

Sabbath School Lessons, 4th Quarter, 2016
General Introduction
'I am debtor'
Studies about our Christian Duty

14. What will be the joyful reward for all who have shouldered their duties for our Lord and Saviour? Isaiah 64:4.

NOTE: 'A fear of making the future inheritance seem too material has led many to spiritualise away the very truths which lead us to look upon it as our home. Christ assured His disciples that He went to prepare mansions for them in the Father's house. Those who accept the teachings of God's word will not be wholly ignorant concerning the heavenly abode. And yet "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9. Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it. No finite mind can comprehend the glory of the Paradise of God. In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called "a country." Hebrews 11:14-16. There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God's people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home. "My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." "Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise." "They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: . . . Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." There, "the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose." "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree." "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; . . . and a little child shall lead them." "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith the Lord.'" *Darkness before Dawn*, page 61.

LESSON INSIGHT: We are not motivated to do our duty, or to pay our debt to Him, by the promise of the delights of our reward but rather because we look to see the reward that will come to our Saviour for all His love to this fallen world. We will have worked with Him and when He comes with His reward, He will see the travail of His soul and be satisfied. We too shall be entirely satisfied with whatever He places in our hands. It will have been our pleasure to do those things that He has asked of us. And as we see His face our hearts will thrill with joy.

'It is a sacred work in which we are engaged. The apostle Paul exhorts his brethren, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." It is a duty that we owe to God to keep the spirit pure, as a temple for the Holy Ghost. If the heart and mind are devoted to the service of God, obeying all His commandments, loving Him with all the heart, might, mind, and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves, we shall be found loyal and true to the requirements of Heaven.' *Testimonies, volume 4*, page 33.

'The words of Christ apply to the church: "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" Why are you not at work in some capacity in His vineyard? Again and again He has bidden you: "Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive." But this gracious call from heaven has been disregarded by the large majority. Is it not high time that you obey the commands of God? There is work for every individual who names the name of Christ. A voice from heaven is solemnly calling you to duty. Heed this voice, and go to work at once in any place, in any capacity. Why stand ye here all the day idle? There is work for you to do, a work that demands your best energies. Every precious moment of life is related to some duty which you owe to God or to your fellow men, and yet you are idle!' *Testimonies, volume 5*, page 203.

'The truths of God's word are not mere sentiments, but the utterances of the Most High. He who makes these truths a part of his life becomes in every sense a new creature. He is not given new mental powers, but the darkness that through ignorance and sin has clouded the understanding is removed. The words, "A new heart also will I give you" (Ezekiel 36:26), mean, A new mind will I give you. This change of heart is always attended by a clear conception of Christian duty, an understanding of truth. The clearness of our view of truth will be proportionate to our understanding of the word of God. He who gives the Scriptures close, prayerful attention will gain clear comprehension and sound judgment, as if in turning to God he had reached a higher plane of intelligence.' *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, page 452.

COMPILER'S NOTE:

We love God because He first loved us. Jesus who was sent from the Father gave His life to give us both life now and the hope of life eternal. As we love Him, we see our duty. We long to begin to repay Him our great debt for we owe Him everything. Do we show our love and thanks to Him? Are we carrying out our bounden duty, or just accepting the blessings? He loves you and it gives Him great pleasure to see those whom He loves saying thank you, just as we do with friends on earth for some very small favour that we have appreciated. It is a debt we can never repay, but we can know the joy of giving thanks to our Saviour. He is worthy to receive our love as we carry out the duties laid down in Scripture, for only in Him do we have life and understanding.

The lessons this quarter will examine the many facets of our Christian duty. The Bible tells us how Christ would like us to begin to repay our great debt.

Lesson 1: September 25-October 1 'The love of Christ constraineth us'

MEMORY VERSE: 'For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.' 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.

LESSON AIM: To show that without the love of our Saviour we would all have perished, but in His love, He gave us the opportunity of life and service.

Introduction

'We ourselves owe everything to God's free grace. Grace in the covenant ordained our adoption. Grace in the Saviour effected our redemption, our regeneration, and our exaltation to heirship with Christ. Let this grace be revealed to others.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 250.

'The talents, however few, are to be put to use. The question that most concerns us is not, How much have I received? but, What am I doing with that which I have? The development of all our powers is the first duty we owe to God and to our fellow men. No one who is not growing daily in capability and usefulness is fulfilling the purpose of life. In making a profession of faith in Christ we pledge ourselves to become all that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master, and we should cultivate every faculty to the highest degree of perfection, that we may do the greatest amount of good of which we are capable. The Lord has a great work to be done, and He will bequeath the most in the future life to those who do the most faithful, willing service in the present life.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 329.

'Breathed into his nostrils'

1. To whom are we indebted for our life and being? Genesis 2:7; Psalm 36:9.

NOTE: 'In the creation of man was manifest the agency of a personal God. When God had made man in His image, the human form was perfect in all its arrangements, but it was without life. Then a personal, self-existing God breathed into that form the breath of life, and man became a living, breathing, intelligent being. All parts of the human organism were put in action. The heart, the arteries, the veins, the tongue, the hands, the feet, the senses, the perceptions of the mind, all began their work, and all were placed under law. Man became a living soul. Through Jesus Christ a personal God created man and endowed him with intelligence and power.' *Counsels for the Church*, page 74.

2. By whose love and power are we granted a new-born life? Ephesians 2:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

ward to secure. Christ's true witnesses are never laid aside. In health and sickness, in life and death, God uses them still.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 465.

11. In the face of Satan's varied efforts to cause us to lose our hold on our duty to the Lord, what admonition is given us? Hebrews 10:35-37.

NOTE: 'The hour will come; it is not far distant, and some of us who now believe will be alive upon the earth, and shall see the prediction verified, and hear the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God echo from mountain and plain and sea, to the uttermost parts of the earth. All creation will hear that voice, and those who have lived and died in Jesus, will respond to the call of the Prince of life. It will be heard in the dungeons of men, in the caverns of the deep, in the rocks and caves of the earth, only to be obeyed. It is the same voice that said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest," the same voice which said, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." All those who have obeyed that voice when it said, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me," will hear the "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." To them, that voice will mean rest, peace, and everlasting life.' *Review & Herald*, July 31, 1888.

'Eye hath not seen'

12. What will the Saviour bring with Him when He returns? Revelation 22:14.

NOTE: 'By the king's examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment. The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those whose names are written in the book of life. But not all who profess to be Christians are true disciples. Before the final reward is given, it must be decided who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous. This decision must be made prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven; for when He comes, His reward is with Him, "to give every man according as his work shall be." Before His coming, then, the character of every man's work will have been determined, and to every one of Christ's followers the reward will have been apportioned according to his deeds. It is while men are still dwelling upon the earth that the work of investigative judgment takes place in the courts of heaven. The lives of all His professed followers pass in review before God. All are examined according to the record of the books of heaven, and according to his deeds the destiny of each is forever fixed.' *Lift Him Up*, page 344.

13. Who is a joint heir with us in the great reward for fulfilling the Gospel duty? Romans 8:17.

NOTE: 'There is danger in departing in the least from the Lord's instruction. When we deviate from the plain path of duty, a train of circumstances will arise that seems irresistibly to draw us farther and farther from the right. Needless intimacies with those who have no respect for God will seduce us ere we are aware. The fear of offending worldly friends will deter us from expressing our gratitude to God or acknowledging our dependence upon Him.' *Counsels on Health*, page 458.

His workmen. Each is to learn of the Great Teacher, and is then to communicate what he has learned. God has given to each of His messengers an individual work. There is a diversity of gifts, but all the workers are to blend in harmony, controlled by the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit. As they make known the gospel of salvation, many will be convicted and converted by the power of God. The human instrumentality is hid with Christ in God, and Christ appears as the chiefest among ten thousand, the One altogether lovely.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 274.

8. If many are working together in the same Gospel field, how does that affect the final rewards? 1 Corinthians 3:7-8; 1 Timothy 5:18.

NOTE: 'Under God each is to do his appointed work, respected, loved, and encouraged by the other labourers. Together they are to carry the work forward to completion. These principles are dwelt upon at length in Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church. The apostle refers to "the ministers of Christ" as "stewards of the mysteries of God," and of their work he declares: "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. ... Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God." 1 Corinthians 4:1-5. It is not given to any human being to judge between the different servants of God. The Lord alone is the judge of man's work, and He will give to each his just reward.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 276.

9. Is not Christ also allowed a reward for His glorious part in the salvation of sinners? Isaiah 53:11. Compare Hebrews 12:2.

NOTE: 'Christ's interests are the first and the highest of all interests. He has a property in this world that He wishes secured, saved for His everlasting kingdom. It is for His Father's glory and for His own glory that His messengers shall go forth in His name; for they and He are one. They are to reveal Him to the world. His interests are their interests. If they will be co-labourers with Him, they will be made heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ to an immortal inheritance.' *The Colporteur Evangelist*, page 34.

'Their works do follow them'

10. What comfort is given to those who have become too frail to carry out the duty that has been their life work, or who have been laid aside in death? Revelation 14:13.

NOTE: 'Patience as well as courage has its victories. By meekness under trial, no less than by boldness in enterprise, souls may be won to Christ. The Christian who manifests patience and cheerfulness under bereavement and suffering, who meets even death itself with the peace and calmness of an unwavering faith, may accomplish for the gospel more than he could have effected by a long life of faithful labour. Often when the servant of God is withdrawn from active duty, the mysterious providence which our short-sighted vision would lament is designed by God to accomplish a work that otherwise would never have been done.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 465.
'Let not the follower of Christ think, when he is no longer able to labour openly and actively for God and His truth, that he has no service to render, no re-

NOTE: 'When truth becomes an abiding principle in the life, the soul is "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." This new birth is the result of receiving Christ as the Word of God. When by the Holy Spirit divine truths are impressed upon the heart, new conceptions are awakened, and the energies hitherto dormant are aroused to co-operate with God.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 520.

'They are spirit and they are life'

3. What can we do of ourselves to re-awaken our experience? John 6:63.

NOTE: 'The love of God has been waning in the church, and as a result, the love of self has sprung up into new activity. With the loss of love for God there has come the loss of love for the brethren. The church may meet all the description that is given of the Ephesian church, and yet fail in vital godliness. Of them Jesus said, "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: and hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." A legal religion has been thought quite the correct religion for this time. But it is a mistake. The rebuke of Christ to the Pharisees is applicable to those who have lost from the heart their first love. A cold, legal religion can never lead souls to Christ; for it is a loveless, Christless religion. When fastings and prayers are practised in a self-justifying spirit, they are abominable to God. The solemn assembly for worship, the round of religious ceremonies, the external humiliation, the imposed sacrifice, all proclaim to the world the testimony that the doer of these things considers himself righteous. These things call attention to the observer of rigorous duties, saying, This man is entitled to heaven. But it is all a deception. Works will not buy for us an entrance into heaven. The one great Offering that has been made is ample for all who will believe. The love of Christ will animate the believer with new life. He who drinks from the water of the fountain of life, will be filled with the new wine of the kingdom. Faith in Christ will be the means whereby the right spirit and motive will actuate the believer, and all goodness and heavenly-mindedness will proceed from him who looks unto Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith. Look up to God, look not to men. God is your heavenly Father who is willing patiently to bear with your infirmities, and to forgive and heal them. "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." By beholding Christ, you will become changed, until you will hate your former pride, your former vanity and self-esteem, your self-righteousness and unbelief. You will cast these sins aside as a worthless burden, and walk humbly, meekly, trustfully, before God. You will practise love, patience, gentleness, goodness, mercy, and every grace that dwells in the child of God, and will at last find a place among the sanctified and holy.' *Selected Messages*, book 1, page 387-388.

4. As Christ has bought us back and given us new life, also sharing with us His plans, what is our new relationship to our Saviour? John 15:15.

NOTE: 'The same line of work is not to be given to each worker; and for this reason you need to counsel together in that freedom and confidence that should

exist among the Lord's workmen. All need to have less confidence in self, and far greater confidence in the One who is mighty in counsel who knoweth the end from the beginning. When you respect each other, you will respect Jesus Christ. You are to show no preferences; for the Lord does not show preferences to His chosen ones. He says, "I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you." This is the confidence that the Lord would have you cherish in each other. Unless you do this more than you have done in your past experience, you will not walk and work under the dictates of the Spirit of God. God would have you united in pleasant cords of companionship.' *Christian Leadership*, page 39.

'To thee will I give it'

5. What does God ask of us in exchange for His great love for us? Proverbs 23:26; Deuteronomy 10:12.

NOTE: 'There is need of a more thorough preparation on the part of candidates for baptism. They are in need of more faithful instruction than has usually been given them. The principles of the Christian life should be made plain to those who have newly come to the truth. None can depend upon their profession of faith as proof that they have a saving connection with Christ. We are not only to say, "I believe," but to practise the truth. It is by conformity to the will of God in our words, our deportment, our character, that we prove our connection with Him. Whenever one renounces sin, which is the transgression of the law, his life will be brought into conformity to the law, into perfect obedience. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. The light of the word carefully studied, the voice of conscience, the strivings of the Spirit, produce in the heart genuine love for Christ, who gave Himself a whole sacrifice to redeem the whole person, body, soul, and spirit. And love is manifested in obedience. The line of demarcation will be plain and distinct between those who love God and keep His commandments, and those who love Him not and disregard His precepts. Satan does not want anyone to see the necessity of an entire surrender to God. When the soul fails to make this surrender, sin is not forsaken; the appetites and passions are striving for the mastery; temptations confuse the conscience, so that true conversion does not take place.' *Counsels for the Church*, page 295.

6. In giving ourselves to Him, what is our motivation? 1 John 4:19.

NOTE: 'O, we would point men to the cross of Calvary. We would bid them look upon Him whom their sins have pierced. We would bid them to behold the Redeemer of the world suffering the penalty of their transgression of the law of God. The verdict is that "the soul that sinneth it shall die." But on the cross the sinner sees the Only-Begotten of the Father, dying in his stead, and giving the transgressor life. All the intelligences in earth and heaven are called upon to behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. Every sinner may look and live. Do not survey that scene of Calvary with careless, thoughtless mind. Can it be that angels shall look down upon us, the recipients of God's love, and see us cold, indifferent, unimpressible, when heaven in amazement beholds the stupendous work of redemption to save a fallen world, and desires to look into the mystery

5. When we fulfil our duty to God in proclaiming the Gospel, what can we expect? Matthew 5:11-12; Matthew 10:22.

NOTE: 'In all ages God's appointed witnesses have exposed themselves to reproach and persecution for the truth's sake. Joseph was maligned and persecuted because he preserved his virtue and integrity. David, the chosen messenger of God, was hunted like a beast of prey by his enemies. Daniel was cast into a den of lions because he was true to his allegiance to heaven. Job was deprived of his worldly possessions, and so afflicted in body that he was abhorred by his relatives, and friends; yet he maintained his integrity. Jeremiah could not be deterred from speaking the words that God had given him to speak; and his testimony so enraged the king and princes that he was cast into a loathsome pit. Stephen was stoned because he preached Christ and Him crucified. Paul was imprisoned, beaten with rods, stoned, and finally put to death because he was a faithful messenger for God to the Gentiles. And John was banished to the Isle of Patmos "for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." These examples of human steadfastness bear witness to the faithfulness of God's promises, of His abiding presence and sustaining grace. They testify to the power of faith to withstand the powers of the world. It is the work of faith to rest in God in the darkest hour, to feel, however sorely tried and tempest-tossed, that our Father is at the helm. The eye of faith alone can look beyond the things of time to estimate aright the worth of the eternal riches.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 575.

6. What has God promised to those who suffer reproach and loss for the Gospel's sake? Matthew 19:29; Matthew 5:10.

NOTE: 'We must be partakers of Christ's sufferings here, if we would share in His glory hereafter. If we seek our own interest, how we can best please ourselves, instead of seeking to please God and advance His precious, suffering cause, we shall dishonour God and the holy cause we profess to love. We have but a little space of time left in which to work for God. Nothing should be too dear to sacrifice for the salvation of the scattered and torn flock of Jesus. Those who make a covenant with God by sacrifice now, will soon be gathered home to share a rich reward, and possess the new kingdom forever and ever.' *Christian Experience and Teachings*, page 104.

'God gave the increase'

7. How does Paul show that many may have a part in the salvation of one person? 1 Corinthians 3:4-6.

NOTE: 'It was Paul who had first preached the gospel in Corinth, and who had organised the church there. This was the work that the Lord had assigned him. Later, by God's direction, other workers were brought in, to stand in their lot and place. The seed sown must be watered, and this Apollos was to do. He followed Paul in his work, to give further instruction, and to help the seed sown to develop. He won his way to the hearts of the people, but it was God who gave the increase. It is not human, but divine power, that works transformation of character. Those who plant and those who water do not cause the growth of the seed; they work under God, as His appointed agencies, co-operating with Him in His work. To the Master Worker belongs the honour and glory that comes with success. God's servants do not all possess the same gifts, but they are all

2. When Moses left behind the riches and status of Egypt, what encouraged him to throw in his lot with the Children of Israel? Hebrews 11:24-26.

NOTE: 'Moses had been instructed in regard to the final reward to be given to the humble and obedient servants of God, and worldly gain sank to its proper insignificance in comparison. The magnificent palace of Pharaoh and the monarch's throne were held out as an inducement to Moses; but he knew that the sinful pleasures that make men forget God were in its lordly courts. He looked beyond the gorgeous palace, beyond a monarch's crown, to the high honours that will be bestowed on the saints of the Most High in a kingdom untainted by sin. He saw by faith an imperishable crown that the King of heaven would place on the brow of the overcomer.' *Conflict and Courage*, page 81.

'Shall in no wise lose his reward'

3. What is our duty to the poor and what is the God-given accompanying promise? Deuteronomy 15:7-11.

NOTE: 'The feasts and the suppers that were given by the priests, the Pharisees and rulers were given merely for selfish enjoyment. They called in their favourites, their wealthy relatives and friends, who would in their turn invite them to feasts at their houses, and, if possible, spread before them more abundant supplies. Jesus sought to extend their vision, to show them that they had a duty, which was obligatory upon them for all time, and that was to minister to the poor, the lame, the halt, and the blind. He also would have them consider the fact that no duty done to the needy, the afflicted, and the sorrowing, would lose its reward.' *Signs of the Times*, May 14, 1896.

4. How does God view even a small kindness to a little child? Matthew 10:42.

NOTE: 'Many feel that it would be a great privilege to visit the scenes of Christ's life on earth, to walk where He trod, to look upon the lake beside which He loved to teach, and the hills and valleys on which His eyes so often rested. But we need not go to Nazareth, to Capernaum, or to Bethany, in order to walk in the steps of Jesus. We shall find His footprints beside the sick-bed, in the hovels of poverty, in the crowded alleys of the great city, and in every place where there are human hearts in need of consolation. In doing as Jesus did when on earth, we shall walk in His steps.' *The Desire of Ages*, page 640. 'Jesus worked to relieve every case of suffering that He saw. He had little money to give, but He often denied Himself of food in order to relieve those who appeared more needy than He. His brothers felt that His influence went far to counteract theirs. He possessed a tact which none of them had, or desired to have. When they spoke harshly to poor, degraded beings, Jesus sought out these very ones, and spoke to them words of encouragement. To those who were in need He would give a cup of cold water, and would quietly place His own meal in their hands. As He relieved their sufferings, the truths He taught were associated with His acts of mercy, and were thus riveted in the memory.' *The Desire of Ages*, page 86.

'Great is your reward in heaven'

of Calvary's love and woe? Angels in wonder and amazement look upon those for whom so great salvation has been provided, and marvel that the love of God does not awaken them, and lead them to pour forth melodious strains of gratitude and adoration. But the result which all heaven looks to behold is not seen among those who profess to be followers of Christ. How readily do we speak in endearing words of our friends and relatives, and yet how slow we are to speak of Him whose love has no parallel, set forth in Christ crucified among you! The love of our heavenly Father in the gift of His only begotten Son to the world, is enough to inspire every soul, to melt every hard, loveless heart into contrition and tenderness; and yet shall heavenly intelligences see in those for whom Christ died, insensibility to His love, hardness of heart, and no response of gratitude and affection to the Giver of all good things?' *Christian Education*, page 95.

'The love of our heavenly Father in the gift of His only begotten Son to the world is enough to inspire every soul, to melt every hard, loveless heart into contrition and tenderness; and yet shall heavenly intelligences see in those for whom Christ died, insensibility to His love, hardness of heart, and no response of gratitude and affection to the Giver of all good things?' *Gospel Workers*, page 429.

'If ye love Me, keep My commandments'

7. What will be the constraining principle that will cause us to carry out Christ's will? John 14:15.

NOTE: 'It was a great sacrifice Christ made for us in dying for us upon the cross. What are we willing to sacrifice for His love? Jesus says, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments" not to select out one or two or nine, but the whole ten. All His commandments must be kept. John tells us of those who pretend to love but do not obey God's requirements. "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous." *Christ Triumphant*, page 78.

8. As we love Christ with all our hearts, with what tenderness will Christ reveal Himself to us? Psalm 23:1-3.

NOTE: 'As an earthly shepherd knows his sheep, so does the divine Shepherd know His flock that are scattered throughout the world. "Ye, My flock, the flock of My pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God." Jesus says, "I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine." "I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands." Jesus knows us individually, and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant. He has at times given directions to His servants to go to a certain street in a certain city, to such a house, to find one of His sheep. Every soul is as fully known to Jesus as if he were the only one for whom the Saviour died. The distress of every one touches His heart. The cry for aid reaches His ear. He came to draw all men unto Himself. He bids them, "Follow Me," and His Spirit moves upon their hearts to draw them to come to Him. Many refuse to be drawn. Jesus knows who they are. He also knows who gladly hear His call, and are ready to come under His pastoral care. He says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." He

cares for each one as if there were not another on the face of the earth. "He calleth His own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. . . . And the sheep follow Him: for they know His voice." The Eastern shepherd does not drive his sheep. He depends not upon force or fear; but going before, he calls them. They know his voice, and obey the call. So does the Saviour-Shepherd with His sheep. The Scripture says, "Thou leddest Thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron." Through the prophet, Jesus declares, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee." He compels none to follow Him. "I drew them," He says, "with cords of a man, with bands of love." *Desire of Ages*, page 479-480.

'To seek and to save'

9. How should Christ's servants view the world that Christ came to redeem? Luke 15:4-6; Luke 15:8-10.

NOTE: 'By the lost sheep Christ represents not only the individual sinner but the one world that has apostatised and has been ruined by sin. This world is but an atom in the vast dominions over which God presides, yet this little fallen world, the one lost sheep, is more precious in His sight than are the ninety and nine that went not astray from the fold. Christ, the loved Commander in the heavenly courts, stooped from His high estate, laid aside the glory that He had with the Father, in order to save the one lost world. For this He left the sinless worlds on high, the ninety and nine that loved Him, and came to this earth, to be "wounded for our transgressions" and "bruised for our iniquities." God gave Himself in His Son that He might have the joy of receiving back the sheep that was lost. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." And Christ says, "As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world" to "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ, . . . for His body's sake, which is the church." Every soul whom Christ has rescued is called to work in His name for the saving of the lost. This work had been neglected in Israel. Is it not neglected today by those who profess to be Christ's followers? How many of the wandering ones have you, reader, sought for and brought back to the fold?' *Christ's Object Lessons*, pages 190-191.

10. Through which divine privilege can we further give back the love we owe the Master? 1 Corinthians 3:9, first part.

NOTE: 'Jesus chose unlearned fishermen because they had not been schooled in the traditions and erroneous customs of their time. They were men of native ability, and they were humble and teachable, men whom He could educate for His work. In the common walks of life there is many a man patiently treading the round of daily toil, unconscious that he possesses powers which, if called into action, would raise him to an equality with the world's most honoured men. The touch of a skilful hand is needed to arouse those dormant faculties. It was such men that Jesus called to be His co-labourers; and He gave them the advantage of association with Himself. Never had the world's great men such a teacher. When the disciples came forth from the Saviour's training, they were no longer ignorant and uncultured. They had become like Him in mind and character, and men took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. He who called the fishermen of Galilee is still calling men to His service. And He

our spirits flag or the time seems long.

Lesson 14: December 25-31 'The recompense of the reward'

MEMORY VERSE: 'Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.' Hebrews 10:35-36.

LESSON AIM: Although love, rather than the thought of our reward, is the deepest motivation constraining us to give honour to our Creator and Saviour, the reality of the recompense is our abiding encouragement.

Introduction

'He who has appointed "to every man his work," according to his ability, will never let the faithful performance of duty go unrewarded. Every act of loyalty and faith will be crowned with special tokens of God's favour and approbation. To every worker is given the promise, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." However short our service or humble our work, if in simple faith we follow Christ, we shall not be disappointed of the reward. That which even the greatest and wisest cannot earn, the weakest and most humble may receive. Heaven's golden gate opens not to the self-exalted. It is not lifted up to the proud in spirit. But the everlasting portals will open wide to the trembling touch of a little child. Blessed will be the recompense of grace to those who have wrought for God in the simplicity of faith and love. The brows of those who do this work will wear the crown of sacrifice. But they will receive their reward. To every worker for God this thought should be a stimulus and an encouragement. In this life our work for God often seems to be almost fruitless. Our efforts to do good may be earnest and persevering, yet we may not be permitted to witness their results. To us the effort may seem to be lost. But the Saviour assures us that our work is noted in heaven, and that the recompense cannot fail.' *Christian Service*, page 267.

'The Lord recompense thy work'

1. What words of Boaz are an example of how God views our good works on his behalf? Ruth 2:12.

NOTE: "'These things I have spoken unto you," He said, "that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33. Christ did not fail, neither was He discouraged; and the disciples were to show a faith of the same enduring nature. They were to work as He had worked, depending on Him for strength. Though their way would be obstructed by apparent impossibilities, yet by His grace they were to go forward, despairing of nothing and hoping for everything.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 24.

should not be too free to criticise or condemn others. They should be careful not to let their words wound, but should let pure Bible truth cut its way to the heart. When tempted to speak impatiently, remember, brethren, that when Jesus was reviled, He reviled not again. Give the reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear. With fear lest you have not the truth? No; but with fear lest by some unwise, impatient word, you may close hearts against the truth. If you cannot be calm in answering the accusations of enemies, it is better to keep silent. God wants you to testify to the world that you have a special message for them, by presenting it in the Spirit of Christ. They will then see the difference between those who teach it and those who oppose.' *Gospel Workers*, page 396.

‘My grace is sufficient for thee’

11. How does God choose the duty He lays on us? Consider the parable of the talents. Matthew 25:14-28.

NOTE: ‘The specific place appointed us in life is determined by our capabilities. Not all reach the same development or do with equal efficiency the same work. God does not expect the hyssop to attain the proportions of the cedar, or the olive the height of the stately palm. But each should aim just as high as the union of human with divine power makes it possible for him to reach. Love and loyalty to Christ are the spring of all true service. In the heart touched by His love, there is begotten a desire to work for Him. Let this desire be encouraged and rightly guided. Whether in the home, the neighbourhood, or the school, the presence of the poor, the afflicted, the ignorant, or the unfortunate should be regarded, not as a misfortune, but as affording precious opportunity for service. *A Call to stand Apart*, page 65.

12. Who is the One who chooses what is to be our personal duty to God? 1 Corinthians 12:4, 11.

NOTE: ‘Men have nothing but that which God has given them in trust. They are not to indulge pride or to boast of their talents. They owe to God all that makes it possible for them to labour for Him. Yet every man has a part to act in preparing himself for service. By earnest study, taxing effort, he is to cultivate all his powers. Then divine power will surely combine with his efforts.’ *Reflecting Christ*, page 251.

‘No truth is more clearly taught in the Bible than that God by His Holy Spirit especially directs His servants on earth in the great movements for the carrying forward of the work of salvation. Men are instruments in the hand of God, employed by Him to accomplish His purposes of grace and mercy. Each has his part to act; to each is granted a measure of light, adapted to the necessities of his time, and sufficient to enable him to perform the work which God has given him to do.’ *Great Controversy*, page 343.

LESSON INSIGHT: Our duty is our debt to God for all His great love, but in repaying that debt by the work we are impressed to do by the Holy Spirit, we are serving God’s purposes in furthering the Gospel to others. We should view what we do for God in great humility looking to Him by faith for daily direction and help from above. The experiences of others who have gone before demonstrate to us God’s way of working and give us courage to continue when

is just as willing to manifest His power through us as through the first disciples. However imperfect and sinful we may be, the Lord holds out to us the offer of partnership with Himself, of apprenticeship to Christ. He invites us to come under the divine instruction, that, uniting with Christ, we may work the works of God.’ *Conflict and Courage*, page 282.

11. What special relationship to God puts us under obligation to honour Him? Revelation 4:11.

NOTE: ‘When we realise the requirements of God, we shall see that He requires us to be temperate in all things. The end of our creation is to glorify God in our bodies and spirits which are His. How can we do this when we indulge the appetite to the injury of the physical and moral powers? God requires that we present our bodies a living sacrifice. Then the duty is enjoined on us to preserve that body in the very best condition of health, that we may comply with His requirements. “Whether, therefore, ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”’ *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, page 155.

‘Worthy is the Lamb’

12. By what great sacrifice did Jesus show that He is forever worthy of our service? 1 John 3:16, first part.

NOTE: ‘Christ had bidden the first disciples love one another as He had loved them. Thus they were to bear testimony to the world that Christ was formed within, the hope of glory. “A new commandment I give unto you,” He had said, “That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” John 13:34. At the time when these words were spoken, the disciples could not understand them; but after they had witnessed the sufferings of Christ, after His crucifixion and resurrection, and ascension to heaven, and after the Holy Spirit had rested on them at Pentecost, they had a clearer conception of the love of God and of the nature of that love which they must have for one another. Then John could say to his fellow disciples: “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” After the descent of the Holy Spirit, when the disciples went forth to proclaim a living Saviour, their one desire was the salvation of souls. They rejoiced in the sweetness of communion with saints. They were tender, thoughtful, self-denying, willing to make any sacrifice for the truth’s sake. In their daily association with one another, they revealed the love that Christ had enjoined upon them. By unselfish words and deeds they strove to kindle this love in other hearts. Such a love the believers were ever to cherish. They were to go forward in willing obedience to the new commandment. So closely were they to be united with Christ that they would be enabled to fulfil all His requirements. Their lives were to magnify the power of a Saviour who could justify them by His righteousness.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 547.

13. What is the anthem that resounds throughout the universe? Revelation 5:12-14.

NOTE: ‘The Son of God redeemed man’s failure and fall; and now, through the work of the atonement, Adam is reinstated in his first dominion. Transported with joy, he beholds the trees that were once his delight, the very trees

whose fruit he himself had gathered in the days of his innocence and joy. He sees the vines that his own hands have trained, the very flowers that he once loved to care for. His mind grasps the reality of the scene; he comprehends that this is indeed Eden restored, more lovely now than when he was banished from it. The Saviour leads him to the tree of life and plucks the glorious fruit and bids him eat. He looks about him and beholds a multitude of his family redeemed, standing in the Paradise of God. Then he casts his glittering crown at the feet of Jesus and, falling upon His breast, embraces the Redeemer. He touches the golden harp, and the vaults of heaven echo the triumphant song, "Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again!" The family of Adam take up the strain and cast their crowns at the Saviour's feet as they bow before Him in adoration.' *The Adventist Home*, page 541.

LESSON INSIGHT: The scripture verses and quotations showed clearly that Jesus in His great love has done all for us. But this places in us a duty to show our love to Him for what He has done. With Paul we exclaim, "the Love of Christ constraineth us." Having once understood how much Jesus has done for us, we are left with no option but to love Him and fulfil our duties in return. Our faithfulness to duty reveals the depth of our love to Him.

Lesson 2: October 2-8 **'To the praise of His glory'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.' Ephesians 1:12-14.

LESSON AIM: To show that we have been bought at a very expensive price, His own blood; we are the Lord's costly possession, so we have a duty to look after His purchase.

Introduction

'Our bodies are Christ's purchased possession, and we are not at liberty to do with them as we please. All who understand the laws of health should realise their obligation to obey these laws, which God has established in their being. Obedience to the laws of health is to be made a matter of personal duty. We ourselves must suffer the results of violated law. We must individually answer to God for our habits and practices.' *Child Guidance*, page 367.

'Precious possession'

- 1. How should we carry out our everyday tasks? Ecclesiastes 9:10, first part.**

- 7. What was Daniel willing by faith to dare to do in carrying out His duty to God? Daniel 6:6-10.**

NOTE: 'Did Daniel cease to pray because this decree was to go into force! No, that was just the time when he needed to pray. "When Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and, his window being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." Daniel did not seek to hide his loyalty to God. He did not pray in his heart, but with his voice, aloud, with his window open toward Jerusalem, he offered up his petition to heaven.' *Ye Shall Receive Power*, page 269.

- 8. How did God respond to deliver Daniel from evil? Daniel 6: 15-23.**

NOTE: "Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee" Verse 16. Early in the morning the monarch hastened to the den of lions, and cried, "Daniel, Oh Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?" Verse 20. The voice of the prophet was heard in reply, "Oh king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, Oh king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God" verses 22, 23. Thus was the servant of God delivered.' *Counsels for the Church*, page 53.

'Reviled not again'

- 9. How should we conduct ourselves when we are on the Lord's business? 1 Peter 3:8.**

NOTE: 'A lack of courtesy, a moment of petulance, a single rough, thoughtless word will mar your reputation, and may close the door to hearts so that you can never reach them.' *Adventist Home*, page 38.

'Be sure to maintain the dignity of the work by a well-ordered life and godly conversation. Never be afraid of raising the standard too high. . . . All coarseness and roughness must be put away from us. Courtesy, refinement, Christian politeness, must be cherished. Guard against being abrupt and blunt. Do not regard such peculiarities as virtues; for God does not so regard them. Endeavour not to offend any unnecessarily.' *Christian Service*, page 226.

'There must be a decided stand taken by all our ministers and by all who profess to believe the truth, in reference to the low level that some seem inclined to take in regard to their words and their deportment. These in many cases in no way correspond with the holy, sacred truths that we profess.' *Colporteur Ministry*, page 66.

- 10. How did Jesus witness to His accusers through His deportment under pressure? 1 Peter 2:21-23.**

NOTE: 'The human heart, uncontrolled by the Spirit of God, is void of the meekness of Christ, but loves to battle for the truth. Those who are proclaiming God's message to the world must not be captious or overbearing. They

NOTE: ‘My heart melts within me as I read the words of Holy Writ, and see the interest that the heavenly family has in the faithful servants of the Most High. “And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.”’ *Christ Triumphant*, page 163.

‘I saw that we had doubted the sure promises, and wounded the Saviour by our lack of faith. Said the angel, “Gird the armour about thee, and above all take the shield of faith; for that will guard the heart, the very life, from the fiery darts of the wicked.” If the enemy can lead the desponding to take their eyes off from Jesus, and look to themselves, and dwell upon their own unworthiness, instead of dwelling upon the worthiness of Jesus, His love, His merits, and His great mercy, he will get away their shield of faith, and gain his object; they will be exposed to his fiery temptations. The weak should therefore look to Jesus, and believe in Him; they then exercise faith.’ *Christian Experience and Teachings*, page 127.

‘Grant unto thy servants that with all boldness they may speak’

5. By what signal demonstration of His might did God pour out His power on the disciples so that they would be enabled to go to all nations with the Gospel? Acts 2:4.

NOTE: “‘And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.’” The Holy Spirit, assuming the form of tongues of fire, rested upon those assembled. This was an emblem of the gift then bestowed on the disciples, which enabled them to speak with fluency languages with which they had heretofore been unacquainted. The appearance of fire signified the fervent zeal with which the apostles would labour and the power that would attend their work.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 39.

6. When Peter was arrested for the sake of his boldness in preaching the Gospel how did God send him help? Acts 5:17-25; Acts 12:2-10.

NOTE: ‘When they sent for the prisoners to be brought before them, great was their amazement at the word brought back that the prison doors were found to be securely bolted and the guard stationed before them, but that the prisoners were nowhere to be found. Soon the astonishing report came, “Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people. Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.” Although the apostles were miraculously delivered from prison, they were not safe from examination and punishment. Christ had said when He was with them, “Take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils.” Mark 13:9. By sending an angel to deliver them, God had given them a token of His love and an assurance of His presence.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 81.

‘Gave thanks before His God as he did aforetime’

NOTE: ‘There can be no employment more important than that of housework. To cook well, to present healthful food upon the table in an inviting manner, requires intelligence and experience. The one who prepares the food that is to be placed in our stomachs, to be converted into blood to nourish the system, occupies a most important and elevated position. It is essential for every youth to have a thorough acquaintance with everyday duties. If need be, a young woman can dispense with a knowledge of French and algebra, or even of the piano; but it is indispensable that she learn to make good bread, to fashion neatly fitting garments, and to perform efficiently the many duties that pertain to homemaking. To the health and happiness of the whole family, nothing is more vital than skill and intelligence on the part of the cook. By ill-prepared, unwholesome food she may hinder and even ruin both the adult’s usefulness and the child’s development. Or by providing food adapted to the needs of the body, and at the same time inviting and palatable, she can accomplish as much in the right as otherwise she accomplished in the wrong direction. So, in many ways, life’s happiness is bound up with faithfulness in common duties.’ *Child Guidance*, page 371.

‘Men, as well as women, need to understand the simple, healthful preparation of food. Their business often calls them where they cannot obtain wholesome food; then, if they have a knowledge of cookery, they can use it to good purpose. Both young men and young women should be taught how to cook economically and to dispense with everything in the line of flesh food.’ *Child Guidance*, page 376.

2. What blessing comes to us from our devotion to God? 1 Timothy 4:8.

NOTE: ‘There is health in obedience to God’s law. The wise man says that wisdom’s “ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.” Proverbs 3:17. Many cherish the impression that devotion to God is detrimental to health and to cheerful happiness in the social relations of life. But those who walk in the path of wisdom and holiness find that “godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.” They are alive to the enjoyment of life’s real pleasures, while they are not troubled with vain regrets over misspent hours, nor with gloom or horror of mind, as the worldling too often is when not diverted by some exciting amusement. Godliness does not conflict with the laws of health, but is in harmony with them. Had men ever been obedient to the law of Ten Commandments, the curse of disease that now floods the world would not be. The assurance of God’s approval will promote physical health. It fortifies the soul against doubt, perplexity, and excessive grief, that so often sap the vital forces and induce nervous diseases. The consciousness of right-doing is the best medicine for diseased bodies and minds. The special blessing of God resting upon the receiver is health and strength. A person whose mind is quiet and satisfied in God is in the pathway to health. To have a consciousness that the eyes of the Lord are upon us, and His ears open to hear our prayers, is a satisfaction indeed. To know that we have a never-failing Friend in whom we can confide all the secrets of the soul, is a privilege which words can never express. Courage, hope, faith, sympathy, love, promote health and prolong life. A contented mind, a cheerful spirit, is health to the body and strength to the soul.’ *The Faith I Live By*, page 229.

‘Be ye separate’

3. When we have been truly converted, what will we understand to be our response to those things that defile? 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1.

NOTE: ‘It is proper and right to read the Bible; but your duty does not end there; for you are to search its pages for yourselves. The knowledge of God is not to be gained without mental effort, without prayer for wisdom in order that you may separate from the pure grain of truth the chaff with which men and Satan have misrepresented the doctrines of truth. Satan and his confederacy of human agents have endeavoured to mix the chaff of error with the wheat of truth. We should diligently seek for the hidden treasure, and seek wisdom from heaven in order to separate human inventions from the divine commands.’ *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 307.

4. If we listen to the clamourings of the flesh, to what does it lead? Romans 7:5; Galatians 5:19-21.

NOTE: ‘The lower passions have their seat in the body and work through it. The words “flesh” or “fleshly” or “carnal lusts” embrace the lower, corrupt nature; the flesh of itself cannot act contrary to the will of God. We are commanded to crucify the flesh, with the affections and lusts. How shall we do it? Shall we inflict pain on the body? No; but put to death the temptation to sin. The corrupt thought is to be expelled. Every thought is to be brought into captivity to Jesus Christ. All animal propensities are to be subjected to the higher powers of the soul. The love of God must reign supreme; Christ must occupy an undivided throne. Our bodies are to be regarded as His purchased possession. The members of the body are to become the instruments of righteousness.’ *The Adventist Home*, page 127.

‘What wilt Thou have me to do?’

5. How should we personally consider the question Paul asked at his conversion? Acts 9:6.

NOTE: ‘We need to look up and study His character. What would Christ do, were He in my place? is to be our measurement of our duty. It is possible to preach the Word and walk directly contrary to its teaching, showing in the home life and in business life a form of godliness without the power. Vague suppositions regarding Christ are not enough. We need an abiding Christ. We need to eat His Word. He is the Bread of Life. The revealed Word is our photograph of Christ. The world can only be expelled from the soul by filling the soul with Christ. Just as the life of the body is produced by the temporal food eaten, so the life of the soul is produced by the spiritual food eaten.’ *The Upward Look*, page 258.

6. What lessons can we learn from the differing responses of two sons that Christ spoke of? Matthew 21:28-32.

NOTE: ‘Christ has a claim upon every soul; but many choose a life of sin. Some will not come unto Jesus that He may give them life. Some say, “I go, sir,” to His invitation; but they do not go; they do not make an entire surrender to abide in Jesus alone, which is life and peace and joy unspeakable, and full of

servants ascend to Him in earnest faith, that God opens the way before them and brings them out into a large place.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 357.

‘I am with you always’

1. After Jesus gave His disciples their Gospel duty, what promise followed His world-wide commission to them? Matthew 28:19-20; Hebrews 13:5-6, 8.

NOTE: ‘After the Saviour’s ascension, the sense of the divine presence, full of love and light, was still with them. It was a personal presence. Jesus, the Saviour, who had walked and talked and prayed with them, who had spoken hope and comfort to their hearts, had, while the message of peace was upon His lips, been taken from them into heaven. As the chariot of angels received Him, His words had come to them, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end.” Matthew 28:20. He had ascended to heaven in the form of humanity. They knew that He was before the throne of God, their Friend and Saviour still; that His sympathies were unchanged; that He would forever be identified with suffering humanity.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 65.

2. How did God provide human support for Moses? Exodus 4:10-16, 27-30.

NOTE: ‘The Satanic delusions of the age must be met clearly and intelligently with the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. He who guides the planets in their courses, and upholds the worlds by His power, has made provision for man formed in His image, that He may be little less than the angels of God while in the performance of his duties on earth. God’s purposes have not been answered by men who have been entrusted with the most solemn truth ever given to man. He designs that we should rise higher and higher toward a state of perfection, seeing and realising at every step the power and glory of God. Man does not know himself. Our responsibilities are exactly proportioned to our light, opportunities, and privileges.’ *Gospel Workers*, page 170.

‘The shield of Thy help’

3. In carrying out her humble duty towards her threatened people, how was Queen Esther assisted by God? Esther 5:1-4.

NOTE: ‘The decree of the Medes and Persians could not be revoked; apparently there was no hope; all the Israelites were doomed to destruction. But the plots of the enemy were defeated by a Power that reigns among the children of men. In the providence of God, Esther, a Jewess who feared the Most High, had been made queen of the Medo-Persian kingdom. Mordecai was a near relative of hers. In their extremity, they decided to appeal to Xerxes in behalf of their people. Esther was to venture into his presence as an intercessor. “Who knoweth,” said Mordecai, “whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” The crisis that Esther faced demanded quick, earnest action; but both she and Mordecai realised that unless God should work mightily in their behalf, their own efforts would be unavailing.’ *Conflict & Courage*, page 244.

4. When Elijah became discouraged in his duty as a prophet of the Lord, how did help come to him from heaven? 1 Kings 19:4-8.

heavens fall. But such a character is not the result of accident; it is not due to special favours or endowments of Providence. A noble character is the result of self-discipline, of the subjection of the lower to the higher nature, the surrender of self for the service of love to God and man. The youth need to be impressed with the truth that their endowments are not their own. Strength, time, intellect, are but lent treasures. They belong to God, and it should be the resolve of every youth to put them to the highest use. He is a branch, from which God expects fruit; a steward, whose capital must yield increase; a light, to illuminate the world's darkness. Every youth, every child, has a work to do for the honour of God and the uplifting of humanity.' *Education*, page 57.

LESSON INSIGHT: As time nears its conclusion, the path of duty will lie through very difficult country. We may often feel alone and vulnerable, but like David we must learn the lesson that we do not flee to the Philistines but stay where God has placed us. By His side is the safest place to be. Physically we may be in danger, but in the eyes of the Lord our character and the proclamation of His Truth is paramount. Who would have thought that the fiery furnace was the safest place to be? It was there that the Lord walked with them.

Lesson 13: December 18-24 'The LORD is my Helper'

MEMORY VERSE: 'The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion.' Psalm 20:1-2.

LESSON AIM: To teach that although our Saviour has placed us in the way of duty and shown us what is required, He has also promised rich help to make our obligation to Him possible.

Introduction

'There are times when it seems to the servant of God impossible to do the work necessary to be done, because of the lack of means to carry on a strong, solid work. Some are fearful that with the facilities at their command they cannot do all that they feel it their duty to do. But if they advance in faith, the salvation of God will be revealed, and prosperity will attend their efforts. He who has bidden His followers go into all parts of the world will sustain every labourer who in obedience to His command seeks to proclaim His message. In the upbuilding of His work the Lord does not always make everything plain before His servants. He sometimes tries the confidence of His people by bringing about circumstances which compel them to move forward in faith. Often He brings them into strait and trying places, and bids them advance when their feet seem to be touching the waters of Jordan. It is at such times, when the prayers of His

glory. Will you not rise to be wise and to make diligent work for eternity?' *Our High Calling*, page 101.

'Go ye into all the world'

7. What was Christ's commission to the Christian church? Mark 16:15.

NOTE: 'Jesus gave His life that these precious souls might have eternal life. "We are labourers together with God." What sacrifice will you make? What self-denial will you practise? It may be self-denial for a time, but in the end it is the greatest blessing to soul, body, and spirit that you can experience. We have a duty to humanity. We are bound before God, if we possess eternal life, to show that we appreciate the value of the sacrifice which Christ has made, and that is to purchase heaven, that we may glorify His name upon the earth, and that we may win souls to the cross of Calvary, that we may win souls to teach them how to give their hearts to Jesus.' *Sermons and Talks, volume 1*, page 265.

8. How did Paul say that he had completed the duty God had laid upon him? 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

NOTE: 'No faithful hand recorded for the generations to come the last scenes in the life of this holy man, but Inspiration has preserved for us his dying testimony. Like a trumpet peal his voice has rung out through all the ages since, nerving with his own courage thousands of witnesses for Christ and wakening in thousands of sorrow-stricken hearts the echo of his own triumphant joy: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:6-8.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 513.

'Pure religion and undefiled'

9. Which groups of people are the Christian's especial responsibility? Isaiah 1:17; James 1:27.

NOTE: 'God suffers His poor to be in the borders of every church. They are always to be among us, and the Lord places upon the members of every church a personal responsibility to care for them. We are not to lay our responsibility upon others. Toward those within our own borders we are to manifest the same love and sympathy that Christ would manifest were He in our place. Thus we are to be disciplined, that we may be prepared to work in Christ's lines. Among all whose needs demand our interest, the widow and the fatherless have the strongest claims upon our tender sympathy. They are the objects of the Lord's special care. They are lent to Christians in trust for God. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27.' *Counsels to the Church*, page 285.

10. How far do we have to look to find those in need of support? Matthew 26:11.

NOTE: ‘All may find something to do. “The poor always ye have with you,” (John 12:8), Jesus said, and none need feel that there is no place where they can labour for Him. Millions upon millions of human souls ready to perish, bound in chains of ignorance and sin, have never so much as heard of Christ’s love for them. Were our condition and theirs to be reversed, what would we desire them to do for us? All this, so far as lies in our power, we are under the most solemn obligation to do for them. Christ’s rule of life, by which every one of us must stand or fall in the judgment, is, “Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.” Matthew 7:12.’ *A Call to Stand Apart*, page 62.

‘The face of Jesus’

11. In helping those less fortunate than ourselves, to whom are we to direct them to look? Acts 3:6.

NOTE: ‘There is constant danger of dropping Jesus out of your labour; but when the truth is presented in meekness and grace as it is in Jesus, it is then you reveal Jesus Christ in every effort you make, and as you seek to approach souls you are revealing Christ to all those with whom you are brought in contact. If you are resting upon the loving Saviour as your only hope, if self is hid with Christ in God, God will be with you, and you will be with Him. You will feel and know the power of true religion; your influence will be used wholly for God’s glory; you will not have a high estimate of yourselves.’ *Review and Herald*, May 10, 1897.

12. What is to be focus of our duty to others? 1 Corinthians 2:2.

NOTE: ‘Paul carried with him the atmosphere of heaven. All who associated with him felt the influence of his union with Christ. The fact that his own life exemplified the truth he proclaimed gave convincing power to his preaching. Here lies the power of truth. The unstudied, unconscious influence of a holy life is the most convincing sermon that can be given in favour of Christianity. Argument, even when unanswerable, may provoke only opposition; but a godly example has a power that it is impossible wholly to resist.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 510.

LESSON INSIGHT: When we realise how much our Redeemer and Saviour paid so that He could purchase those whom He loves, the duty that He lays upon us seems only what is reasonable. With hearts filled with gratitude, we shall feel that the yoke we bear is light and is only for His glory.

Lesson 3: October 9-15

‘Sacrifice of praise’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever.’ Psalm 106:1.

fast. If our salvation depended on our own efforts, we could not be saved; but it depends on the One who is behind all the promises. Our grasp on Him may seem feeble, but His love is that of an elder brother; so long as we maintain our union with Him, no one can pluck us out of His hand.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 552.

10. How are we warned that our duty may often lie along difficult tracks? Matthew 5:11-12

NOTE: Instead of arguments from the Scriptures, the opponents of the Advent faith chose to employ ridicule and scoffing. The careless and ungodly, emboldened by the position of religious teachers, resorted to opprobrious epithets, to base and blasphemous witticisms, in their efforts to heap contumely upon William Miller and his work. The grey-headed man who had left a comfortable home to travel at his own expense from city to city, from town to village, toiling unceasingly to bear to the world the solemn warning of the judgment near, was sneeringly denounced as a fanatic, a liar, a speculating knave. Time, means, and talents were employed in misrepresenting and maligning Adventists, in exciting prejudice against them, and holding them up to public and many were led to hold prejudice against him. This demonstrates the fact that great and good men, men with whom God has worked, will make grievous mistakes when they cease to watch and pray, and to fully trust in God.’ *Christ Triumphant*, page 336.

‘Having done all, to stand’

11. Although our duty may call us to stand for Christ in a post-Christian society, what is the only way that this is possible? Ephesians 6:13-14.

NOTE: ‘As the end draws near, the work of God is to increase in full strength and purity and holiness. The workers are to be filled with love for God and for one another. They are to cherish principles of the strictest integrity. When the true keynote is struck, God will reveal himself as a God of mercy and love. Angels of heaven will draw near to the members of the church on earth to aid them in their necessity. Let us ever remember that we are labourers together with God. In this heavenly union we shall carry forward His work with completeness, with singing and rejoicing. In every soul will be kindled the fire of holy zeal. Company after company will leave the dark standard of the foe to come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty. God’s workers must gain a far deeper experience. If they will surrender all to Him, He will work mightily for them. They will plant the standard of truth upon fortresses till then held by Satan, and with shouts of victory take possession of them. They bear the scars of battle, but there comes to them the comforting message that the Lord will lead them on, conquering and to conquer.’ *Colporteur Evangelism*, page 69.

12. What promises will remain with us for all time? Matthew 18:19-20; 1 Peter 5:7; Hebrews 13:5-6, 18.

NOTE: ‘The greatest want of the world is the want of men, men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the

will be brought to bear against God's people in the final conflict. And in this time of peril the followers of Christ are to bear to the world the warning of the Lord's second advent; and a people are to be prepared to stand before Him at His coming, "without spot, and blameless." 2 Peter 3:14. At this time the special endowment of divine grace and power is not less needful to the church than in apostolic days.' *Great Controversy*, Introduction, page ix.

'There is nothing better for me'

7. Where did David go to find safety? 1 Samuel 27:1-7.

NOTE: 'David was a brave general, and had proved himself a wise and successful warrior; but he was working directly against his own interests when he went to the Philistines. God had appointed him to set up his standard in the land of Judah, and it was want of faith and confidence that led him to forsake his post of duty without a command from the Lord. How could he expect that the God of Israel would give him protection, when he had placed himself with the bitterest foes of his people? Could he expect safety with the Philistines, when only shortly before he had barely escaped with his life by feigning himself to be a mad man? Could he reasonably hope to save himself by seeking an asylum with a people whom God had appointed to extinction? When he should come to the throne, he would be employed as the agent to carry out this purpose of destroying the Philistines. In fleeing to the enemies of Israel, David encouraged the Philistines to take further measures to oppress his people, and the impression was received by his brethren that he had gone to the heathen to serve their gods. By this act he gave occasion for misconstruing his motives, and many were led to hold prejudice against him. This demonstrates the fact that great and good men, men with whom God has worked, will make grievous mistakes when they cease to watch and pray, and to fully trust in God.' *Signs of the Times*, November 9, 1888.

8. By contrast what was the one great sense of duty even in the face of death, that motivated everything in Paul's life? 2 Corinthians 4:11.

NOTE: 'The glory of God, the perfection of Christian character, is to be the aim, the purpose of our life. Christ's followers must imitate Christ in disposition. The Pattern is given us to copy, and no excuse will be accepted of God as a reason for not meeting the divine standard, however contrary it may be to our own nature, our own selfish desires and inclinations. Like Christ is the watchword, not like your father or your mother, but like Jesus Christ, hid in Christ, clothed with Christ's righteousness, imbued with the Spirit of Christ.' *Daughters of God*, page 169.

'In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation'

9. As we follow the duties shown us in the Word of God what great consolation is held up before us? Romans 8:35-39

NOTE: 'In the courts above, Christ is pleading for His church, pleading for those for whom He has paid the redemption price of His blood. Centuries, ages, can never lessen the efficacy of His atoning sacrifice. Neither life nor death, height nor depth, can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus; not because we hold Him so firmly, but because He holds us so

LESSON AIM: To show that we owe to God praise for everything, that His name may be magnified.

Introduction

'Wherever we turn, we hear the voice of God and behold His handiwork. From the solemn roll of the deep-toned thunder and old ocean's ceaseless roar, to the glad songs that make the forests vocal with melody, nature's ten thousand voices speak His praise. In earth and sea and sky, with their marvellous tint and colour, varying in gorgeous contrast or blended in harmony, we behold His glory. The everlasting hills tell of His power. The trees that wave their green banners in the sunlight and the flowers in their delicate beauty point to their Creator. The living green that carpets the brown earth tells of God's care for the humblest of His creatures. The caves of the sea and the depths of the earth reveal His treasures. He who placed the pearls in the ocean and the amethyst and chrysolite among the rocks is a lover of the beautiful. The sun rising in the heavens is a representative of Him who is the life and light of all that He has made. All the brightness and beauty that adorn the earth and light up the heavens speak of God. Shall we, then, in the enjoyment of His gifts, forget the Giver? Let them rather lead us to contemplate His goodness and His love.' *Child Guidance*, page 53.

'I am the Lord that maketh all things'

1. For what reasons are our praise and honour due to God? Nehemiah 9:6; Isaiah 44:24.

NOTE: 'The greatest praise that men can bring to God is to become consecrated channels through whom He can work. Time is rapidly passing into eternity. Let us not keep back from God that which is His own. Let us not refuse Him that which, though it cannot be given with merit, cannot be denied without ruin. He asks for a whole heart; give it to Him; it is His, both by creation and by redemption. He asks for your intellect; give it to Him; it is His. He asks for your money; give it to Him; it is His. "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price." 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20. God requires the homage of a sanctified soul, which has prepared itself, by the exercise of the faith that works by love, to serve Him. He holds up before us the highest ideal, even perfection. He asks us to be absolutely and completely for Him in this world as He is for us in the presence of God.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 566.

2. How does David describe the bodies that God created for us? Psalm 139:14.

NOTE: 'We are God's workmanship, and His Word declares that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." He has prepared this living habitation for the mind; it is "curiously wrought," a temple which the Lord Himself has fitted up for the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. The mind controls the whole man. All our actions, good or bad, have their source in the mind. It is the mind that worships God and allies us to heavenly beings. Yet many spend all their lives without becoming intelligent in regard to the casket [the human body] that contains this treasure.' *Reflecting Christ*, page 149. [Brackets in original.]

‘In God we boast all the day long’

3. What does wholehearted praise bring to our own souls? Psalm 9:2; Isaiah 12:2-6; 1 Chronicles 29:9-13.

NOTE: ‘The light of day, gilding forest and mountain, meadow and stream, carried the mind up to behold the Father of lights, the Author of every good and perfect gift. Daily revelations of the character and majesty of his Creator, filled the young poet’s heart with adoration and rejoicing. In contemplation of God and His works, the faculties of David’s mind and heart were developing and strengthening for the work of his after-life. He was daily coming into a more intimate communion with God. His mind was constantly penetrating into new depths, for fresh themes to inspire his song, and to wake the music of his harp. The rich melody of his voice poured out upon the air, echoed from the hills as if responsive to the rejoicing of the angels’ songs in heaven.’ *Christian Education*, page 204.

4. How does praising God change the inclinations of the natural heart? John 3:30. Contrast John 12:43.

NOTE: ‘Shall those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of the truth become narrow in their plans? Let them arouse to a sense of their vast obligations, cutting away every thread of selfishness, that the Lord may pour upon them His Holy Spirit. Let them seek the Lord while He may be found, and call upon Him while He is near. They have no reason for being faithless and complaining. Let them cease all fault-finding and murmuring, and encourage a spirit of gratitude for past mercies and blessings. Let them praise the Lord in unfeigned gratitude for the light of His Word, which shines upon their pathway, to be received into heart and mind, and reflected upon those in darkness. Thus they will be prepared to work to the praise and glory of Christ, and to inscribe upon their banners, “Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”’ *Lift Him Up*, page 294.

‘Day and night’

5. How many times a day did David instruct the Levites to raise their praise to heaven? 1 Chronicles 23:30.

NOTE: ‘Satan makes every effort to lead people away from God; and he is successful in his purpose when the religious life is drowned in business cares, when he can so absorb their minds in business that they will not take time to read their Bibles, to pray in secret, and to keep the offering of praise and thanksgiving burning on the altar of sacrifice morning and evening. How few realise the wiles of the archdeceiver! How many are ignorant of his devices!’ *Counsels for the Church*, page 151.

6. In Psalm 119 how many times during the day does David say he praised God in his personal life? Psalm 119:164. Compare Psalm 35:28; Psalm 30:12.

NOTE: ‘We should learn to value the praise of man at what it is worth. The Lord says, “Them that honour Me I will honour.” Let every breath of praise, every word of exaltation, flow to Him who is worthy, flow to Jesus, the Prince of life, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Elevate the

of all this the world knows little; and Satan exults in the ruin that has been wrought.’ *Signs of the Times*, March 24, 1887.

4. How are we warned about doing those things that seem right to us? Proverbs 16:25; Matthew 7:13-14.

NOTE: ‘There are those who are driven away from Christ by the harshness of professing Christians. They might have done a good work in saving souls, but they have been stung to death by the inconsistency of those claiming to follow Christ, those who are Christians in name only. These weave into the web of life unsightly threads of selfishness, but their eyes are not anointed with the heavenly eye salve, therefore they assert that the pattern is correct. But the threads of selfishness are there. To some it appears degrading to wear Christ’s yoke of submission and obedience. Many prefer to wear the yokes which they have manufactured for themselves. They choose the way that seems right in their own eyes. Their actions testify that they have not an experimental knowledge of God. Those who are connected with God’s service should be sanctified, soul, body, and spirit, else they will mar God’s work and put Christ to open shame. What does God’s Word mean when it declares that Christ will present to Himself a church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing? It means that God’s people can and must reach the standard of Christian perfection. But in order to do this they must learn of Christ His meekness and lowliness. “This is life eternal,” the Saviour said, “that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.”’ *Manuscript Releases, volume 14*, page 351.

‘Put on the whole armour of God’

5. By what other picture does the Bible clearly portray the relationship between duty and protection? Ephesians 6:10-12.

NOTE: ‘Human wisdom, aside from God, will prove itself to be foolishness, and will bring confusion and perplexity. We need to have on the whole armour of God. The holy influence of a Saviour’s loving protection is our sure defence. There is but One who can prove a safeguard against the schemes of Satan.’ *1888 Materials*, page 1626.

6. Who is the hidden mastermind behind all the political and religious confusion we see around us? 2 Corinthians 11:14.

NOTE: ‘The great controversy between good and evil will increase in intensity to the very close of time. In all ages the wrath of Satan has been manifested against the church of Christ; and God has bestowed His grace and Spirit upon His people to strengthen them to stand against the power of the evil one. When the apostles of Christ were to bear His gospel to the world and to record it for all future ages, they were especially endowed with the enlightenment of the Spirit. But as the church approaches her final deliverance, Satan is to work with greater power. He comes down “having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” Revelation 12:12. He will work “with all power and signs and lying wonders.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9. For six thousand years that mastermind that once was highest among the angels of God has been wholly bent to the work of deception and ruin. And all the depths of satanic skill and subtlety acquired, all the cruelty developed, during these struggles of the ages,

in the life and character of our Saviour. Angels of God will preserve His people while they walk in the path of duty, but there is no assurance of such protection for those who deliberately venture upon Satan's ground.' *Counsels on Health*, page 459.

'Every good path'

1. Where do we discover the path of Christian duty? Psalm 119:35-38.

NOTE: 'Said Christ: "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." The Bible is an unerring guide. It demands perfect purity in word, in thought, and in action. Only virtuous and spotless characters will be permitted to enter the presence of a pure and holy God. The word of God, if studied and obeyed, would lead the children of men, as the Israelites were led by a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day. The Bible is God's will expressed to man. It is the only perfect standard of character, and marks out the duty of man in every circumstance of life. There are many responsibilities resting upon us in this life, a neglect of which will not only cause suffering to ourselves, but others will sustain loss in consequence. Men and women professing to revere the Bible and follow its teachings fail in many respects to perform its requirements.' *Testimonies, volume 4*, page 312.

2. What other God-given blessings will show us that good path? Proverbs 2:9-11.

NOTE: 'In the Bible the whole duty of man is defined. Solomon says, "Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13. The will of God is revealed in His written word, and this is the essential knowledge. Human wisdom, familiarity with the languages of different nations, is a help in the missionary work. An understanding of the customs of the people, of the location and time of events, is practical knowledge; for it aids in making the figures of the Bible clear, in bringing out the force of Christ's lessons; but it is not positively necessary to know these things. The way-faring man may find the pathway cast up for the ransomed to walk in, and there will be no excuse found for any one who perishes through misapprehension of the Scriptures. In the Bible every vital principle is declared, every duty made plain, every obligation made evident. The whole duty of man is summed up by the Saviour. He says, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. . . . Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matthew 13:37, 39. In the word the plan of salvation is plainly delineated.' *Christian Education*, page 84.

'Remove thy foot from evil'

3. In doing our duty towards God, how does He warn us to consider our ways with caution? Proverbs 4:26-27.

NOTE: 'Angels of God will preserve His people while they walk in the path of duty; but there is no assurance of such protection for those who deliberately venture upon Satan's ground. An agent of the great deceiver will say and do anything to gain his object. These workers of iniquity are not few; and their path is marked by desolated homes, blasted reputations, and broken hearts. But

cross of Christ. Elevate the Mediator. Lift up Jesus. In Him is everything noble. Contemplate God in Christ. He is surrounded with angels, cherubim and seraphim continually behold Him. Angelic voices day and night cry before Him: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.... Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created." "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." "Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou only art holy; for all nations shall come and worship before Thee." But although God only is holy and worthy to be praised, human tongues are perverted to praise and glorify man rather than God.' *Signs of the Times*, December 30, 1889.

'Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness'

7. Why do we owe praise to God? Psalm 107:8-9; 1 Corinthians 1:30.

NOTE: 'If we would but think of God as often as we have evidence of His care for us, we should keep Him ever in our thoughts and should delight to talk of Him and to praise Him. We talk of temporal things because we have an interest in them. We talk of our friends because we love them; our joys and our sorrows are bound up with them. Yet we have infinitely greater reason to love God than to love our earthly friends; it should be the most natural thing in the world to make Him first in all our thoughts, to talk of His goodness and tell of His power. Our devotional exercises should not consist wholly in asking and receiving. Let us not be always thinking of our wants and never of the benefits we receive. We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. We are the constant recipients of God's mercies, and yet how little gratitude we express, how little we praise Him for what He has done for us.' *A Call to Stand Apart*, page 28.

8. What is the greatest and most blessed gift that Christ has given us? Psalm 9:14, last part; Isaiah 44:22-23; John 6:32-33.

NOTE: 'In the matchless gift of His Son, God has encircled the whole world with an atmosphere of grace as real as the air which circulates around the globe. All who choose to breathe this life-giving atmosphere will live and grow up to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. As the flower turns to the sun, that the bright beams may aid in perfecting its beauty and symmetry, so should we turn to the Sun of Righteousness, that heaven's light may shine upon us, that our character may be developed into the likeness of Christ. Jesus teaches the same thing when He says, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. . . . Without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:4, 5. You are just as dependent upon Christ, in order to live a holy life, as is the branch upon the parent stock for growth and fruitfulness. Apart from Him you have no life. You have no power to resist temptation or to grow in grace and holiness. Abiding in Him, you may flourish. Drawing your life from Him, you will not wither nor be fruitless. You will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water.' *Steps to Christ*, page 68-69.

‘The living, the living, he shall praise Thee’

9. Which group of people cannot praise God? Isaiah 38:18.

NOTE: ‘When, in answer to his prayer, Hezekiah’s life was prolonged fifteen years, the grateful king rendered to God a tribute of praise for His great mercy. In this song he tells the reason why he thus rejoices: “The grave cannot praise Thee, death can not celebrate Thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise Thee, as I do this day.”’ Isaiah 38:18, 19. Popular theology represents the righteous dead as in heaven, entered into bliss, and praising God with an immortal tongue; but Hezekiah could see no such glorious prospect in death.’ *The Faith I Live By*, page 174.

10. Who only have the ability, knowledge and moral understanding to praise God? Isaiah 38:19, first part.

NOTE: ‘Important lessons are presented to us in the experience of Elijah. When upon Mt. Carmel he offered the prayer for rain, his faith was tested, but he persevered in making known his request unto God. Had he given up in discouragement at the sixth time, his prayer would not have been answered, but he persevered till the answer came. We have a God whose ear is not closed to our petitions; and if we prove His word, He will honour our faith. He wants us to have all our interests interwoven with His interests, and then He can safely bless us; for we shall not then take glory to self when the blessing is ours, but shall render all the praise to God. God does not always answer our prayers the first time we call upon Him; for should He do this, we might take it for granted that we had a right to all the blessings and favours He bestowed upon us. Instead of searching our hearts to see if any evil was entertained by us, any sin indulged, we should become careless, and fail to realise our dependence upon Him, and our need of His help. Elijah humbled himself until he was in a condition where he would not take the glory to himself. This is the condition upon which the Lord hears prayer, for then we shall give the praise to Him. The custom of offering praise to men is one that results in great evil. One praises another, and thus men are led to feel that glory and honour belong to them. When you exalt man, you lay a snare for his soul, and do just as Satan would have you. God alone is worthy to be glorified.’ *Conflict and Courage*, page 212.

‘To the praise of His glory’

11. Before a watching universe and angelic heavens, how does God receive honour? Ephesians 1:12.

NOTE: ‘The cost of the redemption of the race can never be fully realised until the redeemed shall stand with the Redeemer, by the throne of God. And as they have capacity to appreciate the value of immortal life, and the eternal reward, they will swell the song of victory and immortal triumph, “saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature,” says John, “which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”’ *Confrontation*, page 56-56.

the great centre of attraction, Jesus Christ, must not be left out of the third angel’s message. By many who have been engaged in the work for this time, Christ has been made secondary, and theories and arguments have had first place. The glory of God that was revealed to Moses in regard to the divine character has not been made prominent. The Lord said to Moses, “I will make all My goodness pass before thee” (Exodus 33:19). “And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty” (Exodus 34:6, 7). A veil has seemed to be before the eyes of many who have laboured in the cause, so that when they presented the law, they have not had views of Jesus, and have not proclaimed the fact that, where sin abounded, grace doth much more abound. It is at the cross of Calvary that mercy and truth meet together, where righteousness and peace kiss each other. The sinner must ever look toward Calvary; and with the simple faith of a little child, he must rest in the merits of Christ, accepting His righteousness and believing in His mercy. Labourers in the cause of truth should present the righteousness of Christ, not as new light but as precious light that has for a time been lost sight of by the people. We are to accept Christ as our personal Saviour, and He imputes unto us the righteousness of God in Christ. Let us repeat and make prominent the truth that John has portrayed: “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10). In the love of God has been opened the most marvellous vein of precious truth, and the treasures of the grace of Christ are laid.’ *Selected Messages, volume 1*, page 382.

LESSON INSIGHT: We live in the time of the third angel’s message of Revelation 14. Before the Lord pours His undiluted wrath on those who refuse to heed His warnings, God will give the world one last chance to hear and to heed the invitation to come to safety. But as with the previous messages of Revelation 14, it is the duty of those who know and love God to proclaim His words of love and mercy to every living person on the earth before it is too late.

Lesson 12: December 11-17 ‘Under the shadow of the Almighty’

MEMORY VERSE: “Thus saith the Lord: Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein.” Jeremiah 6:16.
LESSON AIM: To show that, when we are doing our duty, when we are being led by the Lord, even though we may be afflicted, we are safe in the place of the protection of the Lord.

Introduction

‘We must keep close to the word of God. We need its warnings and encouragement, its threatenings and promises. We need the perfect example given only

things spoken to them, and the pure, unvarnished truth is not acceptable. Many reformers, in entering upon their work, determined to exercise great prudence in attacking the sins of the church and the nation. They hoped, by the example of a pure Christian life, to lead the people back to the doctrines of the Bible. But the Spirit of God came upon them as it came upon Elijah, moving him to rebuke the sins of a wicked king and an apostate people; they could not refrain from preaching the plain utterances of the Bible, doctrines which they had been reluctant to present. They were impelled zealously to declare the truth and the danger which threatened souls. The words which the Lord gave them they uttered, fearless of consequences, and the people were compelled to hear the warning. Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed.' *Great Controversy*, page 606.

10. With what urgency and strength will the fourth angel add his voice of appeal to the that of the third angel? Revelation 18:1-2

NOTE: 'I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfilment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message.' *Early Writings*, page 277.

'And ye would not'

11. With what choice of words did Jesus give the message of final doom to His own people? Matthew 23:37-38.

NOTE: 'Divine pity marked the countenance of the Son of God as He cast one lingering look upon the temple and then upon His hearers. In a voice choked by deep anguish of heart and bitter tears He exclaimed, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" This is the separation struggle. In the lamentation of Christ the very heart of God is pouring itself forth. It is the mysterious farewell of the long-suffering love of the Deity.' *Desire of Ages*, page 620.

12. Though the last message to be given is a hard one, what Bible verses show how the work is to be done? Revelation 22:17; Luke 14:16-24.

NOTE: 'The third angel's message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and this truth must be brought before the world; but

12. How does the Bible show that our words, our testimony of answered prayer and our praise for His many blessings are an echo of how He brought glory to His Father? Hebrew 2:12. Compare Daniel 2:19-23, 28; 1 Peter 4:11; John 17:4.

NOTE: 'We have no time to lose. We know not how soon our probation may close. At the longest, we have but a brief lifetime here, and we know not how soon the arrow of death may strike our hearts. We know not how soon we may be called to give up the world and all its interests. Eternity stretches before us. The curtain is about to be lifted. But a few short years, and for everyone now numbered with the living the mandate will go forth: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: . . . and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11. Are we prepared? Have we become acquainted with God, the Governor of heaven, the Lawgiver, and with Jesus Christ whom He sent into the world as His representative? When our lifework is ended, shall we be able to say, as did Christ our example: "I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do. . . . I have manifested Thy name"?' *Ministry of Healing*, page 454.

LESSON INSIGHT: For all the great love of our Saviour who has brought us everything pertaining to life and godliness, we owe it to Him to speak of His attributes, His love, His mercy, His redemption, His answers to our prayers. It is our love and gratitude which brings honour to Him, and vindicates His Name before all those watching the challenges and outcomes of the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan. As we speak, we overcome Satan.

**Lesson 4: October 16-22
'I will surely give the tenth unto thee'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace.' Hebrews 7:1-2.

LESSON AIM: To show that from ancient times those who looked to the true God knew that everything of good came only from God. In response they gave willingly to God a tenth of all.

COMPILERS NOTE: The word 'tithes' translates the Hebrew word '*maaser*' meaning a tenth. The Greek word is '*dekate*' also meaning a tenth or a tithe. Historically, it was not necessarily a religious duty but had a secular connotation too. When Samuel warned the people about making a King, he told them that the King would take a tenth of their seed and vineyards to give to his officers and servants.

Introduction

‘The consecration to God of a tithe of all increase, whether of the orchard and harvest field, the flocks and herds, or the labour of brain or hand, the devotion of a second tithe for the relief of the poor and other benevolent uses, tended to keep fresh before the people the truth of God’s ownership of all, and of their opportunity to be channels of His blessings. It was a training adapted to kill out all narrowing selfishness, and to cultivate breadth and nobility of character.’ *Education*, page 44.

‘The withholding of means that is due to God places barriers in the way of accomplishing work that should be done by those who have been enlightened by the truth. As the sin of robbing God was presented, the people received clearer views of their duty and privilege in this matter. One brother said that for two years he had not paid his tithes, and he was in despair; but, as he confessed his sin, he began to gather hope. “What shall I do?” he asked. I said, “Give your note to the treasurer of the church; that will be business-like.” He thought that was a rather strange request; but he sat down, and began to write, “For value received, I promise to pay . . .” He looked up, as if to say, Is that the proper form in which to write out a note to the Lord? “Yes,” he continued, “for value received. Have I not been receiving the blessings of God day after day? Have not the angels guarded me? Has not the Lord blessed me with all spiritual and temporal blessings? For value received, I promise to pay the sum of \$571.50 to the church treasurer.” After doing all he could do on his part, he was a happy man. In a few days he took up his note, and paid his tithe into the treasury. He had also made a Christmas donation of \$125.’ *Review and Herald*, February 19, 1889.

‘God so loved the world He gave’

1. How did God show how much He loves us? John 3:16.

NOTE: ‘There is hope for the most hopeless in Christ. “Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.” “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” There we have the rich promises of God. What did Christ come here for? To represent the Father. What a heart of love and sympathy! He came to bring eternal life, to break every band. When God gave His Son, He gave all heaven. He could give no more.’ *Temperance*, page 286.

2. Why do we love God? 1 John 4:10, 19.

NOTE: ‘When, as erring, sinful beings, we come to Christ and become partakers of His pardoning grace, love springs up in the heart. Every burden is light, for the yoke that Christ imposes is easy. Duty becomes a delight, and sacrifice a pleasure. The path that before seemed shrouded in darkness becomes bright with beams from the Sun of Righteousness. The loveliness of the character of Christ will be seen in His followers. It was His delight to do the will of God. Love to God, zeal for His glory, was the controlling power in our Saviour’s life. Love beautified and ennobled all His actions. Love is of God. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate or produce it. It is found only in the heart where

lishment of His throne.” Psalm 97:2, margin. “The Lord is slow to anger;” but He is “great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.” Nahum 1:3. The world has become bold in transgression of God’s law. Because of His long forbearance, men have trampled upon His authority. They have strengthened one another in oppression and cruelty toward His heritage, saying, “How doth God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?” Psalm 73:11. But there is a line beyond which they cannot pass. The time is near when they will have reached the prescribed limit. Even now they have almost exceeded the bounds of the long-suffering of God, the limits of His grace, the limits of His mercy. The Lord will interpose to vindicate His own honour, to deliver His people, and to repress the swellings of unrighteousness.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 177.

8. What was the experience of Jeremiah when he was faced with having to give an unpopular message? Jeremiah 20:7-9.

NOTE: ‘In the presentation of unpopular truth, which involves a heavy cross, preachers should be careful that every word is as God would have it. Their words should never cut. They should present the truth in humility, with the deepest love for souls, and an earnest desire for their salvation, and let the truth cut. They should not defy ministers of other denominations, and seek to provoke a debate. They should not stand in a position like that of Goliath when he defied the armies of Israel. Israel did not defy Goliath, but Goliath made his proud boasts against God and his people. The defying, the boasting, and the railing must come from the opposers of truth, who act the Goliath; but none of this spirit should be seen in those whom God has sent forth to proclaim the last Goliath trusted in his armour. He terrified the armies of Israel by his defiant, savage boastings, while he made a most imposing display of his armour, which was his strength. David, in his humility and zeal for God and his people, proposed to meet this boaster. Saul consented and had his own kingly armour placed upon David. But David would not consent to wear it. He laid off the king’s armour; for he had not proved it. He had proved God, and in trusting in him had gained special victories. To put on Saul’s armour would give the impression that he was a warrior, when he was only little David, who tended the sheep.’ *Gospel Workers*, page 188.

‘Sent forth to minister’

9. How will the message of the third angel be given? Revelation 14:9.

NOTE: ‘Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel’s message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and state would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd. It has been confidently declared that this land [United States of America] could never become other than what it has been, the defender of religious freedom. But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before. In every generation God has sent His servants to rebuke sin, both in the world and in the church. But the people desire smooth

of a world hangs in the balance; but this hardly moves even those who claim to believe the most far-reaching truth ever given to mortals. There is a lack of that love which led Christ to leave His heavenly home and take man's nature that humanity might touch humanity and draw humanity to divinity. There is a stupor, a paralysis, upon the people of God, which prevents them from understanding the duty of the hour.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 303.

'That the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in this mortal flesh'

5. What does it mean to be asleep? Luke 21:34.

NOTE: 'Cares, riches, pleasures, all are used by Satan in playing the game of life for the human soul. The warning is given, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15, 16. He who reads the hearts of men as an open book says, "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness and cares of this life." Luke 21:34. And the apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit writes, "They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:9, 10.' *A Call to Stand Apart*, page 23.

6. As the last message of warning and mercy is given, what is to be revealed in the lives of those presenting the message? Philippians 2:15; 1 John 4:17; 2 Corinthians 4:11.

NOTE: 'The Christian's mission in the world is to reveal the character of Christ, to represent the Lord to the fallen children of men. If we are ever to enter heaven, we must bring heaven into our life here. We must be pure and holy, and if we gain heaven at last, we shall be with the Saviour throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. We shall hear Him say, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." The crown of glory will be placed upon the brow of the overcomer, and he will enter the city of God a conqueror. We are now upon the battle-ground, and Jesus will do the fighting for us, if we will only let Him. He will lift up a standard for us against the enemy; for He hears our prayers, and help will come when we most need it. Then let us live for the future, immortal life, "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.'" *Signs of the Times*, June 8, 1891.

'I will sing of mercy and judgment'

7. Which two qualities characterise the gospel Christians have been commissioned to give to those around them? Psalm 89:13-14. Read also Jude 1:14-21.

NOTE: 'The long-suffering of God is wonderful. Long does justice wait while mercy pleads with the sinner. But "righteousness and judgement are the estab-

Jesus reigns. "We love, because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19, RV). In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the principle of action. It modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, subdues enmity, and ennobles the affections. This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life and sheds a refining influence on all around.' *Lift Him Up*, page 151.

'I will surely give the tenth to Thee'

3. Prior to the setting up of the Jewish nation, who is recorded as paying a tenth to the Lord in thanksgiving for His great mercies? Genesis 14:18-20.

NOTE: 'The tithing system reaches back beyond the days of Moses. Men were required to offer to God gifts for religious purposes before the definite system was given to Moses, even as far back as the days of Adam. In complying with God's requirements, they were to manifest in offerings their appreciation of His mercies and blessings to them. This was continued through successive generations, and was carried out by Abraham, who gave tithes to Melchizedek, the priest of the most high God. The same principle existed in the days of Job. Jacob, when at Bethel, an exile and penniless wanderer, lay down at night, solitary and alone, with a rock for his pillow, and there promised the Lord: "Of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee." God does not compel men to give. All that they give must be voluntary. He will not have His treasury replenished with unwilling offerings. As to the amount required, God has specified one tenth of the increase. This is left to the conscience and benevolence of men, whose judgment in this tithing system should have free play. And while it is left free to the conscience, a plan has been laid out definite enough for all. No compulsion is required. God called for men in the Mosaic dispensation to give the tenth of all their increase. He committed to their trust the things of this life, talents to be improved and returned to Him. He has required a tenth, and this He claims as the very least that man should return to Him. He says: I give you nine tenths, while I require one tenth; that is Mine. When men withhold the one tenth, they rob God.' *Counsels for the Church*, page 276.

4. What did Jacob vow in his prayer, knowing that only God could sustain him in his flight and eventually bring him back to his home again? Genesis 28:20-22.

NOTE: 'With deep gratitude he repeated the promise that God's presence would be with him; and then he made the solemn vow, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth upon Thee." Jacob was not here seeking to make terms with God. The Lord had already promised him prosperity, and this vow was the outflow of a heart filled with gratitude for the assurance of God's love and mercy. Jacob felt that God had claims upon him which he must acknowledge, and that the special tokens of divine favour granted him demanded a return. So does every blessing bestowed upon us call for a response to the Author of all our mercies. The Christian should often review his past life and recall with gratitude the pre-

cious deliverances that God has wrought for him, supporting him in trial, opening ways before him when all seemed dark and forbidding, refreshing him when ready to faint. He should recognise all of them as evidences of the watch care of heavenly angels. In view of these innumerable blessings he should often ask, with subdued and grateful heart, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" (Psalm 116:12). Our time, our talents, our property, should be sacredly devoted to Him who has given us these blessings in trust. Whenever a special deliverance is wrought in our behalf, or new and unexpected favours are granted us, we should acknowledge God's goodness, not only by expressing our gratitude in words, but, like Jacob, by gifts and offerings to His cause. As we are continually receiving the blessings of God, so we are to be continually giving.' *Conflict and Courage*, page 65.

'Pour you out a blessing'

5. Did Jesus abolish tithing? Matthew 23:23.

NOTE: "'Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithing of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.'" In these words Christ again condemns the abuse of sacred obligation. The obligation itself He does not set aside. The tithing system was ordained by God, and it had been observed from the earliest times. Abraham, the father of the faithful, paid tithes of all that he possessed. The Jewish rulers recognised the obligation of tithing, and this was right; but they did not leave the people to carry out their own convictions of duty. Arbitrary rules were laid down for every case.' *Desire of Ages*, page 616.

6. What blessing is promised to those who do not rob God in their tithes and offerings? Malachi 3:8-10.

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

'Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. "I do nothing of Myself," said Christ; "the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father." "I seek not Mine own glory," but the glory of Him that sent Me. In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life.' *Desire of Ages*, page 21.

with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." God's children are to show their love for Him by meeting His requirements, by giving themselves to Him. Then only can He use them in His service, that others, through them, may discern the truth and rejoice in it. But the people of God are asleep to their present and eternal good. The Lord says to them, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." He desires them to go to work in unity, in faith, and love.' *To Be Like Jesus*, page 237.

2. In sending Jesus to us, which qualities of divine character were lived and revealed in the world? Psalm 23:6.

NOTE: 'Do you understand the plan of salvation? Your righteousness cannot recommend you to God. I do not think that you are yet adopted into His family. Our sins caused Jesus to die a shameful death, that through His sufferings and death we might receive pardon. Can we receive the forgiveness of sins before we feel that we are sinners? And before we realise the sinfulness of sin? I think not. When we repent before God of our sins sincerely, we shall feel that without the pardoning blood of Christ we must perish. If we cast ourselves in our wretchedness wholly upon the mercy of Christ, and feel that unless He saves us we perish; when we yield our own will, our own way, and plead for Jesus to control our will and actions, then we come into a position where we can receive and appreciate pardon and the forgiveness of sin.' *An Appeal to the Youth*, page 67.

'The summer is ended'

3. Will the mercy of God continue forever? Jeremiah 8:20.

NOTE: 'Let church members bear in mind that the fact that their names are registered on the church books will not save them. They must show themselves approved of God, workmen that need not be ashamed. Day by day they are to build their characters in accordance with Christ's directions. They are to abide in Him, constantly exercising faith in Him. Thus they will grow up to the full stature of men and women in Christ, wholesome, cheerful, grateful Christians, led by God into clearer and still clearer light. If this is not their experience, they will be among those whose voices will one day be raised in the bitter lamentation: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and my soul is not saved!"' *Counsels for the Church*, page 67.

4. How does God try to arouse His church to action to give the last message of warning and mercy to the world He loves so much? Romans 13:11-14. Compare Matthew 25:1-13.

NOTE: 'The day is nearing its close. The period of mercy and privilege is well-nigh ended. The clouds of vengeance are gathering. The rejecters of God's grace are about to be involved in swift and ir retrievable ruin. Yet the world is asleep. The people know not the time of their visitation. In this crisis, where is the church to be found? Are its members meeting the claims of God? Are they fulfilling His commission, and representing His character to the world? Are they urging upon the attention of their fellow men the last merciful message of warning? Men are in peril. Multitudes are perishing. But how few of the professed followers of Christ are burdened for these souls! The destiny

Lesson 11: December 4-10 'And he cried mightily with a strong voice'

MEMORY VERSE: 'And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.' Revelation 18:4.

LESSON AIM: To show that God has done all He can for our world, and His mercy will not plead forever. Our duty is to give the last great urgent call to a world of people about to die in the great final retribution.

Introduction

'Now brethren, I am thoroughly disgusted and indignant for my Saviour, that those who profess to be Christians are babies. They are indignant if anyone does anything that does not suit them. And if anyone crosses their path, they are discouraged and want to give up. Well, let them give up if they cannot do what is right. They must be hewed and fitted for the heavenly building. Now there is too much self. We want self to die and be hid in Christ Jesus, then we will not talk of discouragement and difficulties and all these small things, but we will talk of the great plan of redemption and the matchless power of Jesus Christ to come to our world and take upon Him human nature that we through Him might be elevated and have a seat at His right hand. What could be more pleasant than that? If this is not enough, what more could heaven do for the fallen race than has been done? "What more," says Christ, "could I do for My sheep than that I have done?" What more? Will He have to let us go? He will unless you change your attitude before God, for He has done all He could to save us. According to the light that we have received, so is our accountability before God. Walk in the light as He is in the light.' *Sermons and Talks volume 1*, page 58.

'What more could the Lord do for man than that which He has done? And shall we not render unto Him all that we have and are, practising self-sacrifice, and self-denial? If we are the disciples of Christ, it will be made manifest to the world through our love for those for whom He died.' *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 210.

'Let thy mercy, O Lord be upon us'

1. How much does our Father in heaven love our small world? John 3:16.

NOTE: 'When [God] gave Jesus to our world, He included all heaven in that one gift. He did not leave us to retain our defects and deformities of character, or to serve Him as best we could in the corruption of our sinful nature. He has made provision that we may be complete in His Son, not having our own righteousness, but the righteousness of Christ. In Christ the whole storehouse of knowledge and of grace is at our command; for in Him dwells "all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Christ has given His life for us; we are His property. "Know ye not," He says, "that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought

'That we should be able to offer so willingly'

7. In reviewing the gifts given for the building of Solomon's temple, how did David with spiritual accuracy place this generosity at the feet of God? 1 Chronicles 29:2-14. Especially consider verse 14.

NOTE: 'Can Christians, who boast of a broader light than had the Hebrews, give less than they? Can Christians living near the close of time be satisfied with their offerings when not half so large as were those of the Jews? Their liberality was to benefit their own nation; the work in these last days extends to the entire world. The message of truth is to go to all nations, tongues, and people; its publications, printed in many different languages, are to be scattered abroad like the leaves of autumn. It is written: "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind." And again: "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." Let us inquire: What would our Saviour have done in our circumstances? What would have been His efforts for the salvation of souls? This question is answered by the example of Christ. He left His royalty, laid aside His glory, sacrificed His riches, and clothed His divinity with humanity, that He might reach men where they were. His example shows that He laid down His life for sinners.' *Testimonies for the Church, volume 4*, page 79.

8. Centuries earlier, how much had the delivered slaves given of their personal treasures for the building of the Sanctuary? Exodus 36:2-7.

NOTE: 'While the building of the sanctuary was in progress the people, old and young, men, women, and children, continued to bring their offerings, until those in charge of the work found that they had enough, and even more than could be used. And Moses caused to be proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing." The murmurings of the Israelites and the visitations of God's judgments because of their sins are recorded as a warning to after-generations. And their devotion, their zeal and liberality, are an example worthy of imitation.' *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 344.

'As many as were of a free heart'

9. Considering how much God has done for us how does the example of ancient Israel have meaning for us today, as review how much we bring back to the Lord? 2 Chronicles 29:29-31.

NOTE: 'It is God who blesses men with property, and He does this that they may be able to give toward the advancement of His cause. He sends the sunshine and the rain. He causes vegetation to flourish. He gives health and the ability to acquire means. All our blessings come from His bountiful hand. In turn, He would have men and women show their gratitude by returning Him a portion in tithes and offerings, in thank offerings, in freewill offerings, in trespass offerings. Should means flow into the treasury in accordance with this divinely appointed plan, a tenth of all the increase, and liberal offerings, there would be an abundance for the advancement of the Lord's work.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 75.

10. How is this same spirit of wholeheartedness to God shown in the account of the widow's mite? Luke 21:1-4.

NOTE: 'Jesus said of the poor widow, she "hath cast in more than they all." The rich had bestowed from their abundance, many of them to be seen and honoured by men. Their large donations had deprived them of no comfort, or even luxury; they had required no sacrifice, and could not be compared in value with the widow's mite.' *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 175.

'As though He needeth anything'

11. Does God need our gifts? Acts 17:25.

NOTE: 'On birthday occasions the children should be taught that they have reason for gratitude to God for His lovingkindness in preserving their lives for another year. Precious lessons might thus be given. For life, health, food, and clothing, no less than for the hope of eternal life, we are indebted to the Giver of all mercies; and it is due to God to recognise His gifts and to present our offerings of gratitude to our greatest benefactor. These birthday gifts are recognised of Heaven.' *The Adventist Home*, page 473.

12. Which commandment shows our duty to turn from covetousness (selfishly holding on to our belongings) and to return to God in love and appreciation what He requires of us? Exodus 20:17.

NOTE: 'Malachi has specified that the condition of prosperity depends upon bringing to God's treasury that which is His own. This principle needs to be often brought before the men who are lax in their duty to God, and who are neglectful and careless in bringing in their tithes, gifts, and offerings to God. "Will a man rob God?" "Wherein have we robbed Thee?" is the question asked by the unfaithful stewards. The answer comes plain and positive: "In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Please read this whole chapter, and see if words could be spoken that would be more plain and positive than these. They are so positive that no one who desires to understand his whole duty to God needs to make any mistake in the matter. If men offer any excuse as to why they do not perform this duty, it is because they are selfish, and have not the love and fear of God in their hearts.' *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 305.

LESSON INSIGHT: As well as the Tenth, which God's people have always returned to the Lord in gratitude for His great love towards them, we could consider special offerings for times of forgiveness, thanks, special preservation, unexpected bounties, birthdays, another year of life, gifts for the poor, gifts for His work, and mark these to be used for special purposes.

11. After hearing of the crossing of the Red Sea how did Jethro view the worthiness of the Lord? Exodus 18:9-11; 1 Chronicles 16:25-26.

NOTE: 'The Lord desires us to make mention of His goodness and tell of His power. He is honoured by the expression of praise and thanksgiving. He says, "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me." Psalm 50:23. The people of Israel, as they journeyed through the wilderness, praised God in sacred song. The commandments and promises of the Lord were set to music, and all along the journey these were sung by the pilgrim travellers. And in Canaan, as they met at their sacred feasts, God's wonderful works were to be recounted, and grateful thanksgiving was to be offered to His name. God desired that the whole life of His people should be a life of praise. Thus His way was to be made "known upon earth," His "saving health among all nations." Psalm 67:2. So it should be now. The people of the world are worshiping false gods. They are to be turned from their false worship, not by hearing denunciation of their idols, but by beholding something better. God's goodness is to be made known. "Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God." Isaiah 43:12. The Lord desires us to appreciate the great plan of redemption, to realise our high privilege as the children of God, and to walk before Him in obedience, with grateful thanksgiving. He desires us to serve Him in newness of life, with gladness every day. He longs to see gratitude welling up in our hearts because our names are written in the Lamb's book of life, because we may cast all our care upon Him who cares for us. He bids us rejoice because we are the heritage of the Lord, because the righteousness of Christ is the white robe of His saints, because we have the blessed hope of the soon coming of our Saviour.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 298.

12. What evidence has God given of His love to the inhabitants of our world? John 3:16; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 2:14-15.

NOTE: 'We may have a vision of the future, the blessedness of heaven. In the Bible are revealed visions of the future glory, scenes pictured by the hand of God, and these are dear to His church. By faith we may stand on the threshold of the eternal city, and hear the gracious welcome given to those who in this life co-operate with Christ, regarding it as an honour to suffer for His sake. As the words are spoken, "Come, ye blessed of My Father," they cast their crowns at the feet of the Redeemer, exclaiming, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. ... Honour and glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.'" *Acts of the Apostles*, page 601.

LESSON INSIGHT: One day we shall bow down before Him and cast our crowns at His feet, but even now while we are living here, we can give Him the worship of our hearts, the music of our souls, and speak His name before others. And more than this we can give Him our service from a heart filled with love and gratitude.

the spirit of the song, to give it right expression.' *Christian Education*, page 62.

'The church of God below is one with the church of God above. Believers on the earth and the beings in heaven who have never fallen constitute one church. Every heavenly intelligence is interested in the assemblies of the saints who on earth meet to worship God. In the inner court of heaven they listen to the testimony of the witnesses for Christ in the outer court on earth, and the praise and thanksgiving from the worshipers below is taken up in the heavenly anthem, and praise and rejoicing sound through the heavenly courts because Christ has not died in vain for the fallen sons of Adam. While angels drink from the fountainhead, the saints on earth drink of the pure streams flowing from the throne, the streams that make glad the city of our God. Oh, that we could all realise the nearness of heaven to earth!' *Counsels for the Church*, page 240.

'With their lips do honour Me'

9. How does God describe the hypocritical worship that He abhors? Isaiah 29:13; Ezekiel 33:31. Consider Revelation 11:1.

NOTE: 'Here is the work going on, measuring the temple and its worshipers to see who will stand in the last day. Those who stand fast shall have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. When we are doing our work, remember there is One that is watching the spirit in which we are doing it.' *S.D.A. Bible Commentary, volume 7*, page 972.

10. Whose lives are examples of appearing to worship God but not with an honest heart? Zephaniah 1:4-6; Genesis 4:2-5; Acts 5:1-11.

NOTE: 'Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists, the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions, is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia. No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that God's law is no longer binding upon men. The Bible is within the reach of all, but there are few who really accept it as the guide of life. Infidelity prevails to an alarming extent, not in the world merely, but in the church. Many have come to deny doctrines which are the very pillars of the Christian faith. The great facts of creation as presented by the inspired writers, the fall of man, the atonement, and the perpetuity of the law of God, are practically rejected, either wholly or in part, by a large share of the professedly Christian world. Thousands who pride themselves upon their wisdom and independence regard it as an evidence of weakness to place implicit confidence in the Bible; they think it a proof of superior talent and learning to cavil at the Scriptures and to spiritualise and explain away their most important truths.' *Conflict and Courage*, page 210.

'Come out of her, My people'

Lesson 5: October 23-29

'We cannot but speak'

MEMORY VERSE: 'And Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have heard and seen.' Acts 4:19-20.

LESSON AIM: To show that our duty is to uphold our Saviour in both speech and action and that our first consideration in love for Him is to obey God rather than men, who might seek to hinder the work of God.

Introduction

'In the history of prophets and apostles are many noble examples of loyalty to God. Christ's witnesses have endured imprisonment, torture, and death itself, rather than break God's commands. The record left by Peter and John is as heroic as any in the gospel dispensation. As they stood for the second time before the men who seemed bent on their destruction, no fear or hesitation could be discerned in their words or attitude. And when the high priest said, "Did we not straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood upon us," Peter answered, "We ought to obey God rather than men." It was an angel from heaven who delivered them from prison and bade them teach in the temple. In following his directions they were obeying the divine command, and this they must continue to do at whatever cost to themselves.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 81.

'Show Me the tribute money'

1. What deceitful question did the Pharisees and the Herodians ask the Master about the payment of the tax? Matthew 22:15-17.

NOTE: 'Hoping to entrap Him in His words, the chief priests and rulers sent the most malicious enemies of Jesus to Him, who pretended to be interested in His teachings and desiring to be profited by His divine wisdom. They expected Jesus would be deceived by their pious pretensions, thrown off His guard and led to speak that which they could take advantage of to condemn Him. They were mortified and angry that they had been compelled to endure the penetrating address of Jesus, laying bare their true condition and condemning their wickedness, yet were utterly unable to refute His words. They privately arranged with the Herodians to accompany them and hear the words of Jesus, that they might be witnesses against Him when He should be arraigned on trial for His life. The Pharisees had ever fretted and chafed under the exaction of taxes or tribute by the Romans. They took the position that it was contrary to the law of God. They now laid a snare by which they thought Jesus would surely become entangled and offend either the Jewish laws or the Roman authority. The spies came to Him in a most courteous manner and expressed great confidence in His teachings. After plying Him with flattery as to His straightforward course, irrespective of the favour or frowns of men, they, with an assumed candour, asked as if for information, "Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?"' *Spiritual Gifts, volume 3*, pages 41-42.

2. In what practical lesson did Christ teach how we decide whom we should obey? Matthew 22:18-22.

NOTE: 'Jesus read their motives and, holding in His hand the Roman coin, upon which was stamped the name and image of Caesar, declared that, as they were living under the protection of the Roman power, they should render to that power the support it claimed, so long as it did not conflict with their duty to God. But that they should at all times render obedience to God, answering His claims, yet peaceably subject to the laws of the land. His interrogators, unprepared for this response of Jesus, "marvelled and left Him, and went their way." Although the wrath of the priests and rulers knew no bounds, and they longed to seize Jesus and slay Him with their own hands to avenge themselves for the mortification He had caused them, yet they dared not attack Him before the crowd. With a masterly effort they maintained a fair exterior while they went about laying plans to destroy Him.' *Spiritual Gifts, volume 3, page 43.*

'We cannot but speak'

3. In whose name had Peter and John healed the man lame from his birth, who daily sat at the Gate Beautiful asking alms? Acts 3:6.

NOTE: 'The poor man's countenance had fallen when Peter declared his own poverty, but grew bright with hope and faith as the disciple continued. "And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God. And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him." The Jews were astonished that the disciples could perform miracles similar to those of Jesus. He, they supposed, was dead, and they had expected all such wonderful manifestations to cease with Him. Yet here was this man who had been a helpless cripple for forty years, now rejoicing in the full use of his limbs, free from pain, and happy in believing upon Jesus. The apostles saw the amazement of the people, and questioned them why they should be astonished at the miracle which they had witnessed, and regard them with awe as though it were through their own power they had done this thing. Peter assured them it was done through the merits of Jesus of Nazareth, whom they had rejected and crucified, but whom God had raised from the dead the third day.' *The Spirit of Prophecy, volume 3, page 276.*

4. What clear and decided response did the Apostles give to the infuriated rulers of the Temple? Acts 4:18-21.

NOTE 'But notwithstanding their desire to destroy the disciples, the priests dared not do more than threaten them with the severest punishment if they continued to speak or to work in the name of Jesus. Calling them again before the Sanhedrin, they commanded them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered: "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Gladly would the priests have punished these men for their unswerving fidelity to their sacred calling, but they feared the people; "for all men glorified God for that which was done." So, with repeated

thy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again, a triumphant conqueror.' *Acts of the Apostles, page 601.*

'Holy, holy, holy'

5. Which other created beings worship the Creator? Isaiah 6:1-3.

NOTE: 'Why are the chosen of God, His elect people, so silent upon the wondrous theme of redeeming love? Why is man's gratitude so little toward Him who has given His life to save the lost race from eternal ruin? Heaven views the plan of salvation with amazement, and cherubim and seraphim continually cry, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory." Why should not man arouse, and manifest enthusiasm concerning the wonderful condescension of God to a fallen race? Oh, may our sluggish energies be quickened, that we may reveal to a perishing world the matchless depths of a Saviour's love.' *Bible Echo, February 26, 1894.*

6. Who will worship our Saviour and Redeemer at the heralding of the marriage supper of the Lamb? Revelation 19:5-8.

NOTE: 'So the followers of Christ are to shed light into the darkness of the world. Through the Holy Spirit, God's word is a light as it becomes a transforming power in the life of the receiver. By implanting in their hearts the principles of His word, the Holy Spirit develops in men the attributes of God. The light of His glory, His character, is to shine forth in His followers. Thus they are to glorify God, to lighten the path to the Bridegroom's home, to the city of God, to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' *Christ's Object Lessons, page 414.*

'Bring an offering and come before Him'

7. What can we give back to God to show our gratitude for His great love to us? 1 Chronicles 16:29; Exodus 25:2. Consider Nehemiah 10:35.

NOTE: 'It is God who blesses men with property, and He does this that they may be able to give toward the advancement of His cause. He sends the sunshine and the rain. He causes vegetation to flourish. He gives health and the ability to acquire means. All our blessings come from His bountiful hand. In turn, He would have men and women show their gratitude by returning Him a portion in tithes and offerings, in thank offerings, in freewill offerings, in trespass offerings. Should means flow into the treasury in accordance with this divinely appointed plan, a tenth of all the increase, and liberal offerings, there would be an abundance for the advancement of the Lord's work.' *Acts of the Apostles, page 75.*

8. In what further ways can we fulfil our obligation to God for His great love towards sinners? Psalm 13:6; Psalm 105:1; Psalm 35:28; Psalm 51:13.

NOTE: 'Music forms a part of God's worship in the courts above, and we should endeavour, in our songs of praise, to approach as nearly as possible to the harmony of the heavenly choirs. The proper training of the voice is an important feature in education, and should not be neglected. Singing, as a part of religious service, is as much an act of worship as is prayer. The heart must feel

‘The glory due to His name’

1. What commands to worship are found in Old Testament? Psalm 29:2; Psalm 95:6-7.

NOTE: ‘The children of Israel were to occupy all the territory which God appointed them. Those nations that rejected the worship and service of the true God were to be dispossessed. But it was God’s purpose that by the revelation of His character through Israel men should be drawn unto Him. To all the world the gospel invitation was to be given. Through the teaching of the sacrificial service Christ was to be uplifted before the nations, and all who would look unto Him should live. All who, like Rahab the Canaanite, and Ruth the Moabitess, turned from idolatry to the worship of the true God, were to unite themselves with His chosen people. As the numbers of Israel increased they were to enlarge their borders, until their kingdom should embrace the world.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 290.

2. How is the call to worship repeated in the New Testament? Revelation 14:6-7.

NOTE: ‘Christians are to keep themselves distinct and separate from the world, its spirit, and its influences. God is fully able to keep us in the world, but we are not to be of the world. His love is not uncertain and fluctuating. Ever He watches over His children with a care that is measureless. But He requires undivided allegiance. “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:24.’ *Prophets & Kings*, page 59.

‘Thou art worthy’

3. For what is the Lord worthy to be worshipped? Revelation 4:11.

NOTE: ‘The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power. “All the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens” (Psalm 96:5). “To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things.” “Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it: ... I am the Lord; and there is none else” (Isaiah 40:25, 26; 45:18).’ *Lift Him Up*, page 51.

4. For what other reason does the Bible show us that the Lord is worthy of worship? Revelation 5:6-10.

NOTE: “Blessing and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.” Revelation 5:13. There the redeemed greet those who led them to the Saviour, and all unite in praising Him who died that human beings might have the life that measures with the life of God. The conflict is over. Tribulation and strife are at an end. Songs of victory fill all heaven as the ransomed ones take up the joyful strain, Worthy, wor-

threats and injunctions, the apostles were set at liberty.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, pages 66-67.

‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God’

5. In the Sermon on the Mount what counsel did Jesus give to those who would follow Him? Matthew 6:33, first part.

NOTE: ‘We are Christ’s witnesses, and we are not to allow worldly interests so to absorb our time and attention that we pay no heed to the things that God has said must come first. There are higher interests at stake. “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.” Christ gave His all to the work that He came to do, and His word to us is, “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” “So shall ye be My disciples.” Willingly and cheerfully Christ gave Himself to the carrying out of the will of God. He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Shall we feel it a hardship to deny ourselves? Shall we draw back from being partakers of His sufferings? His death ought to stir every fibre of the being, making us willing to consecrate to His work all that we have and are. As we think of what He has done for us, our hearts should be filled with love.’ *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 302.

6. In carrying out our duty to the Saviour to bring others to Him, what reassuring promise is given concerning our material needs? Matthew 6:33, last part.

NOTE: ‘In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan, those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell. It will finally be decreed that they shall be put to death. See Revelation 13:11-17. But to the obedient is given the promise, “He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.” Isaiah 33:16. By this promise the children of God will live. When the earth shall be wasted with famine, they shall be fed. “They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.” Psalm 37:19.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 122.

‘The powers that be are ordained of God’

7. To whom should we render obedience? Romans 13:1.

NOTE: ‘We are to recognise human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God’s Word must be recognised as above all human legislation. A “Thus saith the Lord” is not to be set aside for a “Thus saith the church” or a “Thus saith the state.” The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates.’ *The Faith I live By*, page 240.

8. How are we to conduct ourselves if when rendering unto God the things that are God’s, we are brought into conflict with earthly governments? Daniel 3:16-18.

NOTE: ‘These three Hebrews possessed genuine sanctification. True Christian principle will not stop to weigh consequences. It does not ask, What will people think of me if I do this? or How will it affect my worldly prospects if I do that? With the most intense longing the children of God desire to know what He would have them do, that their works may glorify Him. The Lord has made ample provision that the hearts and lives of all His followers may be controlled by divine grace, that they may be as burning and shining lights in the world.’ *My Life Today*, page 256.

‘Here on the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few. All were perfectly satisfied with their crowns. And they were all clothed with a glorious white mantle from their shoulders to their feet. Angels were all about us as we marched over the sea of glass to the gate of the city. Jesus raised His mighty, glorious arm, laid hold of the pearly gate, swung it back on its glittering hinges, and said to us, “You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth, enter in.”’ *Counsels for the Church*, page 34.

‘Give glory to God’

9. In which prophecy do we find three final personal appeals concerning our responsibility to God? Revelation 14:7.

NOTE: ‘Who among the many thousands that crowded to the camp and great tent meetings about this time, at East Kingston, Littleton, Taunton, Salem, etc., does not distinctly remember the crowded steamboats, the overflowing cars, the jammed stage coaches, and almost all kinds of travelling vehicles, filled with men, women and children; besides foot passengers crossing and re-crossing from every cross road, and almost every by-path, pressing into the great thoroughfares, all making their way to or from the Second Advent campground; many of them probably to gratify their vain curiosity, while thousands of others were filled with anxiety to learn the truth of this (said to be) new doctrine, by listening to these flying messengers of God, who were “saying with a loud voice, fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgement is come,” in other words, “the end of all things is at hand.” We believe that Christ will come in 1843. It was also called the “midnight cry.” And who does not also remember the thousands of happy converts to this glorious doctrine, who began immediately to purify themselves (as said the angel Gabriel) by breaking off from all their sins and turning to God.’ Joseph Bates: *Second Advent Waymarks and High Heaps*, pages 53-54. [For the origin of the title of this book of reminders and remembrances, compare Jeremiah 31:21]

10. With what voice are the words spoken exhorting the world to give glory to God above all worldly political correctness? Revelation 14:7.

NOTE: ‘As an indication of the approach of the end, there was, however, to be seen another angel flying through the midst of heaven, “having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.” Revelation 14:6. The burden of this angel was to be the same gospel which had been before proclaimed; but connected with it was the additional motive of the proximity of the kingdom, “saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His Judgement is

Lesson 10: November 27-December 3 ‘Worship Him that made heaven and earth’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.’ Revelation 14:6-7.

LESSON AIM: To teach that, as created beings, part of our duty is to worship and serve God our Creator, for He made us and we belong to Him. All blessings, mercy, love, compassion, our daily food and deliverance, come from His hand and, as the Governor of the heaven and earth, He is worthy to receive our homage.

COMPILERS NOTE: In order better to understand the concept of the word ‘worship’ it is useful to note that the words ‘worship’ and ‘worth’ both come from the Old English root *weorth* meaning worth. Worship is our response in recognising the worth of God and what He has done for us. We may indeed show this in the songs that swell in our hearts, but that is not its deepest meaning. If we know our God to be worthy of worship, it will involve our deep love, our service, our devotion, our loyalty, our allegiance, our trust and our obedience. And then our gratitude may break through into song.

Introduction

‘By the first angel, men are called upon to “fear God, and give glory to Him,” and to worship Him as the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In order to do this, they must obey His law. Says the wise man, “Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13. Without obedience to His commandments, no worship can be pleasing to God. “This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.” “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.” The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator, and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power. “All the gods of the nations are idols; but the Lord made the heavens.” “To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things.” “Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; . . . I am Jehovah; and there is none else.” Says the psalmist, “Know ye that Jehovah, He is God; it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves.” “O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.” And the holy beings who worship God in heaven state, as the reason why their homage is due to Him, “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for Thou hast created all things.” *Great Controversy*, page 436.

ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.” This advice was followed, and by prayer and the laying on of hands, seven chosen men were solemnly set apart for their duties as deacons.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 89.

12. Considering he was a deacon appointed to assist the widows in Jerusalem and not an evangelist or apostle, how immediate was Philip’s response, and how much was he in tune with the Holy Spirit when shown a particular chariot on a desert road? Acts 8:27-30.

NOTE: ‘There is a world to be warned. To us has been entrusted this work. At any cost we must practise the truth. We are to stand as self-sacrificing minute-men, willing to suffer the loss of life itself, if need be, in the service of God. There is a great work to be done in a short time. We need to understand our work, and to do it with fidelity. Everyone who is finally crowned victor will, by noble, determined effort to serve God, have earned the right to be clothed with Christ’s righteousness. To enter the crusade against Satan, bearing aloft the bloodstained banner of the cross of Christ, this is the duty of every Christian.’ *Christian Service*, page 43.

13. There are many ways of carrying out the duties of the Gospel, but who directs the universal work? 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

NOTE: ‘The talents that Christ entrusts to His church represent especially the gifts and blessings imparted by the Holy Spirit. “To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.” 1 Corinthians 12:8-11. All men do not receive the same gifts, but to every servant of the Master some gift of the Spirit is promised. Before He left His disciples, Christ “breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.” John 20:22. Again He said, “Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you.” Luke 24:49. But not until after the ascension was the gift received in its fullness. Not until through faith and prayer the disciples had surrendered themselves fully for His working was the outpouring of the Spirit received. Then in a special sense the goods of heaven were committed to the followers of Christ.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons* page 327.

LESSON INSIGHT: Christ is the Head of the church on earth, which is His body, but the lifeblood that flows through all is the Holy Spirit, who directs the work of building up the Kingdom of God, and gives the talents for the work as He sees they are needed. Our duty is to make ourselves available for the work; then the Holy Spirit will set us our task and provide the tools we need to accomplish it.

come; and worship Him that made heaven and earth, and the seas, and the fountains of waters.” Verse 7. No mere preaching of the gospel, without announcing its proximity, could fulfil this message.’ J. N. Andrews: *The Three Messages of Revelation 14:6-12*, pages 27-28.

‘There be higher than they’

11. To help us fulfil our Christian duty what principle in our relationship to God should override all other reasoning? Ecclesiastes 5:8, last part.

NOTE: ‘The Sabbath question is to be the issue in the great final conflict in which all the world will act a part. Men have honoured Satan’s principles above the principles that rule in the heavens. They have accepted the spurious sabbath, which Satan has exalted as the sign of his authority. But God has set His seal upon His royal requirement. Each Sabbath institution bears the name of its author, an ineffaceable mark that shows the authority of each. It is our work to lead the people to understand this. We are to show them that it is of vital consequence whether they bear the mark of God’s kingdom or the mark of the kingdom of rebellion, for they acknowledge themselves subjects of the kingdom whose mark they bear. God has called us to uplift the standard of His downtrodden Sabbath.’ *Counsels for the Church*, page 334.

12. How does God describe His own position of rulership? Psalm 103:19.

NOTE: “Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face:” now we know in part; but then shall we know even as also we are known. 1 Corinthians 13:12. “They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.” Revelation 22:4. There, when the veil that darkens our vision shall be removed, and our eyes shall behold that world of beauty of which we now catch glimpses through the microscope; when we look on the glories of the heavens, now scanned afar through the telescope; when, the blight of sin removed, the whole earth shall appear in “the beauty of the Lord our God,” what a field will be open to our study! There the student of science may read the records of creation and discern no reminders of the law of evil. He may listen to the music of nature’s voices and detect no note of wailing or undertone of sorrow. In all created things he may trace one handwriting, in the vast universe behold “God’s name writ large,” and not in earth or sea or sky one sign of ill remaining.’ *Education*, page 303.

LESSON INSIGHT: The conflict will always be whether we obey men or whether we will obey God. And as time passes the conflict will become greater. In doing our Christian duty Christ taught that we are to obey the powers that be, but where this conflicts with our conscience we are step out and obey God only, loving Him above anything else.

**Lesson 6: October 30-November 5
‘I delight to do Thy will’**

MEMORY VERSE: Bless ye the Lord, all ye His hosts; ye ministers of His, that do His pleasure.” Psalm 103:21.

LESSON AIM: To teach that our duty comprises those actions that bring pleasure to God, and in so doing we will be in accord with the principles of heaven.

Introduction

‘There is need of constant watchfulness and of earnest, loving devotion, but these will come naturally when the soul is kept by the power of God through faith. We can do nothing, absolutely nothing, to commend ourselves to divine favour. We must not trust at all to ourselves or to our good works; but when as erring, sinful beings we come to Christ, we may find rest in His love. God will accept every one that comes to Him trusting wholly in the merits of a crucified Saviour. Love springs up in the heart. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there is an abiding, peaceful trust. Every burden is light; for the yoke which Christ imposes is easy. Duty becomes a delight, and sacrifice a pleasure. The path that before seemed shrouded in darkness becomes bright with beams from the Sun of Righteousness. This is walking in the light as Christ is in the light.’ *Counsels for the Church*, page 49.

‘Take My yoke upon you’

1. How did Jesus describe our yoke of duty? Matthew 11:29-30.

NOTE: ‘Many shrink from such a life as our Saviour lived. They feel that it requires too great a sacrifice to imitate the Pattern, to bring forth fruit in good works, and then patiently endure the pruning of God that they may bring forth more fruit. But when the Christian regards himself as only a humble instrument in the hands of Christ, and endeavours to faithfully perform every duty, relying upon the help which God has promised, then he will wear the yoke of Christ and find it easy; then he will bear burdens for Christ, and pronounce them light. He can look up with courage and with confidence, and say, “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him.”’ *Review and Herald*, April 26, 1881.

2. Who bears the yoke with us? Consider again Matthew 11:29-30.

NOTE: ‘It is not only the privilege but the duty of every Christian to maintain a close union with Christ, and to have a rich experience in the things of God. Then his life will be fruitful in good works. Said Christ, “Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.” In his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul endeavours to set before his brethren the “mystery of the gospel,” the “unsearchable riches of Christ,” and then assures them of his earnest prayers for their spiritual prosperity.’ *Review and Herald*, April 26, 1881.

‘The fact that human beings can please God is a wonderful incentive for us to make the most persevering, intense efforts, efforts which are proportionate to the value of the object that we are seeking to gain. “We are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.” . . . Enoch walked with God. He was not satisfied with his own companionship. He walked with God. He pleased God. The Lord is not pleased when those whom He has created are sinners. We are ever to walk with God and learn of Jesus Christ, who has overcome every temptation wherewith we are beset. He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. The Lord draws people close to His side, to walk with them, to work with them, to teach them how He overcame every

9. Paul thought he was going to meet a man of Macedonia, but whom did he meet first? Acts 16:13-14.

NOTE: ‘God’s Spirit can only enlighten the understanding of those who are willing to be enlightened. We read that God opened the ears of Lydia, so that she attended to the message spoken by Paul. To declare the whole counsel of God and all that was essential for Lydia to receive, this was the part Paul was to act in her conversion; and then the God of all grace exercised His power, leading the soul in the right way. God and the human agent co-operated, and the work was wholly successful.’ *Reflecting Christ*, page 343.

10. Who turned out to be man of Macedonia who needed to hear the Gospel? Acts 16:27-33.

NOTE: ‘The keeper of the jail had heard with amazement the prayers and songs of the imprisoned apostles. When they were led in, he had seen their swollen and bleeding wounds, and had himself caused their feet to be fastened in the stocks. He had expected to hear from them bitter groans and imprecations, but he heard instead songs of joy and praise. With these sounds in his ears the jailer had fallen into a sleep from which he was awakened by the earthquake and the shaking of the prison walls. Starting up in alarm, he saw with dismay that all the prison doors were open, and the fear flashed upon him that the prisoners had escaped. He remembered with what explicit charge Paul and Silas had been entrusted to his care the night before, and he was certain that death would be the penalty of his apparent unfaithfulness. In the bitterness of his spirit he felt that it was better for him to die by his own hand than to submit to a disgraceful execution. Drawing his sword, he was about to kill himself, when Paul’s voice was heard in the words of cheer, “Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.” Every man was in his place, restrained by the power of God exerted through one fellow prisoner. The severity with which the jailer had treated the apostles had not aroused their resentment. Paul and Silas had the spirit of Christ, not the spirit of revenge. Their hearts, filled with the love of the Saviour, had no room for malice against their persecutors. The jailer dropped his sword and, calling for lights, hastened into the inner dungeon. He would see what manner of men these were who repaid with kindness the cruelty with which they had been treated. Reaching the place where the apostles were, and casting himself before them, he asked their forgiveness. Then, bringing them out into the open court, he inquired, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 216.

‘That good and acceptable and perfect will of God’

11. Who else was directed by the Holy Spirit to go to a specific location? Acts 8:26.

NOTE: ‘Summoning a meeting of the believers, the apostles were led by the Holy Spirit to outline a plan for the better organisation of all the working forces of the church. The time had come, the apostles stated, when the spiritual leaders having the oversight of the church should be relieved from the task of distributing to the poor and from similar burdens, so that they might be free to carry forward the work of preaching the gospel. “Wherefore, brethren,” they said, “look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give

people: "Come unto Me, all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." The worker who responds to this invitation will have a correct estimate of his individual duty.' *Loma Linda Messages*, page 220.

'Forbidden of the Holy Spirit to preach'

5. Where did Paul want to go to preach the gospel? Acts 16:6.

NOTE: 'The time had come for the gospel to be proclaimed beyond the confines of Asia Minor. The way was preparing for Paul and his fellow workers to cross over into Europe.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 211.

6. Who had other plans for Paul, Silas, and Timothy, and Luke who was with them, when they tried to go into Bithynia? Acts 16:7.

NOTE: 'No truth is more clearly taught in the Bible than that God by His Holy Spirit especially directs His servants on earth in the great movements for the carrying forward of the work of salvation. Men are instruments in the hands of God, employed by Him to accomplish His purposes of grace and mercy. I am encouraged and blessed as I realise that the God of Israel is still guiding His people, and that He will continue to be with them, even to the end. If ever there was a time when we needed the special guidance of the Holy Spirit, it is now. We need a thorough consecration. It is fully time that we gave to the world a demonstration of the power of God in our own lives and in our ministry. The Lord desires to see the work of proclaiming the third angel's message carried forward with increasing efficiency. As He has worked in all ages to give victories to His people, so in this age He longs to carry to a triumphant fulfilment His purposes for His church. He bids His believing saints to advance unitedly, going from strength to greater strength, from faith to increased assurance and confidence in the truth and righteousness of His cause.' *God's Amazing Grace*, page 200.

'Be it unto me according to Thy word'

7. What did Paul see and hear in a vision of the night? Acts 16:9.

NOTE: 'At Troas, on the borders of the Mediterranean Sea, "a vision appeared to Paul in the night: There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us."' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 211.

8. By what rapid response to the direction of the Holy did Paul have delight His Saviour? Acts 16:10-12.

NOTE: 'The call was imperative, admitting of no delay. "After he had seen the vision," declares Luke, who accompanied Paul and Silas and Timothy on the journey across to Europe, "immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; and from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony."' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 211.

'Seek and save the lost'

temptation in humanity, and how, therefore, they may overcome through the provision the Lord has made. With every temptation there is a way of escape, by walking humbly with God.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 53.

'To the praise of His glory'

3. How did Paul commend those who determined in their heart to give to the work of God and carry out the intention with a full and loving heart? 2 Corinthians 9:7.

NOTE: "'Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.'" Do not draw back after once the Holy Spirit has awakened in your mind a sense of duty. Act on the suggestion, for it was prompted by the Lord. "If any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him." It means much to sow beside all waters; it means a continual imparting of gifts and offerings. God will furnish facilities, so that that faithful steward of His entrusted means shall be supplied with a sufficiency in all things, and be enabled to abound to every good work.' *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, page 423.

4. When confronted by duty, that is, those things that we owe to God, what attitude of Isaiah should be ours? Isaiah 6:8.

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

'Unto all pleasing'

5. As Ezra the priest described the duty, although unpleasant, that was being placed upon the people, what principle did he point them to? Ezra 10:10-11.

NOTE: 'He whose heart is aglow with the love of Christ will regard it as not only a duty, but a pleasure, to aid in the advancement of the highest, holiest work committed to man, the work of presenting to the world the riches of goodness, mercy, and truth.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 338.

'It is not the length of time we labour but our willingness and fidelity in the work that makes it acceptable to God. In all our service a full surrender of self is demanded. The smallest duty done in sincerity and self-forgetfulness is more pleasing to God than the greatest work when marred with self-seeking. He looks to see how much of the spirit of Christ we cherish, and how much of the likeness of Christ our work reveals. He regards more the love and faithfulness with which we work than the amount we do. Only when selfishness is dead, when strife for supremacy is banished, when gratitude fills the heart, and love makes fragrant the life, it is only then that Christ is abiding in the soul, and we are recognised as labourers together with God. However trying their labour, the

true workers do not regard it as drudgery. They are ready to spend and to be spent; but it is a cheerful work, done with a glad heart. Joy in God is expressed through Jesus Christ. Their joy is the joy set before Christ, "to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work." John 4:34. They are in co-operation with the Lord of glory. This thought sweetens all toil, it braces the will, it nerves the spirit for whatever may befall. Working with unselfish heart, ennobled by being partakers of Christ's sufferings, sharing His sympathies, and co-operating with Him in His labour, they help to swell the tide of His joy and bring honour and praise to His exalted name.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 405.

6. How can we assess if we are truly doing God's will? Colossians 1:10.

NOTE: 'Enoch walked with God and had the testimony that his ways "pleased God." This is the privilege of every believer today. It is the believer dwelling with God, and God taking up His abode with the believer. "I in them, and Thou in Me," says Jesus. To walk with God and have the witness that their ways please Him is an experience not to be confined to Enoch, to Elijah, to patriarchs, to prophets, to apostles, and to martyrs. It is not only the privilege but the duty of every follower of Christ to have Jesus enshrined in the heart, to carry Him with them in their lives, and they will indeed be fruit-bearing trees. How many who have been entrusted with talents of influence and means have lost sight of the Pattern, and follow the standard of the world instead of the example of Christ.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 50.

'That he pleased God'

7. What is the only way to serve God in a manner pleasing to Him? Hebrews 11:5-6.

NOTE: 'Let us go to the word of God for guidance. Let us seek for a "Thus saith the Lord." We have had enough of human methods. A mind trained only in worldly science fails to understand the things of God; but the same mind, converted and sanctified, will see the divine power in the word. Only the mind and heart cleansed by the sanctification of the Spirit can discern heavenly things. Brethren, in the name of the Lord I call upon you to awake to your duty. Let your hearts be yielded to the power of the Holy Spirit, and they will be made susceptible to the teaching of the word. Then you will be able to discern the deep things of God.' *Counsels for the Church*, page 327.

8. How can we know that what we are doing is pleasing to God? Philippians 2:13.

NOTE: 'You will be in constant peril until you understand the true force of the will. You may believe and promise all things, but your promises and your faith are of no account until you put your will on the right side. If you will fight the fight of faith with your will-power, there is no doubt that you will conquer. Your part is to put your will on the side of Christ. When you yield your will to His, He immediately takes possession of you, and works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. Your nature is brought under the control of His Spirit. Even your thoughts are subject to Him. If you cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, you can control the will, and thus an entire change will be wrought in your life. When you yield up your will to Christ,

heart shall live forever." Psalm 22:22-26. These scriptures are right to the point. Every church member should understand that God is the one to whom to look for an understanding of individual duty. It is right that brethren counsel together; but when men arrange just what their brethren shall do, let them answer that they have chosen the Lord as their counsellor. Those who will humbly seek Him will find His grace sufficient. But when one man allows another to step in between him and the duty that God has pointed out to him, giving to man his confidence and accepting him as guide, then he steps from the true platform to a false and dangerous one. Such a man, instead of growing and developing, will lose his spirituality.' *Testimonies*, volume 9, page 279.

2. Although Jesus had returned to heaven, who was promised to give power to the Gospel? Acts 1:8-9.

NOTE: "'With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.'" Acts 4:33. Under their labours were added to the church chosen men who, receiving the word of truth, consecrated their lives to the work of giving to others the hope that filled their hearts with peace and joy. They could not be restrained or intimidated by threatenings. The Lord spoke through them, and as they went from place to place, the poor had the gospel preached to them, and miracles of divine grace were wrought. So mightily can God work when men give themselves up to the control of His Spirit.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 49.

'Take My yoke upon you'

3. How many of the disciples did Jesus commission to give the Gospel message? Mark 16:14-15, 20. Compare John 17:20-21.

NOTE: 'Letters come to me from near and from far, asking for definite instruction in regard to individual duty. I gladly refer these inquirers to the words of Christ, spoken just before His ascension to heaven. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Before leaving them, the Saviour outlined to His disciples the work in which they were to engage. They did not yet fully comprehend the mission to which, as the followers of Christ, they had given themselves. "Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." As the Lord's missionaries, a great work was before the disciples.' *Special Testimonies, Series B, Number 10*, page 6.

4. What is our personal Gospel duty, the obligation that we owe to our Saviour for His great sacrifice for us? Matthew 11:29-30.

NOTE: 'We need individually to seek the Lord until we find Him, and then to follow on to know the beauty of His character. Christ invites His believing

whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 111.

LESSON INSIGHT: If we have professed Christ, it is our duty to uphold His Truth by our lives and words and witness, in spite of all opposition, in spite of the wolves that arise. The believers who constitute the church are Christ's living witness to the validity of His saving Truth and His character in the world. Therefore the work of the Gospel is a duty that has been placed upon all who claim to be Christian.

Lesson 9: November 20-26 'The Spirit suffered them not'

MEMORY VERSE: 'Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.' 1 Corinthians 12:4.

LESSON AIM: The Holy Spirit has been placed in the world to direct the Gospel work and to be the enabling power in those who have chosen to carry out the Lord's purposes.

Introduction

'The word is: Go forward; discharge your individual duty, and leave all consequences in the hands of God. If we move forward where Jesus leads the way we shall see His triumph, we shall share His joy. We must share the conflicts if we wear the crown of victory. Like Jesus, we must be made perfect through suffering. Had Christ's life been one of ease, then might we safely yield to sloth. Since His life was marked with continual self-denial, suffering, and self-sacrifice, we shall make no complaint if we are partakers with Him. We can walk safely in the darkest path if we have the Light of the world for our guide.' *Selected Messages, volume 1*, page 29

'He sought the Lord'

1. Who is to be our advisor in the matter of our duty towards God? Psalm 32:8.

NOTE: 'Again and again I have been instructed to say to our people: Let your faith and trust be in God. Do not depend on any erring man to define your duty. It is your privilege to say: "I will declare Thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise Thee. Ye that fear the Lord, praise Him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify Him; and fear Him, all ye the seed of Israel. For He hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath He hid His face from him; but when he cried unto Him, He heard. My praise shall be of Thee: . . . I will pay my vows before them that fear Him. The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the Lord that seek Him: your

your life is hid with Christ in God. It is allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You have a strength from God that holds you fast to His strength; and a new life, even the life of faith, is possible to you. You can never be successful in elevating yourself, unless your will is on the side of Christ, co-operating with the Spirit of God. Do not feel that you cannot; but say, "I can, I will." And God has pledged His Holy Spirit to help you in every decided effort. Every one of us may know that there is a power working with our efforts to overcome. Why will not men lay hold upon the help that has been provided, that they may become elevated and ennobled? Why do they degrade themselves by the indulgence of perverted appetite? Why do they not rise in the strength of Jesus, and be victorious in His name? The very feeblest prayer that we can offer, Jesus will hear. He pities the weakness of every soul. Help for every one has been laid upon Him who is mighty to save. I point you to Jesus Christ, the sinner's Saviour, who alone can give you power to overcome on every point.' *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, page 148.

'Walk in the light'

9. By what picture does the Bible describe our walk with God? Psalm 89:15-16; 1 Peter 2:9.

NOTE: 'God is testing all who have a knowledge of the truth to see if they can be depended on to fight the battles of the Lord when hard pressed by principalities and powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world, and wicked spirits in high places. Perilous times are before us, and our only safety is in having the converting power of God every day, yielding ourselves fully to Him to do His will and walk in the light of His countenance. Now when we are just on the borders of the Promised Land, let none repeat the sin of the unfaithful spies.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 123.

10. In what practical ways can we see for ourselves if we are walking in the light of blessing? John 8:12; Ephesians 5:8-10.

NOTE: 'God requires the body to be rendered a living sacrifice to Him, not a dead or a dying sacrifice. The offerings of the ancient Hebrews were to be without blemish, and will it be pleasing to God to accept a human offering that is filled with disease and corruption? He tells us that our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost; and He requires us to take care of this temple, that it may be a fit habitation for His Spirit. The apostle Paul gives us this admonition: "Ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." All should be very careful to preserve the body in the best condition of health, that they may render to God perfect service, and do their duty in the family and in society.' *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, page 21.

11. When Christ lived on earth, how did He describe His work? John 8:29.

NOTE: 'Many profess to be on the Lord's side, but they are not; the weight of all their actions is on Satan's side. By what means shall we determine whose side we are on? Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Upon whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are on the Lord's side, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest

thoughts are of Him. We have no friendship with the world; we have consecrated all that we have and are to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His Spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things.’ *Counsels for the Church*, page 185.

“‘We love Him, because He first loved us.’ 1 John 4:19. It is impossible for us to believe that Jesus endured the untold agonies of the cross for us, without having our hearts melted in love for Him. And if we love Him, we shall be solicitous to please Him, to obey Him. The heart stirred by the love of Christ will earnestly inquire, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”’ *Gospel Workers*, page 429.

‘Ministers of His that do His pleasure’

12. How do the angels regard their activities? Psalm 103:19-21.

NOTE: ‘We are informed in Scripture as to the number, and the power and glory, of the heavenly beings, of their connection with the government of God, and also of their relation to the work of redemption. “The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all.” And, says the prophet, “I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne.” In the presence-chamber of the King of kings they wait, “angels that excel in strength,” “ministers of His, that do His pleasure,” “hearkening unto the voice of His word.”’ *Great Controversy*, page 511.

13. What blessings come to us from fulfilling our duties toward God? Proverbs 4:20-22; Isaiah 58:8, 10-11.

NOTE: God’s promises to the obedient are “good tidings of great joy.” They are gladdening to the humble, contrite soul. The life of the true Christian is radiant with the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. If men and women would act as the Lord’s helping hand, doing deeds of love and kindness, uplifting the oppressed, rescuing those ready to perish, the glory of the Lord would be their reward. They would call, and the Lord would answer, “Here am I.” They would turn to the One close beside them, who has given them the promise, “Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”’ *Daughters of God*, page 102.

LESSON INSIGHT: When we understand our various spiritual duties as living according to the example of life we see in Christ, and working as He worked, we are linking ourselves with the angels as the fellow-servants in the Gospel. To do this is to partake daily of the atmosphere of heaven. It is then we shall know that we bring honour and glory to God, that we are pleasing to Him, and that rewards of joy and life and health in abundance will be ours.

Lesson 7: November 6-12 ‘Come into my house and abide there’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘Use hospitality one to another without grudging.’ 1 Peter 4:9.

‘Who will go for us’

9. What words did Isaiah hear and what reply did he give? Isaiah 6:8.

NOTE: ‘Let all who believe the third angel’s message take up the work that God has committed to them. Let them seek to realise its greatness and importance. Let believers do all in their power to arouse an interest in present truth in the neighbourhood in which they live. Let all act an earnest, disinterested part. Some will labour in one way, and some in another; but all should do something. The books containing the reasons of our faith must be translated into all languages. This work must make more rapid progress than it has made. When we act our part with faithfulness, Christ will work with power upon minds. We are to be God’s helping hand. We have no time to devote to self-pleasing. With freshness and power the truth for this time is to be presented to the people of the world. Christian workers are greatly needed.’ *Review and Herald*, September 17, 1903.

10. Although the work appears daunting, how are we to respond to the duty that has been laid on us? Consider the following verses: Acts 8:26; Acts 8:29-30; Acts 9:10-15; Acts 11:11-12; Matthew 28:19.

NOTE: ‘The truth is to be sown beside all waters; for we know not which shall prosper, this or that. In our erring judgment we may think it unwise to give literature to the very ones who would accept the truth most readily. We know not what may be the good results of giving away a leaflet containing present truth.’ *Christian Service*, page 153.

‘Maketh increase of the body’

11. How is the talent of speech shown to be vital in carrying out our Gospel duty? Luke 12:8-9; Revelation 12:11.

NOTE: ‘He who would confess Christ must have Christ abiding in him. He cannot communicate that which he has not received. The disciples might speak fluently on doctrines, they might repeat the words of Christ Himself; but unless they possessed Christlike meekness and love, they were not confessing Him. A spirit contrary to the spirit of Christ would deny Him, whatever the profession. Men may deny Christ by evil-speaking, by foolish talking, by words that are untruthful or unkind. They may deny Him by shunning life’s burdens, by the pursuit of sinful pleasure. They may deny Him by conforming to the world, by discourteous behaviour, by the love of their own opinions, by justifying self, by cherishing doubt, borrowing trouble, and dwelling in darkness. In all these ways they declare that Christ is not in them. And “whosoever shall deny Me before men,” He says, “him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.”’ *Desire of Ages*, page 357.

12. What is the unique work of the Christian in this world? Matthew 24:14.

NOTE: ‘Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church so that everyone shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfilment of the gospel commission, the

some will be taken in this snare. We cannot be too watchful against every form of error, for Satan is constantly seeking to draw men from the truth.' *Marantha*, page 64.

'Be not afraid of them'

7. As we witness for Christ in an apostate world, how does Ezekiel's experience prepare us for what we may expect? Ezekiel 2:6-7. Compare Jeremiah 1:7-9.

NOTE: 'From the burning bush the Lord reprov'd Moses for unbelief when he pleaded his inability to speak. "Who hath made man's mouth?" He said, "or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." When the word of Lord came to Jeremiah, he said, "Ah, Lord God! behold, I can not speak: for I am a child." But the Lord said to him: "Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord." The same God who gave His messages to Moses and Jeremiah will give His word to His witnesses in this generation. "For it is not ye that speak," Christ declares, "but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." This word of the Lord has been verified in all ages, and it will be verified to the close of time in all who hold the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end. The most powerful testimony will be given in defence of the faith once delivered to the saints. The Holy Spirit is close beside those who are called to witness for truth and righteousness. He orders the testimony that is borne before earthly authorities, that the glorious truth may appear.' *Review and Herald*, May 24, 1898.

8. Why is the message of the Gospel to be global? Revelation 12:9, first part; Revelation 13:7-8; Revelation 16:14.

NOTE: 'And in this last generation the parable of the mustard seed is to reach a signal and triumphant fulfilment. The little seed will become a tree. The last message of warning and mercy is to go to "every nation and kindred and tongue" Revelation 14:6-14, "to take out of them a people for His name" Acts 15:14; Revelation 18:1. And the earth shall be lightened with His glory.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 79.

'The remnant people of God are to endure persecutions. "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." They are to give the warning message against the power represented by "the beast." The prophet says of this power, which represents the Papacy: "There was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." The remnant church of God are to give the warning of the third angel to the world.' *Signs of the Times*, June 18, 1894.

LESSON AIM: To show that we have a responsibility to make our homes a pleasant place where angels love to dwell and where the stranger may feel at ease.

Introduction

'The Bible lays much stress upon the practice of hospitality. Not only does it enjoin hospitality as a duty, but it presents many beautiful pictures of the exercise of this grace and the blessings which it brings. Foremost among these is the experience of Abraham. In the records of Genesis we see the patriarch at the hot summer noontide resting in his tent door under the shadow of the oaks of Mamre. Three travellers are passing near. They make no appeal for hospitality, solicit no favour; but Abraham does not permit them to go on their way unrefreshed. He is a man full of years, a man of dignity and wealth, one highly honoured, and accustomed to command; yet on seeing these strangers he "ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground." Addressing the leader he said: "My Lord, if now I have found favour in Thy sight, pass not away, I pray Thee, from Thy servant." Genesis 18:2, 3.' *Testimonies*, volume 6, page 341.

'I will make him an help meet for him'

1. What is the God-given role of the wife to her husband? Genesis 2:18.

['An helpmeet' is an old English way of saying 'a helper suitable, for him', one who is perfectly suited to him to help him in every way.]

NOTE: 'The Lord was pleased with this last and noblest of all His creatures, and designed that he should be the perfect inhabitant of a perfect world. But it was not His purpose that man should live in solitude. He said: "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." God Himself gave Adam a companion. He provided "an help meet for him," a helper corresponding to him, one who was fitted to be his companion, and who could be one with him in love and sympathy. Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal, to be loved and protected by him. A part of man, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, she was his second self; showing the close union and the affectionate attachment that should exist in this relation. "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it." "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one." *The Adventist Home*, page 25.

2. What example of such a virtuous wife was left to us by King Lemuel? Proverbs 31:10-31.

NOTE: 'In the Bible the sacred and enduring character of the relation that exists between Christ and His church is represented by the union of marriage. The Lord has joined His people to Himself by a solemn covenant, He promising to be their God, and they pledging themselves to be His and His alone. He declares: "I will betroth thee unto Me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies." Hosea 2:19. And, again: "I am married unto you." Jeremiah 3:14. And Paul employs

the same figure in the New Testament when he says: "I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." 2 Corinthians 11:2. The unfaithfulness of the church to Christ in permitting her confidence and affection to be turned from Him, and allowing the love of worldly things to occupy the soul is likened to the violation of the marriage vow. The sin of Israel in departing from the Lord is presented under this figure; and the wonderful love of God which they thus despised is touchingly portrayed: "I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest Mine." *Great Controversy*, page 381.

'The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her'

3. Does the Bible reveal the ideal wife as a woman who is sheltered and hidden? Consider Proverbs 31:16, 24.

NOTE: 'Since both men and women have a part in homemaking, boys as well as girls should gain a knowledge of household duties. To make a bed and put a room in order, to wash dishes, to prepare a meal, to wash and repair his own clothing is a training that need not make any boy less manly; it will make him happier and more useful. And if girls, in turn, could learn to harness and drive a horse and to use the saw and the hammer, as well as the rake and the hoe, they would be better fitted to meet the emergencies of life. It is as essential for our daughters to learn the proper use of time as it is for our sons, and they are equally accountable to God for the manner in which they occupy it. Life is given us for wise improvement of the talents we possess.' *What Shall We Teach?* page 23.

4. In what ways was such a good woman to be a suitable helper to her husband? Proverbs 31:11-12, 23.

NOTE: 'Our educational institutions can do much toward meeting the demand for trained workers for these mission fields. Wise plans should be laid to strengthen the work done in our training centres. Study should be given to the best methods for fitting consecrated young men and women to bear responsibility and to win souls for Christ. They should be taught how to meet the people and how to present the third angel's message in an attractive manner. And in the management of financial matters they should be taught lessons that will help them when they are sent to isolated fields where they must suffer many privations and practise the strictest economy.' *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, page 524.

'Rejoice with the wife of thy youth'

5. What does God say about finding a wife? Proverbs 18:22.

NOTE: 'All the work we do that is necessary to be done, be it washing dishes, setting tables, waiting upon the sick, cooking, or washing, is of moral importance. The humble tasks before us are to be taken up by someone; and those who do them should feel that they are doing a necessary and honourable work, and that in their mission, humble though it may be, they are doing the work of God just as surely as was Gabriel when sent to the prophets. All are working in their order in their respective spheres. Woman in her home, doing the simple duties of life that must be done, can and should exhibit faithfulness, obedience,

themes of God's Word seem but idle tales. Satan can then easily snatch away the good seed that has been sown in the heart; for the soul is in no condition to comprehend or understand its true value. It is thus that selfish, health-destroying indulgences are counteracting the influence of the message which is to prepare a people for the great day of God. We are living in a most solemn, awful moment of this earth's history. Not a soul whose life is one of careless self-degradation, through transgression of physical laws, will stand in the great day of trial just before us. There is a terrible account to be rendered to God by those who have but little regard for the human body, and treat it ruthlessly. ... True religion and the laws of health go hand in hand. The least departure from the strictest integrity under any circumstances because it is convenient, will harden the conscience and prepare the way for the violation of moral obligations in other ways.' *Our High Calling*, page 266.

'Manifestation of the truth'

5. How did Paul describe his duty to show the truth of Jesus in his life? 2 Corinthians 4:1-3.

NOTE: 'We are pressing on to the final conflict, and this is no time to compromise; it is no time to hide your colours. When the battle rages sore, let no one turn traitor. It is no time to lay down or conceal our weapons and give Satan the advantage in the warfare, but unless you watch and keep your garments unspotted from the world, you will not stand true to your Captain. Call to your fellow watchmen, crying, "The morning cometh, and also the night." It is no time now to relax our efforts, to become dull and spiritless, no time to hide our light under a bushel, to speak smooth things, to prophesy deceit. Every power is to be employed for God. You are to maintain your allegiance, bearing testimony for God and for truth. Do not be turned aside by any suggestion the world may make. We cannot afford to compromise; there is a living issue before us, of vital importance to the remnant people of God to the very close of this earth's history, for eternal interests are involved. On the very eve of the crisis, it is no time to be found with an evil heart of unbelief, departing from the living God.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 347.

6. What was the command of our Saviour to His followers? 2 Corinthians 4:5-7.

NOTE: 'If ever there was a time in the history of Seventh-day Adventists when they should arise and shine, it is now. No voice should be restrained from proclaiming the third angel's message. Let none, for fear of losing prestige with the world, obscure one ray of light coming from the Source of all light. It requires moral courage to do the work of God for these last days, but let us not be led by the spirit of human wisdom. The truth should be everything to us. Let those who want to make a name with the world go with the world.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 358.

'Satan hopes to involve the remnant people of God in the general ruin that is coming upon the earth. As the coming of Christ draws nigh, he will be more determined and decisive in his efforts to overthrow them. Men and women will arise professing to have some new light or some new revelation whose tendency is to unsettle faith in the old landmarks. Their doctrines will not bear the test of God's word, yet souls will be deceived. False reports will be circulated, and

1. Who is the Truth? John 14:6.

NOTE: 'The great controversy between the Prince of life and the prince of darkness has been going forward, strengthening with each successive generation. Severe indeed has been the conflict waged between right and wrong, between truth and error, between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. Truth has fought against error and error against truth. The conflict has existed for thousands of years. The truth as it is in Jesus will gain the victory that the prophecy assured to it; but to all human appearance, error will overwhelm truth. The larger number of the human race will be swept into idolatry. They will lift up that which Christ has not lifted up and strive to tear down God's great standard of righteousness.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 93.

2. What has Christ commanded His church on earth to do? Matthew 28:20 first part. See Jude 1:3.

NOTE: 'All who are labourers together with God will contend most earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. They will not be turned from the present message, which is already lightening the earth with its glory. Nothing is worth contending for but the glory of God. The only rock that will stand is the Rock of Ages. The truth as it is in Jesus is the refuge in these days of error.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 343.

'Shall grievous wolves enter in among you'

3. Why is it our duty to be zealous for God's Truth? Acts 20:29-31.

NOTE: 'Christ said to His disciples: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Matthew 10:16. Satan's attacks against the advocates of the truth will wax more bitter and determined to the very close of time. As in Christ's day the chief priests and rulers stirred up the people against Him, so today the religious leaders will excite bitterness and prejudice against the truth for this time. The people will be led to acts of violence and opposition which they would never have thought of, had they not been imbued with the animosity of professed Christians against the truth. What course shall the advocates of truth pursue? They have the unchangeable, eternal word of God, and they should reveal the fact that they have the truth as it is in Jesus. Their words must not be rugged and sharp. In their presentation of truth, they must manifest the love and meekness and gentleness of Christ. Let the truth do the cutting; the word of God is as a sharp, two-edged sword, and will cut its way to the heart. Those who know that they have the truth should not, by the use of harsh and severe expressions, give Satan one chance to misinterpret their spirit.' *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, page 58.

4. In which parable does Jesus teach that the devil will try to snatch away the Word of God that is sown in the heart? Matthew 13:1-4.

NOTE: 'The relation that exists between mind and body is very intimate: when one is affected, the other is always more or less in sympathy. It is impossible for men, while under the power of sinful, health-destroying habits, to appreciate sacred truths. When the intellect is clouded, the moral powers are enfeebled, and sin does not look sinful. The most ennobling, grand, and glorious

and love, as sincere as angels in their sphere. Conformity to the will of God makes any work honourable that must be done. The mother is queen of her household. She has in her power the moulding of her children's characters, that they may be fitted for the higher, immortal life. An angel could not ask for a higher mission; for in doing this work she is doing service for God. Let her only realise the high character of her task, and it will inspire her with courage.' *The Adventist Home*, page 24.

6. Whose wife is noted for her faith? Hebrews 11:8-11.

NOTE: 'Years ago I was shown that God's people would be tested upon this point of making homes for the homeless; that there would be many without homes in consequence of their believing the truth. Opposition and persecution would deprive believers of their homes, and it was the duty of those who had homes to open a wide door to those who had not. I have been shown more recently that God would specially test His professed people in reference to this matter. Christ for our sakes became poor that we through His poverty might be made rich. He made a sacrifice that He might provide a home for pilgrims and strangers in the world seeking for a better country, even an heavenly.' *The Adventist Home*, page 170.

'Be not forgetful to entertain strangers'

7. What practical Christian duty did Paul place on those blessed with comfortable homes? Hebrews 13:1-2; Titus 1:8, first part.

NOTE: "'A lover of hospitality" is among the specifications given by the Holy Spirit as marking one who is to bear responsibility in the church. And to the whole church is given the injunction: "Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." These admonitions have been strangely neglected. Even among those who profess to be Christians true hospitality is little exercised. Among our own people the opportunity of showing hospitality is not regarded as it should be, as a privilege and blessing. There is altogether too little sociability, too little of a disposition to make room for two or three more at the family board without embarrassment or parade.' *The Adventist Home*, page 445.

8. What Bible examples of hospitality show how important a Christian duty it is to keep an open house? Luke 10:38; Acts 16:14-15.

NOTE: "'On the Sabbath," Luke continues, "we went out of the city by a riverside, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshiped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened." Lydia received the truth gladly. She and her household were converted and baptised, and she entreated the apostles to make her house their home.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 212.

'Rest yourselves under the tree'

9. What example of simple hospitality did Abraham show three strangers passing by on the road? Genesis 18:1-5.

NOTE: 'With his own hands he brought water that they might wash the dust of travel from their feet. He himself selected their food; while they were at rest under the cooling shade, Sarah his wife made ready for their entertainment, and Abraham stood respectfully beside them while they partook of his hospitality. This kindness he showed them simply as wayfarers, passing strangers, who might never come his way again.' *Testimonies, volume 6*, page 341.

10. Who did the three strangers turn out to be? Genesis 18:22, first part.

NOTE: 'But, the entertainment over, his guests stood revealed. He had ministered not only to heavenly angels, but to their glorious Commander, his Creator, Redeemer and King. And to Abraham the counsels of heaven were opened, and he was called "the friend of God."' *Testimonies, volume 6*, page 341.

'The privilege granted Abraham and Lot is not denied to us. By showing hospitality to God's children, we too may receive His angels into our dwellings. Even in our day, angels in human form enter the homes of men and are entertained by them. And Christians who live in the light of God's countenance are always accompanied by unseen angels, and these holy beings leave behind them a blessing in our homes.' *Conflict and Courage*, page 50.

'The Lord loveth a cheerful giver'

11. What is the principle on which marriage and home and hospitality are based? John 3:16; Ephesians 5:25 last part.

NOTE: 'Is there any love in the whole world that bears comparison with the love that God has manifested to a lost world? God has commended His love toward us in that He has given all heaven in one gift, even in the gift of His only begotten and well-beloved Son. The love of God is to be brought before the people. With hearts melted into tenderness, let the words of God be spoken to the people.' *Review and Herald*, July 14, 1891.

12. What quality marked the whole of our Saviour's life, and would make the duties of home and hospitality satisfying for us? Philippians 2:7.

NOTE: "'Let us not love in word," the apostle writes, "but in deed and in truth." The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within. It is the atmosphere of this love surrounding the soul of the believer that makes him a savour of life unto life and enables God to bless his work. Supreme love for God and unselfish love for one another, this is the best gift that our heavenly Father can bestow. This love is not an impulse, but a divine principle, a permanent power. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate or produce it. Only in the heart where Jesus reigns is it found. "We love Him, because He first loved us." In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the ruling principle of action. It modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, and ennoble the affections. This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life and sheds a refining influence on all around.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 551.

LESSON INSIGHT: All heaven works on the principle of unselfish giving, a circle of love passing from one to another. God has shown us this love by example, and is constantly trying to bring us into this atmosphere of putting self aside and giving to others. This begins at home with those in our family circle,

then extends in love to any in need that come within our sphere of influence. This is our duty, but what a blessing it brings back to us in return! 'There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.' *Counsels for the Church*, page 99.

Lesson 8: November 13-19

'That ye should earnestly contend for the faith'

MEMORY VERSE: 'Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.' Jude 1:3.

LESSON AIM: To show that we have a duty to protect the Truth of Jesus from all opposition of the evil one.

Introduction

'Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth He has cut them out from the quarry of the world, and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives, and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation. The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world.' *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, page 178.

'Crime of every type is increasing in the world, and the earth is defiled under the inhabitants thereof. The eternal plans of God are about to be fulfilled, and the end of all things is at hand. This is a time when those who have a knowledge of the truth of God should be ranging themselves on the side of the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel. They should stand forth as defenders of the faith delivered to the saints. They should make manifest to the world what it is to keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus. They should let their light shine forth in clear, strong rays upon the pathway of those who walk in darkness. The soldiers of Christ should stand shoulder to shoulder, loyal to truth, vindicators of the law of Jehovah. Those who depart from the plain precepts of God, will support error, and be ranged against the soldiers of Christ. They will make manifest who is their leader by the course they will pursue in opposing the truth of God, and in enforcing error on the conscience by oppressive measures. It is now time to take a decided stand on the side of truth; and as God has given to every one his measure of influence, he should exert it to the glory of God and for the good of his associates.' *Sons and Daughters of God*, page 269.

'The faith which was once delivered unto the saints'