



Survey
of
I Corinthians
through
Philippians

by

Duane L. Anderson

Survey of I Corinthians through Philippians

**A study of the books of I Corinthians through
Philippians for Small Group or Personal Bible
Study**

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Survey of I Corinthians through Philippians

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of I Corinthians through Philippians. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you has written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of Acts and Romans. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses that you will be reading. After each paragraph you will usually have three questions. These three questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer to some question in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will ask you a question that will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson there will be an opportunity to write down something that you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons that three things will happen in your life:

1. First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.
2. Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses that you have studied.
3. Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally written in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that cover the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of I & II Corinthians
Lesson 1
I Corinthians 1:1-3:23

Today we are beginning the first letter written to the church in the city of Corinth. The church in the city of Corinth was a church with many problems. Almost the entire book of I Corinthians deals with various problems in the church. We will find in chapter three that these problems were in the church because they were failing to study the Word of God and apply it to their lives. The first problem was the problem of dividing into different groups. This problem happened because they were following men when they should have been following Christ. Another problem was the fact that the Christians had not grown and become strong Christians. Instead they were still like spiritual babies.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what caused divisions in the church at Corinth.
- Tell how the wisdom of men compares with the wisdom of God.
- Explain how the Holy Spirit teaches us.
- Explain why the Christians in Corinth were spiritual babies.
- Explain what we learn about rewards for serving Christ.

As we begin the book of I Corinthians, we see that all of the Christians are called saints. Even though there were many problems in the church at Corinth, the people were still called saints. We see that God called all Christians to be saints when He saved them. We also see that it is God who gives us the ability to speak. This is a wonderful promise. It means that God can make every one of us servant leaders for Him if we are willing to be trained. It is also God who gives us our knowledge so that we know what to speak.

1. Read I Corinthians 1:1-17 and write what Christ wants us to be in the day when He comes to take us to heaven.
2. Explain why Paul could be thankful for the church in the city of Corinth.
3. Explain why you think Paul was thankful for this church even though it was a church with many problems.

Here we see that our lives should be lived the way that Christ lived His life. Everything we do should bring honor to Christ. Paul begs the Christians in Corinth to live their lives as Christ wants them to live. Paul was very concerned because the church in Corinth had many groups who were fighting against each other. Paul said that the desire of the Lord was for them to be perfectly joined together so that they had the same mind. That can only happen when all Christians let Christ take control of their minds. Today our churches also have many divisions and much fighting. We also need to let Christ control our minds.

4. Read I Corinthians 1:1-17 and write what Paul said Christ sent him to do.
5. Explain why Christians are to learn to function as one body and not as unrelated parts.

6. Explain what you think causes divisions between Christians.

Different groups had formed in Corinth because of the different teachers that had visited the city. Here we see the danger of following men instead of following Christ. If we follow men, it will always cause divisions in the church. Only as Christians follow Christ will there be unity between Christians. If you are a pastor, you need to be very certain that you are teaching the people to depend on the leading of the Holy Spirit and not on you. Otherwise you could easily cause divisions in the church.

7. Read I Corinthians 1:1-17 and write what Christ sent Paul to do.

8. Explain why people often focus on leaders instead of keeping their focus on Christ.

9. Explain why you think it is important for you to do all that you do to bring glory to Christ and not to yourself.

We also see in the last half of the chapter the cure for divisions in the church. The cure is to get back to preaching about the death and resurrection of Christ. Those who are not Christians think that we are crazy when we speak about the cross. However, we know that it is the power of God. Today there are preachers who are depending on their own human wisdom as they preach. We see in this chapter that we will only be effective in preaching as we depend on the wisdom of God. We will have the wisdom of God when we think the thoughts of God the way that God wants us to think them.

10. Read I Corinthians 1:18-31 and write what God uses to save those that believe.

11. Explain what these verses mean when they say that the preaching of the cross is the power of God.

12. Explain why you think that many Christians today hear very few messages about the death and resurrection of Christ.

Today we have two groups of people that were common in the day of Paul. We have many like the Jews who were looking for signs. Today there are also many Christians who are looking for signs. We also have very large groups who are like the Greeks. They thought that education was the answer. By looking around us we can see that education without Christ only leads to greater sin. Instead of looking either for signs or education, we are told to preach and teach about the crucifixion of Christ even if men think that we are crazy. Those who follow Christ will have the power and wisdom of God in their lives.

13. Read I Corinthians 1:18-31 and write what God has chosen to shame (or confound) the wise of this world.

14. Explain why many people today are either looking to signs or to education to change the problems of the world.

15. Explain why you think God has chosen the foolish things of this world to put to shame the wise.

In these verses we see that God has chosen the foolish things, the weak things and the base things to answer those who think that they are wise and strong. If we are willing to let Christ control our lives, He will use us to lead many people to Himself. He will use us to help other Christians grow stronger. We also see the reason why God has chosen us even though we are foolish and weak. That way it is impossible for us to boast about ourselves and try to get men to follow us. We know that they must follow Christ if they want victory in their lives. For this reason we give all the glory to Christ instead of

ourselves.

16. Read I Corinthians 1:18-31 and write in what we are to glory.

17. Explain why God chooses to use different things that the world chooses to accomplish His purpose in the world.

18. Explain why God wants to use you to help complete His purpose even though you may not have much education or strength.

Paul goes on to say that he did not try to impress the people of Corinth by using big and fancy words or speaking with a beautiful voice. He had decided that he was only going to preach about Christ and His resurrection. He did not try to use the words of man to impress the people of Corinth. Instead Paul let the Holy Spirit control his life so that he spoke in the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul did not want anyone to feel that he was a Christian because he was depending on the words or wisdom of a man.

19. Read I Corinthians 2:1-16 and write what Paul wanted the people to depend on to know that they were saved.

20. Explain why Paul had determined that the preaching of the cross was going to be the emphasis of his message in Corinth.

21. Explain why you think that Paul said that he was filled with weakness and fear when he was at Corinth.

Here we see that we are not to depend on words, wisdom or feelings for our salvation. We are to know that we are saved by the power of God. The wisdom of men will cause us to fail. The only wisdom that we are to teach is the wisdom of God so that men will depend completely on God for their wisdom and strength. Then God can teach us all of the wonderful things that He has prepared for those that love Him. God teaches us these things by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit even helps us to understand the deep things of God that a person who is not a Christian could never understand.

22. Read I Corinthians 2:1-16 and write who knows the things of God.

23. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that the Holy Spirit is the one who reveals spiritual truth from the Word of God.

24. Explain why this helps you to understand why it is so important to pray each time we study the Word of God and ask the Lord to give us wisdom and understanding.

Just as we do not know what others are thinking, we cannot know what God is thinking unless the Holy Spirit teaches us. This is the reason that God sent the Holy Spirit to teach us. God wants to teach us all things. He wants to cause us to be able to understand and explain spiritual thoughts to those who have the Holy Spirit in them to give them spiritual understanding. The man who is not a Christian cannot understand the things that the Holy Spirit teaches. Spiritual thoughts sound like foolishness to him. As Christians we learn to understand such things because Christ has given us His mind to think His thoughts. As a result, the Holy Spirit is able to teach us.

25. Read I Corinthians 2:1-16 and write why the natural man cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God.

26. Explain why the person who is not a Christian cannot understand the way that a Christian thinks.

27. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the importance of depending on the Holy Spirit to give you spiritual wisdom.

One of the reasons why there were many problems in the church at Corinth was the fact that they had not grown to become strong and mature Christians. They were still like spiritual young children who did not understand. They thought like people without Christ instead of thinking the way that God wanted them to think. They still needed the food for spiritual babies because they had not become strong Christians. This was the reason that they were jealous of each other and had problems with people fighting and dividing into groups because they could not get along with each other.

28. Read I Corinthians 3:1-11 and write what Paul calls them because they could not get along with each other.

29. Explain why people who are spiritual toddlers (young children) acts like people who are not even Christians.

30. Explain why you think it would be a great help to all new Christians if each one of them had a spiritual parent to help them understand and grow in their spiritual lives.

A carnal Christian is a person that thinks the same way that people who are not Christians think. He thinks of satisfying himself instead of thinking the way the God wants him to think. Today there are many churches that are filled with carnal Christians. All they can think about is their own desires. They never think about the fact that they should take the Gospel to others around them. Instead they spend all their time arguing and fighting with each other. As a result, they are not serving God.

31. Read I Corinthians 3:1-11 and write what we are called.

32. Explain why it is important for Christians to grow spiritually so that they can work together to accomplish the work of the Lord.

33. Explain why you think many Christian fail to grow spiritually and become healthy reproducing Christians.

As Christians we are to work together with God to complete His purpose. The only foundation is Christ. We are to built together on that foundation. Since Christ is the foundation, He is the important one and not us. As we witness to others, we will be planting the seed of the Word of God. With others, we will be watering seed that has been planted by someone else. It does not matter who plants and who waters. The important thing is the fact that it is God who gives the increase.

34. Read I Corinthians 3:1-11 and write what kind of a builder Paul said He was.

35. Explain why it is important for Christians to build carefully on the foundation of Christ.

36. Explain why you think many Christians are carnal instead of being eager to serve the Lord.

We also see the results of being either a carnal or a spiritual Christian. If we are carnal Christians, our works will be like wood, hay and straw stubble. If we let Christ have complete control of our lives, our works will be like gold, silver and precious stones. When we stand before Christ, our works will be tested by fire. Fire quickly burns wood, hay or stubble. However, fire makes gold, silver and precious stones look more beautiful because it make them pure and without spot. The Christians whose works are like gold, silver and precious stones will receive a reward. The Christians whose works are

like wood, hay and stubble will have their works burned.

37. Read I Corinthians 3:12-23 and write what will happen to the Christians whose works are burned.

38. Explain why it is important for Christians to do works that will last for eternity and not just for a time in this world.

39. Explain why you want to make your life count for eternity but doing those things that will bring eternal rewards.

A Christian will receive eternal life because he has followed Christ. However, if he has not served the Lord faithfully, his works will be burned and he will enter heaven with nothing. He will not receive any rewards. As Christians, we need to realize that our bodies are the places where the Holy Spirit lives. We need to use our bodies the way that God wants us to use them. We need to serve God instead of following our own ideas. This means that we will be building on the right foundation and building the right way. We will be depending on the wisdom of God instead of our own wisdom.

40. Read I Corinthians 3:12-23 and write and write how God sees the wisdom of this world.

41. Explain why the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

42. Explain what it means to you to know that your body is the temple of the Spirit of God and that you have the Spirit of God living in you.

Now reread I Corinthians 1:1-3:23 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned as you studied these chapters.

Survey of I & II Corinthians
Lesson 2
I Corinthians 4:1-6:20

Today we will learn a little about the concern of Paul for the Christians in the city of Corinth. We see that this concern caused Paul to be willing to suffer whatever was necessary in order to help the Christians grow stronger. We will also read about some more of the sin that was present in the church in the city of Corinth. Paul gave instructions to the Christians about what to do to get rid of this sin. Today there are many churches in which sin is present. If churches want to be effective in their work for Christ, they will not allow sin to remain and affect the church.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Paul was concerned about seeing the church grow strong.
- Tell what a church should do when there are people in the church living in sin and rebellion.
- Explain what we should do when we disagree with another Christian.
- Explain what Paul teaches about our bodies.

As Christians, we share in the riches of Christ. As a result, we are told to take care of those riches as good stewards and workmen. We are to be faithful workmen because God is going to judge our works. If our works have been good, we will receive a reward. For this reason we need to judge our lives so that our lives will be effective and useful for Christ. We are also warned not to look at other men and praise them instead of Christ. We are to realize that all Christians are servants of Christ and we are to see Christ and not the men. Those men have all received their gifts from God. They are only being good stewards of the things that God has given them.

1. Read I Corinthians 4:1-21 and write the reason God appointed the apostles.
2. Explain why a steward is to be a person that is found faithful.
3. Explain why you believe that is important in your life to be faithful to the Lord in all that you do.

Christ chose the apostles to take the Word of God to other people and also to have the privilege of suffering for Christ. Paul was happy to have the privilege of suffering these things so that others would have the opportunity to hear about Christ. Paul was especially concerned about the Christians in Corinth because they had not grown and become strong Christians. Now Paul was writing to the Christians in Corinth as a father would write to a son to warn the son of danger.

4. Read I Corinthians 4:1-21 and write what the Christians had in Corinth instead of men who were willing to be fathers.
5. Explain how the apostles provided an example for all Christians to follow.
6. Explain why you feel that your life should also be an example that younger Christians can follow in their spiritual growth.

Here we see that there are many who teach that are not willing to be personally concerned about the

people they are teaching. They teach the people but they do not pray for those people throughout the week. They do not spend time with those people individually to help meet their individual needs. An instructor or teacher might forget about those he has taught. However, a father will never forget those that he has helped to become strong Christians. Paul was so concerned about the Christians in Corinth that he wrote them two letters to help and encourage them. Since Paul could not go to Corinth immediately, he also sent Timothy to teach them. Today we need Christians who are willing to be concerned enough about weak Christians that they will do whatever is necessary to help these weak Christians become strong.

7. Read I Corinthians 4:1-21 and write what Paul begged the Corinthians to do.
8. Explain why every new Christian needs a spiritual parent to help that person grow.
9. Explain why you feel that you need to be concerned about helping new Christians grow so that they become strong Christians.

The church in Corinth had a man in the church that was having sexual relationships with his mother. This should have caused great concern in the church at Corinth. Instead of being concerned, the Christians were laughing and talking about the sin in the church. They were proud when they should have been praying. As one who was concerned like a father, Paul wanted to encourage the Christians to turn from their pride and remove the man who was living in sin. This was to be done as a group by the whole church.

10. Read I Corinthians 5:1-8 and write what the church was to do to the man that was living in sin.
11. Explain what it means for a Christian to be delivered to Satan for the destruction of the flesh.
12. Explain why you think Christ wants a Christian that is living in open rebellion to God to be removed from the fellowship of the church.

Here we see the way that God judges sin in the life of a Christian. God allows Satan to cause suffering and pain to the body. Satan is allowed to do what he chooses to the physical body of the person to make that person suffer. Although a disobedient Christian will have great suffering on the earth, he will still go to heaven when he dies. Here we see a real picture of the love of Christ. Even though this man was committing terrible sin, Christ still said the man would receive eternal life. As a Christian, his punishment for sin would be here on this earth.

13. Read I Corinthians 5:1-8 and write what Christ said was not good in the lives of the Corinthians.
14. Explain why rebellious Christians will be judged for their sin on this earth instead of facing eternal judgment.
15. Explain why you think that Christ shows His love to Christians by judging their rebellion on this earth and not in eternity.

The Christians in Corinth were laughing and talking about the sin in their church. Here we see a real warning. A little sin in a church is just like a piece of yeast in some bread dough. If it is not removed, it will soon spread to the entire church. We are told to remove the old yeast (sin) because we have been given new life by Christ. We are not to let sin remain in the church and laugh about it. Instead we are told to remove the sin from the church and serve Christ in sincerity and truth.

16. Read I Corinthians 5:1-8 and write what they were told to do with the old leaven.

17. Explain why God said that they were to judge sin and deal with their pride in the church.
18. Explain why you think God teaches that a church is to deal with rebellion against God among Christians.

As we go on in I Corinthians 5, we learn a very important lesson. Paul had written to the Christians in Corinth and told them that they should not have fellowship with people who were living in great sin. Now Paul goes on to explain what he meant. He said that he was not talking about the people who are not Christians. If a Christian avoided the people who are not Christians, he would not be able to tell them how to become Christians. We have a great responsibility to visit people who are not Christians so that we can tell them about Christ. We need to invite people who are not Christians to our homes so that we have an opportunity to show them the love of Christ.

19. Read I Corinthians 5:9-13 and write with what sinful men we are not to eat.
20. Explain why this passage teaches that this only applies to a Christian and not to all people.
21. Explain why you think that loving church discipline will give rebellious Christians a desire to get their life back in agreement with Christ.

Here we see that Paul is talking about a Christian brother who is living in sin and rebellion. We are not to have fellowship with another Christian as long as that Christian is living in sin. If we fellowship with him, he will think that it is all right to continue to live in sin. As a result, that person will not ask Christ to forgive his sin. Instead he will soon cause other Christians to sin with him.

22. Read I Corinthians 5:9-13 and write what we are to do with that sinful, wicked person.
23. Explain why a Christian living in rebellion against Christ will try to get other Christians to join him in his sin.
24. Explain why you think that Christ has given the church the responsibility to deal with a Christian who chooses to live in sin and rebellion.

Today there are many churches that are allowing sin to remain in the church just as the church in Corinth allowed the sin to remain. As a result, those who are not Christians see no difference between themselves and the people in the church. This causes many people to feel that the church is useless. They see no changes in the lives of the Christians. If we are going to have churches that help people to see the difference that Christ can make in their lives, we must remove those who are living in sin and rebellion.

25. Read I Corinthians 5:9-13 and write who will judge those who are not Christians.
26. Explain why Christians should fellowship with sinful and rebellious people who are not Christians and not fellowship with Christians who are living in sin and rebellion.
27. Tell how you would explain what these verses teach to someone who is a struggling Christian rather than a rebellious Christian.

The Christians in Corinth were also fighting against each other. If two men disagreed or owed each other money, they would go to court to try and get what they wanted. There the two Christians would speak against each other in front of the judge. They would show hate and anger instead of Christian love. As a result, no one could see the love of Christ in their lives. Since Christians are going

to judge the world and the angels, here we see that another Christian should be asked to decide what is right instead of having two Christians fight in front of those who are not Christians.

28. Read I Corinthians 6:1-8 and write what Christian brothers were doing.

29. Explain why Christians cannot show the love of Christ when they go to court and accuse one another.

30. Explain why you feel that it is important for Christians to learn to settle problems in love instead of anger.

If a Christian has done something against us but refuses to let another Christian decide what should be done, we should be willing to lose whatever the other Christian had taken. It is much better for us to lose the things that we have than to fight against another Christian. By fighting with another Christian, we keep others from following Christ. We should be thankful to lose some things if that will cause others to follow Christ. God will judge the Christian that is wrong and disobeyed God. He will bless us if we are willing to suffer so that people will not speak against Christ.

31. Read I Corinthians 6:1-8 and write what we should be willing to do for the sake of Christ.

32. Explain why Christians should be willing to lose some of their earthly possessions instead of choosing to go to court against another Christian.

33. Explain why you think that when you personally handle conflicts in a way that will bring glory to God that God will work through your actions to draw others to Christ.

We are warned about the danger of sin. Men who are controlled by sin instead of Christ will not go to heaven. Before we followed Christ, we were also controlled by sin. Now we have had our sins washed away by the blood of Christ. We have been set apart for God. We have been made right with God. All these things have happened to us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Since we have been set apart for God, we should not let sin control our bodies.

34. Read I Corinthians 6:9-20 and write what God is going to do with us by His power.

35. Explain what these verses mean when they say that we are washed, sanctified and justified.

36. Explain why you believe that Christ can change the life of any person regardless of what types of sin that person committed before he or she became a Christian.

We see that as Christians our bodies are a part of the body of Christ. As a result, we should keep our bodies holy. Since we are the body of Christ, we should not commit any kind of immorality or sex sin. This would be breaking both the Old Testament law and the four things that Gentiles are told to avoid in Acts 15:19-20, 15:28-29. It would also be sinning against the body of Christ. We have been joined to Christ and are one together with Christ. Now we are to avoid any kind of sex sins because those sins would be against the body of Christ.

37. Read I Corinthians 6:9-20 and write how Christians are joined to the Lord.

38. Explain why these verses teach that Christians should not commit fornication, adultery or any other sex sin.

39. Explain why knowing that you are a part of the body of Christ gives you a desire to keep your physical body free from any form of sex sin.

Our bodies are where the Holy Spirit lives today. Since the Holy Spirit lives in our bodies, we should use our bodies to bring praise and glory to God. We should not use our bodies to try and satisfy ourselves. It cost Christ His life in order to pay the price so that we could have eternal life. Now we should use both our body and our spirit to serve Christ because we belong to God. If we are using our body to serve God, we will not use our body to commit sin.

40. Read I Corinthians 6:9-20 and write what Christ calls our bodies.

41. Explain why Christians are to use their bodies to bring glory to God and not to satisfy sinful desires.

42. Explain what it means to you in your personal life to know that your physical body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Now reread I Corinthians 4:1-6:20 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of I & II Corinthians
Lesson Three
I Corinthians 7:1-8:13

Today we will be learning some of the things that we need to know regarding marriage. At different times there have been groups that have had very unusual ideas about marriage. God wants all Christians to have a proper view of marriage and so He gave us instructions about marriage. Paul also tells the reason why he was not married. We will also receive instructions about food that has been offered to idols. Today this is still a problem in many countries of the world. As a result, we learn several lessons that will help us to live for Christ and not cause other Christians to stumble and fall.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the responsibilities of a husband and wife in marriage.
- Tell how becoming a Christian should change us.
- Tell why Paul said he was not married.
- Explain why we should not cause another Christian to stumble.

God established marriage when He created the first man and first woman. We read that God brought them together and made them one. Now God gives us instructions about our responsibilities in marriage. In order to avoid fornication or other sex sins, we are told to have a right view of sexual relationships in marriage. Every man has the responsibility to satisfy the sexual needs of his wife. Every woman has the responsibility to satisfy the sexual needs of her husband. Neither partner has the control of his or her body. Instead the desire of each should be to satisfy the needs of the partner.

1. Read I Corinthians 7:1-9 and write what a husband and wife are told not to do.
2. Explain why Christians are not to use sex or the withholding of sex from their partner to get even.
3. Explain why you think that God wants husbands and wives to be focused on meeting the needs of their partner instead of their own needs.

As Christian husbands and wives, we are not to stop having normal sexual relationships except when we agree to stop for a certain period of time so that we can spend our time in prayer and fasting. Then when we have finished the time of prayer and fasting, we should resume normal sexual relationships. Otherwise we might be tempted by the devil. Satan is looking for opportunities to tempt Christians to sin. We should not give him an opportunity by failing to fulfill our responsibilities in marriage.

4. Read I Corinthians 7:1-9 and write what Paul says that he wishes other men were like.
5. Explain why couples are to agree together if they decide not to have sex for a time so that they can spend a period of time in prayer and fasting.
6. Explain why you think that God wants Christians to have a proper view of sex and a proper sexual relationship in their marriage.

Here we see that Paul says it is good if people do not marry so that they can spend all of their time

serving the Lord. However, if a man and woman cannot control themselves, it is better for them to get married. Here we see that nothing is wrong with marriage. In fact marriage is good. Marriage was first established by God. Sexual relationships are also good between a husband and wife. Those relationships are part of God's purpose for marriage.

7. Read I Corinthians 7:1-9 and write what people are told to do if they cannot exercise self control and abstain from sex.

8. Explain what these verses teach is one of the reasons why people should get married.

9. Explain why you think that God wants every Christian to understand the importance of sex in marriage.

When God joins two people together, he joins them together for life. If Christians are separated, they are not to marry someone else. They are either to remain alone or come back together again. Today there are many Christians who are disobeying the Word of God. The only reason for divorce given by Christ was adultery. Here we are talking about a situation in which there is no adultery. In this case the two are told by God not to divorce and remarry someone else. If they separate, they are to remain alone. We also read what God says about one who has become a Christian and has a partner that has not yet become a Christian.

10. Read I Corinthians 7:10-24 and write to God has called us.

11. Explain why these verses teach that Christians who separate are to work to resolve the problems so that they can then work to build a God honoring marriage.

12. Explain why you think Christ feels it is important for Christians to work to build a God honoring marriage.

Many times a husband or a wife will become a Christian before the partner becomes a Christian. The Christian is not to leave the one that is not a Christian. If the one who is not a Christian wants to leave, the Christian should not stop the one who is not a Christian. However, if the one who is not a Christian stays, this gives the Christian an opportunity to witness to the partner. Many times the one who is not a Christian will become a Christian as a result of the changed life of the Christian. The Christian should show real love and concern for the partner.

13. Read I Corinthians 7:10-24 and write to what God has called us.

14. Explain why the one who has become a Christian will often draw the partner to Christ because of the changed life of the Christian.

15. Explain why you think that Christ will often work through the changed life of a new Christian to draw both the partner and many other relatives to Christ.

When we show love and concern for the one who is not a Christian, we will have peace in our hearts. Since we have this peace in our hearts, we do not need to try and focus on changing our outward appearance by focusing on our own efforts. If men are not circumcised when they become Christians, there is no need for them to be circumcised. The Jews circumcised their boys to show that they had been given the law of God. However, it meant nothing unless they also obeyed the law of God. As Christians we are no longer under the law.

16. Read I Corinthians 7:10-24 and write where we are to abide or stay.

17. Explain why Christians do not need to follow the Jewish example and be circumcised.

18. Explain why you think that Christians have been set free from the law instead of being required to keep the Jewish law.

Some of the Christians were slaves and forced to work for other men. Others were free when they became Christians. Paul says that a man should serve the Lord whether he is a slave or a free man. If a slave is given his freedom, then he is to use his free time to serve the Lord. As Christians, Christ has made us free from sin. Since we are free from sin, we are now to serve Christ because He is our Master. We have been bought with a great price. That price was the blood and life of Christ. Since Christ paid the price to make us free from sin, our desire should be to serve Him completely because of the love that He has given us.

19. Read I Corinthians 7:10-24 and write why Christians should not become servants of men.

20. Explain why Christians are to serve the Lord whether they are slaves or whether they are free.

21. Explain what it means to you in your life to be a servant of Christ.

Paul goes on to say more about marriage. If we are married, we are not to try and get free from our marriage. We are to serve Christ as married Christians. If we feel no need to marry, we are to serve Christ as single Christians. However, the time before the coming of the Lord is short and we need to be serving the Lord completely in the short time that remains. We are not to let the things of this world stop us from serving the Lord. In fact, we are not to spend our time worrying about the things that are in the world. The world is only going to last a little while longer and then it will be destroyed. We should not spend our time worrying about things that will not last.

22. Read I Corinthians 7:25-40 and write about what the unmarried Christian should think and care.

23. Explain why a person who is single will have more time to serve the Lord than a person who is married will.

24. Explain why you think that you can effectively serve the Lord whether you are single or married.

A person who is married must spend time caring for the needs of the family. A Christian who is not married does not have those family responsibilities. He or she is able to use all of his or her free time to serve the Lord. This is the reason why Paul says it is good for Christians not to marry if they feel no need to marry. Then they can spend their whole time serving the Lord. There will be nothing to distract them from the work of the Lord.

25. Read I Corinthians 7:25-40 and write whether Paul thinks it is a sin for a Christian to marry.

26. Explain why the decision to marry or not to marry is a choice in which each Christian has freedom.

27. Explain how you would answer a Christian who is wondering whether he or she should get married or remain single.

A man who has a hard time controlling his sexual desires is wise to marry. Then he will not be tempted to do wrong. A man who does not have strong sexual desires and feels no need to marry is wise not to marry. He has control of himself so that he does not commit sin. Here we see that it is good to marry. It is also good if a man has no need to marry. Christ is able to use both the married and the unmarried if they will let Him control their lives. People who are married must remember that they are to remain married as long as both partners live. They are not to neglect their responsibilities in

marriage. They are only free to marry someone else if their partner dies. However, they should serve the Lord in whatever they do.

28. Read I Corinthians 7:25-40 and write what a person is free to do if his or her partner has died.

29. Explain why Christians whose partner has died are free to remarry if they so desire.

30. Explain how you would explain these verses to a person who asks you if it is all right for them to remarry since their partner has died.

In the New Testament time, it was very common for people to offer animals for sacrifices at the temples of the various idols. Then the men in charge of the temples sold the meat and used the money to take care of the temples. As a result, in many places you were usually helping to support the temple of an idol if you ate meat. As Christians, we know that God has supplied all of the meat that we eat.

However, we must not become proud of our knowledge and laugh at a Christian brother who is weaker. Christian love should cause us to want to help our brother become stronger instead of laughing at him. We should not laugh at him if he does not eat meat because he knows that the meat may have been offered to idols.

31. Read I Corinthians 8:1-13 and write what a man knows when he thinks he knows many things.

32. Explain why some Christians will be afraid to do certain things while other Christians will feel free to do those things.

33. Explain why you feel that it is important for you to accept another Christian if he does things that you do not think Christians should do or does not do things that you do.

There are many gods and many idols. However, there is only one true God. All things belong to Him because He created all things. A weak Christian may feel that it is wrong to eat meat that has been offered to idols because he does not yet understand that God has created all things. Now we know that we will not be better because we eat meat. We will not be better if we do not eat meat. Meat does not make us either better or worse. The question is not whether something is good or bad in itself. The question we need to ask ourselves is whether our actions will cause someone to fall into sin.

34. Read I Corinthians 8:1-13 and write the warning that we are given about the liberty that we have in Christ.

35. Explain why Christians are not to allow the liberty that they have in Christ to become a stumbling block to weaker Christians.

36. Explain why you may choose not to do a certain thing for the sake of a weaker Christian even if you do not feel that thing is wrong.

Today in many parts of the world we do not have a problem with meat that has been offered to idols. We have other things that might cause a weaker Christian to stumble and fall into sin. Here we see that our responsibility as Christians is to avoid those things that might cause a weaker brother to be tempted to sin. A thing may even be a good thing yet it might cause him to sin. Our responsibility is to show the love of Christ and not do those things that would cause a brother to sin.

37. Read I Corinthians 8:1-13 and write what we could wound in the weaker Christian if we do something that would cause him to sin.

38. Explain why a weak Christian can easily have a struggle with his conscience about things that he does not know if they are right or wrong.

39. Explain how you can encourage a weaker Christian and help him to keep from falling into a sinful life again.

Paul tells us that if meat is the thing that will cause his Christian brother to stumble, he will not eat any meat for the rest of his life. Here we see a real attitude of love and concern. Paul was putting other Christians ahead of himself. He was willing to forget the things that he enjoyed if that would help weak Christians to grow stronger so that they could serve Christ better. Today Christ wants us to be willing to put others first. Our whole desire in life should be to help others become Christians and then grow to become strong Christians.

40. Read I Corinthians 8:1-13 and write who we are sinning against when we cause a weak brother to stumble.

41. Explain why an attitude of “I will do it anyway regardless of whether it might cause a weaker Christian to sin” would actually be a sin against Christ.

42. Explain why you think that it is important for you to help weak Christians instead of putting your own desires first.

Now reread I Corinthians 7:1-8:13 and then write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of I & II Corinthians
Lesson Four
I Corinthians 9:1-10:33

Today we will learn about one way that God has given to supply the needs of those who are taking the Gospel to others. As we read these instructions, we also see our own responsibility to help supply the needs of other Christians. Then we see how we should serve the Lord so that others will follow Christ. Christ also tells us what causes us to sin and fall. We will learn how to have victory when we are tempted to do wrong. Finally we will read how we should do all things. We see that everything we do should be done to bring glory to Christ. When we wonder whether something is right or wrong, we should ask ourselves whether that thing will bring honor and glory to the name of Christ.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell what our responsibility is to help supply the needs of others who are taking the Gospel to other people.

Explain how we should serve Christ.

Tell how we can have victory over temptation.

Explain why we should do everything to bring glory to Christ.

Some of the people in Corinth were questioning whether Paul had the right to be called an apostle. Paul had not been with Christ during the three years that Christ was on the earth. However, Christ had chosen him to be an apostle even though he did not meet all of the requirements for an apostle. Paul was also different from the other apostles in another way. He was not married while most of the other apostles were married. Did that also mean that Paul and Barnabas should work at another job instead of spending all of their time preaching the Gospel? Then Paul began to teach about the way a church should share with those who are preaching the Gospel.

1. Read I Corinthians 9:1-18 and write what a man should receive that feeds a flock.
2. Explain why Paul was called by Christ to be an apostle even though he did not meet the qualification of having walked with Christ throughout His ministry.
3. Explain why you think we should share what we have with those Christians who are devoting their lives to sharing the Gospel with others.

In the Old Testament God commanded that the oxen should be allowed to eat as they worked in the field. God says that the instructions about the oxen were not written only for the oxen. We are to learn a lesson also from the way that God provided for the oxen. Today we have a responsibility to share the needs of those who share the Gospel with others. Although the Christians in Corinth should have shared the needs of Paul, they had not done so. Instead Paul had spent some time in Corinth making tents while he preached the Gospel.

4. Read I Corinthians 9:1-18 and write how God says those who preach the Gospel should live.
5. Explain why God used the oxen to show how we should share with those who are devoting themselves to preaching the Gospel.

6. Explain why you think that Paul chose to make tents part of the time rather than always expecting the other Christians to share with him.

Today when we first work to establish a church, we will probably need to work just as Paul worked in the city of Corinth by making tents. However, we can begin to teach the Christians about their responsibility to share the needs of those who are sharing the Gospel with them. One day the Christians will decide themselves to begin sharing. Then they will be sharing out of Christian love. Actually it is good to work at a job while you are working to establish a church. As you work on a job, you will have an opportunity to witness to several that you might never meet otherwise.

7. Read I Corinthians 9:1-18 and write what Paul said about himself if he did not preach the Gospel.

8. Explain what these verses teach about the privilege and responsibility of every Christian to share the Gospel.

9. Explain what these verses teach about your responsibility to share the needs of those who have shared the Gospel with you.

Paul was not concerned about whether or not a church shared to meet his physical needs. His only desire was to preach the Gospel to others. He knew that God would supply his needs. This should also be our desire. God will supply our needs as we are faithful in telling others about Christ. Since Paul had not depended on the church at Corinth to supply his needs, he could say that he was free from all men. However, he had purposely chosen to be a servant to all men so that he would have the opportunity to reach more for Christ.

10. Read I Corinthians 9:19-27 and write what Paul became to reach the Jews for Christ.

11. Explain why Paul had chosen to become a servant to all people.

12. Explain what you learn for your own life about serving others so that you can have the opportunity to share the Gospel with them.

Paul was willing to keep the Jewish law in order to reach the Jews for Christ. He was willing to eat with people who were not Jews in order to reach the people who were not Jews for Christ. To those who were weak, Paul shared in their weakness in order to reach them for Christ. Paul was willing to do whatever was necessary to reach other people for Christ. He did these things so that other people would really understand the Gospel and understand what it meant to follow Christ.

13. Read I Corinthians 9:19-27 and write how many receive the prize in a race.

14. Explain why Christians are encouraged to run the race that God has given each one of us so that we can win the prize that God has for us.

15. Explain why these verses help you to realize that winning the prize that God has for you will be the thing that will bring great joy to your life.

Today we are also in a race. Those in a race are running to receive a prize. They will do whatever is necessary in order to win that prize. As Christians, we are in a race that lasts our entire life here on earth. We are working to receive rewards that will last forever. These rewards are promised to all those that are faithful servants of Christ. In order to receive the reward, we make the choice to forget about those things that are not important. We choose to lay aside those things that would hinder us

and cause our attention to be turned away from the goal. In this way we will have a life that is a full and abundant life.

16. Read I Corinthians 9:19-27 and write how Paul said he fought.

17. Explain what kind of a reward Christians are promised for being faithful servants of Christ.

18. If you could do anything that you wanted to serve the Lord, explain what would get you the most excited of anything that you can think of.

As we study the Old Testament, we have many examples of the reason why we should let Christ have complete control of our lives. Some of these examples show us how we will fail when we do not let Christ be in charge of our lives. Other examples show what can happen when a person is willing to let Christ have complete control of his or her life. If we are going to receive a reward, we make the choice to let Christ have that control in our lives. Then we will be able to speak boldly for Christ. Men, women and children will be changed because they hear the Word of God. In our verses today we have an example of failure.

19. Read I Corinthians 10:1-15 and write who Paul uses as an example in these verses.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that Christ was with the people of Israel as they traveled through the wilderness.

21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the choice that the people of Israel made while they were in the wilderness.

When the Israelites were in the wilderness (desert) God gave them many blessings. God provided a cloud over them to protect them from the heat. He opened the Red Sea so that they could walk through on dry ground. He provided the things that they needed to eat and drink through many miracles. He also provided spiritual food through Moses as Moses taught them the Word of God. Christ, Himself, was with them as they passed through the desert. However, God destroyed many of them in the wilderness because of their sin. Now they are examples to us to cause us to realize the danger of living in sin.

22. Read I Corinthians 10:1-15 and write why Christ gave them to us as an example.

23. Explain why all of the things that happened to Israel in the wilderness were written down as examples for us today.

24. Explain why this helps you to realize the importance of studying the Old Testament as well as the New Testament so that you can learn from those examples.

Even though God showed Israel many miracles in the desert, they rebelled against God. Some of the people worshipped idols while they were in the wilderness. Others committed adultery and other sex sins. As a result, God killed twenty-three thousand in one day. Many put Christ to the test by their complaining and rebellion. As a result, they were killed by snakes. All these things happened to Israel in the wilderness so that we would learn from these examples. God does not want us to sin and rebel against Him. Instead He wants us to follow Him and depend on Him for our strength.

25. Read I Corinthians 10:1-15 and write what will happen to us if we try to stand in our own strength.

26. Explain why many Christians think that they can stand for the Lord and serve Him in their own strength.

27. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these examples that are given from the time that Israel was in the wilderness.

Here we see that when we try to stand in our own strength, we will fail and fall. We cannot stand by ourselves. However, we can stand in the strength that Christ gives us. We face the same temptations that other people face. God is faithful and will not let us be tempted more than we can stand. He will make a way for us to escape from temptation so that we will stand and not fall if we yield to Him. This is a wonderful promise for every Christian. We no longer need to worry about failure when we are standing in the strength that Christ gives us and not our own strength. We can have victory over temptation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

28. Read I Corinthians 10:1-15 and write from what we are told to flee.

29. Explain what it means when it says that God will make a way of escape from temptation when we yield to Him.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses about the way to deal with temptation.

Many Christians wonder how they can know what is right and what is wrong. God gives us some instructions to guide us about right and wrong. Although we are many individuals, all Christians are one in Christ. We are His body. As a part of the body of Christ, we are holy. We are set apart for God. Therefore we should not try to serve both God and the devil. When people who are not Christians offer sacrifices to their gods, they are actually worshiping evil spirits. As Christians, we cannot have fellowship with demons. This is the reason why it is so important for us to stand for Christ and not try to participate or worship in an old religion at the same time.

31. Read I Corinthians 10:16-33 and write what we cannot drink if we are drinking the cup of demons.

32. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that the sacrifices that are made to idols are actually sacrifices made to demons.

33. Explain why you think it is important for you to personally avoid trying to worship Christ and offer sacrifices to idols at the same time.

Every person must choose whether he or she is going to serve the Lord or serve the devil. We cannot serve both. We are showing that we serve the Lord when we have communion. If we are taking communion, we are not to share in those things that are a part of the worship of demons. Instead we are to stand firm for Christ. Otherwise we will receive the judgment of the Lord because of our sins.

34. Read I Corinthians 10:16-33 and write what we are told to seek instead of our own good.

35. Explain why Christians are told not to provoke the Lord to jealousy by trying to worship both Christ and demons at the same time.

36. Explain why you think these verses teach about your responsibility to help weaker Christians.

We also see our responsibility as Christians. We are not to try and satisfy ourselves. Instead, we are to do everything to help other Christians grow stronger and help those who are not Christians realize what it means to follow Christ. As Christians, we are free to do all things. However, if we do some things, they will not help non-Christians come to Christ or help weaker Christians become stronger Christians. For this reason, we should do everything to help other Christians grow and become

stronger. We should set aside our own desires if that will help others become stronger Christians.

37. Read I Corinthians 10:16-33 and write what we should do if we go to the feast of one who is not a Christian and they serve meat.

38. Explain why Christians are free to take the opportunities that they are given to go to the feast of one that is not a Christian.

39. Explain why you think that accepting invitations to go to feasts at the homes of those who are not Christians is something that each Christian should be encouraged to seek the will of the Lord in each particular situation.

We have already mentioned that eating meat was a real problem in Corinth because much of the meat had been offered to idols first. Here we see that the Christians in Corinth were to ask no questions when they were served meat in the home of a person who was not a Christian. They were to go ahead and eat it without asking if the meat had been offered to idols. If the one who invited them to dinner told them that the meat had been offered to idols, then they were not to eat it. There was nothing wrong with the meat. The only problem was the fact that the man who was not a Christian might think that it was all right to worship Christ and idols at the same time.

40. Read I Corinthians 10:16-33 and write how we should do everything that we do.

41. Explain why it is important for Christians to make it their desire to bring glory to God in everything that they do.

42. Explain why you think that it is important for you personally to consider the conscience of another person before you decide what to do or what not to do.

Here we see that we should do everything we do to cause men to turn to Christ. This is much more important than doing things to satisfy ourselves. Now reread I Corinthians 9:1-10:33 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of I & II Corinthians
Lesson 5
I Corinthians 11:1-12:31

The night before Christ died on the cross, He ate what is called the Lord's Supper or Communion. Christ tells us that we are to eat the Lord's Supper to remember His death on the cross. In our lesson today, we are given instructions about the right way to remember the death of Christ. We will also learn about the gifts that God has given to all Christians. Every Christian is a part of the body of Christ. In order for all of the parts of a body to work best, all parts must learn to work together. Then the will of God will be done. We are told to use our gifts to work together and do our part as we serve Christ.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell what God teaches about the way we should look.
- Explain what we should do when we eat the Lord's Supper.
- Explain why God has given every Christian gifts.
- Tell what we should be like as a part of the body of Christ.

As we begin our study of these chapters, we see that Paul encourages the Christians in Corinth to follow His example. Here we see that Paul lived the kind of life that Christ wants every Christian to live. Our lives should be examples so that others will see the kind of life they will live if they let Christ have control of their lives. This means of course that we must let Christ have control of our lives. We also see some instructions about the way that we should look as Christians. We see that men should not pray or speak for God with their heads covered. Women should have their heads covered when they pray or speak for God.

1. Read I Corinthians 11:1-16 and write why God makes this difference.
2. Explain why God teaches in these verses about the fact that the Lord desires that both men and women pray and prophesy.
3. Explain why you think that the appearance of men and women should be different as they pray and prophesy.

Here we see that God created men so that He could have fellowship with them. Then God created women so that men could have companionship. When Eve was deceived in the garden, God placed man in authority over the woman. However, this does not make man a dictator. Instead he is to lead his wife under the leadership of God. God is to be the head of every home. We read that the covering for a woman is her hair. God has given women their hair as a thing of beauty to bring glory to them. However, men are not to wear long hair because they are made in the image of God.

4. Read I Corinthians 11:1-16 and write what God says about a man that wears long hair.
5. Explain what these verses mean by the statement that the head of Christ is God.
6. Explain what you learn for your life about the fact that God has created men and women to each be unique.

Today it has become very common for men to wear long hair. Although many men who wear long hair do not realize it, their long hair is an outward sign of their rebellion against God. Today people have rejected God and His standards. In fact many people are doing everything possible to show their rebellion and rejection of God. As Christians, our lives are to be an example. The way we look actually shows our attitude toward God. Many people think that we need to look like the people of the world to reach the people of the world. That is not true. It is our love and not our looks that will cause people to want to know the love of Christ.

7. Read I Corinthians 11:1-16 and write what this passage says about women having long hair.
8. Explain why we are told that men and women each need the other.
9. Explain what you learn from these verses that will help you as you seek to be an effective witness for Christ.

The Christians in Corinth was not eating the communion in a way that would help them to remember the death and resurrection of Christ. Instead they would have their communion as a part of a church supper. At this supper there would be divisions. Probably the rich Christians would not eat with the poor Christians. As a result, there was sin in the church. Here we are told the importance of remembering the death and resurrection of Christ. We are to have a special remembrance of the death of Christ. We are to think about the death of Christ and not other things.

10. Read I Corinthians 11:17-34 and write what Christ told the disciples about the bread that He broke and gave to them the night of the Last Supper.
11. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that the Corinthians were focused on themselves instead of the meaning of the death of Christ when they had communion.
12. Explain why you think it is important for you to come to a communion service with your heart prepared to remember what Christ did for you on the cross.

As we eat the bread and drink the cup we are to remember that the purpose for the communion service is to remember the death and resurrection of Christ. Scripture does not tell us how often we should remember the death of Christ. However, every time that we have communion it is to be a time when we remember the reason why Christ died. We are also told that we are to examine our lives before we take communion so that we do not have unconfessed sin in our lives when we take communion. That is why it is important for us to each personally examine our lives before we take communion. We are told to examine our lives and then take communion. If we allow sin to remain unconfessed, we will be judged.

13. Read I Corinthians 11:17-34 and write what was happening to many who were taking communion with unconfessed sin in their lives so that they were not really remembering the meaning of the death of Christ.
14. Explain why it is important for Christians to realize that the blood of Christ has paid the penalty for their sins each time they have a communion service.
15. Explain why it is important for you to confess any secret sins to the Lord before you take communion.

Here we see the way that God judges sin in the life of a Christian. God may bring sickness or even physical death as the judgment for that sin. Since Christians will not suffer in heaven, they must receive God's discipline for rebellion against God while they are still here on earth. When God does discipline us as Christians, He is disciplining us so that we will not need to be judged with the world when God judges those who have never followed Christ. As Christians, we need to examine our own lives and confess our sin so that God will not need to discipline us. This is why we are told to examine our lives each time before we take communion.

16. Read I Corinthians 11:17-34 and write what the Lord promises us if we judge ourselves.

17. Explain what these verses teach about the meaning of communion.

18. Explain why communion is a very special time to you as you remember what it cost Christ to pay the penalty for your sin.

Paul was concerned because the Christians in Corinth did not have a clear understanding of the spiritual gifts that are given to every Christian by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had given every Christian spiritual gifts so that he or she can serve Christ effectively. Although there are many different kinds of gifts, they are all given by the Holy Spirit. We are each given a different way to serve the Lord and lead others. Again we realize that all of these spiritual gifts and ministries come from the Lord. Although God gives each of us different ways of working for Him, it is the same God who works in each one of our lives.

19. Read I Corinthians 12:1-13 and write how many Christians receive God's gifts, ministries and ways of working from the Holy Spirit.

20. Explain why the Holy Spirit gives each Christian different spiritual gifts, ministries and ways of working.

21. Explain what spiritual gifts you think the Lord has given you to serve others.

We see that the Holy Spirit gives all Christians understanding. This understanding is to help us know God's gifts and plans for our lives. Every one of us has received spiritual gifts. Now we are to allow God to use these gifts to complete His plan for our lives. The Holy Spirit gives many gifts. Some are mentioned here while others are mentioned in other books of the Bible. Here we see the following gifts mentioned: the gift of wisdom (sharing and applying God's wisdom to daily life); the gift of knowledge (discover and share the full meaning of text, context, words phrases and related passages); the gift of faith (exercised primarily through prayer); the gifts of healing; the gift of doing miracles; the gift of prophecy (quoting the written word of God to announce God's grace or God's judgment); the gift of recognizing ideas, philosophies and teachings that come from Satan; the gift of speaking in various languages; the gift of interpreting various languages.

22. Read I Corinthians 12:1-13 and write who gives every Christian gifts.

23. Explain why the Holy Spirit determines what gifts to give Christians rather than allowing Christians to choose.

24. Explain what ways you have found that you can effectively serve other Christians with the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit has given you.

Today the Holy Spirit still gives every Christian gifts to serve God. We need to know the gifts that

God has given to us so that we can use those gifts to serve the Lord. Today there are many Christians that are not using the gifts that God has given them to serve the Lord. Many Christians are satisfied to sit and let the pastor or missionary do the work. They feel no responsibility to serve the Lord. This is often due to the fact that they have never realized that God has given them gifts to serve Him. As Christian leaders, it is our responsibility to guide such Christians to discover and use the gifts that God has given them.

25. Read I Corinthians 12:1-13 and write what happened where we were baptized by the Holy Spirit.
26. Explain what it means to be baptized into one body.
27. Explain why you feel that it is important for Christians to learn to act as a body rather than trying to serve the Lord by themselves.

As Christians, the Holy Spirit baptized all of us at the moment we became a part of the body of Christ. Today there is much confusion about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Some people think that only part of the Christians are baptized by the Holy Spirit. Other people think that they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit some time after they became Christians. Here we see that the Holy Spirit baptized us and placed in the body of Christ at the moment we become Christians.

28. Read I Corinthians 12:1-13 and write those things that do not make a difference about being baptized by the Holy Spirit.
29. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that every Christian was baptized by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.
30. Explain the meaning of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in your own words.

All Christians are a part of the body of Christ. However, that does not mean that they all have the same gifts and abilities. A body has many different parts. Each part does different things. All are important. God made all of the parts of the body so that the body would be able to work properly. This is the reason that the Holy Spirit has given each Christian different gifts.

31. Read I Corinthians 12:14-31 and write how God decided what gifts to give each Christian.
32. Explain why the body of Christ would not be able function effectively if all Christians had been given the same spiritual gifts.
33. Explain what special ministries you believe the Holy Spirit has equipped you to do to serve the Lord with the spiritual gifts that you have been given.

God knows what is needed in order to make the body of Christ complete. We have different gifts but are the same body. We are not to feel another Christian is less important even if he seems to have fewer gifts. Instead we need to help the other Christians develop the gifts of Christ.

34. Read I Corinthians 12:14-31 and write what God says about the parts of the body that are weak and feeble.
35. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that God gives greater honor to the parts that seem less important.
36. Explain why you feel that every Christian has an important responsibility in the body of Christ.

God is going to give great honor to those parts of the body that seem weak and feeble. God does not

want the body of Christ to be divided. He wants every Christian to be concerned about helping other Christians grow stronger. We need to realize that a church is no stronger than the weakest member. If a weak Christian suffers, the whole church suffers. We are all a part of the body of Christ. Today many churches are failing to help every Christian develop those gifts that God has given them. This is the reason why many churches are weak. Many members are not sharing in the ministry of the church.

37. Read I Corinthians 12:14-31 and write what all Christians are called.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of training every Christian to use the gifts that God has given him or her to serve the body of Christ effectively.

39. Explain why you realize that Christ has equipped you to have a ministry that will help other Christians.

We go on to read about some of the gifts that God has given. As you will notice, some gifts are especially important to the body of Christ. Today some people want to choose gifts that they feel are not important. There are other people who want to rule the church to satisfy their own desire for power. We have already seen that such a desire is a wrong use of the gift of administration. The gift of various kinds of tongues is the last gift that is mentioned. Yet that is the gift that many people are seeking today. We will see in our next lesson that this is due to a lack of understanding of what Scripture teaches about the gift of tongues.

40. Read I Corinthians 12:14-31 and write which gifts Christ says we should desire.

41. Explain why these verses teach us that there is something that is more important than spiritual gifts (this will be explained in the next chapter).

42. Explain why you think that God did not give a single Christian all of the spiritual gifts.

Now reread I Corinthians 11:1-12:31 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of I & II Corinthians
Lesson Six
I Corinthians 13:1-14:40

In our last lesson we studied about spiritual gifts. We saw that every Christian has received gifts in order to serve Christ better. We saw that everyone does not have each gift. Today our lesson is also about the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives. We see that a gift does no good if it is not used in love. It is for this reason that Christ warns us particularly about the gift of tongues in the second part of our lesson. It is very easy for Christians to emphasize feelings instead of the Word of God for their strength. As a result, it is easy for Christians to become proud and think that they are better than other Christians because of the spiritual gifts that God has given to them.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain why every spiritual gift must be used in love.

Tell why Scripture teaches that it is more important to speak the Word of God than to speak in tongues.

Explain why we are warned against speaking in tongues in a church service.

Explain how spiritual gifts should be used in the church.

As we begin this lesson, we see that we must use our spiritual gifts the right way. If we do not use them in love, we will be failures. We will accomplish nothing. First John 4:18 tells us that perfect love casts out fear. As a result, we either act out of fear or we act out of love. Even if we could speak like an angel or had enough faith to move a mountain, it is worth nothing if we do not have love. Even if we gave all of our money to help the poor, it will be worth nothing unless it is done in love.

1. Read I Corinthians 13:1-13 and write how much it would profit us if we were burned for Christ but did not have love.
2. Explain why Christians will misuse their spiritual gifts if they are not acting out of love.
3. Explain why you think that Christ wants you to learn how to exercise your spiritual gifts in love.

We go on to see how love causes us to act and also to see many things that we will not do if we are exercising our spiritual gifts in love. We see that true Christian love will cause us to be kind and patient. True Christian love also will cause us to avoid certain things. We will not envy others. We will not boast about ourselves. We will not feel that we are better than others. We will not act in a wrong way toward others. We will try to help others instead of satisfying ourselves. We will not get angry or think evil thoughts about others. We will be happy when we hear the truth and unhappy when we hear about sin. We will not be suspicious of others. Instead our hope and confidence in Christ will cause us to endure all things. As we see all of these things, we see that love will never fail.

4. Read I Corinthians 13:1-13 and write down the three things we are told will cease.
5. Explain why it is so important for Christians to learn to yield themselves to the Lord so that they are able to act in love.
6. Tell how these verses help you to explain the meaning of Christian love to someone who does not understand the love that we can experience as Christians.

We see that the early church received certain gifts because they only had a part of the Word of God. They did not have a complete knowledge of Christianity because they did not have the New Testament yet. In fact Hebrews 2:3-4 says that God verified the message of the apostles with certain signs, wonders and mighty deeds. In contrast, II Thessalonians 2:9 tells us that the antichrist will use power, signs and lying wonders to deceive people. Christians can remain like spiritual little children if they do not grow to spiritual maturity. We need to help Christians grow to spiritual maturity so that they know the difference. Paul says that when he became a man (a mature Christian) he put away those things he depended on as a spiritual young child.

7. Read I Corinthians 13:1-13 and write what God says is the greatest.
8. Explain why God wants every Christian to grow to spiritual maturity.
9. Explain why you realize that God will help you grow to spiritual maturity by studying and obeying the Word of God.

Today we no longer need people who can give us new words about God because the Bible is complete. We no longer need people who can speak to us in other languages because we can now speak directly from the Word of God. We no longer need additional knowledge because the Word of God is complete. Christian love is still the thing that we need the most. We need Christians who know how to show others the love of Christ. It is the love of Christ that can change the lives of others. Everything we say and everything that we do should show the love of Christ.

10. Read I Corinthians 13:1-13 and write what Paul said he did when he became a man.
11. Explain why growing to spiritual maturity will help Christians learn to act with love toward others.
12. Explain what you learn for your own life about love from this chapter.

As we come to the fourteenth chapter, we learn about the proper use of tongues. Notice that the word “unknown” is in italics which means that it was not in the original Greek. The translators added it because they thought it would make the chapter clearer. Instead it has added confusion. When we first read about tongues in Acts 2, we saw that we were talking about known languages. Fifteen different known languages are mentioned. A tongue is a dialect of a language.

13. Read I Corinthians 14:1-10 and write what is more important than spiritual gifts.
14. Explain why Paul said it is even more important to prophesy than to focus on spiritual gifts.
15. Explain why you think it is important to share the Word of God in a language that people will understand.

When prophecy is spelled with a c, it speaks about the fact that the prophets were giving the Word of God (see II Peter 1:19-21). When prophesy is spelled with an s, it means to speak what has already been written down in the Word of God. Here we see that it is more important to share the Word of God than to exercise spiritual gifts. If a person speaks in a language we do not know, God would understand that person but we would not. However, if a person speaks the Word of God in a language that everyone knows, then everyone can understand. That way the whole church grows stronger.

When we speak in a church service, we are speaking for the purpose of helping other Christians grow stronger. We are not there to please ourselves. We are to speak the Word of God so that everyone

will understand it.

16. Read I Corinthians 14:1-10 and write what would happen if a trumpet gave an uncertain sound.
17. Explain why it is important that we read and explain the Word of God instead of our own thoughts.
18. Explain why you believe that it is important for you to speak the Word of God to build up the spiritual life of others.

Today we are in a great battle as Christians. We are fighting against the power of Satan. For this reason, we need to spend our time building up the life of each Christian so that each Christian is prepared for this battle. The thing that makes Christians stronger is the study of the Word of God. Anything that causes us to spend less time studying the word of God is limiting our effectiveness as Christians. We need to be saying those things that help Christians grow strong. We have already seen that the church in Corinth was fleshly and the Christians acted like spiritual babies because they were not spending time studying the Word of God.

19. Read I Corinthians 14:1-10 and write what we are actually doing if we do not speak with words that are easy to understand.
20. Explain what these verses teach is important in the church.
21. Explain why you think many Christians do not obey the instructions given here to speak words that are easy to understand.

As we read on in the chapter, we read that we should seek those gifts that edify (help Christians grow) the church. If a man is praying or speaking in another language, there should be someone to interpret so that all the Christians grow stronger. Paul said that he would pray and sing so that all could understand. That way all would grow stronger. Because Paul was a highly educated man, he was able to pray or speak in several languages. When he was in a church, he would speak the language that the people of that church understood the best. He would rather speak five words in a language that the people understood than ten thousand words in a language they did not understand. Paul says we should be both like children and like men.

22. Read I Corinthians 14:11-25 and write what Paul said about us being like both children and men.
23. Explain why Paul said that it was important to pray and sing with both the spirit and the understanding.
24. Explain why you think it is important for you to speak things that can be clearly understood by those who are listening.

Children do not keep their anger toward each other. They have a fight and two minutes later they are playing together again. As Christians, we should also forgive quickly instead of having malice (anger and hate) toward others. Our understanding should develop so that we are mature Christians instead of weak Christians. This means we must spend much time in Bible study. We read in verses 21 and 22 that tongues were a sign to the unbelieving Jews that God had brought salvation to all men. In every single case where tongues are mentioned in Acts, they were known languages that the Jews could understand and know that God was bringing salvation to all people.

25. Read I Corinthians 14:11-25 and write what people that are not Christians will say when they hear people speak in other languages in a church service.

26. Explain why these verses teach that tongues were a sign to the unbelieving Jews.
27. Explain why you think people who are unbelievers will think that Christians are mad if they hear Christians speaking in tongues in a church service.

It was not common for people who were not Christians to come to a meeting of the church. However, it did happen sometimes. Here Paul points out the fact that people who are not Christians will think the Christians are crazy if they speak in other languages. It would be very different if the Christians were speaking the Word of God. The Holy Spirit will use the Word of God to convict the sinner of his sin.

28. Read I Corinthians 14:11-25 and write what a person who is not a Christian will do if Christians focus on sharing the Word of God.
29. Explain why the Word of God reveals the secrets of the heart.
30. Explain why these verses teach that you that we should focus on teaching the Word of God in a church service even when people who are not Christians are present.

In the early church, we see that many people would take part in the services of the church. One man did not do everything. Since there were many who participated in the services, it was important that everything be done without confusion. We see that no more than three people should speak in another language. If there was not an interpreter, they should not speak at all. Instead they should keep quiet and let men who know the language speak to the people.

31. Read I Corinthians 14:26-40 and write what the others are to do when one is speaking.
32. Explain why the early church felt that that it was important for many people to participate in the church services.
33. Explain why you think that these verses teach that Christians are to be participants in a service and not just listen to one or two people speak.

Although Christians are told to judge, they are not to judge the man. Instead they were to judge whether the things that he is saying agree with the Word of God. If the things that one is speaking do not agree with the Word of God, the other Christians are to stop him. One who understands that passage should then explain it. It is fine for several to speak as long as they do it one at a time. This way each speaker learns from the other speakers. When we speak the Word of God, we should be able to control ourselves so that the Holy Spirit can do what He wants to do.

34. Read I Corinthians 14:26-40 and write of what God is called the author.
35. Explain why it is important for those who explain the Word of God to explain it clearly.
36. Explain why you think that God says that all may prophesy and not just one or two.

One other thing that was causing confusion in the church was women speaking in the church. God teaches that men are to be the leaders in the church. I Timothy 2 gives several reasons for this instruction. Women are to have a ministry of good works. Women are to have a ministry of submission. Submission is a choice by a person to place oneself under another person even though both are equal. Submission provides the opportunity to encourage male leadership. Submission recognizes the order of creation. Submission recognizes the order of deception. Submission includes a promise of reward.

Many churches wonder why they have few men. Very often this happens when few men are encouraged to take spiritual leadership in the home and in the church.

37. Read I Corinthians 14:26-40 and write what women are told to do if something is said in a church service that they do not understand.

38. Explain why a man will be encouraged to grow in his spiritual leadership if a wife asks him questions about the Word of God.

39. Explain why you think that God gives men and women different responsibilities in the public services of the church.

Since men are told to be the leaders in the church, they also have the responsibility to be teachers and spiritual leaders in the home. Today many men are not taking this responsibility of teaching their family at home. This is one reason why many children who grow up in Christian homes are rejecting Christ. The fathers have failed to fulfill the commandment of God. Because of their failure in the home, such men are also failing to take their place as leaders in the church.

40. Read I Corinthians 14:26-40 and write how all things are to be done in the church.

41. Explain why it is important for men to have a great desire to share the Word of God.

42. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from this chapter about public worship in church services.

Now reread I Corinthians 13:1-14:40 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of I & II Corinthians
Lesson 7
I Corinthians 15:1-16:24

Today we will be studying one of the chapters that tells us many things about the resurrection of Christ. In this chapter we have the Gospel explained to us. The resurrection also gives each Christian an important responsibility. The fact that some people have still not heard about the death and resurrection of Christ is due to our failure to tell them about Christ. Since Christ had victory over death, He will also give us victory over death. We will also study the final instructions given in this book. These instructions include instructions about giving to the Lord. They also include instructions about the way that Christians are to minister to one another.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the meaning of the Gospel.
- Explain the results of the resurrection.
- Tell what happens to us because Christ had victory over death.
- Explain the final instructions given in this letter.

As we begin this chapter, we are given the meaning of the Gospel. We see that this is the message that is to be preached. This is the message that we have received. This is the message in which we are to stand. We see that the message of the Gospel that we are to tell others includes the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It also includes the fact that Christ was seen again by many witnesses after He rose from the dead. His death and resurrection completed many promises that are given in the Old Testament. We read that there were more than five hundred people who saw Christ after He rose from the dead. Paul was also given the privilege of seeing Christ later.

1. Read I Corinthians 15:1-19 and write what Paul says he is by the grace of God.
2. Explain why it was so important that many witnesses saw Christ after His resurrection.
3. Tell how you would explain the Gospel to someone that wanted to become a Christian.

Today every one of us that are Christians has been changed because of the resurrection of Christ. The resurrection is very important for each one of us as Christians. It is due to the fact that Christ was raised from the dead that we know that we have eternal life. Because we have been given new life, it is now our responsibility to share this new life with other people. We share this new life that we have by telling others what they must do to become Christians. Paul said that he had preached this message and that this is the message that the Corinthians had believed.

4. Read I Corinthians 15:1-19 and write what some of the people were saying about the resurrection of Christ.
5. Explain why our faith would be in vain if there were no resurrection.
6. Explain why your salvation was based on the grace of God just as the salvation of Paul was based on the grace of God.

Today there are many people who are also trying to deny the fact of the resurrection of Christ. If they were right, we would have no hope for the future. We would be unhappy and miserable people. In fact without the resurrection of Christ we would have a false hope that would mean nothing. However, we know that Christ did rise from the dead. We know that He did have victory over death. The death and resurrection of Christ also means that we will have victory over death. The Gospel is a message of life because it tells how to have victory over death.

7. Read I Corinthians 15:1-19 and write what we would be if Christ did not rise from the dead.
8. Explain why we would still be in our sins if there were no resurrection.
9. Explain the meaning of the Gospel in your own words.

We have wonderful news. Christ is risen from the dead. He is alive. Because of the sin of Adam, we have all sinned and were spiritually dead. However, Christ died to give us spiritual life. As a result, every Christian is given spiritual life because of the life of Christ. Now Christ has become the ruler over all things and He will rule over all powers and governments. He will have victory over all enemies including death. Christ is going to show His power over all things. He will do this so that the glory will be given to God.

10. Read I Corinthians 15:20-34 and write what the desire of Christ is that God will be.
11. Explain why it is important that the last enemy that Christ will conquer is death.
12. Explain what the fact that Christ has made you spiritually alive means to you in your personal life.

The desire of Christ is that God will be everything. We also have a question that sounds confusing at first. Paul asks, "Why are they, then baptized for the dead?" Many suggestions have been given for the meaning of this question. The best interpretation is the fact that new young Christians were following Christ in baptism and taking the place of those that had died. The new Christians were anxious to be baptized so that they could show all people that Christ is alive and that He had changed their lives. They were now willing to risk the loss of their own lives because of their love for Christ. They realized that they should no longer follow their old way of life.

13. Read I Corinthians 15:20-34 and write why Paul told the Christians to, "Awake to righteousness and sin not."
14. Explain why these early Christians were willing to be baptized even though there were Christians who were being killed for their faith.
15. Explain why you believe that it would be important for you to stand strong for Christ even if there were those who were threatening to kill you for your faith in Christ.

The Christians in Corinth had only been Christians for a few years. Yet Paul says that it was sin because they had not already taken the Gospel to every person in Corinth. Today many Christians are also failing to take the Gospel to others. We have had the Gospel for many years and there are still many who have never had the Gospel clearly explained to them. Paul goes on to tell what kind of a body we will have in the resurrection. God has given everything on earth the body that it has. Man has one kind of body. Animals have another kind of body. Fish have another kind of body. Birds have still a different kind of body. In the same way God has also created different kinds of bodies in

the heavens like the sun, moon and stars.

16. Read I Corinthians 15:35-50 and write how our bodies will be changed in the resurrection.
17. Explain why God has created each kind of body differently both on earth and in the heavens.
18. Explain what you learn for your own life from the concern that Paul had because some had not yet heard the Gospel.

When we die, we have bodies that rot and decay (corrupt). When Christ raises our bodies, He will give us bodies that will never rot or corrupt. Instead of having our natural human bodies, we will be given spiritual bodies. The first man was given life by God. The last man, Jesus Christ, now gives life to others. We were given natural bodies like the body that Adam was given. When we go to heaven, we will be given bodies like Christ had after the resurrection because no body that rots will be in heaven. Our new bodies will neither die nor rot.

19. Read I Corinthians 15:35-50 and write what will not inherit the kingdom of God.
20. Luke 23:39 says that Christ had flesh and bones after the resurrection. These verses say that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Explain the difference.
21. Tell what you learn about the importance of the resurrection of Christ from these verses.

We go on to read about the way that Christ is going to change our bodies. Christ is going to change our bodies faster than we can blink our eyes. Those that are already dead will be raised and given bodies that will never rot or die again. Our bodies that rot will be replaced by bodies that never rot. Our bodies that die will be replaced by bodies that never die. When these things happen, death will be replaced by victory. It will be a time of great joy and rejoicing.

22. Read I Corinthians 15:51-58 and write who gives us the victory.
23. Explain what these verses teach about the new bodies that we will be given.
24. Explain why it is important to you in your life that death will be swallowed up in victory.

The thing that causes death to sting is sin. The Christian does not need to fear death because he has been given spiritual life. The reason the person who is not a Christian fears death is the fact that he feels or knows that his sin will be judged. He knows that he is condemned because his sin has broken the law. However, as Christians we do not need to worry about sin. We do not need to fear death. Instead we can thank God that He has given us victory. The death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ have given this victory to us.

25. Read I Corinthians 15:51-58 and write how we should do the work of the Lord since we have been given victory through Christ
26. Explain why Christians are to be always abounding in the work of the Lord.
27. Explain what the promise that your work for the Lord will not be in vain means to you personally.

Here we see the results of the resurrection of Christ for our own lives. The fact that we have victory through Christ means that we should want to serve Christ. We should stand fast for Christ. Nothing should move us because we are standing in the strength that Christ gives us. As a result, we are able to use the strength that Christ has given us to serve Him. We do not have much time left. The Lord is coming soon and we are to use the time that we have to tell others about Christ.

28. Read I Corinthians 15:51-58 and write what Paul calls the Christians in Corinth.
29. Explain why they are called beloved brethren even though Paul said that they were fleshly and had not grown to spiritual maturity according to I Corinthians 3:1-3.
30. Explain why you feel that it is privilege for you to serve the Lord since the Lord died and rose again to give you eternal life.

As we come to the last chapter of this book, we receive several important instructions for our own lives. The first instructions teach us about the right way to give to the Lord. First, we see that the churches in Galatia, Macedonia and Corinth were all collecting gifts to help the needy Christians at Jerusalem. Here we see that as Christians we should be concerned about the needy Christians in other places and share what the Lord has given to us. We also see that we should give to the Lord regularly and systematically on the first day of the week.

31. Read I Corinthians 16:1-24 and write how we should give to the Lord.
32. Explain why these verses teach that we are to give as the Lord has prospered us rather than giving tithes as was taught in the Old Testament.
33. Explain why you think that it is a privilege to give back to the Lord some of what He has given to you.

Paul said that he hoped to come and visit the Christians in Corinth. However, he was not able to come then because the Lord had given him a great and open door to serve the Lord. There were also many who were trying to stop him from preaching the Gospel but that did not stop him. Today there are many open doors for us to serve the Lord. When the Lord gives us an open door, we need to go through that door and take every opportunity to tell others about Christ. We are also encouraged to help and encourage young Christians who are serving the Lord.

34. Read I Corinthians 16:1-24 and write how we are told to stand.
35. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that the Lord is the One who opens doors for Christians to share the Gospel.
36. Explain why you believe that it is important for you to walk through the doors that the Lord opens for you to share the Gospel.

As Christians we are told to watch out for the devil. The devil will try to trick us in any way that he can trick us. The way to avoid the tricks of the devil is to stand fast in the faith that we have received from Christ. We are to be mature Christians and not act like children. We are to be strong in the strength that Christ gives us. The only way that we can do these things is to let the love of Christ take control of our lives. We are to do everything that we do in love.

37. Read I Corinthians 16:1-24 and write in what we are to stand fast.
38. Explain what these verses teach about the way that Christians should serve the Lord.
39. Explain why you feel that it is very important to depend on the Lord moment by moment so that all that you do is done in love.

We also see an example of different ways that Christians can serve the Lord. We read that the family of Stephanus was ministering to the other saints. They were meeting the needs of other Christians.

There were also Christians who were meeting the physical needs of Paul. Aquila and Priscilla had opened their home so that the church could meet in their home. Here we see a few more of the many ways that Christians can serve the Lord. If we let Christ have the control of our lives, He will be able to use us in many different ways.

40. Read I Corinthians 16:1-24 and write who sent greetings with the letter from Paul.

41. Explain why the Lord has provided many different ways for Christians to serve Him.

42. Explain some of the ways that the Lord has equipped you to serve Him.

Now reread I Corinthians 15:1-16:24 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of I & II Corinthians
Lesson 8
II Corinthians 1:1-3:18

Today we are beginning a study of the second letter written to the Christians in Corinth. This letter gives us a wonderful picture of the grace of God. Sometimes we forget that our salvation is based completely on the love and grace of Christ. In our lesson today we will see why Paul had not revisited the Christians in Corinth yet. We will also see what we are told to do when a Christian who has been living in sin repents. Then we read that the lives of Christians must be an example for those that are not Christians because those who are not Christians are watching the Christians.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell why we must trust in God instead of ourselves.
- Explain why Paul had not revisited Corinth yet.
- Explain what we should do when a Christian living in sin repents.
- Tell why our lives should be examples to those that are not Christians.

As we begin this book, one of the first things that we see is the fact that we worship a God who is able to comfort us at all times. He knows every problem and sorrow that we face and so He offers comfort in every situation. Because God comforts us, we should also comfort others when they are in trouble. We do this by showing them the comfort that God gave us and wants us to give them. Just as we have many opportunities to suffer for Christ, in the same way we have great comfort from Christ.

1. Read II Corinthians 1:1-14 and write why Paul said his hope for the Christians was steadfast (standing firm).
2. Explain why Christians are to be able to comfort those who are in every tribulation.
3. Explain some of the ways that God has personally provided comfort to you in times of tribulation.

Paul knew that when the Christians in Corinth suffered, the Lord would also comfort them. We have the same promise today. Christ will always comfort us when we suffer. We also see one reason why Christ allows us to suffer as Christians. God allows us to suffer so that we will trust in Him instead of ourselves. Without Christ, we had already been sentenced to death. We had nothing in ourselves that was worth trusting. Now as Christians we still have nothing in ourselves that is worth trusting. We must trust in God because He is the one that has all power.

4. Read II Corinthians 1:1-14 and write one way that is mentioned that God showed His power.
5. Explain why Christians are encouraged not to trust in themselves.
6. Explain why you have found that it is important to trust in God when you go through times of suffering.

Through Christ we have been delivered from death. He is the one that gives us hope. Then Paul went on to thank the Christians in the city of Corinth for their prayers. Here we see the importance of

praying for others Christians that are serving the Lord. We need to pray for each other as we serve the Lord. In this way we share with others the work that the Lord has given them to do. They also share with us the work that the Lord has given us to do.

7. Read II Corinthians 1:1-14 and write how the Christians in Corinth were helping Paul and the team that was traveling with him.

8. Explain what verse 10 means when it says that God has delivered us from the dead, is delivering us from the dead and will deliver us from the dead.

9. Explain why you realize as Paul did that you should not depend on fleshly wisdom in your life.

Paul had served the Lord without trying to depend on the wisdom of the world. Instead he had done all that he did by the grace of God. That was the reason that he wanted to visit the Christians in Corinth again. He wanted to tell them again of the love and favor of God so that they could be strong in Christ. Now Paul was looking forward to another visit with the Christians in Corinth after he went to Macedonia. He wanted them to know that he had not forgotten them by going to Macedonia first. They could trust his word because he said what God told him to say instead of giving his own thoughts.

10. Read II Corinthians 1:15-24 and write the names of the two men who had been in Corinth with Paul.

11. Explain why Paul wanted to visit the Christians in Corinth again.

12. Explain why Paul shows you that it is important not to develop your purpose and make your plans based on the flesh.

Since Paul, Silas and Timothy were preaching about the promises of God, their words were true. God never changes His Word. We received eternal life through the death and resurrection of Christ. Now God had shown that He is going to keep His promise to give us eternal life by sending the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is like a down payment. The fact that the Holy Spirit lives in our lives causes us to know that God will keep His promise to give us eternal life. We know that God will not change His mind.

13. Read II Corinthians 1:15-24 and write what Paul said he did not have dominion (control) over.

14. Explain what these verses teach about one reason why God has given Christians the Holy Spirit.

15. Explain why it is important to you in your life that you have been given the Holy Spirit as the down payment and guarantee on your eternal life.

These verses also teach us an important lesson for each of us that are Christian leaders. We are not to try and make ourselves masters over those that we are leading. We did not give them their faith. Instead Christ gave them their faith. As long as their faith is in Christ, they will be strong. If they depend on us or we try to control them, their faith will become weak. It is for this reason that a Christian leader must actually be a servant or helper instead of one who tries to control others. This way we can guide others to depend on Christ instead of ourselves.

16. Read II Corinthians 1:15-24 and write of what Paul said they were helpers.

17. Explain why Christian leaders should be servants and helpers instead of trying to control other Christians.

18. Explain why it is important to you in your own life that you use the opportunities that the Lord gives you to serve and help other Christians.

Paul goes on to tell the Christians in Corinth why he had decided to wait to visit them. He knew that he would rejoice to see them again. However, he would make them sad because he would have to speak to them about their sin. Instead, he decided to write to them so that they could correct the problems in the church before he came. In First Corinthians we learned that there was a man in the church in Corinth that was living in immorality with his mother. Paul had told the Christians to have no fellowship with the man because of his sin. Now the man had repented of his sin.

19. Read II Corinthians 2:1-7 and write what Paul says about the punishment of the man.
20. Explain why Paul said that he had written his first letter to them out of much affliction and anguish of heart.
21. Explain why you think that the sin in the church at Corinth had caused great anguish in the heart of Paul.

The man had been left out of the fellowship of the church until he repented of his sin. Now Paul said he should be restored to the fellowship because he had repented and turned from his sin. Now they were to forgive the man and encourage him. Otherwise he would become discouraged. The Christians were to forgive the man and show true Christian love because the man was a brother in Christ. True Christian love means that we will forgive and no longer hold against others what they have done in the past. This is what the Christians were told to do.

22. Read II Corinthians 2:1-17 and write who will gain the advantage if we do not forgive.
23. Explain why an unforgiving spirit in a church will cause Satan to gain the advantage.
24. Explain why you think that it is very important to let people know that they are forgiven once they have repented of their sin.

Today there are some Christians who are not willing to forgive and no longer hold it against that Christian when he or she sins and then repents of that sin. Although the sin may have happened several years before, the Christians still keep reminding the person of that sin. They fail to trust the brother that sinned. As a result, they finally cause the weaker brother to be tricked by the devil. Then he falls into sin again. We are to love and trust the Christian brother that has sinned and repented. This will cause us to forgive and let go of his sin. We will not continue to hold that sin against him.

25. Read II Corinthians 2:1-17 and write what kind of a door was opened to Paul at Troas.
26. Explain what these verses teach we should do when a Christian falls into sin and then repents of that sin.
27. Explain why you think that Paul had no rest in his spirit in Troas even though the Lord had opened a door of ministry for him there.

We also read that God gives us victory through Christ. Since we have victory through Christ, we are to speak of Him instead of ourselves. This way people in every place will hear of Christ. For those who believe, we bring a message of life. For those who refuse to believe, it is a message of death. We are not to be like those people who try to change the message of God because the message is too important.

28. Read II Corinthians 2:1-17 and write what those people are doing with the Word of God.

29. Explain why the message of the Gospel is a message of death to some and a message of life to others.
30. Explain why you think that you must be faithful in giving the message of the Gospel and not corrupt it in any way.

As Christians, our lives are like a letter. All the people around us that are not Christians are watching our lives. They are watching us to see if we live the way we teach and preach. If our lives do not agree with the things we are saying, they will turn away from Christ. This is why it is so important that we let Christ have complete control of our lives. Then our lives will agree with the things that we are saying. Although we are letters, we are not written with ink.

31. Read II Corinthians 3:1-18 and write by whom we are written.
32. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that the lives of Christians are the letter of Christ to the people who live around us.
33. Explain why you realize that the way you live your life is important since others are watching the way you live as they think about putting their trust in Christ.

When we have our lives controlled by the Holy Spirit, we know that God will complete His purpose for our lives. We are nothing in ourselves. However, we are complete in Christ. Since we are the letter that is written by the Holy Spirit, we have a message that gives life. The law condemns people but the Holy Spirit gives them life. Although the law brings death, the nation of Israel saw great glory on the face of the person that gave the law of God.

34. Read II Corinthians 3:1-18 and write the name of the man that brought the law of God to the people.
35. Explain what these verses mean when they say that we are ministers of a new covenant (testament).
36. Explain what these verses mean to you in your own life when they say that we are not sufficient in ourselves but our sufficiency is from God.

When Moses came down from the mountain after God gave him the law; his face was shining so brightly that the people could not look at him. He had to cover his face with a veil. If the law which brings judgment caused the face of Moses to shine so brightly, the message given to us by the Holy Spirit is even more beautiful. The brightness on the face of Moses faded away. However, we have a message that will never fade away.

37. Read II Corinthians 3:1-18 and write what happened to the minds of the people when Moses gave them the law.
38. Explain why it is possible for people to have their minds blinded so that they do not understand the Word of God.
39. Explain how you feel that you should live your life since these verses teach that your life is a letter written by the Holy Spirit.

Just as Moses put a veil over his face when he brought the law of God down from the mountain, the Jews have a covering on their minds and hearts when they read the Old Testament. This veil over their

hearts is taken away when a man turns to Christ and asks Christ to forgive his sin and become the Lord of his life. This is the reason that a person that is not a Christian understands very little of the Word of God. Only after a person becomes a Christian does he really begin to understand the Word of God. When a person becomes a Christian, his mind is made free by Christ and he can now begin to understand.

40. Read II Corinthians 3:1-18 and write what the Spirit of the Lord gives.

41. Explain what these verses mean when they say that where the Spirit of the Lord there is liberty.

42. Explain why you think that these verses teach that our lives are to be like a mirror that reflects the glory of Christ.

Now reread II Corinthians 1:1-3:18 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of I & II Corinthians
Lesson 9
II Corinthians 4:1-5:21

Today we will learn why people who are not Christians do not understand the Gospel. We see that they have been blinded by the devil. The only thing that will open their eyes is the preaching of the Gospel. We will also learn why it is a privilege to suffer for Christ. Today many Christians complain when they suffer. They need to realize that it is a privilege to suffer for Christ. We will also learn why we need to witness. Then we will see the results when Christ changes our lives.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why people who are not Christians cannot understand the Gospel.
- Tell why it is a privilege to suffer for Christ.
- Explain why we should have a great concern to tell others about Christ.
- Tell what changes Christ makes in our lives as Christians.

In our last lesson we learned that the Jews could not understand the Old Testament because their hearts were hardened. As a result, their eyes were blind. Their eyes were covered with a veil. Today people are just the same. They do not understand the Word of God. The Gospel is veiled to those who are dying in their sin. They do not understand the meaning of the Word of God. This is the reason that many people can attend a church for a long time where the Gospel is preached and still not understand.

1. Read II Corinthians 4:1-6 and write who has blinded those who are not Christians.
2. Explain why Paul said that he and all that speak the Word of God are not to handle the Word deceitfully.
3. Tell how you would explain what it means when it says that the Gospel is hidden to those who are lost.

Today Satan is doing everything possible to blind the minds of those that are not Christians. He wants to keep people blind so that they will not follow Christ. Satan uses many tricks to keep people blind. He does not want the light that Christ gives to shine into their lives. The devil knows that the Gospel is very powerful and will change and transform lives. For that reason he will do everything in his power to keep men from hearing and understanding the Gospel.

4. Read II Corinthians 4:1-6 and write what Paul says we should preach.
5. Explain why Satan knows that the way to keep people in spiritual darkness is to blind their minds to the Gospel.
6. Explain why our preaching is to focus on Christ and not ourselves.

Jesus Christ came to be the Light of the world and bring light to our lives. Through Christ we have received knowledge of the glory of God. Because we are saved by what Christ did for us on the cross,

we are to preach about Christ and not ourselves. It is very easy for men to look to other men instead of looking to Christ for guidance. This is why it is so important to make sure that we always preach and teach about Christ and not ourselves.

7. Read II Corinthians 4:1-6 and write where God has caused the light to shine.
8. Explain why people need the light of Christ to shine into the hearts of those who are not Christians in order for them to believe.
9. Explain how the Lord has changed your life by causing His light to shine into your heart.

Paul goes on to talk about Christian suffering. We may have troubles all around us but that should not cause us to become discouraged. God still gives us room to move and do the work of the Lord. Although many things happen that we do not understand, these things do not cause us to give up. People may persecute us and make it hard for us but we do not worry because we are not alone. We are even knocked down but that does not destroy us. We are glad to suffer all these things for Christ. We know that God uses these things to help others understand that Christ controls our lives.

10. Read II Corinthians 4:7-18 and write why Paul said we can be happy even if we are put to death.
11. Explain why the things that happen to Christians in our physical bodies are used by God to reveal the power of Christ.
12. Explain what you learn for your own life about the purpose of suffering in your life as a Christian.

Here we see the reason why it should not bother us even if we suffer or die. We are suffering these things for the sake of Jesus. Christ gave His life for us so the least we can do is suffer for Him. We need to be happy to die so that others can have life in Christ. Since we have believed in Christ, we should speak and tell others about Him. If we die, we know that Christ will raise us up again. Because we know that Christ will raise us back to life when we die, we are able to be strong and not faint. We learn to depend on the strength that Christ gives.

13. Read II Corinthians 4:7-18 and write what Christ does for our inward man each day.
14. Explain what these verses mean when they say that our inward man is being renewed day by day.
15. Explain why you believe that the Lord uses the things that happen in your life to bring glory to God.

Here we have a wonderful promise about suffering. No matter what our physical body suffers, Christ renews our inner strength every day. The things that happen to us on this earth will only last for a moment. In heaven the eternal rewards that we will receive will be so great that the tiny amount of suffering that we have on earth will seem like nothing. When we think of all that Christ has done for us on this earth and will do for us in heaven, we should be very thankful to share in the sufferings of Christ. He gave everything for us. The least we can do is share in His sufferings.

16. Read II Corinthians 4:7-18 and write what the things that are not seen are like.
17. Explain why Christians are able to focus on the things that are eternal instead of just focusing on the things of this earth.
18. Explain how it has changed your thinking as you have learned to look at things from an eternal viewpoint instead of just from a worldly viewpoint.

Our body that we have on this earth will be replaced by a body that will be made by God. The body

that we will be given in heaven will be an eternal body. It will be a body that has not been made with hands. The body that we have now has aches and pains. Our body that we will have in heaven will be perfect and have no suffering or pain. When we get to heaven, a body that never dies will replace this body that dies. Death will be replaced by life. God sent the Holy Spirit as a promise that He would give us life.

19. Read II Corinthians 5:1-11 and write how these verses tell us that we walk as Christians.
20. Explain why Christians can always be confident as they look toward the future.
21. Explain why God gave us the Holy Spirit as a down payment on our eternal life.

Here we see the way that we are to walk as Christians. We are to walk with our faith and trust in Jesus Christ. We are not to be searching for things that we can see. If we are depending on things that we can see, our faith is weak. Today there are Christians who are depending on things that they can see or feel instead of depending on Christ. As a result, their lives are filled with ups and downs because they do not have a strong faith in Christ. Their lives are lives of struggle instead of lives of victory. Instead of struggling, we can rest in the promises that when we die we will be present with the Lord.

22. Read II Corinthians 5:1-11 and write why we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
23. Explain why Christians can look forward to the fact that they will be accepted by God.
24. Explain what it means to you to know that God has accepted you and given you the Holy Spirit as a down payment on your eternal life.

Here we see that all Christians will be judged. Now this is not a judgment to see whether we will be allowed to enter heaven or not. All true Christians are promised that they will go to heaven. Instead this is a judgment of our works to see whether we will receive any rewards. If we have been faithful in leading others to Christ, we will receive a reward. If we have not been faithful in leading others to Christ, we will enter heaven with nothing. Since we know and fear the Lord, we want to persuade men. We do not want to stand before the Lord with empty hands. We want to stand before the Lord with many others that have become Christians because we were faithful in witnessing to them.

25. Read I Corinthians 5:1-11 and write what we will do as we realize the judgment that faces those that do not know Christ.
26. Explain what these verses teach about the judgment time when Christians will be rewarded for their service for Christ.
27. Explain what these verses teach you about the reason why you should be concerned to tell others about Christ.

Because we know the judgment of those who are not Christians and have a godly fear and reverence for the Lord ourselves, we want to witness to others. We do not want to keep the good news of salvation to ourselves. We do not witness so that we will receive the praise of men. If we are depending on the praise of men, we are witnessing for the wrong reason. Our reason for witnessing is the fact that the love of Christ controls us. This is the reason why we serve Christ. If we are serving Christ for any other reason, we are working for the wrong goal. As a result, we will not accomplish anything for Christ. However, if we are controlled by the love of Christ so that we cannot keep quiet, then we will

see many people come to Christ.

28. Read II Corinthians 5:11-21 and write what we become when we are in Christ.

29. Explain what it means for a person to become a new creation in Christ.

30. Explain what motivates you personally to share with others the message of the Gospel of Christ.

Here we see the wonderful change that happens to every person at the moment he or she becomes a Christian. That person becomes a part of the body of Christ. It is a wonderful thing to be a part of the body of Christ. This means that we are no longer alone. Instead we have Christ in our lives and we are a part of His body. As a result, we become an entirely new person when we become a Christian. Christ gives us life instead of death. He gives us peace, joy and happiness instead of fear and worry. We are new people starting a new life.

31. Read II Corinthians 5:11-21 and write what happens to the old things.

32. Explain why these verses say that the old things pass away when a person becomes a new creation in Christ.

33. Explain some of the changes that Christ made in your life at the moment you were made a new creation.

Here we see that a wonderful change happens to us at the moment that we become Christians. When Christ comes into our life, He gives us new desires. We no longer want to do the old sinful things that we used to do before we became Christians. Instead we want to do those things that will please Christ. One of the things that the church is called in Scripture is the bride of Christ. A new bride wants to do everything to please her new husband. In the same way, we should have the same desire to do everything to please Christ. Then we will have real joy.

34. Read II Corinthians 5:11-21 and write what God has done to us through Christ.

35. Explain what it means when it says that God was reconciling the world to Himself through Christ.

36. Explain what it means to you in your own life to be reconciled to God.

Because Christ has given us new life, we are reconciled to God. This means that we are brought back into a right relationship with God. We turned our backs on God when we sinned. God could not have fellowship with us because of our sin. When we ask Christ to forgive our sin, God now looks at us and sees us without sin because the blood of Christ removed our sin. As a result, we are ambassadors for Christ. An ambassador is one who represents another country or the leader of that country. People watch everything that an ambassador does. If he does things that are wrong, people speak against his country and its leader. As ambassadors of Christ, we are representing Him in this world. People are watching our lives. As a result, everything that we say and do should bring honor to Christ.

37. Read II Corinthians 5:11-21 and write what we are to be for Christ.

38. Explain what it means when it says that God does not impute their sins to those who have asked Christ for forgiveness.

39. Explain what it means to you in your own life to be an ambassador for Christ.

Since we are ambassadors for Christ, we are to speak what God wants us to speak and not give our own opinions. We will only speak the right things when our hearts are right with God. We must make

certain that we allow no sin to come into our lives that would keep us from speaking for Christ. We are to always remember that God sent Christ, the one who had done no sin, to take our place and die for us. Through the death of Christ we are made right with God and receive His righteousness.

40. Read II Corinthians 5:11-21 and write who took our sin.

41. Explain what it means that we have been made the righteousness of God in Christ.

42. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that when the Father looks at you He sees the righteousness of Christ instead of your sin.

Now reread II Corinthians 4:1-5:21 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of I & II Corinthians
Lesson 10
II Corinthians 6:1-8:24

The Christians in Corinth were facing many problems because they were not standing as Christians. These Christians were joining themselves together with people that were not Christians. As a result, they had become one with a person that was serving the devil instead of Christ. Paul also speaks of his personal concern for the Corinthians in Corinth. It was this concern that had caused him to write to them. In the final part of this lesson we will learn about the way that the Christians in Macedonia were giving to help the needy Christians in Jerusalem. Paul used the example of the Christians in Macedonia to encourage the Christians in Corinth to give also.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Christians should not join themselves with those who are not Christians.
- Tell what Paul says about himself.
- Explain what we learn from the Christians in Macedonia.
- Explain what Paul says about who should care for the church offerings.

In our last lesson we learned that we are to be ambassadors for Christ because He has given us new life. As we begin our lesson today, we see that we are workers together with Christ. We do not work alone. Instead Christ works in our lives. He also uses our lives to help others become Christians and then grow in Christ. We are told to tell others that now is the time to become Christians. People will never have another opportunity to become Christians once they die. If they do not become Christians now, it will be too late and they will experience eternal judgment..

1. Read II Corinthians 6:1-10 and why we are told to give no offence.
2. Explain why it is important for people to respond to the Gospel while they have the opportunity.
3. Explain what it means to you in your own life that we as Christians are called workers together with Christ.

We are not to do anything that might cause people to refuse to listen to the Gospel. Our actions should help people come to Christ instead. Every Christian must realize that he or she is an ambassador and minister for Christ. Everything that we do should bring honor to Christ. We can be joyful when we have tests and suffering. We can be joyful when people persecute us and do evil things to us. No matter what happens to us we can rejoice. This will cause others to see that there is victory in Christ regardless of what is happening around us. Even in sorrow we can rejoice.

4. Read II Corinthians 6:1-10 and write what we have when we are poor and have nothing.
5. Explain why Christians are not to give offence in anything.
6. Explain why it is possible for you to rejoice even when you are going through a difficult time in your life.

In these verses we see that we are talking about a different kind of riches than the people of the world understand. We are talking about the riches that God gives us. As the world looks at us, they see that we have no money. Yet we are able to make them rich because we have eternal life and can share that life with them. We may have nothing but we worship a God who can supply all our needs because everything belongs to Him. This is one reason Christians do not need to worry. As we are faithful in putting Christ first and sharing His riches with others, He will supply our needs.

7. Read II Corinthians 6:1-10 and write what we possess even though we may have nothing.

8. Explain why Christ makes it possible for Christians to rejoice regardless of what is happening around them and to them.

9. Explain what these verses teach you about how to have joy in your own life.

Paul says that he is writing to the Corinthians as his children. He wants to help them know what to do so that they will grow strong. We read that as Christians we are not to be unequally yoked (joined together) with unbelievers. Our bodies became the temple of the Holy Spirit when we became Christians. When a Christian marries one that is not a Christian, two people become one. Here we see that the one who is right with God becomes a part of one that is not right with God. In the same way, when Christians join with unbelievers in trying to do the work of the Lord they have yoked themselves with unbelievers.

10. Read II Corinthians 6:11-18 and write with what Christians cannot have agreement.

11. Explain why Christians are not to yoke themselves with those who are not Christians to try to do the work of the Lord.

12. Explain why these verses help you to realize that you need to avoid joining with those who are not Christians to try to do the work of the Lord.

Here we see that it is impossible for Christ to be in agreement with Satan. That is why a person who is Christian should not join together with unbelievers either in ministry or in marriage. If a husband and wife are both non-Christians and then one becomes a Christian, we saw in I Corinthians that the Christian will many times win the non-Christian to Christ because of a changed life. However, if a Christian disobeys the Word of God and marries one that is not a Christian, there will always be problems.

Since we are the people of God, He tells us that we are to be His people.

13. Read II Corinthians 6:11-18 and write what we are told to do as the people of God.

14. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that Christians are not to join with those who are not Christians in the worship of idols.

15. Explain what it means to you in your personal life to know that you are the temple of God and that God lives in you.

We see that as Christians we have been separated and set apart for God. We are not to join ourselves with those that are not Christians. When we join ourselves in any kind of a relationship where we join with those who are not Christians, we will experience stress in our lives. The Christian is disobeying the command of God so he cannot be a joyful Christian. Since he is not a joyful Christian, other people will not see the joy of Christ in that life. One person wants to serve Christ while those to whom that person is joined are serving Satan. The result is constant disagreement. These are some of the reasons that God warns us not to be joined with unbelievers.

16. Read II Corinthians 6:11-18 and write what God tells us to do rather than be joined with unbelievers.

17. Explain why God calls Christians to separate themselves from joint ministry with those who are not Christians.

18. Explain what it means to you personally to know that God wants to be a Father to you in your life.

Because we are the sons and daughters of God, we are to cleanse our lives from all sin. We are not to allow sin to remain in our lives. Instead we are to let Christ take control of our lives and cleanse us from sin. Then we are to live a holy life that will be pleasing to God. Paul goes on to tell of his feelings toward the people in Corinth. Paul loved them so much that he was willing to live or die for them. The people in Corinth had also been a comfort to Paul.

19. Read II Corinthians 7:1-16 and write how God had comforted Paul when he was faced with many problems in Macedonia.

20. Explain what Paul meant when he said that while He was in Macedonia he had to deal with fighting from others and fears from within.

21. Explain why you think that the coming of Titus provided great comfort to Paul at a difficult time in his life.

Here we see that God gives comfort to those that are discouraged. Paul had sent Titus to the city of Corinth to help the church there. When Paul was faced with many problems in Macedonia, Titus came to him from Corinth. Paul was filled with joy when he heard of the changes in the Christians in Corinth. They had accepted the letter from Paul and had allowed the Word of God to change their lives. Paul had been concerned because the first letter he had written to Corinth had caused them to be sorry. Now he was full of joy because that sorrow had caused them to repent of their sins and get their lives right with Christ.

22. Read II Corinthians 7:10 and write what godly sorrow does for a person.

23. Explain the difference between godly sorrow and the sorrow of the world.

24. Explain what you learn for your own life about the importance of having godly sorrow when you have allowed sin to remain in your life for a time.

The letter of Paul had caused each of the Christians to examine their own lives. Paul says that this is the reason why he wrote. He had not written the letter just to the man that was living in sin. Instead he wrote the letter to the other Christians so that they would get their lives right with God. Now Paul and Titus were full of joy because the lives of the Christians were right with God. In fact Titus had an even greater love for the Christians in Corinth because he had seen their lives changed by the Word of God.

25. Read II Corinthians 7:1-16 and write what the visit to the Corinthians had done for Titus.

26. Explain what kind of an impact the ministry of Titus to the Corinthians had on the life of Titus.

27. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the concern of Paul for the Corinthians.

Paul goes on to tell us a little about the churches in Macedonia. The people in those churches were very poor. However, they were concerned about helping others. Even though they were very poor, they gave very generously to help the needy Christians in Jerusalem. In fact they gave so much that

even Paul was surprised at how much they gave. Here we learn a real lesson. Are we giving very much to the Lord? Are we really showing that we believe God will supply our needs if we give to Him first?

28. Read II Corinthians 8:1-15 and write how the Macedonians begged and prayed that Paul would take their gift.

29. Explain how the Christians in Macedonia give all Christians an example of the way to give to the Lord.

30. Explain what lessons you learn from these verses for your own life about the privilege of giving to the Lord.

The Christians in Macedonia actually had to beg Paul to take their money so that they could have the privilege of sharing in the needs of other Christians. Here we see how poor the Christians in Macedonia actually were. They had almost nothing. Yet they wanted to share with other Christians. They wanted to share because they had given control of their lives to Christ and they knew that Christ would supply their needs. Now Paul was encouraging the Christians in Corinth to follow the example of those in Macedonia. Paul says he is not commanding them to give. Instead he is encouraging them to give in order to show their love for Christ.

31. Read II Corinthians 8:1-15 and write how Christ gave us the real example of giving.

32. Explain why Christ chose to become poor so that through His poverty we could become spiritually rich.

33. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that Christ became poor for your sake.

Christ gave His life so that we could share the riches of heaven. Now we should also be anxious to share our lives and what we have with others. The Christians in Corinth had said a year before that they wanted to share with others. Now Paul encouraged them to do it and not just talk about it. They were encouraged to share because they were rich. If they would share with others when they were rich, God would lead others to share with them when they had a need. In this way none would lack. Today we also need to be concerned to share with other Christians in their times of need.

34. Read II Corinthians 8:1-15 and write what happened to those who had gathered much during the time when Israel was in the wilderness.

35. Explain why the Lord teaches that Christians should share with others during the times when they have plenty.

36. Explain what these verses teach you about your responsibility to share with other Christians when you see them in need.

Since Titus was concerned about the Christians in Corinth, he was anxious to return to them again so that he could help them. Another brother in Christ was coming with Titus. His name is not given. However, the Christians in Macedonia had chosen him to help take their gift to the needy Christians in Jerusalem. This Christian brother was well known to the Christians in many places. Paul had encouraged the Christians to choose some well-respected men to take the gift to the needy in Jerusalem. Then no one would be able to say that Paul was getting the money for himself. This was to make sure that no one would speak against the Gospel. Here we see the reason why churches should choose

someone who is respected to take care of the money.

37. Read II Corinthians 8:16-24 and write who should be able to see that leaders are honest besides the Lord.

38. Explain why it is very important for Christian leaders to provide a good example by the way they handle the finances of a church.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about handling money that has been given to the Lord.

Paul gives us an example for those who are pastors and missionaries. If a pastor or missionary will avoid taking care of the money of the church, all men will have a greater respect for him. They will realize that he is not preaching so that he can get the money for himself. Instead they will realize that he is preaching to bring glory to Christ.

40. Read II Corinthians 8:16-24 and write what Paul calls Titus and the other brothers in case anyone should inquire.

41. Explain why Paul calls Titus his partner and fellow worker.

42. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the importance of being a godly example to others as a leader in a church.

Now reread II Corinthians 6:1-8:24 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of I & II Corinthians
Lesson 11
II Corinthians 9:1-11:15

In our last lesson we learned how the Christians in Macedonia gave of their money for the work of the Lord even though they were very poor. They gave so much that even Paul was surprised at the way they gave to the Lord. Today we will learn how God blesses the Christians who put God first in their giving. We will see that we cannot outgive God. We will also see that there were some in Corinth who did not believe that God sent Paul as an apostle. He will answer their questions in the final chapters of this book. We will also see a warning against false teachers.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how Paul shows that God sent him.
- Tell how God will bless us when we give to Him.
- Explain what Paul says about false teachers.
- Tell who supplied the needs of Paul when he was in Corinth.

The Christians in the city of Corinth were rich compared to those in Macedonia and other areas. The city of Corinth was a center of trade so there was plenty of work and the people received good wages. However, it sometimes happens that the richest Christians give the least to the Lord. Paul realized that this could happen in the city of Corinth. Then the Christians in Corinth would be very ashamed when some of the Christians from Macedonia came to visit them. This is the reason that Paul was telling the Christians in Corinth that some Christians from Macedonia were coming to visit them.

1. Read II Corinthians 9:1-15 and write how we will reap if we sow sparingly.
2. Explain why Paul wrote to the Corinthians to encourage them in their giving for the needs of other Christians.
3. Explain why you think that Paul wrote to the Corinthians before He went to Corinth to encourage the Corinthians in their giving.

Some Christians choose to give very little to the Lord. Here we see that they will receive from the Lord according to the way that they have given to Him. Today the situation is no different than it was in the time of Paul. There are still many Christians who are not giving very much to the Lord. They pay all of their bills and buy what they want first and then if there is some left over they may give it to the Lord. Here we see that they will receive very little reward if they put themselves ahead of the Lord. However, if they put the Lord first in their giving, they will reap in the same way they have sown.

4. Read II Corinthians 9:1-15 and write what kind of a giver God wants us to be.
5. Explain why God encourages Christians to be cheerful givers.
6. Explain why you think that it is important to purpose and determine in your heart what you are going to give to the Lord.

In the Old Testament the Jews were required to give at least 10% of all that they received to the Lord. In addition, they were also told to help a needy brother. In the New Testament we are not told that we have to give a certain amount to the Lord. Instead we are told to give because we love the Lord. We are to decide how much we want to give to the Lord and then give with a happy heart. If we are giving because we love the Lord, we will probably want to give more than 10%. Christ gave His life for us. He gave everything. The least we can do is give back to Him with a cheerful heart.

7. Read II Corinthians 9:1-15 and what these verses tell us we should abound in doing.
8. Explain what it means when it says that God is able to make all grace abound toward us.
9. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord gives you the opportunity to abound in every good work.

When we put the Lord first, we will experience His grace and love working in our lives. He will always provide our needs when we put Him first. He will also make it possible for us to serve Him in many ways. He will multiply the gifts that we have so that they will accomplish much for His work. Christ will also cause our witnessing to produce fruit. This means that others will become Christians because we are faithful both in praying for them and witnessing to them.

10. Read II Corinthians 9:1-15 and write how God has enriched us.
11. Explain why God says that He will multiply the seed sown by Christians and increase the fruit of their righteousness.
12. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from this chapter about giving to the Lord.

God has made our lives full of joy and happiness so that we have many things for which to be thankful. God gives us so much that we have more than enough to supply the needs of needy Christians. As a result, God fills us with thanksgiving. As we help needy Christians, we cause them to glorify God and give thanks to Him. Here we see that we should give to needy Christians to encourage their faith and help them to realize that the Lord will supply their needs.

13. Read II Corinthians 9:1-15 and write how much we should give to needy Christians.
14. Explain why we are to be thankful to God for the gift that He has given to us that is so great that we cannot even describe it.
15. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from this chapter about being thankful.

Here we see our privilege and responsibility to help needy Christians. There are Christians that are needy through no fault of their own. A Christian who is in need because he is lazy is not our responsibility. He must provide for himself. However, if there is a Christian that is in need due to sickness, accident, old age or some other reason that he or she cannot help, then it is our responsibility to help meet that need. We are to share with that person what the Lord has given to us.

16. Read II Corinthians 9:1-15 and write what such giving does in addition to providing for the needs of the saints.
17. Explain why the fact that we take the opportunity to give to needy Christians results in thanksgiving being given to the Lord.
18. Explain how this chapter demonstrates that we are the body of Christ and that it is important for us to learn both to receive from others and give to others.

Paul goes on to tell the Christians why he is speaking to them with such boldness. He says that his boldness is not the kind of boldness that a man without Christ has. The people of the world are sometimes bold in their human strength. However, as Christians we are not to depend on human flesh and human boldness. We are fighting the war against the power of the devil in the power of Christ. We do not use the weapons of men to fight the devil. Instead we depend on the strength that comes from Christ.

19. Read II Corinthians 10:1-18 and write what the mighty weapons of God are able to do.
20. Explain why the weapons that Christians use to battle Satan are totally different than the weapons that people use in war.
21. Explain why you think that spiritual weapons are able to do much more than military weapons.

Here we see the power that we have in our lives when we let Christ take control of our lives. The devil is not able to stand against us. Instead every one who thinks that his ideas are greater than God will find that he is destroyed by those ideas. In contrast, we choose to be obedient to Christ and place our trust in Him. Paul was writing to the Christians so that they would trust in Christ whether he was present or absent. He did not want the people to measure themselves and compare themselves with his life. Instead he wanted them to compare themselves with Christ.

22. Read II Corinthians 10:1-18 and write what Christ says about those who measure and compare themselves by themselves.
23. Explain why Christians are told to bring every thought into obedience to Christ.
24. Explain what these verses teach you for your own life about the danger of comparing yourself with others.

Today there are many people who compare themselves with their friends or the people in the world around them. As long as we compare ourselves with each other, we are in danger of one of two results. We will pick our good points and their bad points and become proud. The opposite is we pick our bad points and their good points and feel like a total failure. However, when we compare ourselves with Christ, we realize that we are nothing. We have nothing about which to boast. Instead we realize that we must depend on His strength to witness or whatever else we do. The result will be that Christ will be able to work mightily through our lives because all credit is going to Him.

25. Read II Corinthians 10:1-18 and write in what we should glory.
26. Explain why we should compare ourselves with Christ instead of comparing ourselves with other people.
27. Explain why you think that comparing yourself with Christ will cause you to yield to Him and allow Him to work through your life.

Paul goes on to warn about false teachers. He was concerned about the Christians in Corinth and did not want them to be tricked by false teachers. The church is the bride of Christ. Paul wanted the church to be pure and holy instead of corrupted by false teachers. The devil is very tricky when he tries to deceive us with false teachers. He was so tricky that he was able to deceive Eve even though she had never sinned before.

28. Read II Corinthians 11:1-15 and write what part of us Satan tries to corrupt.
29. Explain why Christians need to be warned about the craftiness of Satan.
30. Explain what you learn for your own life about the need to be aware of the way that Satan deceives.

The devil knows that if he can get us to think the wrong way that it will be easy for him to lead us astray. Putting our trust in Christ saves us. We do not have to depend on works to save us. Instead we are to let Christ control our lives. We are not to listen when false teachers preach a message that does not agree with the Word of God. Some of these false teachers were calling themselves apostles of Christ. We see though that they are false teachers. They are only following the devil.

31. Read II Corinthians 11:1-15 and write what false apostles are called.
32. Explain why Paul did not take any financial help from the Corinthians.
33. Explain why you think that Paul received gifts from the poor Christians from Macedonia but did not receive gifts from the rich Christians in Corinth.

Today Satan still makes himself an angel of light. He has found that one of the ways that he can trick Christians is to keep them busy doing good things. Many Christians are so busy doing good things that they do not have time to do those things that the Lord tells them to do. Christ has told every Christian to be a witness for Him. Today many Christians are so busy in the activities of the church that they do not have any time to witness to others about Christ. Every one of these activities may be good. However, if those activities keep a person from telling others about Christ, the devil is using those activities to keep Christians from doing the things that God has commanded every Christian to do.

34. Read II Corinthians 11:1-15 and write what Satan makes himself like.
35. Explain why Satan may try to get Christians to become very busy doing good things.
36. Explain why you think that Satan tries to transform himself into an angel of light.

Paul also tells how God supplied his needs when he was in the city of Corinth. Instead of expecting the Christians in Corinth to meet his needs, he used the gifts that had been sent to him by churches in other areas. Now he was asking the Christians in Corinth if he had been unfair to them by not expecting them to supply his physical needs. Here we see that Christians want to share in the work of the Lord. The Christians in Corinth had been unhappy because Paul did not let them supply his needs.

37. Read II Corinthians 11:1-15 and write where Paul received wages to meet his needs.
38. Explain why Christians should not be surprised when the workers of Satan pretend to be ministers of righteousness.
39. Explain why you think that we should expect false teachers to try and do good things to deceive Christians.

Because the other churches had supplied the money that Paul needed, Paul was not a burden to anyone in the city of Corinth. God had supplied all of his needs. Today we can rest in the promise that God will supply our needs if we obey and serve Him. He will never forget our needs. He may use many different ways to supply our needs. Sometimes He gives us a job. Sometimes God supplies our needs through other Christians. Sometimes God may even use a church or churches to supply the

needs of Christians.

40. Read II Corinthians 11:1-15 and write who God used to supply the needs of Paul when he was in Corinth.

41. Explain how the Lord worked in the Christians in various areas to lead them to share in the ministry of Paul.

42. Explain why you know that the Lord will supply your needs as you are obedient to Him.

Now reread II Corinthians 9:1-11:15 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of I & II Corinthians
Lesson 12
II Corinthians 11:16-13:14

Since there were some who refused to believe that God had sent Paul, Paul began to talk about some of the things that had happened in his life after he became a Christian. He mentioned those things to show that God had sent him. No man would have chosen to suffer the things that Paul suffered unless he was sent by God. We will also learn why some Christians have sickness or other physical problems. Then we will learn that Paul was given the signs that were given to the other apostles. Finally we will see that every Christian is encouraged to examine his or her life.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Paul spoke about his own life.
- Tell why some Christians have sickness and other problems.
- Explain why Paul is called an apostle.
- Tell why we need to examine our own lives.

Paul speaks about the things that happened to him as we begin our lesson today. Since many people in Corinth were speaking about the things that had happened to them, Paul decided to speak about some of the things that had happened to him. He was not doing this because he wanted to boast. He only wanted to show that he had a right to serve God and be called an apostle. First we see that Paul had every right to claim that he was a Jew. He was from the family of Abraham. He was a Hebrew and an Israelite. He had also been called to minister and serve Christ.

1. Read II Corinthians 11:16-33 and write how many times Paul was beaten by the Jews for preaching about Christ.
2. Explain why Paul says he was willing to talk about the things that had happened in his past.
3. Explain why you think that Paul was willing to endure all this physical suffering for the sake of Christ.

Here we see some of the suffering that Paul suffered because he was preaching about Christ. He was beaten and put in jail many times. He nearly died many times. He had stones thrown at him until the people thought he had died but God raised him up. Three times he had been on a boat that was wrecked and nearly drowned. He had spent much time traveling. People everywhere tried to kill him. He had been facing death much of the time from people that were not Christians.

4. Read II Corinthians 11:16-33 and write what else kept him busy besides all of the other things that came on him daily.
5. Explain what these verses show about the way that the life of Paul had changed when he began to serve Christ.
6. Explain why you think that the care of all of the churches also had a great impact on the life of Paul.

Paul was not concerned about the things that happened to his body. He knew that the Lord would

take care of him. Instead he spent his time thinking and praying about the churches that he had established. He was concerned when they had problems and he wanted to help them. This is the reason that he wrote letters to them. In these letters we see that Paul also prayed every day for the churches that he had established. Here we see that Paul was willing to do anything so that other people could hear how to become Christians. Today we need more Christians who will forget their own desires so that other people can hear how to become Christians.

7. Read II Corinthians 11:16-33 and write how Paul had been forced to leave the city of Damascus.
8. Explain why Paul said that if he was going to boast that he was going to boast in the things that concerned his infirmity.
9. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses.

Paul goes on to speak about what had happened to him fourteen years before. He had been taken up to the third heaven. This would have been about the time that he was stoned at Lystra. Paul says that he is not sure whether he actually went to heaven or if he just had a vision of going to heaven. God is the only one who knows for sure. If Paul actually died from being hit by the stones, then he went to heaven for a short time before God raised him back to life. If he did not die, God gave him a vision of heaven while he was unconscious.

10. Read II Corinthians 12:1-10 and write what Paul heard while he was in heaven.
11. Explain why Paul did not know for sure whether he had gone to heaven or if he had just seen a vision.
12. Explain why you think that God allowed Paul to have this experience.

We will not learn all about heaven until we get there. Some things in heaven are so wonderful that the words of men cannot even describe them. Paul had also received many other wonderful words from God as God told him what to write in the books of the Bible that he wrote. Because Paul had received all of these wonderful words from God, he might have been tempted to boast.

13. Read II Corinthians 12:1-10 and write what Paul had received to keep him from boasting.
14. Explain why Paul did not exalt himself and did not want people to exalt him.
15. Explain why you think that the Lord gave Paul a thorn in the flesh.

Here we see one reason why some Christians are not set free from sickness, physical problems of some other thing that affects their daily lives. Three times Paul prayed that the Lord would take away this thorn in the flesh. (It is possible that Paul was almost blind.) Each time Christ told Paul that Christ was all that Paul needed. Paul did not need to be healed from the problem. This thorn in the flesh was to keep Paul from boasting. God sent him this problem so that he would always remember that he was weak in himself. Then he would always depend on Christ for his strength. Today we also need to realize that our strength comes from Christ.

16. Read II Corinthians 12:1-10 and write what the Lord told Paul after he had made his request three times.
17. Explain why Paul said that when he was weak that then he was strong.
18. Explain what these verses teach you about the importance of depending on that strength that Christ provides instead of your own strength.

Paul also tells us that he was given the signs of an apostle. Paul had not been one of those who walked with Christ while he was on the earth. However, he had seen Christ as he traveled on the road to Damascus. Because Paul had not walked with Christ for the three and a half years of his public ministry on the earth, he did not meet all of the requirements to be an apostle. Instead Christ chose him to be an apostle even though he did not meet all of the requirements. Now he said that God had shown that he was an apostle by causing him to be able to do the signs, wonders and mighty deeds that only the apostles were able to do.

19. Read II Corinthians 12:11-21 and write why the church in Corinth felt inferior to the other churches.

20. Explain why Paul was given the signs of an apostle even though he did not meet all of the qualifications to be an apostle.

21. Tell how you would explain to another person why you think that Paul was chosen to be an apostle even though he had not walked with Christ on the earth.

Some of the Christians in Corinth felt that Paul had looked down on them and treated them as children because he had not given them the privilege of supporting him. Instead he had received gifts from the churches in Macedonia for his needs. Today in many areas missionaries are not giving the people of the area an opportunity to help supply their needs. As a result, such Christians today may also feel like they are being treated like children.

22. Read II Corinthians 12:11-21 and write what Paul asked the Christians to do because he had treated them like children.

23. Explain why Paul chose to ask the Christians in Corinth for forgiveness.

24. Explain why you think that the Christians in Corinth were unhappy because they had not had the opportunity to help support Paul.

As we see the way that the people in Corinth felt, we realize that every Christian wants to be treated as an adult. As a Christian leader, you have the privilege and responsibility to help every Christian feel that he is trusted. You need to treat all of the Christians as adults. This helps every Christian to become a mature Christian that is able to share in the work of the Lord. A Christian that is given responsibility and treated as an adult will almost always become a stronger Christian. He or she will also have a greater desire to serve the Lord.

25. Read II Corinthians 12:11-21 and write what Paul said he would gladly do for the Corinthians whether they loved him or not.

26. Explain why Paul chose to be a spiritual parent to the Christians in Corinth.

27. Explain why you think that we should treat all Christians as adults instead of treating them as children.

Paul had not expected the Christians in Corinth to supply his needs because he did not want them to misunderstand. He was afraid that they might think that he was preaching to them so that he could get their money. He wanted them to realize that he was concerned about their need of Christ and not their money. This is the reason why he had acted as a father who was concerned about his children. Paul

was willing to give his life if that was necessary in order to help the Christians in Corinth grow strong.

28. Read II Corinthians 12:11-21 and write how the Corinthians had loved Paul when he showed great love to them.

29. Explain why Paul was glad to show his love for the Corinthians whether they returned his love or not.

30. Explain why you think Paul did not want to be a burden to the Christians in Corinth.

Paul had sent Titus to Corinth to help them and teach them. Just as Paul had not received anything from the church at Corinth, Titus did not receive anything either. Both of them had done everything to help the Christians become strong and mature. Here we see that our responsibility is to help other Christians become stronger so that they can serve the Lord effectively. A strong Christian is one who is prepared to serve Christ and tell others about Christ. We have seen over and over again that Christ tells us to teach others so that they will also be able to serve the Lord.

31. Read II Corinthians 12:11-21 and write how Titus had walked before them.

32. Explain why Paul was concerned that he would find the Christians in conflict with each other when he came to Corinth.

33. Explain what you have learned for your own life from the study of I & II Corinthians about the causes of conflicts between Christians.

We also read several important things about Christ in the last chapter of II Corinthians. We read that Christ became weak so that He could die for us. Even though Christ had all power because He is God, Christ set aside the independent use of that power when He became a man so that He could die for men. However, the Father showed His power by raising Christ from the dead. Even though we are weak, we are also able to live by the power of God.

34. Read II Corinthians 13:1-14 and write what Paul told the Christians in Corinth to do in their own lives.

35. Explain why the Christians in Corinth needed to examine their own lives.

36. Explain why it is important to you in your life that you live by the power of God instead of depending on your own strength.

Just as the Corinthians needed to examine themselves we need to examine our own lives today. Today there are many people who think that they are Christians. They attend church and act like other Christians. However, it may be that they have never personally asked Christ to forgive their sins. They need to examine their lives to see if they really put their faith and trust in Christ. If such individuals will examine their lives, they will realize that they must put their trust in Christ. As Christians, we also need to examine our own lives. We need to make certain that we do not have sin in our lives that will hinder our effectiveness in serving the Lord.

37. Read II Corinthians 13:1-14 and write what Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to do.

38. Explain why Paul chose to give this warning in a letter rather than giving the warning to them personally when he came to visit them.

39. Explain why you feel that it important to you in your own life to have regular times to examine your life.

As we come to the end of II Corinthians, we see that Paul gives several final instructions to the church in Corinth. As Christians we also need to apply these instructions to our own lives. We are to rejoice. We are to be made perfect or complete in Christ. We are to be comforted because we know that Christ has changed our lives. We are to have the same mind. This means that we are to agree with one purpose and one goal. This will prevent many divisions. Then we are able to live in peace with each other.

40. Read II Corinthians 13:1-14 and write who is with us.

41. Explain why it is important for Christians to learn to live in peace.

42. Explain why you think that Paul felt that it was so important for each of us to grow to spiritual maturity.

Now reread II Corinthians 11:16-13:14 and write down the three most important lessons that you learn from these chapters.

Survey of Galatians
Lesson 1
Galatians 1:1-2:21

The book of Galatians was written to some of the churches that Paul had established on his first missionary trip. After Paul left, some Jewish false teachers came to the area of Galatia and began to teach two false teachings. The first teaching was about the way to be saved. They taught that people must obey the Jewish law as well as trust in Christ in order to be saved. Then they also taught that a person becomes holy after he is a Christian by keeping the Jewish law. Today there are still groups that teach these false doctrines. Paul shows in this letter that we are saved by faith and not by works. He shows that we are made holy by the work of the Holy Spirit and not our own works.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell what Paul says about those who teach another Gospel.

Explain why Paul gives his testimony.

Tell what happened when the Jews heard that the Gentiles had also become Christians.

Explain how a Christian is related to the law.

Paul begins this letter with a greeting similar to the greeting, which begins many of the letters that he wrote. We read that the letter is addressed to the churches of Galatia. It came from Paul and the other Christians that were working with Paul. Paul had come to Galatia and preached the Gospel to them. There were many that had become Christians. They had received the message that they were saved by the grace of Christ. Grace means that God showed His love and favor and saved men without them doing anything to deserve salvation.

1. Read Galatians 1:1-9 and write what they were now beginning to believe.
2. Explain what it means when it says that Christ gave Himself to deliver us from this present evil age.
3. Explain why it is important to you in your own life that Christ chose to show His grace to you.

Some false teachers had come to Galatia and were teaching a false gospel. They were teaching that people must obey the Jewish law in order to be saved. They were not teaching that people are saved by the grace of God. As a result, these false teachers were causing much confusion among these new Gentile Christians. The people did not know what to believe.

4. Read Galatians 1:1-9 and write what Paul says should happen to a person that preaches a false gospel.
5. Explain how these false teachers were twisting and perverting the gospel of Christ.
6. Explain why you think that these false teachers would purposely twist and pervert the gospel of Christ.

Here we see the judgment of a false teacher. He is condemned and judged by God. The word accursed means to be doomed to destruction. He will receive even greater judgment from God than

other sinners because he has purposely tried to lead people away from God. Today there are many false teachers that deny that Jesus Christ is God. They deny that Jesus Christ is the only one that can save men and give them eternal life. These false teachers try to get people to do certain works to earn their salvation.

7. Read Galatians 1:1-9 and write how many times Paul said that these false teachers would be accursed.

8. Explain why God says that those who teach a false gospel are doomed to destruction.

9. Explain why you think that God led Paul to repeat the statement about a person that preaches another gospel.

Paul goes on to give his testimony of the way that God had changed his life. He gave his testimony to show that the message of the Gospel is not the ideas of man. Instead God is the One who gave the Gospel through Jesus Christ. Paul had been taught the Gospel by Christ, Himself. Before he met Christ, Paul had spent his time persecuting the church. He had done everything possible to destroy the church. He had emphasized the Jewish law and tradition even more than any of his religious friends. However, God had chosen Paul before he was born just as God chose us before we were born.

10. Read Galatians 1:10-24 and write where God showed Paul he should preach when He revealed Christ to Paul.

11. Explain why Paul says that he profited in the Jews' religion even more than his friends did.

12. Explain why you think that Paul had been so zealous for the traditions of his fathers.

God chose Paul before he was born. He called Paul to salvation. He revealed Christ to Paul. God also gave Paul instructions to take the Gospel to others. Today God has done the same for us. Now we are to obey the instructions of Christ and take the Gospel to others. After Paul received these instructions, he went out to the desert of Arabia where the Holy Spirit taught him for three years. Then he went to Jerusalem where he visited Peter and James for fifteen days. After that he went to Syria and Cilicia which was the area where he had lived while he was a boy.

13. Read Galatians 1:10-24 and write what the churches in Judea heard about Paul.

14. Explain why Paul was led by God to go out into the desert of Arabia after he placed his trust in Christ.

15. Explain why you think that Paul says that God chose to reveal His Son in Paul.

Here we see the great change that happens to a person when that person becomes a Christian. Paul had been trying to destroy the Christians. Now he was preaching about Christ. His life had been completely changed. All of the Christians were full of joy when they heard how God had changed the life of Paul. Today Christ still changes our lives completely when we follow Him.

16. Read Galatians 1:10-24 and write what the other Christians did when they heard how God had changed the life of Paul.

17. Explain why Christ chose to teach Paul directly rather than through the ministry of the other apostles.

18. Explain how Christ changed your life when you became a Christian.

After Paul had been a Christian for fourteen years, he returned to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus. Acts 11 tells how they took a gift from the church at Antioch to help the needy Christians in Jerusalem because God had revealed that there would be a famine. While Paul was in Jerusalem, he shared with the apostles the message that he had been preaching to the Gentiles. He told how he had been teaching that a man becomes a Christian by following Christ and not by keeping the Jewish law.

19. Read Galatians 2:1-10 and write who did not have to be circumcised.

20. Explain why it was important for Paul to explain to the Galatians that the leaders in Jerusalem did not require Titus to be circumcised.

21. Explain why you think that Paul felt that it was important to explain to the apostles what he had taught to the Gentiles.

Titus was a Gentile (Greek) that had become a Christian. Since he was not a Jew, it was not necessary for him to be circumcised to show that he obeyed the Jewish law. In fact he had not even been told to obey the Jewish laws. There had been false teachers in Jerusalem who had tried to force the Christians to cause Titus to obey the Jewish law. However, the Christians refused to listen to these false teachers. Instead they said that Titus did not need to follow the Jewish law. They also recognized the fact that Paul had been called to take the Gospel to the Gentiles.

22. Read Galatians 2:1-10 and write what the church at Jerusalem gave to Paul and Barnabas.

23. Explain why it was important that the leaders of the church in Jerusalem recognized that Christ had called Paul to take the Gospel to the Gentiles.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to give Peter a primary ministry to the Jews while He gave Paul a primary ministry to the Gentiles.

The Jewish Christians recognized that Paul and Barnabas had been called to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. They agreed that the Gentiles did not need to obey the Jewish law in order to become Christians. They showed that the Gospel was for all men and that all Christians are one in Christ whether they are Jews or Gentiles. The one thing that the Jewish Christians did tell the Gentiles to do was to remember the poor Christians. In I and II Corinthians we saw that Christians in many places did share with the poor Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. Those Gentiles Christians realized that all Christians are one in Christ whether they are Jews or Gentiles.

25. Read I Corinthians 2:1-10 and write how Paul felt about giving to the poor.

26. Explain why it is important for Christians today to also realize that it is important to share with the poor.

27. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses.

After Paul returned from Jerusalem to Antioch, Peter came to visit the church at Antioch. While Peter first came to Antioch, he ate with the Gentile Christians. One of the Jewish teachings was that the Jews were not to eat with the people of other nations. One day another group of Jews came from Jerusalem. Then Peter stopped eating with the Gentiles. He did this because he was afraid of what these Jews from Jerusalem would say. When the Jews in Antioch saw the example of Peter, they also stopped eating with the Gentiles.

28. Read Galatians 2:11-21 and write the name of a leader who also followed the example of Peter and stopped eating with the Gentiles.

29. Explain why Paul felt so strongly about the action of Peter that he withstood him to the face.
30. Explain why you think that it was important for Paul to correct Peter publicly for no longer eating with the Gentiles.

When Paul saw what was happening, he spoke to Peter in front of all of the Christians. He told Peter that it was not right for him to try and make the Gentiles live like the Jews. He would only cause divisions in the church by trying to make the Gentiles act like Jews. Peter and Paul both realized that a man could not be right with God by trying to obey the law. The only way to be right with God is through faith in Jesus Christ. We are saved by faith and not by trying to keep the law.

31. Read Galatians 2:11-21 and write who can be justified (made right with God) by keeping the works of the law.
32. Explain why it is important for both Jews and Gentiles to realize that they cannot be justified by keeping the works of the law.
33. Explain why you think that it is important to help every person understand the reason that they can only be made right with God by faith.

All the law can do is show us that we are sinners. If we try to depend on the law, we will only stumble and fall into sin again. The law brings death. However, when we put our faith and trust in Christ we are given new life. Now we are dead to the law and alive in Christ. As a result, we should live by the strength that Christ gives us. We should not try to depend on our own strength. That will only lead to more failures.

34. Read Galatians 2:11-21 and write with whom we are crucified.
35. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand that in Christ we are now dead to the law.
36. Explain what you think that it means to you in your own life to be dead to the law.

When we became Christians, the death of Christ gave us life. However, the life that we now have is not the same life that we had before we became Christians. Our life then was a life of many failures because we were depending on our own strength. With our new life, we have Christ living in us. His life gives us victory in our lives. We can now depend on Christ for our strength instead of ourselves. Although we still have a human body, we have the strength that only Christ can give.

37. Read Galatians 2:11-21 and write how we now live our life in the flesh.
38. Explain what it means to every Christian to have Christ living in each of them.
39. Explain what it means to you in your own life to be crucified with Christ.

We can have faith in Christ because He loved us so much that He gave His life for us. Here we see a wonderful thing about our faith. Our faith is based on the love of Christ. Christ did everything to give us that faith. We did not work to earn it for ourselves. Instead Christ gave His life on the cross so that we could have eternal life. That life is a free gift that God gave to us. The death of Christ was the only way that God could give us life. We could never earn that life by keeping the law.

40. Read Galatians 2:11-21 and write how much the death of Christ would be worth if we could make ourselves right with God by keeping the law.

41. Explain why the death of Christ would be worth nothing if we could receive righteousness by keeping the law.

42. Explain why it is important to you to know that you are now living your life by faith instead of depending on your own strength.

Now reread Galatians 1:1-2:21 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Galatians
Lesson 2
Galatians 3:1-4:31

In our last lesson we learned that we are saved by faith in Christ and not by keeping the law. In order to answer some of the Jews who felt that keeping the law was saving them, Paul shows that Abraham was saved by faith alone. The law was not even given until more than four hundred years after the death of Abraham. When the law came, it did not give men a new way to be saved. Men were still saved by faith after the law was given. The law only showed that people needed to be saved by faith. Now that we have been saved by faith, we are not to return to the law and hope that it will make us holy. Instead we are to walk by faith just as we were saved by faith. This happens when we let Christ take control of our lives.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how Abraham was saved.
- Explain the purpose of the law.
- Tell why depending on the law will make a Christian weak.
- Explain why we cannot be saved by grace and still depend on the law.

Paul asked the Galatians what had caused them to turn from faith to works. They had been saved by faith. Paul wanted to know why they were turning to works to make themselves perfect. Did they think that they had to work to receive the Holy Spirit? Today there are still many people who think that they must do certain things in order to receive the Holy Spirit. However, we read in many places that the Holy Spirit comes into our lives the moment we become Christians. Now the Holy Spirit works in our lives and does miracles in our lives. He does these things because of faith and not because of our works.

1. Read Galatians 3:1-16 and write who gives us an example of faith in these verses.
2. Explain why Christians cannot be saved by the Spirit and then grow to spiritual maturity through the flesh (self-effort).
3. Explain why you think that many Christians do depend on their own efforts for spiritual growth.

Here we see that Abraham was also saved by faith. He believed the promises of God even though he had not seen the promises completed yet. He believed these promises through faith. Because he had faith in the promises of God, Abraham was made right with God. God made a promise to Abraham that all of the nations of the earth would be blessed through him. This happened because Christ came from his family. Just as Abraham received the promises of God by faith, we also receive the promises of God by faith. As a result, we receive blessings just as Abraham received blessings.

4. Read Galatians 3:1-16 and write what men are under if they are trying to obey the law by their own works.
5. Explain why God chooses to put faith to our accounts as righteousness.

6. Explain why you think that God chose to justify both the Jews and Gentiles by faith.

As long as people try to live by the law, they are cursed and condemned. They are not able to keep the law perfectly and so the law that they are trying to keep condemns them. This can only lead to failure. It will never lead to eternal life because it is impossible for any man to keep the law. No man is justified (made right with God) by keeping the law. Instead people must be made right with God by faith.

7. Read Galatians 3:1-16 and write who redeemed us from the curse of the law.

8. Explain why a person who tried to keep the law perfectly would be condemned.

9. Tell how you would explain to a person that trying to keep the law will always end in failure.

Christ became a man so that He could die for mankind. His blood became the payment for our sin. Christ was the seed of Abraham that completed the promises of God. He was cursed and condemned for our sins. He suffered the terrible death of the cross to pay our penalty. He completed the promise that Abraham received that the Gentiles would receive blessing through Abraham. Now we receive eternal life and the presence of the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ.

10. Read Galatians 3:1-16 and write through whom the blessing of Abraham came on the Gentiles.

11. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that people must be saved by faith and not by works.

12. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that Christ has redeemed you from the curse of the law.

The law was not given until four hundred and thirty years after the time of Abraham. Abraham had received the promise of God by faith because he did not even have the law. When the law came later, it did not replace faith. It did not make the promise that Abraham received by faith worth nothing. God made a promise to Abraham and God will keep every promise that He makes.

13. Read Galatians 3:17-29 and write what the law is called.

14. Explain why the law had no effect on the promise that had been made to Abraham more than four hundred years earlier.

15. Explain why you think that God gave Moses the law since the law had nothing to do with the promise that God gave to Abraham.

As we look at the law, we see that we cannot keep the law. We realize that the law is to show us that we are sinners and that the law cannot give us life. The law shows that all people are guilty and condemned because of their sin. This makes us look to the promise given to Abraham about Christ. We realize that we must put our faith and trust in Christ because the law cannot save us. The law causes us to come to God and be made right with God by faith.

16. Read Galatians 3:17-29 and write what we become by faith.

17. Explain why we are no longer under the law once we come to Christ by faith.

18. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that you are no longer under the law.

Since the law is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, the law is no longer something that condemns

us because once we come to Christ we are no longer under the law. We have been set free. We are now to learn to live in this freedom that Christ has given us. When we put our faith and trust in Christ, we also become the children of God. As Christians we are part of the family of God. We all become one in Christ. Our race or tribe no longer separates us. Even the fact that we are a man or a woman no longer separates us. We all become one in Christ. This is a promise that should encourage all of us.

19. Read Galatians 3:17-29 and write what we become because we are Christ's.
20. Explain why Christ breaks down the barriers that were previously between people before they became Christians.
21. Explain some of the ways that you can minister to Christians of other ethnic groups because of the fact that we have been made one in Christ.

As the children of God, we have received the promise of eternal life. Before Christ came, people were like children who had not yet received the things that were promised to them. The people before Christ were like children who were told to obey their tutors. They had to wait until they became adults before they could receive their inheritance. Just as a child becomes an adult and receives what is promised to him, the coming of Christ gave the world what God had promised. Christ came as a man and obeyed the complete law.

22. Read Galatians 4:1-14 and write why Christ came.
23. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that the law keeps people in bondage and does not free them.
24. Explain why you think that Christ came to redeem us and set us free from the curse of the law.

The death of Christ paid the penalty for our sins and His blood made us free. Now when we become Christians we are adopted into the family of God. We know that we are sons in the family of God because we have the Holy Spirit in our lives. He is the proof that God keeps His promises. Because of the death of Christ, we are now the sons of God and not the servants of God. We can talk directly to God through Christ. We no longer need to bring sacrifices because Christ is our sacrifice.

25. Read Galatians 4:1-14 and write who people served when they did not know God.
26. Explain the difference between being a servant and a son.
27. Explain what it means to you to know that you have been adopted into the family of God and are His child.

The people of Galatia had begun keeping the Jewish days and ceremonies again. They were making themselves slaves to the law again. Paul was afraid that his time that he had spent with them would be wasted unless they realized that they could live by faith just as they had been saved by faith. He wanted them to enjoy the freedom that Christ gives just as he was enjoying that freedom. Today we have been bought by the blood of Christ and made free. Now we are to live in the freedom that Christ gives and not depend on our feelings or our works to give us victory. Our feelings will fail and deceive us.

28. Read Galatians 4:1-14 and write what Paul was experiencing in his life when he was preaching to the Galatians.

29. Explain why Christians are to live as free men and not as slaves to the law like they did before they became Christians.

30. Explain what it means to you in your life to know that you are now free and no longer a slave to sin.

The Christian life is a life that is full of blessing and joy. When we try to live by many laws, we lose this joy and blessing. This was the thing that was happening to the Galatians. The false teachers were teaching that the Galatians had to obey the Jewish law. As a result, they had lost the joy of their salvation. The reason these false teachers were teaching the Galatians to obey the law was to trap the Galatians into following them instead of following Christ.

31. Read Galatians 4:15-31 and write what Paul called the Galatian Christians.

32. Explain why the false teachers were teaching the Galatian Christians that they had to obey the law.

33. Explain what verse 19 means to you when it says that God wants to form Christ in you and in each Christian.

Here we see the concern of Paul for the Christians in Galatia. He did not want them to be led astray by false teachers. He wished that he could be with them to help them. However, he knew that the Holy Spirit would direct them if they would listen to the Spirit instead of the false teachers. Then Paul goes on to give them a picture from the Old Testament that shows what it means to be free instead of a slave to the law. Abraham had two sons. The first son was the son of a slave. The second son was the son of Sarah that God had promised to Abraham. The first son was born according to the customs of the time. The second son was born according to the promise of God.

34. Read Galatians 4:15-31 and write of what the son of promise is a picture.

35. Explain why this passage teaches that the law is like the bondwoman.

36. Explain why you think that false teachers who try to get Christians to place themselves back under the law or under any series of man made laws can easily deceive some Christians.

The first son is a picture of the law. The law leads people to bondage. That is what had happened to the Jews. They had become bound in their sin because they depended on the law to save them. Instead the law condemned them. The son of promise is a picture of the eternal life that we have in Christ. By becoming the children of God, we now have been given freedom from the law. We are set free from bondage to either sin or the Jewish law.

37. Read Galatians 4:15-31 and write to whom Christians are compared in this passage.

38. Explain what it means to be free from the law instead of bound to the law.

39. Explain why you think that this passage teaches us that the son who was born after the flesh persecuted the son who was born after the Spirit.

Ishmael had persecuted Isaac because Isaac was the son of promise. Isaac was born after the Spirit. In the same way, in the time of the New Testament those who had been born after the flesh because they had never placed their trust in Christ were persecuting the Christians who were born of the Spirit. The same thing is still true today. The scripture tells us that Abraham was told to cast out the bondwoman and her son. In the same way we are to cast out those who try to lead us into slavery so that we are bound by laws instead of made free because of Jesus Christ.

40. Read Galatians 4:15-31 and write whose sons we are as Christians.
41. Explain why a person cannot enjoy the freedom that Christ gives while at the same time that person is trying to live according to the law.
42. Explain what it means to you in your life to know that you are a child of the free woman.

Now reread Galatians 3:1-4:31 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Galatians
Lesson 3
Galatians 5:1-6:18

In our last lesson we saw that a Christian is saved by faith and is commanded to walk by faith. It is faith alone that makes us right with God. Now we are told how to walk by faith. This happens as we learn to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and let Him control our lives. Then our lives show the fruit of the Spirit instead of the sinful desires of the body. As the result of having the Holy Spirit control our lives, we will have a different attitude toward other Christians. We will help the brother that has sinned to get right with the Lord again. We will encourage the brother who is discouraged. We will share with the brother that teaches us. We will do everything to serve Christ.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell how we should act as Christians.
- Tell how we should walk as Christians.
- Tell how we should serve other Christians.

As we completed our last lesson, we learned that we are free from the law and not slaves to the law. Today we learn that we are to stand firmly in this freedom that Christ has given us. We are not to become bound by the law again. If those who were not Jews started following the Jewish law again, they would be bound by the law. The Holy Spirit has made us free. Now we are to depend on the Holy Spirit to keep us and not depend on our own works.

1. Read Galatians 5:1-15 and write how faith works.
2. Explain why Paul encouraged the Galatians to stand fast in the liberty that Christ had given them.
3. Explain why you think that it is very easy for many Christians to get entangled again in a yoke of bondage.

Instead of depending on the law, we now depend on Christ by faith. Then we will serve the Lord with love in our hearts. The Galatians had started out by serving the Lord with faith and love. Now they were not running as they had when they first became Christians. Instead the law had hindered their faith and love. Paul warns that a little yeast soon spreads to the entire lump of dough. If the Galatians started depending on the law a little bit, they would soon forget to depend on Christ. Pretty soon they would be depending on the law entirely. The same is true in our lives if we start depending on the law instead of walking by faith.

4. Read Galatians 5:1-15 and write how we serve each other as Christians.
5. Explain why it possible for Christians to start out depending totally on Christ and along the way to begin to depend on the law again.
6. Explain why you think that a church that focuses on the law will cause many of the Christians in that church to struggle in their spiritual lives.

Although we are free from the law, we are to serve one another in love. If we love our neighbor as we love ourselves, we will not want to do evil things to our neighbor. Instead we will want to help and encourage him. As we serve each other in love, we will not follow the old desires that caused us to do evil to others. We will not make it our goal to satisfy our desires. Instead we will ask Christ to control our desires instead. This will cause us to experience the liberty that comes when we use that liberty to serve one another.

7. Read Galatians 5:1-15 and write what will happen if we bite and devour one another.

8. Explain what it means to serve one another in love.

9. Explain what it means to you in your own life to be able to experience a life of liberty because you are in Christ.

We are also given the way to have victory in the Christian life. We are to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and not in the power of the flesh. Our flesh is against the Holy Spirit and tries to get us to do evil things. If we are depending on our flesh instead of the Holy Spirit, we cannot do the things that are right. To walk in the Holy Spirit means to depend on the Holy Spirit moment by moment of each day for our strength. It means to let Him lead us step by step. It means to yield to the Holy Spirit instead of depending on our own strength.

10. Now read Galatians 5:16-26 and write what does not control us if the Holy Spirit leads us.

11. Explain why a Christian will not fulfill the lust of the flesh if that Christian is walking in the Spirit.

12. Explain what ways the Lord is changing your life as you are learning to walk in the Spirit moment by moment.

If we are depending on our flesh to lead us, we will do many kinds of sin. A few of those sins are mentioned here. We see that God hates any kind of sex sin. A mind that thinks the way that the people of the world think is also a mind that is against God. We also see that those who worship other gods are against God. God also hates the casting of evil spells and other evil things done through the power of the devil. We see that hatred also causes many different kinds of sin. When their flesh controls people false teachers will also easily deceive them. In fact we see that when people walk according to the flesh that they will commit every form of sin.

13. Read Galatians 5:16-26 and write what people who do these works of the flesh will not do.

14. Explain why Christians who are being led by the Holy Spirit do not need to be under the law.

15. Explain why you think that the Christians who are growing in Christ will desire to be led by the Spirit so that they can avoid the works of the flesh.

A sinful man is controlled by a sinful mind that causes him to do more sin. A man who is controlled by the Holy Spirit will be led by the Spirit. This will result in bearing the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is mentioned and we see that it is very different from the evil desires of a sinful man. When we are being led by the Holy Spirit, we will have a great love for others. We will be full of joy. We will have peace in our hearts because our sins are forgiven. We will be patient when we suffer for Christ. We will be kind instead of angry. We will do what is good for others. We will have a strong faith in Christ. We will not boast about ourselves. We will be able to exercise self-control over our bodies.

16. Read Galatians 5:16-26 and write how we will walk if we live in the Spirit.

17. Explain why the fruit of the Spirit is the exact opposite of the works of the flesh.
18. Explain what evidences you have seen in your own life that the Holy Spirit is bearing His fruit in your life.

Today there are many Christians that are not walking in the Spirit. This is due to the fact that they have not let the Holy Spirit lead their lives because they are not yielding to Him. As a result, their lives do not show the fruit of the Spirit. Instead they are unhappy Christians. They often complain and do not enjoy life. We see that such Christians actually have a choice. They can choose to depend on their own strength or they can choose to yield to the Holy Spirit. God will give them a joyful life if they will learn to walk in the Spirit.

19. Read Galatians 5:16-26 and write what Christians are told not to desire.
20. Explain what it means to walk in the Spirit.
21. Explain why you have found that when you are walking in the Spirit that you have a different attitude toward other Christians.

In the final chapter of Galatians we are given instructions about the way that we should help other Christians. First, we are given instructions about the way to help a Christian that falls into sin. We are to go and talk to that Christian and study the Word of God with that person so that the person will learn to depend on the Holy Spirit to give the person victory over temptation. We are to help that person without boasting about ourselves. Here we see that we are to encourage the weaker brother by pointing to Christ and not ourselves as the example of how to live.

22. Read Galatians 6:1-6 and write what we are to do when another Christian has burdens (troubles, problems or sorrow).
23. Explain why Christians are to work to restore the sinning Christian with gentleness and not a spirit of anger or pride.
24. Explain what lessons you have learned as you have allowed the Lord to use you to help restore another Christian that has fallen into sin.

Sometimes Christians have sorrow or problems. We are to encourage them and help them so that they can see the love of Christ in our lives. We should realize that one day we may also need someone to help and encourage us. Sometimes we will share the burdens of others by speaking words of encouragement. Sometimes we will just listen. Sometimes we will help meet a physical or financial need. Again we are warned not to think that we are important because we help others. We are to depend on the Holy Spirit to know what to do so that we will not boast about ourselves.

25. Read Galatians 6:1-6 and write how we should help the one that teaches us.
26. Explain why it is important for all Christians to learn to help bear the burdens of other Christians.
27. Explain how it has affected you in your life when other Christians have helped to bear your burdens.

We see our responsibility to share with those who teach us the Word of God. Those who teach us are giving their time to teach us when they could be doing something else. They are teaching us because they are concerned about helping us understand the Word of God better. Because they are concerned about helping us, we should also be concerned about helping them. We should share with them the

things that the Lord has given to us. In this way we help them as they help us.

28. Read Galatians 6:1-6 and write what Christians are to do about their own works.

29. Explain why it is important for Christians to learn to examine their own works instead of judging the works of others.

30. Explain what you learn from these verses about your responsibility to help and serve other Christians.

We have just seen that we should share with other Christians. Now we see the results of helping others. We will receive rewards from Christ according to the way that we have helped others. No one can trick God. He knows our thoughts and our real purpose for doing the things that we do. If a person has pretended to be a Christian and only served self instead of Christ, that person will die in his sin and receive eternal judgment. However, the person that becomes a Christian will receive eternal life. We will also receive rewards if we have been faithful in serving Christ and letting the Holy Spirit guide our lives.

31. Read Galatians 6:7-18 and write what we should do to all men.

32. Explain what kind of rewards a Christian will receive that sows to the Spirit.

33. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to set spiritual goals so that you can sow to the Spirit.

Here we see our responsibility as Christians. We are to do good to all men every time that we have an opportunity to do good. We are to be especially concerned about doing good to other Christians. Today there is much confusion about our responsibility to help others. Some people try to take care of their responsibility by giving money to certain organizations that help the poor. However, we see here that it is our responsibility to do good to the people we know. It is not enough to give to someone else so that they can do good. It is our privilege and responsibility to do good.

34. Read Galatians 6:7-18 and write what we are told not to get tired of doing.

35. Explain what the Lord teaches about a future harvest if we are faithful in sowing to the Spirit.

36. Explain how Galatians 6:10 applies to you in your own life.

Paul gives a short summary to the whole book of Galatians in the last few verses. He was so concerned that he wrote to the Galatians even though it is possible that he could hardly see to write. (This is why he probably wrote with large letters.) Those who were trying to make the Galatians keep the Jewish law were not keeping the law themselves. These false teachers only wanted to boast about the number of people that followed their teachings.

37. Read Galatians 6:7-18 and write what Paul says he will boast about (glory in).

38. Explain why Christians should follow the example of Paul and if they do any boasting and boast about the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

39. Explain what you think it means to you in your own life to boast about the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here we see that we are not to boast about ourselves or the things that we have done. We can do nothing unless we are controlled by the power of Christ. Instead of boasting about ourselves, we

should speak about Christ and His death on the cross for our sins. He is the one who gives life and victory and not us. It is only through Christ that we have victory over the world. He is the one that has made us new persons. As we speak, let us speak about Christ and His power. Then our lives will also be full of joy.

40. Read Galatians 6:7-18 and write what we will have when we boast about the death of Christ instead of speaking about ourselves.

41. Explain why Christians who walk in their new life in Christ will experience peace in their lives.

42. Explain what lessons you have learned for your own life from your study of the book of Galatians.

Now reread Galatians 5:1-6:18 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ephesians
Lesson 1
Ephesians 1:1-2:22

Today we are beginning a study of the book originally written to the church in the city of Ephesus. This book does not mention any problems in the church at Ephesus so many people think that it may have been sent to other churches also. It is written to the saints so that includes every Christian that is living today. In our lesson today we will learn several important lessons about the fact that we have been chosen by Christ. We will also learn the only way that people can be saved.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain when God chose us to be Christians.
- Explain what we learn about prayer from Paul.
- Tell the only way that men can be saved.
- Explain how God brings Jews and Gentiles together.

As we begin the book of Ephesians, we learn several facts about the time that God chose us to be His sons and daughters. First we see that God chose us to be Christians before He ever formed the world. God knew every person that would ever live. From that great group of people, God chose us to be His children. Even though God knew that we would do many evil things, He chose us anyway. We also see that God also blessed us with all spiritual blessings.

1. Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and write what God has made known to us.
2. Explain what God chose us to become when He chose us before the creation of the world.
3. Explain why you think that God wants to make you holy and without blame in your life.

Since God has chosen us, we should let him change our lives so that we live lives that are holy. God predestinated (chose) us and adopted us into His family through Jesus Christ. He did this because He wanted us in His family and not because we lived good lives. In fact, some of the most sinful people have become Christians. God chose us and Christ redeemed us. Redemption means that Christ paid for our sins with His blood. This did three things for us. First, we were bought back from sin. Second, we were set free from the control of sin. Third, we were removed from sale so that we could never be bought back and become slaves to sin again. As a result, our sins were also forgiven. We now share the riches of God.

4. Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and write what God has made known to us.
5. Explain why it is important for Christians to understand the three things that happened to us when we were redeemed from our sin.
6. Explain why it has been important to you in your life to know that you have received the forgiveness of sins.

In order to pay for our sins, God also made a plan to save us before He created the world. Now we

know the plan of God to save us because Christ showed us that plan. That plan was to send Christ into the world to pay the penalty for our sins. Here we see the love of God for sinful people. God loved sinful people so much that He chose them to be His children. Then He sent His own Son to pay the penalty for our sin.

7. Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and write what we have obtained (received) because of the death of Christ.
8. Explain what it means to Christians to know that Christ has revealed His will to us that He purposed in Himself to gather us together.
9. Explain why it is important to you in your personal life to know that God chose you to be His child before He ever created the world.

God chose us. He sent Christ to die for us. He saved us. Now He promises us that we will receive eternal life. In order to show us that He will keep His promise, God sent the Holy Spirit to live in our lives. The Holy Spirit is proof that God will keep His promise. The Holy Spirit lives in our lives and helps us to know that we have eternal life. God has sealed us so that no one can take us away from Him once we become Christians.

10. Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and write what the Holy Spirit is to us that guarantees us that we have eternal life.
11. Explain why it is important for Christians to understand the fact that we have been given the Holy Spirit as our guarantee that we have been given eternal life.
12. Explain what it means to you in your life to know that God has placed His seal on you so that the devil or anyone else can never take away from you the eternal life that God gave you when you placed your trust in Christ.

We also see that Paul was very concerned about the Christians in Ephesus. He prayed for them every day. This is an important lesson for us. When we lead another person to Christ, we need to pray for that person every day. We should pray that each of those that we have led to Christ will grow and become strong Christians. Paul prayed for several things for the Christians. He prayed that God would give them wisdom so that they could think the thoughts of God the way that God wanted them to think. He prayed that their knowledge of God would grow.

13. Read Ephesians 1:15-23 and write what Paul prayed about their understanding.
14. Explain why it is important to pray that the Lord will give wisdom and knowledge to each of those who have become Christians.
15. Explain why it is important for you in your life to pray each day that God will give you wisdom to make wise decisions each day.

Here we see that Paul was concerned that we would understand the things that we have learned about God. He wants us to understand so that we know the hope that we have received through Christ calling us to be Christians. He wants us to know the riches that we will receive in heaven. He wants us to know about the great power of God that we have in our lives when we believe in Christ. This power has been shown to us by the fact that God raised Christ from the dead and took Him to heaven where He has given Christ a name that is greater than any other name.

16. Read Ephesians 1:15-23 and write what God has done for Christ in heaven.

17. Explain why it is important for Christians to understand what they have learned about God and not just know the facts.

18. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to gain knowledge of God and His plan, to understand God and His plan and then to know how to apply what you have learned to your own life.

Here we see that Christ is the ruler over all things. God has also made Christ the head of the church. The church is the body of Christ. As a part of the body of Christ, we are to be obedient to Christ because He is our head. We also need a concern like Paul for those that we lead to Christ. We need to pray for them every day. In this way we will be more concerned about them and spend more time encouraging them and helping them in their spiritual growth.

19. Read Ephesians 1:15-23 and write where Christ is right now.

20. Explain what these verses teach Christians about praying for other Christians each day as they pray.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your life to know each day that the exceeding power of God is working in your life as you yield to Him.

Spiritual death is separation from God. Before we placed our trust in Christ we were all spiritually dead. We see that Christ has made us alive. Before Christ made us alive, we walked the way that the world walks. We did the things that the devil wanted us to do. He caused us to disobey God. We followed our own desires and satisfied ourselves. We had a desire to follow the way of the devil just as others have a desire to follow his ways. Although we did all of these things, God still loved us.

22. Now read Ephesians 2:1-10 and write what God did for us when we were dead in our sins.

23. Explain what it means to be made spiritually alive when we were formerly spiritually dead.

24. Tell how you would explain the meaning of spiritual death to someone who is not yet a Christian.

We were made alive through Christ. In the future we will also have the privilege of sitting together with Christ in heaven. There Christ will show us the great riches of His grace and His loving favor. He will do this for us because He saved us by His grace. We had no right to be saved. Our sin had condemned us to hell. However, God loved us so much that He saved us in spite of the fact that we deserved to go to hell.

25. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and write how we received the faith to place our trust in Christ.

26. Explain why Christians are to recognize that when we placed our trust in Christ that He immediately made us sit in heavenly places.

27. Explain why it is important for you to know that God has already given you a place in heaven even though you are still living on this earth.

Here we see that we did not have enough faith in ourselves to become Christians. God has to draw us to Christ and give us the faith to believe so that we could place our trust in Christ. There was not anything that we could do to earn our salvation. Instead our salvation has been given to us as a gift from Christ. He made us and He saved us. As a result, we have nothing to boast about in ourselves. Because Christ has saved us, He is also able to do good works through our lives.

28. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and write what Christ created us to do when He made us new creations and gave us eternal life.

29. Explain why all Christians have been given life so that they can do the good works of Christ instead of their old sinful works.
30. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that you have been created by Christ to do good works.

Before we became Christians, we had no hope. We did not know Christ. We were not a part of that nation that received God's Word and His promises. We were nothing. This is the position of all people who do not know Christ. However, we were brought close to Christ by His death and the blood that Christ shed to pay the penalty for our sins. He is the one that made it possible for us to have eternal life.

31. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and write who is our peace.
32. Explain what it means when it says that we were once far away from God but have now been brought near by the blood of Christ.
33. Explain what it was like before you placed your trust in Christ and had no hope for the future.

In addition to being the one who gives us peace, Christ also does many other things for us. The people who are not Jews have always hated the Jews. The Jews have always refused to have fellowship with other people. However, Christ breaks down this wall that divides Jews and Gentiles when people become Christians. When Jews and Gentiles become Christians, they become one in Christ. Christ takes away those past feelings of hate. Instead we become one in Christ.

34. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and write how Christ brings both groups to God and makes one body of them.
35. Explain what these verses mean when they say that Christ broke down the middle wall of partition that divides both Jews and Gentiles without Christ.
36. Explain why it is important to you in your life to know that Christ is able to break down all of the barriers that were between you and other people before you became a Christian.

There are many different groups of people in the world. People speak different languages. People belong to different tribes and races. They may have different colors of skin. However, when people become Christians, that all become one in Christ. These other differences are no longer important. Today there is much hatred between different groups of people. This even includes some Christians. The reason that some Christians do not like Christians of other tribes and races is due to the fact that such Christians have not yet let the love of Christ take control of their lives.

37. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and write what we become with all other saints.
38. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that it is the plan of God that all Christians become one in Christ.
39. Explain why it is important for you to ask Christ to give you His strength to show other Christians His love each day even if they are from a different tribe or race.

Before we became Christians, we were strangers to those that were Christians. Now we are all citizens of heaven. We are all a part of the family of God. This family has been built on a solid foundation. We see that the apostles and prophets are the foundation and Christ is the chief cornerstone.

The apostles gave us eyewitness testimony of the resurrection of Christ and that is part of our foundation according to Acts 1:21-22. The prophets gave us the written Word of God and that is part of our foundation according to II Peter 1:19-21. Without Christ, the apostles and prophets would have been nothing in themselves. With Christ and the foundation that He has provided through His resurrection and the written Word of God, we can be built into a building that is the temple of God.

40. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and write how we are built into the temple of God.

41. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand that the resurrection of Christ and His Word are the foundation of the church and that they are unchangeable.

42. Explain why it is important to you in your personal life to know that Christ has given you a solid foundation for your life.

Now reread Ephesians 1:1-2:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ephesians
Lesson 2
Ephesians 3:1-4:32

One of the things that is emphasized over and over again in the book of Ephesians is the church. In our lesson today we will learn several things about the church. We will learn why those in the Old Testament did not know about the church. We will also read the prayer of Paul for each Christian. We also learn that God has given men with certain gifts to the churches in order to equip every Christian for effective service for Christ. We see that it is the desire of Christ that every Christian grow to spiritual maturity and become equipped to serve Christ effectively. Finally we will learn how we should think and talk as Christians.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why those before Christ did not know about the church.
- Tell what Paul prayed for all Christians.
- Explain why God gives men with certain gifts to the churches.
- Explain how we should think and talk as Christians.

In our last lesson we saw that Christ is the foundation of the church. Paul goes on to tell us some other things about the church. Before the coming of Christ, the church was a mystery that those who followed God did not understand. In the New Testament the word “mystery” is used to speak of something that was not revealed in the Old Testament. Now Christ has helped us to understand the church. He has used the apostles and the prophets to help us understand the church. The Holy Spirit was the One who helped them to understand.

1. Read Ephesians 3:1-12 and write what the Gentiles have become because of the church.
2. Explain why Paul says that the mystery of the church was revealed to him by revelation.
3. Explain what it means to you in your own life that God chose to reveal certain mysteries to the church that had never been revealed in the Old Testament.

Here we see the real mystery of the church. The fact that Jews and Gentiles are made one in Christ changes many things. We see that as Jews and Gentiles we become fellow heirs who will share the inheritance of Christ. The church removes all differences between the Jews and the Gentiles. Now we can all come directly to God through Christ. The church is the body of Christ. It is in the body of Christ that we become one. Now we all have the opportunity to share the blessings of eternal life. Now we are all given the responsibility to take this message to others.

4. Read Ephesians 3:1-12 and write to what group of people Paul was told to take the Gospel.
5. Explain why it is important that both Jews and Gentiles are now both in the body of Christ and are made fellow heirs (those who share the eternal inheritance).
6. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that God placed you in the body of Christ at the moment you placed your trust in Christ.

Paul had the opportunity to tell others about the riches that we have through Christ. He also shared the mystery of the church and the fact that we are all one in Christ. Here we see that Paul emphasized two things as he preached. First, he emphasized the fact that people must be saved from the penalty of sin. Then when people become Christians, Paul emphasized the fact that we are all one in Christ. We are His body and His body is called the church. It was the purpose of God to establish the church from before the creation of the world.

7. Read Ephesians 3:1-12 and write what this eternal purpose gives each one of us as Christians.
8. Explain why God chose the church to glorify God by displaying the wisdom of God to the angels.
9. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that you have access with confidence into the very presence of God.

Paul goes on to tell about his prayer for the church. First we see that Paul prayed that the Christians would not falter or become discouraged because of the sufferings of Paul. Many times Christians do become discouraged. Paul did not want this to happen to the Christians in Ephesus so he spent much time praying for them. Then Paul also prayed that they might receive strength from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the only one who can strengthen us in the inner man so we must learn to depend on Him.

10. Now read Ephesians 3:13-21 and write how Christ comes into our lives and lives in our lives.
11. Explain what it means to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.
12. Explain why it is important for you to learn to depend on the Holy Spirit moment by moment in order to be able to act in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our entire life must be controlled by faith. Without faith our lives have no purpose and meaning. When Christ is dwelling in our hearts by faith, then we will also experience the love of Christ taking root in our lives. We also see that our knowledge of the love of Christ should continue to grow. We will never know the full greatness of the love of Christ while we are on this earth but we should be learning more and more about that love throughout our lives.

13. Read Ephesians 3:13-21 and write why we cannot completely know the love of Christ.
14. Explain what it means when Paul prays that we will understand the breadth, and length, and depth and height of the love of Christ.
15. Explain why a growing understanding of the love of Christ is what makes it possible for you to act out of love instead of fear.

The love of Christ is so great that we cannot understand His love completely. As we continue to grow in Christ we will begin to understand the greatness of the love of Christ. Our desire should be to have our lives filled with all the fullness of God. We see that God is able to do even more than we could ask or even think. His power that works in our lives is so powerful that we cannot even image what it is like. That is why everything that we do should bring glory to Christ.

16. Read Ephesians 3:13-21 and write how long God is to receive glory in the church.
17. Explain why it is important for Christians to be filled with all of the fullness of God.
18. Explain what these verses teach you personally about the fact that God is able to do much more

than you can ever imagine through your life as you learn to yield to Him moment by moment.

Paul goes on to speak of the way that we should walk as Christians. We received a great call when Christ called us to be Christians. Now we are called to walk the way that He wants us to walk. We are not to be proud or boast about ourselves. We are called to be patient and willing to suffer a long time. We are to put others first in love. We are to work to keep the unity of the Spirit instead of causing Christians to be divided.

19. Now read Ephesians 4:1-16 and write how many kinds of unity we should keep. Notice that each kind of unity begins with the word one.

20. Explain why it is important for Christians to have a humble and gentle attitude in their lives.

21. Explain what you can do in your personal life to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

God has shown His grace to every one of us. He has shown His love to us by sending Christ to this earth. Christ left the greatness of heaven and came down to this sinful earth to die for our sin. After completing His work of dying on the cross for our sins, Christ returned to heaven. However, Christ left men to share the Gospel with others. He also left men to train every Christian so that every Christian can minister to others.

22. Now read Ephesians 4:1-16 and write the verse that tells about the men that God gives to the church to train and equip every Christian to serve Christ.

23. Explain why these men are to equip every Christian to serve Christ.

24. Explain what it means to you to know that Christ has given men gifts to equip you so that your life can have meaning and purpose as you do the work of the ministry.

The apostles were those men who walked with Christ and gave eyewitness testimony that they saw Christ after He rose from the dead – Acts 1:21-22. The prophets were the men who wrote the Word of God – II Peter 1:19-21. We do not have these two groups of men today because their ministry is completed. Evangelists are to equip the saints to do the work of evangelism. Pastors are to equip the saints to minister to one another. Teachers are to equip the saints to teach and apply the Word of God. When we allow these leaders to equip us as God planned, we will see our lives become useful and see the Lord work through our lives. We will find that this gives us real purpose in our lives.

25. Read Ephesians 4:1-16 and write what these men are to equip the saints to do.

26. Explain why every church needs a team of leaders in order to equip effectively every Christian for the work of the ministry.

27. Explain what it means to you to know that you can grow to spiritual maturity and become equipped to serve the Lord effectively.

Here we see that God has given these gifted men to the church so that all Christians may be equipped to do the work of the Lord. As we grow spiritually, we are to learn to speak the truth of the Word of God. We are also to learn to speak the truth in love. This growth should result in the fact that every Christian is equipped to do his part and function as a part of the body of Christ. This will result in the growth of the body as each Christian is built up in love.

28. Read Ephesians 4:1-16 and write what we are not to be any longer.

29. Explain why Christians that do not grow up will be confused by every false doctrine and even be deceived by the tricks of men.

30. Explain what it means to you to know that Christ wants you to be an effective working part in His body.

If the evangelists, pastors and teachers are training all Christians as they are told to do in these verses, then Christians will become strong and mature Christians instead of remaining spiritual children. In contrast, we see a very different picture for those who are not Christians. They cannot understand the Word of God because they are blinded by the devil. They have given themselves to follow their evil desires. They do sinful and evil things to satisfy themselves. That is also the way we were before we became Christians. However, Christ has given us new life. We no longer desire to do these evil things that we did before we became Christians.

31. Read Ephesians 4:17-32 and write how Gentiles that are not Christians walk.

32. Explain why those who are not Christians are walking in the futility of their minds.

33. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord delivered you from this former life.

As Christians our minds are to be renewed and changed by Christ. Several sins are mentioned that are things that we say and think. These things include anger, lying and speaking evil things. All other sins begin with evil thoughts. This is the reason that Christ tells us that our minds are to be renewed as Christians. If we will let Christ control our minds, then we will want to do those things that are right instead of doing those things that are evil. A mind that has been renewed by Christ is what we need if we want to live for Christ. We must begin to think the thoughts of God instead of our own thoughts.

34. Read Ephesians 4:17-32 and write what we are to put on.

35. Explain why Christians are told to put off the former sinful desires and put on the new man.

36. Explain what it means to you in your personal life to obey Christ by putting off certain things and putting on other things.

We see that we are not to give the devil the opportunity to work through our lives. That means that we will choose to avoid some of our former actions. Instead we will look for opportunities to do good to others. We will also learn to speak words that build up others so that they will experience the grace of God rather than experience the anger of man by the words that we speak. The sins that are the result of the things that we formerly thought, said and did will cause us to grieve the Holy Spirit and limit His work in our lives. That is why we are to get rid of these evil thoughts, words and actions.

37. Read Ephesians 4:17-32 and write for how long the Holy Spirit has sealed (placed His seal on) us.

38. Explain why Christians will only see the Lord work in and through their lives as they learn to walk in the Spirit instead of grieving the Spirit.

39. Explain what it means to you in your personal life to have your mind renewed by Christ.

Instead of evil words and evil acts, we are to show kindness and love to each other. If we have love and concern for others, then we will not speak evil words or think evil thoughts about them. We are also told to forgive one another. Then we are told why we are to forgive one another. We see that God forgave us for Christ's sake. In the same way, we are to forgive others for Christ's sake. That

means that we forgive others because of the fact that we have been forgiven.

40. Read Ephesians 4:17-32 and write what kind of a heart we are to have toward one another.

41. Explain why Christians are to follow the example of Christ and show kindness and forgiveness to others.

42. Explain how the Lord has changed your life as you have learned to forgive others.

Now reread Ephesians 3:1-4:32 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ephesians
Lesson 3
Ephesians 5:1-6:24

In our last lesson we learned how we should think and talk as Christians. Today we will be learning several other ways that we should live as Christians. We learn how we are to walk in the world as Christians. We know we can only walk this way as we learn to yield to the Holy Spirit. We also learn about the way that we should serve the Lord as wives, husbands, children, parents, employees and employers. As Christians, we are part of a great battle against the power of the devil. We are given instructions so that we know how to fight this battle.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how we are to walk as Christians.
- Explain how marriage is a picture of Christ and the church.
- Explain how we should serve the Lord at home and at work.
- Tell how we are prepared for battle against the devil.

As Christians, we live in a very sinful world. However, we are not to be controlled by that sin. Instead we are to walk as followers of God. This walk is a walk of love. We can only have real love as we let the love of Christ take control of our lives. He is the one who gave us the perfect example of love. If His love controls our lives, we will not want to commit sex sins. We will not want things that belong to others. We will not want to say things that hurt others.

1. Read Ephesians 5:1-17 and write what we should do instead of speaking evil.
2. Explain what makes it possible for Christians to walk in love.
3. Explain how your life is changing as you learn to walk closer and closer as you walk behind God.

The men who think and do evil things will not receive eternal life. As a result, we should not listen to them and let them trick us. Instead we are able to walk in the light that Christ gives us. We are able to do good instead of doing evil. We choose not to follow the example of evil men when they do their evil deeds. Instead we choose to warn them of the results of their sin. We choose not even to speak about the sinful things that these evil men do. We choose not to share their evil talk because we realize that we are to give thanks to God and not to share in the evil thoughts of sinful men. Our talk should show our thanks to God.

4. Read Ephesians 5:1-17 and write what we are told about the things that evil men do in secret.
5. Explain why Christians should not spend their time talking about the evil things that are done by those who are not Christians.
6. Explain what you have learned about the fact that the things that you talk about have a direct effect on your own actions.

Today many people like to spend their time watching and talking about the evil things that other people

do. We are not to waste our time thinking and talking about such things. We do not have much time left to serve the Lord so we need to spend our time serving the Lord instead of talking about evil things. We are to know the will of the Lord and then do what we know the Lord wants us to do. The Lord has so many good things for us do that we need to devote our time to serving Him.

7. Read Ephesians 5:1-17 and write what we are to do with our time.

8. Explain why Christians are told to walk as wise people and make it their goal to understand what the will of the Lord is.

9. Explain in what ways you have made changes in your life in order to use your time more wisely for the Lord.

We are also told not to be drunk with wine but to be filled with the Holy Spirit instead. The things that a person is drinking control a drunken person. In the same way a Christian is to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. If we let the Holy Spirit have control of our lives, He will fill us with joy. As a result, we will be singing in our hearts. We will also learn to be thankful for all things including those things that might look bad at first. Everything that Christ allows to happen in our lives is for His good and should cause us to be filled with joy.

10. Read Ephesians 5:18-33 and write what we are told to do to each other.

11. Explain why Christians will have a song in their hearts as they are yielding to the Holy Spirit moment by moment.

12. Explain what it means to you in your life to be submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Here we see that we are not to try to make others do everything the way that we want it done. Instead we are to submit to each other as Christians. Wives are to submit to their own husbands just as they submit to Christ. Husbands are to submit to their wives just as they submit to Christ. Christ established marriage and said that the wife is to be in submission to her husband. Marriage is a picture of the church. Just as wives are submissive to their husbands and choose to obey them, Christians are to be submissive to Christ and choose to obey Him. Here we see that we are to be obedient to Christ in all things.

13. Read Ephesians 5:18-33 and write what husbands are told to do.

14. Explain why wives are told to be submissive to their own husbands.

15. Explain what these verses teach you personally about the relationship of Christ to the church.

Some men seem to think that they can treat their wives almost as slaves. Here we see that husbands are to love their wives just as Christ loved the church. Christ loved the church so much that He gave His life for it. If men love their wives as Christ loves the church, they will treat their wives with great respect and concern. We see that Christ is the Savior of the body and that husbands are to follow the example of Christ. Husbands are to make it their goal to present their wives to Christ without spot or blemish. This happens as they give their wives a godly example to follow. The desire of Christ is to help the church so that it will be a church that is holy and perfect.

16. Read Ephesians 5:18-33 and write the second example of how much men are told to love their wives.

17. Explain what it means for a husband to give himself for his wife in the same way that Christ gave Himself for the church.

18. Explain what these verses teach you about the kind of relationship that Christ desires for husbands and wives to have.

Every man has a great love for his own body. He shows this love for his body by feeding himself every day. Men are to love their wives as much as they love themselves. They became one when they were married. The same thing happened when we became Christians. We became one with Christ. We are a part of His body. Just as Christ loves the church, men are to love their wives. Women are to show respect to their husbands and submit to them.

19. Read Ephesians 5:18-33 and write what husbands and wives become when they are joined together.

20. Explain what it means when God says that a man is to leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife when he gets married.

21. Explain what these verses teach you about your responsibility in marriage.

We also learn about our responsibilities in the home and at work. Children are to obey their parents. This is the first commandment that contains a promise. If we are obedient to our parents, we will have a long life. Today there is a real rebellion by many children against their parents. Here we see that rebellion against the parents is also disobedience to the command of God. We know that God will bless us if we are obedient and judge us if we are disobedient.

22. Read Ephesians 6:1-9 and write what the responsibility of the parents (fathers) is to their children.

23. Explain why children are told to obey their parents.

24. Explain why you think that God says that children who are obedient to their parents will usually live a long life.

As parents we are to discipline our children. However, this discipline must be done in love so that our children do not hate us. Children want loving discipline and not discipline where the parent is trying to get even for something that the child did. As parents, we are to teach our children to love and serve Christ. This means that we are to spend time with our children each day teaching them the Word of God. We are also to teach our children how to apply the Word of God to their own lives. As our children learn to apply the Scripture to their lives, they will live the way that God wants them to live.

25. Read Ephesians 6:1-9 and write what your responsibility is as a servant (employee).

26. Explain why parents are told to discipline their children with love and not with anger.

27. Explain what you learn about the way the Lord wants you to help both your physical and your spiritual children in their growth.

Here we see that we are to obey the men for whom we work. We are to work for them the way that we would work for Christ. This way the people with whom we work will listen when we speak to them about Christ. If we have people working for us, we are to treat them the way that we want Christ to treat us because Christ is our Master. If we treat them the way that Christ treats them, we will show love and concern for them.

28. Read Ephesians 6:1-9 and write what masters (employers) are told to avoid.

29. Explain why employees are to work for their master (employer) as if they were working for Christ.

30. Explain why you think that the way you work or the way you supervise the work of others is an important part of your witness for Christ.

In the final verses of the book of Ephesians we learn how to fight against the power of the devil. We are to put on those things that will help us to fight against the power of the devil. When we fight against the devil, we are not fighting against the powers of men. The powers of the devil are much more powerful than the powers of men. Here we also see that there are some demons that are more powerful than other demons. Of course the devil himself is the most powerful of all of the demons.

31. Read Ephesians 6:10-24 and write what we are to take to fight against the evil powers of the devil.

32. Explain why it is important for every Christian to depend on the Lord and the power of His might when they are involved in spiritual conflict.

33. Explain why it is important to you in your personal life to know that when you have Christ in your life that He is greater than all of the powers of Satan.

In these verses we see that we are compared to soldiers. In the time of Christ, soldiers wore pieces of metal to cover their bodies and protect them from the swords, spears and arrows of their enemies. The only part that was not protected was their backs. This meant that they must stand and fight and not run from their enemies. As Christians, we are to stand against the devil. However, we cannot do this in our own strength. Instead we must stand in the strength that Christ gives. Here we see that we are to have several things to prepare us to stand. The things that we must have to stand are truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith and salvation.

34. Read Ephesians 6:10-24 and write what we must use to fight against the devil.

35. Explain why truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith and salvation combine together to provide a complete defense against the devil.

36. Explain why it is important to you in your life to know that these are the things that will protect you from the devil and not your own efforts.

The spiritual armor provides our defense as Christians against Satan and his attacks. However, we are also given one weapon to fight against Satan as we serve the Lord. We are not to try and fight Satan with our thoughts or our ideas. Then the devil will gain the victory over us. Instead we are to use the Word of God as our weapon against Satan. If we are going to use the Word of God to fight against the devil, we must know the Word of God. This means that we will only be effective in defeating Satan if we spend time every day, studying, memorizing and meditating on the Word of God.

37. Read Ephesians 6:10-24 and write how often we are to pray.

38. Explain why it is important to know how to use the Word of God effectively if Christians want to be used by Christ to make an impact on the lives of others.

39. Explain why you have found that it is important to you in your own life to study, memorize and meditate on the Word of God each day.

In addition to Christ giving us several things that protect us from the devil and giving us the Word of God to fight against the devil, our responsibility is to spend much time in prayer. Prayer is our only source of strength and power. We need to pray for our own personal lives. We also need to pray for

other Christians. One of the key things that this passage mentions is that we need to pray for is boldness so that both we and other Christians will be able to speak boldly for Christ. In this way both other Christians and we are strengthened so that we are able to speak the Word of God with boldness and not with fear.

40. Read Ephesians 6:10-24 and write who Paul said would bring the letter and tell how he was getting along.

41. Explain why it is important for all Christians to understand that prayer is their only source of strength and power.

42. Explain what you have learned about the fact that you need to pray and ask the Lord for boldness to share the Word of God with those who are not Christians.

Now reread Ephesians 5:1-6:24 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Philippians
Lesson 1
Philippians 1:1-2:30

Today we are beginning a study of the letter written to the church at Philippi. The church at Philippi was a church that was very concerned about Paul. The Christians in Philippi had helped Paul many times. It was in this city that Paul and Silas had been beaten and put in jail when they cast the demon out of a girl that had been a fortuneteller. Now a little over ten years later it was a very strong church. Very few problems are mentioned in this letter. Instead Paul was able to spend most of his time teaching things to help the church grow stronger.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain why Paul was full of joy even though he was imprisoned.

Tell how Paul felt about life.

Explain how Christ gave us an example of how we should serve Him.

Tell how we should serve others.

As we begin this letter to the Philippians, we see that Paul prayed for the Christians in Philippi every time that he thought of them. Paul thanked God for them because of the way that they had grown as Christians. He also thanked God for the fellowship of the Christians in Philippi. Because Paul spent time teaching the Christians in Philippi and also spent time praying for them, Paul knew that the Lord would complete the things that He had started in their lives. In the same way we can know that as we pray for those that we have taught that the Lord will complete the things that He has started in their lives.

1. Read Philippians 1:1-18 and write what Paul said about the confidence that he had in God.
2. Explain how the example of Paul shows us the importance of praying for Christians in other places.
3. Explain why you believe that it is important for you to take time to pray for some Christians in other places each day.

Here we see that Paul was confident that God would answer his prayers for the Philippians. We also see the things that Paul prayed for as he prayed for the Christians in Philippi. He prayed that their love would grow greater and greater. He prayed that they would desire those things that are best. He prayed that they would be pure and honest. He also prayed that their lives would show the results of being right with God.

4. Read Philippians 1:1-18 and write who causes these things to happen in our lives.
5. Explain why it is important to pray that Christians will continue to grow in their love for one another.
6. Explain why you personally feel that it is important for you to pray that your love for others will continue to grow.

Paul was a prisoner in Rome. He was happy to be a prisoner because the Lord was using the things

that happened to him to help spread the Gospel. The fact that Paul was a prisoner was making it possible for some men in the palace of the Roman ruler to hear about Christ. Because Paul was joyful in prison, the other Christians were encouraged to speak more boldly for Christ. Of course there were some that were preaching because of envy. However, it did not matter to Paul why they preached. The thing that Paul was concerned about was the fact that the Gospel was being preached.

7. Read Philippians 1:1-18 and write what caused Paul to rejoice.

8. Explain why the fact that Paul was a prisoner was causing others to become bolder in speaking for Christ.

9. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to allow Paul to be put into prison so that the Gospel could spread to the Roman palace.

Paul goes on to tell how he felt as he was getting ready to go on trial for preaching about Christ. Instead of being concerned about himself, Paul asked the Christians in Philippi to pray that he would speak boldly for Christ when he stood before Caesar. He did not care whether it meant life or death. His concern was to preach about Christ instead of trying to defend himself. Here we have a good example for ourselves. When others accuse us falsely, we should pray that the Lord would give us His strength to speak boldly for Christ instead of trying to defend ourselves.

10. Read Philippians 1:19-30 and write how Paul felt about living or dying.

11. Explain why the greatest concern of Paul was that he would be able to speak with boldness when he spoke about Christ to the Roman Emperor.

12. Explain why you realize that we must pray for boldness to speak about Christ and not just depend on our own strength.

If Paul lived, he was going to serve Christ. If he died, that would be far better because he would be with Christ. Although he wanted to be with Christ, Paul was willing to do what Christ wanted him to do. For this reason Paul knew that Christ would allow him to live a little longer because Christ still had some more work for him to do. As a result, he encouraged the Christians in Philippi to rejoice with him. Paul also encouraged the Christians to work together to preach the Gospel of Christ.

13. Read Philippians 1:19-30 and write what privilege the Philippians had in addition to believing in Christ.

14. Explain why Paul was concerned to do what would be most beneficial to the other Christians rather than focus on his own desires.

15. Explain what you learn for your own life from the example of Paul and his desire to serve Christ as long as Christ left him on the earth.

Here we see something that has been mentioned several as we have studied the various books written by Paul. We see again that it is a privilege to suffer for Christ. Paul was full of joy because he was in jail for preaching about Christ. He is also encouraging the Philippians to be full of joy when they have the privilege of suffering for Christ. Today we should also rejoice and be full of joy when we suffer for Christ. We need to realize that when we suffer that Christ is giving us the privilege of sharing in His sufferings.

16. Read Philippians 1:19-30 and write how Paul told the Philippians to feel if people treated them as

enemies because they followed Christ.

17. Explain why Paul taught the Christians in Philippi that it is a privilege to suffer for Christ.

18. Explain how your view of life compares with the view of Paul when he speaks of having joy when he suffers for Christ.

Paul also tells the Philippians the things that will cause his joy to be complete. His joy would be complete if they would think in unity. This would mean that they would have the same kind of love. They would be in agreement. They would also have the same desire to serve the Lord. They would be more concerned about the needs of others than their own needs. They would not do things that lead to fighting. Here we see that one of the keys to unity is learning to put others and their desires ahead of our own desires.

19. Read Philippians 2:1-11 and write what kind of a mind would cause us to think and act the way that Paul suggests.

20. Explain what makes it possible for Christians to be in unity and of one accord.

21. Explain why you think that respecting other Christians more highly than yourself will help to produce unity in the body.

Here we see that we are called to have the attitude that was demonstrated to us by Christ. This attitude is only possible as we yield the control of our minds to Christ. Although Christ lived in all of the glory of heaven and was equal with the Father, He was willing to become a man. In fact he was willing to become a servant and become obedient to the Father even to the point of death on a cross. He went from the great position that He had in heaven to the lowest position on the earth. In doing this He was being obedient to the Father.

22. Read Philippians 2:1-11 and write what the obedience of Christ caused Christ to do.

23. Explain why Christ chose to humble Himself and become a man and then humble Himself even more and become obedient to death on a cross.

24. Explain what it means to you to be willing to follow the example of Christ and humble yourself in order to effectively minister to others.

Because Christ was completely obedient to the Father, God has given Christ a name that is greater than any other name. Every person will bow his or her knees to Christ. Every person will finally admit that Christ is God. Those who admit that Christ is God here on earth and turn from their sins will receive eternal life. Those who refuse to admit that Christ is God while they are here on this earth will be forced to admit that Christ is God when they are judged and condemned.

25. Read Philippians 2:1-11 and write what every tongue will confess one day.

26. Explain why the Father has chosen to exalt Christ above every name that is named on earth or in heaven.

27. Explain why these verses show you why you should desire to bring glory to Christ in all that you say and do.

As we choose to let Christ control our minds, we see that Christ will also change our actions. Others will be able to see that Christ lives in us because we will be different. The fact that we are being

transformed in our minds will also cause our actions to be changed. We will choose to do the things that Christ wants us to do. Then people will turn to Christ because they will be able to see how completely Christ has changed our lives. They will want to know how they can have their lives changed also.

28. Read Philippians 2:12-16 and write who it is that is working in our lives.

29. Explain why a change in thoughts and attitudes will also produce a change in the actions of Christians.

30. Explain what it means to you in your life to know that God is working in your life to give you His strength to do what pleases Him.

We see that our outward actions are changed because God is working in our lives. He is working in our lives to change and transform our lives and make them lives that both transform us and change the lives of those who see us. God wants us to do all things without complaining or arguing as He changes and transforms our lives. Then others will not be able to speak against us or say that we are wrong. This will be true even though we live in the middle of a world that is very wicked and sinful.

31. Read Philippians 2:12-16 and write how we should shine in the world.

32. Explain what makes it possible for Christians to live their lives without murmuring and complaining.

33. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the way that your attitudes and actions will change as you learn more and more to yield yourself to Christ.

No matter what happens around us, we are to let the light of Christ shine through our lives. Then we will be able to rejoice when Christ comes because we have not wasted our time. In these verses we see the importance of witnessing for Christ. We are not to let anything stop us from telling others how to become Christians. When we come to the end of our lives, the only that that will be important is whether we have been obedient to Christ or just wasted our lives. We want to use our lives on this earth to lead others to Christ and then help them grow.

34. Read Philippians 2:12-16 and write what we are to hold forth

35. Explain what Christians will do if they want to make certain that they have not wasted their lives and worked for things that do not matter.

36. Explain what it means to you to make your life shine as a light for Christ in the world.

Paul goes on to speak about Timothy. Timothy had worked with Paul from the time that Timothy was a young man. As a result, Timothy had the same concern for the Christians in Philippi that Paul had. He had been with Paul when the first people became Christians in Philippi. Since Timothy had this great concern for the Christians at Philippi, Paul hoped to send him to Philippi for a visit so that he could teach and encourage the Christians. The people had watched the examples of both Paul and Timothy and knew that they had worked together as a team as they had shared the Gospel in Philippi.

37. Read Philippians 3:17-30 and write the name of the man that the church at Philippi had sent to help Paul.

38. Explain how the Lord had changed and transformed the thoughts, attitudes and actions of Timothy as he had traveled with Paul.

39. Explain what lessons you learn from the life of Timothy that can help you in your own service for Christ.

Epaphroditus had come from Philippi to bring a gift to Paul from the church at Philippi. While Epaphroditus was in Rome helping Paul, he had become very sick and had almost died. Someone traveling to Philippi mentioned that Epaphroditus was sick and so the people there had become concerned. In order to encourage the people in Philippi, Paul was sending this letter with Epaphroditus so that the Christians in Philippi would be encouraged. As a representative of the Philippian church, Epaphroditus nearly gave his life for the work of Christ. He did what the other Philippians could not do since they were far away from the place where Paul was a prisoner.

40. Read Philippians 2:17-30 and write what Epaphroditus had done for the work of Christ.

41. Explain how Epaphroditus is a good example of a Christian who is willing to even endanger his own life so that others can hear about Christ.

42. Explain what lessons you learn from the life of Epaphroditus that can help you in your own service for Christ.

Now reread Philippians 1:1-2:30 and write down the three most important lessons that you have learned from these chapters.

Survey of Philippians
Lesson 2
Philippians 3:1-4:23

In our lesson today we will learn about the desire of Paul to know Christ. As we study the books that Paul wrote, we realize that Paul knew Christ better than any of us know Christ. Yet Paul had a great desire to know Christ even better. He wanted to understand the power of the resurrection. He even wanted to know the fellowship of Christ's sufferings. In fact he wanted his life to be conformed to the death of Christ. Then his desire was to serve Christ. The more we get to know Christ, the greater will be our desire to serve Him. We will also learn how to have peace in our lives.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain why Paul wanted to know Christ.

Explain why Paul wanted to serve Christ.

Explain how we can have inner peace.

Tell why Paul knew that God would supply the needs of the Philippians.

Paul begins this chapter with a warning against false teachers. He uses three words to describe these false teachers. The first is dogs. Dogs are unclean animals because they eat garbage. In the same way, false teachers are filled with evil. Secondly, we see that false teachers are trying to get others to follow in their evil ways. The third thing we see about these false teachers was the fact that they were teaching false doctrines. Just like the Philippians, we are to watch out for such false teachers because they will try to confuse us and get us to follow their evil ways and teachings.

1. Read Philippians 3:1-9 and write how Paul was showing his zeal before he became a Christian.
2. Explain why Paul warns us to watch out for false teachers.
3. Explain what these verses teach you about the fact that the true worshipers are the ones that worship God in the spirit.

Before Paul became a Christian, he had been a false teacher. He had been teaching the Jewish religion instead of teaching about Christ. He could boast about many things as a Jew. He had been circumcised. He was a member of the tribe of Benjamin. He obeyed the Hebrew customs and spoke the Hebrew language. He was a Pharisee. He had worked hard to persecute the Jews who became Christians. He had done everything possible to keep the law. Paul had been a perfect example of the way a person should follow the Jewish religion.

4. Read Philippians 3:1-9 and write how Paul felt about all of these things after he became a Christian.
5. Explain why a religion that is based on our own works is always a false religion regardless of what part of the world that religion is located.
6. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the fact that Paul saw that all of these things from the past were worthless.

As a Christian, Paul had been completely changed. Those things that were once important to him were now no longer important. Now the desire of Paul was to do the will of Christ. He was thankful that he had the privilege of suffering for Christ. He was no longer depending on himself. Instead, he was depending on the fact that he was right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Today we must realize the importance of depending completely on Christ and not on our own efforts. Our greatest desire should be to be right with God because of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. Read Philippians 3:1-9 and write what kind of righteousness Paul wanted God to find in his life.

8. Explain why the things that people accomplish through their own efforts are worth nothing for eternity.

9. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the example of Paul in these verses.

Since Paul had trusted in Christ, his greatest desire was to know Christ better. As we read the letters that were written by Paul, we realize that Paul knew Christ much better than most of us. Yet his desire was to know more about Christ. Paul wanted to have a greater understanding of the power of the resurrection of Christ. He wanted to share in the sufferings of Christ. He wanted his life to become more and more like Christ as he learned to follow the example of Christ.

10. Read Philippians 3:10-21 and write what Paul says he had not yet done.

11. Explain what it means to be conformed to the death of Christ.

12. Explain why your life will be transformed as you grow in your understanding of the power of the resurrection of Christ, as you learn to understand the fellowship of Christ's sufferings and as your life becomes conformable to the death of Christ.

Paul knew that he would not be perfect as long as he was on this earth. His desire was to continually become more like Christ so that he could serve Christ better. For this reason he was forgetting about the things that had happened in the past. Instead he was looking toward the future. Here he compares himself to a man that is running a race. His eye is on the goal and he is giving all of his strength and energy to reach that goal. The goal that Paul had was to forget self and serve Christ so that he would do the will of God for his life.

13. Read Philippians 3:10-21 and write what Paul says was his desire for all Christians.

14. Explain why it is important for Christians to forget their past and place their focus on what is coming in the future.

15. Explain how your own life will be changed as you let go of the past and place your focus on what the Lord has for you in the future.

The desire of Paul is that all Christians will forget themselves and want to serve Christ only. If this is our desire, the Lord will show us those things that we need to change in our lives. God will help us learn to walk in His way. We are to watch out for those that are walking in other ways because there are many false teachers who are walking in their own way. If Christians follow these false teachers they will be led astray and do the things these false teachers want instead of doing the things that Christ desires.

16. Read Philippians 3:10-21 and write what Paul calls these false teachers that are walking in other ways.

17. Explain why Paul encouraged the Christians in Philippi to follow the example set by Paul and the team that ministered with him.

18. Explain what will make it possible for the Lord to reveal to you when a person is a false teacher.

False teachers will be destroyed because they have rejected Christ and followed the ways of this world. We are not to be like those men. Instead we are to realize that we are citizens of heaven. We are to look forward to the time when we will be in heaven. In the meantime, we are the representatives of Christ here on this earth. Christ is one day going to change our bodies and give us bodies like the body that He has in heaven. Then we will be perfect and without sin. This will happen because Christ will transform our lives.

19. Read Philippians 3:10-21 and write what Christ will do with our lowly body.

20. Explain what these verses promise about the way that Christ will change and transform Christians.

21. Explain what these verses teach you about the way that you should live for Christ.

We also learn how to have peace in our lives. There were two women in Philippi that had a disagreement. Paul asks them to be of the same mind so that they can serve the Lord together. Today many churches have Christians that do not get along with each other. Here we see that such Christians need to choose to forgive each other and pray together that the Lord will give them love for one another. Then they will be able to work together. We are also encouraged to help those Christians who have served the Lord faithfully.

22. Read Philippians 4:1-9 and write how often we should rejoice.

23. Explain why it is important for Christians to learn to forgive one another so that they can work together for the Lord in unity.

24. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about how to deal with a conflict between you and another Christian.

These verses show us that we are to be full of joy all of the time. No matter what happens we are told to be full of joy. Many Christians will ask how that is possible. That will only happen as we learn to yield our lives to Christ and ask Him to give us His joy. When this happens we will not need to worry about anything. Instead we see that we are to pray to God and tell our requests to God. Then we know that God will answer our prayers so there is no need for us to worry. If we let Christ take our problems and our worries, then we will have peace.

25. Read Philippians 4:1-9 and write what the peace of God will do for our hearts and minds.

26. Explain why the peace of God is very difficult for the world to understand unless the people of the world see that peace in our lives.

27. Explain why the peace of God will give you peace in your heart and peace in your mind as you go through difficult times in this world.

We see that the peace that God gives is greater than any person can even understand. This peace will keep our hearts and minds from worrying. We are told on what we need to focus our thoughts if we want to enjoy this peace in our hearts. We make the choice to think about the things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report. If we think these kinds of thoughts then our lives will be filled with peace. Paul encouraged the Philippians to follow his example and his teaching and then the Philippians would experience the presence of the God of peace in their lives.

28. Read Philippians 4:1-9 and write from whom the Philippians had learned these things.
29. Explain why it is possible for Christians to have peace in their hearts even when they are going through difficult times.
30. Explain what you have learned about how you can have peace in your life from these verses.

We also learn how God supplies our needs. The people in Philippi were very poor. However, they helped Paul whenever they had an opportunity. Now Paul thanks them again for helping him. Paul was not concerned about his own needs but he did rejoice to see their Christian love. As far as Paul was concerned, he experienced the joy of the Lord when he had the things that he needed and he also experienced the joy of the Lord when he had nothing. He did not worry because Christ gave him strength.

31. Read Philippians 4:10-23 and write what Paul said we can do through the strength that Christ gives.
32. Explain what these verses teach about learning to be content whether we have much or whether we have nothing.
33. Explain what you have learned for you own life about how to be content even when you have nothing.

Here we see that nothing is impossible for the Christian. Christ gives us the strength to do all things. This is a wonderful promise. It means that nothing is too hard for Christ. Even when Paul had nothing, he knew that he could do all things through Christ. Yet he is thankful to the Philippians for supplying his needs. Paul remembered the many times that the Philippians had helped him.

34. Read Philippians 4:10-23 and write the promise that we have about how God will supply our needs.
35. Explain how the Philippians had shown their concern to minister to the needs of Paul as he traveled to other cities.
36. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the example of the Philippians in these verses.

Many people read Philippians 4:19 without reading the verses that go before it. We have just seen that the Philippians had given much to the work of the Lord even though they were very poor. They had been willing to put God first even though they had great needs themselves. As a result, Paul knew that God would supply their needs. If we will put the Lord first in our lives and in our giving, God will also supply our needs.

37. Read Philippians 4:10-23 and write to whom all glory belongs.
38. Explain why Paul said that the gifts of the Philippians were like a sweet smell and an acceptable sacrifice that was well pleasing to God.
39. Explain what you learn about giving for your own life from these verses.

As Paul closes the letter, he says hello from the Christians living in Rome. One group of those who were saying hello were those who lived and worked in the house of Caesar. Caesar was the ruler of Rome. At that time, Rome controlled a large part of the world. As a result, the Caesar was the man

with more political power than anyone that was living at that time. However, there were those living in his house who had another kind of power that was much greater. Some of the family and servants of Caesar had become Christians. Now they also wanted to say hello to the Philippian Christians.

40. Read Philippians 4:10-23 and what Paul says about those in the household of Caesar.

41. Explain what made it possible for Paul to even have an impact in the house of the most powerful political leader in the world at that time.

42. Explain why these verses show you that as you are faithful in speaking for Christ that the Lord will use your words in ways that you never imagined.

Now reread Philippians 3:1-4:23 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.