THE JOYS AND OBLIGATIONS OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

DEVANEY

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

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THE BLESSING OF DAILY STUDY

"The beauty and riches of the Word have a transforming influence on mind and character."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 132.

"There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's Word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose rarely seen in these times." —*Steps to Christ,* page 90.

My Daily Lesson Study Pledge

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

Name _____

Lesson Titles for the Quarter

1. The Christian, a Steward of God
2. Christian Worship Acknowledges Stewardship
3. The Church, a Steward of God's Grace
4. The Christian, a Steward of Faith
5. The Stewardship of Prayer
6. The Stewardship of the Word of God
7. The Stewardship of Influence
8. Stewardship in the Home
9. Christian Stewardship of Talents
10. Stewardship in Service
11. A Faithful Stewardship of Material Things
12. Generosity in Stewardship
13. Stewardship of His Love
14. Rewards That Endure

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

In creating man as a free moral agent, the Creator conferred upon him certain inescapable responsibilities. He was, for example, responsible for the perpetuation of human life and its welfare. He was to exercise a representative dominion over the animal creation. He was ordained to work and to acquire the means by which to enjoy the gifts of life. He was to be his brother's keeper in the sense of respecting and assisting in his well-being. All of this required a discreet use of time, effort, and intelligence.

These responsibilities were to be passed on to his descendants, so that in time each man was responsible to God for all that his God-given life meant to him—health, family, home, friends, church association and worship, the moral and spiritual education of children, the ethical standards of his community, the acquirement and use of possessions whether in the use of goods or money. In short, the whole of everything that life meant was a heaven-sent privilege and a solemn responsibility which could not be evaded. Life and all it connoted must be either well-spent or misspent, and each man was to be answerable to God for the results.

This, of course, was a stewardship of the whole of life, not simply a stewardship of money. These lessons are an attempt to set Biblical stewardship in the context of man's whole existence before his Creator. Rightly conceived and sincerely accepted, the study of this larger aspect of stewardship will bring great blessing to the whole of God's church.

Lesson 1, for July 1, 1967

The Christian, a Steward of God

MEMORY VERSE: "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." 1 Cor. 4:1, 2.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 13-20; "Testimonies," Vol. 2, pages 282-288.

STUDY AIM: To gain an understanding of our complete dependence on others, and of our stewardship, as children of Christ, of a high and holy cause.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Children of Faith

1. Becoming the children of God. Gal. 3:26; John 1:12.
2. The assurance of the believer. 1 John 4:13.
3. Believers and their allegiance. 1 Cor. 6:19, 20.

II. God's Right of Ownership

4. All things exist because of Christ. Col. 1:16-18.
5. Christ, the Creator, is also the Redeemer. Isa. 43:1.
6. God is able to keep us from falling. Jude 24, 25.

7. God's purpose for the believer. Eph. 2:10.

III. The Believer's Obligation

8. To live for God, not for self. 2 Cor. 5:14, 15.
9. To be transformed in character. Rom. 12:2.
10. To give evidence of a changed life by Christian service. Matt. 10:42.
11. To be prepared to face the judgment. Eccl. 12:14.

IV. The Spirit of the Believer

12. Willing to deny himself and follow Christ. Luke 9:23.
13. Simplicity and modesty in almsgiving. Mark 12:41-44; Matt. 6: 2, 3.
14. Faithfulness as a steward. 1 Cor. 4:1, 2.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Everyone who connects himself with the church makes in that act a solemn vow to work for the interest of the church and to hold that interest above every worldly consideration. It is his work to preserve a living connection with God, to engage with heart and soul in the great scheme of redemption, and to show, in his life and character, the excellency of God's commandments in contrast with the customs and precepts of the world. Every soul that has made a profession of Christ has pledged himself to be all that it is possible for him to be as a spiritual worker, to be active, zealous, and efficient in his Master's service. Christ expects every man to do his duty; let this be the watchword throughout the ranks of His followers."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 5, p. 460.

"All are to show their fidelity to God by the wise use of His entrusted capital, not in means alone, but in any endowment that will tend to the upbuilding of His kingdom. Satan will employ every possible device to prevent the truth from reaching those who are buried in error; but the voice of warning and entreaty must come to them. And while only a few are engaged in this work, thousands ought to be as much interested as they."—*Ibid.,* p. 462.

Children of Faith

1. In what way do men and women become children of God? Gal. 3:26; John 1:12.

2. What evidence does the believer have that he dwells in God? 1 John 4:13.

NOTE.—"That which determines whether we shall receive the Spirit and whether the Spirit will be able to use us, is our surrender to His guidance. . . . As the Father gave the Spirit to empower the Son during His life on earth, so God will give of the Spirit to us. But we have a part to play—we must be willing to receive the Holy Spirit, we must be responsive to His control. Unless that willingness is present in us, God's gift will be in vain. The Christians to whom John was writing had already opened their hearts to receive God's gift."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 John 4:13.

3. To whom do believers owe their allegiance? Why? 1 Cor. 6:19, 20.

NOTE.—"We belong to God; we are His sons and daughters,—His by creation, and His by the gift of His only-begotten Son for our redemption. 'Ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.' The mind, the heart, the will, and the affections belong to God; the money that we handle is the Lord's. Every good that we receive and enjoy is the result of divine benevolence. God is the bountiful giver of all good, and He desires that there shall be an acknowledgment, on the part of the receiver, of these gifts that provide for every necessity of the body and the soul. God demands only His own. The primary portion is the Lord's, and must be used as His entrusted treasure. The heart that is divested of selfishness will awaken to a sense of God's goodness and love, and be moved to a hearty acknowledgment of His righteous requirements."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 72.

God's Right of Ownership

4. Who is responsible for the existence of all things? Col. 1:16-18.

NOTE.—"The form of the verb in Greek stresses an original organization and a continued maintenance of the organization. The power that holds the far-flung orbs of the universe on their appointed courses with mathematical accuracy, the power that holds the particles of the atom in their predetermined orbits, is the same. By the power of Christ all things cohere. Not only did He bring them into being, He maintains them each moment."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Col. 1:17.

5. What claim does God, as our Creator, have upon us? Isa. 43:1.

NOTE.—"Of Christ's relation to His people, there is a beautiful illustration in the laws given to Israel. When through poverty a Hebrew had been forced to part with his patrimony, and to sell himself as a bondservant, the duty of redeeming him and his inheritance fell to the one who was nearest of kin. . . . So the work of redeeming us and our inheritance, lost through sin, fell upon Him who is 'near of kin' unto us. It was to redeem us that He became our kinsman. Closer than father, mother, brother, friend, or lover is the Lord our Saviour. 'Fear not,' He says, 'for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 327.

6. What is God able to do for His people? Jude 24, 25.

NOTE.—"Christ is coming with clouds and with great glory. A multitude of shining angels will attend Him. He will come to raise the dead, and to change the living saints from glory to glory. He will come to honor those who have loved Him, and kept His commandments, and to take them to Himself. He has not forgotten them nor His promise. There will be a relinking of the family chain. When we look upon our dead, we may think of the morning when the trump of God shall sound, when 'the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.' . . . A little longer, and we shall see the King in His beauty. A little longer, and He will wipe all tears from our eyes. A little longer, and He will present us 'faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 632.

7. What is God's great purpose for those whom He has created anew in Christ Jesus? Eph. 2:10.

NOTE.—"Of himself man cannot bring forth good works. It is necessary for him to be spiritually re-created in Christ before he can produce the good works God purposes he shall bring forth. By a change of the will, affections, and purposes the privilege and duty of witnessing by good works become possible (Matt. 5:14-16)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Eph. 2:10.

The Believer's Obligation

8. How will believers live when motivated by love for Christ? 2 Cor. 5:14, 15.

NOTE.—"The emphasis here is the complete reorientation of the life from self to God. The new life bears witness to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. The heart's warmest affections and best energies are given to Christ, in the small things of life as well as in the great. The life brings forth the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23) and reflects the soul's delight in doing the will of God (Ps. 1:2; 119:97). Love to God and to one's fellowmen becomes life's controlling motive, and the glory of God is the end of all thought and action. Such a life becomes more and more sensitive to sin, more conscious of its own need, and more ready to depend upon the grace of Christ."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Cor. 5:15.

9. What change must be wrought in the believer? Rom. 12:2.

NOTE.—"Just as a good tree will bear good fruit, so will the tree that is actually planted in the Lord's garden produce good fruit unto eternal life. Besetting sins are overcome; evil thoughts are not allowed in the mind; evil habits are purged from the soul temple. The tendencies which have been biased in a wrong direction are turned in a right direction. Wrong dispositions and feelings are changed, new principles of action supplied, and there is a new standard of character. Holy tempers and sanctified emotions are now the fruit borne upon the Christian tree. An entire transformation has taken place. This is the work to be wrought."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 6, p. 1080.

10. What simple outward acts give evidence of a changed life? Matt. 10:42.

NOTE.—"Men act out the true character of the heart. There are about us those who have a meek and lowly spirit, the spirit of Christ, who do many little things to help those around them, and who think nothing of it; they will be astonishd at last to find that Christ has noticed the kind word spoken to the disheartened, and taken account of the smallest gift given for the relief of the poor, that cost the giver some self-denial. The Lord measures the spirit, and rewards accordingly, and the pure, humble, childlike spirit of love makes the offering precious in His sight."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 340.

11. How specific will be the final judgment? Eccl. 12:14.

NOTE.—"Many conceal their transgressions from their fellowmen, and flatter themselves that God will not be strict to mark iniquity. But His law is the great standard of right, and with it every act of life must be compared in that day when God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil. Purity of heart will lead to purity of life. All excuses for sin are vain. Who can plead for the sinner when God testifies against him?"— Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 2, p. 997.

The Spirit of the Believer

12. In order truly to follow the Lord, what must the believer do daily? Luke 9:23.

NOTE.—"Hear what God says: 'If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.' The yoke and the cross are symbols representing the same thing,—the giving up of the will to God. Wearing the yoke unites finite man in companionship with the dearly beloved Son of God. Lifting the cross cuts away self from the soul, and places man where he learns how to bear Christ's burdens. We cannot follow Christ without wearing His yoke, without lifting the cross and bearing it after Him. If our will is not in accord with the divine requirements, we are to deny our inclinations, give up our darling desires, and step in Christ's footsteps."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, pp. 1090, 1091.

13. What did Christ notice about the almsgiving of the worshipers in His day? Mark 12:41-44; Matt. 6:2, 3.

14. What does God require of a steward? 1 Cor. 4:1, 2.

NOTE.—"In stewardship, the matter of supreme importance is faithfulness. Man has absolute ownership of nothing at all in this world, not even his physical and mental strength, for 'all the abilities which men possess belong to God' (5T 277). He is a created being, and as such he belongs to his Creator. He is also a redeemed being, purchased by the blood of Christ (see Acts 20:28); therefore in a double sense man is not his own. . . . The true believer in Christ will seek constantly to glorify God in his management of the things placed in his care, whether they be physical, mental, or spiritual. He will recognize that he is not free to use his goods or his talents for the satisfaction of the natural desires and ambitions of his own heart."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 4:1.

Christian Worship Acknowledges Stewardship

MEMORY VERSE: "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor. 6:20.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 171-180.

STUDY AIM: To recognize more distinctly the supremacy, Lordship, and ownership of God and a sense of partnership between man and God.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Recognizing a Partnership

1. God provides for His followers. Matt. 6:31-33.
2. The completeness of God's ownership. Ps. 24:1.
3. Apostle Paul's conviction regarding life. Phil. 1:21.

II. Stewardship Is Recognized in Worship

4. In Christ we are not our own. 1 Cor. 6:20.
5. The Apostle's own recognition of God's ownership. Acts 27:23, 24.
6. Acknowledgment that ownership demands worship. Rev. 14:7.
7. Sacrificial spirit manifested in early church. Acts 4:32.

III. The Spirit of Giving, a Part of Worship

8. After conversion true worship demands offering. 2 Cor. 8:1-5.
9. A spiritual life reflects a spiritual commitment. Gal. 5:24, 25.
10. The consequences when gratitude is not expressed. Rom. 1:21-24.
11. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35.

IV. God Desires Our Partnership

12. God's presence in the sanctuary fellowship. Ex. 25:8.
13. In New Testament times. Heb. 10:24, 25.
14. The strength of God's people. Isa. 30:15.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"To the humble, believing soul, the house of God on earth is the gate of heaven. The song of praise, the prayer, the words spoken by Christ's representatives, are God's appointed agencies to prepare a people for the church above, for that loftier worship into which there can enter nothing that defileth.

"From the sacredness which was attached to the earthly sanctuary, Christians may learn how they should regard the place where the Lord meets with His people. There has been a great change, not for the better, but for the worse, in the habits and customs of the people in reference to religious worship. . . . The reverence which the people had anciently for the sanctuary where they met with God in sacred service has largely passed away. Nevertheless, God Himself gave the order of His service, exalting it high above everything of a temporal nature. . . .

"Nothing that is sacred, nothing that pertains to the worship of God, should be treated with carelessness or indifference."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 5, p. 491.

Recognizing a Partnership

1. What assurance does Jesus offer to those who enter into partnership with Him? Matt. 6:31-33.

NOTE.—"The great purpose in man's existence is that he 'should seek the Lord, if haply' he 'might feel after Him, and find Him' (Acts 17:27). Most men are engrossed in laboring 'for the meat which perisheth' (John 6:27), for the water for which, when he drinks, he will thirst again (John 4:13). Most men 'spend money for that which is not bread' and 'labor for that which satisfieth not' (Isa. 55:2). Too often we are prone to make 'all these [material] things' the main object of our search in life, in the vain hope that God will be indulgent with us, and, at the close of life's journey, add to our brief span of threescore and ten years the eternal kingdom. Christ would have us make first things first, and assures us that things of lesser importance and value will be supplied to each according to his need." —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 6:33.

2. How inclusive is God's claim to ownership? Ps. 24:1.

3. Whom did the apostle Paul recognize as making life worthwhile? Phil. 1:21.

NOTE.—"The one who stands nearest to Christ will be he who on earth has drunk most deeply of the spirit of His self-sacrificing love,—love that 'vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, . . . seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil' (1 Cor. 13:4, 5),—love that moves the disciple, as it moved our Lord, to give all, to live and labor and sacrifice, even unto death, for the saving of humanity. This spirit was made manifest in the life of Paul."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 549.

Stewardship Is Recognized in Worship

4. Since the Christian belongs to Christ, what is his sacred responsibility? 1 Cor. 6:20.

NOTE.—"If God has blessed us with prosperity, it is not that our time and attention should be diverted from Him and given to that which He has lent us. The giver is greater than the gift. We have been bought with a price, we are not our own. Have we forgotten that infinite price paid for our redemption? Is gratitude dead in the heart? Does not the cross of Christ put to shame a life of selfish ease and indulgence?"—*Counsels on Stewardship,* pages 20, 21.

5. At a time of great danger, how did Paul acknowledge that he belonged to God, and what message of assurance came to him? Acts 27:23, 24.

NOTE.—"Religion is a personal thing, a personal consecration, worship, and service given to a personal God. To the fearful heathen on the doomed vessel with him, Paul brings a ringing testimony. He knows the God who is about to intervene on behalf of those aboard the ship, for He belongs to Paul and Paul to Him in the mutual fellowship of service. Paul had taken upon himself the yoke of service and had become intimately acquainted with his divine yokefellow (see Matt. 11:28-30; cf. Rom. 1:9; 2 Tim. 1:3, 12)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Acts 27:23.

6. For what response does the first angel's message call? Rev. 14:7.

NOTE.—"The Creator of the universe is the true and only object of worship. No man, no angel, is worthy of worship. This is the prerogative of God only. Creatorship is one of the distinguishing features of the true God in contrast with false deities (Jer. 10:11, 12). The appeal to worship God as Creator has become especially timely in the years following the initial preaching of the first angel's message, because of the rapid spread of the theory of evolution. Furthermore, the call to worship the God of heaven as Creator of all things implies that due heed be given to the sign of God's creative works—the Sabbath of the Lord (see on Ex. 20:8-11). If the Sabbath had been kept as God intended, it would have served as a great safeguard against infidelity and evolution (see Acts 14:15; PP 336)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rev. 14:7.

7. What sacrificial spirit was manifested in the early church? Acts 4:32.

NOTE.—"When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God."—*Evangelism,* page 699.

The Spirit of Giving, a Part of Worship

8. What followed the experience of conversion in the churches of Macedonia? 2 Cor. 8:1-5.

NOTE.—"The willingness to sacrifice on the part of the Macedonian believers came as a result of wholehearted consecration. Moved by the Spirit of God, they 'first gave their own selves to the Lord' (2 Cor. 8:5); then they were willing to give freely of their means for the support of the gospel. It was not necessary to urge them to give; rather, they rejoiced in the privilege of denying themselves even of necessary things in order to supply the needs of others. When the apostle would have restrained them, they importuned him to accept their offering. In their simplicity and integrity, and in their love for the brethren, they gladly denied self, and thus abounded in the fruit of benevolence."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 172.

9. What is the result of living in the Spirit? Gal. 5:24, 25.

NOTE.—"While dead to some things, Paul was very much alive to others. He was as active after conversion as he was before, for the life of a Christian is not one of inactivity. Jesus spoke of this new life as a more abundant life (see John 10:10). Since Jesus is the source of life, there can be no true appreciation of life apart from Him."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Gal. 2:20.

10. What is the result of failure to respond to the call of God? Rom. 1:21-24.

NOTE.—"In their folly men had exchanged the worship of God for that of images. Instead of looking up to a Being clothed with majesty and power, they bowed down to reptiles and beasts. They exchanged a glorious object of worship for that which was degrading and humiliating (see Ps. 106:20; Jer. 2:11). Man was appointed the lord of the animal creation (Ps. 8:6-8), and he degrades himself by worshiping the creatures God made to serve him (cf. Hosea 8:6)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rom. 1:23.

11. What did Jesus say about giving? Acts 20:35.

NOTE.—"The blessing is a two-way benediction. The receiver is blessed or made happy whether the need is spiritual or physical. But the greater blessing is upon the giver. There is a joy in sharing. The giver is drawn away from his own interests, gives play to the better part of his nature, and receives the approval of God (Matt. 25:34-40)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Acts 20:35.

God Desires Our Partnership

12. For what purpose was Israel to build a sanctuary? Ex. 25:8.

NOTE.—"We all lose much sweet communion with God by our restlessness, by not encouraging moments of reflection and prayer. The spiritual condition needs to be often reviewed and the mind and heart drawn toward the Sun of Righteousness. If when the people come into the house of worship, they have genuine reverence for the Lord and bear in mind that they are in His presence, there will be a sweet eloquence in silence."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 5, p. 492.

13. Why does the church need to gather for worship? Heb. 10:24, 25.

NOTE.—"Nothing is more needed in our work than the practical results of communion with God. We should show by our daily lives that we have peace and rest in the Saviour. His peace in the heart will shine forth in the countenance. It will give to the voice a persuasive power. Communion with God will ennoble the character and the life. Men will take knowledge of us, as of the first disciples, that we have been with Jesus. This will impart to the worker a power that nothing else can give. Of this power he must not allow himself to be deprived."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 512.

14. Wherein lies the strength of God's people? Isa. 30:15.

NOTE.—"When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, 'Be still, and know that I am God.' Ps. 46:10. Here alone can true rest be found. And this is the effectual preparation for all labor for God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 363.

Lesson 3, for July 15, 1967

The Church, a Steward of God's Grace

MEMORY VERSE: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:19, 20.

STUDY HELPS: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 25-34; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Testimonies," Vol. 5, pp. 272-279.

STUDY AIM: To find our area of individual responsibility for carrying out Christ's commission to preach the gospel to the world.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Christ Commissions His Church

1. "Go . . . teach all nations." Matt. 28:19, 20.
2. "Ye shall be witnesses." Acts 1:8.
3. "Then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14.

II. Christ's Delegated Responsibility

4. Christ, the Chief Shepherd. 1 Peter 5:4.
5. The responsibility of the "under-shepherds." Acts 20:28.
6. The gospel to all peoples. Acts 26:15-18.
7. Consequences of unfaithfulness. Ezek. 33:8.

III. The Church Endowed With a Great Trust

8. The Word of God must be preached. Rom. 10:13-15.
9. The church is the recipient of Christ's love. Eph. 5:25-27.
10. The church is to labor with Christ. 1 Cor. 3:9-11.
11. The church, a steward of the mysteries of God. 1 Cor. 4:1, 2.

IV. The Church Triumphant

12. The inheritance of the victorious church. John 10:28; Heb. 11:39, 40.
13. Worship in the new earth. Isa. 66:22, 23.
14. The plan of salvation completed. 1 John 3:2; Rev. 21:4.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Christ designs that heaven's order, heaven's plan of government, heaven's divine harmony, shall be represented in His church on earth. Thus in His people He is glorified. Through them the Sun of Righteousness will shine in undimmed luster to the world. Christ has given to His church ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. He has bestowed upon His people capabilities and blessings that they may represent His own sufficiency. The church, endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depositary, in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love, are to appear in full and final display."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 680.

Christ Commissions His Church

1. What solemn commission did Christ give to His church? Matt. 28: 19, 20.

NOTE.—"The disciples were to carry their work forward in Christ's name. Their every word and act was to fasten attention on His name, as possessing that vital power by which sinners may be saved. Their faith was to center in Him who is the source of mercy and power. In His name they were to present their petitions to the Father, and they would receive answer. They were to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Christ's name was to be their watchword, their badge of distinction, their bond of union, the authority for their course of action, and the source of their success."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 28.

2. What work did Christ remind the disciples to do after His ascension? Acts 1:8.

NOTE.—"Before ascending to heaven, Christ gave His disciples their commission. He told them that they were to be the executors of the will in which He bequeathed to the world the treasures of eternal life. You have been witnesses of My life of sacrifice in behalf of the world, He said to them. You have seen My labors for Israel. And although My people would not come to Me that they might have life, although priests and rulers have done unto Me as they listed, although they have rejected Me, they shall have still another opportunity of accepting the Son of God."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 27.

3. When will the preaching of the gospel come to a close? Matt. 24:14.

NOTE.—"Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church so that everyone shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 111.

Christ's Delegated Responsibility

4. What position of highest honor is ascribed to Christ? 1 Peter 5:4.

NOTE.—"Jesus knows us individually, and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant. He has at times given directions to His servants to go to a certain street in a certain city, to such a house, to find one of His sheep."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 479.

5. What solemn responsibility rests upon overseers of the flock? Acts 20:28.

NOTE.—"The church, soon to enter upon her most severe conflict, will be the object most dear to God upon earth. The con-

federacy of evil will be stirred with power from beneath, and Satan will cast all the reproach possible upon the chosen ones whom he cannot deceive and delude with his satanic inventions and falsehoods. But exalted 'to be a prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and remission of sins,' will Christ, our representative and head, close His heart, or withdraw His hand, or falsify His promise? No; never, never."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 20.

6. What did Paul's preaching accomplish for his hearers? Acts 26: 15-18.

NOTE.—"Paul often mentions sanctification, the process of character transformation through which the saints must go. To instantaneous freedom from the guilt of sin, through justification . . . it adds a repeated and continuous dedication of the mind and the life to the goal of perfection in Christ. It is the 'work . . . of a lifetime.' As all Christians must, Paul was experiencing a continuing dedication, proceeding from victory to victory in Christ."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Acts 26:18.

7. If the watchman is unfaithful in his responsibility, what will God do? Ezek. 33:8.

NOTE.—"The position of those who have been called of God to labor in word and doctrine for the upbuilding of His church, is one of grave responsibility. In Christ's stead they are to beseech men and women to be reconciled to God, and they can fulfill their mission only as they receive wisdom and power from above."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 360.

The Church Endowed With a Great Trust

8. What special task does God give to His church? Rom. 10:13-15.

9. What standard has Christ set for the church? Eph. 5:25-27.

NOTE.—"There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery. The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing."—*The Great Controversy,* page 490.

10. With whom is the church united in her labor and witnessing? 1 Cor. 3:9-11.

11. What are the followers of Christ called? With what are they charged? 1 Cor. 4:1, 2.

NOTE.—"The quality of dependability is one of the most valuable assets a man can have. It is highly esteemed by God. Failure in this respect means failure to qualify for eternal life (see Luke 16:10-12; COL 356). Only those will receive an inheritance in the new earth who can be relied upon by God under all circumstances. We prove ourselves faithful stewards by continually seeking to glorify God in all the details of our lives." —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 4:2.

The Church Triumphant

12. What is to be the final inheritance of the victorious church? John 10:28; Heb. 11:39, 40.

NOTE.—"God foresaw the end from the beginning. He knew that in future ages there would be other galaxies of faithful men and women, youth and children. In His infinite wisdom He ordained that the faithful of all ages should enter upon the eternal inheritance together."—*S.D.A Bible Commentary,* on Heb. 11:40.

13. What great privilege at last awaits the redeemed? Isa. 66:22, 23.

NOTE.—"So long as the heavens and the earth endure, the Sabbath will continue as a sign of the Creator's power. And when Eden shall bloom on earth again, God's holy rest day will be honored by all beneath the sun. 'From one Sabbath to another' the inhabitants of the glorified new earth shall go up 'to worship before Me, saith the Lord.' "—*The Desire of Ages*, page 283.

14. How complete is this glorious triumph to be? 1 John 3:2; Rev. 21:4.

Lesson 4, for July 22, 1967

The Christian, a Steward of Faith

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

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 231-242, 357, 358, 529, 530; "Steps to Christ," chapter, "Faith and Acceptance."

STUDY AIM: To understand how a Christian who demonstrates his faith gives evidence of the truth of God in his life.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. A Faith to Share

1. The Christian shares his faith. Rom. 1:11, 12.
2. The just shall live by faith. Rom. 1:17.
3. The secret of bearing fruit. 2 Peter 1:8-11.
4. The weapons of the Christian are invincible. 2 Cor. 10:4.
5. The importance of walking in the light. John 12:35.

II. Our Faith Strengthens Others

6. The Source of all comfort. 2 Cor. 1:4.
7. Partakers of Christ. Heb. 3:14.
8. The importance of faith. Heb. 11:6.
9. Faith that is meaningful. James 2:20, 26.
10. Holding fast under trial. Rom. 5:3-5.
11. Paul's earnest counsel to Timothy. 2 Tim. 1:5, 6.

III. The Reward for Faithfulness

12. The results of enduring trial. 1 Peter 1:7.
13. Christ's penetrating question. Luke 18:8.
14. The victory of the saints. Rev. 12:11.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Heavenly intelligences are waiting to cooperate with human instrumentalities, that they may reveal to the world what human beings may become, and what, through union with the Divine, may be accomplished for the saving of souls that are ready to perish. There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. All who consecrate body, soul, and spirit to His service will be constantly re-

ceiving a new endowment of physical, mental, and spiritual power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own Spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in mind and heart. Through the grace given us we may achieve victories that because of our own erroneous and preconceived opinions, our defects of character, our smallness of faith, have seemed impossible."—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 159.

A Faith to Share

1. Why did the apostle Paul long to be with the believers in Rome? Rom. 1:11, 12.

NOTE.—"The experienced apostle joins himself with the believers at Rome as needing to be no less encouraged by their faith than they by his. Christian perfection is not to be found in seclusion or in isolation from others. It is developed as the faith of Christians is encouraged and stimulated by that of their fellow believers."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rom. 1:12.

2. In what way shall the just live? Rom. 1:17.

NOTE.—"The just man will not live by reliance on his own works and merit but by confidence and faith in God. . . . Paul is trying to show that it is by faith alone that a man can be righteous before God. Only the person who by faith is righteous shall live."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rom. 1:17.

3. What does a faithful Christian life produce? 2 Peter 1:8-11.

NOTE.—"Christ is able to save to the uttermost all who come to Him in faith. He will cleanse them from all defilement if they will let Him. But if they cling to their sins, they cannot possibly be saved; for Christ's righteousness covers no sin unrepented of. God has declared that those who receive Christ as their Redeemer, accepting Him as the One who takes away all sin, will receive pardon for their transgressions. These are the terms of our election. Man's salvation depends upon his receiving Christ by faith. Those who will not receive Him lose eternal life because they refused to avail themselves of the only means provided by the Father and the Son for the salvation of a perishing world."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 7, p. 931.

4. What are the "weapons of our warfare" able to do? 2 Cor. 10:4.

5. Why is it important always to walk in light? John 12:35.

NOTE.—"I state truth. The souls who love God, who believe in Christ, and who eagerly grasp every ray of light, will see light, and rejoice in the truth. They will communicate the light. They will grow in holiness. Those who receive the Holy Spirit will feel the chilling atmosphere that surrounds the souls of others by whom these great and solemn realities are unappreciated and spoken against. They feel that they are in the council of the ungodly, of men who stand in the way of sinners, and sit in the seat of the scornful.

"The Word of God speaketh truth, not a lie. In it is nothing strained, nothing extreme, nothing overdone. We are to accept it as the word of the living God."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 90.

Our Faith Strengthens Others

6. As a result of God's comfort in times of trial, what is the Christian able to do? 2 Cor. 1:4.

NOTE.—"More is included in this term than mere consolation in sorrow or in trouble. It includes all that a loving heavenly Father can do for His earthborn children. . . . To the Christian, tribulation plays an important role in the perfection of char-

acter. . . . By themselves, suffering and tribulation have no power to make men Christlike. In fact, they make many men morose and bitter. But God sanctifies tribulation, and those who find in Him grace and strength to endure have solved one of the great problems of life. . . . Compare the experience and example of Paul himself. . . . It is much more difficult to believe in God in the midst of luxury, worldly comfort, and ease. In the providence of God, tribulation and sorrow can lead us closer to Him. Should men not therefore praise Him for tribulation and let it be a stepping-stone to the kingdom of God?"—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Cor. 1:4.

7. On what condition may we become partakers of Christ? Heb. 3:14.

8. What must one believe who comes to God? Heb. 11:6.

9. What makes faith practicable and meaningful? James 2:20, 26.

NOTE.—"When we speak of faith, there is a distinction that should be borne in mind. There is a kind of belief that is wholly distinct from faith. The existence and power of God, the truth of His Word, are facts that even Satan and his hosts cannot at heart deny. The Bible says that 'the devils also believe, and tremble,' but this is not faith. . . . Where there is not only a belief in God's Word, but a submission of the will to Him; where the heart is yielded to Him, the affections fixed upon Him, there is faith—faith that works by love and purifies the soul. Through this faith the heart is renewed in the image of God."—*Steps to Christ,* page 63.

10. What fruitage in the life is developed under trial? Rom. 5:3-5.

NOTE.—"No greater evidence need be asked that a person is at a great distance from Jesus, and living in neglect of secret prayer, neglecting personal piety, than the fact that he thus talks doubts and unbelief because his surroundings are not favorable. Such persons have not the pure, true, undefiled religion of Christ. They have a spurious article which the refining process will utterly consume as dross. As soon as God proves them, and tests their faith, they waver, they stand feebly, swaying first one way, then the other. They have not the genuine article that Paul possessed, that could glory in tribulation because 'tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts.' They have a religion of circumstance."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 2, pp. 514, 515.

11. Of what did Paul remind Timothy? 2 Tim. 1:5, 6.

The Reward for Faithfulness

12. What rewards await those who endure the trials of their faith? 1 Peter 1:7.

NOTE.—"The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God."—*The Great Controversy,* page 621.

13. What penetrating question did Jesus ask concerning the time preceding His coming? Luke 18:8.

14. To what degree do the saints give themselves to God at last? Rev. 12:11.

NOTE.—"We become overcomers by helping others to overcome, by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. The keeping of the commandments of God will yield in us an obedient spirit, and the service that is the offspring of such a spirit, God can accept."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 7, p. 974.

Lesson 5, for July 29, 1967

The Stewardship of Prayer

MEMORY VERSE: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Eph. 6:18.

STUDY HELPS: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "The Privilege of Prayer"; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "The Ministery of Healing," pages 225-233.

STUDY AIM: To recognize the ways in which Christian believers are stewards of the fellowship of prayer.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Our Stewardship of Prayer

1. The magnificent example of Jesus. John 17:9, 20.
2. Prayer for others—a Christian duty. Matt. 5:44.
3. The example of Abraham. Gen. 19:29.
4. The prayer of faith delivered Peter. Acts 12:5.

II. Prayer for One Another

5. Prayer for the sick. James 5:15, 16.
6. The Christian will be alert in prayer. Luke 12:35-37; 1 Peter 4:7.
7. Prayer for the messengers of God. Eph. 6:18, 19.
8. Prayer for civil leaders. 1 Tim. 2:1, 2.
9. Prayer for the coming of the Lord. Matt. 6:10.

III. Worship as a Part of Stewardship

10. The church exhorted to public worship. Heb. 10:25.
11. God's house to be one of prayer for all peoples. Matt. 21:12-16.
12. God's view of the bearers of His promises. Isa. 52:7.
13. The life of the redeemed is approved of God. Mal. 3:16, 17.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"If we take counsel with our doubts and fears, or try to solve everything that we cannot see clearly, before we have faith, perplexities will only increase and deepen. But if we come to God, feeling helpless and dependent, as we really are, and in humble, trusting faith make known our wants to Him whose knowledge is infinite, who sees everything in creation, and who governs everything by His will and word, He can and will attend to our cry, and will let light shine into our hearts. Through sincere prayer we are brought into connection with the mind of the Infinite."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 96, 97.

Our Stewardship of Prayer

1. In His intercessory prayer, for whom did Jesus especially pray? John 17:9, 20.

NOTE.—"By partaking of the Spirit of God, conforming to the law of God, man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ brings His disciples into a living union with Himself and with the Father. Through the working of the Holy Spirit upon the human mind, man is made complete in Christ Jesus. Unity with Christ establishes a bond of unity with one another."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, p. 1148.

2. What injunction did Jesus give regarding the Christian's prayers for his enemies? Matt. 5:44.

NOTE.—"We are brought into sympathy with Christ through the fellowship of His sufferings. Every act of self-sacrifice for the good of others strengthens the spirit of beneficence in the giver's heart, allying him more closely to the Redeemer of the world, who 'was rich, yet for your sakes . . . became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.' 2 Corinthians 8:9. And it is only as we thus fulfill the divine purpose in our creation that life can be a blessing to us."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 79, 80.

3. When Sodom was destroyed, whose prayers were remembered? Gen. 19:29. Compare Gen. 18:16-33.

NOTE.—"Unable to save the cities for which Abraham had pleaded, the Lord nevertheless rewarded his intercessory prayer by sparing those who were willing to leave. For Abraham's sake, as here stated, salvation was offered to the family of Lot." —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Gen. 19:29.

4. What brought about the deliverance of Peter from prison? Acts 12:5.

NOTE.—A praying church and Peter's resignation to the purpose of God made his deliverance possible. "The apostle was not intimidated by the situation. Since his reinstatement after his denial of Christ, he had unflinchingly braved danger, and had shown a noble courage and boldness in preaching a crucified, risen, and ascended Saviour. As he lay in his cell he called to mind the words that Christ had spoken to him: 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.' Peter believed that the time had come for him to yield up his life for Christ's sake."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 6, p. 1061.

Prayer for One Another

5. What should Christians do in behalf of the sick? James 5:15, 16.

NOTE.—"When we have prayed for the recovery of the sick, whatever the outcome of the case, let us not lose faith in God. If we are called upon to meet bereavement, let us accept the bitter cup, remembering that a Father's hand holds it to our lips. But should health be restored, it should not be forgotten that the recipient of healing mercy is placed under renewed obligation to the Creator."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 233.

6. What will the sincere, earnest believer be doing at the coming of Christ? Luke 12:35-37; 1 Peter 4:7.

NOTE.—"Watchfulness is the keynote of of this brief parable. Here for the first time Jesus teaches publicly concerning His second coming. The close of His earthly ministry is already in sight. He therefore sought to prepare men for His ascension and return in power and glory."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Luke 12:35.

7. For what did Paul especially ask his converts to pray? Eph. 6:18, 19.

NOTE.—"This touching reference by the valiant warrior to his own need reveals his humility and his reliance on others for understanding and support. He needed intercessory prayer for himself, and often expressed that need (Rom. 15:30; 2 Cor. 1:11; Phil. 1:19; Col. 4:3; etc.)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Eph. 6:19.

8. What is the Christian's duty in regard to civil authorities? 1 Tim. 2:1, 2.

NOTE.—"The requirements of government may at times be contrary to the law of God, and under such circumstances the Christian is 'to obey God rather than men' (Acts 4:19; 5:29). Paul's point is that the ruling power of human governments is entrusted to men by God, according to His own purposes for man's welfare. Their continuance in power, or their fall from authority, is in His hands. Therefore, the Christian will support the authority of the existing state. He will not presume to take it into his own hands to resist or to depose 'the powers that be.' "—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rom. 13:1.

9. For what great event are we bidden to pray? Matt. 6:10.

NOTE.—"Throughout the ages the promise that the kingdoms of this world would eventually become the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ (Rev. 11:15) has spurred the citizens of the kingdom of grace to holy living (1 John 3:2, 3) and to self-sacrifice in the proclamation of the good news of the kingdom. . . . In the minds and hearts of true Christians in all ages 'that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ' . . . has ever been uppermost and has inspired them to holier living."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 6:10.

Worship as a Part of Stewardship

10. What are the members of the church exhorted to do without fail? Why? Heb. 10:25.

NOTE.—"Those who are firmly established in the faith should never forget that some of their fellow believers, whose opportunity for the development of Christian character may have been less favorable, may be passing through doubt and discouragement. 'A word in season to him that is weary' (Isa. 50:4) may be the means, in God's providence, of converting a 'sinner from the error of his way,' of saving his 'soul from death,' and of hiding 'a multitude of sins' (James 5:20). . . .

"As trouble, difficulty, and persecution should increase, mutual exhortation and encouragement would prove to be of even greater benefit. The danger to personal safety that might be incurred by attending public worship would be far outweighed by the courage and strength that result from Christian fellowship."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Heb. 10:25.

11. For whom is the house of prayer established? Matt. 21:12-16. Compare Isa. 56:7.

NOTE.—"As Jesus set about healing those who now flocked to Him in the Temple courts, He gave a practical demonstration of the truth that the Temple had been ordained of God to serve man's need, not his greed. It seems that for a brief time Jesus was in complete control of the Temple . . . and during that time demonstrated, in part, how these sacred precincts should be used. He had come to earth that men 'might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly'; . . . not that they might sacrifice more abundantly or make profits more abundantly."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 21:14.

12. In what beautiful language does God describe the faithful labors of His people? Isa. 52:7.

NOTE.—"There is no more joyous message than that of deliverance and peace. To the Jews under an alien yoke nothing could bring greater rejoicing than assurance that the hour of deliverance was at hand. Paul applies these words of Isaiah to the proclamation of the gospel message (Rom. 10:

15). The deliverance here foretold was, first, that of literal Israel from the nations that oppressed them, . . . and then the greater deliverance from sin and all evil through the suffering Servant."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Isa. 52:7.

13. Because of faithful stewardship in prayer, what will finally be the reward of God's people? Mal. 3:16, 17.

Lesson 6, for August 5, 1967

The Stewardship of the Word of God

MEMORY VERSE: "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Christ's Object Lessons," chapter, "Things New and Old"; "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary."

STUDY AIM: To seek a deepening of our experience as stewards of God's Word.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Christ, the Word

1. The Word is Christ. John 1:14; Rev. 19:13 (last part).
2. The life of the world depends upon the Word of God. John 6:32, 33.
3. Jesus is the life-giving Bread. John 6:35, 48, 50, 51.
4. The words of eternal life are in Christ. John 6:68.

II. The Christian's Responsibility to the Word

5. Paul urgently charged Timothy on this matter. 2 Tim. 4:1, 2.
6. Christ Himself encouraged a study of that Word. John 5:39.
7. John testified of this fellowship through the Word. 1 John 1:1-3.
8. Only through the Word are believers cleansed. John 15:3.
9. The "seed is the Word of God." Luke 8:11.

III. Christians Charged to Preserve the Word of Life

10. The Scriptures offer hope of perfection. 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.
11. The life of sanctification is dependent upon truth. John 17:17.
12. The believer will appreciate the Word of God. Job 23:12.
13. Faithful keeping of God's Word brings a blessing. Luke 11:28.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"God speaks to us in His Word. Here we have in clearer lines the revelation of His character, of His dealings with men, and the great work of redemption. Here is open before us the history of patriarchs and prophets and other holy men of old. They were men 'subject to like passions as we are.' James 5:17. We see how they struggled through discouragements like our own, how they fell under temptation as we have done, and yet took heart again and conquered through the grace of God; and, beholding, we are encouraged in our striving after righteousness. As we read of the precious experiences granted them, of the light and love and blessing it was theirs to enjoy, and of the work they wrought through the grace given them, the spirit that inspired

them kindles a flame of holy emulation in our hearts and a desire to be like them in character—like them to walk with God."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 87, 88.

Christ, the Word

1. By what title did John the revelator refer to our Lord? John 1:14; Rev. 19:13 (last part).

NOTE.—"The Word of God must be interwoven with the living character of those who believe it. The only vital faith is that faith which receives and assimilates the truth till it is a part of the being and the motive power of the life and action. Jesus is called the Word of God. He accepted His Father's law, wrought out its principles in His life, manifested its spirit, and showed its beneficent power in the heart. Says John: 'The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.' The followers of Christ must be partakers of His experience. They must assimilate the Word of God. They must be changed into its likeness by the power of Christ and reflect the divine attributes."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 5, p. 576.

2. On what does the world depend for eternal life? John 6:32, 33.

NOTE.—"Let all bear in mind that the tree of life bears twelve manner of fruits. This represents the spiritual work of our earthly missions. The Word of God is to us the tree of life. Every portion of the Scripture has its use. In every part of the Word is some lesson to be learned. Then learn how to study your Bibles. This book is not a heap of odds and ends. It is an educator. Your own thoughts must be called into exercise before you can be really benefited by Bible study. Spiritual sinew and muscle must be brought to bear upon the Word. The Holy Spirit will bring to remembrance the words of Christ. He will enlighten the mind, and guide the research."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 7, p. 989.

3. What does Jesus plainly declare Himself to be? John 6:35, 48, 50, 51.

NOTE.—"Christ is the source of our life, the source of immortality. He is the tree of life, and to all who come to Him He gives spiritual life."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 7, p. 989.

4. Who did Peter say has the words of life? John 6:68.

NOTE.—"Although Peter doubtless did not yet comprehend fully the spiritual nature of Christ's kingdom, nevertheless his declaration here shows that he had begun to have insight into the fact that the words Jesus had spoken were indeed the key to eternal spiritual life."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on John 6:68.

The Christian's Responsibility to the Word

5. What earnest charge did the apostle Paul give to Timothy? 2 Tim. 4:1, 2.

NOTE.—"The expression 'preach the Word' suggests content designed to aid men and women in meeting temptation and in solving life's problems day by day. This command bars all levity, all fanciful interpretations based on inaccurate exegesis, and all trifling subjects. The Holy Spirit will cooperate with the minister's efforts only when truth is being communicated. As a 'herald' for God the minister must preach nothing but the Word, otherwise he is an impostor. . . .

"When ministers today realize their mission as living links between the infinite sufficiency of God and the needs of men, their messages will consist only of the pure Bread of Life. . . . Their sermons will be constructed in such a way that their hearers will not only be pleased with the presentation but will also be constrained to remember the principle of truth set forth. The genuine Word will build new habits

and create new aspirations and hopes."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Tim. 4:2.

6. What did Jesus say about the Scriptures to those of His time? John 5:39.

NOTE.—"In the Word the Saviour is revealed in all His beauty and loveliness. Every soul will find comfort and consolation in the Bible, which is full of promises concerning what God will do for the one who comes into right relation to Him. Especially will the sick be comforted by hearing the Word; for in giving the Scriptures God has given to mankind a leaf from the tree of life, which is for the healing of the nations. How can anyone who reads the Scriptures or who has heard them read, lose his interest in heavenly things, and find pleasure in amusements and enchantments of the world?—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, pp. 1134, 1135.

7. What basis did John offer for his faith? 1 John 1:1-3.

NOTE.—"The Christian becomes a connecting link between heaven and earth. With one hand he lays hold on his knowledge of God through Christ, and with the other he takes hold of those who know not God, thus providing a living link between the Father and His wayward children."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 John 1:3.

8. What did Jesus say cleansed His disciples? John 15:3.

NOTE.—"The fact that the contemporaries of Jesus had heard from Him the truth concerning His identity and mission left them without excuse. They could not claim ignorance as to the requirements for salvation. If they had not heard the truth, they would not have been held responsible. . . . Thus it is with those who hear the Word of God today. Great is the responsibility placed by God upon the hearers! They may ridicule and even despise sermons, but they will find to their sorrow at last that they must give an account of what they have done in view of what they have heard."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on John 12:48.

9. To what did Jesus liken God's Word? Luke 8:11.

NOTE.—"The Word of God is the seed. Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is enfolded. So there is life in God's Word. Christ says, 'The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.' . . . 'He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life.' . . . In every command and in every promise of the Word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the Word is receiving the very life and character of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 38.

Christians Charged to Preserve the Word of Life

10. What are the Scriptures designed to do for the man of God? 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

NOTE.—"Here Paul states why the Bible makes a man 'wise unto salvation': . . . it is the very thought of God communicated to men. . . . The vitality of the Scriptures is due to the life breathed into them by God Himself. The endurance of their charm and their adequacy to satisfy every need of man testifies to their divine authorship."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Tim. 3:16.

11. How is sanctification brought about? John 17:17.

12. How highly did the patriarch Job regard the Word of God? Job 23:12.

13. What does God bestow upon the faithful steward of His Word? Luke 11:28.

NOTE.—"Christ said, 'Blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it.' The Bread of life alone can satisfy the hungering soul. The Water of life alone will quench the thirst of the thirsty soul. The minds of the disciples were often excited by curiosity, but instead of gratifying their desire to know things which were not necessary for the proper conduct of their work, he opened new channels of thought to their minds. He gave them much needed instruction upon practical godliness."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education,* page 339.

Lesson 7, for August 12, 1967

The Stewardship of Influence

MEMORY VERSE: "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men." 2 Cor. 3:2.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 339-342 (1923 ed., pp. 343-345).

STUDY AIM: To discover what the Bible has to say about the Christian's responsibility for his influence.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Christian Responsibility

1. A question inherent in human relationships. Gen. 4:9.
2. "Who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:29-37.
3. A basic law of Christian responsibility. Rom. 13:8, 9.
4. Man judged by the fruits of his life. Matt. 16:27.

II. Christianity in Life

5. The life of the Christian, an open letter. 2 Cor. 3:2-4.
6. Christian life likened to Roman arena. 1 Cor. 4:9.
7. The new birth automatically carries with it solemn responsibilities of members one to another. Eph. 4:24, 25.
8. Christians to be living manifestation of the truth. 2 Cor. 4:4-6.

III. Christian Applications

9. Pure religion defined. James 1:27.
10. Church leaders to be men commanding respect. Titus 2:7, 8.
11. Paul recognized the value of his influence. 1 Cor. 10:23, 24.
12. A specific instance of how our example affects others. 1 Cor. 8:13.

IV. Rewards That Endure

13. The fruitage of Naomi's faithful life. Ruth 1:14-17.
14. The works of the righteous outlive them. Matt. 25:34.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The world has a right to know just what may be expected from every intelligent human being. He who is a living embodiment of firm, decided, righteous principles, will be a living power upon his associates; and he will influence others by his Christianity. Many do not discern and appreciate how great is the influence of

each one for good or evil. Every student should understand that the principles which he adopts become a living, molding influence upon character. He who accepts Christ as his personal Saviour, will love Jesus, and all for whom Christ has died; for Christ will be in him a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. He will surrender himself without reservation to the rule of Christ." —*Messages to Young People,* page 29.

Christian Responsibility

1. What penetrating question did Cain ask of God? Gen. 4:9.

2. How did Jesus answer the lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:29-37.

NOTE.—"It is this work lying nearest us that the Lord now calls upon the church to undertake. We are not to stand, saying: 'Who is my neighbor?' We are to remember that our neighbor is the one who most needs our sympathy and help. Our neighbor is every soul who is wounded and bruised by the adversary. Our neighbor is everyone who is the property of God. In Christ the distinctions made by the Jews as to who was their neighbor are swept away. There are no territorial lines, no artificial distinctions, no caste, no aristocracy."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 6, p. 294.

3. How did the apostle Paul sum up the responsibility of mutual human relationships? Rom. 13:8, 9.

NOTE.—"The first four of the Ten Commandments are summed up in the one great precept, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart.' The last six are included in the other, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Both these commandments are an expression of the principle of love. The first cannot be kept and the second broken, nor can the second be kept while the first is broken. When God has His rightful place on the throne of the heart, the right place will be given to our neighbor. We shall love him as ourselves. And only as we love God supremely is it possible to love our neighbor impartially.

"And since all the commandments are summed up in love to God and man, it follows that not one precept can be broken without violating this principle. Thus Christ taught His hearers that the law of God is not so many separate precepts, some of which are of great importance, while others are of small importance and may with impunity be ignored. Our Lord presents the first four and the last six commandments as a divine whole, and teaches that love to God will be shown by obedience to all His commandments."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 607.

4. By what principle will God reward men in the judgment? Matt. 16:27.

Christianity in Life

5. To what is the Christian likened? 2 Cor. 3:2-4.

NOTE.—"The world has need of more legible Christians. The language of a Christ-like life is intended for all mankind. Only thus can men comprehend what Christianity means, understand its great truths, and learn to love and obey God's law."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Cor. 3:3.

6. How extensively is the influence of the believer witnessed or attested to? 1 Cor. 4:9.

NOTE.—"God's servants who witness faithfully for Him become centers of interest for inhabitants of this little world and of heaven. . . . This whole world of ours is a stage on which the conflict between sin and righteousness, truth and error, is being carried on before an intensely interested audience composed of the inhabitants of the universe. . . . It is the duty of every believer to let the light of truth be seen by all with whom he comes in contact. If Christians realized that the eyes of the universe are focused upon

them, there would be a revival of the faithful witnessing that characterized the lives of the apostles."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 4:9.

7. What responsibility automatically accompanies the new birth? Eph. 4:24, 25.

NOTE.—"Deceit brings its own disintegration of soul to the deceiver, often hurting him more than the deceived. How can those who are followers of the One who is the truth do anything else but hold to the utmost integrity in all things? In the life of the Christian there is no place for taking advantage of another in a business transaction, for the coloring of stories told, for the conveying of false impressions by innuendo, for the making of promises without the intention of keeping them, for the relaying of rumors and gossip."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Eph. 4:25.

8. What did Paul declare the Christian would give to the world? 2 Cor. 4:4-6.

NOTE.—"As the spoken word of God brought light to a dark world, the living Word, as set forth in the written Word, commands the light of heaven to shine into darkened souls. It is beyond the power, skill, and wisdom of man to produce such light."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Cor. 4:6.

Christian Applications

9. How practical did James make religion? James 1:27.

NOTE.—"True religion teaches us to do everything as if we were in the presence of God. Furthermore, God knows the motives as well as the actions. . . . Even the performance of the good works here mentioned is not evidence of 'pure religion and undefiled' unless the works are prompted by right motives. Many give to charity only to enhance their standing in the eyes of their fellowmen, or perhaps with their eyes only upon their income tax deductions."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on James 1:27.

10. What qualities should characterize church leaders? Titus 2:7, 8.

NOTE.—"False teachings, like the nostrums of medical quacks, do not cure the disease, and often complicate it. Paul thus reminds Titus that his opponents will closely observe both his life and his words in order to find something against him. If Titus, however, takes care to speak precisely, carefully, and prayerfully, his opponents will be put to shame. They will be left without a basis for the criticisms they hope to make."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Titus 2:8.

11. What rule did Paul lay down to safeguard his personal influence? 1 Cor. 10:23, 24.

NOTE.—"Although a Christian is lawfully entitled to do everything that is not out of harmony with the will of God, there are times when it would not be profitable for him to do certain things, nor would it serve to 'bring together,' or unite in the belief of the truth, others who might observe the behavior of the Christian. The believer must consider how to behave so that he will help others in their efforts to live aright. If his 'lawful' behavior would place a stumbling block in another's way, then he should refrain from the course that perplexes his brother. . . . The welfare of others, rather than one's own convenience, must dictate what the Christian does, if he is to do all things well."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 10:23.

12. What specific example did the apostle Paul give regarding the preservation of his influence? 1 Cor. 8:13.

NOTE.—"Flesh foods were particularly involved in sacrifices to idols. Paul was willing to do without food that he might lawfully have eaten, rather than lay a stumbling block in a weak brother's way. Lib-

erty is valuable, but the weakness of a fellow human being should induce believers to waive their liberty in his interest. Love for one's neighbors is to be the guiding principle in such matters. Surely the gratification of one's desires is of much less importance than the salvation of the weak brother who may stumble over one's exercise of liberty. This principle is applicable to many phases of living, such as recreation, dress, music—in fact, it applies to life in general. The denial of self for the good of others is a prominent feature of the experience of a genuine follower of Jesus. . . . This principle is the essence of the spirit of Jesus, in whose earthly life it was constantly manifest."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 8:13.

Rewards That Endure

13. What beautiful and tender Old Testament experience shows the powerful influence of a godly life? Ruth 1:14-17.

NOTE.—"It is not merely that Ruth's love for her mother-in-law leads her to cleave to Naomi. Ruth has discovered that it is Naomi's faith that makes her a wonderful woman. Ruth resolutely makes her decision for the true God: 'Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.' No more sublime affirmation of love and devotion is to be found anywhere in literature. . . .

"Ruth's only knowlege of the true God was what she had seen of Him reflected in Naomi and the other members of Naomi's family. It is ever thus that God reveals Himself to men—by demonstration of the power of His love operating in the lives of erstwhile sinners. The transforming power of divine love is the best argument in favor of the truth. Without it our profession is no better than 'sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.' "—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Ruth 1:16.

14. What supreme reward awaits the righteous and faithful child of God? Matt. 25:34.

Lesson 8, for August 19, 1967

Stewardship in the Home

MEMORY VERSE: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6.

STUDY HELPS: "The Adventist Home," pages 105-120, 282-302; "The Ministry of Healing," pages 349-355, 388-394; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To understand better the principle of stewardship in the homelife of the Christian.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Stewardship of Husband and Wife

1. God gave Adam a companion. Gen. 2:18.
2. The husband and his measured responsibilities. Eph. 5:25, 28, 29, 31.
3. The husband-wife relationship illustrated. Eph. 5:21-24.
4. The believer and the unbelieving spouse. 1 Cor. 7:13, 16.
5. Marriage is a lifetime partnership. Rom. 7:2.

II. The Responsible Parental Stewardship

6. The husband's responsibility for his household. 1 Tim. 5:8.
7. Parents not to antagonize their children. Eph. 6:4.

8. Parents responsible for the training of their children. Prov. 22:6.
9. Christ's high regard for children. Matt. 18:6, 10, 14.

III. Children's Responsibility Toward Their Parents

10. "The first commandment with promise." Eph. 6:2, 3.
11. Children's responsibility for their parents' welfare. Matt. 15:3-6.
12. Avoid evil associations. 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 15:33; Eph. 4:29.
13. The obedient child. Eph. 6:1.
14. A sure sign of the end of the world. 2 Tim. 3:1, 2.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"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. Their influence grows; for as they impart, they receive to impart again. The father and mother find helpers in their children, who give to others the instruction received in the home. The neighborhood in which they live is helped, for in it they have become enriched for time and for eternity. The whole family is engaged in the service of the Master; and by their godly example, others are inspired to be faithful and true to God in dealing with His flock, His beautiful flock."—*The Adventist Home,* page 32.

Stewardship of Husband and Wife

1. Why did God provide a companion for Adam? Gen. 2:18.

NOTE.—"God celebrated the first marriage. Thus the institution has for its originator the Creator of the universe. 'Marriage is honorable'; . . . it was one of the first gifts of God to man, and it is one of the two institutions that, after the Fall, Adam brought with him beyond the gates of Paradise. When the divine principles are recognized and obeyed in this relation, marriage is a blessing; it guards the purity and happiness of the race, it provides for man's social needs, it elevates the physical, the intellectual, and the moral nature."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 46.

2. What fundamental responsibilities rest upon the husband and father? Eph. 5:25, 28, 29, 31.

NOTE.—"The response of the husband to the wife's submission is not to give a command, but to love. That immediately makes a partnership out of what otherwise would be a dictatorship. A true husband never utters rude commands. His love will find expression in a variety of ways. It will be given in words of understanding and affection. The husband will properly provide for the wife's temporal support; . . . he will do everything possible to assure her happiness; . . . he will give her every honor (1 Peter 3:7)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Eph. 5:25.

3. How did Paul illustrate the marriage relationship? Eph. 5:21-24.

NOTE.—"The ethics of Christian relationships within the family are clear when once it is seen that difference and subordination do not in any sense imply inferiority. The submission enjoined upon the wife is of the kind that can be given only between equals, not a servile obedience, but a voluntary submission in the respects in which the man was qualified by his Maker to be head."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Eph. 5:22.

"What characterizes the subjection of the church to Christ? Willingness, confidence, faith, love. The servitude of love is a most pleasant experience; 'My burden is light,' says the Head of the church (Matt. 11:30)." —*Ibid.,* on Eph. 5:24.

4. What should be the attitude of the believer toward the unbelieving spouse? 1 Cor. 7:13-16. Compare 1 Peter 3:1, 7.

NOTE.—"There might be instances in which a non-Christian wife would be so antagonistic to the gospel, and so violent in her opposition, that she would not wish to live with her Christian husband. In such cases the husband could not prevent the separation. If, on the contrary, the unbelieving wife desired to remain with her believing husband, he is not at liberty to seek a separation. The marriage vow is sacred, and cannot be set aside by any change in the religious beliefs of either party. The only effect of the conversion of one party should be to make him or her more tender, kind, loving, and loyal than before. A marriage to an unbeliever is to be regarded as binding on a believer so long as the unbeliever does not voluntarily separate himself from his believing companion and enter into another marriage."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 7:12.

5. How permanent does God design the marriage partnership to be? Rom. 7:2.

The Responsible Parental Stewardship

6. What special responsibility rests on the husband and father? 1 Tim. 5:8.

NOTE.—"The husband and father is the head of the household. The wife looks to him for love and sympathy and for aid in the training of the children; and this is right. The children are his as well as hers, and he is equally interested in their welfare. The children look to the father for support and guidance; he needs to have a right conception of life and of the influences and associations that should surround his family; above all, he should be controlled by the love and fear of God and by the teaching of His Word, that he may guide the feet of his children in the right way. . . .

"The father should do his part toward making home happy. Whatever his cares and business perplexities, they should not be permitted to overshadow his family; he should enter his home with smiles and pleasant words."—*The Adventist Home,* pages 211, 212.

7. How are parents to deal with their children? Eph. 6:4.

NOTE.—"While we are not to indulge blind affection, neither are we to manifest undue severity. Children cannot be brought to the Lord by force. They can be led, but not driven. 'My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me,' Christ declares. He did not say, My sheep hear My voice and are forced into the path of obedience. In the government of children love must be shown. Never should parents cause their children pain by harshness or unreasonable exactions. Harshness drives souls into Satan's net."—*The Adventist Home,* pages 307, 308.

8. What specific duty to children is enjoined upon parents? Prov. 22:6.

NOTE.—"Every Christian home should have rules; and parents should, in their words and in their deportment toward each other, give to the children a precious living example of what they desire them to be. . . . 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. Then these principles will control their lives and will be carried out in their association with others."—*The Adventist Home,* page 305.

9. What consideration for children did Jesus manifest? Matt. 18:6, 10, 14.

NOTE.—"Children derive life and being from their parents, and yet it is through the creative power of God that your chil-

dren have life, for God is the Life-giver. Let it be remembered that children are not to be treated as though they were our own personal property. Children are the heritage of the Lord, and the plan of redemption includes their salvation as well as ours. They have been entrusted to parents in order that they might be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, that they might be qualified to do their work in time and eternity."—*The Adventist Home,* page 280.

Children's Responsibility Toward Their Parents

10. What is "the first commandment with promise"? Eph. 6:2, 3.

NOTE.—"Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.' 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. This is not a subject unworthy of notice, but a matter of vital importance. The promise is upon condition of obedience. If you obey you shall live long in the land which the Lord your God gives you. If you disobey you shall not prolong your life in that land."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 2, pp. 80, 81.

11. What did Jesus say about the people of His day who avoided their responsibility? Matt. 15:3-6.

NOTE.—"They set aside the fifth commandment as of no consequence, but were very exact in carrying out the traditions of the elders. They taught the people that the devotion of their property to the temple was a duty more sacred than even the support of their parents; and that, however great the necessity, it was sacrilege to impart to father or mother any part of what had been thus consecrated. An undutiful child had only to pronounce the word 'Corban' over his property, thus devoting it to God, and he could retain it for his own use during his lifetime, and after his death it was to be appropriated to the temple service. Thus he was at liberty, both in life and in death, to dishonor and defraud his parents, under cover of a pretended devotion to God."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 396, 397.

12. What warnings given by Paul have special value for the young? 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 15:33; Eph. 4:29.

NOTE.—"Nothing can more effectually prevent or banish serious impressions and good desires than association with vain, careless, and corrupt-minded persons. Whatever attractions such persons may possess by their wit, sarcasm, and fun, the fact that they treat religion with levity and indifference is sufficient reason why they should not be associated with. The more engaging they are in other respects, the more should their influence be dreaded as companions, because they throw around an irreligious life so many dangerous attractions."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 3, p. 126.

13. Why should children obey their parents? Eph. 6:1.

NOTE.—"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. Unless such learn obedience and submission here, they will never learn it; the peace of the ransomed will not be marred by disobedient, unruly, unsubmissive children. No commandment-breaker can inherit the kingdom of heaven."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 1, pp. 497, 498.

14. What is one of the signs that the end is near? 2 Tim. 3:1, 2.

Lesson 9, for August 26, 1967

Christian Stewardship of Talents

MEMORY VERSE: "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matt. 25:21.

STUDY HELPS: "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 114-122; "Christ's Object Lessons," chapter, "Talents"; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To understand better the Christian's responsibility for the use of God's gifts.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Gifts and Talents Bestowed by the Holy Spirit

1. The parable of the talents. Matt. 25:14, 15.
2. The gifts of the Spirit. Eph. 4:11, 12; 1 Cor. 12:8-10.
3. Gifts of the Spirit distributed as He wills. 1 Cor. 12:11; Matt. 25:15.
4. Faithful and unfaithful servants. Matt. 25:16-19.
5. Stewards must put the Lord's goods to use. Matt. 25:27; Rom. 12:6-8.

II. Talents of Natural Endowment

6. The parable applied to natural talents.
7. All man's capabilities come from God. Acts 17:24, 25.
8. Man with one talent not excused from using it. Matt. 25:24-28.
9. Talents put to use are multiplied. Matt. 25:16, 17.

III. Time of Rewards and Punishments

10. Rewards given at the coming of the Master. Matt. 25:19.
11. Unfaithful servants cast out with sinners. Matt. 25:30.
12. Faithful servants rewarded with entrance into kingdom. Matt. 25:21, 23, 28.
13. Rewards are proportionate to faithfulness. Luke 19:16-19.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"In the Lord's plan there is a diversity in the distribution of talents. To one man is given one talent, to another five, to another ten. These talents are not bestowed capriciously, but according to the ability of the recipient.

"According to the talents bestowed will be the returns called for. The heaviest obligation rests upon him who has been made a steward of the greatest abilities. A man who has ten pounds is held responsible for all that ten pounds would do if used aright. He who has only ten pence is accountable for only that amount. . . .

"It is the faithfulness with which the endowment has been used that wins the Lord's commendation. If we desire to be acknowledged as good and faithful servants, we must do thorough, consecrated work for the Master. He will reward diligent, honest service. If men will put their trust in Him, if they will recognize His compassion and benevolence, and will walk humbly before Him, He will cooperate with them. He will increase their talents."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 116.

The Gifts and Talents Bestowed by the Holy Spirit

1. By what parable did Christ illustrate the endowments that God has entrusted to His people? Matt. 25:14, 15.

NOTE.—"The talents that Christ entrusts to His church represent especially the gifts and blessings imparted by the Holy Spirit. . . .

"Not until through faith and prayer the disciples had surrendered themselves fully for His working was the outpouring of the Spirit received. Then in a special sense the goods of heaven were committed to the followers of Christ. 'When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.' "—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 327.

2. How did the apostle Paul describe the gifts of the Spirit especially granted to those who are to enter God's service? Eph. 4:11, 12; 1 Cor. 12:8-10.

3. On what basis are the gifts of the Spirit distributed? 1 Cor. 12:11; Matt. 25:15.

NOTE.—"To every man God has given 'according to his several ability.' The talents are not apportioned capriciously. He who has ability to use five talents receives five. He who can improve but two, receives two. He who can wisely use only one, receives one. None need lament that they have not received larger gifts; for He who has apportioned to every man is equally honored by the improvement of each trust, whether it be great or small. The one to whom five talents have been committed is to render the improvement of five; he who has but one, the improvement of one. God expects returns 'according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.' 2 Cor. 8:12."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 328.

4. What two classes of people are described in the parable of the talents? Matt. 25:16-19.

5. In the words of the master in the parable, what is the responsibility of the stewards of God's gifts? Matt. 25:27; Rom. 12:6-8.

NOTE.—Romans 12:6, R.S.V., reads, "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them."

"The talents, however few, are to be put to use. The question that most concerns us is not, How much have I received? but, What am I doing with that which I have?"—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 329.

Talents of Natural Endowment

6. What other application of the parable of the talents may be made?

ANSWER: "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."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 328.

7. What basic fact undergirds all of man's talents and endowments? Acts 17:24, 25.

NOTE.—Since all that man is and has comes from God, it follows that he is but a steward of God's gifts. And as a steward he has a responsibility to use his Lord's property so as to produce an increase. This principle is the basis on which the spirit of prophecy applies the parable of the talents to the personal endowments of man. In the chapter on the talents in *Christ's Object Lessons,* are listed the following talents and how they are to be used for God:

(*a*) *Mental Faculties.* "God requires the training of the mental faculties. . . .

"The Lord desires us to obtain all the education possible, with the object in view of imparting our knowledge to others."—Page 333.

(*b*) *Speech.* "The power of speech is a talent that should be diligently cultivated."—Page 335.

"Every Christian is called to make known to others the unsearchable riches of Christ; therefore he should seek for perfection in speech."—Page 336.

(*c*) *Time.* "Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will

he require a more strict account than of our time."—Page 342.

(*d*) *Health.* "Health is a blessing of which few appreciate the value; yet upon it the efficiency of our mental and physical powers largely depends. . . .

"Anything that lessens physical strength enfeebles the mind and makes it less capable of discriminating between right and wrong. . . .

"The misuse of our physical powers shortens the period of time in which our lives can be used for the glory of God."—Page 346.

(*e*) *Strength.* "We are to love God, not only with all the heart, mind, and soul, but with all the strength. This covers the full, intelligent use of the physical powers."—Page 348.

(*f*) *Kindly Impulses and Affections.* "Kindly affections, generous impulses, and a quick apprehension of spiritual things are precious talents, and lay their possessor under a weighty responsibility."—Page 352.

(*g*) *Social Advantages.* "Social advantages are talents, and are to be used for the benefit of all within reach of our influence."—Page 353.

8. In the parable, why was not the man with the one talent excused for his neglect to trade with the talent the Lord had given him? Matt. 25:24-28.

NOTE.—"It was the one with the smallest gift who left his talent unimproved. In this is given a warning to all who feel that the smallness of their endowments excuses them from service for Christ. If they could do some great thing, how gladly would they undertake it; but because they can serve only in little things, they think themselves justified in doing nothing. In this they err. The Lord in His distribution of gifts is testing character. The man who neglected to improve his talent proved himself an unfaithful servant. Had he received five talents, he would have buried them as he buried the one. His misuse of the one talent showed that he despised the gifts of heaven."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 355.

9. In the parable, what happened to the talents that were put to use? Matt. 25:16, 17.

NOTE.—"Talents used are talents multiplied. Success is not the result of chance or destiny; it is the outworking of God's own providence, the reward of faith and discretion, of virtue and persevering effort. The Lord desires us to use every gift we have; and if we do this, we shall have greater gifts to use. He does not supernaturally endow us with the qualifications we lack; but while we use that which we have, He will work with us to increase and strengthen every faculty. By every wholehearted, earnest sacrifice for the Master's service our powers will increase."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 353, 354.

Time of Rewards and Punishments

10. What event brought about the time of reckoning for the servants in the parable? Matt. 25:19. Compare Rev. 22:12.

NOTE.—"Our heavenly Father requires no more nor less than He has given us ability to do. . . .

"We shall individually be held responsible for doing one jot less than we have ability to do. The Lord measures with exactness every possibility for service. The unused capabilities are as much brought into account as are those that are improved. For all that we might become through the right use of our talents God holds us responsible. . . . Even if we do not lose our souls, we shall realize in eternity the result of our unused talents. For all the knowledge and ability that we might have gained and did not, there will be an eternal loss."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 362, 363.

11. What was done with the unfaithful servant? Matt. 25:30.

NOTE.—"Let none suppose that they can live a life of selfishness, and then, having served their own interests, enter into the joy of their Lord. In the joy of unselfish love they could not participate. They would not be fitted for the heavenly courts. They

could not appreciate the pure atmosphere of love that pervades heaven. . . .

"In the great judgment day those who have not worked for Christ, those who have drifted along, carrying no responsibility, thinking of themselves, pleasing themselves, will be placed by the Judge of all the earth with those who did evil. They receive the same condemnation."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 364, 365.

12. How were the faithful servants rewarded? Matt. 25:21, 23, 28.

NOTE.—"Those who have received the five and the two talents return to the Lord the entrusted gifts with their increase. In doing this they claim no merit for themselves. . . . The capital was the Lord's; the improvement is His. . . .

"But when the Master receives the talents, He approves and rewards the workers as though the merit were all their own."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 360, 361.

13. In the parable of the pounds recorded by Luke, what intimation do we have that rewards will be proportionate to the service rendered in this life? Luke 19:16-19.

NOTE.—"The Lord has a great work to be done, and He will bequeath the most in the future life to those who do the most faithful, willing service in the present life." —*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 330.

Lesson 10, for September 2, 1967

Stewardship in Service

MEMORY VERSE: "He that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve." Luke 22:26.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 818-828; "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 25-34; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To discover the basic purpose for the existence of the church.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. To Give Is to Be Godlike

1. God's love impels Him to give. John 3:16.
2. Christ also gave. Gal. 1:4.
3. The completeness of Christ's gift. 2 Cor. 8:9.
4. The measure of gospel giving. Matt. 10:7, 8.

II. Summoned to a Worldwide Work

5. Christ's mandate to His followers. Mark 16:15.
6. The universality of the charge. Matt. 24:14.
7. Each is given talents for his work. Matt. 25:15.
8. Result of denying our Lord. Matt. 10:33.

III. God Requires Diligence

9. The measure by which blessings come. Luke 6:38.
10. Christ considers it done unto Him. Matt. 25:40.
11. Good deeds will accompany faith. James 2:15-17.
12. To be great one must be a servant. Luke 22:25, 26.

IV. The Rewards of Soul Winning

13. The liberal soul is made fat. Prov. 11:25.
14. Soul winners shall shine as the stars. Dan. 12:3.

Introduction

"In these final hours of probation for the sons of men, when the fate of every soul is so soon to be decided forever, the Lord of heaven and earth expects His church to arouse to action as never before. Those who have been made free in Christ through a knowledge of precious truth, are regarded by the Lord Jesus as His chosen ones, favored above all other people on the face of the earth; and He is counting on them to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into marvelous light. The blessings which are so liberally bestowed, are to be communicated to others. The good news of salvation is to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people."—*Christian Service,* page 81.

To Give Is to Be Godlike

1. What motive led God to give His greatest gift to man? John 3:16.

NOTE.—" 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son.' He gave Him not only to live among men, to bear their sins, and die their sacrifice. He gave Him to the fallen race. Christ was to identify Himself with the interests and needs of humanity. He who was one with God has linked Himself with the children of men by ties that are never to be broken. Jesus is 'not ashamed to call them brethren;' . . . He is our Sacrifice, our Advocate, our Brother, bearing our human form before the Father's throne, and through eternal ages one with the race He has redeemed—the Son of man. And all this that man might be uplifted from the ruin and degradation of sin, that he might reflect the love of God and share the joy of holiness." —*Steps to Christ,* page 14.

2. What was Christ's willing part in the plan of salvation? Gal. 1:4.

NOTE.—"It was the burden of sin, the sense of its terrible enormity, of its separation of the soul from God—it was this that broke the heart of the Son of God."—*Steps to Christ,* page 13.

3. To what degree of self-sacrifice did the Saviour go in order to save us? 2 Cor. 8:9.

NOTE.—"But He stepped still lower; the Man must humble Himself as a man to bear insult, reproach, shameful accusations, and abuse. There seemed to be no safe place for Him in His own territory. He had to flee from place to place for His life. He was betrayed by one of His disciples; He was denied by one of His most zealous followers. He was mocked. He was crowned with a crown of thorns. He was scourged. He was forced to bear the burden of the cross. He was not insensible to this contempt and ignominy. He submitted, but, oh! He felt the bitterness as no other being could feel it. He was pure, holy, and undefiled, yet arraigned as a criminal! The adorable Redeemer stepped down from the highest exaltation. Step by step He humbled Himself to die—but what a death! It was the most shameful, the most cruel—the death upon the cross as a malefactor. He did not die as a hero in the eyes of the world, loaded with honors, as men in battle. He died as a condemned criminal, suspended between the heavens and the earth—died a lingering death of shame, exposed to the tauntings and revilings of a debased, crime-loaded, profligate multitude!"—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, p. 1127.

4. What principle should control and direct the life of the child of God? Matt. 10:7, 8.

Summoned to a Worldwide Work

5. What clear and undeniable mandate did Jesus give to His followers? Mark 16:15.

NOTE.—"The most intelligent, the most spiritually minded, can bestow only as they receive. Of themselves they can supply nothing for the needs of the soul. We can impart only that which we receive from

Christ; and we can receive only as we impart to others. As we continue imparting, we continue to receive; and the more we impart, the more we shall receive. Thus we may be constantly believing, trusting, receiving, and imparting."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 370.

6. To what extent was the charge of Christ to be carried out by His followers? Matt. 24:14.

NOTE.—"Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church so that everyone shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory. 'This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.' " —*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 111.

7. To what degree does God expect each of His people to fulfill his assigned task? Matt. 25:15.

NOTE.—"To everyone who becomes a partaker of His grace the Lord appoints a work for others. Individually we are to stand in our lot and place, saying, 'Here am I; send me.' . . . Upon the minister of the Word, the missionary nurse, the Christian physician, the individual Christian, whether he be merchant or farmer, professional man or mechanic—the responsibility rests upon all. It is our work to reveal to men the gospel of their salvation. Every enterprise in which we engage should be a means to this end."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 148.

8. If we deny God, what will be the final result? Matt. 10:33.

God Requires Diligence

9. What determines the degree of blessing upon God's people? Luke 6:38.

NOTE.—"God declares, 'Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters.' . . . A continual imparting of God's gifts wherever the cause of God or the needs of humanity demand our aid, does not tend to poverty. 'There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.' . . . The sower multiplies his seed by casting it away. So it is with those who are faithful in distributing God's gifts. By imparting they increase their blessings. 'Give, and it shall be given unto you,' God has promised; 'good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 345.

10. Who is the real recipient of every act of kindness and service? Matt. 25:40.

11. What demonstrates a genuine concern for the needy? James 2:15-17.

12. What is the divine formula for greatness? Luke 22:25, 26.

The Rewards of Soul Winning

13. What is the divine standard of reward? Prov. 11:25.

NOTE.—"One of the divine plans for growth is impartation. The Christian is to gain strength by strengthening others. 'He that watereth shall be watered also himself.' This is not merely a promise; it is a divine law, a law by which God designs that the streams of benevolence, like the waters of the great deep, shall be kept in constant circulation, continually flowing back to their source. In the fulfilling of this law is the secret of spiritual growth."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 7, p. 947.

14. What is the crowning reward for the soul winner? Dan. 12:3.

NOTE.—"Every shining star which God has placed in the heavens obeys His mandate, and gives its distinctive measure of light to make beautiful the heavens at night; so let every converted soul show the measure of light committed to him; and as it shines forth the light will increase and grow brighter. Give out your light, . . . pour forth your beams mirrored from heaven. O daughter of Zion, 'Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.' "—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 4, p. 1153.

Lesson 11, for September 9, 1967

A Faithful Stewardship of Material Things

MEMORY VERSE: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Mal. 3:10.

STUDY HELPS: "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 65-88; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To survey the whole scope of stewardship in relation to material things.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Question of Ownership

1. The purchase price of our salvation. 1 Peter 1:18-21.
2. How Moses esteemed the riches of Christ. Heb. 11:24-26.
3. Christ warns against covetousness. Luke 12:15.
4. Covetousness, a form of idolatry. Col. 3:5.
5. The earth is the Lord's. Ps. 24:1.
6. Ability to get wealth is of God. Deut. 8:18.
7. Silver, gold, cattle, and all are the Lord's. Hag. 2:8; Ps. 50:10, 11.

II. Christ's Claim Upon Us

8. Man is a steward of God's property. Matt. 25:14.
9. The Lord's work to be supported. 1 Cor. 9:11-14.
10. Tithe is holy. Lev. 27:30.
11. Christ commended tithe paying. Matt. 23:23.
12. Faithfulness in tithing the bounty of His blessings. Mal. 3:10, 11.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Wherever there is life in a church, there is increase and growth. There is also a constant interchange, taking and giving out, receiving and returning to the Lord His own. To every true believer God imparts light and blessing, and this the believer imparts to others in the work that he does for the Lord. As he gives of that which he receives, his capacity for receiving is increased. Room is made for fresh supplies of grace and truth. Clearer light, increased knowledge, are his. On this giving and receiving depend the life and growth of the church. He who receives, but never

gives, soon ceases to receive. If the truth does not flow from him to others, he loses his capacity to receive. We must impart the goods of heaven, if we would receive fresh blessing."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 36.

The Question of Ownership

1. What does Peter say of the relationship of the Christian to Christ? 1 Peter 1:18-21.

NOTE.—"Man does not belong to himself; he has no right to use his powers according to the wishes and promptings of his unconverted body. He is the property of God by creation and by redemption. Man is bound to live mentally, physically, and spiritually as God directs, to the glory of His name, and not to the gratification of fleshly desires. The converted man is, indeed, a willing slave of Jesus Christ, . . . who lives only to please his Master."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 6:19.

2. What choice of riches did Moses make? Heb. 11:24-26.

NOTE.—"Moses refused present honor, rank, and power because of his confidence in the high destiny God had marked out for him and his people. To all appearances nothing could be more futile than to hope for such a thing, since the Hebrew people were in abject servitude to the strongest nation on earth. Only faith in the promises of God could have led him to refuse the throne of Egypt."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Heb. 11:24.

3. Against what specific sin did Christ warn His followers? Luke 12: 15.

NOTE.—"Very few realize the strength of their love for money until the test is brought to bear upon them. Many who profess to be Christ's followers then show that they are unprepared for heaven. Their works testify that they love wealth more than their neighbor or their God. Like the rich young man, they inquire the way of life; but when it is pointed out and the cost estimated, and they see that the sacrifice of earthly riches is demanded, they decide that heaven costs too much. The greater the treasures laid up on the earth, the more difficult it is for the possessor to realize that they are not his own, but are lent him to be used to God's glory."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 150.

4. What does Paul call covetousness? Col. 3:5.

5. How inclusive is God's claim to this world? Ps. 24:1.

NOTE.—"God has laid His hand upon all things, both man and his possessions; for all belong to Him. He says, I am the owner of the world; the universe is Mine, and I require you to consecrate to My service the firstfruits of all that I, through My blessing, have caused to come into your hands. God's Word declares, 'Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits.' 'Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.' This tribute He demands as a token of our loyalty to Him."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 72.

6. Who gives the ability to get wealth? Deut. 8:18.

NOTE.—Man is prone to boast of being "a self-made man," whereas all credit for honor and success belong to God. "Wealth is not of itself evil. It is the human tendency, however, to become engrossed in attempts to accumulate it and to hold on to it for personal pleasure, and forget God in the process. It was when Abram and Lot became wealthy that strife arose between them (Gen. 13:6, 7). It is when Christians become 'rich, and increased with goods' and feel content therewith that they wax poor in things of more permanent worth (Rev. 3:17)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Deut 8:13.

7. What complete claim to possessions does the Lord make? Hag. 2:8; Ps. 50:10, 11.

Christ's Claim Upon Us

8. Who is to care for God's property? Matt. 25:14.

NOTE.—"Do all church members realize that all they have is given them to be used and improved to God's glory? God keeps a faithful account with every human being in our world. And when the day of reckoning comes, the faithful steward takes no credit to himself. He does not say, 'My pound;' but, 'Thy pound hath gained' other pounds. He knows that without the entrusted gift no increase could have been made. He feels that in faithfully discharging his stewardship he has but done his duty. The capital was the Lord's, and by His power he was enabled to trade upon it successfully."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* pages 111, 112.

9. How does the Lord expect His work and workers to be supported? 1 Cor. 9:11-14.

NOTE.—"Tithe paying and the giving of offerings provide a continual check against man's selfishness, in addition to helping him to place his reliance on God and not on material things of this world (see Matt. 6:19-21). So it becomes apparent that tithe paying and the giving of offerings for the support of the ministry and the advancement of the work of God throughout the earth bring blessings to both giver and receiver. Selfishness is checked, and interest is created and sustained in the work of the church. At the same time, those who have given themselves to the work of the ministry are adequately provided for without the burden and anxiety of trying to attend to secular matters as well as spiritual things."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 9:14.

10. What does the Lord call the tithe? Lev. 27:30.

NOTE.—"The mind, the heart, the will, and the affections belong to God; the money that we handle is the Lord's. Every good that we receive and enjoy is the result of divine benevolence. God is the bountiful giver of all good, and He desires that there shall be an acknowledgement, on the part of the receiver, of these gifts that provide for every necessity of the body and the soul. God demands only His own. The primary portion is the Lord's, and must be used as His entrusted treasure. The heart that is divested of selfishness will awaken to a sense of God's goodness and love, and be moved to a hearty acknowledgment of His righteous requirements."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 72.

11. How did Christ speak of the tithe? Matt. 23:23.

NOTE.—"Duty is duty, and should be performed for its own sake. But the Lord has compassion upon us in our fallen condition, and accompanies His commands with promises. He calls upon His people to prove Him, declaring that He will reward obedience with the richest blessings. . . . He encourages us to give to Him, declaring that the returns He makes to us will be proportionate to our gifts to Him. 'He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.' God is not unrighteous to forget your work and your labor of love." —*Counsels on Stewardship,* pages 90, 91.

12. What does faithfulness in tithing make possible? Mal. 3:10, 11.

NOTE.—"He tells us that He will open the windows of heaven, and pour us out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. He pledges His word, 'I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.' Thus His word is our assurance that He will so bless us that we shall have still larger tithes and offerings to bestow. 'Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.'" —*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 89.

Generosity in Stewardship

MEMORY VERSE: "The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." Prov. 11:25.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 525-536; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To discover the means God has provided to develop our bigheartedness.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Recognition of God's Beneficence

1. Firstfruits, freewill offerings. Ex. 34:26 (first part); 13:12.
2. Offerings to be given willingly. Ex. 25:2.
3. David's bountiful provision for the temple. 1 Chron. 28:2, 3, 11-19; 29:1-5.

II. The Law of Increase

4. Generosity begets generosity. 2 Cor. 9:6-11.
5. The Christian's response to God's generosity. 1 Cor. 16:2; Deut. 16:17.
6. Christ's commendation of the widow. Mark 12:41-44.

III. Care for the Needy

7. God has a special care for the needy. Prov. 22:22, 23; 23:10, 11.
8. Israelites were to care for the poor. Lev. 19:9, 10; 25:35-37; Deut. 15:7-11.
9. The second tithe was used for charitable purposes. Deut. 14:22, 23, 28, 29.
10. James enjoins care for the poor. James 1:27.

IV. Prophecies and Warnings

11. A sign of the end. 2 Tim. 3:1, 2.
12. Corruption of riches foretold. James 5:1-5.
13. When money is worthless. Zeph. 1:18; Ezek. 7:19.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The Levitical dispensation was distinguished in a remarkable manner by the sanctification of property. When we speak of the tithe as the standard of the Jewish contributions to religious purposes, we do not speak understandingly. The Lord kept His claims paramount, and in almost every article they were reminded of the Giver by being required to make returns to Him. They were required to pay a ransom for their firstborn son, for the firstfruits of their flocks, and for the first gathering of the harvest. They were required to leave the corners of their harvest fields for the destitute. Whatever dropped from their hands in reaping was left for the poor, and once in every seven years their lands were allowed to produce spontaneously for the needy. Then there were the sacrificial offerings, the trespass offerings, the sin offerings, and the remission of all debts every seventh year. There were also numerous expenses for hospitalities and gifts to the poor, and there were assessments upon their property."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 4, p. 467.

Recognition of God's Beneficence

1. In gratitude for God's bounties, what were the Israelites to render to God? Ex. 34:26 (first part); 13:12.

NOTE.—"At the harvest and the vintage the firstfruits of the field—the corn, the wine, and the oil—were to be consecrated as an offering to the Lord. . . . The firstfruits of the wool when the sheep were shorn, of the grain when the wheat was threshed, were to be offered to the Lord. . . .

"This arrangement was made by the Lord to impress upon the people that in every matter He must be first. By this system of benevolence they were to bear in mind . . . that the God of heaven sent them sunshine and rain for their seedtime and harvest, and that everything they possessed was of His creation. All was the Lord's, and He had made them stewards of His goods."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 4, p. 77.

2. What principle was to govern the giving of offerings in addition to the tithe and the redemption money for the firstborn? Ex. 25:2.

NOTE.—"All that we do is to be done willingly. We are to bring our offerings with joy and gratitude, saying as we present them, Of Thine own we freely give Thee." —*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 198.

3. Recount the story of King David's provision for the temple after God refused him permission to build the house of God. 1 Chron. 28:2, 3, 11-19; 29:1-5.

NOTE.—"From the very opening of David's reign one of his most cherished plans had been that of erecting a temple to the Lord. Though he had not been permitted to execute this design, he had manifested no less zeal and earnestness in its behalf. He had provided an abundance of the most costly material—gold, silver, onyx stones, and stones of divers colors; marble, and the most precious woods. . . .

"David gave Solomon minute directions for building the temple, with patterns of every part, and of all its instruments of service, as had been revealed to him by divine inspiration."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 750, 751.

The Law of Increase

4. What is the inevitable result of generous sowing? 2 Cor. 9:6-11.

NOTE.—"Christian giving is not a sacrifice at all, but preparation for a harvest. God's 'unspeakable gift' (v. 15) brought immeasurable blessings to mankind, and to Christ it brought joy as he saw the result of His passion and was satisfied (Isa. 53:11). In the plan of salvation God demonstrated the way to sow, and He guarantees the harvest. Man must choose whether he will reap the blessings that God has in store for him."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Cor. 9:6.

5. On what basis are Christians to give? 1 Cor. 16:2; Deut. 16:17.

NOTE.—"The Bible condemns no man for being rich, if he has acquired his riches honestly. Not money, but the love of money, is the root of all evil. It is God who gives men power to get wealth; and in the hands of him who acts as God's steward, using his means unselfishly, wealth is a blessing, both to its possessor and to the world. But many, absorbed in their interest in worldly treasures, become insensible to the claims of God and the needs of their fellowmen. They regard their wealth as a means of glorifying themselves. They add house to house, and land to land; they fill their homes with luxuries, while all about them are human beings in misery and crime, in disease and death. Those who thus give their lives to self-serving are developing in themselves, not the attributes of God, but the attributes of the wicked one.

"These men are in need of the gospel. They need to have their eyes turned from the vanity of material things to behold the preciousness of the enduring riches. They need to learn the joy of giving, the blessedness of being co-workers with God."—*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 212, 213.

6. Whom did Jesus particularly commend as He watched the givers in the temple? Mark 12:41-44.

NOTE.—"It is the motive that gives character to our acts, stamping them with ignominy or with high moral worth. Not the great things which every eye sees and every tongue praises does God account most precious. The little duties cheerfully done, the little gifts which make no show, and which to human eyes may appear worthless, often stand highest in His sight. A heart of faith and love is dearer to God than the most costly gift. The poor widow gave her living to do the little that she did. She deprived herself of food in order to give those two mites to the cause she loved. And she did it in faith, believing that her heavenly Father would not overlook her great need. It was this unselfish spirit and childlike faith that won the Saviour's commendation."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 615.

Care for the Needy

7. For whom does God have special care? Prov. 22:22, 23; 23:10, 11.

8. What instruction did God give the Israelites in regard to provision for the poor and the strangers? Lev. 19:9, 10; 25:35-37; Deut. 15:7-11.

NOTE.—"The law of God gave the poor a right to a certain portion of the produce of the soil. When hungry, a man was at liberty to go to his neighbor's field or orchard or vineyard, and eat of the grain or fruit to satisfy his hunger. . . .

"Every seventh year special provision was made for the poor. The sabbatical year, as it was called, began at the end of the harvest. . . . Of that which the land produced spontaneously they might eat while fresh, but they were not to lay up any portion of it in their storehouses. The yield of this year was to be free for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and even for the creatures of the field."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 531.

9. What additional provision did God make for the poor? Deut. 14:22, 23, 28, 29.

NOTE.—"To promote the assembling of the people for religious service, as well as to provide for the poor, a second tithe of all the increase was required. Concerning the first tithe, the Lord had declared, 'I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel.' Numbers 18:21. But in regard to the second He commanded, [Deut. 14:23, 29; 16:11-14 quoted]. . . . This tithe, or its equivalent in money, they were for two years to bring to the place where the sanctuary was established. After presenting a thank offering to God and a specified portion to the priest, the offerers were to use the remainder for a religious feast, in which the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow should participate. Thus provision was made for the thank offerings and feasts at the yearly festivals, and the people were drawn to the society of the priests and Levites, that they might receive instruction and encouragement in the service of God.

"Every third year, however, this second tithe was to be used at home, in entertaining the Levite and the poor, as Moses said, 'That they may eat within thy gates, and be filled.' . . . This tithe would provide a fund for the uses of charity and hospitality."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 530.

10. How did the apostle James define true religion? James 1:27.

NOTE.—"Christ has said that we shall have the poor always with us, and He unites His interest with that of His suffering people. The heart of our Redeemer sympathizes with the poorest and lowliest of his earthly children. He tells us that they are His representatives on earth. He has placed them among us to awaken in our hearts the love that He feels toward the suffering and oppressed. Pity and benevolence shown to them are accepted by Christ as if shown to Himself. An act of cruelty or neglect toward them is regarded as though done to Him."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 535, 536.

Prophecies and Warnings

11. What spirit among men is a sure sign that the end is near? 2 Tim. 3:1, 2.

12. In what striking way does James picture the final end of selfish gains? James 5:1-5.

13. How do the prophets picture the final worthlessness of money? Zeph. 1:18; Ezek. 7:19.

NOTE.—"Houses and lands will be of no use to the saints in the time of trouble, for they will then have to flee before infuriated mobs, and at that time their possessions cannot be disposed of to advance the cause of present truth. I was shown that it is the will of God that the saints should cut loose from every encumbrance before the time of trouble comes, and make a covenant with God through sacrifice. If they have their property on the altar and earnestly inquire of God for duty, He will teach them when to dispose of these things. Then they will be free in the time of trouble and have no clogs to weight them down."—*Early Writings,* pages 56, 57.

Lesson 13, for September 23, 1967

Stewardship of His Love

MEMORY VERSE: "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only-begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him." 1 John 4:9.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 24, 157; "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 22, 332-334; "Christ's Object Lessons," chapter "This Man Receiveth Sinners"; "Steps to Christ," chapter "God's Love for Man"; "The Desire of Ages," pages 547-551.

STUDY AIM: To study ways by which the Christian may reveal God's love.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Love of God Revealed

1 The love of God is revealed in Christ. 1 John 4:8, 9.
2. One reason for the Saviour's coming the first time. Heb. 2:17, 18.
3. The devil's work must be destroyed. Heb. 2:14.

II. Our Faith Unites Us in God's Love

4. We are joint heirs with Christ. Rom. 8:17.
5. We become children of God by faith. Gal. 3:26.
6. Christ lives within the believer. Gal. 2:20.
7. Sacrifices pleasing to God. Heb. 13:16.

III. God's Charge to the Believer

8. The Christian charged to hold fast his faith in a faithless world. Heb. 4:14-16.
9. Christians daily walk in love. Eph. 5:2.
10. Faith and labor unite in the Christian. 1 Thess. 1:3.
11. The gospel must be mixed with faith. Heb. 4:2.
12. Obedience to commandments and faith of Christ united in the remnant believer. Rev. 14:12.
13. Salvation is the reward of faith. 1 Peter 1:8, 9.
14. Good stewards of the grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10.
15. The Christian will discharge his responsibility of stewardship. John 17:18, 26; 1 John 4:11.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The plan of salvation was laid in a sacrifice so broad and deep and high that it is immeasurable. Christ did not send His angels to this fallen world, while He remained in heaven; but He Himself went without the camp, bearing the reproach. He became a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; Himself took our infirmities, and bore our weaknesses. And the absence of self-denial in His professed followers, God regards as a denial of the Christian name. Those who profess to be one with Christ, and indulge their selfish desires for rich and expensive clothing, furniture, and food, are Christians only in name. To be a Christian is to be Christlike."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* pages 54, 55.

The Love of God Revealed

1. Why was the incarnation absolutely necessary? 1 John 4:8, 9.

NOTE.—"Only Love would give free will to His creatures and run the risk of incurring the suffering that sin has brought to the Godhead and the angels as well as to fallen men. Only Love would be interested in gaining the cheerful voluntary service of those who were free to go their own way. And when sin came, only Love could have the patience and the will to advise a plan that would enable the universe to come to a full understanding of the basic facts in the great controversy between good and evil, and thus ensure against any further uprising of self-seeking and hate. In the warfare against sin, God, being truly love, can use only truth and love, whereas Satan employs cunning lies and cruel force. Only Love could inspire the plan that would permit the Son first to redeem the human race from the guilt and power of sin by His earthly life, death, and resurrection, and then to become the Head of a new and sinless race." —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 John 4:8.

2. What was one reason for Christ's coming among men? Heb. 2:17, 18.

NOTE.—"Christ must become man so completely and fully that it can never be said that He is a stranger to any temptation, any sorrow, any trial or suffering that men must pass through."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Heb. 2:17.

3. Whose works must be exterminated from the universe? Heb. 2:14.

NOTE.—"When he thought he had Christ in his power, when the tomb was sealed and Christ locked in, Satan exulted. But Christ burst the bonds of death and walked forth from the grave, for 'it was not possible that He should be holden of it' (Acts 2:24). Not only did Christ Himself rise, but 'the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection' (Matt. 27:52, 53). And so, though the 'strong man armed keepeth his palace, . . . a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him,' (Luke 11:21, 22). The stronger man, Christ, entered the realm of death, and in death overcame him who had the power of death, took away his captives, and spoiled his house (Matt. 12:29); 'and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it' (Col. 2:15)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Heb. 2:14.

Our Faith Unites Us in God's Love

4. How closely interwoven are the interests of Christ and those of His true followers? Rom. 8:17.

NOTE.—"In God's plan for the complete restoration of man, sonship and heirship go together (cf. Gal. 4:7). If we are born again as His children and are adopted as His sons, God will also treat us as His heirs. The inheritance is the kingdom of glory . . . and eternal life (Rom. 2:7). The full possession of this inheritance is longingly awaited by the children of God."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rom. 8:17.

5. How do we become children of God? Gal. 3:26.

NOTE.—"The righteousness of God was especially revealed in the death of Christ, . . . but the revelation is repeated in the continuous proclamation of the gospel and in the spiritual experience of each person who hears and believes the gospel (Gal. 1:16). Man could never conceive or attain to this divine righteousness by his own unaided reason and philosophy. The righteousness of God is a revelation from God."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rom. 1:17.

6. How does Christ reveal Himself to the world? Gal. 2:20.

7. What can we do that will prove pleasing to God? Heb. 13:16.

NOTE.—"Formal rites and ceremonies have no meaning to God. He seeks men to worship Him in 'spirit and in truth' (John 4:23), that is, by reflecting His character and by demonstrating their love and devotion to Him in a life of service for others."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Heb. 13:16.

God's Charge to the Believer

8. Because Christ is our High Priest in heaven, what are we encouraged to do? Heb. 4:14-16.

9. What characterizes the Christian's daily walk? Eph. 5:2.

NOTE.—"The offering that is made to God without a spirit of reverence and gratitude, He does not accept. It is the humble, grateful, reverential heart that makes the offering as a sweet-smelling savor, acceptable to God. The children of Israel might have given all their substance, but given in a spirit of self-sufficiency or Pharisaism, as though God were indebted to them for their favors, their offerings would have been unaccepted, and utterly contemned by Him. It is our privilege, by diligently trading on our Lord's goods, to increase our store, so that we may impart to those who have fallen into distress. Thus we become the Lord's right hand to work out His benevolent purposes."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 6, p. 1118.

10. What great principles are blended in the true Christian? 1 Thess. 1:3.

11. For the gospel really to be effective, what must motivate the preaching of it? Heb. 4:2.

12. What two inseparable principles direct the life of Christ's followers? Rev. 14:12.

NOTE.—"What! shall Seventh-day Adventists relax their devotedness when all their capabilities and powers should be placed on the Lord's side; when an unflinching testimony, noble and uplifting, should come from their lips? 'Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.'

"When the law of God is most derided and brought into the most contempt, then it is time for every true follower of Christ, for those whose hearts have been given to God, and who are fixed to obey God, to stand unflinchingly for the faith once delivered to the saints. 'Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.' It is time to fight when champions are most needed."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 7, pp. 981, 982.

13. What is the real and final purpose of faith? 1 Peter 1:8, 9.

NOTE.—"The joy of spiritual union with Christ is beyond the comprehension of the

unconverted and beyond the ability of the Christian believer to describe. . . .

"Although the fullness of a glorified experience is possible only after the second advent of Christ, the Christian now may taste (see Heb. 6:5) the sweetness of the presence of God as he allows his life to be directed by the Holy Spirit."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Peter 1:8.

14. What gifts will good stewards minister to the world about them? 1 Peter 4:10.

15. How will a Christian discharge this responsibility of stewardship? John 17:18, 26; 1 John 4:11.

Lesson 14, for September 30, 1967

Rewards That Endure

MEMORY VERSE: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." 2 Tim. 4:8.

STUDY HELPS: "Testimonies," Vol. 6, pages 305-312; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To gain a new vision of the part God's children are to play in the successful completion of the church's mission.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Stewards of an Organized Work

1. God's work to be done with decency and order. 1 Cor. 14:40.
2. Why Christ ordained the twelve disciples. Mark 3:14.
3. The great commission. Matt. 28:19, 20.
4. Organization in the church is originated by God. 1 Cor. 12:28.
5. Church leaders to be good stewards. 1 Peter 5:1-3.
6. God holds His leaders responsible. Heb. 13:17.

II. The Church Has Only One Purpose

7. How God will eventually classify mankind. Luke 16:10, 11.
8. The Lord will give the reward to faithful ones. Col. 3:23, 24.
9. The blessed assurance to the faithful servant. 1 Peter 5:7.

III. Lasting and Enduring Rewards

10. Christians to abound in hope. Rom. 15:13.
11. The great hope of the apostolic faith. 2 Tim. 4:6-8.
12. The believer lays up for himself treasure in heaven. Luke 12:33, 34.
13. The church victorious. Rev. 22:1-5.
14. Our Lord's greatest moment—and ours! Matt. 25:31-34.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what God has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us.

"We are now a strong people, if we will put our trust in the Lord; for we are handling the mighty truths of the Word of God. We have everything to be thank-

ful for. If we walk in the light as it shines upon us from the living oracles of God, we shall have large responsibilities, corresponding to the great light given us of God. We have many duties to perform because we have been made the depositaries of sacred truth to be given to the world in all its beauty and glory. We are debtors to God to use every advantage He has entrusted to us to beautify the truth by holiness of character, and to send the messages of warning, and of comfort, of hope and love, to those who are in the darkness of error and sin."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 31.

Stewards of an Organized Work

1. How is the work of the church to be carried forward? 1 Cor. 14:40.

NOTE.—"Christ designs that heaven's order, heaven's plan of government, heaven's divine harmony, shall be represented in His church on earth. Thus in His people He is glorified. Through them the Sun of Righteousness will shine in undimmed luster to the world. Christ has given to His church ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. He has bestowed upon His people capabilities and blessings that they may represent His own sufficiency. The church, endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depositary, in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love, are to appear in full and final display. Christ looks upon His people in their purity and perfection, as the reward of His humiliation, and the supplement of His glory,—Christ, the great Center, from whom radiates all glory."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 680.

2. What dual purpose prompted the Saviour to ordain the twelve disciples? Mark 3:14.

3. With what great commission did Jesus send His followers forth? Matt. 28:19, 20.

NOTE.—"The Saviour's commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time. It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained minister. All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellowmen. For this work the church was established, and all who take upon themselves its sacred vows are thereby pledged to be co-workers with Christ."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 822.

4. Who distributes and bestows various gifts to the church? 1 Cor. 12:28.

5. Of what are the leaders in the church especially reminded? 1 Peter 5:1-3.

NOTE.—"Church office does not justify dictatorial measures. Appointment to any position of leadership should be considered as an opportunity to serve, not as an invitation to exercise authority. Peter admonishes elders not to yield to that temptation but to be exemplary in all their conduct. . . .

"The elders were to be model Christians, true representatives of the faith that other believers could safely imitate."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Peter 5:3.

"Peter regards himself and the elders as shepherds of the flock, but looks to Jesus as the supreme Shepherd, who cares both for the undershepherds and for the sheep." —*Ibid.*, on 1 Peter 5:4.

6. What is to be the attitude of believers to the leadership of the church? Heb. 13:17.

NOTE.—"God has appointed leaders to shepherd His flock, and He calls upon His sheep to submit to those appointed over them, the while these leaders themselves obey the Master."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Heb. 13:17.

"I have been shown that no man's judgment should be surrendered to the

judgment of any one man. But when the judgment of the General Conference, which is the highest authority that God has upon the earth, is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be maintained, but be surrendered."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 3, p. 492.

The Church Has Only One Purpose

7. What logical deduction did Christ form regarding faithfulness and unfaithfulness? Luke 16:10, 11.

NOTE.—"Here it is implied that mammon (or, riches) is 'least,' or 'little.' Again it should be pointed out that Jesus did not commend the dishonesty of the steward. . . . Lest the disciples, or others in the audience, should seize upon this parable as providing, in any measure, an excuse for dishonesty, Jesus here clearly states the profound truth that all who would be His disciples must be characterized by scrupulous integrity and diligence."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Luke 16:10.

8. What finally comes to the faithful servant? Col. 3:23, 24.

NOTE.—"Every power lent us by God, whether physical, mental, or spiritual, is to be sacredly cherished to do the work assigned us for our fellowmen who are perishing in their ignorance. Every man is to stand at his post of duty untrammeled, each serving the Lord in humility, each responsible for his own work. "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.' " —*Testimonies,* Vol. 7, p. 180.

9. What blessed assurance is given to the faithful steward? 1 Peter 5:7.

Lasting and Enduring Rewards

10. What abundance should be experienced by the faithful child of God? Rom. 15:13.

NOTE.—"Paul prays that their faith may give them a life full of joy and peace and hope, which are all the results of true faith and of the presence of the Holy Spirit (see Rom. 5:1, 2; Gal. 5:22). Where these fruits of the Spirit are found, there will be love and harmony among believers. Jew and Gentile, strong and weak, all will live together in joy and peace in the common hope of sharing in the glory of God (Rom. 5:2)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rom. 15:13.

11. In his last letter to Timothy, what was the unshakable hope expressed by the apostle Paul? 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

NOTE.—"Paul's example of faithfulness was to be a challenge to Timothy and to every future minister of the gospel. Personal faith depends upon adherence to God's Word. Every Christian will 'guard the faith' by his personal representation of its principles. The sincerity of a Christian's personal faith is measured by the extent to which he reflects these principles."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Tim. 4:7.

12. Where does Christ bid the believer to lay up his treasure? Why? Luke 12:33, 34.

NOTE.—"Materialism is at the root of many of the world's major problems today. It provides the basis for most political and economic philosophies, and is thus responsible for most of the class and national conflicts that plague mankind. Dissatisfaction with what we have creates the desire to secure more by forcing others to give up all or part of what they have rather than by toiling honestly ourselves. Covetousness is the cause of many of the world's insoluble problems."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Luke 12:15.

13. What picture is given of the church triumphant? Rev. 22:1-5.

14. In what way does Jesus speak of His and our greatest moment of joy? Matt. 25:31-34. Compare verses 21, 23.

NOTE.—"The work is soon to close. The members of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant."—*Evangelism,* page 707.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

September 30, 1967
Southern Asia Division

The two schools that are to benefit from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow are the Assam Training School in the Assam Hills, India, and the Kellogg-Mookerjee High School in East Pakistan. Both these projects are extremely worthy of consideration, and both are in need of immediate attention.

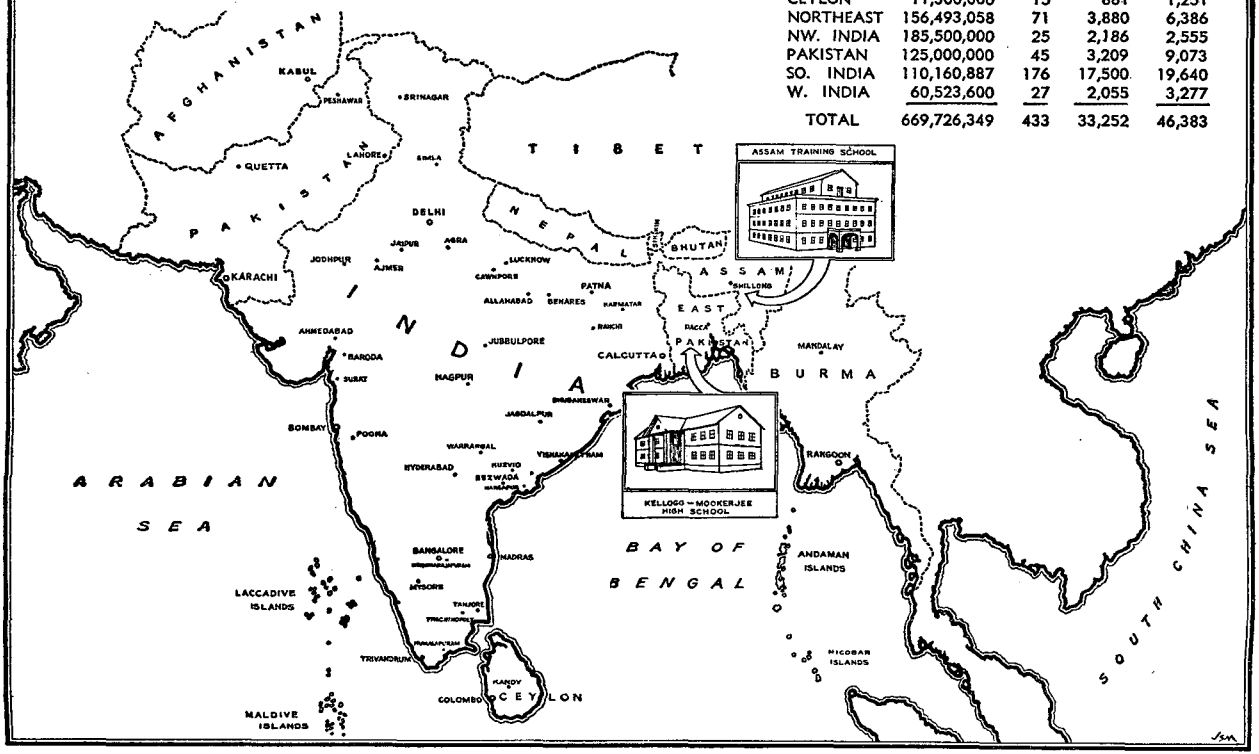
Until recent years it could be said that the Assam Training School was almost inaccessible. In the early days the only means of access was a bridle trail, which later became a rough jeep trail. Now, with the new highway passing through the grounds of the school estate, this is no longer the case. Although a number of new reinforced concrete buildings have been added in the past eight years, the student dormitories, the administration buildings, and half of the staff quarters, which are of pine timber and mud plaster construction, are showing the ravages of time, wood-boring insects, and heavy rainfall of several hundreds of inches annually. Also, the Director of Public Instruction for Assam has demanded that we provide a more adequate physical plant.

The Kellogg-Mookerjee High School is located on the banks of one of the tributaries of the great Brahmaputra River in East Pakistan. This school has suffered much because of floods and cyclones. The only access to the school is by launch or steamboat. The time has come when we must build in a new and better location. The young people of Southern Asia are looking to the Sabbath Schools around the world for help on September 30.

Lessons for the Fourth Quarter, 1967

Sabbath School members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the fourth quarter of 1967 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The title of the series is "Studies in the Book of Acts, No. 1." The title of the first lesson is, "The Great Commission; the Twelve Apostles." The memory verse is Acts 1:8. The study helps are: *The Acts of the Apostles,* chapters 1 to 3; *Testimonies,* Vol. 8, pp. 19-23; *The Desire of Ages,* chapter 87. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. Acts 1:3.
Ques. 2. Acts 1:6, 7.
Ques. 3. Acts 1:5, 8.
Ques. 4. Luke 24:49.
Ques. 5. John 15:26, 27; Matt. 28:19, 20; Luke 24:48; Acts 1:8.
Ques. 6. Acts 1:9, 10, 12.
Ques. 7. Acts 1:11.
Ques. 8. Acts 1:13, 15.
Ques. 9. Acts 1:13, 14.
Ques. 10. Acts 1:16-22.
Ques. 11. Acts 1:22.
Ques. 12. Acts 1:23-26.

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

Unions	Population	Churches	Church Memb.	Sab. Sch. Memb.
BURMA	20,748,804	74	3,541	4,201
CEYLON	11,300,000	15	881	1,251
NORTHEAST	156,493,058	71	3,880	6,386
NW. INDIA	185,500,000	25	2,186	2,555
PAKISTAN	125,000,000	45	3,209	9,073
SO. INDIA	110,160,887	176	17,500	19,640
W. INDIA	60,523,600	27	2,055	3,277
TOTAL	669,726,349	433	33,252	46,383