

‘That they might know Thee’

General Introduction

‘Said the Saviour: “This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.” And God declared by the prophet: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving-kindness, judgement, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.”

No man, without divine aid, can attain to this knowledge of God. The apostle says that “the world by wisdom knew not God.” Christ “was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not.” Jesus declared to His disciples: “No man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him.” In that last prayer for His followers, before entering the shadows of Gethsemane, the Saviour lifted His eyes to heaven, and in pity for the ignorance of fallen men He said: “O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee: but I have known Thee.” “I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest Me out of the world.”

From the beginning, it has been Satan’s studied plan to cause men to forget God, that he might secure them to himself. Hence, he has sought to misrepresent the character of God, to lead men to cherish a false conception of Him. The Creator has been presented to their minds as clothed with the attributes of the prince of evil himself, as arbitrary, severe, and unforgiving, that He might be feared, shunned, and even hated by men. Satan hoped so to confuse the minds of those whom he had deceived that they would put God out of their knowledge. Then he would obliterate the divine image in man and impress his own likeness upon the soul; he would imbue men with his own spirit and make them captives according to his will.

It was by falsifying the character of God and exciting distrust of Him that Satan tempted Eve to transgress. By sin the minds of our first parents were darkened, their natures were degraded, and their conceptions of God were moulded by their own narrowness and selfishness. And as men became bolder in sin, the knowledge and the love of God faded from their minds and hearts. “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God,” they “became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

At times Satan’s contest for the control of the human family appeared to be crowned with success. During the ages preceding the first advent of Christ the world seemed almost wholly under the sway of the prince of darkness, and he ruled with a terrible power as though through the sin of our first parents the kingdoms of the world had become his by right. Even the covenant people, whom God had chosen to preserve in the world the knowledge of Himself, had so far departed from Him that they had lost all true conception of His character.

Christ came to reveal God to the world as a God of love, full of mercy, tenderness, and compassion. The thick darkness with which Satan had endeavoured to enshroud the throne of Deity was swept away by the world’s Redeemer, and the Father was again manifest to men as the light of life.’

Testimonies Volume 5, page 737-8.

Lesson 1: ‘The King, Eternal, Immortal, Invisible’

MEMORY VERSE: “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.” Isaiah 45:22.

STUDY HELP: *Ministry of Healing*, pages 409-426.

Introduction.

“Those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever;” but “the secret things belong unto the Lord our God.” Deuteronomy 29:29. The revelation of Himself that God has given in His word is for our study. This we may seek to understand. But beyond this we are not to penetrate. The highest intellect may tax itself until it is wearied out in conjectures regarding the nature of God; but the effort will be fruitless. This problem has not been given us to solve. No human mind can comprehend God. Let not finite man attempt to interpret Him. Let none indulge in speculation regarding His nature. Here silence is eloquence. The Omniscient One is above discussion.’ *Testimonies Volume 8, page 279.*

‘In the beginning, God’

1. With what sublime words does the Bible begin? Genesis 1:1. Compare John 1:1-3.

NOTE: ‘He who studies most deeply into the mysteries of nature will realise most fully his own ignorance and weakness. He will realise that there are depths and heights which he cannot reach, secrets which he cannot penetrate, vast fields of truth lying before him unentered. He will be ready to say, with Newton, “I seem to myself to have been like a child on the seashore finding pebbles and shells, while the great ocean of truth lay undiscovered before me.” The deepest students of science are constrained to recognise in nature the working of infinite power. But to man’s unaided reason, nature’s teaching cannot but be contradictory and disappointing. Only in the light of revelation can it be read aright. “Through faith we understand.” Hebrews 11:3. “In the beginning God.” Genesis 1:1.... “The invisible things of Him since the creation of the world are . . . perceived through the things that are made, even His everlasting power and divinity. Romans 1:20, R.V. But their testimony can be understood only through the aid of the divine Teacher. “What man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:11. “When He, the Spirit of truth,

is come, He will guide you into all truth.” John 16:13. Only by the aid of that Spirit who in the beginning “was brooding upon the face of the waters;” of that Word by whom “all things were made;” of that “true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world,” can the testimony of science be rightly interpreted. Only by their guidance can its deepest truths be discerned. Only under the direction of the Omniscient One shall we, in the study of His works, be enabled to think His thoughts after Him.’ *Education*, pages 133 – 134.

2. How did God proclaim to Israel that there is only one God? Deuteronomy 6:4. (Read Isaiah 40:12-26.)

NOTE: ““But the Lord is the true God, He is the living God, and an everlasting King; at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide His indignation. Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. He hath made the earth by his power, He hath established the world by His wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by His discretion. When He uttereth His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; He maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of His treasures.” The heathen in their blindness bow down to idols of wood and stone. “These be our gods,” they say. But in the fourth commandment we have the proof that our God is the true and living God. In it is the seal of His authority: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.” In the heavens, that declare the glory of their Maker, the sun, shining in his strength, giving life and beauty to all created things; the moon, and the stars, the works of his hands, we see the superiority of the God we worship. He is the God that “made the heavens and the earth.”” *Signs of the Times*, March 18th, 1897.

‘The high and lofty One’

3. How did God identify Himself to Isaiah? Isaiah 57: 15, first part. See also Isaiah 55:8-9.

NOTE: ““Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? Deeper than hell; what canst thou know?” “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” “I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done.” It is impossible for the finite minds of men to fully comprehend the character or the works of the Infinite One. To the keenest intellect, to the most powerful and highly educated mind, that holy Being must ever remain clothed in mystery. The apostle Paul exclaims: “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!”” *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 699.

4. Who is the only One immortal by nature? 1 Timothy 6:15-16.

NOTE: “The popular ministry cannot successfully resist spiritualism. They have nothing wherewith to shield their flocks from its baleful influence. Much of the sad result of spiritualism will rest upon ministers of this age; for they have trampled the truth under their feet, and in its stead have preferred fables. The sermon which Satan preached to Eve upon the immortality of the soul, “Ye shall not surely die”, they have reiterated from the pulpit; and the people receive it as pure Bible truth. It is the foundation of spiritualism. The word of God nowhere teaches that the soul of man is immortal. Immortality is an attribute of God only. 1 Timothy 6:16: “Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”” ‘ *Testimonies Volume 1*, page 344.

‘Thou knowest it altogether’

5. How did David express the omniscience of God? Psalm 139:1-4.

NOTE: ‘God knows all things; He is infinite in knowledge and in all wisdom concerning the real condition of every man. Our thoughts are open before Him. And as God knows all things, He knows the mind of every man that He has created.’ *Special Testimonies Series B no. 7*, page 53.

6. How does the Bible show the omnipresence of God? Psalm 139:7-12, Acts 7:27-28.

NOTE: ‘We are never alone. We have a companion, whether we choose Him or not. Remember that wherever you are, whatever you are doing, God is there. To your every word and action you have a witness, the holy, sin-hating God. Nothing that is said, or done, or thought, can escape His infinite eye. Your words may not be heard by human ears, but they are heard by the Ruler of the universe. He reads the inward anger of the soul when the will is crossed. He hears the expression of profanity. In the deepest darkness and solitude He is there. No one can deceive God; none can escape from their accountability to Him.’ *Bible Echo*, May 2nd, 1898.

‘Remember now thy Creator’

7. How does God call on us to look on His works? Isaiah 40:26.

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. Says the psalmist: “Know ye that the Lord 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.” Psalms 100: 3; 95: 6. 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.” Revelation 4:11.’ *Great Controversy*, page 436.

8. What regular reminder was given to man of his Creator? Exodus 20:8-11.

NOTE: “The importance of the Sabbath as the memorial of creation is that it keeps ever present the true reason why worship is due to God” because He is the Creator, and we are His creatures. “The Sabbath therefore lies at the very foundation of divine worship, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this. The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten.” J. N. Andrews, *History of the Sabbath*, chapter 27. It was to keep this truth ever before the minds of men, that God instituted the Sabbath in Eden; and so long as the fact that He is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship Him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial. Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man’s thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel. The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to the true God, “Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” *Great Controversy*, page 437.

‘The Lord that doth sanctify you’

9. How does Sabbath-keeping also point us to the saving work of Christ? Exodus 31:13, Ezekiel 20:12.

NOTE: ‘God declares: “Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.” “It is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.” We are not merely to observe the Sabbath as a legal matter; we are to be intelligent in regard to its spiritual bearing upon all the transactions of life. Christ’s prayer to His Father for His disciples was, “Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy Word is truth.” The sign of God is sanctification through obedience to the truth. This sanctification makes the loyal subject like his great Head, Jesus Christ. He is brought into peculiar and eternal relations to the Saviour on condition that he maintains his allegiance to the end. When we are thus sanctified, we shall not have a spurious faith, a spurious doctrine, a spurious experience. In coming out from the world and accepting the Sabbath of creation, which God has blessed and sanctified, we give evidence of true conversion. We are stamped with the mark of God’s government. As we accept the Sabbath to keep it holy unto the Lord, we are sanctified, soul, body, and spirit.’ *Signs of the Times*, November 22nd, 1899.

10. What call is to be given universally at the time when God is judging the world? Revelation 14:6-7.

NOTE: ‘In Revelation 14, men are called upon the worship the Creator; and the prophecy brings to view a class that, as the result of the threefold message, are keeping the commandments of God. One of these commandments points directly to God as the Creator. The fourth precept declares: “The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: . . . for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.” Exodus 20:10, 11. Concerning the Sabbath, the Lord says, further, that it is “a sign, . . . that ye may know that I am the Lord your God.” Ezekiel 20:20.’ *Great Controversy*, page 437.

‘The Lord our God’

11. How do we demonstrate that He is truly ‘the Lord our God’? Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 24-25.

NOTE: ‘The first four of the Ten Commandments are summed up in the one great precept, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart.” The last six are included in the other, “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” Both these commandments are an expression of the principle of love. The first cannot be kept and the second broken, nor can the second be kept while the first is broken. When God has His rightful place on the throne of the heart, the right place will be given to our neighbour. We shall love him as ourselves. And only as we love God supremely is it possible to love our neighbour impartially. And since all the commandments are summed up in love to God and man, it follows that not one precept can be broken without violating this principle. Thus Christ taught His hearers that the law of God is not so many separate precepts, some of which are of great importance, while others are of small importance and may with impunity be ignored. Our Lord presents the first four and the last six commandments as a divine whole, and teaches that love to God will be shown by obedience to all His commandments.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 607.

12. Though God is ‘the high and lofty One’, with whom will God dwell? Isaiah 57:15.

NOTE: ‘The proud heart strives to earn salvation; but both our title to heaven and our fitness for it are found in the righteousness of Christ. The Lord can do nothing toward the recovery of man until, convinced of his own weakness, and stripped of all self-sufficiency, he yields himself to the control of God. Then he can receive the gift that God is waiting to bestow. From the soul that feels his need, nothing is withheld. He has unrestricted access to Him in whom all fullness dwells.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 300.

13. What blessings are promised to those who do as God commands? Deuteronomy 4:6-8.

NOTE: ‘The purpose which God seeks to accomplish through His people today is the same that He desired to accomplish

through Israel when He brought them forth out of Egypt. By beholding the goodness, the mercy, the justice, and the love of God revealed in the church, the world is to have a representation of His character. And when the law of God is thus exemplified in the life, even the world will recognise the superiority of those who love and fear and serve God above every other people on the earth. The Lord has His eye upon every one of His people; He has His plans concerning each. It is His purpose that those who practice His holy precepts shall be a distinguished people.' *Testimonies Volume 6*, page 12.

Lesson 2: 'The Word of His Power'

MEMORY VERSE: 'As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: He is a buckler to all them that trust in him. For who is God, save the LORD? and who is a rock, save our God? God is my strength and power: And He maketh my way perfect.' 2 Samuel 22: 31 – 33.

STUDY HELP: *Testimonies Volume 2*, pages 261 - 268.

Introduction.

'It is not necessary that anyone should yield to the temptations of Satan and thus violate his conscience and grieve the Holy Spirit. Every provision has been made in the word of God whereby all may have divine help in their endeavours to overcome. If they keep Jesus before them, they will become changed into His image. All who by faith have Christ abiding in them carry a power into their labour which makes them successful.' *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 574.

'By the word of the Lord'

1. How did God demonstrate the power of His word in creation? Psalm 33:6 & 9.

NOTE: 'In the study of the Bible the student should be led to see the power of God's word. In the creation, "He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." He "callesh those things which be not as though they were" (Psalm 33:9; Romans 4:17); for when He calls them, they are.' *Education*, page 254.

2. How does Jesus sustain the things that He created? Hebrews 1:2-3, Jeremiah 10:12-13.

NOTE: 'As regards this world, God's work of creation is completed. For "the works were finished from the foundation of the world." [Hebrews 4: 3.] But His energy is still exerted in upholding the objects of His creation. It is not because the mechanism that has once been set in motion continues to act by its own inherent energy, that the pulse beats, and breath follows breath; but every breath, every pulsation of the heart is an evidence of the all-pervading care of Him in whom "we live, and move, and have our being." [Acts 17: 28.] It is not because of inherent power that year by year the earth produces her bounties, and continues her motion around the sun. The hand of God guides the planets, and keeps them in position in their orderly march through the heavens. He "bringeth out their host by number; He callesh them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth." [Isaiah 40: 26.] It is through His power that vegetation flourishes, that the leaves appear, and the flowers bloom. He "maketh grass to grow upon the mountains," and by Him the valleys are made fruitful. All the beasts of the field seek their meat from God, [Psalms 147: 8; 104: 20, 21.] and every living creature, from the smallest insect up to man, is daily dependent upon His providential care. In the beautiful words of the psalmist, "These wait all upon Thee. . . . That Thou givest them they gather; Thou openest Thine hand, they are filled with good." [Psalm 104: 27, 28.] His word controls the elements, He covers the heavens with clouds, and prepares rain for the earth. "He giveth snow like wool; He scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes." "When He uttereth His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; He maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of His treasures." [Psalm 147: 16; Jeremiah 10: 13.]' *Christian Education*, page 195.

'Speak the word only'

3. When the centurion came to Jesus, asking for healing for his servant, how did Jesus perform the miracle? Matthew 8:7-8, 13.

4. How did Jesus describe the faith of the centurion? Matthew 8:10.

NOTE: 'In faith we are only like little children learning to walk. As a child takes its first steps, it often totters and falls; but it gets up again, and finally learns that it can walk alone. We must learn how to believe in God. We are not to look at our feelings, but to know God by living faith. Look at the centurion who came to Christ for an example of genuine faith. He came to Christ beseeching him, and saying, "Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented." And Jesus saith unto him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it." When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, "Verily, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." What kind of power did this centurion think was vested in Jesus? He knew it was the power of God. He said, "I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth." The centurion saw with the eye of faith that the angels of God were all around Jesus, and that his word would commission an angel to go to the sufferer.

He knew that his word would enter the chamber, and that his servant would be healed. And how Christ commended this man's faith! He exclaimed, "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, March 11th, 1890.

'Faith cometh by hearing'

5. How does faith come? Romans 10:17.

NOTE: 'This is the science of the gospel. The Scripture declares, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." The knowledge of what the Scripture means when urging upon us the necessity of cultivating faith, is more essential than any other knowledge that can be acquired. We suffer much trouble and grief because of our unbelief, and our ignorance of how to exercise faith. We must break through the clouds of unbelief. We can not have a healthy Christian experience, we can not obey the gospel unto salvation, until the science of faith is better understood, and until more faith is exercised. There can be no perfection of Christian character without that faith that works by love, and purifies the soul.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, October 18th, 1898.

6. How may we understand that the Word of God has creative power? Hebrews 11:3.

NOTE: 'No amount of reasoning or explanation can tell the whys and wherefores of the creation of the world. It is to be understood by faith in the great creative power. By faith we must believe in the mighty creative power of God through Jesus Christ. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" ("are now present to the eye"). This is a matter that can be stated, but mere reasoning will never convince one of the truth of the statement.' *Southern Watchman*, April 24th, 1902.

'The power that worketh in you'

7. How will the Word of God work in those who have faith? 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

NOTE: 'There is a work that every one of us must do if we would be saved in the eternal world. But while we must on our part do what God has given us to do, we must realise that, having done all, we should come far short of salvation, did not the Lord on His part do that which finite, sinful man cannot do for himself. The religious life is wholly dependent upon the blending of both human and divine forces. Man is to work out his own salvation, but he cannot do this without divine aid; and although Christ has paid an infinite price to save the souls of men from everlasting ruin, He will not do that part of the work which was left for man to perform. We are to live by faith. We are not to be controlled by impulse and feeling, but the principles of God's law must be govern our lives. While we look to Jesus as the source of all power, we shall not fail to receive help in every time of need, "for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, October 30th, 1888.

8. How many people have faith? Romans 12:3.

NOTE: 'What is faith? It is simply taking God at His word; it is believing that God will do just as He has promised.' *Signs of the Times*, September 9th, 1889.

9. If we have faith in God's word, how much will His power achieve in our lives? Ephesians 3:20.

NOTE: 'God's ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." This command is a promise. The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning.' *Desire of Ages*, page 311.

'We can, we can, reveal the likeness of our divine Lord. We can know the science of spiritual life. We can honour our Maker. But do we do it? O, what an illustrious example we have in the life that Christ lived on this earth! He has shown us what we can accomplish through co-operation with divinity. We are to seek for the union of which He speaks when He says, "Abide in me, and I in you." This union is deeper, stronger, truer, than any other union, and is productive of all good. Those who are thus united to the Saviour are controlled by His will, and are moved by His love to suffer with those who suffer, to rejoice with those who rejoice, to feel a deep sympathy for every one in weakness, sorrow, or distress. Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. He wants our minds to be clear, our tempers sweet, our love abounding. Then the peace that passeth knowledge will flow from us to bless all with whom we come in contact. The atmosphere surrounding our souls will be refreshing. But how few there are who are making determined efforts to reach this ideal. Satan is trying to keep the people of God dwarfed, feeble, unchristlike. And too often he is successful.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, November 24th, 1904.

10. What experience must be ours if we are to experience the power of God's word to save us from our sins? Galatians 2:20.

NOTE: 'You must die to self, be crucified to self, and become learners in the school of Christ. In words of tenderness the great Teacher invites you saying, "Come unto me all ye that are weary and 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 to your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." When you learn this lesson you will become true witnesses for Christ, but until you do learn this lesson, self with all its defects will appear and Jesus will be kept in the background. When you individually know that your work upon earth is to go forth and live over again in meekness and lowliness of heart the life of Christ, then you will become qualified to become Christ's witnesses. Every one who would follow Christ truly, will be filled with sorrow and repentance when he realises that he

has brought self to the front instead of Jesus.' *Advance*, March 1st, 1899.

'More than conquerors'

11. How are God's saints characterised? Revelation 14:12.

NOTE: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." Often the follower of Christ is brought where he cannot serve God and carry forward his worldly enterprises. Perhaps it appears that obedience to some plain requirement of God will cut off his means of support. Satan would make him believe that he must sacrifice his conscientious convictions. But the only thing in our world upon which we can rely is the word of God. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. Even in this life it is not for our good to depart from the will of our Father in heaven. When we learn the power of His word, we shall not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. Our only questions will be, What is God's command? and what [is] His promise? Knowing these, we shall obey the one, and trust the other.' *Desire of Ages*, page 121.

12. What precious promise is given to those who obey God's word in faith? John 5:24.

NOTE: 'In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realised. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 38.

13. Who are the ones with whom Jesus promises to share His throne? Revelation 3:21.

NOTE: 'We can overcome. Yes; fully, entirely. Jesus died to make a way of escape for us, that we might overcome every evil temper, every sin, every temptation, and sit down at last with Him. It is our privilege to have faith and salvation. The power of God has not decreased. His power, I saw, would be just as freely bestowed now as formerly. It is the church of God that have lost their faith to claim, their energy to wrestle, as did Jacob, crying: "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me." Enduring faith has been dying away. It must be revived in the hearts of God's people. There must be a claiming of the blessing of God. Faith, living faith, always bears upward to God and glory; unbelief, downward to darkness and death.' *Testimonies Volume 1*, page 144.

Lesson 3: 'These Three are One'

MEMORY VERSE: 'For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.' 1 John 5: 7.

STUDY HELP: *Evangelism*, pages 613 - 617.

Introduction.

'In the great closing work we shall meet with perplexities that we know not how to deal with; but let us not forget that the three great Powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His promises to pass. He will gather from the world a people who will serve Him in righteousness.' *Testimonies Volume 8*, page 254.

'The Lord our God is one Lord'

1. In contrast with the idolatry of the nations around, what fundamental truth did Moses declare to Israel? Deuteronomy 6:4.

NOTE: 'The people of Israel had been taken out of idolatry, to become the depositories of sacred, ever-living truth. The knowledge of the one true God was given to them. They were greatly blessed with divine revelations, enshrouded in symbols and ceremonies, until type met antitype in the death of Christ. Everything in both their private and their public life was connected with a revealed religion. The law of God was given by Christ, and specified so plainly the duties of private, social, and public life, that none needed to err. One God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, was brought to view in the fourth commandment, and His will was to be their will. Those who worshiped the one true God were strengthened in moral power, and developed strong and symmetrical characters, while those who worshiped other gods grew more and more debased, because they exalted human passions and sanctioned vice in their religious services.' *Signs of the Times*, August 12th 1889.

2. How did Paul repeat this truth? 1 Corinthians 8: 6, Ephesians 4: 6, 1 Timothy 2:5.

NOTE: 'To be intelligently convinced is not enough. The apostle James writes: "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." Many there are who believe that Christ has died for the sins of the world, but they make no appropriation of this grand truth to their own souls. Their hearts are not enlisted in the service of God, their lives are not reformed. They are not sanctified by the truth they profess to believe.' *Youth's Instructor*, March 1st, 1900.

'God our Father'

3. By what name did Jesus Himself address God and teach us to address God? Luke 10:12, Matthew 6:6 & 9.

NOTE: 'Every saint who comes to God with a true heart, and sends his honest petitions to Him in faith, will have his prayers answered. Your faith must not let go of the promises of God, if you do not see or feel the immediate answer to your prayers. Be not afraid to trust God. Rely upon His sure promise: "Ask, and ye shall receive." God is too wise to err, and too good to withhold any good thing from His saints that walk uprightly. Man is erring, and although his petitions are sent up from an honest heart, he does not always ask for the things that are good for himself, or that will glorify God. When this is so, our wise and good Father hears our prayers, and will answer, sometimes immediately; but He gives us the things that are for our best good and His own glory. God gives us blessings; if we could look into His plan, we would clearly see that He knows what is best for us and that our prayers are answered. Nothing hurtful is given, but the blessing we need, in the place of something we asked for that would not be good for us, but to our hurt.' *Testimonies Volume 1*, page 120.

4. How did David address God when he prayed to Him? Psalm 89:26. (See also Malachi 2:10.)

NOTE: 'Have you fallen into sin? Then without delay seek God for mercy and pardon. When David was convicted of his sin, he poured out his soul in penitence and humiliation before God. He felt that he could endure the loss of his crown, but he could not be deprived of the favour of God. Mercy is still extended to the sinner. The Lord is calling to us in all our wanderings: "Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings." The blessing of God may be ours if we will heed the pleading voice of His Spirit. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.'" *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 177.

'To them gave He power'

5. In what special way may we become the children of God? John 1:12.

NOTE: 'Wonderful possibilities are provided for every one who has faith in Christ. No walls are built to keep any living soul from salvation. The predestination, or election, of which God speaks, includes all who will accept Christ as a personal Saviour, who will return to their loyalty, to perfect obedience to all God's commandments. This is the effectual salvation of a peculiar people, chosen by God from among men. All who are willing to be saved by Christ are the elect of God. It is the obedient who are predestinated from the foundation of the world. "To as many as received him, to them he gave power to become the sons of God, even to as many as believed on him.'" *Gospel Herald*, June 11th, 1902.

6. In what especial way did God express His love for the whole world? John 3:16, Romans 5:8.

NOTE: 'Oh, educate the soul to believe the promises of God. Would He make such promises if He did not love us? We are His purchased property; bought at an infinite price. Would you know the manner of love that has been bestowed upon you? I point you to the cross of Calvary. "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Christ died in behalf of the world. Our Heavenly Father has valued us at the price of Jesus, and, having been bought at such a cost, what right have we to spend our God-given capabilities in the service of the world and sin? What right have we to fritter away our time, to use our talents in aiding the work of the powers of darkness? "Set your affections on things above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.'" *Signs of the Times*, January 1st, 1893.

'The great God our Saviour'

7. How does the Bible show that Jesus is truly God? John 1:1 & 14.

NOTE: 'The world's Redeemer was equal with God. His authority was as the authority of God. He declared that he had no existence separate from the Father. The authority by which He spoke, and wrought miracles, was expressly His own, yet He assures us that He and the Father are one.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, January 7th 1890.

'The Lord Jesus made the world. "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." Yet He who made all things, He who was equal with the Father, one with God, who was in the express image of His person and character, left the glory which He had with the Father before the world was, clothed His divinity with humanity, and came into our world in order that humanity might touch divinity, and divinity sanctify humanity. He came that the fallen sons and daughters of Adam might be recovered from the effects of Adam's transgression and fall, and, through His divine, uplifting power, become sons and daughters of God.' *Signs of the Times*, March 28th, 1895.

8. With what words did Thomas acknowledge Jesus? John 20:28.

NOTE: 'Jesus, in his treatment of Thomas, gave His followers a lesson regarding the manner in which they should treat those who have doubts upon religious truth, and who make those doubts prominent. He did not overwhelm Thomas with words of reproach, nor did He enter into a controversy with him; but, with marked condescension and tenderness, He revealed Himself unto the doubting one. Thomas had taken a most unreasonable position, in dictating the only conditions of his faith; but Jesus, by His generous love and consideration, broke down all the barriers he had raised. Persistent controversy will seldom weaken unbelief, but rather put it upon self-defence, where it will find new support and excuse. Jesus, revealed in His love and mercy as the crucified Saviour, will wring from many once unwilling lips the acknowledgement of Thomas, "My Lord, and my God.'" *Spirit of Prophecy Volume 3*, page 222.

9. How does Paul express the extent of Christ's love for 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

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.

'Another Comforter'

10. Who did Christ appoint to take His place in ministering to the needs of His people and what was to be His work?

John 14:16-17, 26, 16:7-14.

NOTE: 'Why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit, every worker should offer his petition to God. Companies of Christian workers should gather to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and execute wisely. Especially should they pray that God will baptise His chosen ambassadors in mission fields with a rich measure of His Spirit. The presence of the Spirit with God's workers will give the proclamation of truth a power that not all the honour or glory of the world could give. With the consecrated worker for God, in whatever place he may be, the Holy Spirit abides. The words spoken to the disciples are spoken also to us. The Comforter is ours as well as theirs. The Spirit furnishes the strength that sustains striving, wrestling souls in every emergency, amidst the hatred of the world, and the realisation of their own failures and mistakes. In sorrow and affliction, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, these are the times when, in answer to the prayer of faith, the Holy Spirit brings comfort to the heart.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 50 - 51.

11. How do the following verses show that the Holy Spirit is not merely a force or influence? John 14:26, 15:26, 16:13-14, Acts 13:2, Romans 8:26.

NOTE: 'The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church. Of the Spirit Jesus said, "He shall glorify Me." The Saviour came to glorify the Father by the demonstration of His love; so the Spirit was to glorify Christ by revealing His grace to the world.' *Desire of Ages*, page 671.

'Christ determined that when he ascended from this earth, he would bestow a gift on those who had believed on him, and those who should believe on him. What gift could he bestow rich enough to signalise and grace his ascension to the mediatorial throne? It must be worthy of his greatness and his royalty. He determined to give his representative, the third Person of the Godhead. This gift could not be excelled.' *Southern Watchman*, November 28th, 1905.

'These three are one'

12. How does the Bible express the truth of the three Persons of the Godhead? 1 John 5:7.

NOTE: 'There are three living Persons of the heavenly Trio; in the name of these three great Powers, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, those who receive Christ by living faith are baptised, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.' *Evangelism*, page 615.

13. How did the three Persons of the Godhead co-operate together in creation? Genesis 1:1-2, 26, Job 26:13, John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:13-16.

14. How do the three Persons of the Godhead co-operate in our salvation? 1 Peter 1:2, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Jude 20-21.

NOTE: 'The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave Themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption. In order fully to carry out this plan, it was decided that Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, should give Himself an offering for sin. What line can measure the depth of this love? God would make it impossible for man to say that He could have done more. With Christ He gave all the resources of heaven, that nothing might be wanting in the plan for man's uplifting. Here is love, the contemplation of which should fill the soul with inexpressible gratitude! Oh, what love, what matchless love! The contemplation of this love will cleanse the soul from all selfishness. It will lead the disciple to deny self, take up the cross, and follow the Redeemer.' *Counsels on Health*, page 222.

'Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the fulfilment of the covenant that God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with Him, with His Son, and with His Spirit in holy fellowship. Have you been born again? Have you become a new being in Christ Jesus? Then co-operate with the three great Powers of heaven who are working in your behalf. Doing this you will reveal to the world the principles of righteousness.' *Signs of the Times*, June 19th, 1901.

Lesson 4: 'Made like unto His brethren'

MEMORY VERSE: 'Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people, for in that He suffered,

being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted.’ Hebrews 2: 17 – 18.
STUDY HELP: *Selected Messages Book 1*, pages 246 - 251.

Introduction.

‘Christ in the weakness of humanity was to meet the temptations of one possessing the powers of the higher nature that God had bestowed on the angelic family. But Christ’s humanity was united with divinity, and in this strength He would bear all the temptations that Satan could bring against Him, and yet keep His soul untainted by sin. And this power to overcome He would give to every son and daughter of Adam who would accept by faith the righteous attributes of His character.’ *Selected Messages Book 1*, page 223.

‘Christ’s overcoming and obedience is that of a true human being. In our conclusions, we make many mistakes because of our erroneous views of the human nature of our Lord. When we give to His human nature a power that it is not possible for man to have in his conflicts with Satan, we destroy the completeness of His humanity.’ *Selected Messages Book 3*, page 139.

‘The Word was made flesh’

1. In what words did John describe the coming of the Saviour? John 1:14.

NOTE: ‘The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ and through Christ to God. This is to be our study. Christ was a real man; He gave proof of His humility in becoming a man. Yet He was God in the flesh. When we approach this subject, we would do well to heed the words spoken by Christ to Moses at the burning bush, “Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground” (Exodus 3:5). We should come to this study with the humility of a learner, with a contrite heart. And the study of the incarnation of Christ is a fruitful field, which will repay the searcher who digs deep for hidden truth.’ *Selected Messages Book 1*, page 244.

2. How did Paul describe the humanity of Jesus? Hebrews 2:14.

NOTE: “Christ did not make believe take human nature; He did verily take it. He did in reality possess human nature. “As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also himself likewise took part of the same” (Hebrews 2:14). He was the son of Mary; He was of the seed of David according to human descent. He is declared to be a man, even the Man Christ Jesus.’ *Selected Messages Book 1*, page 247.

‘In all things like unto His brethren’

3. To which of His earthly ancestors did Paul especially link Jesus? Romans 1:3, Hebrews 2:16.

NOTE: ‘Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity. What these results were is shown in the history of His earthly ancestors. He came with such a heredity to share our sorrows and temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 48.

4. How important was it that Jesus should be made like His brethren in every respect? Hebrews 2:14-18.

NOTE: ‘Christ saw man’s fearful danger, and He determined to save him by the sacrifice of Himself. That He might accomplish His purpose of love for the fallen race, He became bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh.’ *Reflecting Christ*, page 17.

‘In taking humanity, Christ united himself to the human race by inseparable cords. By His life of self-denying ministry, by His suffering on the cross, in which He tasted death for every man, He bound Himself to the heart of every member of the human family... Touched with the feeling of their infirmities, Christ wept with those that wept; and with those who rejoiced, He could rejoice. Such a character as His can not be without its influence upon the characters of His followers. Those who educate their minds to dwell on the perfections of Christ will represent Him to the world.’ *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, November 21st, 1899.

‘Tempted in all points like as we are’

5. Why is Jesus able to help us when we are tempted? Hebrews 2:18, Hebrews 4:15-16.

NOTE: ‘The Son of God was assaulted at every step by the powers of darkness. After His baptism, He was driven of the Spirit into the wilderness, and suffered temptation for forty days. Letters have been coming in to me, affirming that Christ could not have had the same nature as man, for if He had, He would have fallen under similar temptations. If He did not have man’s nature, He could not be our example. If He was not a partaker of our nature, He could not have been tempted as man has been. If it were not possible for Him to yield to temptation, He could not be our helper. It was a solemn reality that Christ came to fight the battles as man, in man’s behalf. His temptation and victory tell us that humanity must copy the Pattern; man must become a partaker of the divine nature.’ *Selected Messages Book 1*, page 408.

6. Although Jesus took our nature and experienced temptation just as we do, how confident can we be that, He did not sin? John 8:46, first part, 1 Peter 2:21-22.

NOTE: ‘In taking upon Himself man’s nature in its fallen condition, Christ did not in the least participate in its sin. He was subject to the infirmities and weaknesses by which man is encompassed, “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias

the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses” (Matt. 8:17). He was touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and was in all points tempted like as we are. And yet He knew no sin. He was the Lamb “without blemish and without spot” *Selected Messages Book 1*, page 256.

7. How real were Christ’s temptations? Did He, as man, have to learn obedience to God? Hebrews 5:7-8.

NOTE: ‘It was not only on the cross that Christ gave Himself for humanity, not only in the wilderness of temptation and in Gethsemane that He overcame in our behalf. Every day’s experience was an outpouring of His life; every day He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And because the life of Jesus was a life of perfect trust His service for heaven and earth was without failure or faltering. He met and resisted all the temptations that man must meet because in His humanity He relied upon divine power.’ *The Columbia Union Visitor*, October 2nd, 1912.

‘Leaving us an example’

8. What example did Jesus leave us? 1 Peter 2:21-22.

NOTE: ‘Many seem to think that it is impossible not to fall under temptation, that they have no power to overcome; and they sin against God with their lips, talking discouragement and doubt, instead of faith and courage. Christ was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. He said, “The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.” What does this mean? It means that the prince of evil could find no vantage-ground in Christ for his temptation; and so it may be with us. “For we have not a high priest which can not be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”’ *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, February 20th, 1913.

9. What counsel does John give to the one says he abides in Christ? 1 John 2:6.

NOTE: ‘Christ lived a human life that He might be man’s example in all things. He endured temptation even as every human being must endure. He believed God as we must believe. He learned obedience even as we are required to learn obedience. And He overcame as we must overcome. His path lay through manifold temptations; therefore He knows how to succour those who are tempted.’ *Bible Echo*, September 3rd, 1900.

‘I can of Mine own self do nothing’

10. How dependent was Jesus on His heavenly father? John 4:34, 5:19, 30 & 36, 7:16, 8:28, 9:4, 10:18 & 30, 12:49-50, 14:10.

NOTE: ‘The Son of God was surrendered to the Father’s will, and dependent upon His power. So utterly was Christ emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself. He accepted God’s plans for Him, and day by day, the Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 208.

11. What counsel did Paul give concerning the mind of Christ? Philippians 2:5. (Read verses 5-8.)

NOTE: ‘Says Christ: “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.” I testify to you, my dear brethren, ministers, and people, you have not yet learned this lesson. Christ endured shame and agony and death for us. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Bear reproach and abuse without retaliation, without a spirit of revenge. Jesus died, not only to make atonement for us, but to be our pattern. Oh, wondrous condescension! Matchless love! As you look upon the Prince of Life upon the cross, can you cherish selfishness? Can you indulge hatred or revenge? Let the proud spirit bow in humiliation. Let the hard heart be broken. No longer pet and pity and exalt self. Look, oh look upon Him whom our sins have pierced. See Him descending step by step the path of humiliation to lift us up; abasing Himself till He could go no lower, and all to save us who were fallen by sin! Why will we be so indifferent, so cold, so formal, so proud, so self-sufficient? Who of us is faithfully following the Pattern? Who of us has instituted and continued the warfare against pride of heart? Who of us has, in good earnest, brought himself to wrestle with selfishness until it should no longer dwell in the heart and be revealed in the life? Would to God the lessons given us, as we view the cross of Christ and see the signs fulfilling which bring us near to the judgement, might be so impressed upon our hearts as to render us more humble, more self-denying, more kind to one another, less self-caring, less critical, and more willing to bear one another’s burdens than we are today.’ *Testimonies Volume 5*, pages 17-18.

‘That I might not sin against Thee’

12. What divine principle guided Christ’s life on earth? Psalm 40:8.

NOTE: ‘Christ came to vindicate the sacred claims of the law. He came to live a life of obedience to its requirements and thus prove the falsity of the charge made by Satan that it is impossible for man to keep the law of God. As a man He met temptation and overcame in the strength given Him from God. As He went about doing good, healing all who were afflicted by Satan, He made plain to men the character of God’s law and the nature of His service. His life testifies that it is possible for us also to obey the law of God. Never did Christ deviate from loyalty to the principles of God’s law. Never did He do anything contrary to the will of His Father. Before angels, men, and demons He could speak words that from any other lips would have been blasphemy: “I do always those things that please Him.” John 8:29. Day by day for three years His enemies followed Him, trying to find some stain in His character. Satan, with all his confederacy of evil, sought to overcome Him; but they found

nothing in Him by which to gain advantage. Even the devils were forced to confess: "Thou art the Holy One of God." *Testimonies Volume 8*, 207-208.

13. What principle should guide the follower of Christ? Psalm 119:11.

NOTE: 'Merely to hear or to read the word is not enough. He who desires to be profited by the Scriptures must meditate upon the truth that has been presented to him. By earnest attention and prayerful thought he must learn the meaning of the words of truth, and drink deep of the spirit of the holy oracles. God bids us fill the mind with great thoughts, pure thoughts. He desires us to meditate upon His love and mercy, to study His wonderful work in the great plan of redemption. Then clearer and still clearer will be our perception of truth, higher, holier, our desire for purity of heart and clearness of thought. The soul dwelling in the pure atmosphere of holy thought will be transformed by communion with God through the study of Scriptures. "And bring forth fruit." Those who, having heard the word, keep it, will bring forth fruit in obedience. The word of God, received into the soul, will be manifest in good works. Its results will be seen in a Christlike character and life. Christ said of Himself, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart." Psalm 40:8. "I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me." John 5:30. And the Scripture says, "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." 1 John 2:6. The word of God often comes in collision with man's hereditary and cultivated traits of character and his habits of life. But the good-ground hearer, in receiving the word, accepts all its conditions and requirements. His habits, customs, and practices are brought into submission to God's word. In his view the commands of finite, erring man sink into insignificance beside the word of the infinite God. With the whole heart, with undivided purpose, he is seeking the life eternal, and at the cost of loss, persecution, or death itself, he will obey the truth.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 60.

Lesson 5: 'The High and Holy One'

MEMORY VERSE: 'For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.' Isaiah 57: 15.

STUDY HELP: *Testimonies Volume 1*, pages 260 – 263.

Introduction.

'The Bible contains instruction regarding the character God's children must possess. "Blessed are the pure in heart," it declares, "for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." 1 John 3:2, 3.' *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, page 429.

'The One whose name is Holy'

1. How does Isaiah describe God? Isaiah 57:15.

NOTE: 'The high and lofty One who inhabiteth eternity claims and deserves our highest thoughts and holiest affections. God is the source of all power. From his infinite love flow blessings to every creature formed in his image. Our heavenly Father has hung out glories in the firmament of the heavens, that men may have an expression of his love in the revealing of his wondrous works. God would not have us indifferent to the symbols of the glories of his infinite power in the heavens.' *Signs of the Times*, December 12th, 1878.

2. How did Isaiah react when in the presence of the Holy One? Isaiah 6:1-5.

NOTE: 'When the servant of God is permitted to behold the glory of the God of heaven, as he is unveiled to humanity, and realises to a slight degree the purity of the Holy One of Israel, he will make startling confessions of the pollution of his soul, rather than proud boasts of his holiness. In deep humiliation Isaiah exclaimed, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips: . . . for mine eyes have seen the king, the Lord of hosts." This is not that voluntary humility and servile self-reproach that so many seem to consider it a virtue to display. This vague mockery of humility is prompted by hearts full of pride and self-esteem. There are many who demerit themselves in words, who would be disappointed if this course did not call forth expressions of praise and appreciation from others. But the conviction of the prophet was genuine. As humanity, with its weakness and deformity, was brought out in contrast with the perfection of divine holiness and light and glory, he felt altogether inefficient and unworthy. How could he go and speak to the people the holy requirements of Jehovah, who was high and lifted up, and whose train filled the temple?' *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, October 16th, 1888.

'Holy ground'

3. How was Moses told to regard God's presence? Exodus 3:5.

NOTE: 'As we learn more and more of what God is, and of what we ourselves are in His sight, we shall fear and tremble before Him. Let men of today take warning from the fate of those who in ancient times presumed to make free with that which God had declared sacred.' *Testimonies Volume 8*, page 283.

'You must respect your own faith in order successfully to introduce it to others. By example as well as precept, you must show

that you reverence your faith, speaking reverently of sacred things. Never allow one expression of lightness and trifling to escape your lips when quoting scripture. As you take the Bible in your hands, remember that you are on holy ground. Angels are around you, and could your eyes be opened, you would behold them. Let your conduct be such that you will leave the impression upon every soul with whom you associate that a pure and holy atmosphere surrounds you. One vain word, one trifling laugh, may balance a soul in the wrong direction. Terrible are the consequences of not having a constant connection with God.' *Christian Education*, page 93.

4. How are we to regard the place and day of worship? Leviticus 19:30, 26:2.

NOTE: "Another precious grace that should be carefully cherished is reverence. True reverence for God is inspired by a sense of His infinite greatness and a realisation of His presence. With this sense of the Unseen the heart of every child should be deeply impressed. The hour and place of prayer and the services of public worship the child should be taught to regard as sacred because God is there. And as reverence is manifested in attitude and demeanour, the feeling that inspires it will be deepened.' *Education*, page 242.

'In order to keep the Sabbath holy, it is not necessary that we enclose ourselves in walls, shut away from the beautiful scenes of nature and from the free, invigorating air of heaven. We should in no case allow burdens and business transactions to divert our minds upon the Sabbath of the Lord, which He has sanctified. We should not allow our minds to dwell upon things of a worldly character even. But the mind cannot be refreshed, enlivened, and elevated by being confined nearly all the Sabbath hours within walls, listening to long sermons and tedious, formal prayers. The Sabbath of the Lord is put to a wrong use if thus celebrated. The object for which it was instituted is not attained. The Sabbath was made for man, to be a blessing to him by calling his mind from secular labour to contemplate the goodness and glory of God. It is necessary that the people of God assemble to talk of Him, to interchange thoughts and ideas in regard to the truths contained in His word, and to devote a portion of time to appropriate prayer. But these seasons, even upon the Sabbath, should not be made tedious by their length and lack of interest.' *Testimonies Volume 2*, page 583.

'The commandment holy, just and good'

5. How does Paul describe the Law of God? Romans 7:12.

NOTE: 'No man can gain eternal life without holiness; hence the question of deepest interest with each of us should be, "Am I meeting the requirements of God? Am I doing His will? Am I forming a character that He can approve?" And where shall we find the will of God expressed, except in the moral law, that law which has been given to us as the standard of righteousness, to reveal to us the defects in our moral character; that law which Paul declares to be holy, just, and good? Of this law the psalmist says: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'" *Bible Echo*, June 1st, 1887.

6. What does Peter say of those who, having known the holiness of God's Commandments, turn their back on God's Law? 2 Peter 2:21.

NOTE: 'God's character is expressed in His law; and he who keeps that law, must walk even as Christ walked, revealing in his life the excellence of its principles, which are holy, just, and good. But with a large number of church members, very little attention is given to God's great standard of righteousness. They are not doers of the words of Jesus. They neither love God supremely, nor their neighbour as themselves. There is very little Christlike sympathy and compassion, forbearance, and love, woven into their life experience. These are, in truth, commandment breakers, and thus they stand registered in the books of heaven.' *Home Missionary*, October 1st, 1897.

'My holy day'

7. How does the Lord describe the Sabbath day? Exodus 35:2.

NOTE: 'To us as to Israel the Sabbath is given "for a perpetual covenant." To those who reverence His holy day, the Sabbath is a sign that God recognises them as His chosen people. It is a pledge that He will fulfil to them His covenant. Every soul who accepts the sign of God's government places himself under the divine, everlasting covenant. He fastens himself to the golden chain of obedience, every link of which is a promise.' *Testimonies Volume 6*, page 350.

8. How does God describe true Sabbath-keeping and what promises does He make to those who remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy? Isaiah 58:12-14.

NOTE: 'The Sabbath is a golden clasp that unites God and His people. But the Sabbath command has been broken. God's holy day has been desecrated. The Sabbath has been torn from its place by the man of sin, and a common working day has been exalted in its stead. A breach has been made in the law, and this breach is to be repaired. The true Sabbath is to be exalted to its rightful position as God's rest day. In the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah is outlined the work which God's people are to do. They are to magnify the law and make it honourable, to build up the old waste places, and to raise up the foundations of many generations. To those who do this work God says: "Thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.'" *Testimonies Volume 6*, page 351.

'They shall call them the holy people'

9. What distinction does God ask His people to make? Leviticus 10:10.

NOTE: 'The Lord himself has established a separating wall between the things of the world and the things which he has chosen out of the world and sanctified to himself. The world will not acknowledge this distinction; they claim that it is needless. The servants of mammon make every effort to break down the barriers, and destroy the line of demarcation between the holy and the profane. Many of the professed followers of Christ are determined to break it down, and to maintain concord between Christ and Belial. But God has made this separation, and he will have it exist. In both the Old and the New Testaments the Lord has positively enjoined upon his people to be distinct from the world, in spirit, in pursuits, in practice, to be a holy nation, a peculiar people, that they may show forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvellous light. The east is not farther from the west than are the children of light, in customs, practices, and spirit, from the children of darkness.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, January 8th, 1884.

10. What does the Lord require of His people? Leviticus 19:2.

NOTE: 'I was referred to Numbers 15:38-41: "Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: and it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: that ye may remember, and do all My commandments, and be holy unto your God. I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the Lord your God." Here God expressly commanded a very simple arrangement of dress for the children of Israel for the purpose of distinguishing them from the idolatrous nations around them. As they looked upon their peculiarity of dress, they were to remember that they were God's commandment-keeping people, and that He had wrought in a miraculous manner to bring them from Egyptian bondage to serve Him, to be a holy people unto Him. They were not to serve their own desires, or to imitate the idolatrous nations around them, but to remain a distinct, separate people, that all who looked upon them might say: These are they whom God brought out of the land of Egypt, who keep the law of Ten Commandments. An Israelite was known to be such as soon as seen, for God through simple means distinguished him as His.' *Testimonies Volume 1*, page 524.

11. How are the final generation of God's people who are ready for His coming described? Isaiah 62:12.

NOTE: 'It is God's purpose that His people shall be a sanctified, purified, holy people, communicating light to all around them. It is His purpose that, by exemplifying the truth in their lives, they shall be a praise in the earth. The grace of Christ is sufficient to bring this about. But let God's people remember that only as they believe and work out the principles of the gospel can He make them a praise in the earth. Only as they use their God-given capabilities in His service will they enjoy the fullness and power of the promise whereon the church has been called to stand. If those who profess to believe in Christ as their Saviour reach only the low standard of worldly measurement, the church fails to bear the rich harvest that God expects. "Found wanting" is written upon her record.' *Testimonies Volume 8*, page 14.

12. Can God's people see God without being holy? Hebrews 12:14, 1 John 3:2, 3, Matthew 5:8.

NOTE: 'God has commanded us, "Be ye holy; for I am holy;" and an inspired apostle declares that without holiness "no man shall see the Lord." Holiness is agreement with God. By sin the image of God in man has been marred and well-nigh obliterated; it is the work of the gospel to restore that which has been lost; and we are to co-operate with the divine agency in this work.' *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 743.

Lesson 6: 'God is love'

MEMORY VERSE: 'And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him.' 1 John 4: 16.

STUDY HELP: *Steps to Christ*, pages 9 – 15.

Introduction

'The revelation of God's love to man centres in the cross. Its full significance tongue cannot utter, pen cannot portray, the mind of man cannot comprehend. Looking upon the cross of Calvary, we can only say, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Christ crucified for our sins, Christ risen from the dead, Christ ascended on high, is the science of salvation that we are to learn and to teach... It is through the gift of Christ that we receive every blessing. Through that gift there comes to us day by day the un failing flow of Jehovah's goodness. Every flower, with its delicate tints and its fragrance, is given for our enjoyment through that one Gift. The sun and the moon were made by Him. There is not a star which beautifies the heavens that He did not make. Every drop of rain that falls, every ray of light shed upon our unthankful world, testifies to the love of God in Christ. Everything is supplied to us through the one unspeakable Gift, God's only-begotten Son. He was nailed to the cross that all these bounties might flow to God's workmanship.' *Ministry of Healing*, pages 423 – 4.

'God so loved that He gave'

1. What action supremely demonstrates God's love to man. John 3:16.

NOTE: 'The plan of salvation had been laid before the creation of the earth; for Christ is "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8); yet it was a struggle, even with the King of the universe, to yield up His Son to die for the guilty race. But "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Oh, the mystery of redemption! the love of God for a world that did not love Him! Who can know the depths of that love which "passeth knowledge"? Through endless ages immortal minds, seeking to comprehend the mystery of that incomprehensible love, will wonder and adore.' *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 63.

2. Does God love us because we love Him? Romans 5:8, Matthew 5:45, 1 John 4:19.

NOTE: 'Who can measure the love of God? Angels cannot comprehend it; it is to them a depth of mystery that they cannot fathom. Angels marvel at the divine love manifested for fallen men; but men themselves remain indifferent and unimpressed. Few respond to the love of God. Few appreciate the marvellous love of Christ in his life of suffering, in his death of shame. Behold him humiliated, mocked, sent from Pilate to Herod, and from Herod to Pilate, condemned, crucified, suspended on the cross, a reproach of men, despised of the people. The sentence of condemnation that was merited by guilty man, angels saw fall upon the innocent Son of God, the loved Commander of their hosts. Well might they be astonished at the love that sustained the Sufferer, who died that we might live. Paul writes, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." This should be the language of our hearts also. It is in the cross that our hopes of eternal life are centred; and as we look to Calvary, seeing what sin has done, how can we live any longer therein? It was our sin that caused the Son of God to humble himself unto death, even the death of the cross; and in him dwelt the fullness of the Godhead.' *Signs of the Times*, November 24th, 1890.

'Behold what manner of love!'

3. What important fact about God's love does Jeremiah explain? Lamentations 3:22-23.

NOTE: 'God is love. He has a care for the creatures he has formed. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." He has not designed that His creatures should be miserable. Have any of us duly considered how much we have to be thankful for? Do we remember that the mercies of the Lord are new every morning, and that His faithfulness faileth not? Do we acknowledge our dependence upon Him, and express gratitude for all His favours? On the contrary, we too often forget that "every good and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." Many experience needless unhappiness. They take their minds from Jesus, and centre them too much upon self. They magnify small difficulties, and talk discouragements. They are guilty of the great sin of needless repining over God's providences. For all that we have and are, we are indebted to God.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, April 21st, 1885.

4. How does God express His love to the repentant sinner? Micah 7:18-19.

NOTE: 'I would I might sound the glad note to earth's remotest bounds. "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Oh, precious redemption! How broad this great truth is, that God for Christ's dear sake, forgives us the moment we ask Him in living faith, believing that He is fully able. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Glorious truth! Just to His own law, and yet the justifier of all them that believe! Well may we exclaim with the prophet, "Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy." Those who are so gloomy and desponding, gathering clouds of darkness about them, would find strength and encouragement if they would spend one hour of each day in searching the Scriptures for these precious promises, gathering and treasuring them like precious pearls. Let them dwell especially upon the mercy of God and his willingness to forgive sins. Many who have all their lives walked under a cloud, would be filled with amazement as they view the channels overflowing with mercies instead of dark clouds heavy with wrath and denunciations.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, September 21st, 1886.

5. What does the Bible reveal of the extent of God's love? Romans 8:32, 2 Peter 1: 3-4, Matthew 7:7-11.

NOTE: 'When we seem to doubt God's love and distrust His promises, we dishonour Him and grieve His Holy Spirit. How would a mother feel if her children were constantly complaining of her, just as though she did not mean them well, when her whole life's effort had been to forward their interests and to give them comfort? Suppose they should doubt her love; it would break her heart. How would any parent feel to be thus treated by his children? And how can our heavenly Father regard us when we distrust His love, which has led Him to give His only-begotten Son that we might have life?' *Steps to Christ*, page 118.

'He loved them unto the end'

6. How did Jesus express His love for His disciples? John 13:1-5.

NOTE: 'How could He show that a mere profession of discipleship did not make them disciples, or insure them a place in His kingdom? How could He show that it is loving service, true humility, which constitutes real greatness? How was He to kindle love in their hearts, and enable them to comprehend what He longed to tell them? The disciples made no move toward serving one another. Jesus waited for a time to see what they would do. Then He, the divine Teacher, rose from the table. Laying aside the outer garment that would have impeded His movements, He took a towel, and girded Himself. With surprised interest the disciples looked on, and in silence waited to see what was to follow. "After that He poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded." This action opened the eyes of the disciples. Bitter shame and humiliation filled their hearts. They understood the unspoken rebuke, and saw themselves in altogether a new light. So Christ expressed His love for His disciples. Their selfish spirit filled Him with sorrow, but He

entered into no controversy with them regarding their difficulty. Instead, He gave them an example they would never forget. His love for them was not easily disturbed or quenched. He knew that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He came from God, and went to God. He had a full consciousness of His divinity; but He had laid aside His royal crown and kingly robes, and had taken the form of a servant. One of the last acts of His life on earth was to gird Himself as a servant, and perform a servant's part.' *Desire of Ages*, page 644.

7. How was this principle of loving service manifested throughout Christ's life on earth? Philippians 2:5-8.

NOTE: 'Angels are ever engaged in working for the happiness of others. This is their joy. That which selfish hearts would consider humiliating service, ministering to those who are wretched and in every way inferior in character and rank, is the work of the pure, sinless angels in the royal courts of heaven. The spirit of Christ's self-sacrificing love is the spirit which pervades heaven and is the very essence of its bliss. Those who feel no special pleasure in seeking to be a blessing to others, in working, even at a sacrifice, to do them good, cannot have the spirit of Christ or of heaven; for they have no union with the work of heavenly angels and cannot participate in the bliss that imparts elevated joy to them.' *Testimonies Volume 3*, page 381.

'Whom the Lord loveth...'

8. How is God's love sometimes manifested? What is His purpose? Hebrews 12:5-11.

NOTE: 'The Lord permits trials to come to us in order that we may be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from sharp, unchristlike traits of character; that we may be led to look to Him as the source of all strength. He suffers the deep waves of affliction to pass over our souls in order that we may have deep heart-longings to be cleansed from all defilement, and come forth from the trial purer and holier, with a deeper knowledge of Him. "As many as I love," God says, "I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore, and repent." In order that we may die to self, we are called upon to endure trial, and when the chastening hand of the Lord is laid upon us, we are not to fret and complain, not to rebel, not to worry ourselves out of the hand of Christ. We are to humble ourselves before God, pleading with Him to give us rest and peace. We enter the furnace of affliction with our hearts darkened by selfishness; but if patient under the crucial test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine image, as gold tried in the fire.' *Signs of the Times*, December 3rd, 1896.

9. Is there anything others can do to us that will separate us from God's love? 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 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.

'This is the love of God...'

10. What did John say is the expression of our love to God? 1 John 5:3, John 14:1-5 & 21, Matthew 22:35-40. (Compare Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18.)

NOTE: 'The love of Jesus in the heart will lead to obedience to all His commandments. But the love that goes no farther than the lips, is a delusion; it will not save any soul. Many reject the truths of the Bible, while they profess great love for Jesus; but the apostle John declares, "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." While Jesus has done all in the way of merit, we ourselves have something to do in the way of complying with the conditions. "If ye love me," said our Saviour, "keep my commandments.'" *Historical Sketches*, page 188.

'Obedience is the test of discipleship. It is the keeping of the commandments that proves the sincerity of our professions of love. When the doctrine we accept kills sin in the heart, purifies the soul from defilement, bears fruit unto holiness, we may know that it is the truth of God. When benevolence, kindness, tenderheartedness, sympathy, are manifest in our lives; when the joy of right doing is in our hearts; when we exalt Christ, and not self, we may know that our faith is of the right order. "Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.'" 1 John 2:3.' *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, page 146.

11. How does God express His love for us through His Law? Deuteronomy 5:33, 6:3, 24-25.

NOTE: 'Upon obedience depends the life and happiness, the health and joy, of men, women, and children. Obedience is for our well-being in this life and in the life to come. "The Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He hath commanded us." If the law of God were taught in the home, if obedience were enjoined upon children from their earliest years, how different the world would be today! Temperance, industry, and economy would be seen. Evil would be avoided. Virtue would be cherished. The Scriptures given above are for our admonition and instruction. But they are not studied as they should be. The failure to follow God's plan is causing him to withdraw His blessing from parents and children.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, July 15th, 1902.

'His strange act'

12. What will the Lord do that seems uncharacteristic of His love? Isaiah 28:15.

NOTE: 'The forbearance that God has exercised toward the wicked, emboldens men in transgression; but their punishment will be none the less certain and terrible for being long delayed. "The Lord shall rise up as in Mount Perazim, He shall be wroth as

in the valley of Gibeon, that He may do His work, His strange work; and bring to pass His act, His strange act.” Isaiah 28:21. To our merciful God the act of punishment is a strange act. “As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live.” Ezekiel 33:11. The Lord is “merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.” Yet He will “by no means clear the guilty.” Exodus 34:6, 7. While He does not delight in vengeance, He will execute judgement upon the transgressors of His law. He is forced to do this, to preserve the inhabitants of the earth from utter depravity and ruin. In order to save some He must cut off those who have become hardened in sin. “The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked.” Nahum 1:3. By terrible things in righteousness, He will vindicate the authority of His downtrodden law. And the very fact of His reluctance to execute justice testifies to the enormity of the sins that call forth His judgments and to the severity of the retribution awaiting the transgressor.’ *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 628.

13. How did the Lord show His love and mercy in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? Genesis 18:17-32.

14. Why has God not destroyed the wicked already? 2 Peter 3:9.

NOTE: ‘The simple story of the cross of Christ, his suffering and dying for the world his resurrection and ascension, his mediation in the sinner’s behalf before the Father, subdues and breaks the hard and sinful heart, and brings the sinner to repentance. The Holy Spirit sets the matter before him in a new light, and the sinner realises that sin must be a tremendous evil to cost such a sacrifice to atone for it; for he hears that “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” How grievous must sin be that no less a remedy than the death of the Son of God could save man from the consequences of his guilt. Why was this done in behalf of man? It was because God loved him, and was not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, believe in Jesus as a personal Saviour, and have life eternal.’ *Youth’s Instructor*, January 19th, 1893.

15. What promise has God made concerning His destruction of sin and sinners? Nahum 1:9. (See Revelation 21:1-5.)

NOTE: ‘The whole universe will have become witnesses to the nature and results of sin. And its utter extermination, which in the beginning would have brought fear to angels and dishonour to God, will now vindicate His love and establish His honour before the universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. Never will evil again be manifest. Says the word of God: “Affliction shall not rise up the second time.” Nahum 1:9. The law of God, which Satan has reproached as the yoke of bondage, will be honoured as the law of liberty. A tested and proved creation will never again be turned from allegiance to Him whose character has been fully manifested before them as fathomless love and infinite wisdom.’ *Great Controversy*, page 504.

Lesson 7: ‘The God of peace’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.’ Philippians 4: 7.

STUDY HELP: *Thoughts for the Mount of Blessing*, pages 27 – 28.

Introduction.

“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts; . . . and be ye thankful.” Colossians 3:15. Forgetting our own difficulties and troubles, let us praise God for an opportunity to live for the glory of His name. Let the fresh blessings of each new day awaken praise in our hearts for these tokens of His loving care. When you open your eyes in the morning, thank God that He has kept you through the night. Thank Him for His peace in your heart. Morning, noon, and night, let gratitude as a sweet perfume ascend to heaven.’ *Ministry of Healing*, page 253.

‘Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ’

1. How does Paul describe the state of the unregenerate mind? Romans 8:7.

NOTE: ‘In the beginning, man was created in the image of God. He was in perfect harmony with the nature and the law of God; the principles of righteousness were written upon his heart. But sin alienated him from his Maker. He no longer reflected the divine image. His heart was at war with the principles of God’s law.’ *Great Controversy*, page 467.

2. How may we be at peace with God? Romans 5:1.

NOTE: ‘Here the truth is laid out in plain lines. This mercy and goodness is wholly undeserved. The grace of Christ is freely to justify the sinner without merit or claim on his part. **Justification is a full, complete pardon of sin.** The moment a sinner accepts Christ by faith, that moment he is pardoned. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him, and he is no more to doubt God’s forgiving grace.’ *The Signs of the Times*, May 19th 1898. (Emphasis added.)

3. How does Paul describe the work Jesus accomplished on the cross? Ephesians 2:13-14.

NOTE: ‘Satan may whisper, “You are too great a sinner for Christ to save.” While you acknowledge that you are indeed sinful and unworthy, you may meet the tempter with the cry, “By virtue of the atonement, I claim Christ as my Saviour. I trust not to my own merits, but to the precious blood of Jesus, which cleanses me. This moment I hang my helpless soul on Christ.” The Christian life must be a life of constant, living faith. An unyielding trust, a firm reliance upon Christ, will bring peace and

assurance to the soul.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, May 3rd, 1881.

'Nothing shall offend them'

4. Who will have great peace, according to the Psalmist? Psalm 119:165.

NOTE: 'That which is sowed in this life will be reaped in the great harvest. None can meet God in peace over His broken law; for it has an important part to act in the conversion of the soul. The inspired word declares: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, January 13th, 1885.

5. How does Isaiah describe the experience of those who hearken to God's commandments? Isaiah 48:18.

NOTE: 'The yoke is placed upon the oxen to aid them in drawing the load, to lighten the burden. So with the yoke of Christ. When our will is swallowed up in the will of God, and we use His gifts to bless others, we shall find life's burden light. He who walks in the way of God's commandments is walking in company with Christ, and in His love the heart is at rest.' *Desire of Ages*, page 331.

6. How is the effect of right doing further described? Isaiah 32:17.

NOTE: "'This is the will of God" concerning you, "even your sanctification." 1 Thessalonians 4:3. Is it your will also? Your sins may be as mountains before you; but if you humble your heart and confess your sins, trusting in the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour, He will forgive and will cleanse you from all unrighteousness. God demands of you entire conformity to His law. This law is the echo of His voice saying to you, Holier, yes, holier still. Desire the fullness of the grace of Christ. Let your heart be filled with an intense longing for His righteousness, the work of which God's word declares is peace, and its effect quietness and assurance forever.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 566.

7. Which ones can have no peace? Isaiah 57:20-21.

NOTE: 'Sin has destroyed our peace. While self is unsubdued, we can find no rest. The masterful passions of the heart no human power can control. We are as helpless here as were the disciples to quiet the raging storm. But He who spoke peace to the billows of Galilee has spoken the word of peace for every soul. However fierce the tempest, those who turn to Jesus with the cry, "Lord, save us," will find deliverance. His grace, that reconciles the soul to God, quiets the strife of human passion, and in His love the heart is at rest.' *Desire of Ages*, page 336.

'The fruit of the Spirit is ... peace'

8. What precious gift did the Lord leave with His disciples? John 14:27.

NOTE: 'The peace that Christ bequeathed to His disciples, and for which we pray, is the peace that is born of truth, and which cannot be banished by divisions caused by the truth. Without may be wars and fightings, jealousies, envies, hatred, strife; but these do not affect the peace of Christ, for it is that which the world neither gives nor takes away. His peace was that which was born of love for those who were plotting His death. But peace cannot be gained by a compromise of principle.' *Bible Echo*, April 9th, 1894.

9. What characteristics in the Christian will enable the Holy Spirit to bring unity and peace to God's people? Ephesians 4:1-3

NOTE: 'The apostle exhorts his brethren to manifest in their lives the power of the truth which he had presented to them. By meekness and gentleness, forbearance and love, they were to exemplify the character of Christ and the blessings of his salvation. There is but one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith. As members of the body of Christ, all members are to be animated by the same spirit and the same hope. Harmony and union existing among men of varied dispositions is the strongest witness that can be borne that God has sent His Son into the world to save sinners. It is our privilege to bear this witness. Our characters must be moulded in harmony with His character, our wills must be surrendered to His will.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, November 12th, 1908.

'Not to send peace but a sword'

10. What warning did Christ give to His disciples? Matthew 10:34.

NOTE: 'The true peace will come among God's people when through united zeal and earnest prayer the false peace, that exists to a large degree, is disturbed. . . . Those who are under the influence of the spirit of God will not be fanatical, but calm, steadfast, free from extravagance. But let all who have had the light of truth shining clear and distinct upon their pathway, be careful how they cry, Peace and safety. Be careful how you make the first move to suppress the messages of truth. Be careful what influence you exert at this time. Those who profess to believe the special truths for this time need to be converted and sanctified by the truth. As Christians, we are made depositories of sacred truth, and we are not to keep the truth in the outer court, but bring it into the sanctuary of the soul. Then the church will possess divine vitality throughout. The weak shall be as David, and David as the angel of the Lord.' *General Conference Daily Bulletin*, February 6th, 1893.

11. What warning did Christ give about the division the truth would bring in the home? Matthew 10:35-37.

NOTE: 'While one member of the family gives his heart to God, the others do not. They are still under the control of the Saviour's worst enemy, and they feel annoyed and angry that there has come to be a division in their household. He who has accepted of Christ is no less dutiful than before; on the contrary, he is more kind, more faithful, more affectionate, because his

nature is being purified and sanctified and ennobled by the truth. But the Master of the Christian and the master of the unbelievers are in deadly conflict. Those who love not God are at enmity with those who do love God, and they are stirred up with bitter opposition by the spirit of Satan, who keeps them from responding to the drawing of Christ.' *Signs of the Times*, November 26th, 1894.

12. What precious encouragement does Christ give to those who are suffering tribulation? John 16:33.

NOTE: 'It is our privilege to carry with us the credentials of our faith, love, joy, and peace. When we do this, we shall be able to present the mighty arguments of the cross of Christ. When we learn to walk by faith and not by feeling, we shall have help from God just when we need it, and His peace will come into our hearts. It was this simple life of obedience and trust that Enoch lived. If we learn this lesson of simple trust, ours may be the testimony that he received, that he pleased God. Then instead of mourning and bitter repining, we shall make melody in our hearts to the Lord.' *Historical Sketches*, page 133.

'Without which no man shall see the Lord'

13. If we are to see the Lord, what must be the goal of our lives? Hebrews 12:14.

NOTE: 'What is holiness? Doing everything with an eye single to the glory of God. Holiness is so living that men shall see your good works, and by seeing them shall glorify God. This is the work of the unfallen angels of heaven. This was the life work of Christ upon the earth. Christ has given this command to every soul that believes in His name.' *Medical Missionary*, October 1st, 1893.

14. What counsel does Peter give to those who look for the Second Coming of Christ? 2 Peter 3:14.

NOTE: 'The hour of probation is fast passing; the cup of God's indignation is fast filling. Will those who profess to be waiting for the appearing of their Lord from heaven be found wanting in that day, or will they awake from their carnal security, repent of their indifference and hardness of heart, and in this their day give most diligent heed to the things which belong to their peace? Must the fast westering sun of merciful probation set, and the sentence be pronounced, "But now they are hid from thine eyes"?' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, July 10th, 1879.

Lesson 8: 'Wonderful Counsellor'

MEMORY VERSE: 'For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9: 6.

STUDY HELP: *The Upward Look*, page 74.

Introduction.

'We lose many blessings by failing to bring our needs and cares and sorrows to our Saviour. He is the wonderful Counsellor. He looks upon His church with intense interest, and with a heart full of tender sympathy. He enters into the depth of our necessities. But our ways are not always His ways. He sees the result of every action, and He asks us to trust patiently in His wisdom, not in the supposedly-wise plans of our own making. Lay all your plans at the feet of the Redeemer. And do not cease to pray. If the answer tarry, wait for it. Let your importunate prayers continue to ascend to God. If it be for His name's glory, the soothing words will be spoken, "Be it unto thee according to thy word."' *Signs of the Times*, February 14th, 1906.

'The Counsel of Peace'

1. How does Zechariah describe the counsel between the Father and the Son concerning man's salvation? Zechariah 6:12-13.

NOTE: 'The work of Christ as man's intercessor is presented in that beautiful prophecy of Zechariah concerning Him "whose name is the Branch." Says the prophet: "He shall build the temple of the Lord; and He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon His [the Father's] throne; and He shall be a priest upon His throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between Them both." Zechariah 6:12, 13. The love of the Father, no less than of the Son, is the fountain of salvation for the lost race. Said Jesus to His disciples before He went away: "I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: for the Father Himself loveth you." John 16:26, 27. God was "in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. And in the ministration in the sanctuary above, "the counsel of peace shall be between Them both." "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.' *Great Controversy*, pages 415-416.

2. How are we shown that God's plan for man's salvation was formed from the foundation of the world? Matthew 13:35, Matthew 25:34, Ephesians 1:3-4, 1 Peter 1:19-20, Revelation 13:8.

NOTE: 'Long continued was that mysterious communing, "the counsel of peace" (Zechariah 6:13) for the fallen sons of men. The plan of salvation had been laid before the creation of the earth; for Christ is "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8); yet it was a struggle, even with the King of the universe, to yield up His Son to die for the guilty race. But "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but

have everlasting life.” John 3:16. Oh, the mystery of redemption! the love of God for a world that did not love Him! Who can know the depths of that love which “passeth knowledge”? Through endless ages immortal minds, seeking to comprehend the mystery of that incomprehensible love, will wonder and adore.’ *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 64.

‘He hath counsel and understanding’

3. What do we find when we go to God for counsel? Job 12:13

NOTE: ‘There are great things expected from the sons and daughters of God... What possibilities are open before them! If they sincerely seek to learn of Christ, He will give them wisdom, as He gave wisdom to Daniel. They may obtain directions from Him who is mighty in counsel. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Says the psalmist, “The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” And the wise man writes, “In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” Let the youth try to appreciate the privilege that may be theirs, to be directed by the unerring wisdom of God. Let them take the word of truth as the man of their counsel, and become skilful in the use of “the sword of the Spirit.” Satan is a wise general; but the humble, devoted soldier of Jesus Christ may overcome him.’ *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, February 28th, 1888.

4. How did the Psalmist express his dependence on the counsel of the Lord? Psalm 73:23-26.

NOTE: ‘The life and spirit of Christ is the only standard of excellence and perfection, and our only safe course is to follow His example. If we do this He will guide us by His counsel and afterward receive us to glory. We must strive diligently and be willing to suffer much in order to walk in the footsteps of our Redeemer. God is willing to work for us, to give us of His free Spirit, if we will strive for it, live for it, believe for it; and then we can walk in the light as He is in the light. We can feast upon His love and drink in of His rich fullness.’ *Testimonies Volume 1*, page 408.

‘Blessed is the man...’

5. What blessings await those who do not follow the counsel of ungodly men? Psalm 1:1-6.

NOTE: ‘Infidels study the Scriptures frequently more diligently than some who profess to be guided by them. Some of the ungodly search the Scriptures that they may become familiar with Bible truth, and furnish themselves with arguments to make it appear that the Bible contradicts itself. And many professed Christians are so ignorant of the word of God, through neglect of its study, that they are blinded by the deceptive reasoning of those who pervert sacred truth, that they may turn souls away from the counsel of God in His word.’ *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, March 3rd, 1874.

‘The ungodly are those who do not love and obey the commandments of God, but go contrary to them. This is the class of counsellors you are warned to shun... Their counsel, their suggestions, are of a character to make light of sin, to ridicule righteousness. Their manners may be pleasant, and they may have intellect, which make them all the more successful in leading others astray. They are represented as standing in the way of sinners, always leading them out of the straight path of duty and obedience to God’s commandments into paths of disobedience. If it were not for those persons who do wrong and tempt others to do wrong, many sinners might have chosen the path of duty, the life of purity and godliness. When any open their minds and hearts to those who would advise them to do wrong in any way, then they are walking in the counsel of the ungodly; and in their turn they become the agents of Satan to tempt others to walk in the same path. They are standing in the way of sinners, to turn the feet of sinners into false paths, which lead to perdition; and in the next step they will find themselves sitting in the seat of the scornful unconcerned. The ministrations of Christ are unheeded, the great salvation freely offered and dearly purchased is neglected.’ *Youth’s Instructor*, October 20th, 1886.

6. What examples are we given of those who refused to follow the counsel of the Lord? Psalm 106:7-15, Psalm 107:11-15. (It is worthwhile to read both psalms.)

NOTE: ‘God’s way is always the right and the prudent way. He always brings honour to His name. Man’s only security against rash, ambitious movements is to keep the heart in harmony with Christ Jesus. Man’s wisdom is untrustworthy. Man is fickle, filled with self-esteem, pride, and selfishness. Let the workers doing God’s service trust wholly in the Lord. Then the leaders will reveal that they are willing to be led, not by human wisdom, which is as useless to lean upon as is a broken reed, but by the wisdom of the Lord, who has said: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.” James 1:5, 6. All who profess to be children of God I would invite to consider the history of the Israelites, as recorded in the one hundred and fifth, the one hundred and sixth, and the one hundred and seventh psalms. By carefully studying these scriptures, we may be able to appreciate more fully the goodness, mercy, and love of our God.’ *Testimonies Volume 8*, page 106 - 107.

‘I counsel thee...’

7. What specific counsel is given to Laodicea? Revelation 3:18.

NOTE: ‘I was shown that the testimony to the Laodiceans applies to God’s people at the present time, and the reason it has not accomplished a greater work is because of the hardness of their hearts. But God has given the message time to do its work. The heart must be purified from sins which have so long shut out Jesus. This fearful message will do its work... I saw that this message would not accomplish its work in a few short months. It is designed to arouse the people of God, to discover to them their backslidings, and to lead to zealous repentance, that they may be favoured with the presence of Jesus, and be fitted for the loud cry of the third angel. As this message affected the heart, it led to deep humility before God.’ *Testimonies Volume 1*, page 186.

8. What is the remedy offered by the Faithful and True Witness for our spiritual poverty? Revelation 3:18, first part.

NOTE: 'The gold mentioned by Christ, the True Witness, which all must have, has been shown me to be faith and love combined, and love takes the precedence of faith. Satan is constantly at work to remove these precious gifts from the hearts of God's people. All are engaged in playing the game of life. Satan is well aware that if he can remove love and faith, and supply their place with selfishness and unbelief, all the remaining precious traits will soon be skilfully removed by his deceitful hand, and the game will be lost.' *Testimonies Volume 2*, page 36.

'Faith and love are the true riches, the pure gold which the True Witness counsels the lukewarm to buy. However rich we may be in earthly treasure, all our wealth will not enable us to buy the precious remedies that cure the disease of the soul called lukewarmness. Intellect and earthly riches were powerless to remove the defects of the Laodicean church, or to remedy their deplorable condition.' *Testimonies Volume 4*, page 88.

9. What does the Faithful and True Witness offer to cover our spiritual nakedness? Revelation 3:18, middle part.

NOTE: 'The white raiment is purity of character, the righteousness of Christ imparted to the sinner. This is indeed a garment of heavenly texture, that can be bought only of Christ for a life of willing obedience.' *Testimonies Volume 4*, page 88.

10. What cure for our spiritual blindness is offered by the Faithful and True Witness? Revelation 3:18, last part.

NOTE: 'They were blind, yet felt that they were well off. The Spirit of God did not illumine their minds, and they did not perceive their sinfulness; therefore they did not feel the necessity of help. To be without the graces of the Spirit of God is sad indeed; but it is a more terrible condition to be thus destitute of spirituality and of Christ, and yet try to justify ourselves by telling those who are alarmed for us that we need not their fears and pity. Fearful is the power of self-deception on the human mind! What blindness! Setting light for darkness and darkness for light! The eyesalve is that wisdom and grace which enables us to discern between the evil and the good, and to detect sin under any guise. God has given His church eyes which He requires them to anoint with wisdom, that they may see clearly; but many would put out the eyes of the church if they could; for they would not have their deeds come to the light, lest they should be reproofed. The divine eyesalve will impart clearness to the understanding. Christ is the depository of all graces. He says: "Buy of Me.'" *Testimonies Volume 4*, page 88.

'Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel'

11. What solemn warning is given to those who fail to heed the counsel and reproof of the Lord? Proverbs 1:24-33.

NOTE: 'What shall I say to arouse the remnant people of God? I was shown that dreadful scenes are before us; Satan and his angels are bringing all their powers to bear upon God's people. He knows that if they sleep a little longer he is sure of them, for their destruction is certain. I warn all who profess the name of Christ to closely examine themselves and make full and thorough confession of all their wrongs, that they may go beforehand to judgement, and that the recording angel may write 'pardon' opposite their names. My brother, my sister, if these precious moments of mercy are not improved, you will be left without excuse. If you make no special effort to arouse, if you will not manifest zeal in repenting, these golden moments will soon pass, and you will be weighed in the balance and found wanting. Then your agonising cries will be of no avail. Then will apply the words of the Lord: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out My hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all My counsel, and would none of My reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer; they shall seek Me early, but they shall not find Me: for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: they would none of My counsel: they despised all My reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto Me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.'" *Testimonies Volume 1*, page 263.

12. By contrast, what precious assurance is given to those who follow the Lord's counsel? Psalm 16:1-11, Psalm 33:11-12.

NOTE: 'Let us not grieve the Spirit of God any more. Let us not show distrust of His word; for He alone is to be depended on. He is "the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords." He has a mighty arm; strong is His hand, and high is His right hand. He is a mighty God, who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think. He is wonderful in counsel, the only wise God. If He is for us, who can be against us? "Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.'" *Youth's Instructor*, February 15th, 1900.

Lesson 9: 'Behold the Lamb of God'

MEMORY VERSE: 'For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.' Revelation 7:17.

STUDY HELP: *Testimonies Volume 2*, pages 200-215.

Introduction.

'When men and women can more fully comprehend the magnitude of the great sacrifice which was made by the Majesty of

heaven in dying in man's stead, then will the plan of salvation be magnified, and reflections of Calvary will awaken tender, sacred, and lively emotions in the Christian's heart. Praises to God and the Lamb will be in their hearts and upon their lips. Pride and self-esteem cannot flourish in the hearts that keep fresh in memory the scenes of Calvary. This world will appear of but little value to those who appreciate the great price of man's redemption, the precious blood of God's dear Son. All the riches of the world are not of sufficient value to redeem one perishing soul. Who can measure the love Christ felt for a lost world as He hung upon the cross, suffering for the sins of guilty men? This love was immeasurable, infinite.' *Testimonies Volume 2*, page 212.

'Who is a God like unto Thee?'

1. How does the prophet Micah picture the character of God? Micah 7:18-19.

NOTE: 'Those who are so gloomy and desponding, gathering clouds of darkness about them, would find strength and encouragement if they would spend one hour of each day in searching the Scriptures for these precious promises, gathering and treasuring them like precious pearls. Let them dwell especially upon the mercy of God and His willingness to forgive sins. Many who have all their lives walked under a cloud, would be filled with amazement as they view the channels overflowing with mercies instead of dark clouds heavy with wrath and denunciations.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, September 21st, 1886.

2. How did God demonstrate His love for sinners? 1 John 4:9-10, John 3:16-17.

NOTE: 'God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that through Him it might be saved. My love for you has been more self-denying than a mother's love. It was that I might blot out your dark record of iniquity, and put the cup of salvation to your lips, that I suffered the death of the cross, bearing the weight and curse of your guilt. The pangs of death, and the horrors of the darkness of the tomb, I endured, that I might conquer him who had the power of death, unbar the prison house, and open for you the gates of life. I submitted to shame and agony because I loved you with an infinite love, and would bring back my wayward, wandering sheep to the paradise of God, to the tree of life.' *Testimonies Volume 4*, page 387.

'Reconciled to God by the death of His Son'

3. What is it that has come between God and man? Isaiah 59:2, 64:6-7.

NOTE: 'When we sin against God, there is a disposition to fall behind Jesus a day's journey; we seek to separate from His company because it is distasteful, for every ray of light from His divine presence points to the sin of which we have been guilty.' *Testimonies Volume 2*, page 106.

4. What did God do to reconcile us with Himself? Ephesians 2:13-16.

NOTE: 'By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ, we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages, He is linked with us. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." John 3:16. He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature.' *Desire of Ages*, page 25.

5. How did Isaiah describe this work of reconciliation? Isaiah 53:4-8, 11.

NOTE: 'Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. "With His stripes we are healed.'" *Desire of Ages*, page 25.

'He died for all'

6. How did Paul describe the love of Christ for lost humanity? Romans 5:8, 8:34-39.

NOTE: 'Jesus did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and exclaimed with His departing breath: "It is finished." Satan was then defeated. He knew that his kingdom was lost. Angels rejoiced as the words were uttered: "It is finished." The great plan of redemption, which was dependent on the death of Christ, had been thus far carried out. And there was joy in heaven that the sons of Adam could, through a life of obedience, be finally exalted to the throne of God. Oh, what love! What amazing love! that brought the Son of God to earth to be made sin for us, that we might be reconciled to God, and elevated to a life with Him in His mansions in glory. Oh, what is man, that such a price should be paid for his redemption!' *Testimonies Volume 2*, page 211.

7. What is Christ's purpose in giving Himself? Ephesians 5:25-27.

NOTE: 'Of His people God says, "They shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land. For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty!" Zechariah 9:16-17. The exaltation of the redeemed will be an eternal testimony to God's mercy. "In the ages to come," He will "show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." "To the intent that . . . unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known . . . the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Ephesians 2:7; 3:10, 11, R. V. Through Christ's redeeming work the government of God stands justified. The Omnipotent One is made known

as the God of love. Satan's charges are refuted, and his character unveiled. Rebellion can never again arise. Sin can never again enter the universe. Through eternal ages all are secure from apostasy. By love's self-sacrifice, the inhabitants of earth and heaven are bound to their Creator in bonds of indissoluble union. The work of redemption will be complete. In the place where sin abounded, God's grace much more abounds.' *Desire of Ages*, page 26.

'Peace with God'

8. How may sinful man have peace with God? Romans 5:1.

NOTE: 'Here the truth is laid out in plain lines. This mercy and goodness is wholly undeserved. The grace of Christ is freely to justify the sinner without merit or claim on his part. Justification is a full, complete pardon of sin. The moment a sinner accepts Christ by faith, that moment he is pardoned. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him, and he is no more to doubt God's forgiving grace.' *Signs of the Times*, May 19th, 1898.

9. How may we be assured that God will forgive our sins? 1 John 1:9, Luke 23:34.

NOTE: 'There is hope for the sinner. Christ uplifted upon the cross of Calvary furnishes that hope; for mercy has provided to the uttermost demand the victim that justice calls for, for man's transgression. Through the merits of Jesus Christ, God can forgive sin, and be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus. Precious truth of inestimable value to every repenting soul! Shall we not individually seek to appreciate, as far as it is possible, the fact that God forgives sin, that he loves us if we believe in Jesus, though we are erring, ignorant, and sinful, even as he loves his Son? The moment we ask for forgiveness in contrition and sincerity, God forgives. Oh, what a glorious truth! Preach it, pray it, sing it. Lift up the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Say to the people, "Behold the man of Calvary!" God is waiting to forgive all who come unto him with sincere repentance. The Psalmist says, "There is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mightest be feared.'" *Signs of the Times*, September 4th, 1893.

'Saved by His life'

10. Having been reconciled to God by the death of His Son, what important work will His life do for us? Romans 5:8.

NOTE: 'So the sowers have something to do that the seed may not be choked with thorns or perish because of shallowness of soil. At the very outset of the Christian life every believer should be taught its foundation principles. He should be taught that he is not merely to be saved by Christ's sacrifice, but that he is to make the life of Christ his life and the character of Christ his character.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 57.

'As the blood of the slain lamb sheltered the homes of Israel, so the blood of Christ was to save their souls; but they could be saved through Christ only as by faith they should make His life their own.' *Desire of Ages*, page 82.

11. How does Christ illustrate this truth in parable form? Matthew 22:11-14.

NOTE: 'This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us. "All our righteousness are as filthy rags." Isaiah 64:6. Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God "was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin." Sin is defined to be "the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:5, 4. But Christ was obedient to every requirement of the law. He said of Himself, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart." Psalm 40:8. When on earth, He said to His disciples, "I have kept My Father's commandments." John 15:10. By His perfect obedience, He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 311.

12. When will the work of salvation from our sins be complete? 1 Peter 1:5, Romans 11:13, Hebrews 9:28, 1 Peter 1:9.

NOTE: 'Those who accept the Saviour, however sincere their conversion, should never be taught to say or to feel that they are saved. This is misleading. Every one should be taught to cherish hope and faith; but even when we give ourselves to Christ and know that He accepts us, we are not beyond the reach of temptation. God's word declares, "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried." Daniel 12:10. Only he who endures the trial will receive the crown of life. (James 1:12.) Those who accept Christ, and in their first confidence say, I am saved, are in danger of trusting to themselves. They lose sight of their own weakness and their constant need of divine strength. They are unprepared for Satan's devices, and under temptation many, like Peter, fall into the very depths of sin.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 155.

'Those who are teaching this doctrine today have much to say in regard to faith and the righteousness of Christ; but they pervert the truth, and make it serve the cause of error. They declare that we have only to believe on Jesus Christ, and that faith is all-sufficient: that the righteousness of Christ is to be the sinner's credentials; that this imputed righteousness fulfils the law for us, and that we are under no obligation to obey the law of God. This class claim that Christ came to save sinners, and that He has saved them. "I am saved," they will repeat over and over again. But are they saved while transgressing the law of Jehovah? No; for the garments of Christ's righteousness are not a cloak for iniquity.' *Bible Echo*, February 8th, 1897.

'We are never to rest in a satisfied condition, and cease to make advancement, saying, "I am saved." When this idea is entertained, the motives for watchfulness, for prayer, for earnest endeavour to press onward to higher attainments, cease to exist. No sanctified tongue will be found uttering these words till Christ shall come, and we enter in through the gates into the city of God. Then, with the utmost propriety, we may give glory to God and to the Lamb for eternal deliverance. As long as

man is full of weakness, for of himself he cannot save his soul, he should never dare to say, "I am saved." It is not he that putteth on the armour that can boast of the victory; for he has the battle to fight and the victory to win. It is he that endureth unto the end that shall be saved. The Lord says, "If any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." If we do not go forward from victory to victory, the soul will draw back to perdition. We should raise no human standard whereby to measure character. We have seen enough of what men call perfection here below. God's holy law is the only thing by which we can determine whether we are keeping his way or not. If we are disobedient, our characters are out of harmony with God's moral rule of government, and it is stating a falsehood to say, "I am saved." No one is saved who is a transgressor of the law of God, which is the foundation of his government in heaven and in earth.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, June 17th, 1890.

Lesson 10: 'Thou art our Father'

MEMORY VERSE: 'But now, O Lord, Thou art our Father; we are the clay, and Thou our potter; and we all are the work of Thy hand.' Isaiah 64:8.

STUDY HELP: *Steps to Christ*, pages 9-15.

Introduction.

'O that everyone would realise the great love, the self-sacrifice, the benevolence, and the kindness of our heavenly Father, in giving His Son to die for us that we might, if we believe and do His commandments, have a sweet peace, the Father's joy, the Father's love, and unite with Him, heart, soul, mind, and strength, to maintain righteousness and to draw in even lines with Christ. It is not the sacrifice of Christ only; it is the Father's sacrifice also. The Father, in union and loving sympathy, with His Son, subjected Himself to suffer with His Son. He spared not His only begotten Son but freely delivered Him up for us all. This gift of Christ is the crowning truth of God's love, and this Fatherhood, through all time and through eternity. Here is the love of God in His Fatherhood. Let us drink in this love, that we may know by experience what a real, tender, joyful, experience there is in a realisation of the Fatherhood of God.' *Spalding & Magan Collection*, page 68.

'Our Father in heaven'

1. How did Jesus teach us to address God? Luke 11:1-2.

NOTE: "'Our Father which art in heaven.'" The word "our" expresses a sense of human brotherhood; the word "Father" that of childlike trust. In ancient time there was usually associated with the name "father" all the affection and tenderness now centred in the word "mother." When from the heart we say, "Our Father," we worship God in truth. This petition carries the suppliant away from earth and human beings to the One who is unerring in judgement, compassionate, merciful, pure, and holy.' *Signs of the Times*, March 29th, 1905.

2. How did David describe the fatherhood of God? Psalm 103:13-14.

NOTE: 'God cares for every lost soul; "like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.'" Psalm 103:13. Such a conception of God was never given to the world by any religion but that of the Bible. Heathenism teaches men to look upon the Supreme Being as an object of fear rather than of love, a malign deity to be appeased by sacrifices, rather than a Father pouring upon His children the gift of His love. Even the people of Israel had become so blinded to the precious teaching of the prophets concerning God that this revelation of His paternal love was as an original subject, a new gift to the world.' *Mount of Blessing*, page 74.

'Sons of God'

3. Whom does the sinner have for his father? How is this revealed in the life of the sinner? John 8:41-44, Matthew 13:38.

NOTE: 'Jesus denied that the Jews were children of Abraham. He said, "Ye do the deeds of your father." In mockery they answered, "We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God." These words, in allusion to the circumstances of His birth, were intended as a thrust against Christ in the presence of those who were beginning to believe on Him. Jesus gave no heed to the base insinuation, but said, "If God were your Father, ye would love Me: for I proceeded forth and came from God." Their works testified of their relationship to him who was a liar and a murderer. "Ye are of your father the devil," said Jesus, "and the lusts of your father it is your will to do.'" *Desire of Ages*, page 467.

4. How may we become sons and daughters of God? John 1:12.

NOTE: 'Behold Christ. Beholding Him brings mind and heart and character into conformity to the will of God. Thus man is enabled to follow Christ's example. He sees that his faults must be overcome, and that his appetites and passions must be subject to God's will, that he must be a partaker of the divine nature, having overcome the corruption that is in the world through lust. The convicted sinner, having repented for his transgression of God's law, strives earnestly to overcome sin. He seeks to reveal the power of Christ's grace, and he is brought into personal touch with the Saviour. Constantly he keeps Christ before him. Denying self, and lifting the cross, he follows the Redeemer from grade to grade of perfection. Praying, believing, receiving the blessings he needs, he comes nearer and nearer to God's standard for him. Christ is our example, our inspiration,

our exceeding great reward. "Ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." God is the Master-Builder, but man has a part to act. He is to co-operate with God. "We are labourers together with God." Never forget the words, "together with God." "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure." The miracle-working power of Christ's grace is revealed in the creation in man of a new heart, a higher life, a holy enthusiasm. God says, "A new heart also will I give unto you." Is not this renewal of man the greatest miracle that can be performed? What can not the human agent do who by faith takes hold of divine power? He loves the Lord Jesus with his whole heart, and Christ becomes his wisdom, his righteousness, his sanctification, and his redemption. Remember that working with Christ as your personal Saviour is your strength and your victory. This is the part all are to act. To those who do this comes the assurance, "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He declares, "Without me ye can do nothing." And the repenting, soul responds, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." *Bible Training School*, January 1st, 1904.

5. How do we show that we are children of our Father in heaven? Matthew 5:44-45, Matthew 12:49-50.

NOTE: 'The children of God should represent the spirit that rules in Heaven. Their principles of action should not be of the same character with the narrow, selfish spirit of the world.' *Spirit of Prophecy Volume 2*, page 224.

6. How does the Father manifest His love for His children? Proverbs 3:12, Hebrews 12:6-7.

NOTE: 'The Lord permits trials to come upon us in order that we may make earnest, heart-felt intercession. Trial brings us to God, and leads us to form a closer connection with Christ our Saviour. Trial forces us to do as the word of God directs. We put into practice the command, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Do we believe these words, that are full of divine efficiency? The Lord says, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" Our sufficiency in every time of need is found in the promise of God.' *Signs of the Times*, August 20th, 1896.

'Like as a father'

7. How does God respond to those who have been cast out by parents? Psalm 27:10.

NOTE: 'He promises to be a Father unto you. Oh, what a relationship is this! Higher and holier than any earthly tie. If you make the sacrifice, if you have to forsake father, mother, sisters, brothers, wife, and children for Christ's sake, you will not be friendless. God adopts you into His family; you become members of the royal household, sons and daughters of the King who rules in the heaven of heavens. Can you desire a more exalted position than is here promised? Is not this enough?' *Testimonies Volume 1*, page 510.

8. What promise does the Lord make to those who have been left alone through following Him? Mark 10:28-30, Psalm 68:5-6.

NOTE: 'Jesus knows all your wants, and He has left exceeding broad and precious promises. He says: "There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake and the gospel's, but he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions, and in the world to come eternal life." "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." These are precious promises. Can you not rely upon them? Can you not have implicit trust, knowing that He is faithful who has promised? Let your trembling faith grasp the promises of God. Bear your whole weight upon them with unwavering faith; for they will not, they cannot fail.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, May 26th, 1885.

9. What special care does the Father have for children? Matthew 18:10 & 14.

NOTE: 'Parents, as the birthdays of your children come around year after year, what kind of an education are you giving your little ones? Have you endeavoured to turn their thoughts to God? Have you trained them to look upon God as their heavenly Father from whom comes down every good and perfect gift? Have you informed them that the angels have been ministering unto them all through the years, and that it would be fitting for the little ones to lay up something in store for a thank offering to God? Have you educated them to speak words of thanksgiving and praise, and trained them to send gifts of love flowing back to the bountiful Provider of their food, clothing, reason, life, and above all for the gift of His only begotten Son? Have you trained them that they must love others as God has loved them, and in their sphere deny themselves as Jesus has denied Himself in His sphere?' *Home Missionary*, December 1st, 1894.

'Your heavenly Father knoweth'

10. What promises of God's providence can we rely on? Matthew 6:25-34, 10:29-31.

NOTE: 'Much unnecessary care and anxiety is felt in regard to our future, concerning what we shall eat and drink, and wherewithal we shall be clothed. The labour and worry of needless display in apparel causes much fatigue and unhappiness, and shortens our lives. Our Saviour would not only have us discern the love of God displayed in the beautiful flowers about us, but He would have us learn from them lessons of simplicity, and of perfect faith and confidence in our Heavenly Father. If God cares to make these inanimate things so beautiful, that will be cut down and perish in a day, how much more careful will He be to supply the needs of His obedient children, whose lives may be as enduring as eternity. How readily will He give them the adornment of His grace, the strength of wisdom, the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. The love of God to man is incomprehensible, broad as the world, high as heaven, and as enduring as eternity.' *Health Reformer*, October 1st, 1877.

11. What promise is given to those called to testify to their faith in God? Matthew 10:17-20.

NOTE: 'Persecution will spread the light. The servants of Christ will be brought before the great men of the world, who, but for this, might never hear the gospel. The truth has been misrepresented to these men. They have listened to false charges concerning the faith of Christ's disciples. Often their only means of learning its real character is the testimony of those who are brought to trial for their faith. Under examination these are required to answer, and their judges to listen to the testimony borne. God's grace will be dispensed to His servants to meet the emergency. "It shall be given you," says Jesus, "in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." As the Spirit of God illuminates the minds of His servants, the truth will be presented in its divine power and preciousness. Those who reject the truth will stand to accuse and oppress the disciples. But under loss and suffering, even unto death, the Lord's children are to reveal the meekness of their divine Example. Thus will be seen the contrast between Satan's agents and the representatives of Christ. The Saviour will be lifted up before the rulers and the people.' *Desire of Ages*, page 354.

'What we shall be'

12. While the human mind cannot comprehend God's ultimate purpose for His children, of what fact can we be certain? 1 John 3:2, Matthew 13:43.

NOTE: 'To have fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ is to be ennobled and elevated, and made a partaker of joys unspeakable and full of glory. Food, clothing, station, and wealth may have their value; but to have a connection with God and to be a partaker of His divine nature is of priceless value. Our lives should be hid with Christ in God; and although it "doth not yet appear what we shall be," "when Christ, who is our life, shall appear," "we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." The princely dignity of the Christian character will shine forth as the sun, and the beams of light from the face of Christ will be reflected upon those who have purified themselves even as He is pure. The privilege of becoming sons of God is cheaply purchased, even at the sacrifice of everything we possess, be it life itself.' *Testimonies Volume 4*, page 357.

13. What precious promise did Jesus leave His disciples? John 14:1-3.

NOTE: 'Not only to the disciples, but to us, are these words of comfort spoken. In the last scenes of this earth's history, war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague, and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood. We should be preparing for the mansions that Christ has gone to prepare for them that love him. There is a rest from earth's conflict. Where is it? "That where I am, there ye may be also." Heaven is where Christ is. Heaven would not be heaven to those who love Christ if he were not there. Are we individually forming characters that will be meet for the society of Christ and the heavenly angels?' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, October 19th, 1897.

Lesson 11: 'The Lord of hosts'

MEMORY VERSE: "O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee." Psalm 84:12

STUDY HELP: *Ministry of Healing*, pages 409 – 426.

Introduction.

'Oh, that we could all realise the nearness of heaven to earth! When the earthborn children know it not, they have angels of light as their companions. A silent witness guards every soul that lives, seeking to draw that soul to Christ. As long as there is hope, until men resist the Holy Spirit to their eternal ruin, they are guarded by heavenly intelligences. Let us all bear in mind that in every assembly of the saints below are angels of God, listening to the testimonies, songs, and prayers. Let us remember that our praises are supplemented by the choirs of the angelic host above.' *Testimonies Volume 6*, page 367.

'Ten thousand times ten thousand'

1. How did the prophets picture the angels around God's throne? Isaiah 6:1-3, Daniel 7:9-10, Revelation 5:11-12.

NOTE: 'The seraphim around the throne are so filled with reverential awe as they behold the glory of God, that they do not for an instant look upon themselves with admiration. Their praise is for the Lord of hosts. As they look into the future, when the whole earth shall be filled with His glory, the triumphant song is echoed from one to another in melodious chant, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts." They are fully satisfied to glorify God; abiding in His presence, beneath His smile of approbation, they wish for nothing more. In bearing His image, in doing His bidding, in worshipping Him, their highest ambition is reached.' *Gospel Workers*, page 21.

'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." Psalm 103:19-21; Revelation 5:11. Ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands were the heavenly messengers beheld by the prophet Daniel. The apostle Paul declared them "an innumerable company." Daniel 7:10; Hebrews 12:22. As God's messengers they go forth, like "the appearance of a flash of lightning,"

(Ezekiel 1:14), so dazzling their glory, and so swift their flight.' *Great Controversy*, page 511.

2. What songs do the angels sing? Revelation 4:8, 5:12, Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 7:11-12.

NOTE: 'With the deepest adoration and joy, the hosts of angels bow before him, while the glad shout rings through the courts of heaven: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing!" Songs of triumph mingle with music from angelic harps, till heaven seems to overflow with delightful harmony and inconceivable joy and praise. The Son of God has triumphed over the prince of darkness, and conquered death and the grave. Heaven rings with voices in lofty strains proclaiming: "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever!"' *Bible Echo*, August 1st, 1887.

'Michael the Archangel'

3. Who is the Archangel, the Leader of the heavenly host? Compare the following verses: Revelation 12:7 & Mark 13:27.

NOTE: The word 'Archangel' is composed of two Greek words, 'archon' meaning 'ruler,' and 'angelos' meaning 'messenger', one who has been sent. The Bible never speaks of 'archangels', only of 'the Archangel' and the Archangel is called Michael in Jude 9. Elsewhere Michael is described as the Leader of the angels, (Revelation 12:7) and the First of the princes, (Daniel 10:13, marginal reading). In Daniel 12:1, He is described as 'the great Prince that standeth for the children of thy people.' (See also Daniel 10:21.) His name is commonly rendered as a question, 'Who is like God?' but might more properly be translated, 'The One who is like God.' Lucifer sought to seize this position. Isaiah 14:12-14. Jesus, though He is truly 'like God' (John 10:30, 14:9), willingly relinquished this position in order to become our Saviour. Philippians 2:5-7.

'In this vision of the prophet, the angel Gabriel declared: "The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia." For three weeks Gabriel had been wrestling with the powers of darkness, and seeking to counteract the influences at work on the mind of King Cyrus. Before the contest closed, Christ himself came to Gabriel's help.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, December 5th, 1907.

'Christ is called the Word of God. John 1:1-3. He is so called because God gave His revelations to man in all ages through Christ. It was His Spirit that inspired the prophets. 1 Peter 1:10. He was revealed to them as the Angel of Jehovah, the Captain of the Lord's host, Michael the Archangel.' *Patriarch's & Prophets*, page 761. (Appendix)

4. In the last great conflict, who will stand up for God's people? Daniel 12:1.

NOTE: 'Let everyone inquire, "Is my name written there?"... You want to know where you are, and to know that Christ is formed within, the hope of glory. You want to be constantly singing, and when you do that you will stop your criticising. If you are beholding Him, you will not have time for anything else. And if you see His face, it will be reflected in your face, and all this mourning and groaning is dishonouring God, for "whoso offereth praise, glorifieth God."' *Sermons and Talks Volume One*, page 310.

'Sent forth to minister'

5. What was the motive of Christ's life? Mark 10:45.

6. What is the motive behind the angels' work? Hebrews 1:14.

NOTE: 'Angels are ever engaged in working for the happiness of others. This is their joy. That which selfish hearts would consider humiliating service, ministering to those who are wretched and in every way inferior in character and rank, is the work of the pure, sinless angels in the royal courts of heaven. The spirit of Christ's self-sacrificing love is the spirit which pervades heaven and is the very essence of its bliss.' *Testimonies Volume 3*, page 381.

7. How do the angels respond to the repentance of a sinner? Luke 15:10.

NOTE: 'All heaven is interested in our salvation. The angels of God, thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand, are commissioned to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. They guard us against evil and press back the powers of darkness that are seeking our destruction. Have we not reason to be thankful every moment, thankful even when there are apparent difficulties in our pathway?' *Testimonies Volume 6*, page 63.

'If the angels of God rejoice over the erring who see and confess their wrongs and return to the fellowship of their brethren, how much more should the followers of Christ, who are themselves erring, and who every day need the forgiveness of God and of their brethren, feel joy over the return of a brother or a sister who has been deceived by the sophistry of Satan and has taken a wrong course and suffered because of it.' *Testimonies Volume 3*, page 100.

'The Lord hath sent His angel'

8. What precious assurance are we given of angelic aid? Psalm 34:6-7.

NOTE: 'God commissions His angels to save His chosen ones from calamity, to guard them from "the pestilence that walketh in darkness" and "the destruction that wasteth at noonday." Psalm 91:6. Again and again have angels talked with men as a man speaketh with a friend, and led them to places of security. Again and again have the encouraging words of angels renewed the drooping spirits of the faithful and, carrying their minds above the things of earth, caused them to behold by faith the white

robes, the crowns, the palm branches of victory, which overcomers will receive when they surround the great white throne. It is the work of the angels to come close to the tried, the suffering, the tempted. They labour untiringly in behalf of those for whom Christ died.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 153.

9. What examples are we given of angelic protection and deliverance? 2 Kings 6:15-17, Daniel 6:22, Acts 12:3-11.

NOTE: 'Only the sense of God's presence can banish the fear that, for the timid child, would make life a burden. Let him fix in his memory the promise, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." Psalm 34:7. Let him read that wonderful story of Elisha in the mountain city, and, between him and the hosts of armed foemen, a mighty encircling band of heavenly angels. Let him read how to Peter, in prison and condemned to death, God's angel appeared; how, past the armed guards, the massive doors and great iron gateway with their bolts and bars, the angel led God's servant forth in safety. Let him read of that scene on the sea, when the tempest-tossed soldiers and seamen, worn with labour and watching and long fasting, Paul the prisoner, on his way to trial and execution, spoke those grand words of courage and hope: "Be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you. . . . For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee." In the faith of this promise Paul assured his companions, "There shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you." So it came to pass. Because there was in that ship one man through whom God could work, the whole shipload of heathen soldiers and sailors was preserved. "They escaped all safe to land.'" *Education*, page 255.

'I am thy fellowservant'

10. How are the angels described by David? Psalm 103:20.

NOTE: 'It we are indeed God's children we shall be harassed and sorely beset, and we need not expect that Satan or those under his influence will treat us well. But there are angels who excel in strength who will be with us in all our conflicts if we will only be faithful.' *Testimonies*, volume 3, page 526.

'We need to understand better than we do the mission of the angel visitants. It would be well to consider that in all our work we have the co-operation and care of heavenly beings. Invisible armies of light and power attend the meek and lowly ones who believe and claim the promises of God. Cherubim and seraphim and angels that excel in strength, ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands, stand at His right hand, "all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.'" Hebrews 1:14.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 176.

11. How did the angel describe himself to John when the apostle tried to worship him? Revelation 19:10, 22:9.

NOTE: 'The angel from heaven came to John in majesty, his countenance beaming with the excellent glory of God... The countenance of the angel grew radiant with joy and was exceeding glorious, as he showed John the final triumph of the church of God. As the apostle beheld the final deliverance of the church, he was carried away with the glory of the scene and with deep reverence and awe fell at the feet of the angel to worship him. The heavenly messenger instantly raised him up and gently reproved him, saying, "See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." The angel then showed John the heavenly city with all its splendour and dazzling glory, and he, enraptured and overwhelmed, and forgetful of the former reproof of the angel, again fell to worship at his feet. Again, the gentle reproof was given, "See thou do it not for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.'" *Early Writings*, page 230.

12. What part will the angels play in the Second Coming of Jesus? Matthew 24:31.

NOTE: 'Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. Not now a "Man of Sorrows," to drink the bitter cup of shame and woe, He comes, victor in heaven and earth, to judge the living and the dead. "Faithful and True," "in righteousness He doth judge and make war." And "the armies which were in heaven" (Revelation 19:11, 14) follow Him. With anthems of celestial melody, the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms, "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendour. "His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. And His brightness was as the light." Habakkuk 3: 3 - 4. As the living cloud comes still nearer, every eye beholds the Prince of life. No crown of thorns now mars that sacred head; but a diadem of glory rests on His holy brow. His countenance outshines the dazzling brightness of the noonday sun. "And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords.'" *Great Controversy*, page 640.

Lesson 12: 'A very present Help in trouble'

MEMORY VERSE: 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.' Psalm 46:1-3.

STUDY HELP: *Education*, pages 253-261.

Introduction.

‘We should not think that the Lord will not regard our petitions. I have heard persons say that they could not get an evidence that the Lord heard their prayers. Where did they look for evidence? The evidence is in the word of God. They have said, “O, if I could only have a vision, or a dream, then I would know that the Lord regarded my request.” But would that make it any more sure than does His word? One man said he had waited for forty years for a manifestation of God’s favour before he could believe that his Heavenly Father looked with mercy upon him. He wanted some marvellous revelation that would come like a shock of electricity, and thrill his entire being; but he did not get it. We are to believe that God accepts us when we fulfil His conditions, simply because He has said that He would. We should place ourselves on the Lord’s side; and when we have done this, then with childlike confidence we should believe that the God of heaven looks with favour upon us. We cannot lean on any earthly support. The Lord God of Israel must become our helper.’ *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, July 2nd, 1889.

‘God hath power to help’

1. What counsel did a man of God give to Amaziah when the king wanted to rely on the strength of His army instead of God? 2 Chronicles 5:7-9.

NOTE: ‘We are to pray without ceasing, and we are to live our prayers. Faith will greatly increase by exercise... Learn of Christ. Have faith in His power to help and save you. Faith is the very lifeblood of the soul. Its presence gives warmth, health, consistency, and sound judgement. Its vitality and vigour exert a powerful though unconscious influence. The life of Christ in the soul is as a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. It leads to a constant cultivation of the heavenly graces and to a kindly submission in all things to the Lord.’ *Testimonies Volume 6*, page 471.

‘We are to believe in God and His promises, and in His power to help and save us. We must believe Him; for He is well able and more than willing to help us in time of trouble, to comfort us in times of affliction and distress, and to deliver us out of all our trials and difficulties. Troubles and difficulties will come, and we must confide in God.’ *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, December 12st, 1886.

‘Let us thank God with heart and soul and voice; and let us learn to approach unto Him as through an open door, believing that we may come freely with our petitions, and that He will hear and answer. It is by a living faith in His power to help, that we shall receive strength to fight the battles of the Lord with the confident assurance of victory.’ *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, July 9th, 1908.

2. In contrast, how did King Asa show his faith in God’s power to help? 2 Chronicles 14:11.

NOTE: ‘When ancient Israel trusted in the Lord their God, He always wrought for them. Here was a large army; thousands and thousands were brought up against them, and it looked to them that with their small army they would certainly be overcome. But... Asa’s trust was in the Lord God of Israel. It was not in their number, but he believed that the Lord could deliver them by few as well as by many. He reached out for God, and his faith took hold upon the Lord, and the Lord graciously heard and answered the petition of Asa; and they obtained the victory because God was wholly on their side. This was, indeed, a test and trial to the faith of those who served the Lord of the armies of Israel. They had fears that sin might be so cherished in their midst that God could not do wonderful things in their behalf. It was a vast number that they had to meet, a thousand thousand men. But Asa had not been giving himself to amusement and pleasure; in time of peace he had been preparing for any emergency; he had an army trained for conflict; but how few were their numbers when compared with their enemies! Did this appearance weaken their faith? Did it discourage effort? No; faith increased and strengthened for the occasion, not in self-confidence, but in the only One in whom they could trust. The prayers of Asa were not offered in vain. He had sought the Lord in the days of his prosperity, and now he could rely upon Him in days of adversity. He showed by his petitions that he was not a stranger to the Lord’s wonderful power.’ *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, May 10th, 1887.

‘I sought the Lord, and He heard me’

3. How does David express his confidence that God will hear and answer his prayers? Psalm 34:1-10.

NOTE: ‘Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. “The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.” James 5:11. His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel. No calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. “He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.” Psalm 147:3. The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son.’ *Steps to Christ*, page 100.

4. How did David express his thankfulness and praise for God’s deliverance? Psalm 56:9-13.

NOTE: ‘While I was in Europe, a sister who... in deep distress, wrote to me, asking for some word of encouragement. The night after I had read her letter I dreamed that I was in a garden, and one who seemed to be the owner of the garden was conducting me through its paths. I was gathering the flowers and enjoying their fragrance, when this sister, who had been walking by my side, called my attention to some unsightly briars that were impeding her way. There she was mourning and grieving. She was not walking in the pathway, following the guide, but was walking among the briars and thorns. “Oh,” she

mourned, "is it not a pity that this beautiful garden is spoiled with thorns?" Then the guide said, "Let the thorns alone, for they will only wound you. Gather the roses, the lilies, and the pinks." Have there not been some bright spots in your experience? Have you not had some precious seasons when your heart throbbed with joy in response to the Spirit of God? When you look back into the chapters of your life experience, do you not find some pleasant pages? Are not God's promises, like the fragrant flowers, growing beside your path on every hand? Will you not let their beauty and sweetness fill your heart with joy? The briars and thorns will only wound and grieve you; and if you gather only these things, and present them to others, are you not, besides slighting the goodness of God yourself, preventing those around you from walking in the path of life? It is not wise to gather together all the unpleasant recollections of a past life, its iniquities and disappointments, to talk over them and mourn over them until we are overwhelmed with discouragement. A discouraged soul is filled with darkness, shutting out the light of God from his own soul and casting a shadow upon the pathway of others. Thank God for the bright pictures which He has presented to us. Let us group together the blessed assurances of His love, that we may look upon them continually: *Steps to Christ*, pages 116 - 118.

'The shadow of the Almighty'

5. How does the Psalmist express his confidence in God's protection? Psalm 91.

NOTE: 'How graciously and tenderly our heavenly Father deals with His children! He preserves them from a thousand dangers to them unseen and guards them from the subtle arts of Satan, lest they should be destroyed. Because the protecting care of God through His angels is not seen by our dull vision, we do not try to contemplate and appreciate the ever-watchful interest that our kind and benevolent Creator has in the work of His hands; and we are not grateful for the multitude of mercies that He daily bestows upon us.' *Testimonies Volume 3*, page 373.

6. What special promises of protection does God give to His people? Psalm 37:1-19, Psalm 46:1-11.

NOTE: 'You are now to get ready for the time of trial. Now you are to know whether your feet are planted on the eternal Rock. You must have an individual experience, and not depend upon others for your light. When you are brought to the test, how do you know that you will not be alone, with no earthly friend at your side? Will you then be able to realise that Christ is your support? Will you be able to recall the promise, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world?" There will be invisible ones all about you bent upon your destruction. Satan and his agents will seek in every way to make you waver from your steadfastness to God and His truth. But if you have an eye single to His glory, you need not take thought as to how you shall witness for His truth. "Take no thought how or what ye shall speak: . . . for it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.'" *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, April 26th, 1892.

'When my foot slippeth'

7. On whom did the Psalmist call in times of emergency? Psalm 94:17-18, Psalm 38:15-16.

NOTE: 'God will do marvellous things for those who trust in Him. It is because His professed people trust so much to their own wisdom, and do not give the Lord an opportunity to reveal His power in their behalf, that they have no more strength. He will help His believing children in every emergency if they will place their entire confidence in Him and implicitly obey Him.' *Testimonies Volume 4*, page 163.

8. To whom are these promises of protection and help especially addressed? 1 Samuel 12:22, Psalm 125:2, Psalm 94:14.

NOTE: 'The obligations in the spiritual agreement entered into at baptism are mutual. As human beings act their part with wholehearted obedience, they have a right to pray: "Let it be known, Lord, that Thou art God in Israel." The fact that you have been baptised in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is an assurance that, if you will claim Their help, these powers will help you in every emergency. The Lord will hear and answer the prayers of His sincere followers who wear Christ's yoke and learn in His school His meekness and lowliness.' *Testimonies Volume 6*, page 99.

'This is the way'

9. What promise of guidance in times of perplexity does God give us? Isaiah 30:21.

NOTE: 'Let every child of God make Him their Counsellor, and firmly believe that He is at their right hand to help them, trusting the promise, "I will guide thee with Mine eye." So many mistakes would not be made if all would make God their dependence, believing that He who never makes a mistake will prepare their way before them. We must believe in Christ as a personal, sympathising Saviour, who doeth all things well. Our path, however rugged it may be, is marked out for us by the Lord; but He will walk with us, for we are to be co-labourers with Him, guided by the Holy Spirit. "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and to the left.'" *Pacific Union Recorder*, November 7th, 1901.

10. With what attitude did Solomon seek the Lord's guidance? 1 Kings 3:6-9.

NOTE: 'Christ will not undertake to teach the self-righteous, self-conceited, and self-willed. If such come to Him with the inquiry, What is truth? He gives them no answer. It is only the meek that He will guide in judgement; the meek will He teach His way. Solomon was naturally endowed with good judgement and large reasoning powers, but he acknowledged himself before God as a little child. He sought for wisdom from God with humility, and he sought not in vain... If you are searching the Scriptures and different authors that you may find doctrines which will coincide with your own preconceived opinions, and

if you have already settled your faith, then you will be boastful, self-confident, and unyielding.’ *Testimonies Volume 3*, page 449.

‘He is able’

11. What particular help is Christ qualified to offer? Hebrews 2:17-18.

NOTE: ‘From the light of His exalted purity, the world’s Redeemer could see that the maladies from which the human family were suffering were brought upon them by transgression of the law of God. Every case of suffering He could trace back to its source. In every case He read the sad and awful end of unrepenting sinners. He knew that He alone could rescue them from the pit into which they had fallen. He alone could place their feet in the right path; His perfection alone could avail for their imperfection. He alone could cover their nakedness with His spotless robe of righteousness. . . . He is strong to deliver. Help has been laid on One that is mighty. He encircles man with His long human arm, while with His divine arm He lays hold of Omnipotence.’ *Sons and Daughters of God*, page 25.

12. How can we know that Christ truly understands and appreciates our experience in times of temptation? Hebrews 4:15.

NOTE: ‘Let us remember that Jesus knows us individually and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows the wants of each of His creatures and reads the hidden, unspoken grief of every heart. If one of the little ones for whom He died is injured, He sees it and calls the offender to account. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He cares for His feeble, sickly, wandering sheep. He knows them all by name. The distress of every sheep and every lamb of His flock touches His heart of sympathising love, and the cry for aid reaches His ear.’ *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 345.

13. Can we certain that Christ has the power to keep us from falling and to keep us faultless? Jude 24.

NOTE: ‘God has made it our duty to pray. The riches of the universe belong to Him. He has all temporal and spiritual treasures at His command, and can supply every want from His abundant fullness. We receive our breath from Him; every temporal blessing that we enjoy is His gift. We are dependent upon Him not only for temporal blessings, but for grace and strength to keep us from falling under the power of temptation. We daily need the Bread of Life to give us spiritual strength and vigour, just as much as we need food to sustain our physical strength and give us firm muscles. We are compassed with weakness and infirmities, doubts and temptations; but we can come to Jesus in our need, and He will not turn us away empty.’ *Bible Echo*, September 24th, 1894.

14. Upon which two promises especially may we depend in times of temptation? 1 Corinthians 10:13.

NOTE: ‘Our heavenly Father measures and weighs every trial before He permits it to come upon the believer. He considers the circumstances and the strength of the one who is to stand under the proving and test of God, and He never permits the temptations to be greater than the capacity of resistance. If the soul is overborne, the person overpowered, this can never be charged to God, ... but the one tempted was not vigilant and prayerful and did not appropriate by faith the provisions God had abundantly in store for him. Christ never failed a believer in his hour of combat.’ *Our High Calling*, page 323.

Lesson 13: ‘King of kings’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.’ Revelation 17.14.

STUDY HELP: *Early Writings*, page 285 - 289.

Introduction.

‘When Christ shall come to the earth again, not as a prisoner surrounded by a rabble will men see Him. They will see Him then as heaven’s King. Christ will come in His own glory, in the glory of His Father, and the glory of the holy angels. Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands of angels, the beautiful and triumphant sons of God, possessing surpassing loveliness and glory, will escort Him on His way. Then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory, and before Him shall be gathered all nations. Then every eye shall see Him, and they also that pierced Him. In the place of a crown of thorns, He will wear a crown of glory, a crown within a crown. In place of that old purple kingly robe, He will be clothed in raiment of whitest white, “so as no fuller on earth can white them.” Mark 9:3. And on His vesture and on His thigh a name will be written, “King of kings, and Lord of lords.”’ *Desire of Ages*, page 739.

‘The Lord is king’

1. What proclamation will finally be made? Psalm 10:16.

2. How is the kingdom of God described by the prophet Daniel? Daniel 2:44.

NOTE: ‘Our kingdom is not of this world. We are waiting for our Lord from heaven to come to earth to put down all authority and power, and set up His everlasting kingdom. Earthly powers are shaken. We need not, and cannot, expect union among the

nations of the earth. Our position in the image of Nebuchadnezzar is represented by the toes, in a divided state, and of a crumbling material that will not hold together. Prophecy shows us that the great day of God is right upon us. It hasteth greatly.' *Testimonies Volume 1*, page 360.

3. Who will see the Second Coming of Jesus? Matthew 24:30, Revelation 1:7.

NOTE: 'The Saviour has warned His people against deception upon this point, and has clearly foretold the manner of His Second Coming. "There shall arise false christ, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. . . . Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth; behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:24-27, 31; 25:31; Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. This coming there is no possibility of counterfeiting. It will be universally known, witnessed by the whole world.' *Great Controversy*, page 625.

4. How is the Second Coming of Christ described? Revelation 6:14-17, 14:14-16, 19:11-15.

NOTE: 'Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man's hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire; a rainbow was over the cloud, while around it were ten thousand angels, singing a most lovely song; and upon it sat the Son of man. His hair was white and curly and lay on His shoulders; and upon His head were many crowns. His feet had the appearance of fire; in His right hand was a sharp sickle; in His left, a silver trumpet. His eyes were as a flame of fire, which searched His children through and through. Then all faces gathered paleness, and those that God had rejected gathered blackness. Then we all cried out, "Who shall be able to stand? Is my robe spotless?" Then the angels ceased to sing, and there was some time of awful silence, when Jesus spoke: "Those who have clean hands and pure hearts shall be able to stand; My grace is sufficient for you." At this our faces lighted up, and joy filled every heart. And the angels struck a note higher and sang again, while the cloud drew still nearer the earth.' *Early Writings*, page 15 - 16. Read *Great Controversy*, pages 640 - 644.

'Thy dead men shall live'

5. What Old Testament promise will find fulfilment when Jesus comes again? Isaiah 26:19.

NOTE: "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it." Isaiah 25: 8. And as Isaiah beholds the Lord of glory descending from heaven, with all the holy angels, to gather the remnant church from among the nations of earth, he hears the waiting ones unite in the exultant cry, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." Verse 9. The voice of the Son of God is heard calling forth the sleeping saints; and as the prophet beholds them coming from the prison house of death, he exclaims: "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead." Isaiah 26:19.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, July 1st, 1915.

6. What further blessed promise will be fulfilled then? Isaiah 35:5-6.

NOTE: 'We are given a special message to bear in times of depression and discouragement: "Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; He will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water." I ask you to read the whole of this thirty-fifth chapter of Isaiah... When you are disappointed because of the spiritual lack you see in the churches and in individuals, read these promising words of inspiration. They are given for the encouragement of our churches.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, May 6th, 1909.

'We which are alive and remain'

7. What promise is given to those who live to see Christ's Second Coming? 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

NOTE: 'The Thessalonians had eagerly grasped the idea that Christ was coming to change the faithful who were alive, and to take them to Himself. They had carefully guarded the lives of their friends, lest they should die and lose the blessing which they looked forward to receiving at the coming of their Lord. But one after another their loved ones had been taken from them, and with anguish the Thessalonians had looked for the last time upon the faces of their dead, hardly daring to hope to meet them in a future life. As Paul's epistle was opened and read, great joy and consolation was brought to the church by the words revealing the true state of the dead. Paul showed that those living when Christ should come would not go to meet their Lord in advance of those who had fallen asleep in Jesus. The voice of the Archangel and the trump of God would reach the sleeping ones, and the dead in Christ should rise first, before the touch of immortality should be given to the living. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.'" *Acts of the Apostles*, page 258.

8. What assurance are we given that we shall recognise our loved ones and that they will recognise us? 1 Corinthians 13:12.

NOTE: 'The resurrection of Jesus was a type of the final resurrection of all who sleep in Him. The countenance of the risen Saviour, His manner, His speech, were all familiar to His disciples. As Jesus arose from the dead, so those who sleep in Him are to rise again. We shall know our friends, even as the disciples knew Jesus. They may have been deformed, diseased, or disfigured, in this mortal life, and they rise in perfect health and symmetry; yet in the glorified body their identity will be perfectly preserved. Then shall we know even as also we are known. In the face radiant with the light shining from the face of Jesus, we shall recognise the lineaments of those we love.' *Desire of Ages*, page 804.

'Where I am'

9. When Jesus promised to come again, to which place did He promise to take His people? John 14:1-3.

NOTE: 'Jesus has gone to prepare mansions for us... It is these mansions that I am looking to; it is not the earthly mansions here, for ere long they are to be shaken down by the mighty earthquake; but those heavenly mansions that Christ has gone to prepare for the faithful.' We have no home here; we are only pilgrims and strangers, passing to a better country, even a heavenly.' *Life Sketches*, page 293.

10. How is that place described? Revelation 21:10 – 22:2.

NOTE: 'In the City of God "there shall be no night." None will need or desire repose. There will be no weariness in doing the will of God and offering praise to His name. We shall ever feel the freshness of the morning and shall ever be far from its close... The light of the sun will be superseded by a radiance which is not painfully dazzling, yet which immeasurably surpasses the brightness of our noontide. The glory of God and the Lamb floods the Holy City with unfading light. The redeemed walk in the sunless glory of perpetual day... We behold the image of God reflected, as in a mirror, in the works of nature and in His dealings with men; but then we shall see Him face to face, without a dimming veil between. We shall stand in His presence and behold the glory of His countenance. There the redeemed shall know, even as also they are known. The loves and sympathies which God Himself has planted in the soul shall there find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, the sacred ties that bind together "the whole family in heaven and earth" (Ephesians 3:15), these help to constitute the happiness of the redeemed. There, immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There will be no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realised; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body... And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.' *Great Controversy*, pages 676 – 678.

'The former will not be remembered'

11. What precious promise is given for those who dwell in that new earth? Isaiah 65:17.

NOTE: The marginal reading for 'come into mind' is 'come upon the heart'.

'Fellow pilgrim, we are still amid the shadows and turmoil of earthly activities; but soon our Saviour is to appear to bring deliverance and rest. Let us by faith behold the blessed hereafter as pictured by the hand of God. He who died for the sins of the world is opening wide the gates of Paradise to all who believe on Him. Soon the battle will have been fought, the victory won. Soon we shall see Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centred. And in His presence the trials and sufferings of this life will seem as nothingness.' *Prophets & Kings*, page 731.

12. What sole memory of sin and suffering will remain throughout the years of eternity? Zechariah 13:6.

NOTE: 'One reminder alone remains: Our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion. Upon His wounded head, upon His side, His hands and feet, are the only traces of the cruel work that sin has wrought. Says the prophet, beholding Christ in His glory: "He had bright beams coming out of His side: and there was the hiding of His power." Habakkuk 3:4, margin. That pierced side whence flowed the crimson stream that reconciled man to God, there is the Saviour's glory, there "the hiding of His power." "Mighty to save," through the sacrifice of redemption, He was therefore strong to execute justice upon them that despised God's mercy. And the tokens of His humiliation are His highest honour; through the eternal ages the wounds of Calvary will show forth His praise and declare His power.' *Great Controversy*, pages 674.