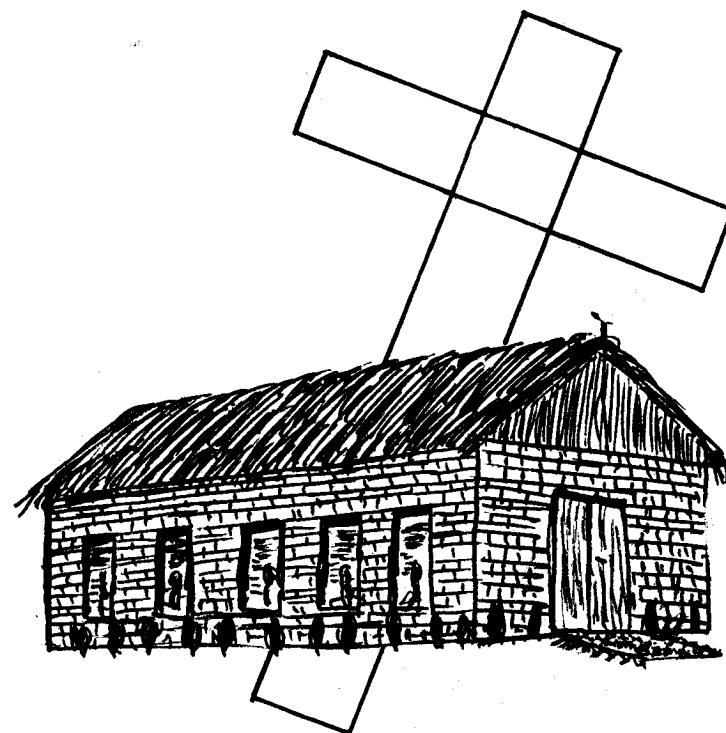




**THE CHURCH
AND
ITS WORK**

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He knew deep down in his heart that he was missing the most important thing in life.

Jesus taught that the things a man possesses are not the most important. He said we should seek the kingdom of God first and then God would provide the necessary things.

(Read Ecclesiastes 2:24-26)

ENJOYING WORK AND REST

What did King Solomon decide could make a person happy? If we only have money, good food, and clothes, these will not make us happy. There is more to life than just these.

God wants us to enjoy living. He gives us wisdom so that we can know how to choose the best. Everything we do should give glory to God. We are happy when we please God in our work and in the time when we are not working. If we leave God out, we cannot enjoy our work or anything else in life. We cannot be happy when we seek only the material things.

TO THINK ABOUT

What are the most important things in your life? Have you obeyed God's command to keep the sabbath holy? Do you seek to bring glory to God in your work and the time you are away from your work? Remember the world and everything in it belong to God. We must acknowledge that He is the owner and we are only stewards of all these things.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. God planned for us to work. We also planned for us to have a time of rest.
2. We should do our best in our work. We should also use our rest time in the right way.
3. Everything we do should bring glory to God. Then we will enjoy our work and our rest time better.

LESSON

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CHAPTER 1

THE CHURCH PROCLAIMS THE RISEN LORD

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: 1 Corinthians
15; Acts 9:3-9; Philipians 3:4-6

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: 1 Corinthians
15:3-19

MEMORY VERSE: *"But thanks be to God, who
gives us the victory through
our Lord Jesus Christ"
1 Corinthians 15:57*

Proclaim means to tell something. The church proclaims Jesus when it preaches. It proclaims Him when it teaches. The church was begun to proclaim the Gospel. The heart of the Gospel is the death and resurrection of Jesus. We must proclaim this message to all people. This lesson is about the resurrection of Jesus. Our Bible reading today tells us how important the resurrection is to the Gospel. (Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

MAIN TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL

In verse 3 do you see "of first importance"? Paul said he told the most important news first of all.

Paul listed four things about Jesus in verses 3-5. Can you find them? Did you find the following truths? (1) Jesus died; (2) He was buried; (3) He was raised from the dead; and (4) He appeared. These are the main truths of the Gospel.

(1) Jesus Died. All men must die. But Jesus did not die like any other man. Others die because they are sick. Some die because of war. Some are killed in a road accident or they are killed in other ways. But Jesus died for our sins. No other person could die for man's sins.

Later God gave His people laws to live by. He gave Moses the Ten Commandments. These were God's laws. He gave them for man to obey. They were not changed from the time that God gave them to Moses on Mount Sinai. They are applicable to our world today.

One of the commandments (verse 8) says that we must keep the sabbath holy. This was to be a day of rest and worship. Jesus showed how to keep the sabbath, which became our Sunday or the first day of the week. Jesus went to the temple to worship. He also went about healing the sick and helping people.

After God created the world in six days, He rested. He blessed this day of rest. He said it must be kept holy. God knew that man needed a break from his work. He also knew that man needed a time to come aside and worship Him. So God gave man the sabbath.

(Read Ecclesiastes 2:4-11)

FULL BUT EMPTY

Solomon is thought to be the author of Ecclesiastes. He was the king of Israel. He was a great king. He was a very clever man. He wrote many wonderful truths in the book of Proverbs. Yet with all his knowledge he did not always follow God's wisdom. He was tempted as all of us are to follow his own understanding.

Solomon was also a very rich king. These verses tell of all the things he made. He had many servants. He had much cattle and great wealth. He built many fine houses. It is said that he sent his servants to different parts of the world to get gold, silver and other precious metals.

Solomon also collected large amounts of taxes from the people. With all of these things he kept getting richer and richer. There was nothing he wanted that he was not able to buy.

However, eventually Solomon came to realize that with all he possessed he did not have happiness. He could ask for anything and know that he could have it. Yet this did not satisfy.

CHAPTER 13

WORK AND REST

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: Genesis 3:17-19;
Exodus 20:8-11; Ecclesiastes 2:1-3, 9;
Colossians 3:17, 23

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Exodus 20:8-11;
Ecclesiastes 2:4-11, 24-26

MEMORY VERSE: *"So, whether you eat or drink,
or whatever you do, do all
to the glory of God"
I Corinthians 10:31*

Our lesson today is important. It concerns how we spend our time when we are not asleep. With the many changes in our world today, work patterns have changed. New machines have been introduced. One man may be able to operate one of these which can do the work of many men in the past. This means the hours of work each day are shortened and still the same amount of production are maintained.

What do we do with our time away from work? We usually think of this time including rest and maybe some type of recreation. We do need a break from our work.

Change is not all bad. Much of the time we feel it is profitable. But we must not let changes in our way of living keep us from obeying God and depending on Him. We must obey His laws.

(Read Exodus 20:8-11)

WORK AND REST: GOD'S PLAN

When God created the world, He gave man dominion over the rest of His creation. God planned for man to work. Man was to make his living by the sweat of his brow. God is saying that work is honourable. There is an honour in being faithful to work. There is no place for laziness if we are to be faithful to follow God's commands.

(2) Jesus was Buried. This truth means Jesus was really dead. Most people who died on a cross had a slow death. (Read Mark 15:44,45.) Jesus died in a short time.

(3) Jesus was Raised. Men killed Jesus on the cross. God raised Him to life again.

(4) Jesus Appeared. Jesus proved that He was really alive. He showed Himself to His disciples many times. He asked them to touch Him (Luke 24:39).

(Read 1 Corinthians 15:5-8)

PROOF HE WAS RAISED

The New Testament tells that Jesus appeared many times. Paul listed six times that the Lord appeared.

Sometimes Jesus appeared to one person (verses 5 and 7). Other times He appeared to a small group or a large group (verse 6).

Some people who are not Christians say Jesus did not really appear. They say the people thought they saw Jesus. It is called an hallucination when a person thinks he sees something or something. Some people who use drugs such as dagga have hallucinations. A group of people using drugs do not have the same hallucination. Each sees a different thing. The people Jesus appeared to were not having hallucinations! They all saw Jesus!

Paul said he was as "one untimely born" (verse 8) in telling of his meeting with Jesus. He did not see Jesus when He first rose from the dead. The other apostles saw the Lord while He was still on earth. Paul saw Him after He went back to heaven.

(Read 1 Corinthians 15:9,10)

HOW PAUL'S LIFE CHANGED

Paul's meeting with the risen Lord changed his life. Paul became humble. He was a proud Pharisee when he met Christ. Now Paul believed he had sinned more than anyone. He did not feel worthy to be an apostle.

Paul was persecuting Christians when he met Christ. He led in putting Christians in prison. Then he became a great apostle.

In verse 10 we find what Paul said about himself. He said that he had worked harder than any of the other apostles. Paul means that he had taken the Gospel to more places than the other apostles.

Paul was not boasting. He said that his work was not of himself but of the grace of God. He meant that God's grace was working in him to do the work.

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Christians in Corinth believed that Jesus rose from death. But some of them did not believe Christians would also rise from death.

Paul said that if Christians will not rise from death, then Christ himself did not rise. Paul said even more about the rising again of Christians.

Note the word "vain" in verse 14. That means "has little value", or "not worth much". Paul said that if Christ did not rise from the dead, Gospel preaching is not worth much.

If the preaching is not worth much, the ones who preach would be misrepresenting God (verse 15).

If God did not raise Christ from death, then no one could be raised from death! People who believed the preaching of the apostles would be fooled. Their faith was in vain. Those people would still be in their sins.

Also, the people who had died believing Christ rose from death would be in hell. They would have no chance now to be saved (verse 18). Then Paul said that if our hope in Christ is good for this life only, and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in the world (verse 19).

Remember: The truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ depends on God's raising His Son from death.

3. The Holy Spirit teaches us about God. But we must open our hearts and minds to God's truths.

4. We who are saved have the "mind of Christ". This means we can know what Christ wants us to do. He then lives in our hearts. He controls our lives.

leads us to talk with someone else about spiritual matters, the same Holy Spirit will prepare that person's heart to receive these truths. Our words without the Holy Spirit are empty. They have no meaning unless they come from the Lord.

(Read I Corinthians 2:14-16)

THE NATURAL MAN AND THE SPIRITUAL MAN

The "natural man" or unspiritual man does not know the Lord personally. He has not been saved. He may have scientific knowledge. He may have the world's wisdom. But he does not have God's wisdom. He cannot understand spiritual truths. They are without meaning. They sound foolish to him.

Those things which come from God can be spiritually understood. We can understand these spiritual truths when they come from God and we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us to teach us.

Man cannot teach God or give Him advice. God's wisdom is greater than man's wisdom. When God is in us, we have His thoughts and can know His will. This kind of wisdom does not threaten our faith. It makes our faith grow stronger.

TO THINK ABOUT

Man's desire for wisdom needs to be God centered. When we seek to know more about God and His ways, then His wisdom is given to us. With God's wisdom we are able to discern His truths.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Scientific knowledge does not threaten our faith. Knowledge makes our faith stronger when we use it in the right way. God gives us knowledge.

2. The knowledge of men cannot take the place of faith. We need God's wisdom to guide us.

TO THINK ABOUT

Read the memory verse. Remember these words when problems come. Paul knew Christ rose from the dead. He knew work for Christ was worth something. He knew that work done for Christ by Christians of Corinth was worth something.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. The main Christian teachings are about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2. The Christian faith is based on the raising of Jesus from the dead.

3. There are many proofs that Jesus Christ did rise from the dead.

4. We who believe in and trust Christ should not get tired of serving Him. Our service is worth something ("Your labour is not in vain"). 1 Corinthians 15:58

CHAPTER 2

THE WORSHIPPING GROUP

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: Matthew 18:19, 20; John 4: 19-24; Acts 2:41-47, Colossians 3:14-17.

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Matthew 18:19, 20; John 4:24; Acts 2:41-47.

MEMORY VERSE: *"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth"*
John 4:24

Worship means showing or telling God what He means to you. It means to thank Him and praise Him. Worship of God means nothing to unbelievers. God is not real to them.

Christians are a special group of people. Christians are the church. As believers in Christ, Christians meet together to worship.

Worship is needed by the church. "The Worshipping Group" is another name for the church.

In the Bible verses for today we shall find how we can worship God.
(Read Matthew 18:19)

ONE SPIRIT

In this verse find the first thing needed for true worship. Did you find "agree"? People can worship alone. But when they worship together, they must be one in spirit.

Sometimes people are angry with one another. Sometimes they are jealous. Then they cannot worship.

Jesus told us what to do at such times. "Leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:24).

People who agree can worship together. God will hear their prayer. God will meet with

the world and man. He wanted man to love and worship Him. But He gave man the right to choose whether or not he would love God.

God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to die for the sins of all men. This was God's plan to draw men to Himself and therefore save them from their sins. This plan is "hidden" from men who do not believe. But those who believe can understand God's plan.

(Read I Corinthians 2:8)

REJECTING GOD'S WISDOM

The rulers mentioned in this verse were Romans and Jews. They did not accept Jesus as God's Son. They did not believe in Him as Saviour. They followed the wisdom of men rather than the wisdom of God. This is the reason they crucified Jesus. The wisdom of the world threatens a person's faith.

(Read I Corinthians 2:9-13)

GOD'S WISDOM HIDDEN AND REVEALED

God's wisdom cannot be understood by those who reject or refuse to believe in Jesus as Saviour. These things are hidden from the unbeliever. But God's wisdom is not hidden from those who have faith and believe. The Holy Spirit reveals this wisdom to them. The Holy Spirit opens their minds to understand. However, they must be willing to listen and let the Holy Spirit work in them.

We cannot know another person's thoughts. These are kept secret. No one knows God's thoughts. But the Holy Spirit can reveal God's thoughts to us. When our hearts and minds are open to the working of the Holy Spirit, then God's truths can be known. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we can learn spiritual truths. This is why it is so important for us to be obedient to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The Holy Spirit will help us when we teach God's truths to others. When the Holy Spirit

DOES SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE THREATEN FAITH?

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: Job 38; Job 42;
Proverbs 3:13-20; I Corinthians 1; I
Corinthians 2

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: I Corinthians 2:
6-16

MEMORY VERSE: *"But test everything; hold
fast what is good, abstain
from every form of evil"
I Thessalonians 5:21*

Man has learned many things about the world which God created. He is learning new things every day. Scientific knowledge means facts about the world. Through study man has learned that the earth is round. He has learned things about the moon, the stars and the sun. He has learned that there are many valuable minerals and also oil in the earth. These things are very helpful to us today.

Our lesson today asks the question, "Does it affect our faith because we have learned these many things about the earth in which we live?" God created man to have dominion over His other creations. Therefore, man should seek to learn all he can about the wonderful things in creation.

(Read I Corinthians 2:6, 7)

THE WORLD'S WISDOM AND GOD'S WISDOM

The wisdom of earthly rulers will pass away when they die. This is called the world's wisdom. This wisdom does not depend on God. It depends on man's knowledge.

Wisdom is not just having knowledge. True wisdom comes from God. When we know God and His ways, we have true wisdom. This wisdom will not pass away.

God made careful plans before He created

them.

(Read Matthew 18:20)

THE RIGHT PURPOSE

Find in this verse a second thing needed for true worship. Did you find "gathered in my name"? Christian worship is not just a meeting of friends.

Believers meet in Jesus' name when they worship. They meet to try to do what Jesus wants them to do. They give Him their best.

Jesus said He would be in such meetings: "There am I in the midst of them" (verse 20).

"TWO OR THREE"

This verse tells us something all Christians need to remember. A large crowd does not make a worship service. Two or three persons who meet in Jesus' name can worship. And He will meet with them.

In true worship, people know when God is with them. One does not worship God if God is not in his heart.

(Read John 4:24)

THE GOD WE WORSHIP

Jesus said, "God is a Spirit". He was talking to a Samaritan woman. Samaritans believed the place to worship was Mount Gerizim. Jews believed the place to worship God was in Jerusalem. The woman tried to argue with Jesus about the place to worship.

Jesus said the place we worship is not so important. But it is very important that each one worship God.

The way one worships is important, too. Jesus' words have a great teaching about God: "God is spirit." This means God does not have to be in just one place. You and I have physical bodies. We can be in only one place at a time. God is spirit. He can be any place or all places at the same time.

Since God is spirit, He is everywhere. A sinner cannot hide from him. A Christian can worship Him anywhere.

In July, 1969, two Americans, Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong landed on the moon. Aldrin called to Houston in the United States on the radio. He asked for a moment of silence. He asked everyone to give thanks to God. During the silence, he opened some little packages. They had bread and wine for the Lord's Supper. They also had a little paper with John 15:15 on it. Aldrin read the verse of Scripture. He poured the wine and broke the bread. The first liquid poured on the moon was to remember Christ's blood that was shed for us. The first food eaten on the moon was to worship Christ.

The Lord was with the men in the spaceship. He was with Aldrin's church on earth. A God who is Spirit can fill heaven and earth (Jeremiah 23:24).

SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Since God is spirit, a man must worship Him in "spirit and truth". Man's spirit is the greatest part of his nature. Man's spirit can be joined with God's Spirit.

We must be honest with God if we worship Him in spirit. We must think about God. We must really seek Him. We must really want Him in our lives.

(Read Acts 2:41, 42)

WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH

These verses tell about worship in the church in Jerusalem. When a person received Christ as Saviour, he was baptized (verse 41). The new Christians did four things in their worship (verse 42):

1. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching." They kept on teaching the truths Christ taught the apostles.

2. "And fellowship." They shared in Christian love. They shared what Christ had

thinks of all of us. He sees us as a group. He also sees each of us as individuals. He not only sees us but He cares for us. We are His special creation. He never forgets why He created us. He never wants us to forget that we belong to Him.

God gives glory and honour to man. Man is worth more than the other creations. Man is next to God. He is God's helper. This is why God gave man dominion over other creations. He placed man over all things.

Does man have a special place in God's sight? How should we feel toward God because of this? How can we ever thank God enough because of this place He has given us?

How well are you doing your job that God has given you? Are you a good steward of all that God gives you? Are you using the blessings of God in the right way? How can you improve your responsibilities that God has entrusted to you?

TO THINK ABOUT

God wants you to have all the good things He has created. But He wants you to use them to bring glory to Himself. God gave us certain talents or abilities for us to use.

Man is very special to God. God cares for all of us. He has created us as people with dignity and worth. He must not fail to fulfill the role in life that God intended us to do.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Man has been created in God's likeness.
2. God created man to have dominion over all other creations. We must remember that this is God's world. We are here to take care of things for Him.
3. Every person is God's special creation. God loves and cares for every person in the world.

could be his helper. They were a different kind of creation. Woman was created in the image and likeness of God the same as man. God planned for them to work together to fulfill the work He gave them to do.

(Read Genesis 1:28)

GOD'S BLESSING ON MAN AND WOMAN

Man and woman are to work together today the same as when God created them. They both need each other. God said that they should be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth. They would bear children with the blessing of God upon them. Man and woman are God's choice for ruling over the rest of His creation.

Today God still gives us dominion over the rest of His creation. We learn many things. But we must remember that God created all things. He owns all things. We are His helpers. We are stewards of these things. We are just using them while we live here in His earth.

(Read Psalm 8:1-3, 9)

GOD'S GLORY

The writer of this Psalm is praising God for His wonderful creation. How excellent is the name of the Lord in all the earth. Who could have done the work of God? There is none to compare with God. His plans and work of creation are far above the thoughts and imaginations of man. He has done everything well.

Do you consider your life as God's creation? Do you stop and look into the heavens and observe the sun, moon and stars? These were made by God. They were meant for man to enjoy. The sun provides the light that is necessary for all forms of life.

(Read Psalm 8:4-8)

MAN IS IMPORTANT

There are many people in the world. Does God ever think of just one person? Yes, He

done for them.

3. "In the breaking of bread." The early Christians ate together many times. Sometimes they took the Lord's Supper after they ate a meal.

4. "And the prayers." They prayed together. Christians need to pray with other Christians. This is one way to worship.

(Read Acts 2:43-47)

THE POWER OF THE CHURCH

What did Christians in the first church have the power to do?

(1) They did miracles (verse 43).

(2) They loved one another (verses 44-45).

(3) They were happy (verse 46).

(4) They helped people know how to receive Christ as Saviour (verse 47).

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Christians need to worship together.
2. When Christians worship together, they must be one in spirit.
3. When they worship God, they must be honest with Him.
4. When Christians really worship God, He will lead them to do many things for Him.

CHAPTER 3

THE CHURCH ORGANIZED FOR ITS MISSION

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: 1 Corinthians
12:12-27

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Acts 6:1-7;
Ephesians 4:11-16

MEMORY VERSE: *"...Speaking the truth in
love, we are to grow up in
every way into him who is
the head, into Christ"
Ephesians 4:15*

The church was started by Jesus Christ to do His work in the world. Church members must do the work of the Lord. They must work together to be able to accomplish the work God wants us to do.

This lesson tells how the early church first organized to do its work. In our Bible lesson for today find why the Christians decided to organize.

(Read Acts 6:1, 2).

THE PROBLEM

These verses tell us that the Greek-speaking Jewish widows complained. They said that the Hebrew-speaking Jewish widows got more help than they did.

The church helped its members who were in need. The apostles had to do that work, too. They could not do all the work.

The apostles felt that their work was preaching God's Word (verse 2). What did they do?

(Read Acts 6:3, 4)

THE ANSWER

They called a meeting of the church. They asked the people to choose workers to take

CHAPTER 11

MAN'S DOMINION IN GOD'S WORLD

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: Genesis 1:24-31;
Genesis 2:19, 20; Psalm 8

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 1:26-28;
Psalm 8:1-9

MEMORY VERSE: *"Thou has given him dominion
over the works of thy hands;
thous hast put all things
under his feet"
Psalm 8:6*

God created the world and everything in it. Then God created man as the crowning act of His creation. He put man in charge of the world He had created. Man was to have charge over the other things of creation. This was God's plan. He wanted man to look after what He had made.

As we study our lesson today, we are reminded of the great responsibility that God has given to man.

(Read Genesis 1:26)

MAN MADE LIKE GOD

After God had created the animals and plant life, He created man. The animals are not like man. Man is God's special creation. God had a special purpose for man. He wanted him to do a special work.

In creating man God wanted someone to be like Him. God knew that He would have fellowship with man if he were made like Himself. So God created man to love Him and worship Him.

(Read Genesis 1:27)

MAN AND WOMAN

This verse says that God created man and woman, "male and female". After God made a man, he made a woman to be his helper. Man needed someone like himself. None of the animals

is the same yesterday, today and forever.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. When changes come, we can depend on God to help us because He never changes.
2. We should study and meditate upon God's law each day. It should be written upon our hearts so that we will not sin against God.
3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, is the light of the world. He never changes. He will help us walk in His light. This light is God's truth.

care of the poor. They trusted the Holy Spirit to lead the people.

The church chose its helpers with care. Verse 3 tells what kind of men they chose:

- (1) Other Christians respected them.
 - (2) They had the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - (3) They had good common sense.
- (Read Acts 6:5, 6)

THE FIRST DEACONS

The men chosen are named in verse 5. The church had a special service for them. The apostles prayed for them. Then they "laid their hands on them" (verse 6). Bible teachers think of these men as the first deacons.

(Read Acts 6:7)

IT PAID TO ORGANIZE

This verse tells what happened after the church organized. The apostles had more time to preach and teach. Many people were saved. Even some of the Jewish priests became believers!

A church can do its work better when it organizes. More people have a chance to serve.

(Read Ephesians 4:11, 12)

CHRIST'S GIFTS

Find five kinds of leaders named in these verses. These leaders are Christ's gifts to His church.

Verse 12 tells why He gave these gifts to the church. Christ gave gifts to help His people get ready to serve Him.

Each Christian has a job to do for the Lord. Pastors and other leaders are to train the members to serve.

"Building up the body of Christ" (verse 12) means building up the church. Church members have the job of making the church stronger. As individual Christians learn to know God better, they have more of his joy and peace in their lives. Others see Jesus in their daily living.

They gain more of God's power to meet temptations. So the church becomes stronger.

(Read Ephesians 4:13-16)

Grown-up Christians know Christ as Lord and Saviour. They allow Jesus to take control of their daily lives.

Grown-up Christians are firm in their faith (verse 14). They will not let strange beliefs or old customs keep them from believing in Christ. Verse 15 tells that Christians are to grow up "in every way" to be like Jesus.

LOVE IS THE KEY

Read again verses 15 and 16. Can you see that love is the key to growing as a Christian? The church should grow. It grows by Christians telling others God's truths. Whatever the church does should be done "in love".

SOMETHING TO DO

Study the way your church is organized. Find a place to work. Learn how to do the job. Then work for the Lord as a grown-up Christian.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Jesus gave the church a big work to do. Each member must help do the work.
2. The only way the church can do the work is for the members to work together.
3. The church must organize. Then each member can do his part of the work.

Israel that there was hope for them if they returned to God.

In these verses Isaiah compared God's people to the grass and flowers. They grow and they flourish. But soon they wither and die. The nation of Israel experienced life like this. As they believed and followed God's law, the godliness of God was seen in them. But when they sinned and were disobedient to God, they suffered and became slaves of another nation as their just punishment.

Read again verse 8, which is our memory verse today. It tells about the weakness of men. They live on earth only a short while. Then they die. They do not always keep God's law. They break their promises to God.

This verse also has a promise. God does not change. He keeps His word forever. We can depend on God. He will not break His promises as men do.

We can turn to God in bad times. When we sin, we go to God and He will forgive us. He will help us make a new start.

God wanted to help His people. He wanted them to go back to their own land and start a new life. But they must obey Him and stay true to His teachings.

(Read John 8:12)

JESUS IS OUR LIGHT

Jesus was teaching in the temple when He said these words. Jesus called Himself the "light of the world." We have His light in our lives when He lives in our hearts.

When we walk in the light of Jesus, we have no fear of the darkness. The darkness of sin is taken away when Jesus comes in. He gives us His light. His light is the truth of life. He shows us how to live and stay true to God.

TO THINK ABOUT

The world changes but God never changes. He

the people.

Joshua had been Moses' helper. He had observed how Moses led the people. He knew that God had called Moses. He saw how God led Moses day by day. But now Joshua was to be the leader. Could Joshua count on God helping as He had helped Moses?

Joshua could not ask Moses to help him. However, he could ask God, whose help was far greater than what Moses could have done for him. God had not changed. He was the same God that had led Moses. He would now lead Joshua.

God spoke to Joshua. He told Joshua that he must arise and lead the children of Israel over the Jordan River into the land that He had promised them many years before. God had not changed this promise since it was first given to Abraham. He would not change the promise just because Moses was dead and Joshua was the new leader.

Not only did God promise to give the land to the people but He also promised to protect them from their enemies. Joshua must be strong and courageous. He must not be afraid. God would not fail him.

God reminded Joshua that he and his people must keep on obeying God's law. They were to read it and meditate upon it each day. They were to observe and be obedient to the teachings of the law. If they were obedient to God's law, then God promised to go with them and keep them wherever they went.

(Read Isaiah 40:6-8)

GOD'S TRUTH STANDS FOREVER

Many years had passed since Joshua's time. Many things had changed. God's people became a nation. They had experienced good times. They also had times when they sinned and refused to follow God. At this particular time in history they had been conquered by Babylon. They were taken as slaves. Isaiah was God's prophet. He spoke for God. He reminded the nation of

AFTER 4

THE WITNESSING FELLOWSHIP

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: Mark 5:1-20;
Acts 8:1-40; Acts 18:24-28.

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Mark 5:18-20;
Acts 8:1-8; Acts 18:24-28

MEMORY VERSE: *"Go home to your friends, and
tell them how much the Lord
has done for you and how he
has had mercy on you"*
Mark 5:19

Christian witnessing is telling what Christ has done for you. It is telling how He has changed your life. Our lesson today tells us how some of the first Christians witnessed.

One day Jesus said to His disciples "Let's go to the other side of the sea". Jesus and his disciples started across the sea in a boat. A great storm arose and the waves beat the boat.

At last they came to the other side of the sea. A man full of evil spirits met them. He wore no clothes. He was so strong that chains could not hold him.

Jesus healed the man. The demons left him and entered some pigs nearby. The pigs ran into the sea and drowned. Then the people were afraid and asked Jesus to leave.

Find in today's Bible lesson what the healed man did.

(Read Mark 5:18-20)

A WITNESS SENT OUT

Jesus and His disciples got into the boat to leave. The healed man said: "Let me go, too".

How did Jesus answer? He told the man to go and tell his friends how much the Lord had done for him. Do you have family members and friends who are not Christians? It may not be easy, but we must witness to them if we are true

Christians.

Did the man obey the Lord? (See verse 20)
The man began to tell people what Christ had done for him. He went from town to town. The people "marvelled". They didn't know what to think.

(Read Acts 8:1-3)

CHRISTIANS WERE PERSECUTED

After Jesus returned to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to give power to the disciples. They began to witness to everyone. Many people became new disciples. They, too, became witnesses.

Then Christians began to be persecuted in Jerusalem. "They were scattered throughout the region of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles" (verse 1).

Stephen was stoned to death. (We studied last week about Stephen's being chosen to be one of the first deacons.) A man named Saul was trying to destroy the church. He went into the homes of Christians. He put them in jail.

What did Christians do when they went to other places? We find the answer in the following reading.

(Read Acts 8:4-8)

PHILIP IN SAMARIA

One of those who left Jerusalem was Philip. He went to a city of Samaria. The Samaritans were a mixed race, part Jew and part Gentile. Jews and Samaritans hated one another.

But Philip did not hate other races. His heart was filled with God's love.

Philip's witness started a real revival. Maybe he began by telling one man about Christ. Soon he was preaching to crowds of people. God gave him much power. He healed the sick. Many people became Christians. "So there was much joy in that city" (verse 8).

Philip knew the Scriptures. He knew Christ as Saviour. He had helped the apostles. He was able to witness for the Lord.

CHAPTER 10

THE BIBLE IN OUR CHANGING WORLD

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: Joshua 1:1-9;
Isaiah 40: 6-8; Daniel 1; John 8:12

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Joshua 1:1-9;
Isaiah 40:6-8; John 8:12

MEMORY VERSE:

*"The grass withers, the flower
fades; but the word of our
God will stand forever"*
Isaiah 40:8

Every day the world changes. We can see these changes as we look about us. There is much for us to learn as we observe such changes.

But the Bible does not change. It has not changed since God spoke to men and they wrote down His words many centuries ago. As we keep on studying the Bible, we learn new things each day. Through the Bible God speaks to us and shows us how He wants us to live.

The Bible can guide us in our changing world. We learn to make right choices as we study the Bible. Such choices that we make will help to strengthen our faith and prepare us for the changes in our world.

(Read Joshua 1:1-9)

A CHANGE IN LEADERS

Moses had led the children of Israel for forty years. He led them out of slavery in Egypt. He was a good leader. He followed God and was able to teach the people many valuable lessons.

Now Moses was dead. Someone else must take his place of leadership. Joshua was chosen for this important task. Changes were being made. Could Joshua lead the people as well as Moses had done? Could he really take the place of Moses? Would the people be willing to follow his leadership? Many questions must have faced Joshua and

lives. God's Word must live in our hearts. We should teach it to others. We can show our thanks by singing joyful Christian songs (verse 16). Everything we say and do should be worthy of Christ. We should show others the joy of our renewed lives.

Your church will rejoice when the life of one person is renewed in Christ. A Christian will show that his life is renewed by serving Christ.

TO THINK ABOUT

Did you think about something in your life you should "put away"? Did you think of something you needed to "put on"? God will help you do these things.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. If you are a Christian, you have died to life in this world. Get rid of things that lead to sin.
2. You need to renew your faith in Christ. Put on the new man in Christ.
3. Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus.

(Read Acts 18:24-28)

APOLLOS CAME TO EPHEBUS

Apollos, a Jew from Egypt, came to Ephesus. He knew the baptism of repentance which John the Baptist preached. He did not know about Jesus as his saviour.

Apollos began to speak in the synagogue. He was a good speaker. He knew the Scriptures. He knew the Messiah would come. He told the things he knew.

WILLING TO LEARN

Apollos was willing to learn from others. (Read verse 26 again.)

Aquila and his wife Priscilla were Christians. They lived in Ephesus when Apollos came. They went to Apollos and told him that Jesus was Messiah! He believed in Jesus as his Saviour. Then he witnessed in a better way.

When Apollos left Ephesus he went to Corinth. He helped believers there. Apollos proved "by the Scriptures" that Jesus was the Messiah. When a couple are going to be married they send out wedding invitations. The families concerned try to reach out to as many friends and relatives as they can. They invite them to come and attend the wonderful occasion. The message is passed around to every one about the exciting time to come. Even so, the message of Christ needs to be spread to all friends and relatives and to every man and woman in the street.

SOMETHING TO DO

Study the memory verse. Do you have family members or a friend who is not a Christian? Ask the Lord to tell you when to speak to him. Ask the Lord to prepare his heart.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Early Christians were persecuted and had to leave Jerusalem. They witnessed where they went.

2. God can use all Christians who tell others about Him and His love which will save them.

3. Each witness must know Jesus Christ : his Saviour.

slander, foul talk and lying. Such sins should not be part of a Christian's life.

All these are sins toward other people. They come from the mouth and lips. These are sins of a life not renewed in Christ. All sins listed in verses 5, 8 and 9 can be put away by a Christian with Christ's help.

(Read Colossians 3:10-15)

THE NEW MAN

Paul spoke of the new nature or the new man. This man's life is renewed by faith in Christ. The new man grows in the knowledge of God. This knowledge helps the new man see others as Christ sees them (verse 11). All new men are the same in Christ. Christ died for all men.

Paul called the Colossian Christians "God's chosen ones, holy and beloved" (verse 12). They belonged to God. He loved them and chose them to be His. If we are Christians, we also belong to God in the same way.

Paul told us five good actions we should put on (verses 13-15). These are compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience. These are the qualities of a renewed life. All these actions show a love for others.

Paul added forgiveness to these actions (verse 13). He told us Christ forgave us. We need to remember to forgive one another.

Paul said love was to be put on above all these things (verse 14). Love is the power used to hold together the other good actions. Love shows that a life is renewed in Christ.

The peace of Christ comes when the lives of Christians are renewed (verse 15). It shows in our fellowship with one another. In the same verse Paul said, "Be thankful." Be full of thanks. Love and peace are God's gifts to us through Christ. We should be thankful for them.

(Read Colossians 3:16, 17)

RESULT OF RENEWAL

Paul told us to put Christ first in our

knew that things of this earth have value for only a short time. "Things that are above" have the greater value.

The old life of a Christian is dead (verse 3). The Christian's new life, hidden in Christ, is very real. The roots of a tree are hidden. But they give life to the part of the tree we see.

A Christian cannot understand how Christ lives in him. He cannot tell someone how Christ renews his life. Yet the person whose life is hidden with Christ lives a life which is controlled by God and not by himself.

The way a Christian lives in this world is important. It is important to him as well as others. Persons in whom Christ lives now will have fellowship with Christ always (verse 4). Our lives can be renewed in Jesus each day.

(Read Colossians 3:5-7)

THE WRATH OF GOD

Earthly desires must be put to death (verse 5). Why? They cause a person to sin. Paul listed five of these sins. The first four are sins of the body. They are immorality, impurity, passion, and evil desire. The other is the sin of covetousness or greed. This means to want something so badly that the desire consumes you. Paul said not to worship the things of this life, for that is idolatry.

The Christian should be dead to these sins, said Paul. He left his old, sinful life. He has a new life in Christ.

Paul warned those who did not obey God (verse 6). God would punish them. God does not like sin. Colossian Christians lived in such sins (verse 5) before their lives were hidden with Christ.

(Read Colossians 3:8, 9)

PUT AWAY SINS

Paul listed other sins Christians should get rid of. These were anger, wrath, malice,

CHAPTER 5

JESUS' COMMAND TO WITNESS

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: Matthew 28: 19, 20; Luke 24:45-49; John 17:16-23; Acts 11: 19-26; Acts 13:1-3

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Matthew 28:19, 20; Luke 24:45-49; John 17:18-21; Acts 13:1-3

MEMORY VERSE: *"As thou didst send me into the world, so I have sent them into the world."*
John 17:18

(Read Matthew 28:19, 20)

Jesus gave His disciples a command before He ascended to heaven. We have just read what He commanded. Christ's command was to tell others how to be saved. It is Christ's command to the church. The church must obey His command.

In the Scripture for today's lesson, where did Christ command the church to go? What was the church to preach and teach?

(Read Luke 24:45, 46)

OPENED MINDS

Out in the bush there are roads that have been used for many years and the ruts get very deep. Sometimes they get so deep and the holes so big that the road can't be used. Then the people move to one side and make a new road.

The Jews had religious ideas that were like old roads. They had wrong ideas about the law, the Messiah, and God's kingdom. It seemed that nothing could change their thinking.

Their ideas about the Messiah were wrong. They thought He would become their king. They thought He could organize an army. Then He would fight the government and win.

Jesus' disciples were Jews. They knew the same teachings the others knew. They had been with Jesus for three years. Yet they did not know the meaning of the Scriptures. They

needed new understanding, too.

Jesus "opened their minds to understand" (verse 45). This means that He gave them new paths or roads. They received new understanding of the Scriptures.

The key to their new understanding is in verse 46. Read this verse again. This is the truth about the Messiah. He was not a leader with an army behind Him. He was the suffering Saviour. He would die for their sins. After the suffering, he would rise from death.

(Read Luke 24:47, 48)

THE COMMAND

What are the disciples to do? They were to preach two things:

(1) Everyone must repent of his sins.

(2) When a person repents, Christ will forgive his sins.

Christians were to preach in His name. They would speak for Christ. They would stand in His place to ask lost people to repent. (Read 2 Corinthians 5:20)

Verse 47 also tells where Christians must go with the Gospel. We must begin witnessing where we live ("beginning from Jerusalem"). Then we must take the Gospel to all people. (Read Luke 24:49)

POWER TO DO THE JOB.

What was the promise of my fathers? Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the power came.

The promise of the Father was the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would come on the disciples to give them power to witness to others about Jesus.

(Read John 17:18-21)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus prayed many times. In Jesus' prayer in John 17 He

CHAPTER 9

NEED FOR RENEWAL

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: Colossians 3:1-17; 1 Peter 4:12-19; Revelation 2: 1-7; Revelation 3:14-22

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Colossians 3:1-17

MEMORY VERSE: *"Have this mind among yourselves, which you have in Christ Jesus"*
Philippians 2:5

Did you ever paint a room in your house? Have you ever mended a broken chair? If you did, you renewed. You made it new again.

Someone was teaching the Christians at the town of Colossae a wrong kind of worship. Many Christians began to believe what they heard.

Paul learned about the problem of these Christians. He and his helper, Timothy, wrote a letter to them. (See Colossians 1:1 in your Bible). They wanted to help these Christians renew their faith in God.

The letter is very short. Read all of it in your Bible this week. Part of the letter is listed as the "Scripture in Today's Lesson." (Read Colossians 3:1-4)

HIDDEN WITH CHRIST

Paul knew these people were true Christians. (Read Colossians 1:4) Later they accepted wrong teachings. Their lives needed to be renewed.

Paul told them to think about heavenly things (verses 1 and 2). When a Christian set his heart or mind on things in heaven, he lived in a different way. He did not even think the same thoughts.

These Christians were told that they should not keep their minds "on things that are on earth". Some who had been baptized wanted to keep on doing some things of the world. Paul

The church's teaching ministry should be a time of learning. It should proclaim Christ to all men. It should help each one have a deeper faith in God.

TO THINK ABOUT

One way to tell the good news is to teach others. Would you be willing to teach your Sunday School lesson to a person who is unable to come to church? Or would you teach your class when your teacher cannot attend?

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Every Christian should teach others how to find Christ as Saviour.

2. Grown-up Christians should be examples in Christian living.

3. God gave us the Bible to help us learn about Him. It will help us know how to live. It will help us teach others, also.

was praying for Christians. Our Lord was telling the heavenly Father that He was sending His apostles out to work. The Father sent Him into the world to work.

Then Jesus offered Himself to do the Father's will. Jesus told the Father again that He was willing to die on the cross for man's sins. Because Jesus offered Himself, the apostles would be able to offer themselves to serve God.

Verse 20 and 21 give us much comfort. Did you know that Jesus prayed for you and me? (Read those verses again.) He prayed for those who believe in him through their (the apostles) word. He prayed that all Christians would be one. They should be one just as the Father and our Lord are one.

What does it mean to be "one in Christ"? Our Lord wanted all Christians to work together. He wants us to win lost people to believe in Him. He wants all Christians to become more like Him.

(Read Acts 13:1-3)

THE FIRST MISSIONARIES

The church at Antioch was started because Christians were persecuted. As they had to leave their homes because of persecution. They told the people they met about Jesus. Many of these people repented and believed.

The Christians at Antioch met to fast and pray. As they prayed the Holy Spirit spoke to them. (Read verse 2 again)

This group of Christians obeyed the Spirit. They sent out Paul and Barnabas as missionaries. These men were the first missionaries sent out by the church.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Christ commanded His disciples to tell lost people that He (Christ) can save them.

2. Christ prayed for all Christians. He wanted them to work together to tell others about Him.

3. The church at Antioch set an example for us. These Christians sent out the first missionaries.

Christ to be a good teacher. This strength would be given by God through Jesus.

Paul wanted Timothy to be a good teacher. Timothy needed to remember the things he had heard Paul teach and preach. Then Timothy could teach the good news to other faithful men. These faithful men would be able to teach others. A good minister will be faithful and be able to teach others.

INSPIRED SCRIPTURES

Read the memory verse (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). Paul said that all Scripture is inspired by God. Because it is inspired it is useful for teaching. The Scriptures can be used to teach the truth and how to live right. They can help a person know what is false and wrong.

God will guide and give strength to the person who knows and follows His Word. The Christian is then "equipped for every good work" (verse 17).

IN OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

A Christian teacher should learn well the truths of God. He must be faithful in his work. This teacher speaks for God and makes Him known to others. He must love others. He must share what means most to him, "the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:1).

The teacher must know and love Jesus. The teacher must know that God is with him as he teaches. "...Lo, I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

Members of a Sunday School class look to the teacher to guide them in spiritual growth. Each Christian who comes needs spiritual exercise. It will help him get ready to teach others.

A class member who is not a Christian needs to hear the good news. Some may never become a Christian unless the teacher leads them. The teacher should be the spiritual guide of the class members.

ready to teach others.

Do you remember the things Paul told Timothy to keep away from (verse 7)? He told him to stay away from "godless and silly myths". These were false teachings. False teachings had nothing to do with the true religion.

Paul also said Timothy should keep training for the work he would do (verses 7 and 8). A person exercises and trains his body to get ready to play football. He must keep on training every day. But exercise of the body is good only for this life.

Spiritual exercise is good for this life and also for the life to come (verse 8). Timothy was told to exercise himself to be a better Christian. Part of this training would be gained when he taught other people. This kind of training would help him now and in the life to come.

Paul said that what he wrote to Timothy (verse 9) was true. This teaching was worthy to be followed by all Christians.

(Read 1 Timothy 4:10-12)

A GOOD EXAMPLE

Paul remembered how he had worked hard and suffered because he was a minister of Christ. He was willing to do this because he trusted and served a living God. He knew that only a living God would give eternal life to all men. "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28).

Paul told Timothy he should be a good example for the Christians at Ephesus. He should be an example in the way he loved God and the people of Ephesus. He should live the faith he had in Jesus. At all times and in all places he should be an example.

(Read 2 Timothy 2:1, 2)

TEACH OTHER TEACHERS

Paul knew Timothy must have strength from

CHAPTER 6

CARING ABOUT HUMAN NEED

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: Matthew 25: 31-46; Luke 22:24-27; Hebrews 13:1-3; James 1:27; James 2:14-17

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Luke 22:24-27; Hebrews 13:1-3; James 1:27; James 2:14-17; Matthew 25:31-40

MEMORY VERSE: *"Truly I say to you as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me"*
Matthew 25:40

Jesus cared about people. He wanted to meet their needs. This lesson will help you learn about needs of people. It will help you care about their needs.

People who lived when Jesus lived had many needs. The writers of Hebrews and James told about needs of people. Read about these in the "Scripture in Today's Lesson".
(Read Luke 22:24-27)

WHO IS GREATEST?

Jesus was eating the Last Supper with His disciples. The disciples began to argue (verse 24) before the Supper ended. They wanted to know who was the greatest disciple. Perhaps each one thought he was the greatest. Jesus used this time to teach them a lesson.

Jesus reminded them that kings of the world had power over people. He told them these kings were called friends of the people. The people like them and served them.

Who was the greatest disciple? (Look at verses 26 and 27 again.) Did you find the answers Jesus gave? Jesus said the person who is greatest is the one who serves. Jesus included Himself as a servant. He wanted His disciples

to help others. He wanted them to be great in His kingdom.

(Read Hebrews 13:1-3)

BROTHERLY LOVE

"Love" tells us why we care about human needs.

Christians should care about human needs because they love Christ. They care because they love those in need.

Who are our brothers in Christ? To whom should we show our love? Verses 2 and 3 list three groups of people: strangers, those in prison, and those who suffer.

(Read Matthew 25:31-40; James 1:27)

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

James said the widows and orphans had needs. A widow suffered very much when her husband died. Her children also suffered when they did not have a father. They had many needs
(Read James 2:14-17)

FAITH - DEAD OR ALIVE

James spoke of dead faith. Did you find what caused faith to be dead? It had no works with it (verse 17). The person with a living faith cares about human need.

James spoke from experience about a faith that was not in word only. He worked in the church at Jerusalem. The Christians in Jerusalem had very little food. The Christians at Antioch learned of their need. They took up an offering of money. They sent it to the Christians at Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-30).

THOSE IN NEED

People still have needs. You may learn about these people and their needs when you visit other members of your church. You will

CHAPTER 8

THE CHURCH'S TEACHING MINISTRY

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: Matthew 28:19, 20; 1 Timothy 4:6-16; 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:10-17

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: 1 Timothy 4: 6-12; 2 Timothy 2:1-2

MEMORY VERSE:

"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work"
2 Timothy 3:16, 17

In this lesson we shall study about the teaching service of the church. The person who does this teaching service or work is called a teacher. This service or ministry is called the Sunday School. A teacher is one who serves.

Paul went many places to preach and teach about Jesus. Timothy went with him to many of these places. Later Timothy went alone to the city of Ephesus. Paul wrote to Timothy. Paul called Timothy his "true child in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2). These letters helped Timothy to be a good teacher.

(Read 1 Timothy 4:6-9)

A GOOD MINISTER

Paul began by telling Timothy to "put these instructions before the brethren" (verse 6). These instructions are in the letters Paul wrote.

Paul told Timothy to be "nourished on the words of the faith" (verse 6). Timothy learned the truths of the Gospel from his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5). He kept on learning about the Gospel as he worked with Paul. Timothy did the things he was taught to do. Now he was

from the sermons of the preachers. Pastors help everyone understand the Gospel. The Gospel is the "power of God" (Romans 1:16). When Christians understand the Gospel, they can be better witnesses. Christians can help proclaim the good news.

Each Christian is called to proclaim the Gospel. The chief work of a Christian is to be a witness.

Christian witnessing is sharing the Gospel with others. A Christian can tell how God loves him. He can tell how he heard the good news and believed. "For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

A few words spoken in love and faith may proclaim the Gospel. There are no exact words to say. Once God asked Moses to be a witness for Him. Moses told God he was not a good speaker. God promised Moses He would be with his mouth and teach him what to say.

(Read Exodus 4:10-12)

Your church will help you know how to witness. It will help you know how to study the Bible and to pray. You will have joy when you witness.

TO THINK ABOUT

Christians often proclaim the Gospel to only one person at a time. This may be done in home when a Christian witnesses to a member of a family. Have you ever given the good news to a guest in your home? A Christian may witness to someone at school or at work. Love the person who does not have faith in Jesus. Then you will want to tell him the good news.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Every Christian should proclaim the Gospel.
2. Every Christian can proclaim the Gospel.
3. God will help you tell someone how to be saved.

also find children who do not go to Sunday School. Many people do not attend any church. They have needs. Jesus sends us into every place where He would go to find people in need.

You know people who have needs. Many people have the same needs as those you read about in this lesson. The sick need our help. Others need someone to love. Some need to be loved. People who live alone need friends. Older people need the help of younger people. A Christian may be involved in helping people with many needs.

CARING ABOUT NEEDY PEOPLE

How will you meet these needs? You can use your time to meet many needs. Money may be needed when you care about meeting the needs of others.

One person may meet some needs. Several people, men and women, may work together at other times. You and other Christians are the church. The church should meet needs of people. Today Christ meets human needs through His disciples.

TO THINK ABOUT

When you help a person in need, he is more willing to hear about Jesus. His greatest need is to know Jesus as Saviour. You can witness to him. You can tell him what the Bible says. You can tell him what Jesus means to you.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Christians should try to find out what other people need.
2. We should show God's love by meeting those needs.
3. We show our faith in Christ when we help someone in need.

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL

BIBLE LESSON TO STUDY AT HOME: Luke 4:16-21;
Romans 10:14-18; Ephesians 3:7-13

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Luke 4:16-21;
Romans 10:14-18

MEMORY VERSE: *"For I am not ashamed of the
gospel; it is the power of
God for salvation to every
one who has faith, to the
Jew first and also to the
Greek."
Romans 1:16*

The Gospel is the good news about Christ and his power to save. A Christian is one who has believed the good news. He will tell the good news to others when he cares about their needs.

A person who proclaims the Gospel is sometimes called a witness. A witness of the Gospel will tell what he knows of God's goodness to him. He will tell of his faith in Jesus.

This lesson should help you find a way to proclaim the Gospel.
(Read Luke 4:16-21)

JESUS PREACHED

Jesus had been away from home. Then He returned to Nazareth. Luke told us some things Jesus did while He was away from home. He was baptized by John. Satan then asked Jesus to do some things to please him. Jesus did not do them. He knew it was wrong to obey Satan.

Luke also told us what Jesus did when He came home (verse 16). This verse tells us it was the custom of Jesus to go to the synagogue on the sabbath. The building where the people worshipped was called a synagogue. The sab-

bath was the day the people came together to worship.

Sometimes a member of the synagogue was asked to preach. A visitor was often asked to preach. Jesus was asked to preach when He went to the synagogue on the sabbath.

The service in the synagogue included reading verses from the Old Testament. Jesus stood up when he read (verse 16). Did you learn the name of the book from which Jesus read (verse 17)? He read from the book of Isaiah, a prophet. Jesus read Isaiah 61:1-2 (see verses 18-19).

After Jesus read from the book of the prophets, He sat down. The people knew this meant that Jesus would begin to preach to them. They wanted to hear what He would say.

Jesus said that the verses He read came true that day (verse 21). Those verses told about the work He would do. He would preach the Gospel. He would help to meet the needs of all people.

(Read Romans 10:14-18)

PREACHING AND FAITH

How can a person ask Jesus to save him? Paul said a person must believe Jesus can save him from his sins. The person must have faith in Jesus. But the person must hear about Jesus before he can believe in Him. Someone must proclaim the Gospel to him.

A preacher proclaims the good news. God calls him to preach the good news to others. After people hear the good news, they can believe. They can repent and call on Jesus to save them. A person can have faith when he hears God's word (verse 17).

Everyone who hears the Gospel does not believe it. The good news was proclaimed to the ends of the world (verse 18).

WITNESSING TODAY

Today our churches have pastors who tell the good news. Many people hear God's message