. 15:3.

III. Moral Attainment

9. Through Holy Spirit. Rom. 9:1; 8:14.
10. Through exercise. Acts 24:16.
11. Not to violate conscience. 1 Tim. 4:2.
12. Conviction of wrong. John 8:8, 9; Rev. 6:15-17.
13. Satisfaction registered. Acts 23:1; 2 Cor. 1:12.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Conscience. Sense or consciousness of right or wrong; sense or conciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one's own conduct, intentions, or character, together with a feeling of obligation to do or be that which is recognized as good;—often with special reference to feelings of guilt or remorse for ill-doing."—*Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.*

Conscience

1. How does the Bible describe the activity of the conscience? 1 Sam. 24:5; Rom. 2:15.

NOTE.—"Conscience is the voice of God, heard amid the conflict of human passions; when it is resisted, the Spirit of God is grieved."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 120.

2. What two types of conscience are mentioned in the word of God?

a. A good conscience. 1 Tim. 1:5.
b. An evil conscience. Heb. 10:22.

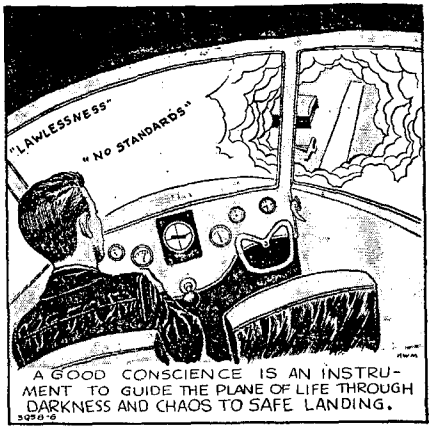
NOTE.—"A good conscience" is one void of offense, pure, purged from dead works (Heb. 9:14), free from the guilt of sin (Heb. 10:2), one sensitive to right and wrong.

An evil conscience does not perform its office aright; it is hardened (1 Tim. 4:2), and is incapable of judging its own actions (Titus 1:15). It cannot be relied upon.

3. What must take place in the conscience to enable it to distinguish between right and wrong? Heb. 9:14.

NOTE.—"We can no more repent without the Spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience than we can be pardoned without Christ."—*Steps to Christ,* page 30.

"Whenever they [men] make an effort to reform, from a sincere desire to do right, it is the power of Christ that is drawing them. An influence of which they are unconscious works upon the soul, and the conscience is quickened, and the outward life is amended. And as Christ draws them



A GOOD CONSCIENCE IS AN INSTRUMENT TO GUIDE THE PLANE OF LIFE THROUGH DARKNESS AND CHAOS TO SAFE LANDING.

to look upon His cross, to behold Him whom their sins have pierced, the commandment comes home to the conscience."—*Ibid.*, p. 31.

4. How does enlightened conscience help the individual decide his course of action? Isa. 30:21; Rom. 9:1.

NOTE.—"Daily review of our acts, to see whether conscience approves or condemns, is necessary for all who wish to arrive at the perfection of Christian character."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 512.

Guidance of the Holy Spirit

5. Who is the active agent in the work of regeneration? Titus 3:5.

NOTE.—"The Spirit is given as a regenerating agency, to make effectual the salvation wrought by the death of our Redeemer."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 52.

"Through this simple act of believing God, the Holy Spirit has begotten a new life in your heart."—*Steps to Christ,* page 56.

6. What power operates in the life of the individual when the mind is yielded to the Lord? 2 Cor. 1:22; Rom. 8:26, 27.

NOTE.—"If men are willing to be molded, there will be brought about a sanctification of the whole being. The Spirit will take the things of God and stamp them on the soul. By His power the way of life will be made so plain that none need err therein."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 53.

"God has provided divine assistance for all emergencies to which our human resources are unequal. He gives the Holy Spirit to help in every strait, to strengthen our hope and assurance, to illuminate our minds and purify our hearts."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 415.

7. What sources of knowledge and understanding are made available to man through the ministry of the Holy Spirit? 1 Cor. 2:9-12; John 16:13.

NOTE.—"The Holy Spirit exalts and glorifies the Saviour. It is His office to present Christ, the purity of His righteousness, and the great salvation that we have through Him. Jesus says, 'He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you.' John 16:14. The Spirit of truth is the only effectual teacher of divine truth. How must God esteem the human race, since He gave His Son to die for them, and appoints His Spirit to be man's teacher and continual guide."—*Steps to Christ,* page 96.

8. In what striking symbolism does the Bible picture the operation of the Holy Spirit through the conscience? Ps. 32:8; Prov. 15:3.

NOTE.—"I will guide thee with Mine eye." As "the eyes of the Lord are in every place," surveying man's conduct at all times, so the Holy Spirit works with the regenerated conscience to guide the Christian in the way he should go.

Moral Attainment

9. When is it safe to let conscience be our guide? Rom. 9:1; 8:14.

NOTE.—"Conscience is not infallible. Hence it needs to be trained, kept enlightened, learning to be conscientious about

life, and self-critical of its judgment. . . . A too self-confident conscience is a moral peril. It becomes stunted unless it transcends itself. It must face the reality of its own possible shortcoming."—Vergilius Ferm, *Encyclopedia of Religion,* page 198.

"At times reason and conscience remonstrate, and you feel rebuked because of your course; your soul longs after holiness and the surety of heaven; the din of the world looks repulsive to you, and you put it aside and cherish the Spirit of God. Then, again, your worldly propensity comes in, and overrules everything. You will surely have to meet the assaults of Satan, and you should prepare for them by firmly resisting your inclination."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, pp. 351, 352.

10. In what ways must constant vigilance be exercised in order for one to have a good conscience? Acts 24:16.

11. How does repeated violation adversely affect the conscience? 1 Tim. 4:2.

NOTE.—"When a person once neglects to heed the invitations, reproofs, and warnings of the Spirit of God, his conscience becomes seared, and the next time he is admonished, it will be more difficult to yield obedience than before. And thus with every repetition."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 120.

"The appetites and passions should be restricted and under the control of enlightened conscience, that the intellect may be unimpaired, the perceptive powers clear, so that the workings of Satan and his snares may not be interpreted to be the providence of God."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 491.

"When intoxicants are used, the same effects will follow as in the case of those priests of Israel. The conscience will lose its sensibility to sin, and a process of hardening to iniquity will most certainly take place, till the common and the sacred will lose all difference of significance. How can we then meet the standard of the divine requirements?"—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 362.

12. How does the evil, guilty conscience react in the presence of the justice and holiness of God? John 8: 8, 9; Rev. 6:15-17.

13. What experience is enjoyed by those who have a conscience "void of offense"? Acts 23:1; 2 Cor. 1:12.

NOTE.—"Now it is a matter of pride to us—endorsed by our conscience—that our activities in this world, particularly our dealings with you, have been absolutely above board and sincere and have not been marked by any 'cleverness.'" 2 Cor. 1:12. —J. B. Phillips, *Letters to Young Churches.* Copyright 1947 by The Macmillan Company. Used by permission.

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."—*Education,* page 57.

Lesson 7, for August 16, 1958

Christian Education

MEMORY VERSE: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." James 3:17.

STUDY HELPS: "Education," pages 13-19, 28-30, 225-229; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of July 31.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 12-14.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-8.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-11.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Sources of and Basis for Moral Attainment

1. Every provision made. Rom. 8:32; 2 Peter 1:3.
2. Christ reflected God. John 17:3, 4; 2 Cor. 4:6.
3. Basis of education. Luke 10:27; John 14:23.
4. The scope of knowledge. Ps. 19:1, 2; Rom. 1:20; Ps. 111:2.
5. Inexhaustible fund. Rom. 11:33; Job 11:7; Ps. 92:5.

II. Religious Education

6. From God's treasure. Isa. 55:8, 9; Col. 2:2, 3.
7. Spiritual abundance. John 10:10.
8. From above. James 3:11, 17; Jer. 2:13.
9. On fear of God. Prov. 9:10; Dan. 2:20-22.

III. Transforming Power of Christian Education

10. Restoration of mind. Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:10.
11. Growth in God's similitude. Eph. 4:15, 23, 24.
12. Follows obedience, co-operation. Ps. 78:1; Isa. 51:4.

IV. Responsible Agents

13. Parents and church. Ps. 78:5-8; Acts 20:28.
14. Rewards for. Dan. 12:3.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Christian education is God's special provision for supplementing the efforts of the home in attaining the ideals and standards of heaven. It translates life into its highest usefulness in this world and in the life to come.

Sources of and Basis for Moral Attainment

1. What bountiful provision has God made for man's salvation and attainment of Christian character? Rom. 8:32; 2 Peter 1:3.

NOTE.—God, having given us the Gift of gifts in His only-begotten Son, made sure that all lesser gifts were included in the One. In Him has been given us all things needful for life and godliness.

2. How did Christ reveal the perfect character of God while He was here upon earth? John 17:3, 4; 2 Cor. 4:6.

NOTE.—"Through the Saviour's sacrifice, communion with God is again made possible. We may not in person approach into His presence; in our sin we may not look upon His face; but we can behold Him and commune with Him in Jesus, the Saviour. 'The light of the knowledge of the glory of God' is revealed 'in the face of Jesus Christ.' "—*Education,* page 28.

3. What should be our basic attitude toward God and toward our fellow men? Luke 10:27; John 14:23.

NOTE.—"Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education. This is made plain in the law that God has given as the guide of life. The first and great commandment is, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind.' Luke 10:27. To love Him, the infinite, the omniscient One, with the whole strength, and mind, and heart, means the highest development of every power. It means that in the whole being—the body, the mind, as well as the soul—the image of God is to be restored."—*Education,* page 16.

4. Aside from the life of Christ, what other source of true knowledge is at our disposal? Ps. 19:1, 2; Rom. 1:20; Ps. 111:2.

NOTE.—"Nature testifies of God. The susceptible mind, brought in contact with the miracle and mystery of the universe, cannot but recognize the working of infinite power. Not by its own inherent energy does the earth produce its bounties, and year by year continue its motion around the sun. An unseen hand guides the planets in their circuit of the heavens. A mysterious life pervades all nature—a life that sustains the unnumbered worlds throughout immensity, that lives in the insect atom which floats in the summer breeze, that wings the flight of the swallow and feeds the young ravens which cry, that brings the bud to blossom and the flower to fruit."—*Education,* page 99.

"The book of nature and the written word shed light upon each other. They make us acquainted with God by teaching us something of the laws through which He works." —*Ibid.,* p. 128.

5. How inexhaustible is God's revelation? Will man ever complete this great course of study? Rom. 11:33; Job 11:7; Ps. 92:5.

NOTE.—In the world to come "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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS A SERIOUS TASK-- IT TURNS THE EYES OF THE CHILD TOWARD THE ULTIMATE GOAL -- HEAVEN.

Religious Education

6. In the pursuit of knowledge, why is Christian education most essential? Isa. 55:8, 9; Col. 2:2, 3.

NOTE.—"True education means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come."—*Education,* page 13.

"A comprehensive education is needed—an education that will demand from parents and teachers such thought and effort as mere instruction in the sciences does not require. Something more is called for than the culture of the intellect. Education is not complete unless the body, the mind, and

the heart are equally educated. The character must receive proper discipline for its fullest and highest development."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 398.

7. How did the Great Teacher sent from God state the primary purpose of His coming to the earth? John 10:10.

NOTE.—" 'Life' includes the physical, intellectual, and spiritual. Physical life is regarded as abundant in a body that is full of vigor and in perfect health. . . . Man also has intellectual and spiritual life, which must also be made alive and abundant, for 'man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord' (Deut. 8:3). Important as the physical and intellectual aspects of a well-rounded life are, no life is fully complete unless the spiritual nature is nurtured."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 1005.

8. Why cannot the primary purpose of education be attained from secular sources of knowledge? James 3:11, 17; Jer. 2:13.

NOTE.—"We cannot be complete in Christ and yet be ready to grasp those things that come from the so-called great men of the earth, and place their wisdom before the wisdom of the greatest Teacher the world has ever known. To seek knowledge from such sources is represented in the word as seeking to drink from broken cisterns that can hold no water."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 204.

9. What spirit and attitude are necessary in order to receive the education that comes from above? Prov. 9:10; Dan. 2:20-22.

Transforming Power of Christian Education

10. What is the ultimate objective of true education? Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:10.

NOTE.—"To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life."—*Education,* pages 15, 16.

11. What redemptive results will accrue in the life of the student from obtaining a Christian education? Eph. 4:15, 23, 24.

NOTE.—"And while Christ opens heaven to man, the life which He imparts opens the heart of man to heaven. Sin not only shuts us away from God, but destroys in the human soul both the desire and the capacity for knowing Him. All this work of evil it is Christ's mission to undo. The faculties of the soul, paralyzed by sin, the darkened mind, the perverted will, He has power to invigorate and to restore. He opens to us the riches of the universe, and by Him the power to discern and to appropriate these treasures is imparted."—*Education,* pages 28, 29.

12. How only may God's ideal in education be attained? Ps. 78:1; Isa. 51:4.

NOTE.—"There is in his [man's] nature a bent to evil, a force which, unaided, he cannot resist. To withstand this force, to attain that ideal which in his inmost soul he accepts as alone worthy, he can find help in but one power. That power is Christ. Co-operation with that power is man's greatest need. In all educational effort should not this co-operation be the highest aim?"—*Education,* page 29.

Responsible Agents

13. Who must be deeply concerned over Christian education? How extensive does this concern become if the purpose of Christian education is to be attained? Ps. 78:5-8; Acts 20:28.

NOTE.—Parents are the first who bear the responsibility for giving their children a Christian education. A similar responsibility rests upon the "overseers" of the church. They are responsible for the spiritual welfare of "all the flock." That includes the Christian education of the children.

14. What special promise is given to those who have served as teachers in God's great plan of Christian education? Dan. 12:3, margin.

NOTE.—There is a glory reserved in heaven for all the saints who are truly wise. The faces of the wise—the teachers—who have turned men from the errors of their way to righteousness, "shall shine as the brightness of the firmament." They shall "shine as the stars" of different magnitudes, some of lesser, others of greater luster. But they will continue to shine "for ever and ever." They will not be eclipsed, or lose their place in the firmament. This is a promise for all teachers of righteousness.

Lesson 8, for August 23, 1958

The Home and the School

MEMORY VERSE: "For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children." Ps. 78:5.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 68-74; "Education," pages 45-50; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of August 7.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 12-14.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐	Thursday: Read Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-8.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-11.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. The Home in God's Planning

1. The Eden home. Gen. 2:8, 15.
2. Patriarchal family. Gen. 18:17-19.
3. Parental responsibility. Deut. 6:6, 7, 20-23; Ps. 78:5-7.
4. The home of Jesus. Luke 1:26-30; Matt. 13:55-56.

II. The Education of Jesus

5. As child. Luke 2:39, 40, 46, 47.
6. In school. Luke 2:51, 52; John 7:15.
7. Profession, education. Matt. 7:28, 29; Mark 1:21, 22; John 3:2.
8. As educator. Acts 4:13.

III. The Relation of Home and School

9. Schools of prophets. 1 Sam. 10:5, 10; 19:20.
10. Church schools. 1 Cor. 10:11.
11. Common interests. Isa. 49:25; 54:13.

IV. Co-operation in Education

12. Parental relationships. Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20, 21.
13. God's heritage. Ps. 127:3; Gen. 33:5; Eph. 6:4.
14. Final accounting. Jer. 13:20; Deut. 5:9, 10.

Introduction

The Christian home and school are closely related. In the sight of God the home is the child's first and most important school. The Christian home and the church school are also inseparable. One complements the other in the relentless struggle between good and evil. The value of each, when mutually co-operative, is greater than all the material things offered by the world.

The Home in God's Planning

1. What kind of home did God provide for man in the beginning? Gen. 2:8, 15.

NOTE.—"Everything that God had made was the perfection of beauty, and nothing seemed wanting that could contribute to the happiness of the holy pair; yet the Creator gave them still another token of His love, by preparing a garden especially for their home."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 46, 47.

2. How did God regard the family in the times of the ancient patriarchs? Gen. 18:17-19.

3. What special responsibility, with respect to the education of the children, rested upon the father and mother? Deut. 6:6, 7, 20-23; Ps. 78: 5-7.

NOTE.—"From the earliest times the faithful in Israel had given much care to the education of the youth. The Lord had directed that even from babyhood the children should be taught of His goodness and His greatness, especially as revealed in His law, and shown in the history of Israel. Song and prayer and lessons from the Scriptures were to be adapted to the opening mind. Fathers and mothers were to instruct their children that the law of God is an expression of His character, and that as they received the principles of the law into the heart, the image of God was traced on mind and soul. Much of the teaching was oral; but the youth also learned to read the Hebrew writings; and the parchment rolls of the Old Testament Scriptures were open to their study."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 69.

4. Into what kind of home was Jesus born? Who made up the family? Luke 1:26-30; Matt. 13:55, 56.

NOTE.—"Jesus lived in a peasant's home, and faithfully and cheerfully acted His part in bearing the burdens of the household. He had been the commander of heaven, and angels had delighted to fulfill His word; now He was a willing servant, a loving, obedient son. He learned a trade, and with His own hands worked in the carpenter's shop with Joseph. In the simple garb of a common laborer He walked the streets of the little town, going to and returning from His humble work. He did not employ His divine power to lessen His burdens or to lighten His toil."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 72.

The Education of Jesus

5. What is said of the education and training that Jesus received? Luke 2: 39, 40, 46, 47.

NOTE.—"Jesus 'increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.' Luke 2:52. His mind was active and penetrating, with a thoughtfulness and wisdom beyond His years. Yet His character was beautiful in its symmetry. The powers of mind and body developed gradually, in keeping with the laws of childhood."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 68.

6. Did Jesus attend the schools of His day? Who were His teachers? Luke 2:51, 52; John 7:15.

NOTE.—"The child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools. His mother was His first human teacher. From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things. The very words which He Himself had spoken to Moses for Israel He was now taught at His mother's knee. As He advanced from childhood to youth, He did not seek the schools of the rabbis. He needed not the education to be obtained from such sources; for God was His instructor."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 70.

7. How did the education of Jesus compare with that of the professional teachers of His time? Matt. 7:28, 29; Mark 1:21, 22; John 3:2.

GOD'S SCHOOL SYSTEM BEGAN IN EDEN AND LEADS TO EDEN RESTORED.

8. What testimony has been recorded of the quality of education and training He gave to His disciples? Acts 4:13.

NOTE.—The disciples were uninstructed in the learning of the Jewish schools. They were of the common sort, having come from private walks of life, untrained as teachers, according to the accepted standard of professional training. Their whole bearing and manner of teaching identified them with Jesus. Would that the testimony given of the disciples could be given of their successors today!

The Relation of Home and School

9. What system of education was developed in order to counteract the influences of evil that surrounded Israel? 1 Sam. 10:5, 10; 19:20.

NOTE.—*"The Hill of God."* Probably Geba (1 Sam. 13:3), so called from a school of the prophets being established there.

"The schools of the prophets were founded by Samuel, to serve as a barrier against the widespread corruption, to provide for the moral and spiritual welfare of the youth, and to promote the future prosperity of the nation by furnishing it with men qualified to act in the fear of God as leaders and counselors. In the accomplishment of this object, Samuel gathered companies of young men who were pious, intelligent, and studious. These were called the sons of the prophets."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 593.

10. Who especially are to benefit from the recorded experiences of God's people in former ages? 1 Cor. 10:11.

NOTE.—"It is high time for Sabbathkeepers to separate their children from worldly associations and place them under the very best teachers, who will make the Bible the foundation of all study."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 106.

11. What special concern does God have for the children of His people? Isa. 49:25; 54:13. Compare Mark 8: 36, 37.

NOTE.—"God's purpose for the children growing up beside our hearths is wider, deeper, higher, than our restricted vision has comprehended. From the humblest lot those whom He has seen faithful have in time past been called to witness for Him in the world's highest places. And many a lad of today, growing up as did Daniel in his Judean home, studying God's word and

His works, and learning the lessons of faithful service, will yet stand in legislative assemblies, in halls of justice, or in royal courts, as a witness for the King of kings." —*Education,* page 262.

Co-operation in Education

12. What is the true relationship between parents and children in the home? Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20, 21.

NOTE.—"Every Christian home should have rules; and parents should, in their words and deportment toward each other, give to the children a precious, living example of what they desire them to be. Purity in speech and true Christian courtesy should be constantly practiced. Teach the children and youth to respect themselves, to be true to God, true to principle; teach them to respect and obey the law of God. These principles will control their lives and will be carried out in their associations with others. They will create a pure atmosphere—one that will have an influence that will encourage weak souls in the upward path that leads to holiness and heaven. Let every lesson be of an elevating and ennobling character, and the records made in the books of heaven will be such as you will not be ashamed to meet in the judgment."—*The Adventist Home,* page 16.

13. To whom do our children belong? Because of this, what responsibility do parents have for their children? Ps. 127:3; Gen. 33:5; Eph. 6:4.

NOTE.—"He who co-operates with the divine purpose in imparting to the youth a knowledge of God, and molding the character into harmony with His, does a high and noble work. As he awakens a desire to reach God's ideal, he presents an education that is as high as heaven and as broad as the universe; an education that cannot be completed in this life, but that will be continued in the life to come; an education that secures to the successful student his passport from the preparatory school of earth to the higher grade, the school above." —*Education,* page 19.

14. What searching question will be asked in the judgment, and what divine principle will be operative? Jer. 13:20; Deut. 5:9, 10. Compare Jer. 32:17-19.

NOTE.—"Parents should labor with reference to the future harvest. While they sow in tears, amid many discouragements, it should be with earnest prayer. They may see the promise of but a late and scanty harvest, yet that should not prevent the sowing. They should sow beside all waters, embracing every opportunity both to improve themselves and to benefit their children."—*The Adventist Home,* page 533.

"In your work for your children take hold of the mighty power of God. Commit your children to the Lord in prayer. Work earnestly and untiringly for them. God will hear your prayers and will draw them to Himself. Then, at the last great day, you can bring them to God, saying, 'Here am I, and the children whom Thou hast given me.' "—*Ibid.,* p. 536.

Lesson 9, for August 30, 1958

Church Life and the Christian

MEMORY VERSE: "I am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

STUDY HELPS: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 514-521; "The Desire of Ages," pages 675-677, 511-517; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of August 14.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 12-15.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐	Thursday: Read Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-8.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-11.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. The Church and Moral Excellence

1. Gifts in the church. 1 Cor. 12:27. 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-13.
2. Source of instruction. 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17; Rom. 15:4.
3. Profitable counsel. Acts 20:20, 27.
4. The spirit in which instruction is to be given. Rom. 12:5-8.
5. Peter as instructor. John 21:15, 16.
6. Peter's instruction. 1 Peter 1:14-16.
7. The different groups instructed by Peter. 1 Peter 2:18; 5:1, 5; 3:1, 7, 8.

II. Inspiration of Church Life

8. Christ the vine. John 15:1-6.
9. Blessings of membership. Eph. 2:13-22.
10. Mutal helpfulness. Gal. 6:2; Rom. 15:1-3; 1 Cor. 12:25, 26.
11. Blessing of unity. Ps. 133:1-3; Eph. 4:3-6.
12. Spiritual development. Matt. 25:14-17; Luke 8:39, 40.

III. Church Attendance

13. Soul-satisfying. Ps. 84:1-4; 42:1-4.
14. The children included. Matt. 19:13, 14; Luke 18:15-17; Matt. 18:3.
15. Lifetime experience. Ps. 92:13, 14; 37:23-25.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Moral excellence is the result of spiritual power. The church is a divinely instituted channel through which spiritual power is available to the individual. In the church the spiritual needs of every type of person are supplied. Here the greatest inspiration is given for the attainment of God's ideal for His people.

The Church and Moral Excellence

1. In what way has the Lord equipped the church, and for what purpose? 1 Cor. 12:27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-13.

NOTE.—"The Lord's church is composed of living, working agencies, who derive their power to act from the Author and Finisher of their faith. They are to carry forward in harmony the great work resting on them. God has given you your work. But He has other instrumentalities, and to them He has given their work, that all may become, through sanctification of the truth, members of Christ's body, of His flesh and of His bones. Representing Christ, we act for time and for eternity; and men, even worldly men, take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus and have learned of Him."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 174.

2. What value is attached to the word of God as the source of moral and spiritual instruction? 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17; Rom. 15:4.

3. How fully should the church be insrtucted from God's word? Acts 20:20, 27.

NOTE.—Paul did not allow timidity to let him keep back anything that was profitable. He was not governed by fear of consequences, but rather by duty in teaching "all the counsel of God."

4. What attitude should govern the manner in which the gifts God has placed in the church are used to communicate His instructions? Rom. 12: 5-8.

NOTE.—"All the gifts of believers are according to their respective capacity for them, they are not to be puffed up on account of them, but to use them purely for their proper ends."—Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, *Commentary,* on Rom. 12:6-8.

5. When Peter was being reinstated in the circle of the apostles, what wide responsibility did Jesus lay upon His undershepherd? John 21:15, 16.

NOTE.—"The Saviour's manner of dealing with Peter had a lesson for him and for his brethren. It taught them to meet the transgressor with patience, sympathy, and forgiving love. Although Peter had denied his Lord, the love which Jesus bore him never faltered. Just such love should the undershepherd feel for the sheep and lambs committed to his care. Remembering his own weakness and failure, Peter was to deal with his flock as tenderly as Christ had dealt with him."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 815.

6. In feeding the sheep and the lambs of the flock, what emphasis did Peter place upon moral excellence? 1 Peter 1:14-16.

NOTE.—"Throughout his ministry, Peter faithfully watched over the flock entrusted to his care, and thus proved himself worthy of the charge and responsibility given him by the Saviour. Ever he exalted Jesus of Nazareth as the Hope of Israel, the Saviour of mankind. He brought his own life under the discipline of the Master Worker."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 516.

A LIVING CHURCH IS MEASURED BY WHAT ITS MEMBERS DO WHEN THEY LEAVE ITS PORTALS.

7. To what different groups in the household of faith did Peter address his exhortations? 1 Peter 2:18; 5:1, 5; 3:1, 7, 8.

Inspiration of Church Life

8. How did Jesus illustrate the closeness of the connection that must exist between Himself and His followers and the results when that connection is broken? John 15:1-6.

NOTE.—"The connection of the branch with the vine, He said, represents the relation you are to sustain to Me. The scion is engrafted into the living vine, and fiber by fiber, vein by vein, it grows into the vine stock. The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed. The sinner unites his weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fullness, his frailty to Christ's enduring might. Then he has the mind of Christ. The humanity of Christ has touched our humanity, and our humanity has touched divinity. Thus through the agency of the Holy Spirit man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. He is accepted in the Beloved."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 675.

9. What are some of the blessings of church membership?

ANSWER.—*a*. Made beneficiaries of Christ's sacrifice. Reconciled to God. Eph. 2:13.

b. Enjoyment of the peace of God. Eph. 2:14, 17; John 14:27.

c. Fellowship with the household of God. Eph. 2:18, 19.

d. Partakers of the heritage bestowed upon the church through Christ, the apostles and prophets. Eph. 2:20.

e. Recipients of the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit as individuals and collectively. Eph. 2:21, 22.

10. How can members best show their appreciation of the privileges of church membership? What is the effect of a contrary attitude? Gal. 6:2; Rom. 15:1-3; 1 Cor. 12:25, 26.

NOTE.—"Our work is to toil in the vineyard of the Lord, not merely for ourselves, but for the good of others. Our influence is a blessing or a curse to others. We are here to form perfect characters for heaven,' —*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 526.

11. What wholesome effect does the manifestation of the Spirit of Christ in the life of one member have upon other members of the church? How is the demonstration of such a spirit encouraged? Ps. 133:1-3; Eph. 4:3-6.

12. How does participation in the service of Christ affect our Christian experience? On what occasion did Christ apply this principle? Matt. 25: 14-17; Luke 8:39, 40.

NOTE.—"The special gifts of the Spirit are not the only talents represented in the parable. It includes all gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual. All are to be employed in Christ's service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 328.

Church Attendance

13. How does church attendance appeal to one whose heart is right toward God? Ps. 84:1-4; 42:1-4.

NOTE.—God's house becomes a beloved place. The blessings of membership in God's family become as real as do the things we enjoy in our own homes. David joined the people on their way to the house of God. Worship makes us enjoy the presence of people, as witness those who are deprived of meeting with others of like faith.

14. What special significance should church life have for children? How did Jesus appraise the religious experience of children? Matt. 19:13, 14; Luke 18:15-17; Matt. 18:3.

NOTE.—"In the children who were brought in contact with Him, Jesus saw the men and women who should be heirs of His grace and subjects of His kingdom, and some of whom would become martyrs for His sake. He knew that these children would listen to Him and accept Him as their Redeemer far more readily than would grown-up people, many of whom were the worldly-wise and hardhearted. In His teaching He came down to their level. He, the Majesty of heaven, did not disdain to answer their questions, and simplify His important lessons to meet their childish understanding. He planted in their minds the seeds of truth, which in after years would spring up, and bear fruit unto eternal life." —*The Desire of Ages,* pages 512, 513.

15. How is church attendance related to spiritual prosperity? Ps. 92: 13, 14; Ps. 37:23-25. Compare Heb. 11:25.

Lesson 10, for September 6, 1958

Christian Social Relations

MEMORY VERSE: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." Matt. 7:13.

STUDY HELPS: "Messages to Young People," pages 126-130, 403-416; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of August 21.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 10-12.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8, 9.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Social Influence

1. Two ways. Matt. 7:13, 14; Luke 13:24-27.
2. God's admonition. Ps. 37:1-6.
3. Two influences. Rom. 12:2, first part; 1 John 2:15.
4. A personal choice. Joshua 24:15.

II. Social Relations

5. Seek to save. Luke 9:56; 19:10; Matt. 5:16.
6. Friendliness. Prov. 18:24; Luke 7:34-36.
7. Social power. Acts 4:13. 4:13.
8. God claims our lives. 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Rom. 14:7, 8; Matt. 6:33.
9. Choosing your friends. Ps. 1:1; 119:9-11; 1 Tim. 5:22, last part.

III. Social Standards and Happiness

10. Christ's supreme desire. John 15:11; 16:24.
11. Essence of happiness. Prov. 16:20, first part; 1 Peter 4:14.
12. Sowing and reaping. Prov. 4:23; 13:15; Gal. 6:7.

THE LESSON

Introduction

In no sphere does the Christian have more difficulty in discernment than in that of social relations. In this area the power of influence, both good and evil, is especially potent. True understanding of, and adherence to, Christian social standards will bring real and lasting happiness in life.

Social Influence

1. How did Christ describe the way of the world as compared with the road that leads to heaven? Why is the one path so hard to find? Matt. 7:13, 14; Luke 13:24-27.

NOTE.—"I was shown the conformity of some professed Sabbathkeepers to the world. Oh, I saw that it is a disgrace to their profession, a disgrace to the cause of God. They give the lie to their profession. They think they are not like the world; but they are so near like them in dress, in conversation, and actions, that there is no distinction. I saw them decorating their poor mortal bodies, which are liable at any moment to be touched by the finger of

God, and laid upon a bed of anguish. . . .

"Why is it so hard to lead a self-denying, humble life? Because professed Christians are not dead to the world. It is easy living after we are dead. But many are longing for the leeks and onions of Egypt. They have a disposition to dress and act as much like the world as possible, and yet go to heaven. Such climb up some other way. They do not enter through the strait gate and narrow way."—*Messages to Young People,* pages 127, 128.

2. What admonition does the psalmist give God's children when they are tempted to follow the influence of the world? Ps. 37:1-6.

NOTE.—"Many dress like the world to have an influence. But here they make a sad and fatal mistake. If they would have a true and saving influence, let them live out their profession, show their faith by their righteous works, and make the distinction great between the Christian and the world. I saw that the words, the dress, and actions should tell for God. Then a holy influence will be shed upon all, and all will take knowledge of them that they have been with Jesus. Unbelievers will see that the truth we profess has a holy influence, and that faith in Christ's coming affects the character of the man or woman." —*Messages to Young People,* page 128.

3. Against what two powerful social influences must the Christian constantly contend? Rom. 12:2, first part; 1 John 2:15.

NOTE.—"Jesus is coming, and will He find a people conformed to the world? and will He acknowledge them as His people that He has purified unto Himself? Oh, no. None but the pure and holy will He acknowledge as His. Those who have been purified and made white through suffering, and have kept themselves separate, unspotted from the world, He will own as His.

"As I saw the dreadful fact that God's people were conformed to the world, with no distinction, except in name, between many of the professed disciples of the meek and lowly Jesus, and unbelievers, my soul felt deep anguish. I saw that Jesus was wounded and put to an open shame. Said the angel, as with sorrow he saw the professed people of God loving the world, partaking of its spirit, and following its fashions, 'Cut loose! Cut loose! lest He appoint you your portion with hypocrites and unbelievers outside the city. Your profession will only cause you greater anguish, and your punishment will be greater, because ye knew His will, but did it not.' " —*Messages to Young People,* pages 128, 129.

4. On whose side do the faithful ones cast their lot? Joshua 24:15.

NOTE.—"Christ calls upon everyone to consider. Make an honest reckoning. Put into one scale Jesus, which means eternal treasure, life, truth, heaven, and the joy of Christ in souls redeemed; put into the other every attraction the world can offer. Into one scale put the loss of your own soul, and the souls of those whom you might have been instrumental in saving; into the other, for yourself and for them, a life that measures with the life of God. Weigh for time and for eternity. While you are thus engaged, Christ speaks; 'What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?' "—*Messages to Young People,* page 130.

Social Relations

5. What example did Christ set for Christians in their social relationships, and what instruction did He give? Luke 9:56; 19:10; Matt. 5:16.

NOTE.—"Social power, sanctified by the grace of Christ, must be improved in winning souls to the Saviour. Let the world see that we are not selfishly absorbed in our own interests, but that we desire others to share our blessings and privileges. Let them see that our religion does not make us unsympathetic or exacting. Let all who profess to have found Christ minister as He did for the benefit of men."—*Messages to Young People,* pages 403, 404.

6. How does the cultivation of good social relations influence the life? Prov. 18:24; Luke 7:34-36.

NOTE.—"The Son of man is come eating and drinking." Jesus accepted the hospitality of the Pharisees and the publicans alike. He would dine with the Pharisees, though He knew they did not care for Him; and with publicans, though He knew they were no credit to Him. In the hope of doing them both good He associated and ate with them.

"Simon had been healed of the leprosy, and it was this that had drawn him to Jesus. He desired to show his gratitude, and at Christ's last visit to Bethany he made a feast for the Saviour and His disciples."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 557.

7. What is the secret of right social power? Acts 4:13.

NOTE.—"Christian sociability is altogether too little cultivated by God's people. This branch of education should not be neglected or lost sight of in our schools. . . .

"Especially should those who have tasted the love of Christ develop their social powers, for in this way they may win souls to the Saviour. Christ should not be hid away in their hearts, shut in as a coveted treasure, sacred and sweet, to be enjoyed solely by themselves; nor should the love of Christ be manifested toward those only who please their fancy."—*Messages to Young People,* page 405.

8. Who has first claim upon our lives? What should be the first guiding principle in all our relationships? 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Rom. 14:7, 8; Matt. 6:33.

NOTE.—"God's invitation comes to each youth, 'My son, give Me thine heart; I will keep it pure; I will satisfy its longings with true happiness.' God loves to make the youth happy, and that is why He would have them give their hearts into His keeping, that all the God-given faculties of the being may be kept in a vigorous, healthful condition. They are holding God's gift of life. He makes the heart beat; He gives strength to every faculty. Pure enjoyment will not debase one of God's gifts. We sin against our own bodies, and sin against God, when seeking pleasures which separate our affections from God. The youth are to consider that they are placed in the world on trial, to see whether they have characters that will fit them to live with angels."—*Messages to Young People,* pages 408, 409.

9. In choosing associates, what safe rule should the Christian always follow? Ps. 1:1; 119:9-11; 1 Tim. 5:22, last part.

NOTE.—"It rests with you, young men and women, to decide whether you will become trustworthy and faithful, ready and resolute to take your stand for the right under all circumstances. Do you desire to form correct habits? Then seek the company of those who are sound in morals, and whose aim tends to that which is good. The precious hours of probation are granted that you may remove every defect from your character, and this you should seek to do, not only that you may obtain the future life, but that you may be useful in this life."—*Messages to Young People,* pages 415, 416.

Social Standards and Happiness

10. How does Christ express His interest in our happiness? John 15: 11; 16:24.

NOTE.—"All your happiness, peace, joy, and success in this life are dependent upon genuine, trusting faith in God. This faith will prompt true obedience to the commandments of God. Your knowledge and faith in God is the strongest restraint from every evil practice, and the motive to all good."—*Messages to Young People,* page 410.

11. In what does true happiness consist? How is it attained? Prov. 16: 20, first part; 1 Peter 4:14.

12. What sure consequences follow our actions? Prov. 4:23; 13:15; Gal. 6:7.

NOTE.—"A little time spent in sowing your wild oats, dear young friends, will produce a crop that will embitter your whole life; an hour of thoughtlessness—once yielding to temptation—may turn the whole current of your life in the wrong direction. You can have but one youth; make that useful. When once you have passed over the ground, you can never return to rectify your mistakes. He who refuses to connect with God, and puts himself in the way of temptation, will surely fall."—*Messages to Young People,* page 429.

Lesson 11, for September 13, 1958

Sabbath Observance

MEMORY VERSE: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but 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: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Ex. 20:8-11.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 281-289; "Testimonies," vol. 2, pp. 582-585; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of August 28.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

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

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Origin and Significance of the Sabbath

1. The Sabbath instituted. Gen. 2:1, 2; Heb. 4:4.
2. "Remember the Sabbath." Ex. 20:8.
3. The Sabbath for man. Mark 2:27, 28; Isa. 58:13.
4. Sabbath desecration. Ezek. 22:8; Mark 7:9.
5. Christ and the Sabbath. Matt. 12:12; Luke 13:14-16; John 5:5-9.

II. Sanctification and Sabbath Observance

6. The Sabbath: holy and honorable. Isa. 58:13; Ex. 20:8, 10.
7. Holiness of life. Ex. 19:6; 1 Cor. 3:17.
8. Holy worship. 1 Chron. 16:29; Ps. 93:5.
9. True worship. John 4:22-24; Phil. 3:3.
10. A sign of sanctification. Ezek. 20:12.

III. Blessings of Sabbath Observance

11. Promised blessing. Isa. 58:13, 14; 1 John 3:22.
12. For the family and household. Ex. 20:10.
13. Avenues of Sabbath blessings:
    a. Worship with others. Ps. 92:13.
    b. Scripture reading. Neh. 8:1, 2, 8; Luke 4:16.
    c. Prayer. Isa. 56:7.
    d. Singing. Ps. 100:2; Col. 3:16.
    e. Recreation. Ps. 92:4, 5.
14. Sabbath observance in the new earth. Isa. 66:23.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The Sabbath is a divine institution that vitally affects every aspect of man's life. As a day of holy worship it constitutes a sign of sanctified everyday living. The blessings enjoyed in our business or vocation throughout the week largely reflect the spiritual prosperity that accompanies true Sabbath observance. The manner of Sabbath observance indicates how the commandments of God are observed.

Origin and Significance of the Sabbath

1. When and by what divine act did Sabbathkeeping begin on the earth? Gen. 2:1, 2; Heb. 4:4.

NOTE.—"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."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 48.

2. Why does the Sabbath commandment of the Decalogue begin with the word "remember"? Ex. 20:8.

NOTE.—"The Sabbath points us back to a perfect world in the long ago (Gen. 1:31; 2:1-3), and reminds us of the time when the Creator will again 'make all things new' (Rev. 21:5). It is a reminder also that God stands ready to restore within our hearts and lives His own image as it was in the beginning (Gen. 1:26, 27)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 1, p. 604.

3. For whom was the Sabbath made, and why? Mark 2:27, 28; Isa. 58:13.

NOTE.—"And call the Sabbath a delight." True Sabbath observance marks the difference between the happy and the unhappy Christian. When the Sabbath drags and people keep asking, "When will the Sabbath be gone?" (see Amos 8:5) something is wrong with their religion.

"To all who receive the Sabbath as a sign of Christ's creative and redeeming power, it will be a delight. Seeing Christ in it, they delight themselves in Him. The Sabbath points them to the works of creation as an evidence of His mighty power in redemption. While it calls to mind the lost peace of Eden, it tells of peace restored through the Saviour. And every object in nature repeats his invitation, 'Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.' Matt. 11: 28."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 289.

4. How has Satan attempted to destroy the blessings of Sabbath observance? Ezek. 22:8; Mark 7:9.

NOTE.—By causing God's children to become careless and so despise or pollute the Sabbath, Satan is successful in robbing them of the blessings of Sabbath observance. By regarding the Sabbath as an obstacle to business, and making the day burdensome with human rules and traditions, the Sabbath, instead of being a sign of sanctification, can become the sign of disobedience.

5. By what example and teaching did Jesus reveal the true spirit of Sabbathkeeping? Matt. 12:12; Luke 13:14-16; John 5:5-9.

NOTE.—Christ, the Creator, who gave the Sabbath to man in the beginning, who wrote the Sabbath commandment into the Decalogue, who gave us an example in Sabbath observance, is still Lord of the Sabbath. His claims upon that day have been enforced through His sacrifice of Himself. All who would enter into eternal rest, must now cease from their work on God's holy day, as God did from His.

Sanctification and Sabbath Observance

6. Besides being "a delight," what other attributes does the Sabbath have? How is the Sabbath to be kept? Isa. 58:13; Ex. 20:8, 10.

NOTE.—"The holy of the Lord, honorable."

"Here is the acid test of what is right and proper on the Sabbath—does it honor God? Any activity entered into with the objective of learning more of the character, works, ways, and will of the Creator, or that is made a channel whereby His love may reach the hearts and lives of our fellow men, is indeed an honor to God."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 4, p. 307.

7. What spiritual preparation enables one to keep the Sabbath holy? Ex. 19:6; 1 Cor. 3:17.

NOTE.—"No other institution which was committed to the Jews tended so fully to distinguish them from surrounding nations as did the Sabbath. God designed that its observance should designate them as His worshipers. It was to be a token of their separation from idolatry, and their connection with the true God. But in order to keep the Sabbath holy, men must themselves be holy."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 283.

8. How is holiness in the life and holiness of worship brought into harmony through Sabbath observance? 1 Chron. 16:29; Ps. 93:5.

NOTE.—Worship is giving oneself back to the Creator, the divine source of life, and entering into holy communion with Him. Worship becomes a spiritual act of holiness and salvation. Keeping the Sabbath day, then, means worshiping God.

9. In what simple terms did Christ define true worship? John 4:22-24; Phil. 3:3.

10. Of what is the Sabbath a sign between the Christian and his Lord? Ezek. 20:12.

Blessings of Sabbath Observance

11. What will be the experience of those who are faithful in true Sabbath observance? Isa. 58:13, 14; 1 John 3:22.

NOTE.—"God designs that the Sabbath shall direct the minds of men to the contemplation of His created works. . . . The Sabbath, ever pointing to Him who made them all, bids men open the great book of nature, and trace therein the wisdom, the power, and the love of the Creator."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 48.

12. How does the Sabbath commandment indicate that it was intended for the whole household? Ex. 20:10.

NOTE.—"The Sabbath and the family were alike instituted in Eden, and in God's purpose they are indissolubly linked together. On this day more than on any other, it is possible for us to live the life of Eden. . . . Over the Sabbath He places His merciful hand. In His own day He preserves for the family opportunity for communion with Him, with nature, and with one another."—*Education,* pages 250, 251.

13. What are some important essentials of true Sabbath observance?

ANSWER.—*a*. Regularity in worship with others. Ps. 92:13.

b. Scripture reading. Neh. 8:1, 2, 8; Luke 4:16.

c. Prayer. Isa. 56:7.

d. Singing. Ps. 100:2; Col. 3:16.

"As a part of religious service, singing is as much an act of worship as is prayer."—*Education,* page 168.

e. Communion with nature. Ps. 92:4, 5.

The ninety-second Psalm was written for the Sabbath day. It was natural for the psalmist to contemplate the works of creation on that day. This brought gladness, refreshing, recreation, to his heart.

Relaxation from toil, mental and physical toil, is a part of the true Sabbath observance. By a proper mixture of spiritual recreation and devotion, the Sabbath becomes a delight, holy and honorable.

14. How long will Sabbath observance continue? Isa. 66:23.

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 nowise 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."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 283.

LESSON QUARTERLIES FOR THE BLIND

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

Lesson 12, for September 20, 1958

The Whole Armor of God

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

STUDY HELPS: "Messages to Young People," pages 51-56, 63-67; "The Adventist Home," pages 401-405; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of September 4.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

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

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Christian Warfare and Victory

1. The conditions stated. Luke 13:24.
2. The fight of faith. 1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Cor. 9:25.
3. Assurance of victory. John 16:33; 1 Cor. 10:13.
4. Power of the Spirit. 1 John 4:4; Rom. 8:37; Phil. 4:13.

II. The Christian's Armor

5. The armor. Rom. 13:12; 2 Cor. 6:7; Eph. 6:11.
6. The whole armor of God. Eph. 6:13.

III. Implements in the Armor

7. The girdle. Eph. 6:14, first part; Luke 12:35, first part.
8. The breastplate. Eph. 6:14, last part; Isa. 59:17, first part.
9. Shod feet. Eph. 6:15.
10. The shield. Eph. 6:16; 1 John 5:4, last part.

IV. Putting on the Armor

11. "Take," "put on." Eph. 6:11, 13.
12. The helmet. Eph. 6:17, first part; 1 Thess. 5:8.
13. The sword of the Spirit. Eph. 6:17, last part.
14. Prayer and watchfulness. Eph. 6:18.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The consciousness that the Christian must live his life under constant enemy assault comes to many as a great surprise. They had expected to find only joy and tranquillity in their religion.

In the Christian's armor, God has made provision for meeting the temptations and trials that come to the children of God.

Christian Warfare and Victory

1. How does Christ describe the conditions under which the blessings of salvation are obtained? Luke 13:24.

NOTE.—"We can never be saved in indolence and inactivity. There is no such thing

as a truly converted person living a helpless, useless life. It is not possible for us to drift into heaven. No sluggard can enter there. If we do not strive to gain an entrance into the kingdom, if we do not seek earnestly to learn what constitutes its laws, we are not fitted for a part in it. Those who refuse to co-operate with God on earth, would not co-operate with Him in heaven. It would not be safe to take them to heaven."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 280.

"There are two errors against which the children of God—particularly those who have just come to trust in His grace—especially need to guard. The first, already dwelt upon, is that of looking to their own works, trusting to anything they can do, to bring themselves into harmony with God. He who is trying to become holy by his own works in keeping the law, is attempting an impossibility. . . .

"The opposite and no less dangerous error is, that belief in Christ releases men from keeping the law of God; that since by faith alone we become partakers of the grace of Christ, our works have nothing to do with our redemption."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 64, 65.

2. In what graphic language does the apostle Paul describe the spiritual warfare of the Christian? 1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Cor. 9:25.

NOTE.—Paul was a true Christian hero. He understood the struggle; he went through the heat of many battles. Saint that he was, he never regarded the victory fully won as long as he lived. Phil. 3:12. When he finally reached the end of his life he testified triumphantly: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2 Tim. 4:7.

3. What assurances of victory are given to encourage the Christian in the struggle against the power of evil? John 16:33; 1 Cor. 10:13.

NOTE.—"The example of Christ shows us that our only hope of victory is in continual resistance of Satan's attacks. He who triumphed over the adversary of souls in the conflict of temptations understands Satan's power over the race, and has conquered him in our behalf. As an overcomer, He has given us the advantage of His victory, that in our efforts to resist the temptations of Satan we may unite our weakness to His strength, our worthlessness to His merits. And sustained by His enduring might under the strength of temptation, we may resist in His all-powerful name, and overcome as He overcame."—*Messages to Young People,* page 50.

4. Having accepted Christ as the victor over Satan, with what confidence may we face the attacks of the enemy? 1 John 4:4; Rom. 8:37; Phil. 4-13.

NOTE.—The Spirit of God in the heart of the believer becomes an impregnable fortress against Satan and his host. See Isa. 59:19.

"The Christian life is a warfare. But 'we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.' In this conflict of righteousness against unrighteousness we can be successful only by divine aid. Our finite will must be brought into submission to the will of the Infinite; the human will must be blended with the divine. This will bring the Holy Spirit to our aid; and every conquest will tend to the recovery of God's purchased possession, to the restoration of His image in the soul."—*Messages to Young People,* page 55.

The Christian's Armor

5. What invincible armor has been provided for the Christian? How is it described? Rom. 13:12; 2 Cor. 6:7; Eph. 6:11.

6. Clad with "the whole armor of God," what two great objectives is the Christian enabled to attain? Eph. 6:13.

NOTE.—"(1.) We must *withstand*. . . . Satan is said *to stand up against us*. If he stands up against us, we must stand against him; set up, and keep up, an interest in opposition to the devil. . . . To stand against Satan is to strive against sin. . . .

"(2.) We must stand our ground: *And, having done all, to stand*. We must resolve, by God's grace, not to yield to Satan. Resist him, and he will flee. If we give back, he will get ground. If we distrust our cause, or our Leader, or our armor, we give him advantage."—Matthew Henry, *Commentary,* on Eph. 6:13.

Implements in the Armor

7. Which is the first weapon listed in the whole armor of God? Eph. 6: 14, first part; Luke 12:35, first part.

NOTE.—The girdle is the first part of the armor to be put on. It is the foundation upon which all other weapons rest.

Paul mentions truth as the girdle. Truth, or sincerity, is the basis of Christian strength. "Truth shall be thy shield and buckler." Ps. 91:4. Before we undertake anything as Christ's followers, our lives must be squared with truth, and that means being established in Christ, the Truth.

There can be no false front. One must be wholly sincere in his relationship to Christ. There can be no aping of the world, or outward form, if one wishes to live a victorious life in Christ.

8. What is the second article of the Christian armor called? Eph. 6:14, last part; Isa. 59:17, first part.

NOTE.—The breastplate protects the heart and other vital organs of the body. Against these Satan aims his sharpest darts, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." Rom. 10:10.

9. Which portion of the body requires the third article in the armor? What does that signify? Eph. 6:15. Compare Isa. 52:7.

NOTE.—"Walk firmly, decidedly, your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 295.

Resolution gives the Christian constancy to advance. There is no stopping, no hesitation. There is no uncertainty, no beating of the air, but a constant stretching forward "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:14.

10. In what special manner is the fourth piece of armor introduced? How important is this piece of the Christian's armor? Eph. 6:16; 1 John 5:4, last part.

NOTE.—The emphatic expression "above all" is employed in introducing this part of the armor. This is because the shield is a universal means of defense. It can be turned in any direction to render the darts of the enemy ineffective.

"The just shall live by faith." Rom. 1:17.

Faith is something to live by, not something to hold onto with trembling hand for fear it might get away from us.

The devil fears a man of faith. When Luther laid hold of faith as an active principle of life, he sprang to his feet and began to charge the gates of hell. Every rafter in the roof above him could be a

devil, for all he cared. By faith he set out to make known the truth of God to a dark, superstitious world. By word and pen he attacked the strongholds of Satan, and great was the result of such aggression.

Putting on the Armor

11. By what act of faith does the Christian receive the protection and benefits of the armor of God? Eph. 6:11, 13.

12. What does the helmet represent? Eph. 6:17, first part; 1 Thess. 5:8.

NOTE.—The helmet identifies the soldiers of the cross. It bears the insignia of "the hope of salvation."

13. Having put on the Christian's armor, what weapon is the soldier of the cross to wield? Eph. 6:17, last part.

NOTE.—The most aggressive implement in the armor is "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Like Goliath's sword, there is none to compare with it. With this sword we assault the hosts of evil. Heb. 4:12; Ps. 119:11.

14. Fully clad in his armor and with sword in hand, how is the Christian soldier admonished to conduct his warfare with evil? Eph. 6:18. Compare Matt. 26:41.

NOTE.—"Without unceasing prayer and diligent watching, we are in danger of growing careless and of deviating from the right path."—*Steps to Christ,* page 99.

The Christian must always be on the alert against the invasion of evil. God is not honored when His children willfully expose themselves to temptation and then come fleeing to Him for help when the mischief has been done. Watching is our first line of defense.

"In no case can Satan obtain dominion over the thoughts, words, and actions, unless we voluntarily open the door and invite him to enter. He will then come in and, by catching away the good seed sown in the heart, make of none effect the truth.

"All who name the name of Christ need to watch and pray and guard the avenues of the soul, for Satan is at work to corrupt and destroy if the least advantage is given him."—*The Adventist Home,* page 402.

Lesson 13, for September 27, 1958

Living Up to the Standard

MEMORY VERSE: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps." 1 Peter 2:21.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 109-113; "Messages to Young People," pages 65-74; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of September 11.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 11-14.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Christ the Standard

1. Christ our righteousness. 1 Cor. 1:30.
2. Following His example. 1 Peter 2:21; Col. 2:6.
3. His exalted standard. Isa. 11:5; Matt. 5:20.
4. Doing the Father's will. John 5:19, 30.

II. The Christ Life

5. "Put on Christ." Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:4.
6. Christ living in me. Gal. 2:20.
7. A new creature. 2 Cor. 5:17.

III. Evidence of the New Life

8. "The marks of . . . Jesus." Gal. 6:17; 2 Cor. 4:10.
9. In conversation and life. Eph. 4: 20-25; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:1, 2.
10. "Crucified with Christ." Gal. 2:20, first part; 1 Cor. 15:31, last part; 9:27.

IV. Meeting the Perfect Standard

11. Standard of Christ accepted. Ps. 40:7-10; John 1:14; 17:4.
12. Christ's steadfastness and suffering. Isa. 50:5-7; Heb. 2:9, 10.
13. His death on the cross. Phil. 2:5-8.
14. Our appreciation to be shown. 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The crown of victory comes only to those who have faith in Jesus Christ and accept His righteousness.

Christ the Standard

1. Who is made the standard of righteousness for us? 1 Cor. 1:30.

NOTE.—"Christ Himself is the pearl of great price. In Him is gathered all the glory of the Father, the fullness of the Godhead. He is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person. The glory of the attributes of God is expressed in His character. Every page of the Holy Scriptures shines with His light. The righteousness of Christ, as a pure, white pearl, has no defect, no stain. No work of man can improve the great and precious gift of God. It is without a flaw."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 115.

2. For what purpose did Christ leave us an example? Having accepted Christ, what becomes our duty? 1 Peter 2:21; Col. 2:6.

3. How is the standard of Christ's life contrasted with that of the leaders of His time? Isa. 11:5; Matt. 5:20.

NOTE.—"*Girdle of His loins.* Messiah is pictured clothed in garments of righteousness. The figure implies a strict regard for justice and truth, integrity and faithfulness. Messiah is to be the very embodiment of righteousness. In contrast, Antichrist is said to work 'with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.' "—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 4, p. 159.

"The rabbis counted their righteousness a passport to heaven; but Jesus declared it to be insufficient and unworthy. External ceremonies and a theoretical knowledge of truth constituted Pharasaical righteousness. The rabbis claimed to be holy through their own efforts in keeping the law; but their works had divorced righteousness from religion. While they were punctilious in ritual observances, their lives were immoral and debased. Their so-called righteousness could never enter the kingdom of heaven."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 309.

4. To whom did Jesus always look for His own example and guide? John 5:19, 30.

NOTE.—"'I am the True Vine,' He says. Instead of choosing the graceful palm, the lofty cedar, or the strong oak, Jesus takes the vine with its clinging tendrils to represent Himself. The palm tree, the cedar, and the oak stand alone. They require no support. But the vine entwines about the trellis, and thus climbs heavenward. So Christ in His humanity was dependent upon divine power. 'I can of Mine own self do nothing,' He declared."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 674, 675.

The Christ Life

5. At what time in the Christian's experience does the emulation of Christ begin? Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:4.

NOTE.—"Those who have put on Christ by baptism, by this act showing their separation from the world and that they have covenanted to walk in newness of life, should not set up idols in their hearts. Those who have once rejoiced in the evidence of sins forgiven, who have tasted a Saviour's love and who then persist in uniting with the foes of Christ, rejecting the perfect righteousness that Jesus offers them and choosing the ways that He has condemned, will be more severely judged than the heathen who have never had the light and have never known God or His law. Those who refuse to follow the light which God has given them, choosing the amusements, vanities, and follies of the world, and refusing to conform their conduct to the just and holy requirements of God's law, are guilty of the most aggravating sins in the sight of God. Their guilt and their wages will be proportionate to the light and privileges which they have had." —*Testimonies,* vol. 3, pp. 365, 366.

6. Having "put . . . on the Lord Jesus," whose life becomes a reality in the Christian's experience? Gal. 2:20.

NOTE.—"To believe in Christ merely as the Saviour of the world can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto

salvation is not a mere assent to the truth of the gospel. True faith is that which receives Christ as a personal Saviour. God gave His only-begotten Son, that *I,* by believing in Him, 'should not perish, but have everlasting life.' John 3:16. When I come to Christ, according to His word, I am to believe that I receive His saving grace. The life that I now live, I am to 'live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved *me,* and gave Himself for *me.*' Gal. 2:20."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 62.

7. What transformation takes place in the life of one who is truly "in Christ"? 2 Cor. 5:17.

NOTE.—"When a man is truly converted, he becomes a son of God, a partaker of the divine nature. Not only is the heart renewed, but the intellect is strengthened and invigorated. There have been many instances of persons who before conversion were thought to possess ordinary and even inferior ability, but who after conversion seemed to be entirely transformed. They then manifested remarkable power to comprehend the truths of God's word, and to present these truths to others. Men of high intellectual standing have considered it a privilege to hold intercourse with these men. The Sun of righteousness, shedding its bright beams into their minds, quick-

ened every power into more vigorous action."—*Messages to Young People,* pages 65, 66.

Evidence of the New Life

8. Whose marks did Paul say could be seen in his body? Gal. 6:17; 2 Cor. 4:10.

NOTE.—"God's stamp is upon us. He has bought us, and He desires us to remember that our physical, mental, and moral powers belong to Him. Time and influence, reason, affection, and conscience, all are God's, and are to be used only in harmony with His will."—*Messages to Young People,* page 69.

9. How is the fact that we are "in Christ" revealed in our personal experience? In our conversation? In our attitude toward life? Eph. 4:20-25; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:1, 2.

10. What daily experience characterized the life of Paul as he followed the footsteps of the Master? Gal. 2:20, first part; 1 Cor. 15:31, last part; 9:27.

NOTE.—"Constant war against the carnal mind must be maintained; and we must be aided by the refining influence of the grace of God, which will attract the mind upward and habituate it to meditate upon pure and holy things.

"The body is not kept under by many professed Sabbathkeepers. Some have embraced the Sabbath whose minds have ever been depraved. And when they embraced the truth they did not feel the necessity of turning square about and changing their whole course of action."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 479.

Meeting the Perfect Standard

11. How fully did Jesus succeed in meeting the standard set up by Himself and the Father? Ps. 40:7-10; John 1:14; 17:4.

12. How is singleness of purpose, as revealed in the life of Christ, described? What did He experience as a result? Isa. 50:5-7; Heb. 2:9, 10.

13. In harmony with the will of the Father, what infinite price did Christ pay for man's redemption? Phil. 2:5-8.

14. In what way can we best show our appreciation for the great price that has been paid for our redemption? 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31.

NOTE.—"You are not your own. Jesus has purchased you with His blood. Do not bury your talents in the earth. Use them for Him. In whatever business you may be engaged, bring Jesus into it. If you find that you are losing your love for your Saviour, give up your business, and say, 'Here I am, Saviour; what wilt Thou have me to do?' He will receive you graciously, and love you freely. He will abundantly pardon; for He is merciful and long-suffering, not willing that any should perish."—*Messages to Young People,* page 70.

"Thank God for the bright pictures which He has presented to us. Let us group together the blessed assurances of His love, that we may look upon them continually. The Son of God leaving His Father's throne, clothing His divinity with humanity, that He might rescue man from the power of Satan; His triumph in our behalf, opening heaven to men, revealing to human vision the presence chamber where the Deity unveils His glory; the fallen race uplifted from the pit of ruin into which sin had plunged it, and brought again into connection with the infinite God, and having endured the divine test through faith in our Redeemer, clothed in the righteousness of Christ, and exalted to His throne—these are the pictures which God would have us contemplate."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 122, 123.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING
September 27, 1958

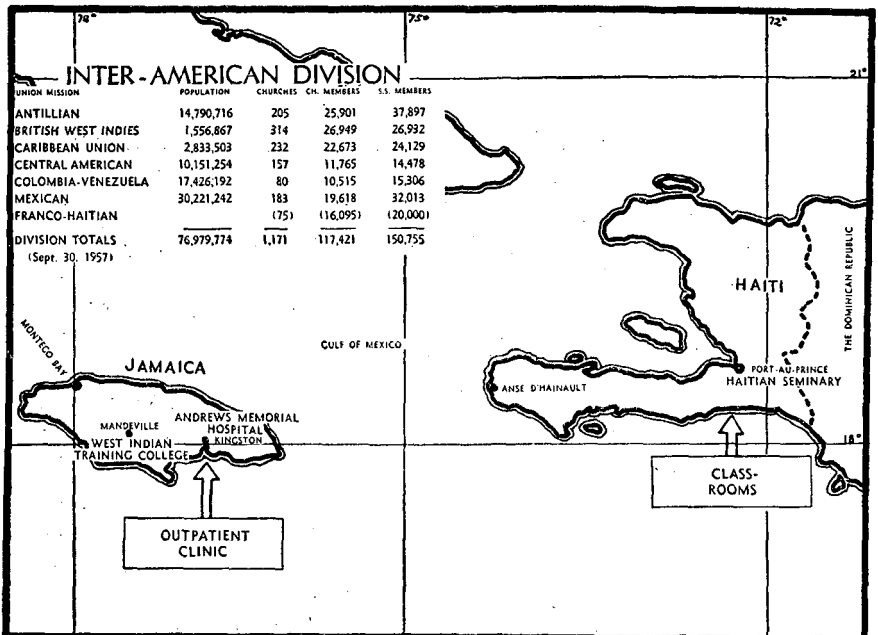
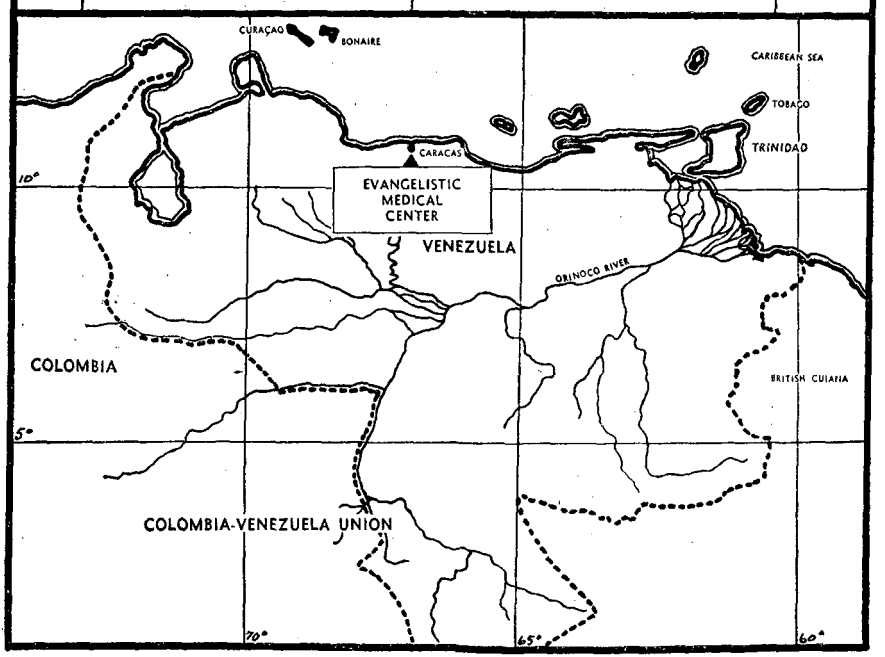
The overflow of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter goes to the Inter-American Division, the second largest of our overseas divisions and the fastest growing division in the world, with 125,000 church members. Such a rapidly growing work naturally presents many problems and many needs. A large proportion of the people are poor, and their physical as well as their spiritual needs are many. This quarter we are concentrating on three worthy projects; namely, an academic building for the Seminaire Adventiste, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in the Franco-Haitian Union; an evangelistic and medical center for Caracas, Venezuela, in the Colombia-Venezuela Union; and an outpatient clinic building for the Andrews Memorial Hospital at Kingston, Jamaica, in the British West Indies Union. Our schools and our medical institutions play an important part in the spreading of the Good News of the return of Jesus. Where would we find people to go out and give the message if we could not train them in our own schools? How else could we reach the millions of people who first hear of Christ when they come to our clinics and hospitals as patients?

May we on this coming Thirteenth Sabbath make a sacrificial offering for the strengthening of these three institutions in the Inter-American field.

LESSONS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1958

Sabbath school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the fourth quarter of 1958 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The subject of the quarter's lessons is "New Testament Biographies." The title of the first lesson is, "John the Baptist, Forerunner of Christ." The Memory Verse is Malachi 4:5, 6. The texts to be studied are.

Ques. 1. Isa. 40:3-5.
Ques. 2. Mal. 4:5, 6.
Ques. 3. Luke 1:5-17.
Ques. 4. Luke 1:67-79.
Ques. 5: Luke 1:80.
Ques. 6. Matt. 3:4.
Ques. 7. Matt. 3:5, 6.
Ques. 8. Matt. 3:7-10.
Ques. 9. John 1:19-27; Luke 3:15-17.
Ques. 10. Matt. 3:13-17.
Ques. 11. John 3:26-30.
Ques. 12. Matt. 14:2-12.
Ques. 13. Matt. 11:2-6.
Ques. 14. Matt. 11:7-14.

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

UNION MISSION	POPULATION	CHURCHES	CH. MEMBERS	S.S. MEMBERS
ANTILLIAN	14,790,716	205	25,901	37,897
BRITISH WEST INDIES	1,556,867	314	26,949	26,932
CARIBBEAN UNION	2,833,503	232	22,673	24,129
CENTRAL AMERICAN	10,151,254	157	11,765	14,478
COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA	17,426,192	80	10,515	15,306
MEXICAN	30,221,242	183	19,618	32,013
FRANCO-HAITIAN		(75)	(16,095)	(20,000)
DIVISION TOTALS (Sept. 30, 1957)	76,979,774	1,171	117,421	150,755