The background of the cover is a green-tinted illustration of a tropical scene. In the foreground, a person is shown in a small boat on a body of water, holding a long pole. The boat has a woven mat on its deck. In the background, there are silhouettes of trees and a distant shoreline. The overall style is that of a vintage book cover.

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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

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## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

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# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

## CHAPTER 1

### WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

SCRIPTURE: John 3:1-21

MEMORY VERSE: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16*

Who is a Christian? Do you think you know the answer? If not, this book is written to help you. In it, we will try to answer questions you may be asking about the Christian life.

### A BELIEVER IN CHRIST

First, a Christian is a believer in Jesus Christ. This means that he understands who Jesus is, and has accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour. "But wait!" you might ask, "Who is this Jesus?" We learn of Jesus in the Bible. The Bible tells the story of God, and God's love for this world. God made the world and created everything in it (Genesis 1:1), but he did not just make it out of boredom. He made it as the specific place for man to live. Then he made man and placed him in the world. God was lonely, and he wanted man to be his friend. But the enemy of all that is good, Satan, brought sin into the world, and man decided that he liked sin more than God. This caused a great separation between man and God, a separation that only God could close up.

The tribe of Israel, the race of people we call Jews today, was the tribe to whom God revealed himself. He chose Abraham (Genesis 12:1), the Father of the Jews, and blessed him. He spoke to Moses out of a bush that burned, yet was not destroyed (Exodus 3), and later gave him the ten commandments (Exodus 20). Throughout the history of the Jewish nation, he spoke to his people through his prophets, and prepared them for the coming of Jesus, his only Son, who would close up the great separation between man and God by an act of the greatest love.

Jesus was crucified. He hung on a cross until he died. He was the Son of God, and he never sinned. Yet, he allowed himself to be killed for all men. Even though God loves us, it is the nature of God to be disgusted by sin. The reward for sin is death (Romans 3:23). But God loved us so much that he sent Jesus, his only son, to save us. If we believe that Jesus came to save us, as the Bible says, and we accept that Salvation, God no longer sees us as sinners.

God has given each one of us the opportunity to help close the gap between ourselves and him. But we must meet him halfway. We must accept Jesus as our personal Saviour, and when we do this, we become Christians.

#### WHY DO WE NEED TO BE SAVED?

First, God saves us to live with him forever. Remember we said that God created man for us to be friends with him. God lives forever, and God's friends live forever as

well. He also saved us to serve him, both here on earth while we live our physical lives and then in heaven with him forever. This leads us to our second point in understanding who a Christian is.

### JESUS IS LORD

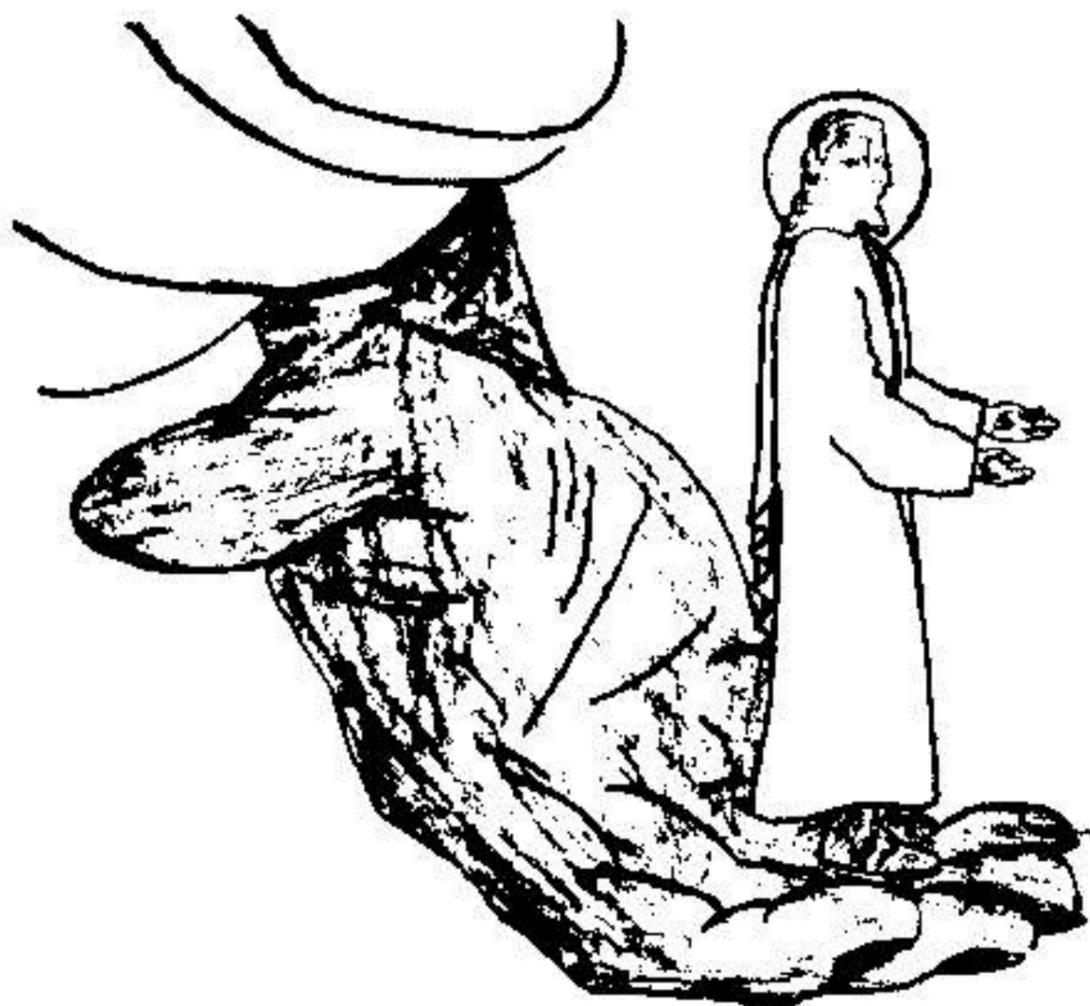
It is not enough for a Christian just to accept Jesus as Saviour. He must also make Jesus the Lord of his life. Who directs your life? Do you know that the Bible says that Jesus wants to be chief in your life? If you do not let Jesus direct your life, then Satan will be in charge instead. Only Jesus can take away sin. But he cannot do this unless you let him. If Jesus is your Saviour but isn't your Lord (chief), you are missing many of the blessings that God has promised you:

1. He has promised to be with us always. But if Satan is still controlling our life we cannot be able to hear what God is saying.
2. He has promised us peace in our lives but there cannot be any peace where there is sin. Sin is evil and peace is good, and good and evil cannot be together.

In order to receive all the blessings that God has promised, we must make Jesus our Lord. There are five ways of making Jesus Lord that we will discuss in the following chapters. These are: serving God by learning about him; serving God by being baptised;

-serving God by becoming part of a church;  
-serving God by sharing our faith; serving God  
-by sharing our possessions. If we serve God  
-in all these ways with love, then we can  
-truly say that we have made Jesus the Lord of  
-our life.

This, then, answers our first question  
-"Who is a Christian?" A Christian is anyone,  
-man or woman, boy or girl, who has accepted  
-Jesus Christ as Saviour and made him Lord.



GOD GAVE HIS SON JESUS THAT  
-THROUGH HIM THE PEOPLE  
-MIGHT BE SAVED



## CHAPTER 2

### HOW DOES ONE BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

SCRIPTURE: Romans 10

MEMORY VERSE: *"Because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*  
Romans 10:9

In the last chapter we discussed the question "Who is a Christian?" In this chapter we will discuss the question, "How does one become a Christian?" As we said before, a person becomes a Christian by accepting Jesus as personal Saviour. What does this mean?

#### JESUS SAVES US

There once was a farmer who owned much land. One day he was troubled. People kept coming to his land and chopping down his trees for firewood. He tried many methods of keeping people out. He built a fence. He hired security guards. Nothing seemed to work. Then one day as he hunted with his friends he thought of a trap. He dug a deep pit, and covered it over with sticks and grass so that it looked to be firm ground. Then he opened his gates and took away his security guards and waited to see what would happen. Almost immediately a group of women came into his property to steal wood. When they had gathered great bundles they began to slip away; but they very suddenly stepped into



the pits and were caught. The farmer heard their cries and took a rope with him to the pit. There he said, I only wanted to teach you a lesson, so do not worry about my punishing you. I am going to let this rope down, and one by one I will pull you out of the pit. But I cannot lift you and your bundles of

stolen wood as well. You must leave your bundles down there. One by one, he lifted them out, all except for one woman who would not leave her bundle. It could do her no good there; and if left in the pit she would starve, yet still she clung to it.

What has this story to do with Jesus? Just this. It is as if all of mankind has fallen into a pit. This is the pit of sin, and our own personal sinful lives are like the bundles of stolen wood. Jesus is like the man with the rope, and he holds the rope for us in order to save us. In order for him to be able to save us, however, we have to drop our sinful lives and begin to take the rope, and ask him to pull us out.

### JESUS CAN SAVE ANYONE

There is no one on earth who is too great a sinner for Jesus to save. No matter how deep the pit of sin is for each one of us, if we truly feel sorry for disobeying God by sinning, and want to be saved, Jesus can save us. He is that powerful. You may wonder how just one man, Jesus, could save all men by his death. Remember that the Bible says every man is a sinner. How does he do it? Jesus was not a common man. He is the only person who has ever lived who was completely sinless. He lived a perfect life. Remember too that Jesus was the Son of God. God loved mankind so much that he allowed his son, Jesus, to become a man. Jesus then, was both man and God when he lived on earth. Jesus allowed himself to be killed as a sacrifice for all

man's sin. This is why we love Jesus so much; because he died for us.

## JESUS LIVES AGAIN

When the disciples buried Jesus after his crucifixion, they knew he was dead; and they were very sad. Imagine their surprise when three days later they heard that Jesus had come back to life. You see, death is the reward of sin. God has nothing to do with death for God does not sin. Neither did Jesus, but when Jesus accepted our sins on his shoulders, he had to die. Yet he was still God, and death could have no hold on him. We say he was resurrected. He lived once again, and even though all this happened almost 2,000 years ago, he is still alive today, ready to forgive our sins. Once Jesus has forgiven us, then death cannot keep us either. We will still die, as he did, but also as he did we will rise up to live again. -----But first we must ask him to save us. We are still in the pit, and must, in prayer, say "Jesus help me." He is ready and waiting to do this right now. Once we have asked for his help, we must trust him who has the power to save us. It does no good to believe the rope will get you out of the pit if you do not trust the man holding it and take hold of it yourself so he can save you.

If you are not a Christian, now is the time to become one. If you believe Jesus can save you, and want him to, then bow your head and pray; "Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I am sorry for disobeying you in the past. Please

forgive my sin, and save me. I believe you can." And if you truly believe it, he will!

Once we are out of the pit, we should thank God for saving us. We can be sure that he has saved us forever. But even though we have been forgiven of sin, that does not mean that we can continue to do wrong. The one who truly believes Jesus in his heart will want to make him the Lord of life, not just the Saviour.

This is how to become a Christian. Are you a Christian? If not, surely you will think about becoming one. Remember, you are caught in the pit of sin, and Jesus is the only way out.



## CHAPTER 3

### WHICH IS THE TRUE RELIGION?

SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-31

MEMORY VERSE: *"Jesus said to him I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the father, but by me."*  
John 14:6

We have been speaking of Christianity as if it were the only religion, yet we all know there are many others. Perhaps you want to say "But what of the Muslims?" or "What about the gods the Asians worship, or the old gods of Africa?" You may be thinking "there are so many gods it is impossible to know which is the true religion." This is not so. The Bible says we can know the true religion. Let us study each religion just a little.

#### THE OLD GODS

Years ago almost all of Africa worshipped their own tribal gods. These gods were often symbols of the powers of nature. There was a god of lightning, a god, of rain, and so on. This form of religion is called "animism." These gods were created by men to explain away their fears. Man was searching for God, but did not know his name or how to reach him; so these gods, different from one tribe to the next, were created. All were trying to understand the true God. Man was trying to close the separation between himself and God.

## HINDUISM

Many Asians belong to a religion called "Hinduism." This is really not just one religion, but rather a collection of many. Just as in Africa, these tribal and city religions began to be created. But the people felt like all these different religions were not enough. They felt that somewhere there was one "whole" spirit that they and all their religions were a part of; so they began to join all the smaller religions together to form one great big religion. Mankind was still trying to reach up to God, but still did not know how. These gods were all out together. Man was searching for the "whole" God, the one God.

## JUDAISM

The problem was that man could not reach up to God, but rather God had to reach down to man, and show himself to us. This he did with the Jews. The Jews are called the "chosen people" because God chose to reveal himself through them to the whole world. God first revealed himself to Abraham, then through the law that he gave to Moses, and then as the God who would one day reveal himself fully to them by sending his Son.

This son was Jesus Christ. Many Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God and would not accept him as the Messiah that God had promised. Many Jews today are still waiting for the Messiah to come. But other Jews believed, and discovered that Jesus Christ was in fact the Messiah through which

God promised to save the world. The whole world had been trying through its religions to reach up to God, but in Christ God reaches down to us. When we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour and Lord, we have broken through the barrier between God and man that the other religions have tried to break.

## ISLAM

There are others beside the Jews who will not believe that Jesus is God's Son. Mohammed was such a man. He began the religion known as Islam. Muslims worship the same Heavenly Father that the Jews and Christians worship, and they think that Christ was a very great prophet. They are very devout, good people. The Muslims do everything mentioned in the chapter "serving God." If doing good things could save a person, the Muslims would be saved. But doing good things cannot save you. Only faith in Jesus Christ can save you. The Muslims do not believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. If they do not believe he is their Saviour, how can he save them? The answer is that he cannot unless they believe.

## OTHER RELIGIONS

There are other religions that try to combine all of these religions we have mentioned into one big religion. This is the same thing the Hindus did, and we are right back where we started. Which religion is right? The members of the Bahai faith, for example, believe that there is truth in every

religion. In searching for a little truth in every religion, they miss the big truth of Christianity.

### THE TRUE RELIGION

Only God can make a true religion. Mankind cannot. The only religion that God has made is Christianity. Only in accepting Christ's sacrifice for our sins can we be saved from them. This is the way God planned it. He meant Christianity to be the true religion. This is why Jesus said "I am the way, and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6).



## CHAPTER 4

### HOW CAN I SERVE GOD?

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

*Philippians 2:9-11*

After we become a Christian we will want to serve God. We all serve God by making Jesus our Lord, as the memory verse says. A "Lord" is a Master or king or chief. If we make Jesus Lord of our lives, we are letting him make decisions for us. How do we do this? There are five ways of serving God.

#### SERVE GOD BY LEARNING ABOUT HIM

If you have a friend, you want to know about him. You want to know his name, where he lives, his family, and other things that will help you to understand him and his problems. At the same time you want to be able to tell him about yourself. This is one of the real joys of friendship. God wants to be our friend. He already knows all about us, but he wants us to learn as much about him as we can. There are several ways of learning about God. The best way is through the Bible. The Bible is God's Word; it is God speaking to us. When we read the Bible,

we are listening to God speak. Another way of learning about God is through prayer. When we pray, we are talking to God. Bible study and prayer make up a conversation with God. There is no better way to learn about a friend than by conversation. Another way we learn about a friend is by talking to others who know him. By attending church we can meet other friends of God and find out what they have to say about him. Speaking to other Christians individually is also a good way of learning about God. But remember, sometimes people have the wrong information about a friend. Someone might tell you something about someone you know that confuses you. If this happens, you go to the friend at once and talk to him about it. It is just the same with God. If someone has told you something about God that confuses you, go directly find out the truth from him.

#### SERVE GOD BY BEING BAPTISED

Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan. He did this to give an example to all his followers. In Acts 8 when the Ethiopian man, whom Philip had been telling about Jesus, became a Christian, he wanted to be baptised to demonstrate to others that he was a follower of Jesus. Being baptised does not save you. Jesus saves you. Being baptised is a symbol to others of what has already happened in your heart; that Jesus has washed all your sins away.

#### SERVE GOD BY GOING TO CHURCH

Usually when one is baptised he becomes

a part of a church. This is good, for the Bible says that "Christ loved the church, and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25). Jesus spent his time on earth preparing the church to spread the message of his love. In the church we have fellowship with other Christians, and everyone in the church is strengthened. God has a place in a church for every Christian. If you make Jesus your Lord, you will want to fill that place he has reserved for you.

### SERVE GOD BY SHARING YOUR FAITH

If you have some very good news, you cannot wait to tell someone else about your good fortune. The best news in the world today is the news that Jesus Christ came to die for us, and that we can be saved through him. A Christian who makes Jesus the Lord of his life will want to tell everyone he knows. Remember, this is the last thing Jesus told us to do before he went into heaven. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always to the close of the age." When the age closes and Jesus returns to earth in glory the first thing he is going to ask his Christian friends is "Did you do what I asked you to do?" If we truly love Jesus, we will tell others about him.

### SERVE GOD BY SHARING YOUR POSSESSIONS

God has given us many gifts. He asks

that we give something back to him in return. He asks for some of our time to be spent in his service. After all he gave us life, and without him we would have no time at all. He asks us to use our talents for him because anything we can do he gave us the power to do. He asks that we give some of our money to help his work grow. Any money we make is only because God has given us the power to do so.

These are ways of serving God. Doing these things will not save you if you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. On the other hand, if Christ is your Saviour, you will want to do those things which please him. Our memory verse for this lesson says that we must confess Jesus with our lips. But what if your actions prove that your tongue is lying? Remember, a Christian confesses Jesus by his actions as well. Have you made Jesus your Lord?



## CHAPTER 5

### WHAT ABOUT SIN?

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 3:1-13  
Romans 6:23

MEMORY VERSE: *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Romans 6:23

Sin is something we hear much about. It is something we know of personally. It causes hatred, wars, and all that is bad in the world. We call it sin, but what is it? Where does it come from? What does it do? Can we defeat it? We will try to answer all these questions while answering the big question, "What About Sin?"

#### I. WHAT IS SIN? Genesis 3:1-5

If there are weeds in your garden, you do not cut the tops off with a knife. You pull them out by the roots. The part you do not see above the ground is the most important part. It is here that the plant gets its food. The sinful acts in our world are not the real sin. Then sin has its root in our hearts.

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit which God had forbidden, it was only an example of a decision that they had made. In verse four the Bible shows us what the serpent said to Eve that made her sin. The serpent told Eve that God did not love her. According to

the serpent if Adam and Eve would eat of the forbidden tree, they would become just like God. They would be equal to God. When this man and woman ate from the tree, it meant that they were trying to be gods. They were turning away from God. They were deciding to rule their own lives. They had sinned!

We sin when we decide that we are equal to God and do not need guidance. We disobey him because we believe that we can guide our own lives.

## II. WHERE DOES SIN COME FROM? Genesis 3:6,7

What is the greatest gift you have ever received from a friend? God has given you an even greater gift. When Eve took the fruit and gave it to Adam, God did not stop them. We are free to choose whether or not we will follow God. A caged animal cannot go where he wants. He is not free. Is this the way God has made us? No, God's great gift to us is the freedom to choose between following his law or following the way of Satan.

"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband and he ate." Genesis 3:6.

Where did Eve's sin come from? It came from her own choice. Our sin also comes from our choice. God loves us so much that he will not take away our freedom to follow him or

Satan; even though we so often hurt him by taking the path of sin. The only people who can take the blame for our sin is ourselves. We are to blame for what sin brings into the world.

### III. WHAT DOES SIN CAUSE?

Adam and his wife had once enjoyed the fellowship and friendship of God. They spent many hours talking with him. They loved God very much. Why did they now hide from him when he came to see them? They felt guilt because of their act of disobedience. This guilt separated them from God. When they learned to know good from evil, these first two people saw that they had sinned. The new knowledge which the serpent had promised now drove them away from God's presence.

Just like Adam and Eve we also sin today. We try to take God's place as ruler of our lives and bring sin to live with us. The signs of sin are everywhere we look. Men hate others because their skins are of different colours from their own. This hatred leads to wars which take us farther and farther from God. Men cannot stand their guilt so they drink to forget their condition. These men hide from God just as Adam and Eve did. All these and many more come from the condition in our lives which makes us disobey him. Finally, sin brings death to all of us. Our memory verse for today tells us that death will conquer us if sin is our master. Sin is all that angers God. It separates us from him. It makes us hate our brother.

It condemns us to death.

IV. WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT SIN? Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Wages are something we earn. After a hard day of work we expect our pay or wages. For our sins we have earned the death which we deserve. Along with the death comes all the other effects of sin which we have mentioned. This sin is stronger than we are. We seem always to rebel and wrong God. What causes us always to sin? It is the best example of everything opposed to God, Satan. Have you ever felt something which tells you to do things you know are wrong? This is Satan's work in you! He is much too wise and powerful for us. It seems that we must always sin and die. However, the rest of Romans 6:23 points us to a solution. It says that the gift of God is eternal life. You do not earn a gift. A gift is something which is given to you freely. It is the gift of life forever, not death from sin. For God can overcome this rebellion within us. His power can take it from our lives and bring life with him forever. We cannot deserve this life, but we can accept it for our own from Jesus Christ. A Christian is someone who has given himself to Jesus so that he can conquer the sin within him. With his death on the cross Jesus paid the debt that we owed to God. He died instead of us, so the gift of life could be offered to you!

Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and received the punishment. However, you can choose to put away sin, take Jesus to be your chief and receive the gift he promises-- life with him always. Just as sin is rebellion, salvation is surrender. Your surrender to God can defeat sin.

#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. If Jesus paid the debt for our sins, why are they not already forgiven?
2. In what ways does Satan speak to you?
3. If we accept Christ but still sin sometimes, does that mean that Satan is more powerful than God?



## WHO CAN BE A CHURCH MEMBER?

MEMORY VERSE: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might."  
Ephesians 6:10

Today we will discuss the question "Who can be a church member?" The Bible says that Jesus loves the church just as a husband should love his wife. If our Saviour thinks that the church is that important, we should believe so too, and do our best to help the church grow.

## WHAT IS A CHURCH?

A church is a group of baptised believers in Jesus Christ. In Order to become a member of a church group, a person must first be a Christian, a believer. It is then, after his confession of doorway into the church. It is an outward sign of the inward change, and it is also a sign that the church accepts this person into the fellowship. So you see that baptism and church membership are tied very closely together.

## JOINING A FELLOWSHIP

If we remember that baptism does not save us, but is instead a way of showing others we are Christians and joining a church, then we can understand why a church should be able to choose those people who are to be its members. A church group does not want people as

members who steal and lie and cheat others, or who sin other ways in front of the whole community. If a person really loves Jesus, he will turn completely away from his old sin. If there are people in the church who consistently turn their backs on God, then others in the community will think less of that church. They will not believe that Christ is at work in it. So a church must be careful only to allow those into its fellowship who have truly turned from their wickedness.

This is not to say that the church should not associate with sinners. Jesus said he came to save sinners, and it is to the sinful man that church members should tell the story of Jesus Christ. But in order for the sinner to become eligible for membership in the church, he must repent of his sin.

#### WHAT DOES A CHURCH DO?

Since a church is a fellowship of church members, we can discuss the work of the church as the work of all the members. First a church has a responsibility to win the unsaved for Christ. Jesus told us all to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." We can only do this if we share Jesus Christ everywhere we go. But that is not all of the great commission. It continues "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." This is the second job of the church, to teach and train Christians in how to serve Jesus better.

Even after a person has become a Christian, the temptation to sin is still very strong. It is so strong, in fact, that only the strength of Jesus can resist it. So Christians need to help each other to grow closer to Christ. The church is the best place for Christians to gather and worship God, and grow closer to him. Through singing praises to him, through prayer, through study of the Scripture and through listening to preaching, Christians direct their attention toward God and away from sin. This is the only way to defeat Satan. If our attention is on God, the greatest temptations will seem meaningless and will be overcome.

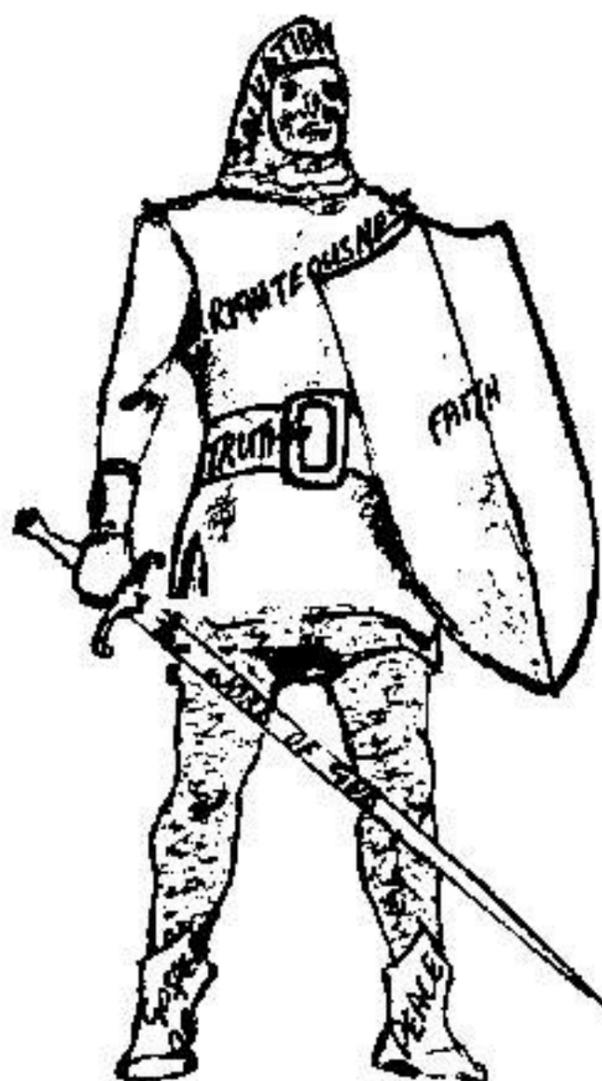
But there are times when all of us make mistakes. If a church member commits a sin, other church members should do their best to help him realise it and get it out of his life. Only when he repents of his sin, will he be able to feel right before God. The worst thing a fellow Christian could do to that man is to turn away from him because of his sin. All of us are sinners, but Jesus will forgive any man who repents and asks for forgiveness. A Christian should always be ready to love and forgive a sinner, just as Jesus is.

### THE CHRISTIAN ARMOUR

Our lesson for today is taken from Ephesians 6 and talks about the "armour" a Christian church member should put on in order to stand up and fight against Satan. The pieces of armour that Paul mentions are

good qualities for any church member to strive for. Let us look at them one by one.

- 18 -



First the apostle Paul encourages us to wrap truth around our waist. This truth is that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that he came to save us, and that by accepting him we are saved. Second, we should have a metal breast-plate of righteousness over our heart. Righteousness is having the courage to do what is right in any situation, no matter how frightened or how tempted you may be. Next, Paul says we should wear the shoes of the gospel. Without shoes, a soldier could not go anywhere, just as we Christians can go nowhere nor be of any service to others without depending on the gospel of Jesus Christ as presented in the Holy Bible. Fourth, Paul mentions the shield

of faith; without a shield to protect him, a soldier would be in great danger. In the same way, the Christian must be protected by the shield of faith in Jesus Christ. Then there is the helmet of salvation, the salvation that comes only from Jesus, and the sword of the spirit, which is the Bible itself. With these things, the Christian soldier is ready to fight the battle against sin and evil.



Sharing Jesus with others, growing closer to God, and fighting the battle with sin wherever it shows itself are the responsibilities of every church member. But we should never be discouraged, for Jesus Christ himself said, in the last verse of the Great Commission, "And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

## CHAPTER 7

### WHO CAN BE A DEACON?

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: Acts 6:1-6; 8:26-40  
1 Timothy 3:8-13

MEMORY VERSE: *"For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith which is in Jesus Christ."  
1 Timothy 3:13*

In the 18th chapter of Exodus we read the story of a tired leader. Moses had lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. He had seen God's power at the Red Sea, and God's guidance through the pillars of fire and smoke. He could lead this great people but he could not be judge for so many. All day long he would sit before the people deciding small disputes and acting as peace maker, but there were too many of them. The job was too much for him. Soon his father-in-law Jethro suggested that he appoint leaders to help him in the work. No man could do the job alone. In the same way no pastor can do his work alone. He needs the help of dedicated Christians. Among leaders are deacons.

#### I. THE FIRST DEACONS

There were complaints in the young church in Jerusalem. Some felt that distribution to the poor and the widows was not being done fairly. The disciples of Jesus had been doing this work. However, their other tasks of preaching and teaching made it

hard for them to see all the needs of the Christian community. After calling the church together, they suggested that men be chosen as the true church leaders, honest men and wholly committed to Christ's service. Seven such men were appointed. The young church had its first deacons. Their work was not easy and did not bring glory or great gratitude. But their service was true. God's churches today need such men of faith and a hardworking spirit. Jesus is searching for men such as these to work in the fields, harvesting, caring for, and loving the souls of men.

## II. A DEACON'S LIFE      1 Timothy 3:8-13

What sort of man must a deacon be? He must first of all be honest. The deacons began their work at a time when some Christians were being accused of dishonesty. It was said that some of the poor were being neglected. The disciples knew that the new servants would be closely watched. They must be men whose honesty no one could question. Today honesty is a quality that all men are judged by. An honest man is admired, but a dishonest man is distrusted by everyone. Since a deacon is known as a Christian and church leader, he must be a man who is trusted by all. The Bible also says that a deacon must not be a drunkard. Any man who spends his time in bars will have no time for serving God or helping his fellow man. A drunk man cannot control himself. Who knows what he will do while he is drunk? What kind of a Christian example would a drunk man be? A man with Jesus in his heart does not need to

forget his trouble with a bottle, because Jesus wants to solve his problems. No, a deacon must not be a drunkard. His joy and place of security must be in close fellowship with the Risen Lord.

The deacon is a man of faith. The Bible says he must believe the "mystery of the faith with a clear conscience!" Just as the work was hard for Moses and the disciples, it will be hard for the deacon. There will be many problems which he will face daily. If he does not hold fast to his belief in God's power to overcome the toughest problems, his worry will soon make it impossible for him to be a faithful servant. A man who loses faith in times of trouble is not worthy of this job. Satan will use all his power to discourage us. He will fight against us but Satan will not prevail. God will win the victory. It is this hope that must be deep within each heart of the man called a deacon. He must keep his faith when others lose their own. A man cannot see the dawn who does not brave the darkness. The deacon must hold fast in troubled times and give God the glory at the time of deliverance. This faith comes only with Christian maturity because the deacon must be the one who has been tried and found to be worthy and strong. You would not take any man you meet on the street and make him president of a nation. Only a few men can do that job. Not just any man can be another Stephen or Philip. Such a man must have shown his ability and dedication through service within the church. It can be said that the deacon must be a true Christian in word and service. He must be a man of honesty,

a sober mind, unwavering faith, and strength which has been tried and found to be based on a faith in Jesus Christ.

### III. A DEACON'S WORK      Acts 8:26-40

Although the first deacons were appointed to provide for the poor, this was not their only job. They were committed men of God who spread the Word as a true disciple. Our scripture passage tells of the witnessing of the disciples. Stephen, perhaps the best known of the original deacons, was stoned to death because he honestly proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God. Philip was lead by the Spirit out into the desert. There he met and spoke with the treasurer of the queen of Ethiopia (present day Saudi Arabia). This was a man of great power who met Philip along the road. He was a man searching for God. It was the deacon Philip whom God used to send the story of Jesus into a new land. This deacon was a witness.

As church leaders deacons must support the pastor and help him in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. It should be these men who help the pastor to guide the church. If they are open to God's call, they can be greatly used of God in guiding God's people. When the church is without a pastor, they must take the place of leadership. The greatest military leaders of history were men who had able generals. They were men who could follow orders and adapt these orders to the situation. They were men of courage and loyalty. They were men who could carry the heavy load of responsibility. A deacon must

be such a man. Our leader Jesus Christ calls for men to lead his Christians. He calls for servants desiring to serve their God and show his love to all men. Would God have you to be such a man?



A dedicated Pastor or Deacon

## CHAPTER 8

### WHO CAN BE A PASTOR?

MEMORY VERSE: *"And he sat down and called the twelve, and he said to them if any one be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."*

Mark 9:35

LESSON: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

In this lesson we will be discussing the pastor. The pastor, or bishop as he is sometimes called in the Bible, must be servant of the whole church.

#### CHRISTIAN WITH A CALL

Of course, the first requirement for a pastor is that he must be a Christian. That may seem so obvious that you might wonder why we mention it, but unfortunately there are some who want to be pastors of churches who do not know Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. Perhaps they think that to be a pastor would give them power or influence. But since one of the main jobs of a pastor is to tell others about Jesus, he must first be a Christian himself. Jesus wants all Christians to tell others about him, but he does not want all Christians to be pastors. Before a man decides that he would like to be a pastor, he should seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in prayer and Bible study.

If **he** still feels strongly that God wants him to **be** a pastor, then we say he has been "**Called by God**" to do this work. No one should try to become a pastor if he has not been called by God.

### A WILLING SERVANT

The pastor has many duties. Besides preaching about Jesus to those who do not know him, the pastor also needs to help the church members to grow closer to God. He should visit those who do not go to church and invite them to come. He should visit the sick people of his church and be ready to offer God's strength in times of tragedy and death. He must be willing to counsel with anyone who comes to him with a problem that needs solving. He must be a good teacher. These are just a few of the things a pastor needs to be willing to do. In fact, being a pastor is a fulltime job. A pastor must be like a doctor for the spiritual needs of man. He must be willing to get up in the middle of the night to help those who have problems. This is what Jesus meant when he said we must be servants.

### QUALIFICATIONS

When Paul, the great apostle, first wrote to the young man Timothy, he had many things to tell about the qualifications for being a pastor. Let's look at them; a pastor should be above reproach. This means that he should live such a good life that no one could find anything bad to say about him. He should

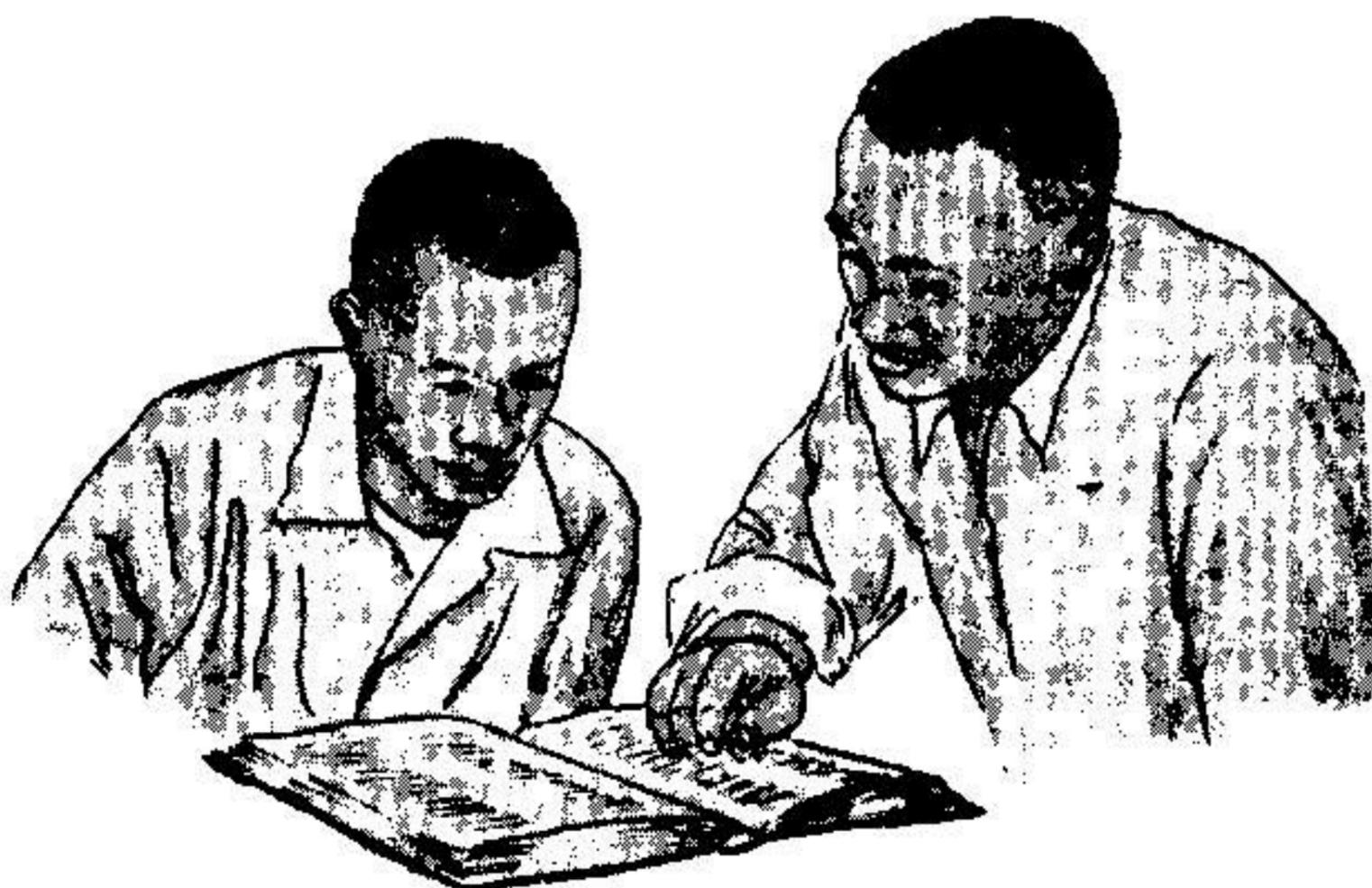
have one wife. He should be temperate, that is he should be sensible, dignified, and hospitable. He should not be a greedy man. All of these things are part of being above reproach. If a man has all these things all the time, there is not much that anyone could say about him that would be bad.

The pastor has a difficult job in that he must lead a church made up of people who, despite their Christianity, sometimes have very bad arguments. Paul says that a pastor should be strong enough to control his own family, because if he cannot do that, how can he care for a church? As a pastor he will face much greater problems than those that arise in every family. The pastor should be the type of man who can deal with these problems.

The pastor should not be a new Christian. This is easy to understand. If a person has just learned about Jesus himself, how can he teach others things he has not yet learned well? It is good for a new Christian to be willing to serve God as a pastor, but he should first learn all he can about the Bible and "grow strong in the Lord."

The pastor should be a man who is respected by both non-Christians and Christians in his town or village. For if a non-Christian does not respect the pastor who tells him about Christ, he will wonder if he can really respect Jesus himself. A pastor must continually be a good witness, not just in what he says, but also in what he does.

These are the qualities that make a good pastor: A belief in Jesus Christ as personal saviour, a willingness to be a servant to all, a witness that is above reproach. It may seem that these requirements are so high that no one qualifies to be a pastor, but we must remember that Jesus has promised to help us to become the best person we can be. If he calls a person to become a pastor, he will give him the necessary strength and wisdom through prayer and Bible study. But just as in any area of Christian service, the one who is to become a pastor must lean on Jesus Christ. Our only hope is Jesus.



## HOW DOES ONE START A CHURCH?

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 2:1-4  
 Matthew 7:24-27  
 Acts 7:47-50

MEMORY VERSE: *"And on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it."  
 Matthew 16:18b*

Jesus once told the story of a man who was preparing to build a tower. This man was wise. Before he started he counted the cost of the work. He found how much money he had and how much the building would cost. Perhaps he looked about to see if the materials he needed were near and found laborers to do the work. This wise man did not want to begin the work only to find that he could not complete it. Before beginning a church we must do much the same thing. This is a work we must pray about. We must decide the cost in time and effort, and even more be sure that we are in our Father's will. When we know he is with us, then we begin the work.

## I. WHAT IS IT THAT WE BEGIN? Acts 7:47-50

To begin a church do you go out and construct a building? Is that a church? Our scripture in the book of Acts tells that God is not looking for a house to live in, but people who will love him. Jesus did not come and die so that there would be beautiful

buildings here. He came and died so that man could be forgiven of sin. It is people that are important to God! The church he sent his son to begin is to be made up of all men, not bricks or stone. God's church is his people wherever they meet. He is there with us as we come together to worship his name. There is more room in the loving heart of a Christian than in any building no matter how large. The church is people!

## II. HOW DO WE DO IT? Scripture Acts 2:1-4

There are many methods for beginning a church. However, all are useless without the power of Almighty God. The disciples met in that same room where they had so often met with Jesus. They waited for his power. Once these men had received this power of the Holy Spirit they went out to preach and work. They were like the man who was counting the cost, but now came the time of work. All we can hope for is to be used by God's power in beginning a church. If it is done, it will be through his power within us. Let us assume then that God has sent you out to work in a new area. What should you do?

The first churches began in homes. During the time following Jesus' resurrection the group of people to become known as Christians grew rapidly. Paul wrote letters to some of these churches. Time and time again he would speak of the church in some person's home. It was in the security of small homes that the churches began. Churches are still begun this way. A Sunday morning Bible Study in a home somewhere in the area is a good way

to begin. You can invite neighbours to come in and join you. In this informal time, the great truths of God's love are easy to grasp. Soon you may have too many for the house. Now you can look for a larger place. The group probably cannot afford to build a church building yet, but there are other places to go. School classrooms, empty stores, and public buildings can provide a larger meeting place. Here again God's guidance can show the way. Publicity must play a large part in growth. The people must know that a church is there. Personal visits to people in their homes is easily the best way. An invitation to come and worship and perhaps a witness of what Jesus means to you can be greatly used by God to create an interest in your friend. Newspapers and printed tracts and business contacts also provide a good opportunity to tell others about the church. If people see that you have an interest in them, and care about their problems, they will be interested. If you see them as just someone to fill a seat and bring up attendance, they will see this also. A Christian under God's guidance will find many opportunities to tell others about this new church. Let God spread this information through you.

### III. WHAT WILL YOUR CHURCH BE LIKE? Psalms 55:4

If it is your concern that makes a person want to visit the church, it is the church's atmosphere that will bring them back. In the book of Psalms we read that a church must be a place of warm fellowship.

If you have been in church where no one welcomed you or greeted you, you did not want to go back again. If the church is filled with Christ's love, everyone will feel welcome and comfortable there. This young church should not be place where people feel sad or solemn always. A true Christian church is place of true joy. Jesus called the Temple in Jerusalem a house of prayer. This new church must be such a place, a place where people are near to God, where they know him as a true friend. At this church there must be a sense of God's presence and of his guidance. The disciples were praying together when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Speak often to God about this new group of believers. Pray for his guidance and strength.

Make the church a place of co-operation. As new people come to the services, involve them in the work. Ask them to help visit, to teach in Bible study, to plan activities, and to share their experience with Christ. People want to help. They want to feel a part of the group. Bring them in and help them to feel accepted. In fellowship, joy, prayer, and co-operation make this church a place of love, God-like love. It was love that Jesus came to give us. He wants his churches to give that love to all around them. In order to start a church you must not make it your church. It must be God's church. It must be built upon the solid rock of God's love. There will be times of hardship, for Satan will fight against the church with all his power. Because we are people there will be disagreements. However, God's power will be present throughout. Jesus said that a house

built on sand would be carried away by the storm, but a house built on rocks would be able to stand. May your church be built on the only solid rock, the unchanging and eternal God. From a handful of disciples he built a church which stretches throughout the world. If you allow him, what will he begin in your community?

#### IV. DISCUSSION

Find in Acts some other things which the early church did, and try to find now your church can do them.

## CHAPTER 10

Why Should I Tithe?

### WHY SHOULD I TITHE?

SCRIPTURE: Malachi 3:8-12, Mark 12:41-44

MEMORY VERSE: *"Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."*

*Malachi 3:10*

The memory verse speaks of the "tithe" as belonging to the Lord. What is a "tithe?" This is the question we will be discussing in this chapter.

### THE TENTH

God wants us to give back to him a tithe of all he has given to us. Let us illustrate this with a story. A little boy once wanted to attend the cinema and asked his father for money. His father gave him fifty ngwee, enough for the cinema and some sweets, but he told him, "Now, son when you get change from this fifty ngwee, remember to save five ngwee. That is how much it will cost you to phone me and let me know you are ready to be picked up." Then the father drove off. The little boy spent some of his money for the cinema, then he began to buy other things, one ngwee things, until he realized that he had spent all and had no money to call his father. He sat down to cry until he saw his father pull

up to the curb. As he got into the car, his father told him, "You see? That is what happens if you do not listen to your father."

We are much like this little boy. God has given great gifts to us with the only request that we return a tenth of those gifts to him. God created gold and diamonds. He does not need our money, but he knows we need to give it. It is our way of keeping "in touch" with God. It is a way of showing him that we remember him. When we do not tithe, we are being like this little boy who spent his money unwisely. If we do not do what God asks us to do, it makes talking with God difficult.

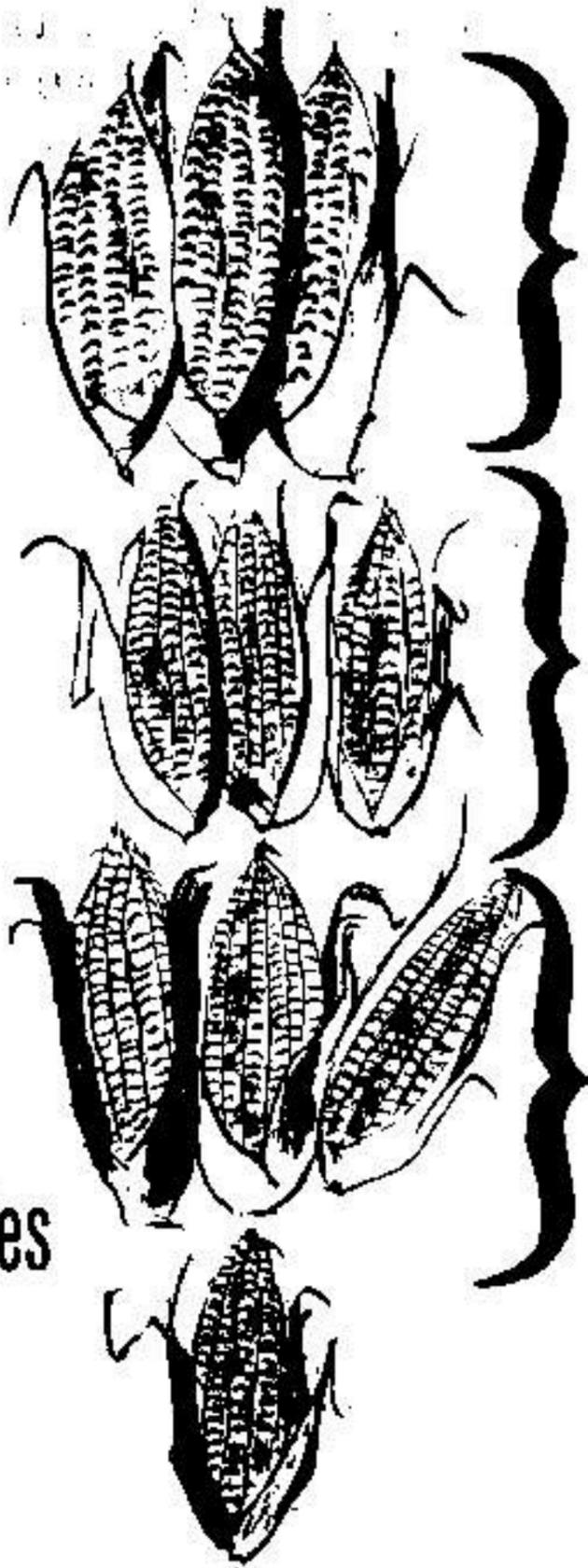
As Christians, our tithe is the smallest amount that we should give back to God. In Mark 13:41-44, the Bible tells us the story of the "widow's mite." Jesus was sitting by the temple watching people put money into the offering plate. When this woman came by, she dropped two small copper coins into the offering plate. They did not even amount to one ngwee! Yet Jesus said "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she is out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living." Mark 12:43-44. If this woman could give everything she had, surely we can manage to give a tenth of all we have.

A tithe is a tenth of all the gifts of God. What are these gifts? Let us look at

and

the

God  
gave  
him  
ten  
mealies



He gave him the first three mealies for food.

And he gave him the second three mealies for the needs of his daily life.

And he gave him the third three mealies to help his children and his family.



And he gave him the last mealie so that he could give it back to God to show his thankfulness for the other nine mealies.

them one by one.

### THE GIFT OF TIME

God has given us time. Since God made the world. He made us. God made time.

Without him, the sun would not shine and the world would not turn. Life is made up of time, spent wisely or foolishly. How does God expect us to give this time to him? There are several ways. He expects us to give some of our time in prayer and Bible study. He expects us to give some of our time in church attendance, and he expects some of our time to be spent in telling others about him.

### THE GIFT OF TALENT

What talent do you have? Can you sing? God gave that voice to you. Can you write? God gave you your mind. Anything you can do, you do it only because God gave you the power to do it. The things you are able to do are called talents. Every talent you have is the direct result of a gift of God. God expects you to use your talents for his glory. How do you do this? If you sing, then sing for God. If you play an instrument, play it for him. Whatever you do, do it for God's **glory**, and he will bless you for it.

## CHAPTER 11

### HOW CAN I SHARE MY FAITH?

SCRIPTURE READING: • John 1:41-46  
Isaiah 55:10-11  
Matthew 28:19-20

MEMORY VERSE: "So shall my Lord be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and prosper in the thing for which I sent it."  
Isaiah 55:11

Sometimes words can be very powerful. A man who can speak well is a very strong man. If his word can make people think as he does or do what he wants, this man holds power. How we speak tells people much about us. We judge people partly by what they say. The words which you use are important. They can change people. How much more powerful are the words of God. Sometimes our words fail, but God has promised us that his words will always accomplish their purpose. Our greatest assurance in witnessing to our faith is that we have behind us the power and knowledge of God.

#### I. THE REASON WHY WE WITNESS. Matthew 28:19-20

If God is so powerful, why does he need us to witness for him? Could he not save those whom he wants? Could he not send a miracle and cause everyone to believe in him? These are questions which we must answer

if we are to understand why God wants us to spread his word. From the very beginning of our world God has chosen to use ordinary people to do his work. God wants each of us to learn the joy of service to him and our fellow man. Although we are sinful, God wants us to be his helpers. He wants to teach us to know him in service. Jesus said once that he had come to serve others, not to be served. Also God understands men because he is our creator. If a good friend told you something, you would believe him. You might not believe a stranger or someone you do not know well. God wants to use us to reach out to those whom we know. God may be a stranger to some friend of yours. You are the best person to introduce your friend to God.

Finally, we have a command from the Bible itself. The Lord calls on us to spread the news of Jesus and his sacrifice for us wherever we go. We are to teach them, make them disciples, and show them the laws of God. If you know Jesus as Saviour, then you have a responsibility to share him. It is when we give Jesus that we know him best ourselves. Even more than a responsibility the opportunity to share Christ is a privilege. If we have food when others are hungry, we want to share it with them. It is not just a responsibility; it is a joy! Think about the "why" of sharing our faith. Work it out with prayer and study. To understand the "why" of witnessing prepares people for the "how" -- the work of witnessing itself.

## II. HOW DO WE WITNESS?

A. **If you know Jesus as Saviour, you are a witness for him.** In a sense, it is not a **decision** of whether or not you will share **your faith.** You are a witness by the life **that you live.** All our words will not be enough if our lives are not pointing others to God. There is a saying that "I cannot hear what you are saying because of the noise from what you are doing." There is a story told about two men, one an old man and one young, who were going into town to share their faith. All day long they went through the town on small errands of business. When evening came the young man asked when they would begin witnessing. The older man smiled and told him that they had been doing just that all day. If our lives show the love of God to others, they will gladly hear our words. It is so much easier for a man to believe that God loves him and cares for him if his Christian friend has already shown love and concern for this man. Does your life point those around you to God? Only if Jesus is Lord of our lives, will others get a true picture of God through us. If our lives are surrendered to his guidance, our witness to him will be louder than any words we could say, or even shout from the housetops. We must guard our lives so that their witness will never be anything less than a true picture of God, himself. However, even when our lives are surrendered to God, there comes the time when we need to let God speak through us his perfect words.

B. When the time for you to speak of your faith to others comes, what can you say? Our scripture in John tells us what one man said.

"Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him 'Come and see.'"

Philip had met Jesus and had been called to follow. First he ran to tell his friend Nathanael that they had found the Messiah, the promised deliverer. For years the Jews had waited for the coming of the Messiah. Nathanael asked if anything good could come from such a little town as Nazareth. Philip said only to come and see for himself.

The best witness is often not a list of doctrines, but what our Lord means to us. Once again it is the personal touch which matters most. One of the great dangers in witnessing is the tendency to argue over some idea. These arguments destroy the sense of love which we must feel for our friend. Our responsibility is to present the good news. It must be the other person's decision to believe or to disbelieve. No man can urge with what you have felt and experienced personally. With your own experience with God you can show what it means to be a Christian and the love which you have for your friend. As you speak, God will guide your words and work in the heart of the non-Christian. You are never alone when you witness in love. God is there with you.

Once your life and personal testimony under God's guidance have opened the door to another man's heart, a few simple Bible verses can help light the way to Christ. Below are a few such verses which show in short form

## God's way of salvation:

Romans 3:23 - All men have sinned and we all need help.

John 4:16 - Jesus is the way to God.

Romans 10:13 - Jesus came to save everyone.

Romans 6:23 - Salvation is a gift, and all you have to do is receive it.

We find salvation through an act of faith. It comes through belief. You cannot prove it. You can only believe it.

These verses are not the only ones which are useful. These methods are not the only ones. There is special witness you can give that is your own. Just as people are different, their ways of sharing their faith are different. These helps can guide you, but you must find God's way. First, know him in your heart as Lord and Saviour. Search to find your witness. We are all different, but we are one in Christ. We can all call on others to come to Christ and see.

## CHAPTER 12

### WHO CAN BE GREAT?

SCRIPTURE READING: Jonah 4:1-11  
Matthew 25:31-40  
1 Corinthians 12:4-21

MEMORY VERSE: *"And then the King shall answer them, '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*

The mother of James and John wanted the best for her children as any good mother would want. In the twentieth chapter of Matthew, we see how this mother asked Jesus to honour her sons. Many people thought Jesus was going to set up his own nation. They longed for him to overthrow the Romans and set up a free Hebrew state. This mother wanted her sons to hold high positions in this state. She wanted them to be great. The other disciples resented this, probably because they wanted the same positions. Jesus used this as an opportunity to teach an important lesson. He said that those who wanted to be great must be servants! This was a new definition for greatness. This was and is still a very important lesson for us today because every man can be great.

#### I. IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE BIG Matthew 25:31-40

Think of a great man. If you named several great men who would they be? You

probably thought of famous politicians, teachers, athletes. We speak of them as great because they can do some things very well. They are the best speakers or leaders. They can run faster or are stonger than other men. To be great then, must one do something important and big? The Bible does not say this! Many of the people we would call great are really not so great in God's eyes. Chapter 25 of Matthew contains a parable about judgment. Had they helped their brother when he was sick, or hungry, or in prison, or a stranger? It was these small acts of love that meant greatness to God. He himself told kindness to another man or woman was the same as an act of love to God himself.

The man who is great may not be famous. He may not be rich. He may not be very clever, but he will be the man who used what God had given him to serve others. He will be the friend to those in need and the comforter to those who are grieved. His actions may be small, but they will be truly great. You do not have to be able to do big things to be great. The smallest deed done in love is better than the greatest athletic feat or victory in war. In 1 Corinthians 13 we read that nothing we do has merit before God unless it is done in love. Your small act for someone is all that God requires. The great man uses what he has for others.

II. WHAT ARE YOUR GIFTS? 1 Corinthians 12:4-21

What has God given to you that you can use for others? If you want to be great, you must use these things for God and for all men. The scripture for this section speaks of a number of gifts that God has given to men. We will look at a few of them.

Can you speak before people? Perhaps you can speak in an interesting and persuasive way. The man who can make others feel as he feels and control their actions with words has an awesome power. This is a gift which can do much good, but it can also do great harm. If God has given you the ability to speak, then you can speak for him. You can point others to God by what you say. A Christian pastor, politician, or teacher can do much for God. Maybe you can teach. Can you put hard problems in simple language? Jesus was one of the world's best teachers. He could make men want to learn. He used his mind and pointed men in the right way. To teach God's word is a very useful gift. To be a good teacher you must love people and want to help them. Are you a teacher? Those who are ill need someone to help them. They need someone who can heal. The disciples performed miracles of healing men's bodies. You may be able to do this, or even more you may be a healer of men's minds and spirits. You may have the gift of counseling, to hear another's fears and problems and help to overcome them. Do people often bring their problems to you? If so God has a great task for you. You can be a true servant to them. You can be a healer because all men need someone to talk with. The man who can heal a troubled spirit can point the troubled one to the Prince of Peace.

God needs leaders. He needs those who give others confidence, men of purpose who inspire others to work and follow. Someone must bear the load of responsibility and solve the problems as a leader. Also there must be faithful workers. Perhaps you cannot speak or teach or heal. You can work for God. It is not what you have but what you do for God that matters. God has given you some gift which you can use to help others. He will give you his love and his power. You can never say that there is nothing you can do. People are waiting for others to take time to care for them. You can be great because Jesus taught that the servant is the greatest of all. We can all be servants. God will show what you can do for him. The question is will you do it?

### III. GOD'S POWER BRINGS GREATNESS.

Jonah is much like you and me. He did not want to follow God's command. He was afraid. He hated the people of Nineveh, but God made him go and preach to them. So Jonah went in and preached destruction and judgment. He did not love the people. He preached only because he was forced to do it. Then he left. However, people were convicted by God's power. They called for forgiveness. A whole city turned to follow God because a man preached in God's power. If God could use a man filled with hate such as Jonah, can he not take your gifts and help others? Would you be great? Then you must be a servant. Jesus said he did not come to be served but to serve. His greatness is found in his love and sacrifice for us. Everyone wants to be great, and God

wants us to be great, also. It is his power within ordinary people that brings true greatness. However, we must pay a price for it. We must be our brother's servant, but what better life than to be like our Lord! In God's power, you can be great because you can be a servant.

#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Discuss men of the Bible who were true servants. What did they do?
2. What can you do this Lord's Day as a servant?
3. What do you think God says about some good acts which are done out of obligation only?

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN  
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