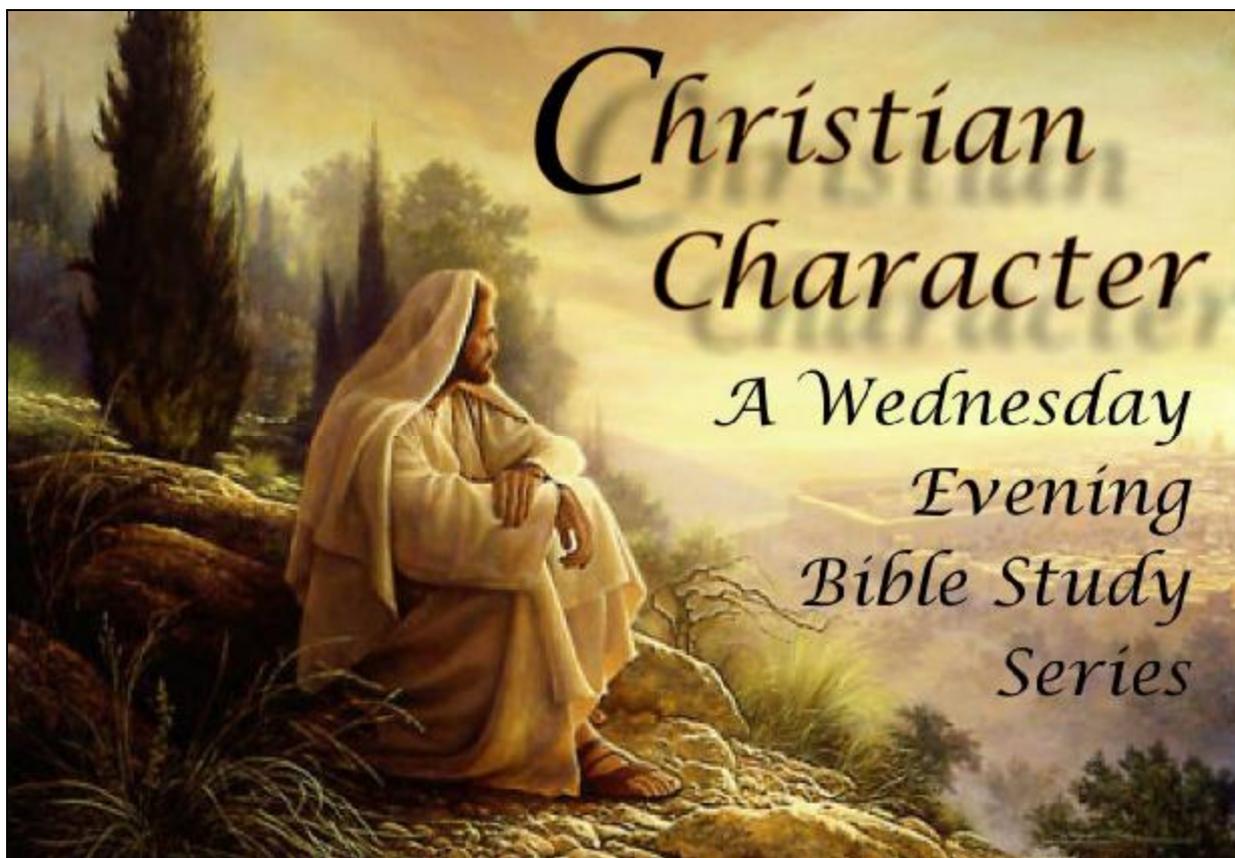


# The Character of a Christian



***A Wednesday Evening Bible Study  
of Sixteen  
Christ-like Characteristics  
of a Born Again Christian***

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

A Bible Study Lesson Guide prepared for  
the Bible Baptist Church of Ballincollig, Cork

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### **The Purpose of this Study Series...**

For the next four months, we as a church will study and apply sixteen vital Christian commitments to our way of living. There are distinctive character traits of Christ that are naturally lacking in our lives unless we purposely make them part of our lives. These character traits are what make us “peculiar” in this world, but pleasing unto God.

Character, in simple terms, is the foundation of a person’s life that holds them up under pressure, and during the “storms” of life. If there is no “character” in a person, they will

that they so easily make. A weak character in a Christian is a mockery of the Lord Jesus Christ who was faithful, and is our solid foundation upon which we build our lives!

Another word for character is integrity. This is the Bible’s word for Character. It simply means “whole” and complete. A Christian who has integrity, is not uncertain of what is right to do, but instead knows what God says to do, and does it, without any doubt or regret. People who live by their integrity, live clean and pure lives, and have no “hidden agendas” – they seek only to honour and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ Himself IS Character, and IS the believer’s foundation, but what He taught us in the Bible must be lived, or it is worthless and vain.

This Study Series seeks to equip every believer with the tools to effectively live by character, instead of by feelings; to decide to do right, when everyone else may be doing wrong; to trust that God’s way is best, in spite of the opinions of the best human authorities this world has to offer!

Prepare to be surprised at just how little “character” you currently have, but don’t give up. God saved your soul to make you like His Son. Let Him mould and fashion you, one trait at a time as you yield to His

Pastor Ledbetter

## Introductory Lesson

### ***The Priority of Personal Integrity***

***“The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.”***

Proverbs 20:7

#### **I. Welcome to a New Study Series on “Character”!**

- A. For the next few months, our Wednesday evenings will be spent looking at sixteen characteristics of the godly Christian. These are drawn directly from the life of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, but are demonstrated in the lives of so many believers in the Scriptures.
- B. Unfortunately, these characteristics are lacking in our modern Christian way of living. This Study Series is designed to teach us, and to equip us all with the tools to live lives of integrity and character!

#### **II. The Meaning of Integrity and Christian Character.**

- A. Integrity is a very unusual word! It means, “A moral framework of \_\_\_\_\_ of what you will allow yourself to do.” It is a pureness in your heart towards others.
- B. Character, in simple terms, is the foundation of a person’s life that holds them up under pressure, and during the “storms” of life.
- C. Some Quotes on Character and Integrity
  - 1. The Bible is not given to increase our knowledge, but to \_\_\_\_\_ our lives (i.e., to give us character). — D.L. Moody
  - 2. Be more concerned about your character than your \_\_\_\_\_. Your character is who you really are. Your reputation is who others think you are. — John Wooden
  - 3. If we value comfort more than character, the trials will always \_\_\_\_\_ us.
  - 4. The test of a man’s character is what it takes to \_\_\_\_\_ him. Bob Jones Sr.
  - 5. The conversion of a soul is the miracle of a moment. The manufacture of a saint is the task of a \_\_\_\_\_. — Alan Redpath
  - 6. Integrity is keeping my commitment even when the circumstances surrounding my commitment have changed. — David Jeremiah
- D. Contrary to the opinions of many women, there is such a thing as a perfect man! A “perfect” man is someone whose life is governed by integrity!
- E. God tells us that there are “perfect men” that are not sinless, but are perfect in their character and integrity (Psalm 37:37; Job 1:1). Jesus was such a Man. All of us should be such people.



#### **III. Two Examples of Integrity**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ in Potiphar’s House (Genesis 39:1-12)
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ under Trial (Job 2:3)
- C. There are other good examples of Integrity:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (1Kings 21:1-4)

**IV. The Lack of Integrity.** This is what we have today – total lack of moral restraint

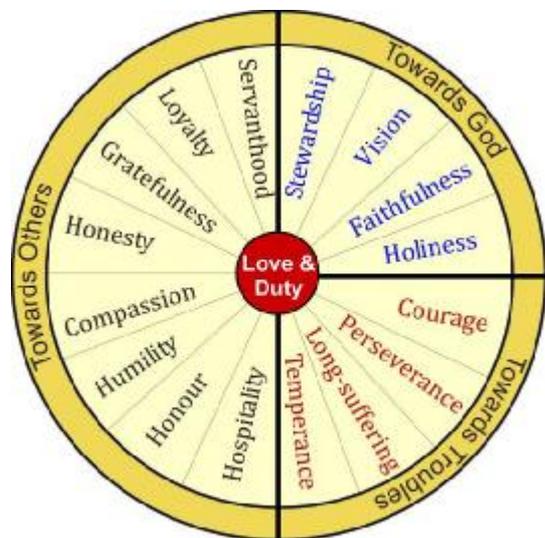
- A. Everyone simply does what they want, what they think is good in their \_\_\_\_\_ (Judges 17:6)
- B. When there is no integrity in marriage...
- C. When there is no integrity at work...
- D. When there is no integrity in government...
- E. When there is no integrity in a Church...

**V. The Development of Integrity – How to develop Integrity in your life**

- A. It Takes the \_\_\_\_\_!
- B. It Takes \_\_\_\_\_ (Discipleship)
- C. It takes \_\_\_\_\_ (Diligence). Diligence means “given priority; zealous; focused, decisive, careful.” The opposite of diligence is casual, haphazardness, careless, sloppy.
- D. It Takes \_\_\_\_\_ - Troubles Develop Character (1Peter 5:8-10)

**VI. Ingredients of Christian Integrity.** The following character traits will be discussed, and applied to our lives over the next four months... Do you think you are not in need of developing and being stronger in any of them?

1. Holiness
2. Faithfulness
3. Honesty
4. Stewardship
5. Vision
6. Temperance
7. Courage
8. Humility
9. Honour and Respect
10. Compassion
11. Servanthood
12. Long-Suffering
13. Loyalty
14. Hospitality
15. Gratefulness
16. Perseverance



**VII. Summary**

- A. Character is like the foundation of a house—most of it is below the surface. It’s not what you can see. The strength of a house is not the vinyl siding or the glass shutters they put on the outside. It’s not the fancy trim or the frills. These things may improve the appearance, but the strength lies underneath.
- B. Christian character is the superstructure of the Christian life. It is what’s below the surface. It’s not a person’s good looks, talent and ability that make him/her a good Christian. It is the character that they have built into their life.

**Rate Your Own Integrity Level**

Tick the box to the right that is most like your characteristic. Be VERY honest!

Quality	De	How I See Myself				
		Real Problem	Need Work	Not Bad	Good	No Problem
<b>Holiness</b> James 1:27	Am I pure in heart, temper and attitudes, and am I free from sinful affections?					
<b>Faithfulness</b> Proverbs 20:6	Am I consistently dependable to do what I ought to do?					
<b>Honesty</b> Romans 12:17	Do I have the ability to speak the truth at all times?					
<b>Stewardship</b> 1 Corinthians 4:2	Am I a faithful overseer, managing the affairs of what God and others have given me upon this earth?					
<b>Vision</b> Proverbs 29:18	Do I see things as God sees them, according to His word, or do only I see things my way?					
<b>Temperance</b> 1 Corinthians 9:25	Do I have any Self-denial. Do I limit my actions, wants, desires, and reactions to what the Lord will allow?					
<b>Courage</b> Proverbs 28:1	Do I have the state of mind that enables me to face danger with confidence and resolution?					
<b>Humility</b> 1 Peter 5:5	Do I have a modest or low view of my own importance; Am I humble? Am I free from pride and arrogance?					
<b>Honour and Respect</b> Philippians 2:3	Do I esteem others highly? Do I easily give people the respect that is due them?					
<b>Compassion</b> Luke 10:33	Do I easily suffer with another person?					
<b>Servanthood</b> Matthew 23:11	Am I someone who voluntarily serves, or does services for another?					
<b>Long-Suffering</b> 2 Peter 3:9	Do I put up with injuries or provocation against me for a long time?					

Quality	De	How I See Myself				
		Real Problem	Need Work	Not Bad	Good	No Problem
<b>Loyalty</b> Proverbs 18:24	Do I have committed dependability to Someone? Am I true to someone or some goal other than myself?					
<b>Hospitality</b> 1 Peter 4:9	Do I easily extend friendship to others?					
<b>Gratefulness</b> Philippians 4:11	Do I have the ability to look at what someone does for me, no matter how insigni say <b>"Thank you!"</b> ?					
<b>Perseverance</b> Philippians 3:14	Do I have a patient endurance during trials?					
TOTALS						

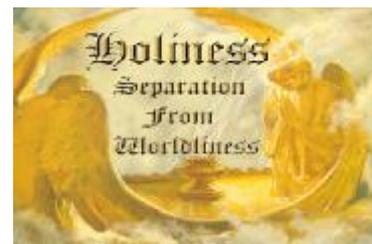
**Lesson 1**

**Holiness**

Pure in heart, temper or attitudes

**"Pure religion and unde  
this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their af  
and to keep himself unspotted from the world."**

James 1:27



**I. Introduction**

- A. In general, today's Christians lack personal \_\_\_\_\_!
- B. Our religion according to the Bible is a holy religion. It wages a war against all \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Take a few of the precepts of our religion as it is, in the oracles of God. "Without \_\_\_\_\_, no man shall see the Lord." "Be ye \_\_\_\_\_, for I am holy."
- D. See how holiness was personi  
His people should aim at and show. His manner of life corrects all in us that is wrong, whether of defect or excess. 1 Peter 2:22 says, "[He] did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." He was "holy, harmless, unde sinners." He re-entered heaven with His moral character as pure as it was when He came into the world!
- E. How far short do the mass of professing Christians fall, of living like Christ did in their own personal holiness! How unscriptural and un-Christ-like are the millions who name the name of Christ!
- F. Here is the cause of our failure. UNHOLINESS!
- G. Throughout all churches there must be a radical improvement in holiness, or the stumbling-blocks in the way of the world's conversion will never be removed. Habitual sinning must be abandoned. We shall never impress the unsaved with the importance of Christ until throughout the rank and membership there is a hunger for holiness and a determination to become holy, as HE is holy (1Peter 1:16)!

**II. De**

- A. Perfect, in a moral sense. Hence, pure in heart, temper or dispositions; free from sin and sinful affections. Applied to the Supreme Being, holy signi pure, immaculate and complete in moral character; and man is more or less holy, as his heart is more or less sancti  
We call a man holy, when his heart is conformed in some degree to the image of God, and his life is regulated by the divine precepts. Hence, holy is used as nearly synonymous with good, pious, godly.
- B. Hallowed; consecrated or set apart to a sacred use, or to the service or worship of God; a sense frequent in Scripture; as the holy Sabbath; holy oil; holy vessels; a holy nation; the holy temple; a holy priesthood.
- C. Proceeding from pious principles, or directed to pious purposes; as holy zeal.
- D. Perfectly just and good; as the holy law of God.

### **III. Some Questions**

- A. What do you think of when you hear the word Holiness?
- B. How Holy is God? (Exodus 31:14-15; Matthew 18:8-9)
- C. Do Christians need to have holiness?
  - 1. The root word of holiness is holy
  - 2. What is the opposite of holiness?
  - 3. What comes to mind when you hear the word Unholy?
- D. The question to ask ourselves is, "What does God see when He looks into your life?"

### **IV. Bible examples of people who had holiness**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 4:14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21) As our example, Christ lived an unspotted sinless life, by walking in the spirit, praying and he used Scripture to defeat the devil when he tempted him
- B. Who else would you consider living clean enough lives in the Bible to have been called "holy"?

### **V. Biblical Examples of people who had unholiness**

- A. The Strange Woman in Proverbs (Proverbs 7:4-27)
- B. The Corinthian Christians (I Corinthians 5:1-6)
- C. The \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 23:13-33)

### **VI. How can we be more holy Christians toward God? (1 Peter 5:8)**

- A. Be \_\_\_\_\_ in your life. Satan is out to destroy our homes and lives
- B. Guard our \_\_\_\_\_ - God sees our hearts and knows our thoughts and intents (Genesis 6:5; 2 Corinthians 7:1). We must be sure our hearts are kept holy by controlling our thoughts (Philippians 2:5) and confessing our sins (1 John 1:9). This needs to be constant.
- C. Guard our \_\_\_\_\_ - We need to be in control and in constant watch of what enters our homes. Things like magazines, TV, videos, newspapers, radio, computer, etc., all of which are considered communication (1 Corinthians 15:33) By themselves they can be harmless, but the devil uses these to cause us to become unholy and to hinder our walk with God. A place to start is in Philippians 4:8 (Philippians 4:8 vs. 2 Timothy 3:1-5) Use this verse and ask yourself, should I or my children be looking at this lady/man dressed this way? Does this children's book/movie teach my kids, obedience or disobedience, love for God or love for self? Ask your husband/father what kind of clothes he prefers you to wear in public? Men see things differently than women do.
- D. Guard our \_\_\_\_\_ - Keep our marriage holy by keeping ourselves for our wives only. By reading the Bible and praying together. (Ephesians 5:25-26)
- E. Guard our actions towards \_\_\_\_\_ - We must have holy lives for those we come in contact with (I Corinthians 8:8-15) We have liberty as Christians and the fact that we will not go to hell, but freedom from sin does not mean we have the freedom to sin. (Romans 2:21-25) The unsaved see us commit sin or live unholy and their heart knows how. (Romans 2:14-15; 6:18-19)

**Lesson 2**

**Faithfulness**

Consistently dependable to do what I ought to do.

***"Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness but a  
\_\_\_\_\_ man who can \_\_\_\_\_"***

Proverbs 20:6



**I. Introduction**

- A. A prevalent and hurtful defect in the Christian character of this day is \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The kind of life that is required of us in the Scriptures, and displayed by Christ, is a steady, uniform, life-long habit of faithfulness.
- C. The command is, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, \_\_\_\_\_ abounding in the work of the Lord"
- D. God said that one of the sons of Jacob named Reuben was, " \_\_\_\_\_ as water, thou shalt not excel." (Genesis 49:4)
- E. All good things in nature are brought about by works that are ceaseless and uniform (not choppy and sporadic). Destruction is the work of in \_\_\_\_\_ are impulsive and sudden. A crop may in a moment be destroyed by a storm, but it cannot be raised unless the laws of vegetation operate regularly, and the sun shines on steadily from spring until autumn. What would be the effect on the natural world if the sun, moon, and stars should suddenly cease to shine in mid-summer? Or only just suddenly shine from time to time? Life requires stability and faithfulness in nature.
- F. Many Christians are half-hearted, transient, and \_\_\_\_\_ They change with the times, vary with circumstances, and always conform to the company they are in. With the worldly they are worldly, and with the pious they are saints. Like \_\_\_\_\_ and dry up in droughts; they are all life and zeal in one season, and then in dry seasons they are as sporadic and inconsistent as if they had never known Christ.

**II. De**

- A. Full of faith; determined to believe and act without reservations, especially in the declarations and promises of God.
- B. Firm in adherence to promises, oaths, contracts, treaties, or other engagements.
- C. True and constant in affection or allegiance to a person to whom one is bound by a vow, by ties of love, gratitude, or honour, as to a husband, a friend; the observance of duty; loyal; of true
- D. Worthy of con \_\_\_\_\_ as, a faithful narrative or representation.
- E. Synonyms include: Trusting; honest; upright; sincere; veracious; trustworthy.

**III. Some Questions**

- A. What do we think of when we hear the word faithful?

B. Do Christians need Faithfulness as part of their Character?

1. The root word of Faithful is \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 11:6)
2. What is the opposite of faithful? \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 25:19)
3. What do we think of when we hear the word unfaithful

C. The question to ask ourselves is "Do we make God feel that any of US are faithful, or unfaithful?"

#### **IV. Bible examples of people who were Faithful**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 22:2-13)
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ (Job 2:2-4-10)
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 11:22-31)

#### **V. Biblical Examples of people who were Unfaithful (Fickle - changing all the time)**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 4:2-7). Cain was suppose to kill an unspotted lamb as he was instructed, but refused and wanted to do things his own way.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Samuel 13:9-14; 15:12-26).
- C. We hate it when others are unfaithful, undependable, unreliable
- D. In what ways are Christians unfaithful?

#### **VI. Here are Bible Characteristics of a faithful man**

- A. He doesn't tell others secrets or faults (Prov 11:13).
- B. He is faithful to his friends
- C. When he hears or is told something private, he keeps it to himself. "We need to pray for so & so .... " (reveals secrets)
- D. Refrains from lying (Prov 14:5)
- E. Is true to his word – keeps his promises. What he says he does, and therefore is careful what he says
- F. You can trust them to do what they are suppose to (Prov 25:13)

#### **VII. How can we be more faithful Christians toward God?**

- A. Become full of faith – HOW?
- B. Just Do what God tells you to do – be obedient
- C. Finish our tasks – be a the Christian FINISHES what he or she starts. Get into the following habits
- D. Get into the following habits: (force yourself to do the following)
  1. Faithfully tell your family you love them.
  2. Faithfully spend alone time with your wife.
  3. Become faithful in praying about everything!
  4. Go soul-winning, EVERY WEEK! Did you start, only to allow excuses keep you from witnessing to the lost regularly?
  5. Be in church EVERY TIME the doors are open (Hebrews 10:25) – every Christian must be faithful to church, or the church limps along and is unable to minister to itself and the lost world around it
  6. In Tithes and offerings - are we faithful in giving God 10% of what he has given us. When things get tough

**Lesson 3**

**Honesty**



The ability to speak the truth at all times

***“Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.”***

Romans 12:17

**I. Introduction**

- A. Half-truths are worse than outright lies! A half-truth has just enough fact in it to make it plausible and just enough deception to make it dangerous.
- B. James 5:12 says, “Let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.”
- C. God commands us to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. What is needed today is for believers to have a reputation for honesty.
- E. Christianity has very little effect in the world today because the world sees no \_\_\_\_\_ in men and women that name the name of Christ. 2 Tim 2:19, than those of the world.
- F. In order for believers to be honest, they will have to examine \_\_\_\_\_ area of their lives.
- G. As Christians we seldom see sin as God sees it. We think of sin as some outward act of disobedience. We seldom extend it to the very thoughts and \_\_\_\_\_ of the heart. Hebrews 4:12.
  - 1. Every thought is to be brought to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (2 Cor.10:5).
- H. Every thought is to be brought to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (2 Cor.10:5).
- I. Yet the Bible says, Just a little \_\_\_\_\_ and the whole lump is spoiled. (Gal: 5:9). So, a small lie can de more lies!
- J. God hates lying (Rev 21:8; 22:15). He actually made one of the Ten Commandments to NOT tell lies (Ex 20:16)
- K. It all begins on a daily basis when our minds are \_\_\_\_\_ in His WORD (Rom.12:2)
  - 1. So that we would judge ourselves. 1 Cor. 11:31. “for if we would judge ourselves we \_\_\_\_\_ be judged”
  - 2. So that I face every decision during the course of the day with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. (Phil. 2:5, Rom.13:12-14)
  - 3. So that we would have the strength to \_\_\_ right.
  - 4. Being a doer of the word and not a hearer only. (James1:23-25)

**II. Synonyms of the word honesty**

**A. Truthfulness:**

- 1. The ability to speak the truth at \_\_\_ times.
- 2. But what about..... “white lies”, exaggerations, and “Situation Ethics”?
- 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ never determines if it is right to lie.
- 4. When we lie we are making provision for our \_\_\_\_\_ to get back on the throne of our heart, instead of the Lord Jesus. (John 8:44, Eph 4:25)

5. Question: who are we TRUSTING when we lie instead of telling the truth???
6. Question: Who are we honouring when we lie? (John 8:44)
7. Was Peter right to lie about knowing and following Jesus when accused at the  
the  
it hard to just tell the truth?

**B. Integrity** (Pro. 19.1, 20:7)

1. Webster de  
the mind; moral soundness or purity; incorruptness; uprightness. It is \_\_\_\_\_ conduct towards the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. This encompasses every area of life. From the moment we get up in the morning until we lay our heads upon our pillows, and every decision in between. You better have the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ or you will make a MESS of it !! (Phil.2:5, Rom. 13:14)
  - b. Many times in the Bible it shows us examples of believers who make life changing decisions and end up in trouble because they never prayed about it. (Gen 12:10-20, Josh 7:2-5)
  - c. Just think, one wrong decision can \_\_\_\_\_ your life!

**III. Christians are to be Honest in all areas of life**

- A. To tell the truth, and be completely honest is my responsibility to my employer. Many times there is a trust relationship between employee and employer. As Christians we need to be careful to be \_\_\_\_\_ in everything we do (Pro. 11:1, Col. 2:22,23)
- B. It is my responsibilities to everyone around me - to “\_\_\_\_\_” no man anything (i.e., to be honest, and never have to have to repair damage in the relationship because you lied). (Rom 13:8)
- C. It is my responsibility to the government and those in \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 13:1-4)
- D. It is my responsibility to my family. Building up a trust relationship between you and your wife and kids.
- E. It is my responsibility to my \_\_\_\_\_ family. To pray for them (1 Sam. 12:23) and have \_\_\_\_\_ love for them at all times. (1 Pet 1:22, Pro. 17:17)

**IV. When is it Hard to be Honest?**

- A. When the truth may reveal sin in our lives
- B. When the truth may cost us our reputation
- C. When the truth may get us into trouble
- D. When the truth can easily be twisted to our bene

**V. How to Tell the Truth - Always**

- A. By hating \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 119:163)
- B. By hating (running from) the people around you who easily tell lies
- C. By loving the truth - loving it like God loves it
- D. By staying humble - when people are praising you, give all the praise to God
- E. By taking responsibility for your wrongdoing
- F. Become accountable to someone who checks up on you and helps you always tell the truth - like your parents, and your pastor.

**Lesson 4**

**Stewardship**

An overseer, managing the affairs of what God has given me upon this earth

***“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”***

1 Corinthians 4:2



**I. Introduction:**

- A. A spiritual Christian realises that everything they have is from the Lord (James 1:17).
- B. That is, every \_\_\_\_\_, every euro, every blessing, and every sorrow is from the Lord (Job 1:10)
- C. As a steward, God has put me as an overseer, to manage the affairs of what He has given me upon this earth. It belongs to our Lord, but He has put us in charge of \_\_\_\_\_ it in this brief period upon this pilgrim journey. (1 Pet 1:17, James 1:14)
- D. So, the de  
has given me upon this earth.”
- E. When you come with the mindset that it all belongs to God in the becomes so necessary for us to become so dependent on Him. (John 15:4) That’s what it means to want more and more Jesus. Jesus is the giver of life. He is the sustainer, and He is the only one that we are accountable to at the end of our days, (Psalms 90:12, Heb 9:27)
- F. Stewardship is desperately lacking in most Christian lives in the day we live in. We are \_\_\_\_\_ by this world, into thinking that, “it is yours”, “you worked hard for it”, and “you deserve it”. This comes from our western culture of self grati  
salesman that has tried to \_\_\_ you something.
- G. If we got what we deserved we would be burning in Hell for all eternity.(Lam 3:21-26) We need to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the Word of God, and by a daily walk with Him, to see ourselves as God sees us. (Rom 12:2, James 1:23-25)
- H. This in a very sober message for the time we live in, because Jesus said, in His last recorded words in Revelation 22:12, “And, behold, I come \_\_\_\_\_; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be”. He repeats it in verse 20 in a similar manner.
- I. The goal of this study of stewardship is to hear what the Bible says about managing God’s possessions, so that our priorities would be properly aligned with the WORD OF GOD, and that we may be faithful.

**II. Taking Stewardship Over God’s Heritage**

**A. Over Our Families**

- 1. The Lord has entrusted me with taking care of my own family \_\_\_\_ and foremost. (1 Timothy 5:8)

2. My wife is my \_\_\_\_\_, given to me by the Lord, so that I could serve the Lord to the best of my ability. (Pro. 19:14).
3. My children are the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_, which is His reward. (Psa. 127:3-5). Children are meant to be a blessing upon a couple. As parents, we have a responsibility to raise them godly. The Lord has entrusted them to us for the purpose of glorifying His Name. The Bible compares them to "\_\_\_\_\_", as arrows, they have to be pointed in the right direction and released out into the world for the purpose of bringing glory and honour to the Lord.

#### B. Over the Gospel

1. As Christians, we have been \_\_\_\_\_ with the life changing message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. As such, We have a responsibility and a command to preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15) This is no small task. It is great commission of the New Testament. (Matt. 28:19,20). To preach the gospel to all Nations; so that the Good News could be proclaimed throughout the whole world.
2. The Lord has given each one of us a unique testimony; on how He saved us, and on what He has done in our lives. How our Lord has taken us up out of the horrible pit and put our feet \_\_\_\_\_ upon a solid Rock and established our goings. (Psa. 40:1-3). It is our love and duty to share that message with a lost and dying world.
3. It is our responsibility as Christians to help spread the message of the gospel.

#### C. Over the Local Church

1. As Christians, we are bound to one another as a local body called the church. The  
Pet. 5:3)
2. As a steward, God puts me in the body of the local church for the purpose of carrying out some work for our Lord. Each person is vital for the effectiveness of that church. (1 Cor. 12:12-22)
3. Churches are made up of different ministries. As it grows, more ministries are developed, and more of a need of \_\_\_\_\_ is required. For instance, there is a need of a different variety of Sunday schools teachers. The Lord expects that teacher, as a steward of God's heritage (1 Pet. 5:3) to be faithful. To live a clean life, to exemplify moral purity, and to have a strong testimony before those that he preaches to. (1 Cor. 9:26,27)
4. As a steward, I need to be faithful to whatever position in the body that I myself in. Whether the Lord has given me  
one. (Matt. 25:14-29)
5. The key message of this parable is that we are to be \_\_\_\_\_ over whatever the Lord gives us. So that in His return, he will reward us according to our faithfulness

### III. Some Examples of Stewardship

- A. **Eliezer.** Even though he was only a \_\_\_\_\_ of Abrahams, he was entrusted with so much more. (Pro. 29:21) He was faithful about his masters business (Gen: 15:2, 24:12-15) A faithful steward will always pray before going about the

business of his master. And will be led of the Lord, not their own intuition. (Gen 24:27, Jer:10:23)

- B. **Joseph.** The Lord used Joseph to be the man of the hour to preserve the posterity of Jacob and his family and in turn the Jewish Nation. Joseph realised that the seven years of plenty was going to be followed by seven years of famine. As such, He was a wise \_\_\_\_\_ over the land, and allowed Egypt to survive through this time. (Gen 41:39-42, 47-57)

#### **IV. How To be a Faithful Steward**

- A. Learn from the examples of the characters of Scripture (Rom. 15:4)
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ that everything that you have is from the Lord (Psa.100:3, Psa 95:6)
- C. You cannot please the lord in your own
- D. As a steward, realise that he sees you at all times (Phil 4:5, Psa.139:1-8)
- E. Each day that goes by, look for His \_\_\_\_\_, as having to give account to the master when he returns. (2 Tim 4:8)

## Lesson 5

### **A Christian's Vision**

Seeing things as God sees them

***"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."***

*Proverbs 29:18*



#### **I. Let's De**

- A. We often think of a "vision" as an *apparition* – the seeing of an angel, or of the future, etc. But it is simply seeing things as God sees them, according to His word (His Law).
- B. Here are a few Scriptures that express the thought about a Christian's vision – i.e., "God's view on things"
  1. Christians need to be able to see God working in their lives. Matt 5:8 "they shall \_\_\_\_\_ God"
  2. Christians are too often like blind physicians, trying to lives, when their life is a mess. Matt 7:5 "then shalt thou see \_\_\_\_\_ to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye"
  3. You need to be able to see God's \_\_\_\_\_ for your life (Acts 16:9,10)
- C. Simply put, a Christian needs to see his or her circumstances from God's viewpoint, and by faith believe that everything will work out for good!
- D. Not many people can truly "see" life like they should. Why?
  1. Because our sin and \_\_\_\_\_ blinds us to spiritual things (2Cor 4:4)
  2. Religion, and our self-righteousness blinds us (Matt 23:26, 15:14)
  3. Only salvation \_\_\_\_\_ our eyes (Acts 26:18)
  4. Jesus spent a lot of time healing blind men to show our need to have OUR own spiritual sight (vision) restored (Matt 11:5; Mark 10:46-52)

#### **II. Why having Good Spiritual VISION is Important in a Christian's Life**

- A. Without proper vision / without a good view of your circumstances, you will give up. Vision is important for you to be able to trust God and live by faith, instead of only by physical sight!
- B. Without asking God to show you His hand at work in your life, and believing that God is working all things together for good, you will start to blame God, and start to become bitter at the troubles you face
- C. Without a right vision/view, you will believe what your heart tells you instead of what God tells you
  1. For example, that the girl that likes you **MUST** be right for you (you had better get GOD'S view on the relationship, not your heart's view)
  2. For example, that you being probably is God directing your future

### **III. Examples of People in the Bible that had Biblical Vision**

- A. Joseph and his childhood dream (Gen 37:5-11)
  - 1. What did Joseph feel God was showing him about his future?
  - 2. Did Joseph understand his dreams?
  - 3. How did those dreams affect his view on his troubles (Gen 39:2,3,21)? He knew that the \_\_\_\_\_ was with him.
  - 4. What is the hardest thing to do with a dream/vision?
- B. Samuel was given a distinct calling/vision about his life from his youth (1Samuel 3:1-10)
  - 1. Did Samuel know that his vision was from God at
  - 2. How did God help con
  - 3. How did this vision help shape Samuel's life and view of his circumstances?
    - a) Saw the nation of Israel as needing God
    - b) Saw people for what they were - as wicked and self-centred
    - c) Saw God as rejected by the people
    - d) Saw God's right choice for king in a young shepherd boy named \_\_\_\_\_

### **IV. There are LIMITS on a Christian's Vision**

- A. God does not ask you or direct you to do anything against Scripture, so a "vision" is not new revelation (i.e., God would not tell you to divorce your wife and go live on a mountaintop in a commune).
- B. God always shows you His will in stages, steps. In other words, God shows you what to do today, and gives you clear vision of what to do.
- C. The "big" will of God cannot be reached until we are faithful in doing the little things He has already showed us in His word. Like...

### **V. This is Why a Biblical Vision is so important to have...**

- A. Biblical Vision sees this world as dying without Christ! Most often we just see people, customers, patients, clients, crowds, while a Christian with Biblical Vision sees SOULS (see Acts 27:37 where Paul sees all the prisoners, and soldiers as \_\_\_\_\_)!
- B. Biblical Vision sees your children as adults one day, making decisions that you want to be Biblical based - so you have to train them now!
- C. Biblical Vision sees your life as part of the will of God, doing something that has an impact on this generation, instead of as someone that does not matter, or is a failure!
- D. Every Christian must ask God for a different view on life than they currently have! Every Christian must beg God for HIS view on your life and circumstances!

### **VI. How to Get a Bible-based Vision from God**

- A. First, it comes from a \_\_\_\_\_. God talks to us not through dreaming, but through the reading of the Scriptures.

- B. Secondly, it comes from \_\_\_\_\_ to the instructions and commands of Scripture, carefully adding Christian character to your life (2Peter 1:4-9)
- C. Thirdly, it comes \_\_\_\_\_, where you start to just force yourself to believe that God is working everything out in your life, and that nothing is left to chance
- D. Lastly, it comes by \_\_\_\_\_, asking God to show you...
  - 1. The way to escape from all temptations (1Corinthians 10:13)
  - 2. The will of God for your life
  - 3. The value of a soul near you
  - 4. Where everything in your life is leading

**Lesson 6**

**Temperance**

*Self-Denial*



*“And every man that striveth for the mastery (wants to win) is \_\_\_\_\_ in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.”*

1 Corinthians 9:25

**I. Introduction**

- A. There is a major defect in modern Christians – it is the problem with SELF-INDULGENCE.
- B. The Christian life is a self-denying, cross-bearing life.
- C. Hear the teaching of Christ:
  - 1. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him \_\_\_\_\_, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24
  - 2. "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that \_\_\_\_\_ not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:33
  - 3. "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:27
- D. Jesus lived strictly by this principle.
- E. Today, too many modern Christians live utterly unlike that of Christ and His followers. The mass of “professors” (they profess following Jesus, but will not obey Him) live for self-indulgence and self-advancement. They seem determined to live as little of the Christian life as possible.
- F. The faith that many have today, costs them nothing. This type of religion is as easy as it is fashionable. It consists in belonging to some fashionable church, and in showing a zeal for its peculiarities, in taking a part in the leading controversies of the day, in buying, popular religious books as fast as they come out, joining religious societies, attending church on Sunday, and in discussing the merits of preachers. All this is easy. Such accomplishments do not make one different.

**II. Let's de**

- A. It is not merely “\_\_\_\_\_”. Some of the new bibles refer to it as *self control*. This cannot be the case because it is “self” that got me into trouble in the
- B. In simple words, it is self-denial. It is the limiting of our actions, wants, desires, reactions to what the Lord will allow.
- C. It is remaining calm when someone is trying to provoke you.
- D. It is a supernatural ability to be under the control of the Holy Spirit in \_\_\_\_\_ circumstance. (Psalm 119:92,165)
- E. It is where every word, every action, and every thought is brought under the control of the Holy Spirit. (Eph 5:17,18)

- F. It is the result of being bitterness, or depression, or worry.
- G. To be “ hostile environment.
- H. It is not dif unto God, and having fellowshiping with believers. It is hard however, to remain under the Holy Spirit control when tested or provoked.
- I. Temperance allows you to be in \_\_\_\_\_ of your own spirit. By allowing the Holy Spirit to be in control of your heart. Pro.14:29/ 16.32
- J. Temperance is only evident in \_\_\_\_\_ situations. How much do we trust Him to bring us through troubling circumstances? Rom.8:37:39/ John 16:33

### **III. Where Does Temperance Come From?**

- A. It is not naturally “in” us!
- B. Temperance is produced in a believer when we are \_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord (Gal: 5:16, 22, 23)
- C. Notice that fruit of the Spirit is singular. All nine of the fruits of the Spirit grow as ONE fruit in your life, all at the same time, if you allow it to!
- D. If you want to temper a metal there must be a combination of pressure being applied, and the metal must be subjected to high temperature.
- E. It is exactly the same when it comes to producing temperance in a \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Most of us trust in the arm of the having a \_\_\_\_\_ walk with the Lord. But when we are put in a pressure situation, then our
- G. The old man produces eighteen \_\_\_\_\_ of what I do naturally when left to my own devices

### **IV. The Application and Value of Temperance**

- A. Temperance is so important because it allows you to \_\_\_\_\_ walking in the Spirit.
- B. When we are Spirit controlled, walking \_\_\_ the Spirit, we can love them as Christ loves them. This is where temperance is so important! It is so easy to respond in the endure persecution, for the sake of Christ and for His \_\_\_\_\_

### **V. Some Biblical Examples of Temperance**

- A. Job – How?
- B. The Apostle Paul
  - 1. Paul was a man of great faith and yet had suffered the loss of all \_\_\_\_\_. (Phil. 3:7, 8, 2 Cor.11:24-28) Yet he could say,
    - a. “He is \_\_\_\_\_” 2 Tim. 1:12
    - b. “I am Con
    - c. “ in \_\_\_\_\_ state I am” (Phil. 4:11,12)
    - d. He had learned temperance by being totally dependent on the Lord. Phil. 4:13.

2. The Lord Jesus

- a. The greatest example of temperance is the Lord Jesus Christ. What an example He has left for us. Heb. 2:18 / 4:15.
- b. He was Temperate In His testing's (Matt 4:310)
- c. He was Temperate In His dealings with others (Matt 21:12, 23:13,15)
- d. He was Temperate In His death (John 10:18) Even though His body was racked with pain he still was in control everything that he said. (John 19:30)

**VI. How a Believer Develops Temperance**

- A. Walk in the Spirit Gal 5:16. (It naturally grows as we yield to God's in our life as we obey His commands in His word) This is simply submitting your actions to God.
- B. When the pressure is applied, don't give into sin! Now you can resist the devil and he will
- C. Believe the promises of His WORD over \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Look to the end \_\_\_\_\_ of being temperate in all areas. (1 Cor. 9:25)

**Lesson 7**

**Courage**

The state of mind that enables someone to face danger with con

*"The wicked  
righteous are bold as a lion."  
Proverbs 28:1*



**I. Introduction**

- A. The world does not look for the same kinds of character strengths in a person that God does.
- B. There is at least one exception. There is at least one quality of character that both the world and the Word hold in high esteem. It is that quality called COURAGE. In fact, one of the greatest exclamation marks secular history places by the names of men and women whose lives are etched in its Hall of Fame is the seal of valour... the badge of courage.
- C. "Courage is fear that has said its \_\_\_\_\_." — Dorothy Bernard
- D. History's heroes are, for the most part, men and women, who when faced with incredible odds, even the threat of death actually increased in boldness; and their courage became the hallmark of their life. In like manner, in the pages of biblical biographies, the lives of God's Living Legends, tend to surface when viewed under the lens of true spirituality, again and again and again, that seemingly supernatural quality called courage as the evidence of God's seal of greatness.
- E. Examples would include:
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ in a lion's den
  - 2. Moses in the presence of Pharaoh commanding him to let God's people go!
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_ on Mt. Carmel facing 850 false prophets
  - 4. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ before the Sanhedrin in Acts 4:13
- F. When the oven of life's crisis reached the temperature of certain defeat, these men and women rose to the occasion by demonstrating supernatural courage. The "quality called courage" is the theme of this study. The central young man destined for the throne. His name is David.
- G. The incident that causes his courage to surface like a glistening diamond is the impending defeat of the nation Israel at the hands of God's enemies, the Philistines, who have in their possession the best the world has to offer, an overgrown warrior named Goliath.

**II. Lesson**

- A. Courage De
  - 1. Webster says this: "courage = the quality of being \_\_\_\_\_; valour."
  - 2. If courage is the act of being brave, what is brave? brave = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Expanded, the definition enables someone to face danger with confidence of moral strength on which one may draw upon in time of emergency."
4. Courage, then, is some kind of inner strength that seems to emerge in the face of danger or during seemingly impossible circumstances.
5. Biblically, we see courage with almost the identical meaning except that the strength can only come from one source to be valid. Biblical courage is not the result of self-reliance or self-confidence. It is the result of two powers: Surrender and Sovereignty. Our surrender to God's sovereignty, and our trust in God's strength, not in our own.

B. Some Scriptures on Courage, Boldness, and Bravery

1. Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."
2. Joshua 1:7 "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest."
3. Joshua 1:9 "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."
4. 1Chronicles 28:20 "And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all that thou shalt do: for the LORD is with thee, he will not fail thee, neither will he forsake thee."
5. Psalm 27:14 "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."
6. Psalm 31:24 "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD."
7. Psalm 27:1 "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

C. An Example of Courage – \_\_\_\_\_ (Joshua 1)

1. There are many places in Scripture where you can see courage at work, but none shines so brightly as Joshua, chapter one. There you have all the ingredients of the impossible.
2. Joshua never feared his task, or his enemies from that moment on.
3. For the next 20 years, Joshua led the nation of Israel to settle in the Promised Land – what an immense effort. And he did it in courage!

D. Another Example of Courage – Young \_\_\_\_\_ (1Samuel 17)

1. Let's now turn to the Living Legend of the hour and one of the most dramatic evidences of courage ever recorded. Turn to 1 Samuel, chapter seventeen.
2. Remember, in order for courage to be demonstrated, there must be the presence of danger or difficulty. If you do not believe this situation quali

3. It is de  
Everything is on the line. Try to picture the scenario in your mind, so you can fully appreciate the decision David made.
4. Notice the “Cowardice” – the opposite of Courage (1Samuel 17:11)
5. David’s Courage
  - a. Built upon past experience (1Sam 17:34-37)
  - b. Always believing in God’s power
  - c. Always ready to  
for a  
heartedly in the Lord!
  - d. He had full-throttle faith – he RAN to the enemy (1Sam 17:48)

### III. Final Thoughts on Courage

- A. Christian Courage comes from \_\_\_\_\_ in God.
  1. Either trust God or don’t. It doesn’t change the enemy. All you should do is decide whether or not to be strong. Either be courageous, or miss the blessing.
  2. To be courageous, you must be aware that God is the one who is responsible for the outcome. "Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed." The battle isn't yours, it's MINE says God. No wonder you can be strong! The results aren't up to you.
  3. Courage is like a very weak man driving in an army tank up to their enemy. The man can have great courage because of the TANK – so also, a Christian can have great courage because of the Lord (1Sam 17:45)
- B. Courage comes from \_\_\_\_\_ God. To be courageous as a Christian is an order from God. Therefore, it is a choice of the will to obey God. Remember, God only orders us to do what he empowers us to do.
  1. We are commanded to NOT be afraid of how people look at us, or treat us or threaten us (Jer 1:6-8)
  2. We are commanded to have courage as witnesses
  3. We are commanded to always press forward, not retreat
- C. No one develops courage while \_\_\_\_\_. They HAVE to get into “the
- D. Biblical courage, then, is " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."  
\_\_\_\_\_." It results in an awareness that God has become responsible for both the battle and the outcome.
- E. When has it been hard for you to have courage?
- F. What are some other ways to develop courage?

**Lesson 8**

***Humility***

A modest or low view of one's own importance

**"... Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God \_\_\_\_\_ the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."**

1 Peter 5:5



**I. Introduction**

- A. A big defect in the majority of Christians of this age, is their lack of \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. How fully and urgently do the Scriptures express this virtue as an essential part of the life of the Christian! God resists the proud, and gives grace ONLY to the humble. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."
- C. How clearly was this grace displayed in our Saviour's life. Though no one more that Jesus ever had the same reasons to have high opinions of Himself, yet no one was ever equally humble.
- D. He voluntarily chose the humblest life, the humblest associates, the humblest food, the humblest clothes, the humblest manners, and died the most humiliating death. Jesus Himself said, "I am meek and lowly in heart."
- E. Humility is the very core act of the Christian's life. "Be clothed with humility" (1Peter 5:5).
- F. But today, many Christians pride themselves in their status, their wealth, their abilities, their high social position, and their distinction in the church—all are puffed up with pride! How ambitious and haughty are many, who claim to be the servants of Christ! How this sin has impaired the unity, marred the beauty, and weakened the Church of God! Will the world adopt Christianity with this type of sin before them? They know that such Christians contradict their profession and misrepresent their Master. In the estimation of sinner as well as of saint, the most awful of all things is a proud Christian!
- G. Here there must be a transformation. The proud must be humbled. The meek and lowly attitude which was in Christ, and characterized all His early saints, must also be in and be exhibited by the disciples of Christ now, or they will never effectually carry out their high mission.
- H. Humility was the greatest virtue of our Lord Jesus Christ apart from His love for this world. Our Lord, left the glories of heaven and the continual praise of the angels to be born in  
He created. He humbled himself. He lowered himself. He became a servant. And He died!
- I. Humility should be our easiest character trait if we could just see ourselves as the worms that we are. That is why humility isn't something worked for that would be just a work of the  
really are, a weak, corrupted, dying piece of clay. It is Christ that redeemed us,

gives us life, feeds us, clothes us, and gives us every good gift. Humility should be easy for the Christian and it would be if we looked at Him instead of self. The Christian that takes one glance at the world and self must take two glances at Jesus Christ to be reminded that "what is man that thou art mindful of him." Our God looks at us with love and pity and we look at ourselves as if there is something in us to be proud of. We are nothing but dirt with His image stamped upon us, a big zero with the ring rubbed out. So, if there is anything good in us as Christians it is only the Lord Jesus Christ that lives in us. Take a real good look in the mirror and try to see what God sees and knows and still loves.

## II. De

- A. A modest or low view of one's own importance; humbleness.
- B. Having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's own importance :
- C. The state or quality of being humble; freedom from pride and arrogance; lowliness of mind; a modest estimate of one's own worth; a sense of one's own unworthiness through imperfection and sinfulness; self-abasement; humbleness
- D. Not high or lofty; not pretentious or magni  
Thinking lowly of one's self; claiming little for one's self; not proud, arrogant, or assuming; thinking one's self ill-deserving or unworthy, when judged by the demands of God; lowly; weak; modest.
- E. To make humble or lowly in mind; to abase the pride or arrogance of; to reduce the self-suf
- F. Synonyms include -- \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- G. Humility vs. Humiliation. Although they possess the same root word, humility is not humiliation. Humiliation is what another does to you against your will and pride. Humility is what we do to ourselves. It is the difference between being humbled, humiliation, and being humble, humility.
- H. The opposite of humility is \_\_\_\_\_
- I. What is Pride? \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Christians are to possess the characteristic of humility

- A. If we are looking for honour we will never or by telling others how great we are. We must will be honoured. If we do think highly of ourselves and pride enters our heart a haughty spirit will result and we will fall. (Proverbs 15:33; 16:18-19; 18:12; 22:4; Matthew 23:10-12)
- B. Young people need to submit, humble themselves to older people. One of the problems in society is the pride and arrogance in Children who will be bold with their parents or other adults. (1 Peter 5:5)
- C. The Bible admonishes us all to be "clothed" with humility. That infers that everyday we are to "put on" humility, like a garment, not in a false way, but in sincerity be looking for others needs and wants and yielding to them without thinking about ourselves. Humble ourselves to others, not because they deserve it, because neither do we, but as unto God. (Philippians 2:4-8; I Peter 5:6) Instead trusting God for the things we need (1 Peter 5:7).

- D. In Matthew 18 the disciples were concerned with which one of them was going to be the greatest when they got to heaven Jesus told them if they do not humble themselves, they will not be honored even when they get to heaven. (Matthew 18:1-5; Mark 9:33-35)
- E. There is no salvation without humility. We had to humble ourselves to repent and come to God on His terms. (Mat 18:3)
- F. Many times we put the blame of problems on others, government, teachers, businesses, etc Bible says that the reason for problems within a country many times is because Christians refuse to humble themselves. (2 Chron 7:13-14) We must Humble ourselves, Call on Gods name, seek His face and turn from our wicked ways if God is to heal our land. This doesn't give any amount of Christians, it may be just two.

**IV. When is it Hard to be Humble?**

- A. When we are not acknowledged for hard work we did.
- B. When someone else gets credit for our work
- C. When you do something wrong and you need to \_\_\_\_\_
- D. When God convicts your heart of sin

**V. How do we get humility?**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ Humble yourself toward God
  - 1. Humble yourself in the Word of God - ask God to reveal some area you need to change
  - 2. Humble yourself in prayer - exalt His name, Praise Him, by lifting Him up, you humble yourself
  - 3. Do what the Bible tells us to do (James 1:22)
  - 4. Repent when convicted - When God speaks to your heart about an area in your life where you are wrong, turn from the wrong you are doing
- B. Realize how much \_\_\_\_\_ had to humble himself (Philippians 2:5-11)
- C. Humble yourself \_\_\_\_\_ your family
  - 1. Husband - yield to his decisions and preferences.
  - 2. Wife - yield to her preferences and needs
  - 3. Parents - yield to their requests, rules,
  - 4. Children - play with them, teach them things you know, let them know you have problems
- D. Humble yourself to \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. Your Boss - do whatever he asks, let yourself be available to him
  - 2. Your Pastor - do whatever he asks, let yourself be available to him
  - 3. Other Christians - If there is a disagreement
  - 4. Lost People - If there is a disagreement

## Lesson 9

### **Honour and Respect**

To Esteem Someone Else Highly

***“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each \_\_\_\_\_ other better than themselves.”***

Philippians 2:3



#### **I. Introduction**

A. Today the world honours, thieves, thugs, music and movie stars and other ungodly people. The honour due to God and others has been all but wasted on

something to be laughed at in our society, but the bible commands us to honour our father and mother.

B. We give honour and respect to others because their character demands it not them, but in the world the vilest of people demand respect. The thugs say "you dissed me" meaning you showed them no respect. The wicked want respect without earning it. For the world, "being" respected is the same as "earning" honour and respect but they are as far away from each other as night and day. It used to be a man received respect and honour because of his virtuous character. Today as with everything else they want something for nothing.

C. For the Christian, honour and respect should be reserved the Lord, and then also for those that the Scriptures tell us to honour. Romans 13:7

**II. De** To hold or look to someone with high esteem, and to revere or regard highly. The opposite of honour and respect is when we “despise” someone.

#### **III. Lesson**

A. Honour belongs in the \_\_\_\_\_ – respect everyone in your home!

1. Parents \_\_\_\_\_ honour from their children (Eph 6:1-3). God makes promises for the children who honour Father and Mother
2. Parents have a responsibility to \_\_\_\_\_ this honour as well!

- a. By not being full of wrath and anger in your home (Ephesians 6:4)
- b. By taking the time to teach your children right and wrong – don’t just demand respect (Proverbs 1:8; 23:22)
- c. Make rules, and be just expect your children to honour and obey you when you are not clear in your expectations and rules (Proverbs 1:8; 6:20)
- d. Both Fathers and Mothers have a duty to instruct their children in the ways of the Lord. The children are to honour and obey their parents instruction. Both have an obligation in the honour bestowed upon parents.

3. The alternative to honouring and obeying is found in Proverbs 30:17

4. Wives Must honour and respect Their \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 5:33). The key word there is \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. Wives Should \_\_\_\_\_ be greatly honoured from their husbands (1 Peter 3:7)
- B. There should be Honour in the \_\_\_\_\_
1. Honour your Pastor (Matthew 13:57). You honour your pastor by:
    - a. Being in church with your family every time the doors are open
    - b. Being ready to help in anything that he says needs to be done
    - c. Paying him as a church to pastor you all – don't expect a pastor to do everything at his own expense, because he will run out of money very fast!
    - d. Call him "Pastor" – it is an earned title. Don't call him by his
    - e. Pray for him every day. He is wrestling with the darkness of this world on your behalf and needs prayer support.
  2. Have Personal Honour Towards Yourself (1Thes. 4:4; 2Tim. 2:20,21)
  3. Toward each Other (1Corinthians 12:23,24)
- C. Christians MUST Show Respect of Others in the World
1. Have a good \_\_\_\_\_ in the world (Proverbs 22:1)
  2. The Bible says to honour all men and the king (1 Peter 2:17)
    - a. Never speak disrespectfully of your authorities, whether they are saved or lost.
    - b. If they are in authority, they are GOD'S ministers (Romans 13:1-7)
    - c. So, pay your taxes, say "Yes Sir" and "Yes Ma'am" to the police and Garda.

#### **IV. Application**

- A. As Christians we should seek to give honour unto whom honour is due (Romans 13:7). It honours God to obey His word so let be doers of the word and not hearers only.
- B. As Christians we should live so as to deserve honour but not demand it. This kind of life will not only bring us the respect we should seek after but honour the Lord because of the life we are living. To live an honourable life not only honours God but puts forth the right picture of Jesus Christ our Saviour to a lost and dark world.
- C. Quote: It is better to deserve honours and not have them than to have them and not deserve them. --Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens)

#### **V. Conclusion**

- A. A Warning from the Lord (1Samuel 2:30)
- B. A Blessing to the Lord (Revelation 4:11)
- C. Let's seek to honour God

Lesson 10

Compassion

Suffering with another person

***“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him”***

Luke 10:33



**I. Introduction**

- A. Kindness usually costs very little but means a whole lot to the recipient. We live in a world where man is sinful and is usually concerned only about self. Just the simple acts of kindness can mean so much.
  - 1. Behind acts of kindness is the driving force of compassion. Compassion is not just feeling moved by another’s condition - but moved to \_\_\_ something.
- B. The Bible says in the last days that, *“men will be lovers of their own selves”* (1Tim. 3:1-4). That is a generation that is only interested in giving if they are sure of getting something in return. (Proverbs 30:12-14)
- C. Compassion and kindness is thinking of others before ourselves. It used to be a simple act of courtesy to give an elderly person your seat on a crowded bus. That is because you knew that it was the right thing to do.
- D. We must think with the mind of Christ in every situation that we in. Just a simple act of kindness in His name (Phil. 2:4-5), is pleasing to our Lord.

**II. Let’s De**

- A. What do YOU think compassion is? It simply means “\_\_\_\_\_”
- B. Compassion is NOT the same as \_\_\_\_\_. The difference between compassion and pity is pity feels bad about a situation but compassion does something to change it.
- C. Many times we think compassion is sympathy. Feeling bad about the hurt or misfortune of another. Compassion is that sympathy, but it is a sympathy that stirs your heart to do something about the hurt or misfortune of another
- D. Examples of compassion are when people suffer with another person (“\_\_\_\_\_ with them that weep”, Romans 12:15).
- E. A Christian needs to stop looking at their own circumstances (no matter how troubled) and look at the circumstances of others, and see themselves in their place, and set out to help them!
- F. Jesus had in judgment only) on others! We are too quick to judge others, and see all their meeting those needs – even though they do not deserve it!

**III. Bible examples of people who had compassion**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 1:41)
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 10-25-37)
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ daughter (Exodus 2:5-7)

**IV. Why is Compassion Important in a Christians life**

- A. What your life would be like without Compassion?
- B. What would your life be like WITH Compassion?

**V. Where should Christians Show Compassion Today?** Where would Compassion be important in our lives?

- A. In our homes
- B. In our church (Gal 6:10)
- C. All around us – we just have to have our eyes OPEN, and we will see SO MANY NEEDS FOR COMPASSION!

**VI. How Do We Get Godly Compassion?**

- A. By repentance from \_\_\_\_\_
- B. By humbling ourselves and doing \_\_\_\_\_ things for others (as Christ washed the disciple's feet)
- C. By forgetting about ourselves and setting out to be a blessing to the needs around us
- D. By being thankful for God's goodness to you, and how the Lord has comforted you in your troubles, so that YOU could be a comfort to others in THEIR troubles (2Corinthians 1:3,4)

**VII. Conclusion**

- A. How can compassion change the world we live in?  
Compassion is what moves us to act! Jesus acted in that He preached the gospel. We may not be able to heal the sick like He did but we can tell the world about Jesus Christ and the life-saving gospel. The greatest act of compassion would be to see the world as Jesus sees it – LOST, weak, scattered and needing the Great Shepherd.

**Lesson 11**

**Servanthood**

Someone who voluntarily serves another

***“But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.”***

Matthew 23:11



**I. Introduction**

- A. God never intended any servant of His, in any kingdom or rank, to be \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus Christ, our great role model, did not sit down in Jerusalem and require those who needed His salvation to effort He went about doing good—teaching the ignorant, soothing the sorrowing, pardoning the guilty, and saving the lost, teaching the Sermon on the Mount, giving sight to a blind Bartimaeus; then restoring the mind of a poor maniac, and sending him home to bless his family; then, raising the dead, casting out devils and healing the diseased; afterwards, mingling His tears with the af opposition could turn aside, and with a singleness of purpose that neither men nor devils could frustrate or discourage, He continued to preach, pray, and travel—to reclaim the depraved, to deliver the oppressed, elevate the down-trodden, and comfort the distressed—until He
- B. And how closely did the respect! From the day of Pentecost they committed themselves to the work of Christ, and bore the burden and heat of the day until life's sun went down. They attempted to do, and did for Christ what Alexander, Caesar, and Napoleon Bonaparte attempted to do in war—conquer the world! How rightly is a Book the Bible called, the "acts of the apostles!" The ACTIONS, EFFORTS of those century Christians that were so united, self-denying, daring, and persevering, that in a few years they salvation.
- C. Oh that we as believer would begin once again to serve! To serve our worthy Lord, and to serve unworthy man! So that Christ may be Lord of all!

**II. De**

- A. The characteristic of one who \_\_\_\_\_ serves, or does services for another. A servant is not a slave because a slave has no choice, but a servant does!
- B. A person who labours or exerts himself for the bene employer; a servant is a subordinate helper.
- C. Galatians 5:13 “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the \_\_\_\_\_.”
- D. 1Corinthians 9:19 “For though I be \_\_\_\_\_ from all men, yet have I \_\_\_\_\_ servant unto all, that I might gain the more.”

- E. John 13:14,15 "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an \_\_\_\_\_ that ye should \_\_\_\_ as I have done to you. "
- F. Mark 10:43,44 "But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be \_\_\_\_\_."

### **III. Servants in the Bible**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_(Philippians 2:5-8) "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of \_\_\_\_\_, and took upon him the form of a \_\_\_\_\_, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he \_\_\_\_\_ himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Peter 1:1; James 1:1; Titus 1:1) they introduced themselves as \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:31-35)

### **IV. The Characteristics of a Servant**

- A. As servants we must not strive,
- B. As servants we must be \_\_\_\_\_ to all men (2 Timothy 2:23) even if they are against us.
- C. As servants we must be apt to teach (2 Timothy 2:23), serving the bread of life to hungry hearts and souls!
- D. As servants we must be \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Timothy 2:23), serving, not demanding!
- E. As servants we must in meekness, instruct those who oppose themselves - in a meek, serving kind of spirit we are to instruct those who are Christians yet are not acting like one to repent and do right (2 Timothy 2:24-26)
- F. They are NOT to act like God over others, but under them! (John 13:16)
- G. As servants we can expect persecution as Jesus did (John 15:19-21)
- H. Other characteristics include...

### **V. How to be a Christian Servant**

- A. Do everything you do as \_\_\_\_\_, out of love for HIM (Colossians 3:23)!
- B. Look for needs in people's lives and start
- C. Be enthusiastic about getting to serve others - this will take some surrendered prayer
- D. Never refuse an opportunity to serve
- E. Don't expect recognition - a servant is almost never honoured for his work
- F. Serve the unsaved as if they were the Lord Jesus, and use it as an opportunity to witness
- G. Serve others when things are going well and also when not going well
- H. Serve God in all He tells us to do - Soul-Winning, Teaching others, join a ministry, pray for others.

## Lesson 12

### **Long-Suffering**

Putting up with injuries against you for a long time

*“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is \_\_\_\_\_ to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

2 Peter 3:9



#### **I. Introduction**

- A. The world desperately needs to see Christians who will not give up on people, the way the world does. There needs to be the sense that we care, and that we will not STOP caring no matter what.
- B. The heroes of today's culture, portrayed in the media as angry, aggressive defenders of democracy, destroy without patience or forethought all opposing forces regardless of their personal qualities. In our impatient, self-centered world, one quality of character has all but perished: longsuffering. Similar to patience and forbearance, longsuffering is the quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation. A person who is longsuffering is not quick to retaliate or promptly punish someone who has insulted, offended, or harmed him. The opposite of anger, it is intimately associated with mercy. Longsuffering is an attribute of God and thus a fruit of His Holy Spirit.
- C. Let us consider two things: The longsuffering of God and the Christian.
- D. This important trait in the Christian's character needs to be seen before a lost world. They will never know of the longsuffering of God unless we tell them. They will never see the longsuffering of God unless we show them. This trait is from God and can only be displayed to a lost world through a broken, spirit

then give God complete control over our lives.

- E. Notice God's Longsuffering (2Pet.3:9)
- F. Christian Longsuffering (Gal.5:22)

#### **II. De**

- A. What it does NOT mean? It does NOT mean *moping around* with no joy and that “poor me” look on our faces? Waiting in the face of utter hopelessness? No! Not at all.
- B. What it DOES mean. Putting up with injuries or provocation against you for a long time. Not ever with anger; enduring even in the face animosity for the bene
- C. Longsuffering is more than just \_\_\_\_\_. We can be patient in a queue at a store or in heavy traf
- D. Longsuffering on the other hand is embedded in the very character of God. We cannot reveal it in ourselves but the Holy Spirit can. It is a fruit of the Spirit Gal.5:22

### **III. Example of longsuffering in the Bible.**

- A. God the Father – towards the nation of Israel
- B. The Lord Jesus (1Pet.3:20; 2Pet.3:9)
  - 1. Jesus Christ suffered long in the face of mockings, ridicule, hatred,
  - 2. How is longsuffering exemplified (2 Peter 3:14-15)
  - 3. Christ's patient and enduring handling of sinners demonstrates His longsuffering. God promises that He will be long-tempered with us as we repent and dedicate ourselves to the obedience and service of God. As in everything else, Jesus Christ sets the standard of longsuffering.
- C. Paul the Apostle in his ministry (2Cor. 6:1-10; Gal.2:21; 1Tim.1:16; 2Tim.3:10;4:2)
  - 1. Why did Paul exhibit longsuffering in his Christian life? 2Cor. 6:1-10
    - a. Vs.1. He would not frustrate the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (Galatians 2:21)
    - b. Vs.3 He did not want to bring an \_\_\_\_\_ to the ministry.
    - c. Vs.4. He wanted to be \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - 2. One of the reasons the Lord saved Paul (1Tim.1:16)
    - a. Paul said he was a \_\_\_\_\_ for all to see of the mercy and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ Jesus.
    - b. We should desire to be an example of the work of Jesus Christ in us.
  - 3. How did Paul exhibit longsuffering? 2Tim.4:2
  - 4. Paul showed longsuffering in his \_\_\_\_\_ ministry and dealings with others.

### **IV. How can each Christian show forth Longsuffering? (Eph.4:1-3; Col.3:12,13)**

- A. In our \_\_\_\_\_. - Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath - Jam. 1:19
- B. In our \_\_\_\_\_ - People will be saved as we show the same longsuffering God has toward this world 2Pet.3:9
- C. In our \_\_\_\_\_ as a Christian. - We can be more fruitful as we learn patience. We add this virtue to our character as we grow in the Lord. 1Pet. 1:4-8
- D. In our \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ toward each other. (Eph.4:32)
- E. In our \_\_\_\_\_ those away from God (1Tim.2:24,25)

### **V. How to have longsuffering as a virtue in our lives. (Ps.86:15; Gal.5:22)**

- A. Remember Who God is. "But thou, O, Lord, art God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."
- B. Yield to the Spirit and be longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"

## Lesson 13

### **Loyalty**

*Committed dependability to a person or goal*

*“...there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”*

Proverbs 18:24



#### **I. De**

- A. The word Loyal means “unswerving in allegiance” as in, “Fidelity to a prince or sovereign, or to a husband or wife.”
- B. It means being \_\_\_\_\_ to someone or something. Never thinking of what could break the relationship. Committed to being dependable and trustworthy to your God, spouse, friends, church and pastor.

#### **II. Introduction**

- A. When you think of loyalty, doesn't your mind immediately think about a dog? There are few things as dependable as a good family dog! We associate this trait with our canine friends because they are just that: Loyal! True blue!
- B. The example of Heidi, a Jack Russell Terrier from Scotland. In 2001, a Jack Russell terrier named Heidi scrambled down a 500-foot drop to get to her owner, Graham Snell. Snell had fallen off the cliff while hiking and died instantly. Heidi stayed by her master's side for two days until rescue teams them.
- C. That is loyalty and we could learn from Heidi, but, we want to see biblical loyalty in this lesson. The loyalty that we need is a commitment towards our God and towards each other. The scriptures give us some great examples of Christian friendship.
- D. Oh, that there was loyalty to each other amongst the Lord's people. That we would esteem others better than ourselves and from that would come an intense loyalty toward one another.
- E. To love one another is the Lord's command (John 13:34,35; 15:12,17); If we but just obeyed the Lord wholly and completely in this one command we would have true loyalty to each other. \_\_\_\_\_ for another person (not love OF them, but love FOR them) is the root of loyalty!
- F. This command to love in the Bible is given to the husband directly and is a great truth taught to the young girls seeking to marry (Titus 2:4). Men are to love their wives as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25). Out of this fruit of the Spirit springs loyalty toward each other in the marital relationship.
- G. Let's learn about Biblical Loyalty that needs to be the backbone of every relationship that we as Christians enter into.

#### **III. Lesson**

- A. Why do we need to be Loyal?

1. The Bible teaches all believers to become loyal, faithful, dependable, committed to important things and people in our lives!
2. The world needs to see what real loyalty, and dependability is. Most every person is committed only to themselves. Jesus taught us to be faithful and loyal to God!
3. \_\_\_\_\_ should be setting the example
4. The strength of a \_\_\_\_\_, like the strength of an army, is in its loyalty to each other.

B. A Biblical Example of Loyalty - \_\_\_\_\_

1. Who were these men, and why did they become so loyal/faithful to each other?
2. How was their loyalty tested?
3. How are they examples to us?
4. If you want to be loyal like Jonathan, you must:

- a. A loyal friend will give you his best to \_\_\_\_\_ 1Sam.18:1-4;
- b. Jonathan gave to David his garments and sword in honouring their friendship and covenant. It showed Jonathan's outward act of his inward love and loyalty toward David. Jonathan was saying I am behind you and I will show you.
- c. EX. Should we not show our loyalty in our homes and in our churches and amongst our friends the same way. Show our loyalty to our wives by outward acts of love and commitment to them. Nothing can come between a man and wife when that man is loyal to his wife.
- d. A loyal friend will defend you with \_\_\_\_\_. 1Sam.19:1-7;
- e. Jonathan spoke well of David and on David's behalf even before his father because the truth stands on its own.
- f. We should always stand on the truth wherever that takes us. Loyalty is

in our relationships. Our homes should be havens of truth, between husbands and wives and parents and children. The truth will strengthen our loyalty to each other

- g. A loyal friend will not think of his own \_\_\_\_\_ but what is \_\_\_\_\_ 1Sam. 20:16-42
- h. Jonathan's commitment to David did not stop when his own life was threatened. Jonathan was able to stay loyal because he \_\_\_\_\_ what was the right thing to do. We must seek to follow after right and we will always be loyal to what is right, even in the face of severe trial and trouble.
- i. Choose to be loyal over being \_\_\_\_\_
- j. A loyal friend will want what God wants for your life. A loyal friend will step back from his own personal gain to assure your place in God's will

C. A Biblical Example of Disloyalty - \_\_\_\_\_ towards His Saviour (Ex Matt.26:33-35, 69-75)

1. Good intentions aren't enough – Peter, though purposing to follow the Lord no matter what, fell away in time of testing. Loyalty requires faithfulness to a

friend even at the cost of your own comfort, happiness and maybe your life! We could set out on a course to be loyal and fail miserably like Peter did in time of trial. Loyalty looks past personal safety and needs, to the needs of the one we intend to be loyal to.

#### **IV. Application Thoughts**

- A. There are many People and Ideals we must be loyal to:
  - 1. To our \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. To our \_\_\_\_\_ - to our parents, grandparents
  - 3. To our \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. To our \_\_\_\_\_ - the will of God for your life
  - 5. To real \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6. To our \_\_\_\_\_!
- B. There are some Limits to our Loyalty:
  - 1. When parents try and pull us back from our loyalty to God (Luke 14:26)
  - 2. When friends try and be more important to us than our family, and our relationship with God
  - 3. When temptations try and pull us off course from doing God's will
- C. What is the main purpose of Loyalty?
  - 1. To help others serve and honour God even in the midst of a dark and troubled world.
  - 2. Be a loyal husband and honour your wife because it honours God
  - 3. Be a loyal wife because your husband needs your loyalty to him to help him serve God.
  - 4. Be a loyal friend because we need each other in these trying times.
  - 5. Be loyal to our church because it must be a place of rest in a troubled world.
  - 6. Be a loyal child to parents because it honours them and especially the Lord.
- D. The Focus must always be on helping others serve God
  - 1. Aaron and Hur help Moses to help Joshua and the armies of Israel defeat the Amalekites. Loyalty to the goal of serving the Lord and honouring His cause will help us to be loyal to one another.
  - 2. Joshua's loyalty - The Israelites depended on Joshua to lead them into battle.

#### **V. Final Thoughts**

- A. A Friend (someone who is loyal) is someone who loves at all times (Prov.17:17) – one who is there when needed, and available. He will trust the bible to help you, he will not give opinions but truth –
- B. A Loyal friend is more valuable than Gold (Prov.27:17), The iron must contact the iron. The loyal friend will strengthen your character - not dull it.
- C. Be faithful so that people can depend upon you! (Prov.27:5,6,9) This loyal friend has a real love, a restoring love and an open love. The loyal friend will be there to help with biblical counsel

**Lesson 14**

***Hospitality***

Extending friendship to others

***“Use hospitality one to another \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”***

1 Peter 4:9



**I. Introduction**

- A. All Christians should be hospitable.
- B. Why? Because of the grace of God that has been extended to each and every one of us. God should be very angry at us, but is very patient, and giving towards us, and never complains at how we take advantage of Him and of His gifts!
- C. Notice our main Scripture says that we are to be gracious and kind and open to meeting the needs of others “\_\_\_\_\_!”
- D. Obviously, when you try to help people, and open up your home to them, they will take advantage of your kindness, but that is a lesson to learn well because we all have done the same towards God!
- E. Jesus Christ changes us into HIS likeness, and asks us to be hospitable toward others

**II. What is Hospitality?**

- A. The attitude of extending friendship to others, entertaining guests, to be friendly or neighbourly
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ to others
- C. We are to be kind, loving, patient, prayerful and many other things toward one another, but also meeting the needs of each other and "given to hospitality" (Rom 12:13). This is very important. It will keep you humble when you look after the needs of others. It shows kindness and friendship to the body of Christ. It binds us together like super glue.
- D. But being hospitable is not an act towards \_\_\_\_\_ people, or towards those who can pay your back – it is the act of being a blessing to someone even though they are unworthy.
- E. This is where we get our word “\_\_\_\_\_” from. Our homes, and our attitudes ought to be like a hospital – we take in anyone into our lives, and try to help them, and minister to them, even when they may turn around and not appreciate it at all!
- F. The world knows nothing of true hospitality. Real hospitality gives – it does not look to GET. If anyone should be hospitable it should be the Christian. There were no Hospitals until Jesus came and taught us about true hospitality!
- G. Think of this... Do you realize God is going to let a sinner like you into His heaven? If that is not hospitality I don't know what is. You know why God can let you and me into His heaven? Because He changed the relationship we had with each other. When we got saved He made those who used to be His enemies into His family. See Romans 5:6-10. He not only has invited us to His heaven, but

He is actually building us a Mansion to live in up in heaven. THAT'S a welcoming kind of hospitality!

### **III. Other Examples of Hospitality**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 10:38-42)
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ towards the Jews (Matthew 25:34-40) When you take in, and clothe, and help the least, you are doing it to the Lord Jesus!
- C. The \_\_\_\_\_ should be hospitable (1Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- D. All Christians should be very hospitable towards others (1Peter 4:9). It is a commandment!

### **IV. How To Become Hospitable as a Christian**

- A. Pray and ask God to take away your \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. We are all-too-often sel our homes and our cars, so that we don't allow anyone to "mess" them up, or accidentally spill anything anywhere near our furniture or carpets!
  - 2. If you only have the "best" of guests in your home, Jesus rebukes you, and commands you to invite the lame, the cripple, the poor right into your home (Luke 14:12-14)
- B. Force yourself to be a \_\_\_\_\_ to someone you of your kindness
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ your home to a church-wide time of fellowship, dedicating your home and everything that happens in it to the Lord!
- D. Give of your time and your money to just be a blessing to someone who is lonely, or even lost!
- E. Can you think of any more ways to be hospitable?

Lesson 15

**Gratefulness**

The ability to look at what someone does for you, no matter how insigni \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_!  
 \_\_\_\_\_!"

***"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be \_\_\_\_\_."***

Philippians 4:11



**I. Introduction**

- A. There is a terrible defect in the present type of Christian character today, and it is the lack of a CALM, SATISFIED, CHEERFUL SPIRIT.
- B. The religion of Christ is a joyful religion.
- C. "Happy is that people whose God is the Lord." "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice." In whatever state the early saints were—they were content. In everything they gave thanks. If sorrowful, they were always rejoicing (2Cor 6:10). They were cheerful in the house of their pilgrimage. They charmed the ear of a godless world by their songs of joy, as they walked on to the grave.
- D. But how have modern Christians deteriorated in this respect! Has Christianity changed? Its grounds of joy are the same, Jesus Christ is the same, the promises are the same, the grace of God is the same, and the hope of heaven is the same.
- E. "Some professors have long and demure faces, and are always sighing and groaning as if they were at a \_\_\_\_\_."
- F. It is time, then, that such mistaken views of Christianity should be corrected. We owe it to lost souls around us to be satis \_\_\_\_\_ is the world's great pursuit, and they should see Christians who are experiencing it because we are grateful.

**II. Lesson**

A. De

- 1. Gratefulness is the ability to look at what someone does for you, no matter how insigni \_\_\_\_\_!  
 \_\_\_\_\_!"
- 2. To be grateful is to be constantly appreciative of what others, and especially GOD does for us!
- 3. Thankful for absolutely everything (Ephesians 5:20; 1Thessalonians 5:20)

B. De

- 1. Contentment is the ability to look at what you have and say, " \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_. If the Lord didn't bless me any more than what I currently have as a Christian, then I am eternally blessed"
- 2. The opposite of Contentment is Contention. Proverbs 21:19 "It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a \_\_\_\_\_ and an angry woman." See also Pro 22:10; and 27:15.

3. When you are contentious, it means you are not willing to be content with what you have, with whatever outcome you are left with, and therefore would rather
- C. These two words are interlinked and depend upon each other to exist. You cannot have gratefulness without contentment, and you will never be content without also being grateful!
- D. Examples of Contentment
1. \_\_\_\_\_ - both out of prison, and especially IN prison
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 8:20). Jesus never minded not having his own house, or horse, or anything at all. Jesus made Himself poor for our sakes (2Cor 8:9)
- E. An Example of Gratefulness. The \_\_\_\_\_ who wiped Jesus' feet with her tears (Luke 7:36-50). She was VERY grateful for being forgiven!
- F. Dangers of Discontentment - it will become an open door for the devil to show you "better" things out in the world
1. In a church - you will become critical of everything, and everyone but yourself, and you will end up leaving Church, and then only living for yourself once again!
  2. In a family - you will have a home full of grumpy people who never want to be home, even though it is full of toys and entertainment, but everyone is spoiled!
  3. In a marriage - if a spouse is not content with their mate, they have taken the

### **III. How to Develop Gratefulness and Contentment**

- A. Repent of your \_\_\_\_\_, and the harm you have thereby done—and cheer up! Has not your God done enough and promised enough to shame you out of your gloomy fears, and induce you to take down your harp and commence the transporting song? Jesus Christ atoned for your sins, and through Him you have a hope of forgiveness. For you, death has been abolished, hell conquered, and heaven purchased. For your good, God has pledged that all things shall work together.
- B. Get back to \_\_\_\_\_ God for your needs - quit complaining and murmuring about things like the world around you. To be content, and grateful for what you already have is a command! Luke 3:14 "And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages."
- C. Get rid of any \_\_\_\_\_ that you might have about your self, or your rightness in an argument. Pro 13:10 "Only by pride cometh contention."
- D. Learn how to be grateful by \_\_\_\_\_ - it does not happen overnight, or automatically. Php 4:11 "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have \_\_\_\_\_, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."
- E. Develop GODLINESS  
godliness with contentment is great gain."

- F. Develop your relationship with the Lord Jesus as your HIGHEST \_\_\_\_\_ because everything else will come and go, but He won't!  
Heb 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
- G. Seek \_\_\_\_\_, and His righteousness, and His honour by your life, and everything you ever need and more will be added to you (Matthew 6:33)
- H. Force yourself to \_\_\_\_\_ for what you already have because it probably is MUCH more than the basics that the Bible says we should be grateful for! 1Timothy 6:8 "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

## Lesson 16

### **Perseverance/Steadfastness**

Patient endurance in trials

***"This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I \_\_\_\_\_ the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"***

Philippians 3:14



#### **I. De**

- A. Perseverance is being able to put up with dif commitment and hard work, calmly and without complaint. Perseverance is patiently enduring. It is also persistence in any thing undertaken; continued pursuit or prosecution of any business or enterprise begun.
- B. This is expressed in someone who just \_\_\_\_\_. You just keep going, keep working, keep pressing on. Paul did, Thankfully Jesus did, and we can and should.
- C. The Bible tells in Proverbs 24:16 "...that a just man falleth seven times and riseth up again..." Real perseverance is the Christian never stopping, backing down, quitting, or giving up doing God's will!

#### **II. Introduction**

- A. What do we really understand about perseverance? Like Paul in prison we must be so committed to our goal that nothing can stop us. No matter the hardship or roadblocks in our way, we must persevere. Also like the tree above we must seek to grow even when the severest of circumstances are presented.
- B. In order to accomplish something most often we must continue to press on after others have given up. Franklin Roosevelt said "Perseverance is when coming to the end of your rope, you tie a knot in it and hold on.
- C. Perseverance for the Christian is "The continued pursuit of a goal or command until accomplished. It often involves coming to the end of our patience, and still trusting God to wait a little longer. It is coming to end of our forgiving spirit toward others and to look to God Who forgave us and forgive others (Eph 4:32). Peter asked how many time in a day we should forgive others, and the reply was 7 x 70. Just persevere. It is living for the Lord every day and not backsliding. Just press on.
- D. The world sees their heroes as sports Michael Phelps, marathon runners, iron man triathlon etc. What the world really needs to see are Christians who are persevering in the walk with Jesus Christ. Christians who haven't stopped believing the Bible, telling the "Old, Old Story", living holy lives, raising godly children, and believing in a Christian home.

**III. Why do we need Perseverance?** to ful

Gal.6:9-10)

- A. To \_\_\_\_\_ . Patience and perseverance overcome the greatest dif will help you get through the troublesome times, the dif serious or grave the circumstances. Paul had faith in the Lord and he kept moving forward (persevering) to the end.
- B. Our perseverance is for \_\_\_\_\_. Our perseverance in doing good works is toward others. "And let us not be weary in well doing:..." We will reap the rewards of faithfully persevering in serving others. IE; salvations, seeing Christians growing, maturing in the Lord, families restored.

**IV. How do we Persevere?**

- A. By \_\_\_\_\_ 2Tim.4:7 " ...I have kept the faith..."
- B. By trusting in the Lord and His promises, we run by persevering as as in a marathon not a sprint.
- C. By recognizing the \_\_\_\_\_ perseverance \_\_\_\_\_ in the end. Our families will be won to the Lord if we do not quit. Our nation will be turned back to God, if we stay faithful to the Lord.

**V. The Fruit of Perseverance** (Romans 2:7) A God honouring home and church in the face of troubles

- A. Marriages that last and homes that are heaven on earth. Places where Jesus Christ is honoured. How?
- B. By doing what is right all the time, \_\_\_\_\_ time. This is persevering which honours the Lord. The fruit then is glory in our homes and churches. Where dignity and righteousness prevail. Where honour is upheld in spite of the world and its troubles. Just keep doing right in spite of the world's in troubles.
  - 1. Perseverance keeps our character strong - Just keep doing right! It will help us to replace our bad habits with good habits. Habits are just that, things that we continue in, "... patient continuance..." The fruit then is the diligent seeking to do right till doing right becomes a natural act or habit for us.
  - 2. Perseverance of righteousness will honour the Lord
- C. Question: What will go a long way in changing our world?
- D. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_, who won't give up, shut up, or quit!

**VI. Conclusion**

- A. We all need to press on like Paul.
- B. Perseverance is for the honour and glory of God. We do not persevere to be saved but BECAUSE WE ARE SAVED.
- C. God has done so much for us, we should press on (persevere) to do so much for Him. Let us not stop short of the mark. We are to then stop. It was the turtle not the hare that is not to the swift but to those that endure, so, persevere to the end.

### Re-rate Your Own Integrity Level

Tick the box to the right that is most like your characteristic. Then check each category with what you entered back at the beginning of this study and see if you have grown!

Quality	De	How I See Myself				
		Real Problem	Need Work	Not Bad	Good	No Problem
<b>Holiness</b> James 1:27	Am I pure in heart, temper and attitudes, and am I free from sinful affections?					
<b>Faithfulness</b> Proverbs 20:6	Am I consistently dependable to do what I ought to do?					
<b>Honesty</b> Romans 12:17	Do I have the ability to speak the truth at all times?					
<b>Stewardship</b> 1 Corinthians 4:2	Am I a faithful overseer, managing the affairs of what God and others have given me upon this earth?					
<b>Vision</b> Proverbs 29:18	Do I see things as God sees them, according to His word, or do only I see things my way?					
<b>Temperance</b> 1 Corinthians 9:25	Do I have any self-denial. Do I limit my actions, wants, desires, and reactions to what the Lord will allow?					
<b>Courage</b> Proverbs 28:1	Do I have the state of mind that enables me to face danger with confidence and resolution?					
<b>Humility</b> 1 Peter 5:5	Do I have a modest or low view of my own importance; Am I humble? Am I free from pride and arrogance?					
<b>Honour and Respect</b> Philippians 2:3	Do I esteem others highly? Do I easily give people the respect that is due them?					
<b>Compassion</b> Luke 10:33	Do I easily suffer with another person?					
<b>Servanthood</b> Matthew 23:11	Am I someone who voluntarily serves, or does services for another?					
<b>Long-Suffering</b> 2 Peter 3:9	Do I put up with injuries or provocation against me for a long time?					

Quality	De	How I See Myself				
		Real Problem	Need Work	Not Bad	Good	No Problem
<b>Loyalty</b> Proverbs 18:24	Do I have committed dependability to Someone? Am I true to someone or some goal other than myself?					
<b>Hospitality</b> 1 Peter 4:9	Do I easily extend friendship to others?					
<b>Gratefulness</b> Philippians 4:11	Do I have the ability to look at what someone does for me, no matter how insigni say <b>"Thank you!"</b> ?					
<b>Perseverance</b> Philippians 3:14	Do I have a patient endurance during trials?					
TOTALS						

**Bible Baptist Church of Ballincollig**

*Meeting at the Westgate Foundation*

*Main Road, Ballincollig (West End)*

**Sundays at 10.30am and again at 7pm**

Wednesday Evening Open Bible Study and Prayer Meeting at 7pm

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