

The Church and Its World Mission



Third
Quarter

1971

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Lesson Titles for the Quarter

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The Blessing of Daily Study

“Every day some portion of time should be appropriated to the study of the lessons, not merely in learning to mechanically repeat the words, while the mind does not comprehend the meaning; but to go to the very foundation, and become familiar with what is brought out in the lesson.”

—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 53.

My Pledge

As one who greatly desires to improve his knowledge of the Scriptures, I pledge myself to the careful and prayerful study of some portion of my Sabbath School lesson each day of the week.

(signed)

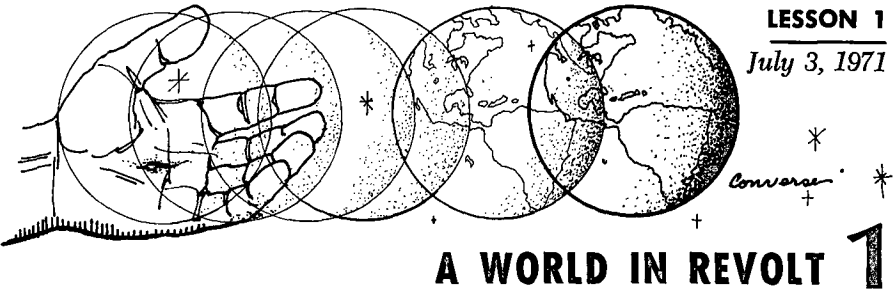
The Church and Its World Mission

THIRD QUARTER, 1971

Seventh-day Adventists, who owe their very existence to the divine call to carry the "advent message to all the world," do well to restudy the Biblical and historical bases of our call and commitment, and to reexamine our methods of carrying on mission work. This inquiry should help us catch again the enthusiasm and spirit that motivated our early pioneers and their successors upon whom the reality of a world mission challenge began to dawn.

These lessons are designed not only to develop new interest in world witnessing, but also to show that every member of the church, regardless of age, station in life, education, or race, is to be involved, in fact *must* be involved, if the task is to be accomplished.

Today, when many countries scattered around the globe are serving as home bases for overseas missionaries, it is no longer correct to designate "missions" as a branch of the church which is concerned with the evangelization of certain areas or racial groups. "Missions" is to be the immediate concern of every member, and missionary work is to be carried out in one's own household, neighborhood, and town as well as outside the borders within which he was born. Although these lessons may emphasize the "overseas" aspect of mission service, they are also intended to reawaken an interest in the overall mission of the church and the purpose of our existence as a movement, whether such activity be carried on *at home* or *abroad*. In these challenging and trying times, if we will take the opportunity to do so, we may lift up our eyes "and look on the fields"; noting certainly that "they are white already to harvest."



A WORLD IN REVOLT 1

"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."
2 Cor. 5:19.

In introducing a new series of lessons for this quarter on the topic of "The Church and Its World Mission," we wish first of all to establish a Biblical and theological basis for mission. Rebellion began in heaven, and was transferred to this earth. In part at least, Satan rebelled because he was not consulted over the creation of man and this earth.

"Satan was envious and jealous of Jesus Christ. Yet when all the angels bowed to Jesus to acknowledge His supremacy and high authority and rightful rule, Satan bowed with them; but his heart was filled with envy and hatred. Christ had been taken into the special counsel of God in regard to His plans, while Satan was unacquainted with them. He did not understand, neither was he permitted to know, the purposes of God. . . . Why should Christ thus be honored before himself?"
 —*Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1, p. 18.

Man became a vital part of the whole drama: (1) creation, (2) disobedience in Eden, (3) rebellious attitude, (4) redemption and reconciliation, and (5) man's responsibility in helping God reconcile the world to Himself.

KEY WORDS

Rebellion. The words "rebel," "rebellion," and "rebellious" in our English Bible, are translations from three Hebrew words, and take on the meanings of to turn aside, to provoke, to make bitter, and to transgress. The dictionary says that rebellion is open resistance to authority, insubordination, forcible resistance. "Rebellion originated with Satan, and all rebellion against God is directly due to satanic in-

fluence."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 635.

Reconcile, reconciliation. Here we have words with rather deep theological involvements because they come to us in the English KJV from a background of Hebrew and Greek words with a wide range of meaning: "to cover, make atonement," "to make self pleasing," "to change thoroughly," "to appease, or propitiate." According to the Adventist concept, the atonement on the cross was one thing, while the work of reconciling man to God is a second step. Reconciliation includes man's intelligence, his emotions, and his will.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Sin Enters Heaven**
Isa. 14:12-15
2. **God's Purpose in Creating This Earth**
Isa. 45:18
3. **Controversy Transferred to This Earth**
Rev. 12:7, 8, 12
4. **Sin Enters This Earth**
Rom. 5:12
5. **Man in Rebellion**
Eph. 6:12; Rom. 3:23; 8:10
6. **Reconciling the World Unto God**
Col. 1:20, 21

June 27

Part 1
SIN ENTERS
HEAVEN

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

Isa. 14:12-15

"Sin originated with him who, next to Christ, had been most honored of God and was highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven. Lucifer, 'son of the morning,' was first of the covering cherubs, holy and undefiled."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 35.



While urging changes in the order and laws of heaven, what were the underlying motivations of Lucifer? Isaiah 14:13, 14.

"Lucifer allowed his jealousy of Christ to prevail, and became the more determined.

"To dispute the supremacy of the Son of God, thus impeaching the wisdom and love of the Creator, had become the purpose of this prince of angels."—*Ibid.*, p. 36.

"While claiming for himself perfect loyalty to God, he urged that changes in the order and laws of heaven were necessary for the stability of the divine government."—*Ibid.*, p. 38.

"Satan had claimed from the first that he was not in rebellion."—*Ibid.*, p. 42.

THINK IT THROUGH

What personal attitudes could place us in jeopardy similar to Lucifer's when he attacked God?

"The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might set forth the true position of His Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. The Son of God shared the Father's throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both."—*"Patriarchs and Prophets,"* page 36.

"God desires from all His creatures the service of love—service that springs from an appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced obe-

dience; and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service."—*"Ibid."* p. 34.

"God permitted Satan to carry forward his work until the spirit of disaffection ripened into active revolt. . . . Until fully developed, it could not be made to appear the evil thing it was; his disaffection would not be seen to be rebellion."—*"Ibid."* p. 41.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 33-43.

**Part 2
GOD'S PURPOSE IN
CREATING THIS
EARTH
Isa. 45:18**

"For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else."

"God created both the world and its inhabitants, and must have had a beneficent purpose for so doing."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Isa. 45:12.

"God made the world to enlarge heaven. He desires a larger family of created intelligences."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, page 1081.



What was the crowning act of creation? Gen. 1:26, 27.

"In the creation it was His purpose that the earth should be inhabited by beings whose existence would be a blessing to themselves and to one another, and an honor to their Creator."—*Prophets and Kings*, page 500.



What relationship would created man sustain to created celestial beings? Ps. 8:4-6.

"All heaven took a deep and joyful interest in the creation of the world and of man. Human beings were a new and distinct order. They were made 'in the image of God,' and it was the Creator's design that they should populate the earth. They were to live in close communion with heaven, receiving power from the Source of all power. . . .

"God created man a superior being; he alone is formed in the image of God, and is capable of partaking of the divine nature, of cooperating with his Creator and executing His plans."—*Sons and Daughters of God*, page 7.

THINK IT THROUGH

In creating the earth for man, what responsibilities did God place upon man?

"After the earth was created, and the beasts upon it, the Father and Son carried out their purpose, which was designed before the fall of Satan, to make man in their own image."—"Spiritual Gifts," Vol. 3, page 33.

"Before the fall of Satan, the Father consulted His Son in regard to the formation of man. They purposed to make this world, and create beasts and living things upon it, and to make man in the image of God, to reign as a ruling monarch over every living thing which God should create. When Satan learned the purpose of God, he was envious at Christ, and jealous because the Father

had not consulted him in regard to the creation of man."—"Ibid.," p. 36.

"At the creation, labor was appointed as a blessing. It meant development, power, happiness. The changed condition of the earth through the curse of sin has brought a change in the conditions of labor. . . . It is still a source of happiness and development. And it is a safeguard against temptation. . . . Thus it becomes a part of God's great plan for our recovery from the Fall."—"Education," page 214.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Patriarchs and and Prophets," pages 50, 51.

June 29

**Part 3
CONTROVERSY
TRANSFERRED TO
THIS EARTH**

Rev. 12:7-9, 12

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and His angels fought against the dragon; . . . and he [Satan] was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you."

Here John the Revelator reviews briefly the history of the great controversy between Satan and Christ from its inception in heaven and its transfer to this earth, down to Christ's victory at the cross and afterward. See *SDA Bible Commentary*, on Rev. 12:7.



Did Satan willingly leave the courts of heaven, or was he ejected? Rev. 12:9.

"When Satan had succeeded in winning many angels to his side, he took his cause to God, representing that it was the desire of the angels that he occupy the position that Christ held.

"The evil continued to work until the spirit of disaffection ripened into active revolt. . . . Satan, with all who sympathized with him, was cast out. Satan had warred for the mastery in heaven, and had lost the battle. God could no longer trust him with honor and supremacy, and these, with the part he had taken in the government of heaven, were taken from him."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, pp. 972, 973.



Upon being excluded from heaven, where did Satan decide to set up his kingdom? Rev. 12:12.

THINK IT THROUGH

Does jealousy and self-exaltation always involve personalities?

Does this same spirit lead to a desire for revenge?

"When Satan rebelled, there was war in heaven, and he, with all his sympathizers, was cast out. He had held a high office in heaven, possessing a throne radiant with light. But he swerved from his allegiance to the blessed and only Potentate, and fell from his first estate. All who sympathized with him were driven from the presence of God, doomed to be no more acknowledged in the heavenly courts as having a right there. Satan became the avowed antagonist of Christ. On the earth he planted the standard of rebellion, and round it his sympathizers

rallied."—Ellen G. White Comments, *"SDA Bible Commentary,"* Vol. 7, p. 973.

"There is a grand rebellion in the earthly universe. . . . Lucifer revolted from his allegiance and makes war on the divine government. Christ is appointed to put down the rebellion. He makes this world His battlefield. He stands at the head of the human family. . . .

"The salvation of a world is at stake."—"Ibid." Vol. 4, p. 1163.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 490, 493.

June 30

Part 4
SIN ENTERS
THIS EARTH
Rom. 5:12



"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

What essential difference was there between the fall of Eve and that of Adam? 1 Tim. 2:14. Compare 2 Cor. 11:3.

THINK IT THROUGH

In the light of the story of Genesis 3, think over these questions:

1. What reasons can you think of for denying Adam and Eve the privilege of eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? Was it simply an arbitrary restriction? Gen. 2:16, 17; 3:1-3.

2. What did the choice involve?

3. Had Adam and Eve been warned of Satan's intentions?

"The angels warned them to be on their guard against the devices of Satan, for his efforts to ensnare them would be unwearied."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 53.

4. Would you classify the test as easy or hard?

5. Did Satan exercise creative power in the Garden of Eden?

6. Why do you suppose Satan assumed or chose the serpent as his medium? Wasn't that degrading himself?

"In order to accomplish his work unperceived, Satan chose to employ as his medium the serpent—a disguise well adapted for his purpose of deception. The serpent was then one of the wisest and most beautiful creatures on the earth. It had wings, and while flying through the air presented an appearance of dazzling brightness, having the color and brilliancy of burnished gold."—*Ibid.*, p. 53.

"The fall of Lucifer, who had been foremost among the angels of heaven (Isa. 14:12, 13; Eze. 28:13-15), obviously preceded the Fall of man (see "Patriarchs and Prophets," page 36). God, who daily conversed with man in the garden, had not left him ignorant of events in heaven, but had acquainted him with the apostasy of Satan and other angels. . . .

"The trial of our first parents was permitted as a test of their loyalty and

love. . . . Inasmuch as God did not wish them to be tempted above their ability to withstand (1 Cor. 10:13), He did not allow Satan to approach them in the likeness of God, or at any other place than this one tree. . . . Satan, therefore, came in the form of a creature, not only inferior to God, but far below man himself."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Gen. 3:1.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Education," pages 23-27.

July 1

**Part 5
MAN IN REBELLION**

Rom. 3:23; 8:10

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

"And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

Man is responsible for the results of his own sin. He is involved in the rebellion, and the outcome for him will depend upon his choice.



How much was actually lost by the fall of man?



What warning has been given in regard to the instigator of rebellion? 1 Peter 5:8.

"Rebellion will exist as long as Satan exists."—*Selected Messages*, Bk. 1, p. 72.

Not only did man sin, but he became an enemy of God by nature. And as long as men are at enmity with God, they are also at enmity with one another. See *The Desire of Ages*, pages 302, 305.

When man was created, he was given dominion over this earth. When man sinned, he forfeited this dominion, and it was usurped by the deceiver.

THINK IT THROUGH

Did sin enter any other world than our own?

"The beasts of the field obey their Creator's law in the instinct which governs them. He speaks to the proud ocean, . . . and the waters are prompt to obey His word. The planets are marshaled in perfect order. . . . Of all the creatures that God has made upon the earth, man alone is rebellious.

"Yet he possesses reasoning powers

to understand the claims of the divine law and a conscience to feel the guilt of transgression and the peace and joy of obedience. God made him a free moral agent, to obey or disobey."—*"The Sanctified Life,"* page 76.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: *"The Desire of Ages,"* pages 302, 305; *"The Great Controversy,"* pages 505, 506.

July 2

**Part 6
RECONCILING
THE WORLD
UNTO GOD**

Col. 1:20, 21

"And having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled."

The Old Testament word "atonement" meant a "covering"; that is, a covering in the sense of making things right. This included the idea of bringing estranged persons into agreement with each other.

"The term [atonement] appears in the NT but once and only in the KJV (Rom. 5:11), where it describes the state of reconciliation the sinner attains through the sacrifice and priestly ministry of Christ."—*SDA Bible Dictionary*, page 92.



**What did Christ come to this earth to accomplish?
Rom. 5:10.**

We can now come to certain definite conclusions, as the result of our study:

1. God planned to create this world and man.
2. A revolt in heaven, resulting in part from God's plans to create this earth, made necessary Satan's expulsion.
3. Satan transferred his revolt to the Garden of Eden.
4. There Satan tempted Eve and Adam, and they forfeited their rights and dominion by their own free choice.
5. This resulted in man's becoming an enemy of God, estranged from God.
6. Our little world became the stage on which the controversy would be worked out. Read 1 Cor. 4:9.
7. Man cannot disassociate himself from this struggle on which his entire destiny depends.
8. Christ came to earth to reconcile man to God.
9. Man was involved in bringing sin and its curse upon this world. Surely he has a vital interest in the outcome of the controversy.

THINK IT THROUGH

Who was it that initiated the plan for the reconciliation of men to God? Is man's reconciliation possible without human involvement?

"The world is a theater; the actors, its inhabitants, are preparing to act their part in the last great drama. . . . God is looking on. His purposes in regard to His rebellious subjects will be fulfilled."—"Testimonies," Vol. 8, p. 27.

"The fallen world is the battlefield for the greatest conflict the heavenly universe and earthly powers have ever witnessed. It was appointed as the

theater on which would be fought out the grand struggle between good and evil, between heaven and hell. Every human being acts a part in this conflict. No one can stand on neutral ground."—"Sons and Daughters of God," page 242.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 154, 155; "The Desire of Ages," page 693.

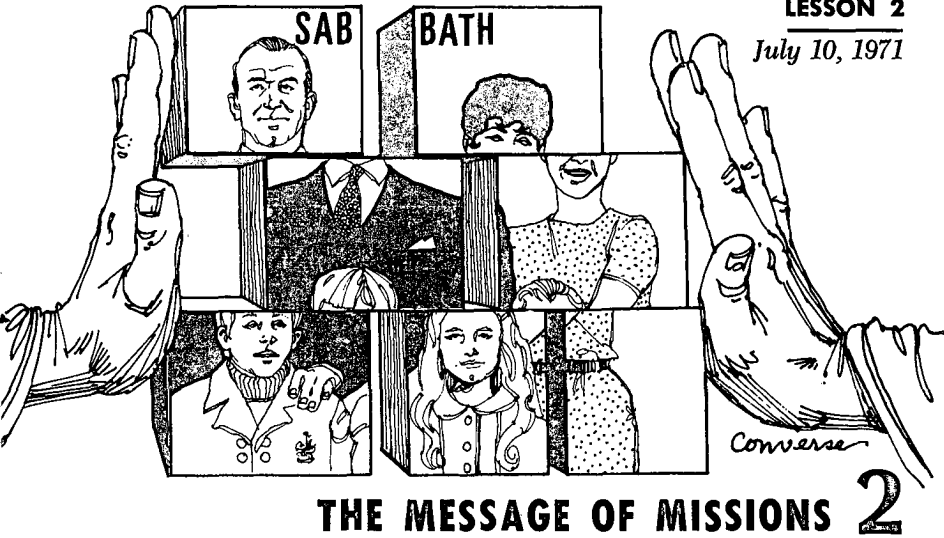
Part 7 ◇ SUMMARY QUESTIONS ◇ A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER

1. Give as many Scriptural names for Satan as possible: _____
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
2. Complete: "Thou hast made him [man] a little lower _____."
3. What is at stake in the great controversy between Christ and Satan?

4. Complete: "Satan comes to man with his temptations as an _____
_____, as he came to Christ."
5. Complete: "Upon the earth, _____ rebellious."
6. Name the things it takes to constitute a theater and/or drama: _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____.

(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

Answers: (1) devil, dragon, Lucifer, serpent, Son of the Morning; (2) than the angels; (3) the salvation of the world; (4) angel of light; (5) man alone is; (6) stage, actors, plot, villain, hero, spectators.



"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14.

The preaching of "this gospel of the kingdom" began, not with Jesus and the disciples, but with the "good news" of salvation given to Adam and Eve after their fall. Gen. 3:15. It has always been God's intention that it be preached in "all the world for a witness unto all nations." Combined with preaching of the gospel in every age there have been messages of warning and hope especially applicable to the people of that age. The central theme of these messages has always been, Christ our righteousness.

KEY WORDS

Gospel. (Anglo-Saxon, *godspel*, "good story" or "good news.") Translated in the Bible from a Greek word that originally referred to a reward to one who brought good tidings. Later employed for the good tidings themselves.

Three angels' messages. A term based on the prophetic messages recorded in Rev. 14:6-11. Particularly used by Seventh-day Adventists to describe God's final warning and last appeal to the world before the close of probation and the second coming of Christ.

Fear God. "Fear" is used in Rev. 14:7 "not in the sense of being afraid of God, but in the sense of coming to Him with reverence and awe. It conveys the thought of absolute loyalty to God, of full surrender to His will."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Rev. 14:7.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **The Everlasting Gospel**
Rev. 14:6
2. **For All Men**
Matt. 24:14
3. **In a Latter-day Setting**
Rev. 14:14-16
4. **The First Angel's Message**
Rev. 14:7
5. **The Second Angel's Message**
Rev. 14:8
6. **The Third Angel's Message**
Rev. 14:9-12

July 4

Part 1
THE EVERLASTING
GOSPEL
Rev. 14:6

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."

In this symbolic vision, the angel represents God's messengers who preach the everlasting gospel to every nation, kindred (tribe), tongue, and people. The extent of the message and its reception is seen not only in the commission to preach to all nations and people, but also in the symbol of the area of flight, "in the midst of heaven." This indicates that all men everywhere will be aware of the final proclamation of the everlasting gospel.



In what words does Isaiah describe prophetically the universal spread of the gospel? Isa. 52:7, 10.

It is significant that in Revelation 14:6 the Bible links the term "everlasting" with the word "gospel." Ever since the first man sinned, the only means of redemption has been the salvation provided by God Himself in the gift of Jesus Christ to die the death that was ours that we might have the life that is His. It will ever be so.

Set as they are in the Revelation prophecy, the "three angels' messages" come as the final worldwide warning that prepares the way for the second coming of Christ. The threefold message includes appeals to respond to issues that revolve around doctrinal truths. Yet any such response is meaningless unless it is based on love for Christ and grateful acceptance of Him as "the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is it possible for those of us who have lived so long in the light of the "three angels' messages" and have taken part in its presentation to be lost ourselves while possessing God's message to man-today? 1 Cor. 9:27.

What must happen in the hearts and lives of God's people before the everlasting gospel can effectively reach all the people of the world? Ps. 50:5.

"Our standing before God depends, not upon the amount of light we have received, but upon the use we make of what we have. Thus even the heathen who choose the right as far as they can distinguish it are in a more favorable condition than are those who have had great light, and profess to serve God, but who disregard the light, and by their daily life contradict their profession."—"The Desire of Ages," page 239.

"Everywhere people are perishing

for lack of a knowledge of the truths that have been committed to us. The members of the church are in need of an awakening, that they may realize their responsibility to impart these truths. Those who have been enlightened by the truth are to be light bearers to the world. To hide our light at this time is to make a terrible mistake."—"Testimonies," Vol. 7, p. 62.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 598-601.

July 5

Part 2
FOR ALL MEN
Matt. 24:14

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

In vision John saw an angel with the "everlasting gospel" to preach to every "nation and tribe and tongue and people." Rev. 14:6, RSV. God has but one system of religion and one church embracing all the ages. He is not the author of confusion. "All of God's people upon the earth are one body, from the beginning to the end of time. They have one Head that directs and governs the body."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, p. 283.



How was a message similar to that of the first angel presented to the Babylonian Empire in the days of Daniel? Dan. 2:28-30; 4:24, 25; 5:22-28.

"By the captivity God purposed not only to bring Israel to repentance but also to acquaint with the true religion the Babylonians and other nations whom the Jews would meet in their exile. Through such men as Daniel and Ezekiel, the Babylonians were given the opportunity to know and to follow Jehovah. Their failure to do this was a contributing factor in their downfall."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Jer. 51:9.

How was Nebuchadnezzar given a message similar to that of the second angel? Dan. 2:36-39, 47.

"Light direct from Heaven had been permitted to shine upon King Nebuchadnezzar, and for a little time he was influenced by the fear of God. But a few years of prosperity filled his heart with pride, and he forgot his acknowledgment of the living God. He resumed his idol worship with increased zeal and bigotry."—*The Sanctified Life*, page 36.



What parallel to the worship of "the beast and his image" is found in Daniel 3? Dan. 3:1-6.

THINK IT THROUGH

Are there parallels between ancient and modern Babylon?

In ancient Babylon as well as in modern "Babylon" there will be those who are characterized by the faith of Jesus and loving obedience to His commandments who will refuse to worship the beast and his image and will thus witness before the whole world of their fidelity to God as did the three Hebrews before the king and the assembled

princes of the Neo-Babylonian empire. The judgment visited upon ancient Babylon, as described in Daniel 5, is a fitting symbol of the final judgment that will be visited on those who fail to respond to God's last warning message today.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Prophets and Kings," pages 514-521.

July 6

**Part 3
IN A LATTER-DAY
SETTING**

Rev. 14:14-16

"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud One sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in Thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for Thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And He that sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped."

Following the proclamation of these messages a typical description of the second coming of Christ is presented, and that is followed by the fourth angel of this chapter who is portrayed as reaping the harvest of the earth.



When is the harvest? Matt. 13:39.

The harvest portrayed in Rev. 14:15-20 is the final harvest at the end of the world. Actually two harvests are presented here which are prefigured in the two annual harvests in Palestine, the grain harvest and the vintage. The grain harvest represents the gathering of the righteous. The gathering of the "fully ripe" grapes which are cast into the winepress of the wrath of God represents the gathering of the wicked for destruction.



What blessing is pronounced upon those who die in the faith of the three angels' messages? Rev. 14:13. Compare Dan. 12:2.

This blessing may be pronounced on this group because theirs is the privilege of being raised in the special resurrection which precedes the general resurrection of the righteous.

"All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law."—*The Great Controversy*, page 637.

The phrase "their works do follow them," in Rev. 14:13, may refer to the fruitage of the work they have begun in first proclaiming the three angels' messages which will be evidenced in the large harvest at the end of the world.

THINK IT THROUGH

If we really believe what we have studied in this section, what should be our relationship to stewardship of our time and means?

"The time has come when through God's messengers the scroll is being unrolled to the world. The truth contained in the first, second, and third angels' messages must go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people; it

must lighten the darkness of every continent, and extend to the islands of the sea. There must be no delay in this work."—"Gospel Workers," page 470.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 635-652.

July 7

Part 4
THE FIRST ANGEL'S
MESSAGE
Rev. 14:7

"Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

The three angels' messages are messages of hope. It is true that they contain clear and sharp warnings to those who are unprepared for Christ's return. But they are, most of all, voices of certainty and eternal hope in the midst of our present confusion, fear, and bewilderment. Seventh-day Adventists are ever making an effort to preach these messages in their fullness. They are not just another Christian sect or denomination. Our church is made up of people who have, for the most part, come from other religions and denominations into the belief that only the messages of the three angels are adequate to meet the challenge of the present state of our world and to prepare men to meet their God.

The power of these messages, however, is not in the doctrines or truths they present to modern men but in the Christ to whom these truths point.



What should be the primary stress in all our witnessing? Eph. 2:7-10.

To "fear God and give glory to Him" in this age when men pride themselves in their own achievements and do not feel the need of a Saviour, is to love, honor, and respect Him so much that our lives will be dedicated to the one all-consuming purpose of bringing glory and honor to Him.

"The hour of His judgment is come." The investigative judgment in the heavenly sanctuary, which began in 1844, is an awesome time of heart-searching and solemn responsibility to ourselves and those about us; it is not a time of fear to those whose lives are filled with love for Christ. Read 1 John 4:17-19.

The call to worship the Creator of heaven, earth, and water is also extremely pertinent in this age when evolutionary assumptions characterize nearly every field of learning and much of what passes for theology.

THINK IT THROUGH

What attests to the process of sanctification in the lives of God's people? Ezek. 20:12, 20.

Are the three angels' messages merely part of our doctrinal beliefs, or are they part of our lives? How do they enable us to understand and reveal Christ better?

"To give glory to God is to reveal His character in our own, and thus make Him known. And in whatever way we make known the Father or the Son, we glorify God."—E. G. White Comments,

"SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 7, p. 979.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 375-380, 433-438.

July 8

Part 5
THE SECOND
ANGEL'S MESSAGE
Rev. 14:8

"And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Historically, the second angel's message followed the first and "was first preached in the summer of 1844." But, just as the first angel's message has not yet been given to the world in all its fullness, so "not yet . . . can it be said that 'Babylon is fallen, . . . because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' . . . The work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination."—*The Great Controversy*, page 389.

Babylon, from its beginning, was symbolic of rebellion against God and oppression of His people. Perhaps Satan's greatest achievement is the introduction of "Babylon" into the Christian church itself, and in this prophecy it is symbolic of all apostate religions and individuals.



What did Jesus declare to indicate that there would be "Babylonish" elements within the church, causing Him to be misrepresented? Matt. 7:21-23.

Rev. 18:1-4 "points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Rev. 14:8, is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given."—*Ibid.*, p. 603.

The "loud cry" of the third angel "has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, p. 984.

In Rev. 14:8 coercion by religious powers suggested in the terms "made" and "all nations" indicates the universal extent of apostasy. But, at the same time that apostasy becomes worldwide, the righteousness of Christ is to be revealed in the lives of His people as a "witness to all nations."

THINK IT THROUGH

How long has it been since this message was first given? How much longer must we wait for the call to "come out of her"? Rev. 18:4.

"Miller and his associates fulfilled prophecy and gave a message which Inspiration had foretold should be given to the world, but which they could not have given had they fully understood the prophecies pointing out their disappointment, and presenting another message to be preached to all nations

before the Lord should come. The first and second angels' messages were given at the right time and accomplished the work which God designed to accomplish by them."—*The Great Controversy*, page 405.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Early Writings," pages 237-240.

Part 6
THE THIRD
ANGEL'S MESSAGE
Rev. 14:9

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand."

The test of the seventh-day Sabbath, which is a part of the third angel's message, was carried to the world by many of those who preached the first two messages of Rev. 14:6, 7. Among these were Joseph Bates and James and Ellen White, who in the mid-1840's began to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. In the long years that have followed, Sabbath-keeping Adventists have been carrying this great truth to the world. But the time comes for it to be given with greatest power when the attention of the whole world is focused upon this issue. See *The Great Controversy*, pages 604-606. This is still unfulfilled prophecy, and Adventists clearly teach that no one yet has received the "mark of the beast" mentioned in this prophecy.

But the time is soon coming when "the Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God."—*The Great Controversy*, page 605.

"Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, . . . that we may know what is coming."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, p. 1161.

THINK IT THROUGH

What will bring about a change in the experience of the Laodicean church that will enable the members fully to reflect Christ's character to the world?

"There is to be a mark placed upon God's people, and that mark is the keeping of His holy Sabbath."

"Individually we need to inquire, In observing a day of rest, have I drawn my faith from the Scriptures, or from a spurious representation of truth? Every soul who fastens himself to the divine, everlasting covenant, made and presented to us as a sign and mark of God's government, fastens himself to

the golden chain of obedience, every link of which is a promise. He shows that he regards God's Word as above the word of man, God's love as preferable to the love of man."—Ellen G. White Comments, "*SDA Bible Commentary*," Vol. 7, p. 981.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 6, p. 90; "*The Great Controversy*," pages 611, 612.

Answers: (1) everywhere, aware, proclamation, gospel; (2) True; (3) the time is come to reap; or, the harvest of the earth is ripe; (4) the Sabbath; (5) they have called, "Lord, Lord," but have not done the will of God; (6) True.

(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

1. All men _____ will be _____ of the final _____ of the everlasting _____.
2. True or False: In modern "Babylon" there will be those who witness before the whole world of their fidelity to God as did the three Hebrews before Nebuchadnezzar. _____
3. Why was the One "that sat on the cloud" commanded to thrust in the sickle and reap? _____
4. What is a special sign between God and us? _____
5. Why will Christ say He never knew certain ones who desire entrance into His kingdom? _____
6. True or False: No one actually receives the mark of the beast until "the final test is brought to bear upon men." _____

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER**



THE MORNING OF MISSIONS 3

"For Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." Isa. 56:7.

The history of missions is the history of men—men of great vision and faith who under the guidance of the Holy Spirit were willing to forsake all and go wherever God led them in the task of proclaiming the everlasting gospel. This section on "the morning of missions" deals with the period covered by the Old Testament, but it presents only a few from among those great missionaries of Testament times whose lives and work are recorded in the Scriptures. There are countless more, named and unnamed, whose record is written in heaven and whose work will be attested to by redeemed ones in the new earth who are there because of the sacrifice of those heroes of faith. Even the writer of Hebrews said that "time would fail me to tell" of the multitude of those "of whom the world was not worthy." Heb. 11:32, 38.

The mission movement seems to be especially linked to earth's great crisis periods. Just when it seems that the forces of darkness and evil are about to overcome the people of God and eliminate the true witnesses from this planet, a counteraction takes place which fills the earth once again

with the gospel message. This study of how God used missionary-minded men of the past is evidence of what He can and will do today when our lives are yielded to Him.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Witness in Past Ages**
Acts 14:15-17
2. **Abraham, an Apostle of Faith**
Heb. 11:8
3. **Moses and the Establishment of a Missionary Nation**
Deut. 7:6
4. **Jonah, the Reluctant Missionary**
Jonah 3:2
5. **Isaiah's View of Missions**
Isa. 56:6, 7
6. **Daniel, Witness to Two Great Empires**
Dan. 5:18-21; 6:22

Part I
WITNESS IN
PAST AGES
Acts 14:15-17

"The living God . . . in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He left not Himself without witness."

After the Fall the first of the great periods of crisis of which we have a clear record is the time of Noah. Although Adam, Abel, Enoch, and the other antediluvian patriarchs clearly have a place in God's long line of witnesses, it is Noah's part in this great world crisis that leads us to refer to him as one of earth's first great missionaries. A tremendous challenge faced God's missionary before the Flood. Large numbers of people needed to be warned.



What was the basis of Noah's missionary preaching? Heb. 11:7.

Noah's message was far more than a mere prophetic warning of judgment to come. It was a timely appeal to repent and forsake sins. That salvation from sin was to be accomplished through the death of Christ was portrayed in Noah's age in the ritual of the sacrificial lamb. The author of Hebrews points out that Noah was an "heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Noah preached the everlasting gospel centered in a very strong and urgent prophetic message of God's judgment soon to come.



How did Noah demonstrate his faith before the skeptical world of his day? Gen. 6:13, 14, 22.

Noah's message and faith were vividly illustrated by a most unusual visual aid—the ark. What a strange thing it must have been to those antediluvians to see such a huge ship erected on dry ground. Certainly, "Every blow struck upon the ark was a witness to the people."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 95. Few responded—but for 120 years Noah faithfully warned the world of the day of judgment.



How is the blindness of Noah's generation with respect to the approaching Flood described by Peter? 2 Peter 3:5, 6.

THINK IT THROUGH

In the light of Luke 17:26, what parallels might be drawn between the challenge of missions in our day and that in the time of Noah?

"Noah stood like a rock amid the tempest. Surrounded by popular contempt and ridicule, he distinguished himself by his holy integrity and unwavering faithfulness. A power attended his words, for it was the voice of God to man through His servant. Connection with God made him strong in the strength of infinite power, while

for one hundred and twenty years his solemn voice fell upon the ears of that generation in regard to events, which, so far as human wisdom could judge, were impossible."—*"Patriarchs and Prophets,"* page 96.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 92-98.

July 12

Part 2
ABRAHAM, AN
APOSTLE OF
FAITH
Heb. 11:8

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."

"He [God] chose Abraham, of the line of Shem, and made him the keeper of His law for future generations. Abraham had grown up in the midst of superstition and heathenism. Even his father's household, by whom the knowledge of God had been preserved, were yielding to the seductive influences surrounding them, and they 'served other gods' than Jehovah. But the true faith was not to become extinct."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 125.

Abraham's hometown, Ur, has been extensively excavated by archaeologists. That Abraham left a very advanced civilization and a prosperous and progressive metropolis in accepting God's call to missionary service is demonstrated by the following notable discoveries:

1. The houses were well-built and pleasant, in many respects superior to most houses in this area today.
2. Sanitation was excellent. All houses were well drained and connected to a covered sewer system.
3. An extensive school system was maintained. Children were taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography.
4. Gold and silver artifacts, table service, weapons, tools, and musical instruments all attest to a high state of civilization and a high standard of cultural achievement.

Yet, when God called, Abraham unhesitatingly forsook friends and security and set out for the unknown land of Canaan; and, although blessed with wealth and a large number of retainers, he lived in tents and moved from place to place in the land of sojourn. In Palestine Abraham "exercited a telling influence in favor of the true faith."—*Ibid.*, p. 133, 134.



What inspired Abraham's missionary zeal? Heb. 11:8-10.

THINK IT THROUGH

What missionary characteristics did Abraham clearly demonstrate during his years of service?

"Many are still tested as was Abraham. They do not hear the voice of God speaking directly from the heavens, but He calls them by the teaching of His Word and the events of His providence. They may be required to abandon a career that promises wealth and honor, to leave congenial and profitable associations, and separate from kindred, to enter upon what appears to be only a path of self-denial, hardship, and sacrifice. God has a work for them to do; but a life of ease and the influ-

ence of friends and kindred would hinder the development of the very traits essential for its accomplishment. . . . Who will accept new duties and enter untried fields, doing God's work with firm and willing heart, for Christ's sake counting his losses gain? He who will do this has the faith of Abraham."—*"Patriarchs and Prophets,"* pages 126, 127.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "*Patriarchs and Prophets,*" pages 125-130.

July 13

Part 3
MOSES AND THE
ESTABLISHMENT
OF A MISSIONARY
NATION
Deut. 7:6

"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all the people that are upon the face of the earth."

God had given the Canaanites 400 years from the time of Abraham to fill up their "cup of iniquity." Now He intended that the strategically located area of Palestine become the center of a missionary nation. Moses was commissioned to lead Israel out of Egypt into the Promised Land, and the stop-over at Sinai was ordained for Israel's mission orientation program. By their example in following God and through His evident blessing upon them, they were to be witnesses to all nations.

"Had the Israelites obeyed the instruction they received, and profited by their advantages, they would have been the world's object lesson of health and prosperity. If as a people they had lived according to God's plan, they would have been preserved from the diseases that afflicted other nations. Above any other people they would have possessed physical strength and vigor of intellect. They would have been the mightiest nation on the earth."—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 283.

Deut. 7:14 adds, "Thou shalt be blessed above all people." According to *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, pp. 27, 28, these blessings were to include:

1. Holiness of character—Lev. 19:2.
2. The blessings of health—Ex. 15:26.
3. Superior intellect—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 378.
4. Skill in agriculture and animal husbandry—Deut. 7:13.
5. Superior craftsmanship—Ex. 31:2-6.
6. Unparalleled prosperity—Deut. 8:17, 18.
7. National greatness—Deut. 28:1.

"Even the heathen would recognize the superiority of those who served and worshiped the living God."—*Christ's Object Lesson*, page 289.

THINK IT THROUGH

Which of these promises to ancient Israel are applicable to God's missionary people today? Are they being fulfilled?

"In the years that followed the occupation of the Promised Land, the beneficent designs of Jehovah for the salvation of the heathen were almost wholly lost sight of, and it became necessary for Him to set forth His plan anew. 'All the ends of the world,' the psalmist was inspired to sing, 'shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds

of the nations shall worship before Thee.' . . .

"Had Israel been true to her trust, all the nations of earth would have shared in her blessings."—"Prophets and Kings," pages 370, 371.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 284-296 (1923 ed., pages 287-300).

July 14

Part 4
JONAH, THE
RELUCTANT
MISSIONARY
Jonah 3:2

"Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee."

Jonah was a "reluctant missionary," called to preach the gospel to one of earth's most wicked cities. The Assyrians were noted for their cruelty and vindictiveness. Jonah was intensely nationalistic, and thus did not want to see Nineveh spared. Jonah seems also to have been concerned that God might spare Nineveh if the people repented; thus his predictions would not come to pass. This would be humiliating to him. So, when he carefully analyzed the whole situation, his decision was to go as far away as possible in the opposite direction. Acting on this decision, he purchased a ticket to Tarshish (probably in Spain). But, through direct intervention by God, he ended up being brought ashore closer to Nineveh than he was when he boarded ship to try to flee from God's purpose.

Recognizing the inevitability of the divine purpose, he did follow God's command at this juncture and preached the message of God's impending judgment up and down the streets of Nineveh, which was "an exceeding great city" (Jonah 3:3) for its time.



How did Jonah react to his success as a missionary to Nineveh? Jonah 4:1.

Jonah was not happy about being such a successful missionary evangelist, but the impression that God made on his mind through the object lesson of the gourd (Jonah 4:6-11) seems to have done something to change Jonah's selfishness and his hesitancy to place God's will first. At least he didn't hide the facts of his disobedience and discouragement when later telling the story—and this may have taken more courage than even going to cruel and sinful Nineveh with God's message of warning. Not all mission experiences are thrilling and bright, and the modern missionary may take comfort that a man later recognized by Christ as a true prophet of God (Matt. 12:39, 40) had his discouraging moments and even questioned the wisdom of God's purpose.

THINK IT THROUGH

Can we really blame Jonah for his attitude? What would we do if asked by God to preach impending judgment in a cruel enemy city?

"As the prophet thought of the difficulties and seeming impossibilities of this commission, he was tempted to question the wisdom of the call. From a human viewpoint it seemed as if nothing could be gained by proclaiming such a message in that proud city. He forgot for the moment that the God

whom he served was all-wise and all-powerful. While he hesitated, still doubting, Satan overwhelmed him with discouragement."—"Prophets and Kings," page 266.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Prophets and Kings," pages 265-278.

July 15

Part 5
ISAIAH'S VIEW
OF MISSIONS
Isa. 56:6, 7

"The sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord . . . ; even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer."

"Throughout his ministry Isaiah bore a plain testimony concerning God's purpose for the heathen. Other prophets had made mention of the divine plan, but their language was not always understood. To Isaiah it was given to make very plain to Judah the truth that among the Israel of God were to be numbered many who were not descendants of Abraham after the flesh. This teaching was not in harmony with the theology of his age, yet he fearlessly proclaimed the messages given him of God and brought hope to many a longing heart reaching out after the spiritual blessings promised to the seed of Abraham."—*Prophets and Kings*, page 367.



How extensive was to be the world outreach of God's people? Isa. 49:6, 12.

Isaiah's description of his vision inspired William Carey's work for God. May 31, 1792, is recognized as the birth date for modern missions. On that date Carey preached his famous sermon from Isa. 54:2, 3, presenting the concepts that we should "expect great things from God" and "attempt great things for God."

The greatest days for missions are still before us. Read Isaiah 60 and apply it to our day. When will it meet its greatest fulfillment?

THINK IT THROUGH

How will prophecies such as Isa. 60:1-3 meet their fulfillment? What will happen in the church that will lead to these accomplishments?

"Every shining star which God has placed in the heavens obeys His mandate, and gives its distinctive measure of light to make beautiful the heavens at night; so let every converted soul show the measure of light committed to him; and as it shines forth the light

will increase and grow brighter. Give out your light, . . . pour forth your beams mirrored from heaven."—Ellen G. White Comments, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 4, p. 1153.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Prophets and Kings," pages 367-370.

July 16

Part 6
DANIEL, WITNESS
TO TWO GREAT
EMPIRES
Dan. 5:11

"There is a man in thy kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him."

"The prophet Daniel was an illustrious character. He was a bright example of what men may become when united with the God of wisdom."—*The Sanctified Life*, page 18.

A man of strict integrity and principle, Daniel was used as God's witness to two great empires—the Neo-Babylonian and the Persian. "Honored by men with the responsibilities of state and with the secrets of kingdoms bearing universal sway, Daniel was honored by God as His ambassador."—*Prophets and Kings*, page 547.



What were the results of Daniel's missionary witness?

1. Dan. 1:19, 20.

2. Dan. 2:47

3. Dan. 4:37

4. Dan. 5:29

5. Dan. 6:25-27

"King Nebuchadnezzar, before whom Daniel so often honored the name of God, was finally thoroughly converted, and learned to 'praise and extol and honor the King of heaven.'" —Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, p. 1170.

THINK IT THROUGH

What attitudes and characteristics of Daniel made him an ideal candidate for the position in which he was placed?

"Daniel, the prime minister of the greatest of earthly kingdoms, was at the same time a prophet of God, receiving the light of heavenly inspiration. A man of like passions as ourselves, the pen of inspiration describes him as without fault. His business transactions, when subjected to the closest

scrutiny of his enemies, were found to be without one flaw. He was an example of what every businessman may become when his heart is converted and when his motives are right with God." —"Prophets and Kings," page 546.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Prophets and Kings," pages 545-548.

Answers: (1) faith; (2) city, foundations, builder, Maker, God; (3) holy, special; (4) False. He failed in his own life at this time; but he was a successful missionary; (5) False; (6) Yes. Daniel 4:37.

(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

6. May we expect to meet King Nebuchadnezzar in the new earth?
prophets.
5. True or False: World missions were not a concern of Old Testament prophets.
4. True or False: Jonah failed as a missionary.
3. The Israelites were an _____, and a _____ people unto the Lord.
2. Abraham "looked for a _____ which hath _____, whose _____ and _____ is _____."
1. By building the Ark Noah demonstrated his: stubbornness, intelligence, faith, hope, love.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER**

July 24, 1971



THE MASTER OF MISSIONS 4

"As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." John 17:18.

Every missionary except one has exhibited human weakness. That one is, of course, Jesus. He is the only perfect example of what a missionary should do and be.

Jesus was a foreign missionary, to a greater extent than most realize. His effectiveness as a teacher of missionaries made the first century the greatest ever in the expansion of Christianity.

The secret of Jesus' success as a missionary is found in His life of prayer and in His total submission to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He demonstrated what God can accomplish through us when we, too, are fully surrendered to His use.

"Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 664.

"Christ has given to His church ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed and purchased possession. He has bestowed upon His people capabilities and blessings that they may represent His own sufficiency. The church, endowed with the righteousness of

Christ, is His depository, in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love, are to appear in full and final display."

—*Ibid.*, p. 680.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **The Power of Christ's Exemplary Life**
Rom. 1:16
2. **Meeting Man's Total Needs**
Matt. 4:23
3. **Working With the Despised**
John 4:9
4. **Working With the Hopeless**
Matt. 15:28
5. **Working With the Unconverted**
John 10:16
6. **Training the Disciples to Be Missionaries**
Matt. 28:18-20

Part 1
THE POWER OF
CHRIST'S
EXEMPLARY LIFE
Rom. 1:16

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Jesus erected no monuments, wrote no books, held no political office. To many His life must have appeared a failure. He was misunderstood by His own family and finally forsaken by His friends. He had no home, no wife, no children, and, even though He was a master carpenter, as far as we know He possessed no furniture of His own. At the end of His first year of ministry in the Judean district, He was forced to leave under the threat that if He ever came back He would be killed. At the end of His second year of ministry in Galilee He was rejected by His own people. During His last year of ministry some of the despised Samaritans and Gentiles responded, but at the end of that year He was betrayed by one of His disciples, crucified, and buried in a borrowed tomb.

Yet His life changed all history. How did this happen?

Men saw in His life a perfect example of what they might become if wholly united to God as He was.



What reaction did the ministry of Jesus bring? John 7:46; Luke 11:1.

When the disciples saw the happiness, joy, and peace that characterized His life in spite of the storms of controversy that blew about Him, they determined to find the secret of His power and learn to live as He lived. Almost two thousand years later we are still amazed at the power of His exemplary life, and we still strive to live as He lived.



How did Jesus react to needy humanity? Matt. 14:14.

THINK IT THROUGH

What must happen before Christ's work on earth is finished, and what must we as individuals do to allow Him to accomplish this through us?

"The life of the true believer reveals an indwelling Saviour. The follower of Jesus is Christlike in spirit and in temper. Like Christ, he is meek and humble. His faith works by love and purifies the soul. His whole life is a testimony to the power of the grace of Christ. The pure doctrines of the gospel never degrade the receiver, never make him coarse, or rough, or uncourteous. The gospel refines, ennobles, and elevates, sanctifying the judgment and influencing the whole life."—"Testimonies," Vol. 7, p. 67.

"Love to man is the earthward manifestation of the love of God. It was to implant this love, to make us children of one family, that the King of glory became one with us. And when His parting words are fulfilled, 'Love one another, as I have loved you' (John 15:12); when we love the world as He has loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts."—"The Desire of Ages," page 641.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 642-645.

July 19

Part 2
MEETING MAN'S
TOTAL NEEDS
Matt. 4:23

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

By healing He met man's physical needs.

By teaching He met man's mental needs.

By preaching He met man's spiritual needs.

Thus Christ set the example of how best to conduct missionary work today. We are to minister to the needs of the whole man. Actually the physical, mental, and spiritual powers cannot be isolated or separated. What affects one affects the others. Therefore, any ministry that comes short of meeting all of man's needs will be only partial and incomplete. The imperative necessity of combining the health message with the spiritual is pointed out in such quotations as the following:

"True religion and the laws of health go hand in hand. It is impossible to work for the salvation of men and women without presenting to them the need of breaking away from sinful gratifications, which destroy the health, debase the soul, and prevent divine truth from impressing the mind."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 137.



What instruction did Christ give His followers? Luke 9:2; 10:9.



How is last-day evangelism to be accomplished? Isaiah 58.

"The fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah contains present truth for the people of God. Here we see how medical missionary work and the gospel ministry are to be bound together as the message is given to the world. Upon those who keep the Sabbath of the Lord is laid the responsibility of doing a work of mercy and benevolence. Medical missionary work is to be bound up with the message, and sealed with the seal of God."—*Evangelism*, pages 516, 517.

THINK IT THROUGH

What needs to be done in a practical way in our day to implement further the instruction found in Isaiah 58?

"Gospel workers should be able . . . to give instruction in the principles of healthful living. There is sickness everywhere, and much of it might be prevented by attention to the laws of health. The people need to see the bearing of health principles upon their well-being, both for this life and for the

life to come. They need to be awakened to their responsibility for the human habitation fitted up by their Creator as His dwelling place, and over which He desires them to be faithful stewards."—"Ibid.," p. 525.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Ministry of Healing," pages 17-25.

July 20

Part 3
WORKING WITH
THE DESPISED
John 4:9

"How is it that Thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans."

"The Jews and the Samaritans were bitter enemies, and as far as possible avoided all dealing with each other. To trade with the Samaritans in case of necessity was indeed counted lawful by the rabbis; but all social intercourse with them was condemned. A Jew would not borrow from a Samaritan, nor receive a kindness, not even a morsel of bread or a cup of water. The disciples, in buying food, were acting in harmony with the custom of their nation. But beyond this they did not go. To ask a favor of the Samaritans, or in any way seek to benefit them, did not enter into the thought of even Christ's disciples."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 183.



How did Christ indicate the universal nature of missions? John 4:23.

"Jesus had begun to break down the partition wall between Jew and Gentile, and to preach salvation to the world. Though He was a Jew, He mingled freely with the Samaritans, setting at naught the Pharisaic customs of His nation. In face of their prejudices He accepted the hospitality of this despised people. He slept under their roofs, ate with them at their tables,—partaking of the food prepared and served by their hands,—taught in their streets, and treated them with the utmost kindness and courtesy."—*Ibid.*, p. 193.



What results came from Christ's mission to the Samaritans? John 4:39-42.



How did Jesus handle a subject of contention between the two peoples? John 4:20-24.

THINK IT THROUGH

What are the implications of His tactfulness to His followers today?

"The stay of Jesus in Samaria was designed to be a blessing to His disciples. . . . Fidelity to Him kept their prejudices under control; yet in heart they were unreconciled. They were slow to learn that their contempt and hatred must give place to pity and sympathy. But after the Lord's ascension, His lessons came back to them with a new meaning. After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, they recalled the Saviour's look, His words, the respect and tenderness of His bearing toward these

despised strangers. When Peter went to preach in Samaria, he brought the same spirit into his own work. When John was called to Ephesus and Smyrna, he remembered the experience at Shechem, and was filled with gratitude to the divine Teacher, who, foreseeing the difficulties they must meet, had given them help in His own example."—*"Ibid."*, pp. 193, 194.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Ministry of Healing," pages 25-28.

July 21

Part 4
WORKING WITH
THE HOPELESS
Matt. 15:28

"Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour."

The woman to whom Jesus addressed these words was a Canaanite. "She was a heathen, and was therefore excluded from the advantages which the Jews daily enjoyed."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 399. They considered such people to be without hope of salvation. In dealing with her request Jesus treated her "as the Jews would have done" (*Ibid.*, page 400) in an attempt to impress upon the Jews their indifference and prejudice. Jesus had traveled the long distance to minister to her need. He taught the disciples by this experience that those they considered hopeless were to be included in the gospel work and would respond to the gifts of His grace.

Our work is "to minister to the despairing, and inspire hope in the hopeless."—*Ibid.*, p. 350.

What groups are often included in the "hopeless"? Often it is the wealthy, the great and gifted men, the abnormal, the outcast, the depraved, the stranger, the rebellious youth, and those who have been disfellowshipped. We should realize that their apparent "hopelessness" is God's opportunity. "Many among the rich are longing for some divine assurance, some spiritual hope. Many long for something that will bring to an end the monotony of their aimless lives."—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 210.

Study these other examples of salvation for the apparently hopeless:

1. The healing of the demoniacs. Matt. 8:28-34.
2. The repentance of the Ninevites. Jonah 3:10.
3. The conversion of Saul. Acts 9:10-16.

THINK IT THROUGH

Can we know who is hopeless? Read "Christ's Object Lessons," the first few pages of the chapter entitled "Tares."

"Pride and prejudice have built strong walls of separation between different classes of men. Christ and His mission have been misrepresented, and multitudes feel that they are virtually shut away from the ministry of the gospel. But let them not feel that they are shut away from Christ. There are no barriers which man or Satan can erect but that faith can penetrate."—*The Desire of Ages*," page 403.

"In the courts and lanes of the great cities, in the lonely byways of the country, are families and individuals—perhaps strangers in a strange land—who

are without church relations, and who, in their loneliness, come to feel that God has forgotten them. They do not understand what they must do to be saved. Many are sunken in sin. Many are in distress. They are pressed with suffering, want, unbelief, despondency. . . .

"In these suffering ones we are to see those whom Christ came to save."—*Christ's Object Lessons*," pages 232, 233.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 399-402.

July 22

Part 5
WORKING WITH THE
UNCONVERTED
John 10:16

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

Not only did Christ commission His disciples to preach the gospel to every creature in all the world (Mark 16:15), but He indicated that the end would not come until this mission was accomplished. Matt. 24:14. It was clearly His purpose that His church be a missionary church, involved in taking the gospel everywhere.

His own ministry is an example of what His followers were to do. During His ministry Christ taught not only in Judea and Galilee, but also in the following places:

1. Samaria—John 4.
2. Decapolis—Mark 5:1-20; 7:31.
3. Phoenicia—Matt. 15:21-28.
4. Caesarea Philippi—Mark 8:27.

Many of those considered "heathen" in these parts responded favorably to Christ's ministry.

In the parable of the Good Shepherd, Jesus emphasized that the sheep of God's fold are scattered everywhere and that the time was coming when all His sheep, no matter where they were, would hear His voice and come into His fold. As under-shepherds of Christ, we must put forth self-denying efforts to reach the lost sheep that they may hear His voice before the black night comes when they will be eternally lost.

THINK IT THROUGH

Who would you include in the term "heathen," and where are they to be found?

"Jesus longed to unfold the deep mysteries of the truth which had been hid for ages, that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs with the Jews, and 'partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel.' Eph. 3:6. This truth the disciples were slow to learn, and the divine Teacher gave them lesson upon lesson."—"The Desire of Ages," page 402.

"Jesus and His disciples had now come into one of the towns about Caesarea Philippi. They were beyond the

limits of Galilee, in a region where idolatry prevailed. Here the disciples were withdrawn from the controlling influence of Judaism, and brought into closer contact with the heathen worship. Around them were represented forms of superstition that existed in all parts of the world. Jesus desired that a view of these things might lead them to feel their responsibility to the heathen."—"Ibid.," p. 411.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 637-641.

July 23

**Part 6
TRAINING THE
DISCIPLES TO
BE MISSIONARIES**

Matt. 28:18-20

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Christ's commission to His followers throughout time is a very appropriate conclusion to the Gospel of Matthew, which stresses Christ's teaching ministry. By His life, as well as by His teachings, He has taught His followers how to be missionaries to the world. Now He commands them to go to every nation, sharing what they have learned from Him. About 500 followers of Christ were gathered on the mountainside when Christ repeated this commission to them. See *The Desire of Ages*, page 818.

"Thus Christ gave His disciples their commission. He made full provision for the prosecution of the work, and took upon Himself the responsibility for its success. So long as they obeyed His word, and worked in connection with Him, they could not fail. Go to all nations, He bade them. Go to the farthest part of the habitable globe, but know that My presence will be there. Labor in faith and confidence, for the time will never come when I will forsake you.

"The Saviour's commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time. . . . For this work the church was established, and all who take upon themselves the sacred vows are thereby pledged to be co-workers with Christ."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 822.



What does God, through the prophet Isaiah, say about those who fulfill this commission, and what will be the result of their labors? Isa. 52:7-10.

THINK IT THROUGH

Why has it taken so long for the Christian church to complete the task Christ assigned?

"It is in doing Christ's work that the church has the promise of His presence. Go teach all nations, He said; 'and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.' To take His yoke is one of the first conditions of receiving His power. The very life of the church depends upon her faithfulness in fulfilling the Lord's commission. To neglect this work is surely to invite spiritual feebleness and decay."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 825.

"Words alone cannot tell it. Let it be reflected in the character and manifested in the life. Christ is sitting for His portrait in every disciple. Everyone God has predestinated to be 'conformed to the image of His Son.' Rom. 8:29. In everyone Christ's long-suffering love, His holiness, meekness, mercy, and truth are to be manifested to the world."—*Ibid.*, page 827.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "*The Desire of Ages*," pages 818-828.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER**

1. Why could the life of one Man—Jesus Christ—change all history? _____

2. Can a ministry be complete that meets man's spiritual and mental needs?

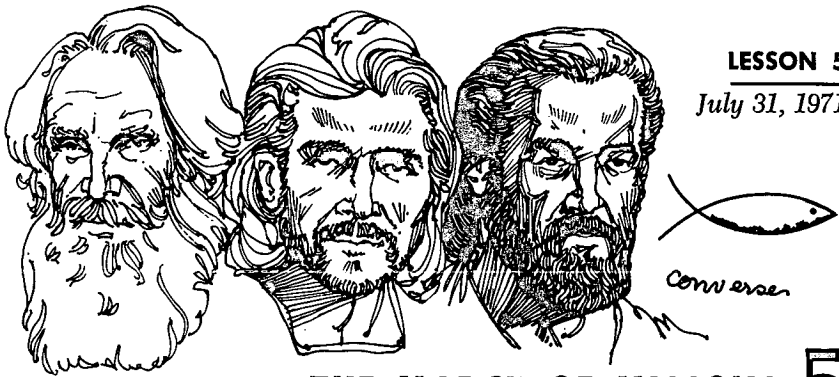
3. By visiting in the Samaritan town, Jesus began to break down the _____
between _____ and _____.
4. Which of the following may be considered by some as "hopeless"? (a) the
stranger, (b) the wealthy, (c) the great and gifted, (d) the abnormal?

5. What is involved in being a missionary church? _____

6. True or False: Christ placed upon His disciples the responsibility for the
success of the work to which He had assigned them. _____

(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

Answers: (1) men saw in Him a perfect example of what they might become if united with God as He was; (2) No; it must also meet the physical needs; (3) wall, Jew, Gentile; (4) a, b, c, d; (5) Taking the Gospel everywhere; (6) False.



THE MARCH OF MISSIONS 5

"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:3, 4.

In the last lesson we studied Christ's commission to His church. This lesson demonstrates that we cannot fulfill the commission apart from the power of the Spirit. Witnesses cannot share what they have not received or tell of that which they have not experienced. After living with Christ and learning from Him, they still needed His Spirit to give them power. He told them not to go until they had received it. Luke 24:49. *The Acts of the Apostles*, pages 36, 37, gives us the following essential steps the disciples took in preparing for the reception of the Holy Spirit:

1. "Higher and still higher they extended the hand of faith."
 2. "They humbled their hearts in true repentance and confessed their unbelief."
 3. "As they meditated upon His [Christ's] pure, holy life, they felt that no toil would be too hard, no sacrifice too great, if only they could bear witness in their lives to the loveliness of Christ's character."
 4. They "prayed with intense earnestness for a fitness to meet men and in their daily intercourse to speak words that would lead sinners to Christ."
 5. "Putting away all differences, all desire for the supremacy, they came close together in Christian fellowship."
 6. "They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely. They were weighted with the burden of the salvation of souls."
- Aren't these same steps the key to our

full reception of the gift of the Holy Spirit?

What were the results? "The Spirit came upon the waiting, praying disciples with a fullness that reached every heart. . . . And what followed? The sword of the Spirit, newly edged with power and bathed in the lightnings of heaven, cut its way through unbelief. Thousands were converted in a day."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 38.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **The Missionary Commitment of the Early Church**
Acts 1:8
2. **The Apostles' Early Missionary Efforts**
1 John 1:3
3. **Peter's Missionary Vision**
Acts 10:34
4. **Paul, the Pattern for Missionary Service**
Rom. 1:1
5. **John's Missionary Emphasis**
John 1:12
6. **Witnessing in All Ages**
Rev. 12:11

July 25

Part 1
THE MISSIONARY
COMMITMENT OF
THE EARLY CHURCH
Acts 1:8

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

"The disciples were to begin their work where they were. The hardest and most unpromising field was not to be passed by. So every one of Christ's workers is to begin where he is. . . .

"But the command, 'Go ye into all the world,' is not to be lost sight of. . . . He teaches us to look upon every needy soul as our brother, and the world as our field."—*The Desire of Ages*, pages 822, 823.

Ezek. 47:6-12 gives a picture of the work that God designed to accomplish through ancient Israel. How can this same description be applied to the church of the first century?

"The church beheld converts flocking to her from all directions. Backsliders were reconverted. . . . Every Christian saw in his brother a revelation of divine love and benevolence. One interest prevailed; one subject of emulation swallowed up all others. The ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ's character and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 48.

Note how the book of Acts traces the growth of the early church.

- Acts 1:15—120 believers
- 2:41—3,000 added
- 4:4—5,000 believed
- 4:32—A multitude
- 5:14—Multitudes
- 5:28—Filled Jerusalem
- 6:1—Grecians
- 8:4-6—City of Samaria
- 8:25—Villages of Samaritans
- 11:1—Gentiles believed
- 11:19-21—Phenice, Cyprus, Antioch
- 17:6—"Turned the world upside down"

THINK IT THROUGH

What characteristics of the early church need reemphasis in our day that we may receive the "great grace" that "was upon them all"? Acts 4:33.

"If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Whenever minor

matters occupy the attention, the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plenitude."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 50.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 30-34.

July 26

Part 2
THE APOSTLES'
EARLY
MISSIONARY
EFFORTS
1 John 1:3

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."

If tradition can be relied upon at all, every book in the New Testament except James was written by a foreign missionary. It is commonly understood that Peter, Paul, Mark, Luke, and John were foreign missionaries; but what about the other New Testament workers?

Matthew—Tradition assigns him to Parthia and Persia.

James—Probably the stepbrother of Jesus—possibly martyred in Jerusalem.

Jude—Said to have preached in Palestine, Syria, and Arabia.



How widespread was the witness on the Day of Pentecost? Acts 2:9-11.

The language of the books of the New Testament is not the Aramaic of Palestine, but the most-used language of the New Testament world—Greek. The map of the early Christian world reveals the apostles' widespread missionary journeys. All of Christ's disciples accompanied Him on His foreign missionary tours, and many of them later became foreign missionaries. Besides those listed above, it is thought that Peter's brother, Andrew, preached the gospel in Scythia and Thrace. Tradition indicates that Nathanael (or Bartholomew) preached in Arabia and possibly Ethiopia. Philip is said to have ministered in Phrygia in Asia Minor. Simon is thought to have preached in North Africa, and Thomas is considered to be the one who carried the gospel to Persia and India.

Nicodemus became poor in this world's goods because he put his great wealth into the missionary endeavor of the early church. See *The Acts of the Apostles*, page 105.



What work did Philip, one of the seven deacons, do as a missionary? Acts 8:4-40.

THINK IT THROUGH

What share do I have in the gospel commission?

"The unselfish labor of Christians in the past should be to us an object lesson and an inspiration. The members of God's church are to be zealous of good works, separating from worldly ambition and walking in the footsteps of Him who went about doing good. With hearts filled with sympathy and

compassion, they are to minister to those in need of help, bringing to sinners a knowledge of the Saviour's love. Such work calls for laborious effort, but it brings a rich reward."—"The Acts of the Apostles," pages 109, 110.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 105-111.

July 27

Part 3
PETER'S
MISSIONARY
VISION
Acts 10:34

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."

While Peter was staying at Joppa, he was called by God to take the gospel to the Roman centurion Cornelius in Caesarea. At that time Peter shared the reluctance of Christ's followers to carry the gospel to the Gentiles. In order to help Peter and his associates overcome the concept of exclusion, God gave him a vision.

Read the vision as described in Acts 10:9-16.

Read about Peter's understanding of the vision in Acts 11:5-18.

"On hearing this account, the brethren were silenced. Convinced that Peter's course was in direct fulfillment of the plan of God, and that their prejudices and exclusiveness were utterly contrary to the spirit of the gospel, they glorified God, saying, 'Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.'

"Thus, without controversy, prejudice was broken down, the exclusiveness established by the custom of ages was abandoned, and the way was opened for the gospel to be proclaimed to the Gentiles."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 142.



What mistake, in this respect, did Peter make later at Antioch, and how was he rebuked? Gal. 2:11-21.

"Peter saw the error into which he had fallen, and immediately set about repairing the evil that had been wrought, so far as was in his power."—*Ibid.*, p. 198.

Peter ended his ministry as a foreign missionary in Rome, being imprisoned there by Nero and martyred about the same time as Paul. See John 21:18 and *The Acts of the Apostles*, page 537.

THINK IT THROUGH

In what way does Peter's vision at Joppa apply to the mission of the church today?

"The angel was not commissioned to tell Cornelius the story of the cross. A man subject, even as the centurion himself, to human frailties and temptations, was to be the one to tell him of the crucified and risen Saviour. As His representatives among men, God does not choose angels who have never fallen, but human beings, men of like passions with those they seek to save. Christ took humanity that He might reach humanity. A divine-human Saviour was needed to bring salvation to the world.

And to men and women has been committed the sacred trust of making known 'the unsearchable riches of Christ.' . . . In His wisdom the Lord brings those who are seeking for truth into touch with fellow beings who know the truth. It is the plan of Heaven that those who have received light shall impart it to those in darkness."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 134.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 131-142.

July 28

Part 4
PAUL, THE
PATTERN FOR
MISSIONARY
SERVICE
Rom. 1:1

"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God."

Christ's purpose for Paul's life of ministry among the Gentiles was made clear to him through the following experiences:

1. On the road to Damascus—Acts 26:15-18.
2. When his sight was restored by Ananias—Acts 22:12-16.
3. In a vision at Jerusalem—Acts 22:17-21.



How did Paul react to divine instructions? Acts 26:19.

At Antioch, "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate Me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." Acts 13:2. "Before being sent forth as missionaries to the heathen world, these apostles were solemnly dedicated to God by fasting and prayer and the laying on of hands. Thus they were authorized by the church."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 161.

Paul and his fellow laborers conducted three missionary tours, each reaching out farther than the previous one. Paul's missionary efforts were characterized by:

1. Training of young men, such as Timothy, for service. *The Acts of the Apostles*, page 184.
2. Surrounding the churches he raised up with the "safeguards of gospel order."—*Ibid.*, p. 185.
3. Making even the smallest churches that he raised up "the object of his constant solicitude."—*Ibid.*, p. 186.
4. Practical and careful training of new converts.—*Ibid.*, pp. 186, 187.
5. A ministry in which "hearts were broken by his presentation of the love of God, as revealed in the sacrifice of His only-begotten Son."—*Ibid.*, p. 208.



What testimony did Paul give at the close of his ministry? 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

THINK IT THROUGH

What might be accomplished if every missionary could be used by God as Paul was?

"In the solitude of the desert, Paul had ample opportunity for quiet study and meditation. He calmly reviewed his past experience and made sure work of repentance. He sought God with all his heart, resting not until he knew for a certainty that his repentance was accepted and his sin pardoned. He longed for the assurance that Jesus would be with him in his coming ministry. He emptied his soul of the preju-

dices and traditions that had hitherto shaped his life, and received instruction from the Source of truth. Jesus communed with him and established him in the faith, bestowing upon him a rich measure of wisdom and grace."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, pages 125, 126.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 201-210.

July 29

Part 5
JOHN'S
MISSIONARY
EMPHASIS
John 1:12

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

Whereas Paul was the great itinerant missionary of the early church, carrying the gospel to many unentered provinces, John's missionary service seems to have consisted largely of his pastorate of the Ephesus district.



Where did John work with Philip and Peter in missionary service? Acts 8:14.



How does this contrast with his former attitudes? Luke 9:52-54.

John lived longer than did any of the other of the Twelve. He became known for his confiding love and unselfish devotion.

"He was a powerful preacher, fervent, and deeply in earnest. In beautiful language and with a musical voice he told of the words and works of Christ, speaking in a way that impressed the hearts of those who heard him. The simplicity of his words, the sublime power of the truths he uttered, and the fervor that characterized his teachings, gave him access to all classes."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 546.

In the messages recorded in the book of Revelation, John's ministry reaches out not only to the churches of Asia Minor but to all the world unto the end of time.

"When his voice could no longer testify to the One whom he loved and served, the messages given him on that barren coast [Patmos] were to go forth as a lamp that burneth, declaring the sure purpose of the Lord concerning every nation on the earth."—*Ibid.*, p. 571.

Note how Rev. 10:11; 11:1; and 14:6-12 particularly portray the last great missionary movement.

THINK IT THROUGH

What part did Pentecost have in preparing John for missionary service? Can we have the same kind of preparation through the Holy Spirit today?

"John did not naturally possess the loveliness of character that his later experience revealed. By nature he had serious defects. . . . But beneath all this the divine Teacher discerned the ardent, sincere, loving heart. Jesus rebuked his self-seeking, disappointed his ambitions, tested his faith. But He revealed to him that for which his soul longed—the beauty of holiness, the

transforming power of love."—"The Acts of the Apostles," page 540.

"John knew the Saviour by an experimental knowledge. . . . When he testified of the Saviour's grace, his simple language was eloquent with the love that pervaded his whole being."—*Ibid.*, pp. 544, 545.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 539-545.

Part 6
WITNESSING IN
ALL AGES
Rev. 12:11

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

John had been given a vision of the entire great controversy between Christ and Satan. He had seen all those who overcame by Christ's victory on Calvary. He had also witnessed the history of the first century of Christianity.



What threat hung over the early church? Acts 12:1, 2.

John himself had been cast into a cauldron of boiling oil upon the orders of the Emperor Domitian, but his life had been preserved. And even as he wrote the book of Revelation he was suffering banishment on the barren and lonely isle of Patmos. Here John was shown the church victorious and triumphant in spite of the attacks of Satan and his agents throughout its history.

"Centuries of fierce persecution followed the establishment of the Christian church, but there were never wanting men who counted the work of building God's temple dearer than life itself."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 597.

Study carefully the great controversy as it has expanded during the Christian era down to the time of the remnant or last witnesses for Christ. Rev. 12:13-17.

THINK IT THROUGH

Revelation 12:10 describes the victory of Christ over Satan at the time when He cried out on Calvary, "It is finished!" (See "The Desire of Ages," page 761.) Why didn't God end the great controversy at that point in time, since Satan's defeat was sure?

"The commission that Christ gave to the disciples, they fulfilled. As these messengers of the cross went forth to proclaim the gospel, there was such a revelation of the glory of God as had never before been witnessed by mortal man. By the cooperation of the divine Spirit, the apostles did a work that shook the world. To every nation was the gospel carried in a single generation."—"The Acts of the Apostles," page 593.

"Every member should be a channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. . . . There is nothing that the world needs

so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love. All heaven is waiting for men and women through whom God can reveal the power of Christianity. The church is God's agency for the proclamation of truth, empowered by Him to do a special work; and if she is loyal to Him, obedient to all His commandments, there will dwell within her the excellency of divine grace. . . .

"It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of the Saviour."—"Ibid.," p. 600.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 593-602.

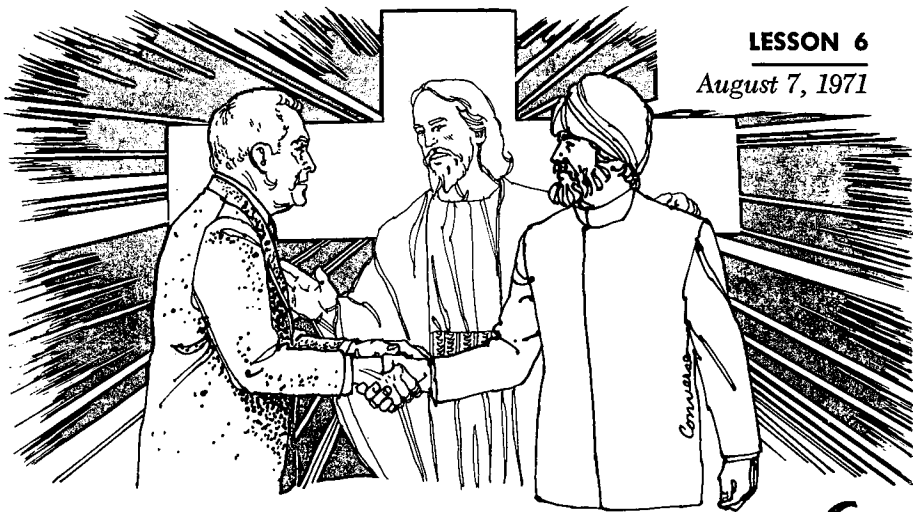
Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER**

1. What essential gift to the early church made missionary work successful?

2. True or False: Most of Christ's original Twelve never became real missionaries.
3. What did the vision of the animals in the sheet teach Peter, and what does it teach us today? _____

4. Paul was an apostle to _____.
5. The three angels' messages were given through Peter, Paul, John, Timothy, Thomas. _____
6. Memorize and quote Rev. 12:17. Who is the woman? _____
Who are the remnant of her seed? _____

(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)



THE MYSTERY OF MISSIONS 6

"Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself." Eph. 1:9.

The term "mystery" as applied to the gospel has the meaning of "secret," and it is so translated in the Revised Standard and some other versions. The mystery of redemption is something the human mind is incapable of discovering and can never fully know without a revelation. We are discussing here the "mystery" or "secret" of God in changing wayward men so that their lives produce the fruits of righteousness. It is the mission of the church to reveal to a lost world the "mystery" of the purpose of God.

In this lesson the "Mystery of Missions" is seen against the background of Scripture revelation of God's eternal purpose for the salvation of a lost world. The mystery of missions is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Rev. 10:7 that in the days of the seventh trumpet the mystery of God should be finished. Tracing the term "mystery" through such passages as Mark 4:11; Eph. 6:19; Col. 1:26, 27; 4:3, it becomes apparent that the "mystery" of God is His determination to restore man through the plan of redemption. This purpose reaches out to all through redeemed men revealing the mystery of God through lives consecrated

to Him and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Christ, the Only Saviour**
John 14:6
2. **Salvation Provided for All**
John 1:9, 1 Tim. 2:4
3. **The Need for Preaching the Gospel**
Rom. 10:17
4. **Personal Responsibility in Missionary Service**
Ezek. 33:7-9
5. **The Power of the Holy Spirit Promised**
Zech. 4:6
6. **The Unlimited Scope of Missionary Achievement**
John 14:12

August 1

Part 1
CHRIST, THE ONLY
SAVIOUR
John 14:6

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."

Revelation unfolds the ways and the will of God through such forms as the Holy Spirit may choose. Yet it cannot be separated from Jesus Christ "the way, the truth, and the life." The ultimate purpose of revelation is man's salvation, and the way of salvation is rigidly singular. Religion, culture, or life itself apart from Jesus lacks eternal value.



How does salvation come to mankind? Acts 4:12.

"All the altars and sacrifices, the traditions and inventions whereby men hope to earn salvation, are fallacies. . . . Christ is the only sin bearer, the only sin offering."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, p. 913.

There are, of course, traces and reflections of truth in religious writings other than Christian, but here we are dealing with the way salvation is provided. God has provided the only way through the gift of Christ, and men can be saved only by what He has done. Certainly there are those who have never known Christ or taken His name upon their lips who will be saved. But they will be saved only by what He has made possible for them.

"Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 638.



Through what instrumentality does God speak to mankind? John 14:26.

THINK IT THROUGH

How is God justified in saving those who have never heard the name of Christ or accepted Him?

"In heaven instruction will be given to those who, when they died, did not understand perfectly the plan of salvation. Christ will lead the redeemed ones beside the river of life, and will open to them that which while on this earth they could not understand."—"Selected Messages," Bk. 1, p. 262.

"Among all nations, kindreds, and tongues, He sees men and women who are praying for light and knowledge. Their souls are unsatisfied; long have they fed on ashes. . . . The enemy of

all righteousness has turned them aside, and they grope as blind men. But they are honest in heart and desire to learn a better way. Although in the depths of heathenism, with no knowledge of the written law of God nor of His Son Jesus, they have revealed in manifold ways the working of a divine power on mind and character."—"Prophets and Kings," page 376.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 637-641.

August 2

Part 2
SALVATION
PROVIDED
FOR ALL
John 1:9;
1 Tim. 2:4

"That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

God reveals Himself to all men, in all places, and by all means possible to save all who will yield their sinful lives to the transforming power of His Spirit. None who are accountable are without opportunity, none can claim to have had no light, none can accuse God of failure to provide for their salvation. Provision for the salvation of all men does not imply either equal knowledge or, in a sense, "equal opportunity" for all men. While no one can accuse God of failing to provide for his salvation, many will accuse men who should have conveyed the revelations of God entrusted to them. See *The Great Controversy*, page 656.



How widespread is God's offer to mankind? Titus 2:11; Rom. 1:20.

"Sufficient light and evidence will be given to every soul. If men are overcome by the enemy, it will be because they have hardened their hearts, refusing to listen to the voice of God."—*Special Testimonies*, Series B, No. 2, p. 20.

Since salvation is made possible for all men through Jesus Christ, and each individual receives some light, our standing before God depends on the use we make of the light we have individually received. "He has given light and life to all, and according to the measure of light given, each is to be judged. And He who has given the light, He who has followed the soul with tenderest entreaty, seeking to win it from sin to holiness, is in one its Advocate and Judge."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 210.



What are some of the means God will use to provoke inquiry on the part of non-Christian peoples? Joel 2:28-32.

THINK IT THROUGH

With whom does the ultimate responsibility rest in deciding whether an individual will be saved or lost?

"As through Christ every human being has life, so also through Him every soul receives some ray of divine light. Not only intellectual but spiritual power, a perception of right, a desire for goodness, exists in every heart."—"Education," page 29.

"The Holy Spirit is implanting the grace of Christ in the heart of many a noble seeker after truth, quickening his sympathies contrary to his nature, contrary to his former education. The 'Light,

which lighteth every man that cometh into the world,' . . . is shining in his soul; and this Light, if heeded, will guide his feet to the kingdom of God. The prophet Micah said: 'When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me. . . . He will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold His righteousness.'—"Prophets and Kings," pages 376, 377.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Education," pages 28, 29.

August 3

Part 3
THE NEED FOR
PREACHING
THE GOSPEL
Rom. 10:17

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Considering the universal revelation in nature of the power of God, the constant witness of the Holy Spirit to the requirements of God, and the ministry of angels showing the concern of God for all men, in what perspective are we to view the gospel commission?

Some will respond directly to the appeals of God by His Spirit. But it is evident that God wills that this revelation be conveyed by humanity in the preaching of the gospel.

We are our brother's keeper. The main channel through which the revelation of God in Christ is to be preached to the world is His church. Just as the child in a Christian home, educated in a Christian school, may be said to have a better "chance" of being saved than one deprived of such opportunities, so in non-Christian cultures those hearing the preaching of the Word are far more likely to make a saving confession of Him.

The necessity of preaching. How the revelation of God in Scripture or in nature may reach man in his depravity (with all that the rebellion of the sinful heart implies) seems the question posed in Romans 10.



Whom will God save? Rom. 10:13.

Knowledge of Christ requires a revelation, and the means of this revelation is most often the preaching of the Word of God. "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ." RSV. But some light reaches even those who have not heard a specific preaching of the gospel. Paul declares in a quotation from Psalm 19:4 (referring originally to revelation in nature), "Their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world." Rom. 10:18.



To what particular message does Rom. 10:18, 20 apply?

THINK IT THROUGH

What is the most effective way to "preach the word"?

"Many are waiting to be personally addressed. In the very family, the neighborhood, the town, where we live, there is work for us to do as missionaries for Christ. If we are Christians, this work will be our delight. No sooner is one converted than there is born within him a desire to make known to

others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus. The saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart."—"The Desire of Ages," page 141.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 141-143.

August 4

**Part 4
PERSONAL
RESPONSIBILITY
IN MISSIONARY
SERVICE**

"So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at My mouth, and warn them from Me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."

Ezek. 33:7-9

▷ **How may we affect the probability of an individual's being saved or lost by our witness? (Note the implications in this respect of Mark 16:15, 16.)**

"There are many who need the ministrations of loving Christian hearts. Many have gone down to ruin who might have been saved if their neighbors, common men and women, had put forth personal effort for them."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 141.

▷ **How should Christ's response to Nicodemus guide us in our personal evangelism? John 3:1-10.**

THINK IT THROUGH

If we really believe that people may be lost or saved by our words, our influence, and the witness of our lives, will there be a change in our way of living and witnessing?

"Heaven stands indignant at the neglect shown to the souls of men. Would we know how Christ regards it? How would a father and mother feel, did they know that their child, lost in the cold and the snow, had been passed by, and left to perish, by those who might have saved it?"—"The Desire of Ages," page 825.

"It is manifest that the power which works through the weakness of humanity is the power of God; and thus we are encouraged to believe that the power which can help others as weak as ourselves can help us. And those who are themselves 'compacted with infirmity' should be able to 'have com-

passion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way.' Heb. 5:2. Having been in peril themselves, they are acquainted with the dangers and difficulties of the way, and for this reason are called to reach out for others in like peril. There are souls perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the Unseen; but a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ's stead, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ."—"Ibid.," page 297.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 825-827.

August 5

Part 5
THE POWER
OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT
PROMISED
Zech. 4:6

"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

We cannot do the work of Christ without the Spirit of Christ. But this has been fully provided, as is attested by the promises of Christ (John 14 to 16) and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the early church at Pentecost (Acts 2). That same power is available now to all who are willing to be used by the Holy Spirit.



How is the promise of the Spirit received? Gal. 3:14.



What is accomplished in us by the Holy Spirit? Eph. 3:16-19.

"Without the Spirit and power of God it will be in vain that we labor to present the truth."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 158.

But the missionary work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to be culminated by the greatest display of the Holy Spirit's power the world has ever seen. "Many . . . will be seen hurrying hither and thither, constrained by the Spirit of God to bring the light to others. The truth, the Word of God, is as a fire in their bones, filling them with a burning desire to enlighten those who sit in darkness. . . . The Spirit is poured out upon all who will yield to its promptings, and, casting off all man's machinery, his binding rules and cautious methods, they will declare the truth with the might of the Spirit's power. Multitudes will receive the faith and join the armies of the Lord."—*Evangelism*, page 700.

THINK IT THROUGH

How much longer must we wait to see these promises fulfilled?

"We can be fitted for heaven only through the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart; for we must have Christ's righteousness as our credentials if we would find access to the Father. . . . It is the work of the Holy Spirit to elevate the taste, to sanctify the heart, to ennoble the whole man."—"Selected Messages," Bk. 1, p. 374.

"Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They

have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake."—"Testimonies to Ministers," page 507.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 5, pp. 157-159.

Part. 6
THE UNLIMITED
SCOPE OF
MISSIONARY
ACHIEVEMENT
John 14:12

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father."

"By this Christ did not mean that the disciples' work would be of a more exalted character than His, but that it would have greater extent."—*The Desire of Ages*; page 664.

Jesus did not have available the modern facilities of automobiles or airplanes which He might have utilized for the spread of the gospel. In our world today with all these advantages to aid in finishing God's work on earth, ours is the privilege of more extensive service for Christ if we will allow ourselves to be filled with divine power as He did.

"God did not design that His wonderful plan to redeem men should achieve only insignificant results."—*Ibid.*, p. 667.

Christ ascended to heaven on the resurrection morning, not only to receive the assurance that His atonement for man had been accepted, but to receive gifts for His church. See *The Desire of Ages*, page 790.



What did Christ make available at His ascension? Matt. 28:18-20.

"His sacrifice in behalf of man was full and complete. The conditions of the atonement had been fulfilled; the work for which He came to this world had been accomplished. . . . Clothed with boundless authority, He gave His commission to the disciples."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 819.



What prediction seems near fulfillment? Isa. 60:1-3.

THINK IT THROUGH

Why are we content with so little when Christ has made so much available to His people today?

"And still our General, who never makes a mistake, says to us, 'Advance; enter new territory; lift the standard in every land. "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."' The time has come when through God's messengers the scroll is being unrolled to the world. The truth contained in the first, second, and third angels' messages must go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people; it must lighten the darkness of ev-

ery continent and extend to the islands of the sea. There must be no delay in this work. Our watchword is to be, Onward, ever onward! Angels of heaven will go before us to prepare the way. Our burden for the regions beyond can never be laid down till the whole earth is lightened with the glory of the Lord."—*"Gospel Workers,"* page 470.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 662-667.

Answers: (1) False; (2) transformed; (3) b; (4) watchman, house of Israel; (5) a; (6) Christ had ascended to His Father.

(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

- _____ because
6. The believing disciples were enabled to do even greater works than Christ Spirit. _____
5. The effective worker will (a) be used by God's Spirit, (b) try to use the _____
4. Complete: "I have set thee a _____ unto the _____"
3. The love of God is best shown to human beings by (a) miracles of nature, (b) other human beings, (c) the ministry of angels. _____
2. Every sinful life may be _____ by the power of the Holy Spirit.
1. True or False: There is a possibility that religions other than the Christian religion may offer a way to salvation. _____

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER**

August 14, 1971



THE MOTIVE OF MISSIONS 7

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" 1 Cor. 9:16.

"Necessity is laid upon me," Paul stated in his epistle to the Corinthians. The same necessity is laid upon all who take upon themselves the name of Christ. "The church of Christ was organized for missionary purposes."—*Gospel Workers*, page 464. Yet too often in its history the church has somehow lost sight of its purpose. If the remnant people of God are to avoid this error and retain their missionary objective, individual members must be motivated with missionary zeal.

This lesson is designed to present the basis for such motivation, but the stimulus for motivation comes through the work of the Holy Spirit on the hearts of men and not from intellectual acceptance of the necessity for the preaching of the gospel. Continued motivation therefore depends on a close and constant individual yielding to the Holy Spirit.

The gospel with its saving power must go to every kindred, nation, people, and tongue in this generation. "The vineyard includes the whole world, and every part of it is to be worked. There are places which are now a moral wilderness, and these are to become as the garden of the Lord. The waste places of the earth are to be cultivated, that they may bud and blossom as the rose. New territories are to be worked by men inspired by the Holy Spirit. New churches must be established, new congregations organized. At this time there should be representatives of present truth in every city and in the remote parts of the earth. The whole earth is to be illuminated with

the glory of God's truth. The light is to shine to all lands and all peoples. And it is from those who have received the light that it is to shine forth. The daystar has risen upon us, and we are to flash its light upon the pathway of those in darkness."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 24.

"The common people are to take their place as workers. Sharing the sorrows of their fellowmen as the Saviour shared the sorrows of humanity, they will by faith see Him working with them."—*Gospel Workers*, page 38.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **For the Glorification of God**
Matt. 5:16
2. **For the Fulfillment of Christ's Command**
Mark 16:15
3. **For the Hastening of Christ's Return**
2 Peter 3:11, 12
4. **For the Love of Mankind**
2 Cor. 5:14
5. **For the Revival of the Church**
Eph. 4:11-13
6. **For the Growth of Christian Character**
Eph. 4:15

August 8

**Part 1
FOR THE
GLORIFICATION
OF GOD
Matt. 5:16**

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Christ is the source of this light. It is when He is fully reflected in our lives that our works are recognized as "good." Because men recognize that this kind of works must come from a source other than the natural human heart, God is glorified as the source rather than man.

This was the experience of the first Christians, who recognized God's glory in the life and witness of Christ. John 1:14.



Whose glory was reflected in Christ and should be reflected in us? John 17:1-5, 22.

Through the glorious light of Christ seen in His followers the world would be attracted to Him. This experience would be shared by those who accepted, and thus the witness would grow. John 17:20-23.

This light cannot be hidden. It just naturally shines out of happy hearts dedicated to Christ and His service and becomes the light of the world.



What gives glory to God? John 15:8.

THINK IT THROUGH

If the world lacks light, is it the fault of the world, or is it because the church is not fulfilling its responsibility to be the light of the world?

"To His people He says, 'Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.' . . . It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth. "This is the work outlined by the prophet Isaiah in the words, 'O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of

Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.'"—"Christ's Object Lessons," page 415.

"When once the gaze is fixed upon Him [Christ], the life finds its center. The enthusiasm, the generous devotion, the passionate ardor, of the youth find here their true object. Duty becomes a delight and sacrifice a pleasure. To honor Christ, to become like Him, to work for Him, is the life's highest ambition and its greatest joy."—"Education," page 297.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 414-421 (1923 ed., pages 423-431).

August 9

Part 2
FOR THE
FULFILLMENT OF
CHRIST'S COMMAND
Mark 16:15

"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

"Christ's commission, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature,' is spoken to every one of His followers. . . . All who are ordained unto the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellowmen. Their hearts will throb in unison with the heart of Christ. The same longing for souls that He has felt will be manifest in them. Not all can fill the same place in the work, but there is a place and a work for all."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pages 300, 301.

This quotation points up the fact that missionary motivation is based on more than the command of Christ as such. It is also found in the desire and willingness of those whose hearts "throb in unison with the heart of Christ" to accomplish in their world that which Christ showed when He ministered to the needs of a lost world. His was a great heart longing for the souls of men, and those who have His heart transplanted in them will have the same deep longing for souls that He had.



How did Paul rise above human weakness to fulfill his commission? 1 Cor. 2:1-4.

Heeding Christ's command to serve as missionary in one's neighborhood, hometown, or halfway around the world brings no glory to the individual. His is an inner compulsion that leads him to go anywhere or be anything if only Christ's cause can be advanced. 1 Cor. 9:16.



Toward what reward did the apostle Paul look? 1 Thess. 2:19, 20.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is it possible to be a true follower of Christ and not share His longing for souls?

"Millions upon millions have never so much as heard of God or of His love revealed in Christ. It is their right to receive this knowledge. They have an equal claim with us in the Saviour's mercy. And it rests with us who have received the knowledge, with our children to whom we may impart it, to answer their cry."—"Education," page 263.

"God calls for men who will push the triumphs of the cross; men who will persevere under discouragements and privations; men who have the zeal and

resolution and faith that are indispensable in the missionary field. By persevering toil and a firm trust in the God of Israel, resolute, courageous men will accomplish wonders. There is scarcely a limit to what may be achieved if the efforts made are governed by enlightened judgment and backed by earnest endeavor."—"Gospel Workers," pages 469, 470.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 296-306 (1923 ed., pages 300-311).

August 10

**Part 3
FOR THE
HASTENING OF
CHRIST'S RETURN**

2 Peter 3:11, 12

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

Just as it was not God's will that the children of Israel should wander forty years in the wilderness before entering the promised land of Canaan, it has not been His will that the second coming of Christ be so long delayed. "Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would, ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the City of God."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, page 450.

"I know that if the people of God had preserved a living connection with Him, if they had obeyed His Word, they would today be in the heavenly Canaan."—*Evangelism*, page 694.



What work is entrusted to God's people? Mal. 4:5, 6.

The whole world is waiting for a revelation of Christ in His people. Christ also is waiting for this to happen so that He can return. We are told: "Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 69.



**What should our lives reveal about the second coming?
Titus 2:11-14.**

Therefore "it is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."—*Ibid.*, p. 69.

THINK IT THROUGH

**Are we praying with our lives as well as our lips,
"Even so, come, Lord Jesus"?**

"When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory."—*"The Acts of the Apostles,"* page 111.

It is a very dark picture which our Saviour draws of events that portend His second advent to the world. Earthquakes, tidal waves, wars, and rumors

of war naturally cause men's hearts to fail them for fear—a fear that their love of pleasure cannot dispel. Set right in the midst of this dark picture as a bright star in a dark night is the declaration of Jesus that the advance of His gospel to every kindred and tongue is also a token of His soon coming to establish His eternal kingdom of love.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "*Testimonies*," Vol. 2, pp. 189-192.

August 11

Part 4
FOR THE LOVE
OF MANKIND
2 Cor. 5:14

"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead."

Paul does not speak in this scripture about his love for Christ. It was the love of Christ that constrained or "held together" or "controlled" the early church. Christ's love in us compels us to do the very work He would be doing if He were here where we have been placed. It is true, of course, that our love for Him leads us to want to accomplish His will and His work, but this apparently is not what Paul had in mind in this text. Christ's love in us reaches out to all mankind through us. It "constrains" us to give our all for our fellowmen even as Christ gave His all when He personally ministered to men.

This is the "treasure" that we have "in earthen vessels." Therefore we do not credit ourselves with missionary achievements but recognize that it is Christ accomplishing His purpose in us, "that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." "That the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh." 2 Cor. 4:7, 11.

▷ **What ministry has been committed to us? 2 Cor. 5:18-20.**

This is accomplished by our allowing His mind to take over our minds that our every impulse may be but the carrying out of His will for us. Phil. 2:5.

▷ **What sense of urgency grips the faithful worker? 2 Cor. 6:1, 2.**

THINK IT THROUGH

What is the constraining, compelling influence in our everyday lives? What is it that we want more than anything else?

"Oh, that they would now exert their powers of mind in seeking ways to approach perishing sinners, that they might make known to them the path of holiness, and by prayer and entreaty win even one soul to Christ! What a noble enterprise! One soul to praise God through eternity! One soul to enjoy happiness and everlasting life! One gem in their crown to shine as a star forever and ever! But even more than one can be brought to turn from error to truth, from sin to holiness. Says the Lord by the prophet: 'And they that turn many to righteousness [shall shine] as the stars forever and ever.'

Then those who engage with Christ and angels in the work of saving perishing souls are richly rewarded in the kingdom of heaven."—"Testimonies," Vol. 1, p. 512.

"Our Lord and Saviour asks us to give ourselves to Him. Surrendering self to God is all He requires, giving ourselves to Him to be employed as He sees fit. Until we come to this point of surrender, we shall not work happily, usefully, or successfully anywhere."—Ellen G. White Comments, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 6, p. 1101.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Ministry of Healing," pages 156-158.

**Part 5
FOR THE REVIVAL
OF THE CHURCH**

Eph. 4:11-13

"And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

As God gives gifts to men, they in turn become the bearers of these gifts to the church. All His gifts, then, are made possible to enable His church better to accomplish the work given it to do. Each was designed to lead the "body of Christ" to a higher experience, to the "measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Not simply a building up of the church in numbers is envisioned, but a building up in the character of its members. As the church uses its gifts to serve the world, there is in turn a "perfecting of the saints."



Toward what achievement is the church constantly to strive? 2 Thess. 1:11, 12.

It has often been stated that the working church is a growing church and not a problem church, and that the best way to revive the church is to put the members to work for others. The law of the universe is that as we give we gain. See *The Desire of Ages*, pages 20, 21. A giving church is a growing, gaining church.

The history of the Christian church demonstrates that the periods of greatest strength and vitality have been those that coincided with the greatest missionary effort. It is when this wanes that the church is in trouble. It might be difficult to determine which is cause and which is effect. Perhaps it is more accurate to see both as symptoms of the same basic disease—loss of zeal and a waning love for Christ. Rev. 2:4.



How may we remedy the spiritual lethargy of the church? Rev. 3:18-20.

THINK IT THROUGH

"Evangelism," page 356, states: "There is danger of religion losing in depth that which it gains in breadth." What does this mean?

"The best medicine you can give the church is not preaching or sermonizing, but planning work for them. If set to work, the despondent would soon forget their despondency, the weak would become strong, the ignorant intelligent, and all would be prepared to present the truth as it is in Jesus."—*"Evangelism," page 356.*

"When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God."—*"Ibid.," page 699.*

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 2, pp. 165-167.

Part 6
FOR THE GROWTH
OF CHRISTIAN
CHARACTER
Eph. 4:15

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ."

Not only will missionary zeal help restore the church to its "first love" experience and bring a revival in the church, but it will also bring about growth of individual Christian character. In this text, "speaking the truth in love" is clearly connected with "growing up into Him." The truth is preached in love—not so much by the words as by the lives of those who are growing up into Christ. "As the tree strikes its roots down into the soil for nourishment and moisture, so the growing child of God reaches up to Christ for his vitality and sustenance. Union with Christ is at once the cause and the result of growth. He is the head of each man as well as head of the church."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Eph. 4:15.



What may the Christian expect as the result of unselfish service? 1 Thess. 3:12, 13.

Just as physical growth is dependent upon the use of our muscles in exercise, so spiritual growth is dependent upon spiritual exercise, one manifestation of which is the sharing of our faith with those who lack faith. The following texts emphasize the importance of working for others in the development of Christian experience:

1. A labor of love—1 Thess. 1-3.
2. Every man has a work—Mark 13:34.
3. The parable of the talents—Matt. 25:14-30.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is there so-called "missionary work" that can hinder rather than help the Christian's spiritual development?

"Nothing saps spirituality from the soul more quickly than to enclose it in selfishness and self-caring. Those who indulge self and neglect to care for the souls and bodies of those for whom Christ has given His life, are not eating of the bread of life, nor drinking of the water of the well of salvation. They are dry and sapless, like a tree that bears no fruit."—*"Evangelism,"* page 357.

"The Lord Jesus is making experiments on human hearts through the exhibition of His mercy and abundant grace. He is effecting transformations so amazing that Satan, with all his triumphant boasting, with all his confederacy of evil united against God and the laws of His government, stands

viewing them as a fortress impregnable to his sophistries and delusions. They are to him an incomprehensible mystery. The angels of God, seraphim and cherubim, the powers commissioned to cooperate with human agencies, look on with astonishment and joy, that fallen men, once children of wrath, are through the training of Christ developing characters after the divine similitude, to be sons and daughters of God, to act an important part in the occupations and pleasures of heaven."—*"Testimonies to Ministers,"* page 18.

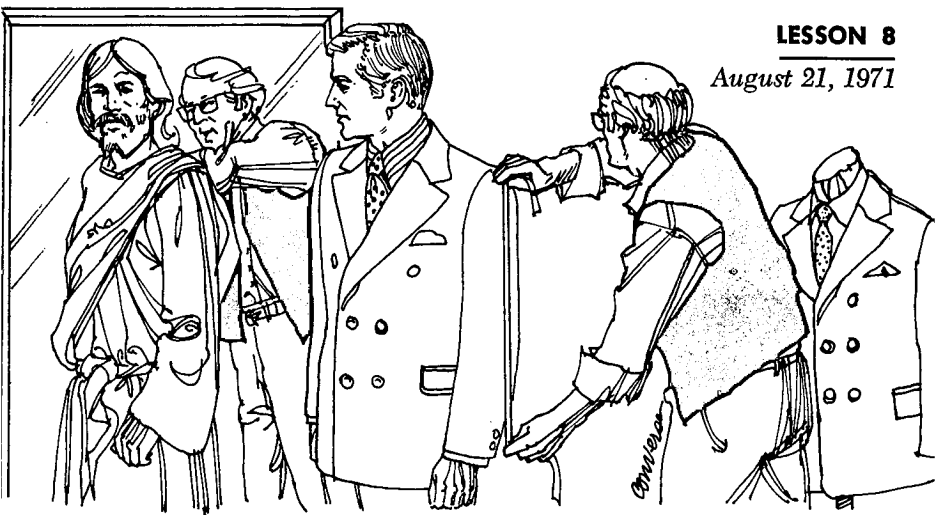
FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," pages 79-83 (1943 ed., pages 119-124).

Answers: (1) True; (2) through the Spirit's power; (3) dissolved, melt, fervent heat; (4) Christ Jesus; (5) False; (6) c.

(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

6. Those whom Christ transforms appear to Satan as: (a) easy prey; (b) untrained soldiers; (c) impregnable fortresses; (d) foolish people.
5. True or False: The chief goal of the church should be to gain more members.
4. "Let this mind be in you which was also in _____."
3. "The heavens shall be _____, and the elements shall _____ with _____."
2. How did Paul overcome physical deficiencies in his work to save souls?
1. True or False: It is possible to be one with Christ in somewhat the same sense as Christ is one with the Father.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER**



THE METHOD OF MISSIONS 8

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father." John 14:12.

In John 14, 15, and 16 we have what appears to be our Lord's longest sermon, given to a small group of disciples just before His betrayal and crucifixion. Several thoughts stand out in this conversational discourse to the eleven:

1. "The object of Christ's departure was the opposite of what the disciples feared. It did not mean a final separation. . . . While He was building mansions for them, they were to build characters after the divine similitude."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 663.

2. Repeatedly in these chapters, He assures them of the coming of the Comforter after His departure: John 14:16, 18, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 8, 13, 14.

3. He emphasizes the oneness and unity in Him (chapter 15), and He prays (chapter 17) that His disciples and all believers may be one, that they may be sanctified through the word which He had given them, and that they might be made perfect.

And then He tells them, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem" (Luke 24:49) for the power of witnessing. In this lesson we shall

endeavor to discover if the message, presentation, and methods of the disciples differed in any way from those of Christ.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Build My Church**
Matt. 16:18, 19
2. **Laying the Foundation**
Matt. 10:1, 5, 6; Luke 10:1
3. **Early Beginnings**
Acts 2:1, 4, 41, 47
4. **Outreach of the Church**
Acts 9:15; 10:45
5. **Paul Sent Forth**
Acts 13:2, 3
6. **Paul's Message and Methods**
1 Cor. 2:2; 9:16; Eph. 3:8;
2 Tim. 1:11

August 15

**Part 1
BUILD MY CHURCH**

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matt. 16:18, 19

We find the word "church" used only in two places in the four Gospels, here in Matthew 16, and then again in Matthew 18:17. In both instances Jesus is speaking. He says that He will "build" the church. Just what might that infer? Are we to understand that the church is going through a sort of evolution, or does it mean expanding, growing, in organization and methods as the needs indicate?

▷ **In the building of the church universal, what or who is the foundation? Eph. 2:19-22.**

▷ **What phases of spiritual work did Christ Himself emphasize? Luke 7:22; 20:1. Compare Isa. 61:1-3.**

"Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.' 1 Cor. 3:11. 'Upon this Rock,' said Jesus, 'I will build My church.' In the presence of God, and all the heavenly intelligences, in the presence of the unseen army of hell, Christ founded His church upon the living Rock. That Rock is Himself,—His own body, for us broken and bruised. Against the church built upon this foundation, the gates of hell shall not prevail."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 413.

THINK IT THROUGH

Arrange the following in two columns under the headings "Things Specified in the NT" and "Things Not Specified":

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Basic organization | Modes of travel |
| Methods of communication | Travel restrictions |
| Doctrines | Mode of baptism |
| Methods of presenting doctrines | Dialogue |
| Approach to non-Christians | Place of laymen in church |

"During His ministry, Jesus devoted more time to healing the sick than to preaching. . . .

"The Saviour made each work of healing an occasion for implanting divine principles in the mind and soul. . . . Christ might have occupied the

highest place among the teachers of the Jewish nation, but He preferred rather to take the gospel to the poor."—"The Ministry of Healing," pages 19, 20.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Ministry of Healing," pages 17-28.

August 16

Part 2
LAYING THE
FOUNDATION

"And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."

"These Twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Matt. 10:1, 5, 6;
Luke 10:1

"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before His face into every city and place, whither He Himself would come."

"When the Twelve were sent out on their first separate mission, other disciples accompanied Jesus in His journey through Galilee. Thus they had the privilege of intimate association with Him, and direct personal instruction. Now this larger number also were to go forth on a separate mission. . . . But the command to the Twelve, not to enter into any city of the Gentiles or of the Samaritans, was not given to the Seventy. . . . When the Seventy went forth in His name, they visited, first of all, the cities of Samaria."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 488.



What promise did Jesus make to His disciples regarding their work as His representatives after He would leave them? John 14:12.



What preparation did they need before they undertook their global mission? Mark 16:15; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4.

THINK IT THROUGH

Assuming that the Twelve Disciples, judged in the light of their later leadership in the church, were qualified and able men, how do you account for the restrictions placed on them when they were first sent out?

"The first disciples went forth preaching the word. . . . And the Lord worked with them, 'confirming the word with signs following.' Mark 16:20. These disciples prepared themselves for their work. Before the Day of Pentecost they met together, and put away all differences. They were of one accord. . . . They were weighted with the burden for the salvation of souls. The gospel

was to be carried to the uttermost parts of the earth, and they claimed the endowment of power that Christ had promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 827.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 823-828.

August 17

**Part 3
EARLY
BEGINNINGS**

"And when the Day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

"And the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Acts 2:1, 4, 41, 47 **"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."**

As a fulfillment of Joel 2:28, 29 we have the mighty thrust of a revival, the rapid growth of the early church, and a real fulfillment of Christ's own words in John 14:12.

From the record in Acts 2:8-11, would you suppose all the 3,000 converts of the Day of Pentecost to be local people?

Following this Pentecost experience and rapid expansion of the early church, we find a continual growth until soon there were "about five thousand men." Following this local growth, we find opposition, and then persecution.

▷ **What gave rise to the election of deacons recorded in Acts 6:1-7?**

▷ **What reasons can you give for the tide of persecution that came to the early church? Acts 8:1. Read "The Acts of the Apostles," chapter 2.**

It is most interesting to note that while persecution was taking place in Jerusalem, Philip (one of the new deacons) was conducting an evangelistic campaign in Samaria.

THINK IT THROUGH

Thinking back on the Day of Pentecost:

- 1. Had the apostles perfected any new organization?**
- 2. Did they employ any new methods?**
- 3. Under what circumstances did God choose to pour out His Spirit?**

"During the patriarchal age the influence of the Holy Spirit had often been revealed in a marked manner, but never in its fullness. Now, in obedience to the word of the Saviour, the disciples offered their supplications for this gift, and in heaven Christ added His intercession. He claimed the gift of the Spirit, that He might pour it upon His people."—"The Acts of the Apostles," page 37.

"The Holy Spirit did for them that

which they could not have accomplished for themselves in a lifetime. They could now proclaim the truths of the gospel abroad, speaking with accuracy the languages of those for whom they were laboring. . . . From this time forth the language of the disciples was pure, simple, and accurate, whether they spoke in their native tongue or in a foreign language."—"Ibid.," pp. 39, 40.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 35-46.

August 18

Part 4
OUTREACH OF THE
CHURCH

"But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel."

"And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 9:15; 10:45

The first twelve chapters of the book of Acts have sometimes been called the Petrine Section, and the remaining chapters the Pauline Section.

The conversion of Saul took place no doubt shortly after the stoning of Stephen. "Saul remembered with terror that Stephen . . . had been sacrificed by his consent."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 116. "Christ had performed the work of revelation and conviction; and now the penitent was in a condition to learn from those whom God had ordained to teach His truth."—*Ibid.*, p. 121.

In the instruction given to Ananias it is interesting to note that the Lord revealed what was to be Saul's work and mission before it was told or revealed to Saul.



What reason can you assign why the church in Antioch was the first to be called "Christians"? Acts 11:24-27. (See final note on this page.)

THINK IT THROUGH

How would you classify those responsible for the revival in the Antioch church, ministerial or lay members? Acts 11:20-27; 13:1.

"And he [Barnabas] went to Tarsus to seek for Paul, who, after his departure from Jerusalem some time before, had been laboring in 'the regions of Syria and Cilicia.' . . . Barnabas was successful in finding Paul and in persuading him to return with him as a companion in ministry. . . . And he proved just the help that Barnabas needed. For a year the two disciples labored unitedly in faithful ministry,

bringing to many a saving knowledge of Jesus of Nazareth, the world's Redeemer.

It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. The name was given to them because Christ was the main theme of their preaching, their teaching."—*The Acts of the Apostles*," pages 156, 157.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 155-165.

August 19

Part 5
PAUL SENT FORTH

Acts 13:2, 3

"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate Me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

Here at Antioch was a most active church, and this church became the springboard for the notable missionary tours of Paul and his companions.

No sooner were Saul and Barnabas ordained than they were sent out, not primarily to the Jews, but to the Gentiles. They had seen the results of Gentile evangelism in Antioch.

In the Pauline section of the Book of Acts we have mainly the missionary activity of Paul and his associates. We must never for a moment conclude that they were the only missionaries. All the disciples who lived long after Christ's ascension became missionaries.

In the brief span of ten or eleven years, Paul planted the gospel and established churches in Cyprus and at least four provinces: Galatia, Macedonia, Achaia, and Asia. As far as we know, the gospel had not penetrated into these provinces before Paul came, except perhaps in Asia. (See Acts 2:9-11.)



Do you think that Paul followed his own planning in his endeavor to penetrate these provinces with the gospel? Acts 16:6, 7.

Later on Paul did work in Asia, but never in Bithynia. Can we assign any reason for the difference? Some have surmised that Bithynia belonged in the assigned territory of another; may it not have been instead that Paul was needed more somewhere else?



In writing to the church in Rome, what did Paul say about his work in preaching? Rom. 15:19, 23.

THINK IT THROUGH

1. Who were some of Paul's companions on his missionary journeys?

2. Why did it take so many years after Pentecost before the first missionaries were sent forth? (If Paul and Barnabas were sent out about A.D. 48, then it could have been seventeen or eighteen years after Pentecost.)

3. Why didn't the Protestant missionary movement start until the close of the eighteenth century?

4. And why was it 1874 before the first Adventist missionary was sent overseas?

"For the fifty years preceding 1792, little attention was given to the work of foreign missions. No new societies were formed, and there were but few churches that made any effort for the spread of Christianity in heathen lands.

But toward the close of the eighteenth century a great change took place."—*"The Great Controversy,"* pages 287, 288.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: *"The Acts of the Apostles,"* pages 166-169.

**Part 6
PAUL'S MESSAGE
AND METHODS**

**1 Cor. 2:2; Eph.
3:8; 1 Cor. 9:16;
2 Tim. 1:11**

"For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."

"Unto me . . . is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

"Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles."

We do not think of the New Testament as a thesis, a church manual, or even a ministerial manual. However, we find that Paul's letters were written first to churches he himself had a part in establishing and second to fellow laborers and in one case a convert. From the human standpoint we would say that they were dealing with the problems that each faced as regards doctrine, organization, membership in the church, relationship one to another, apostasy and rebellion, and the future problems that he foresaw the church would face. But in a wider sense the Holy Spirit was speaking through him to Christians to the end of time.



**What gifts, or offices, did God bestow in the church?
1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11-13.**

"God established His instrumentalities among a people who recognize the laws of the divine government. . . . And He who gives mental capabilities, and who entrusts talents to the men and women who are His by creation and redemption, expects that these talents and capabilities will be increased by use."
—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 243.

THINK IT THROUGH

**1. To what extent, do you think, did Paul identify himself with the people for whom he was working?
1 Cor. 9:22.**

2. In the experience of Paul in Athens, what place does dialogue have? (See "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 235, 236.) What change in his work did Paul make after his experience in Athens? 1 Cor. 2:2.

"A Mightier than Satan had chosen Saul to take the place of the martyred Stephen, to preach and suffer for His name, and to spread far and wide the tidings of salvation through His blood."
—"The Acts of the Apostles," page 102.

"Paul in his journeys combined home and foreign missions. Now he is preach-

ing to the Jews in their own place of worship. Now he is preaching to the Gentiles, before their own temple and in the very presence of their gods."
—"Evangelism," page 554.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Evangelism," pages 42, 71, 141, 227, 230, 231, 246, 327, 328, 358, 369, 370.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER**

1. True or False: When Christ founded the New Testament church, He specified every detail of organization and method. _____
2. Complete: "But tarry ye in the city of _____ until ye be endued with _____ from on _____."
3. What effect did the Pentecost experience have on the language of the disciples ever after? _____
4. Saul's (Paul's) commission to be an "apostle to the Gentiles" was revealed (a) at the Damascus road conversion; (b) to Saul while he waited in blindness; (c) to Ananias when he was sent to Saul; (d) during Paul's three-year time in Arabia.
5. True or False: Paul always followed a carefully preplanned itinerary on his missionary journeys. _____
6. Complete: "I am _____ to all men, that I might by all _____ some."

(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

August 28, 1971



MISSIONS MISUNDERSTOOD 9

"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

As we trace the struggle between the forces of good and evil, from the inception of evil in heaven until its final eradication, we are aware of certain outstanding facts:

1. Satan is doing all in his power to win support.
2. Satan can and does employ methods that God will not use.
3. As we near the end of time, Satan works harder.
4. Satan will do and is doing all in his power to make men misunderstand God, His purposes, His kingdom, and His people.
5. If other methods fail, Satan will use fanaticism. He will tempt men to go to extremes. One extreme can be as bad as another. The Jews in Christ's day had gone to extremes in their religion.
6. God depends upon His church to represent Him.

In this lesson we shall study about how the mission God committed to man has been misunderstood through the ages. The question of loyalty to God and His law has caused trouble from the Fall until our

own time. The three angels' messages focus on this loyalty; therefore they arouse the greatest opposition of the ages. Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **First Human Family**
Heb. 11:4
2. **Noah and the Old Testament Prophets**
Heb. 11:7
3. **Christ's Mission Misunderstood**
Isa. 53:3
4. **The Apostles Martyred**
Matt. 24:9
5. **Remnant Church Persecuted**
Rev. 12:12
6. **Individual Persecution**
John 15:18; 17:14

August 22

Part 1
FIRST HUMAN
FAMILY
Heb. 11:4

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."



Was there anything wrong in Cain's vocation that led him into sin or caused his anger? Gen. 4:1-5.

Is there any element of ignorance on Cain's part?

On what basis would you question his motives? After all, he did offer; he brought what he had and no doubt brought some of the best. How did Cain know that God didn't accept his offering?



What influenced Cain to do what he did and to take such extreme measures? 1 John 3:12.

We have introduced this lesson with Abel because in a sense he and his brother Cain represent the human race as a whole. Sin had entered Eden. Our first parents had been excluded. The controversy between Christ and Satan had begun in the hearts of men. The world's first two boys are prototypes of all who have followed. There are the obedient and the disobedient.

"The murder of Abel was the first example of the enmity that God had declared would exist between the serpent and the seed of the woman—between Satan and his subjects and Christ and His followers."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 77.

"Abel grasped the great principles of redemption. He saw himself a sinner. . . . He brought the slain victim, the sacrificed life, thus acknowledging the claims of the law that had been transgressed. Through the shed blood he looked to the future sacrifice. . . . Cain had the same opportunity of learning and accepting these truths as had Abel."—*Ibid.*, p. 72.

THINK IT THROUGH

Would considerable time be a factor in helping a person decide for Christ? Would a good environment, such as Cain and Abel had, be finally decisive for me?

"Cain and Abel represent two classes that will exist in the world till the close of time. One class avail themselves of the appointed sacrifice for sin; the other venture to depend upon their own merits; theirs is a sacrifice without the vir-

ue of divine mediation, and thus it is not able to bring man into favor with God."—*"Patriarchs and Prophets,"* pages 72, 73.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: *"Patriarchs and Prophets,"* pages 71-79.

August 23

Part 2
NOAH AND THE
OLD TESTAMENT
PROPHETS
Heb. 11:7

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

Genesis devotes more than four chapters to the story of Noah. Gen. 5:28 to 9:29. In the New Testament God has enshrined Noah's name in His Hall of Fame (Heb. 11:7) with other shining examples of righteousness by faith.



What New Testament evidence can we cite for the historicity of Noah and the Flood? Matt. 24:37-39; Luke 3:36; 17:26, 27.

"Amid the prevailing corruption, Methuselah, Noah, and many others labored to keep alive the knowledge of the true God and to stay the tide of moral evil. . . . Enoch had repeated to his children what God had shown him in regard to the Flood, and Methuselah and his sons, who lived to hear the preaching of Noah, assisted in building the ark."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 92.

"Noah and his family were not alone in fearing and obeying God. But Noah was the most pious and holy of any upon the earth, and was the one whose life God preserved to carry out His will in building the ark and warning the world of their coming doom. Methuselah, the grandfather of Noah, lived until the very year of the Flood, and there were others who believed the preaching of Noah, and aided him in building the ark, who died before the Flood of waters came upon the earth."—*Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 3, p. 65.



What did Jesus accuse the Jews of having done to the prophets? Matt. 23:37.



How were the servants received in the parable of the householder? Matt. 21:35, 36. Compare Rom. 11:3.

It was God's Israel that "stoned, mocked, and rejected the prophets of God" who were sent to warn, to plead, and endeavor to save.

THINK IT THROUGH

What would we have done if we had been living in that day?

"The Pharisees built the tombs of the prophets, and adorned their sepulchers, and said one to another, If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have united with them in shedding the blood of God's servants.

. . . It should open our eyes to the power of Satan to deceive the mind that turns from the light of truth."
"The Desire of Ages," page 618.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 90-104.

August 24

Part 3
CHRIST'S MISSION
MISUNDERSTOOD
Isa. 53:3

"He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not."

"It was the rejection of the messages of the prophets that brought ruin upon Israel; it led to their refusal to accept their Messiah, and thus to their rejection as a nation."—*SDA Bible Dictionary*, page 882.



Does the above statement harmonize with Christ's rebuke to the people of His day? Matt. 23:29-33.



How did Christ identify the Jews of His day with the murders of the prophets? Matt. 23:31. Compare Luke 11:47-51.

"Build the tombs. The martyrs of one generation often become the heroes of the next. While the prophets were alive it was popular to throw stones at them; after they had been dead for a time it became popular to set up elaborate stone monuments to commemorate them. The Jews could not honor living prophets without accepting their messages, but it was a simple thing to honor dead prophets without doing so."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Matt. 23:29.



If Christ had come to the people outside of Israel, would He have been better received? John 1:10, 11.

Not only did the leaders of the Jewish nation misunderstand Jesus and the purpose of His mission, but also His own mother had some mistaken ideas (*The Desire of Ages*, page 147); His own brothers disbelieved in Him (John 7:5); His disciples misunderstood much of the purpose of His mission (*The Desire of Ages*, page 799), and the priests interpreted against Him the very words they should have received as evidence of His divinity (*The Desire of Ages*, page 212).

THINK IT THROUGH

Was the rejection of Christ by the Jews because of a lack of understanding of Old Testament prophecies regarding the time, manner, and circumstances of His coming?

"There was never one who walked among men more cruelly slandered than the Son of Man. He was derided and mocked because of His unswerving obedience to the principles of God's holy law. They hated Him without a

cause."—"Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," 1956 edition, page 32.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," pages 31-35 (1943 ed., pages 53-58).

August 25

Part 4
THE APOSTLES
MARTYRED
Matt. 24:9

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake."

These words of Jesus to His disciples warned them what they might expect to experience as His representatives:

- a. Intense hatred by the Gentile nations as well as by the Jews.
- b. Persecution and torture.
- c. Death.

And Christ indicates the reason for all this—"for My name's sake." In other words, it would be most unpopular to identify oneself with the cause of Christ.



What reason can you give for the martyrdom of Stephen? Acts 6:9-15.

"Priests and rulers were beside themselves with anger. Acting more like beasts of prey than human beings, they rushed upon Stephen, gnashing their teeth."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 100.

Remember this happened just over three years after the crucifixion of Christ. What would we have done?



What was the occasion for the martyrdom of James? Acts 12:1, 2.

Just why God permitted James to be beheaded, delivered Peter miraculously (Acts 12:6-11), and struck Herod down (verse 23), we do not know. This Herod (Agrippa I) was a grandson of Herod the Great and a nephew of Herod Antipas who had ordered the beheading of John the Baptist. He had a son by the same name—Herod (Agrippa II)—whom we meet in Acts 26 in the experience of Paul. Herod Agrippa I met his death around A.D. 44. See *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, pp. 63-69.

THINK IT THROUGH

What reasons can you give for the prejudice, persecution, and trials which the apostles endured?

"Paul attained to the full moral stature of a man in Christ Jesus. By what a process was his soul developed! His life was a continual scene of hardship, conflict, and toil. [2 Cor. 11:26, 27 quoted]."—Ellen G. White Comments, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 7, p. 903.

of the apostle Paul. He had many trials. . . . Far harder than ours was his lot. . . . But Paul allowed nothing to hinder him from his work."—Ellen G. White Comments, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 6, p. 1106.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 143-154.

"Gain courage from the experience

August 26

Part 5
REMNANT CHURCH
PERSECUTED
Rev. 12:12

"Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

"There was rejoicing in heaven, for the angels and the inhabitants of other worlds knew Satan was doomed by Christ's victory at Calvary.

"*Woe.* For the church there was further persecution, hence its members could not yet rejoice."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Rev. 12:12.

Satan was angry because of his defeat. His hostility to Christ continued in the form of intense persecution of Christ's followers. But now he is conscious of the shortage of time. Against whom is Satan especially directing his assaults? Rev. 12:17.

"Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 636.



What reasons can you give for identifying Seventh-day Adventists with the remnant church of Rev. 12:17?

"The commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus is the message we have to bear to the world."—*Selected Messages*, Bk. 2, p. 88.

"In this day, when we are bidden to call attention to the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, we see the same enmity as was manifested in the days of Christ."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 398.

THINK IT THROUGH

What in your thinking are the real reasons why this enmity is generated against the remnant church? Isn't the remnant church a fulfillment of prophecy? Why should the fourth commandment be such a point of controversy?

"As the message of Christ's first advent announced the kingdom of His grace, so the message of His second advent announces the kingdom of His glory. And the second message, like the first, is based on the prophecies."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 234.

"The warfare against God's law,

which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world."—*Ibid.*, page 763.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 582-586.

**Part 6
INDIVIDUAL
PERSECUTION**

John 15:18; 17:14

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you."

"I have given them Thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

Earlier in our lesson, we discovered that the chosen people of God at the time of Christ misunderstood and actually hated Christ to the point of murder. That hatred was activated mainly by the perfect life Christ lived. It was a continual rebuke, especially to the teachers and leaders of Israel.



In our day what adds to the hatred of the enemy of souls against the individual child of God? Rev. 12:12; 1 Peter 5:8.

We must ever keep in mind that the church is people, not some abstract organization or thing. Satan's attacks against the church will not be primarily to destroy the building as a whole, (Eph. 2:19-22), to demolish the entire structure. He will seek to loosen one stone here, to cause a crack there, perhaps to weaken the mortar that holds the stones together.

"In this last meeting with His disciples, the great desire which Christ expressed for them was that they might love one another as He had loved them. . . . The command to love one another had a new meaning in the light of His self-sacrifice. . . .

"This love, manifested in the church, will surely stir the wrath of Satan. Christ did not mark out for His disciples an easy path. [John 15:18 quoted.] . . . The gospel is to be carried forward by aggressive warfare, in the midst of opposition, peril, loss, and suffering. But those who do this work are only following in their Master's steps."—*The Desire of Ages*, pages 677, 678.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is it possible to be hated and yet respected for one's conscientious convictions?

"Ever since his fall, Satan has worked by means of deception. As he had misrepresented God, so, through his agents, he misrepresents the children of God."—"Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," page 31.

"Zechariah's vision of Joshua and the Angel [Zech. 3:1-5] applies with peculiar force to the experience of God's

people in the closing scenes of the great day of atonement. . . . Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts."—"Prophets and Kings," page 587.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 589-592.

Answers: (1) God still requires obedience; (2) he died the year of the Flood; (3) it was hypocrisy because they ignored the messages of the same prophets; (4) Stephen; (5) obedience or disobedience; (6) d.

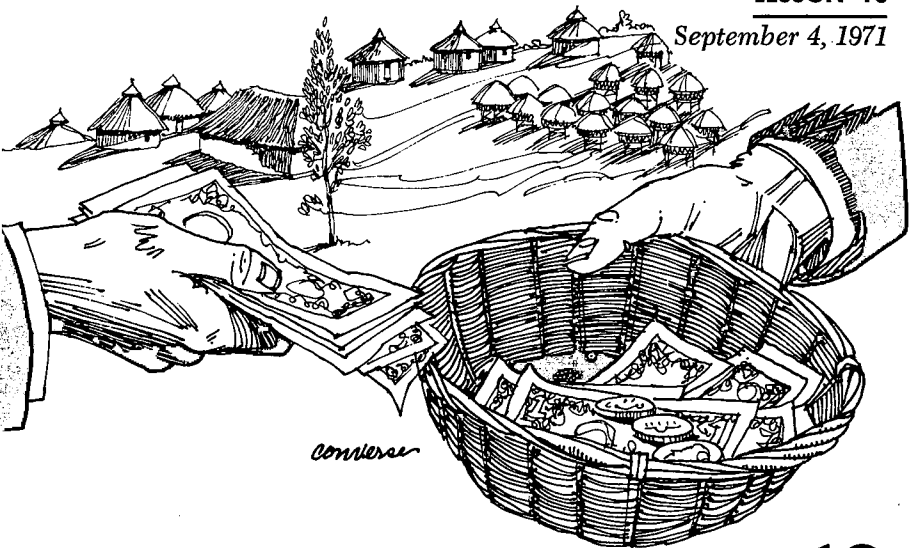
(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

- e. They are one worldwide church tied together in the bonds of love.
- d. They obey the commandments of God.
- c. They have a distinctive belief as regards the coming kingdom of glory.
- b. They believe in the second coming of Christ.
- a. They think only Adventists will be saved. (Check)
6. The remnant church members will be especially hated because:

5. What is the question to be decided by the whole world? _____
- John the Baptist, or Paul? _____
4. Which one of the following was the first Christian martyr—Stephen, James, _____
- old? _____
3. What was wrong with the Jews' building monuments to the prophets of _____
2. Why wasn't Methuselah saved in the ark with Noah? _____
1. What was wrong with Cain's offering? He brought what he had, didn't he? _____

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER**

September 4, 1971



MONEY AND MISSIONS 10

"Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." 1 Cor. 9:14.

LESSON OUTLINE

"All that we do is to be done willingly. We are to bring our offerings with joy and gratitude, saying as we present them, Of Thine own we freely give Thee. The most costly service we can render is but meager compared to the gift of God to our world. Christ is a gift every day. God gave Him to the world, and He graciously takes the gifts entrusted to His human agents for the advancement of His work in the world. Thus we show that we recognize and acknowledge that everything belongs to God, absolutely and entirely."—*Counsels on Stewardship*, page 198.

In this lesson we shall confine our study to the stewardship of the monetary means of the gospel, which God has so plentifully placed in the hands of His children.

1. **Stewardship in the Old Testament**
Ps. 24:1
2. **Stewardship as Lived and Taught by Christ**
2 Cor. 8:9
3. **Stewardship as Practiced in the Early Church**
1 Cor. 9:14
4. **Love for the Lost and Needy Inspires Sacrifice**
2 Cor. 5:14
5. **Mission Involves Stewardship**
Rom. 10:14, 15
6. **Rewards of Stewardship**
2 Cor. 9:7

**Part I
STEWARDSHIP
IN THE OLD
TESTAMENT
Ps. 24:1**

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

"Having sinned, man was sentenced to earn his livelihood by the sweat of his face (Gen. 3:17-19), and there was danger that he would come to say in his heart, 'My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth' (Deut. 8:17), whereas in reality it was God who had given him the power to get it (Deut. 8:18). . . . By paying tithe man acknowledges that he is a steward of God, the owner of all things. . . . Even prior to the entrance of sin the danger of forgetfulness was latent in man's character, and as a test God forbade man to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17), claiming it as His own."—*SDA Bible Dictionary*, pages 1102, 1103.



What is the earliest Biblical record of tithing, by whom, to whom, and for what purpose? Gen. 14:18-20.

"The tithing system reaches back beyond the days of Moses. Men were required to offer to God gifts for religious purposes, before the definite system was given to Moses, even as far back as the days of Adam. . . . This was continued through successive generations, and was carried out by Abraham, who gave tithes to Melchizedek, the priest of the most high God. The same principle existed in the days of Job."—Ellen G. White *Comments, SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, p. 1093.



What provision did God make for the support of the priesthood? Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:21.



Was the tithe all that God expected of Israel? Ps. 96:8, 9.



How did the last Old Testament prophet classify those who do not pay an honest tithe or give offerings? Mal. 3:8-10.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is tithe paying a matter of conscience? Is it a sacrifice?

"One of the greatest sins in the Christian world of today is dissembling and covetousness in dealing with God. . . .

"If all, both rich and poor, would bring their tithes into the storehouse, there would be a sufficient supply of

means to release the cause from financial embarrassment and to nobly carry forward the missionary work in its various departments."—"Testimonies," Vol. 4, pp. 475, 476.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 525-529.

August 30

**Part 2
STEWARDSHIP
AS LIVED AND
TAUGHT BY CHRIST
2 Cor. 8:9**

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."

Christ, the Son of God, became the Son of man, that we, born sons of men, might become the sons of God. 1 John 3:1, 2. We pause a moment to reflect on the motivation of Christ. He didn't have to come to this world. We poor mortals think so often in terms of "Do I have to do this?" "Am I required to do that?" et cetera. Someone says, "But there is no New Testament command to pay tithes!"

▷ **What did Christ say in regard to tithing? Matt. 23:23.**

Christ states clearly that while there were weightier matters, tithing ought not to be neglected.

"The rebuke of Christ to the Pharisees is applicable to those who have lost from the heart their first love. A cold, legal religion can never lead souls to Christ; for it is a loveless, Christless religion. When fastings and prayers are practiced in a self-justifying spirit, they are abominable to God. . . . These things call attention to the observer of rigorous duties, saying, This man is entitled to heaven. But it is all a deception. Works will not buy for us an entrance into heaven."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, p. 1098.

▷ **How did Christ tell one young man in His day to become involved in practical Christianity? Matt. 19:16-22.**

THINK IT THROUGH

If the rich young ruler had sold his possessions and distributed to the poor, either directly or through an organization, in what ways would he have been blessed? What about those who do not have possessions?

"God's plan in the tithing system is beautiful in its simplicity and equality. All may take hold of it in faith and courage, for it is divine in its origin. In it are combined simplicity and utility, and it does not require depth of learning to understand and execute it. All may feel that they can act a part in

carrying forward the precious work of salvation. Every man, woman, and youth may become a treasurer for the Lord, and may be an agent to meet the demands upon the treasury."—*"Counsels on Stewardship,"* page 73.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: *"Counsels on Stewardship,"* pages 101-103.

August 31

Part 3
STEWARDSHIP AS
PRACTICED BY
THE EARLY CHURCH
1 Cor. 9:14

"Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

The disciples were merely following the instruction given by Christ when He sent out the Twelve early in His ministry: "For the workman is worthy of his meat." Matt. 10:10. Luke has it, "The laborer is worthy of his hire." Luke 10:7. The Twelve were not to take along money, provisions, or extra clothing; they were to expect to be entertained by the people for whom they worked.

"The principle of tithe paying is also tacitly approved by the writer of the book of Hebrews (see ch. 7:8)."—*SDA Bible Dictionary*, page 1104.

In the epistles and letters of the New Testament, we find two types of references to finance in connection with the churches and/or ministry: first, the support of the ministry, and second, collections for the relief of the poor saints.

▷ **What reasoning does Paul use to justify not accepting support from the Corinthian church in either tithe or offerings? 1 Cor. 9:13-18.**

"As a gospel minister, it was Paul's privilege to claim a support from those for whom he labored. But though he became the servant of all, yet he worked with his hands to support himself, that none might find occasion to charge him with selfishness. He did not receive wages for his labor, though as a minister of the gospel this was his right. Thus he made it evident that he was working for souls, not for money."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, p. 1088.

▷ **How does Paul indicate that he had received support from churches other than the one at Corinth? 2 Cor. 11:8, 9.**

There is reason to believe that members of the church at Corinth were rather well-to-do. Perhaps Paul intended a slight rebuke, that they had been somewhat negligent in entertaining him. Evidently there were times when he had been in want.

THINK IT THROUGH

What was the economic experience of the early church in Jerusalem, as recorded in Acts 4:32-35? Why was it necessary for God to give them the lesson of Ananias and Sapphira?

"Not to the early church only, but to all future generations, this example [Ananias and Sapphira] of God's hatred of covetousness, fraud, and hypocrisy,

was given as a danger signal."—"The Acts of the Apostles," page 74.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 70-76.

Part 4
LOVE FOR THE
LOST AND NEEDY
INSPIRES SACRIFICE
2 Cor. 5:14

"For the love of Christ constraineth us."

It is not enough for us to realize that we "have this treasure in earthen vessels" (2 Cor. 4:7); we must have the motivating power that Christ had.



What actuated Christ in His entire earthly ministry?
John 3:16; 2:17.

"I am so thankful for the medical missionary work, carried in gospel lines. It is to be taught, it is to be carried forward; for it is the very work that Christ did when on this earth. He was the greatest Missionary the world ever saw."—*Medical Ministry*, page 15.



What was Paul's attitude toward his stewardship of the gospel? Rom. 1:14.

Paul refers in many places to his concern for the salvation of the lost:

1. In thinking of his own kinsmen, the Jews, he could wish that he himself were accursed, if by that means he might save some. Rom. 9:2, 3; 10:1.

2. To the Gentiles he speaks about magnifying his office as apostle if thus he might save some. Rom. 11:13, 14.

3. And again, he talks about being "all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." 1 Cor. 9:22. Giving of our means involves consecration and love for the cause, the object of our giving. Paul was pleading with the Corinthian members for a liberal offering for the saints in Jerusalem. And in so doing he "laid no command upon the Corinthian brethren. But he set before them the necessity of the church at Jerusalem, and showed what others had given who had fewer advantages and less ability than had the Corinthians. He presented the example of others, to induce them to give."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, p. 1103.

THINK IT THROUGH

How do I show my love for my Saviour?

"Those only live for Christ and honor His name who are true to their Master in seeking to save that which is lost. . . . If our hearts are softened and subdued by the grace of Christ, . . . there

will be a natural outflow of love, sympathy, and tenderness to others."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. 5, p. 606.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 341-345.

September 2

Part 5
MISSIONS INVOLVE
STEWARDSHIP

Rom. 10:14, 15

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

"If we indeed have the truth for these last days, it must be carried to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Erelong the living and the dead are to be judged according to the deeds done in the body, and the law of God is the standard by which they are to be tested. Then they must now be warned; God's holy law must be vindicated, and held up before them as a mirror. To accomplish this work, means is needed. I know that times are hard, money is not plenty; but the truth must be spread, and money to spread it must be placed in the treasury."—*Historical Sketches*, pages 291, 292.



How many of Christ's parables can you think of that involve value, money, costs, investments, and stewardship?

Examples are "Hidden Treasure" (Matt. 13:44) and "Pearl of Great Price" (Matt. 13:45, 46).

Earlier in this lesson we read in 2 Cor. 4:7 that we are stewards of the gospel, having "this treasure in earthen vessels."

Paul admonishes us to pray for the apostles (missionaries). 2 Thess. 3:1, 2.

Christ admonished His disciples to give freely because they had received freely. Matt. 10:8.

Paul indicated that there must be "first a willing mind" in giving. 2 Cor. 8:12.

THINK IT THROUGH

What responsibility does the sending church have toward the ones sent? 1 Cor. 9:7-14.

How many workers has your church given to the cause? How many were home missionaries and how many foreign missionaries?

Can churches in every country become sending churches, sooner or later?

"Is not the missionary work that is to be done in our world of sufficient importance to command our influence and support? Should we not deny ourselves of every extravagance, and put our gifts into the treasury of God, that the

truth may be sent into other countries, and that home missions may be sustained?"—"Christian Service," page 221.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 9, pp. 49-53.

Part 6
REWARDS OF
STEWARDSHIP
1 Cor. 3:9

"For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

Not all Christian communions are universal in their scope or vision, nor are they all evangelistic in outlook. The Adventist concept stems from the gospel commission of Matt. 28:18-20 and from the three angels' messages of Revelation 14. The angels of Revelation 14 are flying. This indicates the urgency of the message which is to go to the entire world. The same spirit that actuated Christ will possess the remnant church as they become "laborers together with God."

▷ **What reward may the missionary expect both here and hereafter? Mark 10:28-30.**

▷ **According to what standard does God reward us? Luke 6:38.**

God is lavish in the way He bestows His blessings on us. Is there reason to believe that He will not reward us in the same way? See 1 Tim. 6:17.

▷ **What principle did Paul lay down in his letter to the Corinthian church? 2 Cor. 9:6, 7.**

▷ **What contrast did Jesus draw between the gifts of the rich and that of the "poor widow"? Mark 12:42-44; Luke 21:2-4.**

"She did what she could, and her act was to be a monument to her memory through all time, and her joy in eternity. Her heart went with her gift; its value was estimated, not by the worth of the coin, but by the love to God and the interest in His work that had prompted the deed."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 615.

THINK IT THROUGH

How does my account stand in heaven's bank? If I'm not drawing any interest, or not enough, what might be the cause?

"God's people have a mighty work before them, a work that must continually rise to greater prominence. Our efforts in missionary lines must become far more extensive. A more decided work than has been done must be done prior to the second appearing of our

Lord Jesus Christ. God's people are not to cease their labors until they shall encircle the world."—"Testimonies," Vol. 6, pp. 23, 24.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 9, pp. 53-59.

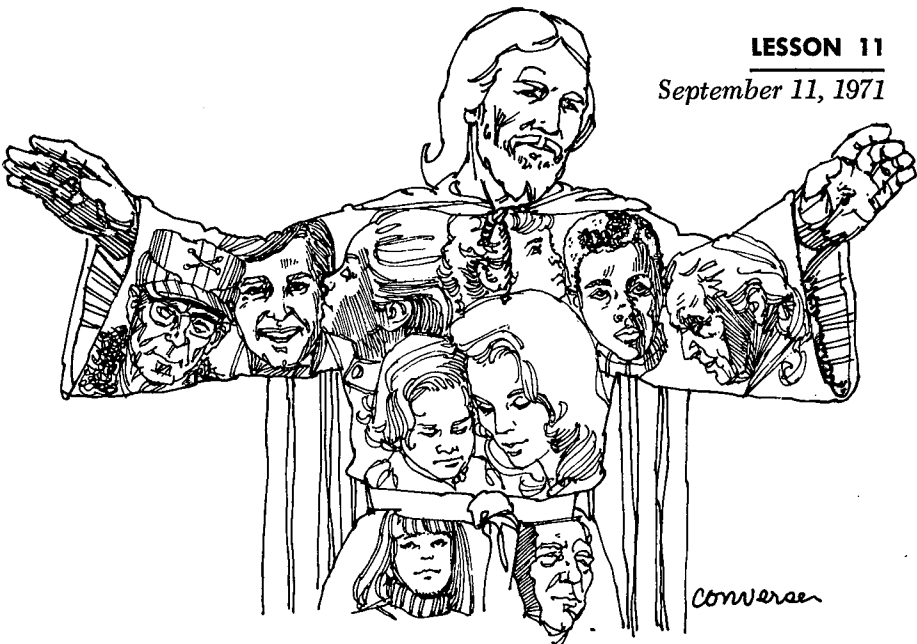
Answers: (1) if all would pay tithe; (2) definitely; (3) he himself; (4) False; (5) "The Pearl of Great Price," "The Talents," "The Rich Fool," etc.; (6) 100-fold in this time, eternal life, souls won, etc.

(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

-
-
-
-
6. Name as many rewards of Christian stewardship as you can think of.
-
5. Name some parables Christ gave relating to money and its use.
-
4. True or False: The natural reaction of one who has felt the subduing grace of Christ is an intense preoccupation with preparing himself for heaven.
3. In Corinth who supported Paul in his ministry as a missionary? _____
2. While the New Testament has no command about tithing, is the principle implied and endorsed? _____
1. What would ensure sufficient means to carry on all branches of the denomination's work? _____

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER**

September 11, 1971



THE MINISTRY OF MISSIONS 11

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9.

Peter wrote this to his generation. If you had your choice, when would you choose to live, then or now? Peter could think of his generation in the context of Pentecost, when "more were converted by one sermon on the day of Pentecost than were converted during all the years of Christ's ministry."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, p. 1055.

But let us rather think of "our" generation:

1. A chosen generation—to complete the work committed to the church.
2. A royal priesthood—with all, including the laity, sharing in the witness.
3. An holy nation—citizens of God's kingdom, pilgrims and strangers here.
4. A peculiar people—that is, a select or a special people, God's prized possession.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Church Compared to the Body**
1 Cor. 12:12-14
2. **Our Relationship to the Church and to Christ**
Mark 3:32-35
3. **The Purpose of Leadership**
Eph. 4:11-14
4. **Individual Responsibility**
Matt. 21:28
5. **Work of the Members**
Matt. 5:14
6. **The Reward to Individuals**
Mark 10:29, 30

Part I
CHURCH COMPARED
TO THE BODY

1 Cor. 12:12-14.

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many."

There can be no question from the context that Paul is talking about the church. In the first part of this twelfth chapter he enumerates the gifts which God has placed in the church. Then, after discussing the functioning of the spiritual body, he makes it most plain in verse 28 that he is talking about the church and the various talents which have been given to it. In verse 27, after comparing the church and its various functions to the human body, he specifically states, "Now, ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."



Who is the head of the body? Col. 1:18.

"Very close and sacred is the relation between Christ and His church—He the bridegroom, and the church the bride; He the head, and the church the body. Connection with Christ, then, involves connection with His church."—*Education*, page 268.

Now let us go back and call to mind some of the salient thoughts in 1 Corinthians 12:

1. Verse 12. One body, not one for each country.
2. Verse 13. Baptized into one body.
3. Verse 14 (also verse 20). Many members, various functions.
4. Verses 15-21. Appreciation and satisfaction for one's talents and place in the church.
5. Verses 22-24. Delicate, less honorable, uncomely, feeble parts given extra protection.
6. Verse 25. Purpose of various functions to prevent schism in the body.
7. Verse 25. Members protect (care) for one another.
8. Verse 26. If one member of the body suffers, all suffer.

THINK IT THROUGH

What would you say is the greatest single factor in keeping us together doctrinally as a church in all the world?

"The head of every man is Christ.' God, who put all things under the Saviour's feet, 'gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.' 1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 1:22, 23. The church is built upon Christ as its

foundation; it is to obey Christ as its head. It is not to depend upon man, or be controlled by man."—"The Desire of Ages," page 414.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 317, 318.

September 6

Part 2
OUR RELATIONSHIP
TO THE CHURCH
AND TO CHRIST

Mark 3:32-35

“And the multitude sat about Him, and they said unto Him, Behold, Thy mother and Thy brethren without seek for Thee. And He answered them, saying, Who is My mother, or My brethren? And He looked round about on them which sat about Him, and said, Behold My mother and My brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is My brother, and My sister, and My mother.”

“Woman. In OT figure the true church is at times represented by a woman (Isa. 54:5, 6; Jer. 6:2). When the church apostatized it was compared with a corrupt woman (Jer. 3:20; Eze. 23:2-4). The same figures appear in the NT (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 17:1-3). In Rev. 12 the woman represents the true church.”—SDA Bible Commentary on Rev. 12:1.

“The people of God, symbolized by a holy woman and her children, were represented as greatly in the minority. In the last days only a remnant still existed. Of these John speaks as they ‘which keep the commandments of God, and have the Testimony of Jesus Christ.’—Ellen G. White Comments, SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 972.



What symbol or relationship does Paul use to illustrate the relationship of Christ and the church? 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-25.

“God is the husband of His church. The church is the bride, the Lamb’s wife. Every true believer is a part of the body of Christ. . . . We are to remember that we are members of Christ’s body.”—Ellen G. White Comments, SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, pp. 985, 986.

When we are born into God’s family, God accepts us as His sons and daughters. And by the same token, the church elected to accept you and me as members of His remnant church.



Does the majority of a local church have the power and the right to disfellowship a member? Matt. 18:17, 18.



Where may we expect to find the presence of Christ and spiritual communion with Him? Rev. 1:13, 20.

THINK IT THROUGH

Does the individual church have the right to set standards for admitting and disfellowshipping members?

“All who would receive Christ by faith were united to Him by a tie closer than that of human kinship. They would become one with Him, as He was one with the Father. As a believer and doer of His words, His mother was more nearly and savingly related to Him than through her natural relationship.

His brothers would receive no benefit from their connection with Him unless they accepted Him as their personal Saviour.”—“The Desire of Ages,” page 325.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: “The Great Controversy,” pages 381, 382.

Part 3
THE PURPOSE
OF LEADERSHIP

Eph. 4:11-14

"And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."



Lest some might misunderstand, where did Paul say in his letter to the Corinthians that these gifts of leadership were placed? 1 Cor. 12:28.

According to the above verses, the purpose of the church can be summarized thus:

1. To train and organize and direct the members in their work of ministry.
2. To perfect the saints spiritually as the church.
3. To bring the church into unity.
4. To establish the members doctrinally in Bible truth.

"The church was intended to take up, and fulfill, the work that Israel failed to do—that of representing God's character to the world (see Mat 28:19; Rom 2:28, 29; Gal 3:28, 29; Eph 2:8-22; 1 Pe 2:5-10), and of preparing itself for the return of its Lord (1 Cor 1:7, 8; 2 Pe 3:14; Rev 14:5; etc.)."—*SDA Bible Dictionary*, page 210.



What did Peter say the church, as the people of God, was to be? 1 Peter 2:9.

THINK IT THROUGH

What are the leaders of my church doing to train, organize, and direct me in my ministry for Christ? Am I willing to do my part?

"In sending forth His ministers our Saviour gave gifts unto men, for through them He communicates to the world the words of eternal life. This is the means which God has ordained for the perfecting of the saints in knowledge and true holiness. . . .

"All who have been benefited by the

labors of God's servant should, according to their ability, unite with him in working for the salvation of souls. This is the work of all true believers, ministers and people."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, pp. 237, 238.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 8, p. 169-171.

September 8

Part 4
INDIVIDUAL
RESPONSIBILITY
Matt. 21:28

"But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard."

The chief priests and elders confront Christ with a question, "By what authority doest Thou these things?" In reply, He asks them a question about John's baptism, which really puts His hearers on the horns of a dilemma. And then He tells them two parables, each of which ends in a question.

The first of these parables is that of a man with two sons, both of whom were told to "go work today in my vineyard." This parable is told only in the Gospel of Matthew, which was written mainly for the Jews.

"The priests and rulers could not but give a correct answer to Christ's question, and thus He obtained their opinion in favor of the first son. This son represented the publicans, those who were despised and hated by the Pharisees. . . .

"The second son represented the leading men of the Jewish nation. Some of the Pharisees had repented and received the baptism of John; but the leaders would not acknowledge that he came from God."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 595.

"The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. . . . The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 9.

THINK IT THROUGH

If the church of God is advancing as a mighty army, does it need organization? What is my part? Commissioned officer, noncommissioned officer, or private?

"All are to show their fidelity to God by the wise use of His entrusted capital, not in means alone, but in any endowment that will tend to the up-building of His kingdom. . . . God never designed that the lay members of the church should be excused from labor in

His cause. 'Go labor in My vineyard,' is the Master's command to each of His followers."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 462.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Testimonies to Ministers," pages 183, 184.

Part 5
WORK OF THE
MEMBERS
Matt. 5:14

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

"At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 415.

"Saul . . . was placed in direct communication with the church which is the light of the world. In this case Ananias represents Christ, and also represents Christ's ministers."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 122.

"The Jews thought to confine the benefits of salvation to their own nation. . . . Salvation is like the sunshine. It belongs to the whole world."—*The Desire of Ages*, pages 306, 307.

"The followers of Christ are to go forth on their mission, diffusing the light of heaven upon those who are in the darkness of error and sin."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, page 39.

In the parable of the sower, Christ is represented as sowing the good seed. Matt. 13:37. "The good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one." Verse 38.

"Christ's servants are grieved as they see true and false believers mingled in the church. They long to do something to cleanse the church. Like the servants of the householder, they are ready to uproot the tares. But Christ says to them, 'Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest.'"—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 71.

No one will deny that the church itself is, in a sense, a mission field. When Jesus sent forth the Twelve, He sent them "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Matt. 10:6. Should the larger mission outreach be delayed until the church is purged? Should some members be delegated to home missions while others go to lands afar? Do you think that modern methods of travel and communication have some part in God's plan for the timing of His worldwide message?



What were Christ's last words to His disciples just before His ascension? Acts 1:8 Compare Luke 24:47, 48.

THINK IT THROUGH

Does a witness have to be forced before he will testify?

"God desires that the receivers of His grace shall be witnesses to its power. Those whose course has been most offensive to Him He freely accepts; when they repent, He imparts to them His divine Spirit, places them in the highest positions of trust, and sends

them forth into the camp of the disloyal to proclaim His boundless mercy."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 826.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "*Christ's Object Lessons*," pages 37-43 (1923 ed., pages 31-37).

September 10

Part 6
THE REWARD TO
INDIVIDUALS

"And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

Mark 10:29, 30

We have this same thought expressed in Matthew 19:29 and in Luke 18:29, 30, but Mark remains the most detailed and inclusive.

What we have brought to mind in all three references are the results to the individual of forsaking the world for the things of God.

"But Peter's question, 'What shall we have therefore?' [Matt. 19:27] had revealed a spirit that uncorrected would unfit the disciples to be messengers for Christ; for it was the spirit of a hireling. . . . Lest the disciples should lose sight of the principles of the gospel, Christ related to them a parable illustrating the manner in which God deals with His servants, and the spirit in which He desires them to labor for Him. . . . Not the amount of labor performed or its visible results but the spirit in which the work is done makes it of value with God."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pages 396, 397.

Is there joy and pleasure in merely sowing the gospel seed? Need we worry about the harvest? Are we guaranteed a harvest?

"While the great final reward is given at Christ's coming, truehearted service for God brings a reward, even in this life. . . . He may not see the fruit of his toil. But in face of all this he finds in his labor a blessed recompence."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, pp. 305, 306.



In addition to the joys and pleasures of cooperating with God here and now, what can the worker for God look forward to? 1 Thess. 2:19, 20. Compare Matt. 25:21, 23.

Paul refers here to his converts won and souls saved as his real joy at the coming of Christ.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do you think it is wrong to work for a reward? See Heb. 11:26.

Is it enough just to warn people? Or is something more involved in winning souls?

"By living a life of devotion and self-sacrifice in doing good to others, you might have been adding stars and gems to the crown that you will wear in heaven, and laying up unfading, eternal treasures."—Ellen G. White Com-

ments, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 4, p. 1174.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 395-399 (1923 ed., pages 402-406).

Part 7 ◇ SUMMARY QUESTIONS ◇ A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER

1. The most important factor in the church organization is (a) the General Conference president, (b) the elected delegates to the General Conference, (c) the authority of each local church board, (d) recognizing that Christ is the Head of the church.

2. What symbol in Scripture represents the true church? _____
_____ The apostate church? _____

3. The church was intended to take up . . . the work . . . of _____
God's _____ to the world, and of _____ itself
for the _____ of its Lord.

4. How does the parable of the two sons apply today? _____

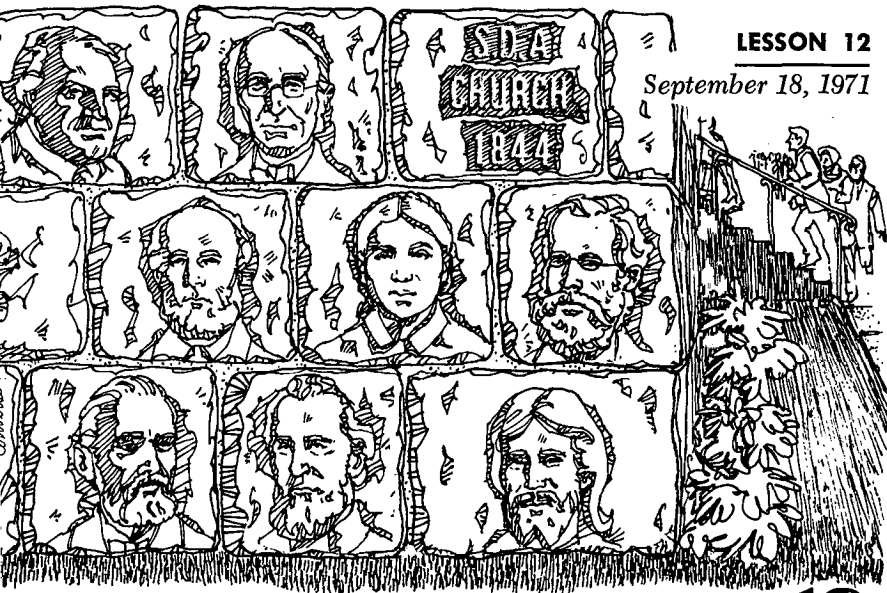
5. True or False: The most important work for the local congregation is to clean up its own membership before it tries to evangelize the neighborhood.

6. Did Moses, or did he not, work for a reward? _____

(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

Answers: (1) d; (2) a pure woman, a corrupt woman; (3) representing, character, preparing, return; (4) "God never designed that the lay members of the church should be excused from labor." (5) False; (6) Yes.

September 18, 1971



THE MEN OF MISSIONS 12

**"As thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I sent them into the world."
John 17:18.**

The only instance in which John uses the Greek word for "apostle" ("one sent," "messenger") is in John 13:16, where it is translated, "he that is sent," and where it refers to the Twelve and indirectly to any of Christ's messengers. In John 17:18 the Greek word translated "sent" is the verb form of the same word. It might be translated, "Even so have I *apostled* them into the world," which would preserve the flavor of the original.

As we in our day reflect on the gospel commission, we should do so with two profound convictions clearly in mind—that we are members of God's remnant church, and that God has commissioned us to proclaim His last saving message to the world. For nearly half a century the Protestant world has been rethinking foreign missions. Such phrases as "missions in crisis," "rethinking missions," "missions in a time of testing," and "redefining missions" have appeared again and again. It is a simple fact that the churches have been losing their vision

of missions. What about your church and mine?

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **The Church as a Temple**
Eph. 2:19-22
2. **Christ's Zeal for His Temple**
John 2:17
3. **Early Church Soon Loses Its Vision**
Rom. 1:14
4. **Dawn of Protestant Missions**
Rev. 12:16
5. **Adventist Mission Impulse**
Rev. 14:6-10
6. **One Church in All the World**
Eph. 4:4-6

Part 1
GOD'S CHURCH
AS A TEMPLE

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Eph. 2:19-22

Think on these things:

1. The church is the household of God. 1 Tim. 3:15.
2. Prophets and apostles laid the foundation.
3. Christ is the Chief Cornerstone that "holds together the various parts of the spiritual house, giving shape and unity to it."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Eph. 2:20.

"In the quarry of the Jewish and the Gentile world the apostles labored, bringing out stones to lay upon the foundation. In his letter to the believers at Ephesus, Paul said [Eph. 2:19-22 quoted]. And to the Corinthians he wrote: [1 Cor. 3:10-13 quoted]. The apostles built upon a sure foundation, even the Rock of Ages. To this foundation they brought the stones they had quarried from the world. Not without hindrance did the builders labor. Their work was made exceedingly difficult by the opposition of the enemies of Christ."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 596.

Notice Peter's description of the same spiritual building. 1 Peter 2:5-8. How many similarities do you find here to what Paul wrote to the Ephesians? If every Christian becomes in a sense a priest, must he have an offering? Heb. 8:3. Compare Rev. 20:6.

This figure of speech by which individual church members are thought of as being parts of a building occurs also in Ps. 144:12, where sons are spoken of as plants and daughters as cornerstones.

THINK IT THROUGH

What kind of stone am I in the temple of the Lord?

"How amazed is Heaven at the present condition of the church that could be so much to the world if every stone were in its proper place, a living stone to emit light! A stone that does not shine is worthless. That which constitutes the value of our churches is not dead, lusterless stones, but living stones, stones that catch the bright beams from the Chief Cornerstone, even

the Sun of Righteousness—the bright glory in which are combined the beams of mercy and truth that have met together, of righteousness and peace that have kissed each other." Ellen G. White, *Comments*, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 6, p. 1116.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 595-599.

September 13

Part 2
CHRIST'S ZEAL
FOR HIS TEMPLE
John 2:17

"And His disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of Thine house hath eaten Me up."

This is not the first time that Jesus entered the temple. Thirty years earlier He had been brought here as a babe, to be presented as a firstborn son. Luke 2:22-24. At the age of twelve He had accompanied His parents to the Passover Feast, at which time we have His first recorded words: "Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" Luke 2:49.

"As His mission had opened to Jesus in the temple, He shrank from contact with the multitude. He wished to return from Jerusalem in quietness, with those who knew the secret of His life. . . . As Joseph and Mary should return from Jerusalem alone with Jesus, He hoped to direct their minds to the prophecies of the suffering Saviour."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 82.



He came to save a lost world. But was the work of salvation completed when He ended His mission here on earth? John 17:4, 18.

"As Christ is the channel for the revelation of the Father, so we are to be the channel for the revelation of Christ. . . . The church of Christ, every individual disciple of the Master, is Heaven's appointed channel for the revelation of God to man. Angels of glory wait to communicate through you Heaven's light and power to souls that are ready to perish."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, page 40.



When and under what circumstances was the gospel commission given? Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8.

"Before ascending to heaven, Christ gave His disciples their commission."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 27.

"When the disciples asked Him, 'Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?' He answered, 'It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power.' . . . It was not necessary for them to see farther into the future than the revelations He had made enabled them to see. Their work was to proclaim the gospel message."—*Ibid.*, p. 30.

THINK IT THROUGH

Did the disciples find it easier to assist in feeding the five thousand than they did to preach and witness about Christ? Which was more popular?

"To every child of God whose voice the enemy of souls had succeeded in silencing, the question is addressed, 'What doest thou here?' I commissioned you to go into all the world and preach the gospel, to prepare a people for the

day of God. Why are you here? Who sent you?"—"Prophets and Kings," page 172.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 75-82.

September 14

Part 3
EARLY CHURCH
SOON LOSES
ITS VISION
Rom. 1:14

"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise."

"Read also Rev. 2:4.

"The angel that appeared to Ananias had said of Paul, 'He is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.' Acts 9:15."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 159.

Paul caught the vision and accepted the call. Later, leaders of the church in Antioch (Acts 13:2) were directed by the Holy Spirit to ordain Paul and Barnabas for the work to which they had been called.

According to the *SDA Bible Dictionary*, the word "barbarian" was used of "peoples who did not speak Greek, without reference as to whether they were civilized or not," or of "the unintelligible speech of a foreigner."



To what extent do you think that Paul and the other disciples became involved in social and political issues of the day? See Acts 17:6; 1 Cor. 1:17, 18, 21, 23, 24; Eph. 6:19, 20.



When did the early church lose its first love, its incentive, its vision? Rev. 2:4.

"In John's day Ephesus was the leading city of the Roman province of Asia, and later was its capital. . . . Christianity appears to have been preached there first about A.D. 52, by Paul, when he stopped for a short time while homeward bound to Jerusalem and Antioch from his Second Missionary Journey. His friends Aquila and Priscilla settled there at that time and . . . fostered the work of evangelization until Paul's return. . . . This time the apostle remained at Ephesus for about three years. . . .

"Tradition indicates that John . . . became the leader of this church. . . . Thus, at the time the Revelation was written, Ephesus must have been one of the leading centers of Christianity. Consequently it was fitting that Christ's first message by John should have been addressed to this church."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Rev. 2:1.

THINK IT THROUGH

For how long a period of prophetic history did the true church go underground? Rev. 12:6, 13. What happened to missions during this period?

"The missionary activity of the early Christian church has not been duplicated until modern times. It had virtually died out by the year 1000, and was succeeded by the military campaigns of the Crusades. The Refor-

mation era saw little foreign mission work, except on the part of the early Jesuits."—"The Great Controversy," Appendix, page 690.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 284-288.

September 15

Part 4
THE DAWN OF
PROTESTANT
MISSIONS
Rev. 12:16

"And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth."

"The woman" here represents the true church at the time of the Protestant Reformation. After centuries of persecution, relief came to her a little while before "the remnant of her seed" appeared on the stage of action (verse 17) toward the close of time.



Which prophetic period especially speaks of oppression of the church? Dan. 7:25; Rev. 12:14; 13:5-7.



Why did the Protestant churches not awaken to their responsibility in foreign missions before the end of the eighteenth century?

"The Reformers evidenced no concern for overseas missions to non-Christians. Indeed, three centuries elapsed before Protestantism at large even began such outreach. Why?"—W. R. Hogg, *The Theology of the Christian Mission*, page 95.

"One searches in vain in the works of Martin Luther for any exposition of Matthew 28:19, 20 or Mark 16:15 that would hint at the church's responsibility to move beyond Christendom. . . . Examination of Zwingli, Bucer, John Knox, and Melancthon produces the same negative report."—*Ibid.*, page 98.

During the three centuries that followed the Protestant Reformation, a number of independent churches arose in Europe and spread to other lands. During these three centuries a few Protestant groups conducted missionary endeavors, notably the Moravians and certain Pietistic groups. The first mission societies were organized by volunteer groups, people interested in foreign missions, and some of them were nondenominational. None of the churches, as churches, took an interest in missions.

THINK IT THROUGH

What led to the rapid spread of missions once the program got started?

"For the fifty years preceding 1792, little attention was given to the work of foreign missions. . . . Few churches . . . made any effort for the spread of Christianity in heathen lands. But toward the close of the eighteenth century a great change took place. Men became dissatisfied with the results of rationalism and realized the necessity of divine revelation and experimental religion. From this time the work of foreign missions attained an unprecedented growth.

"The improvements in printing have given an impetus to the work of circulating the Bible. The increased facilities for communication between different countries, the breaking down of ancient barriers of prejudice and national exclusiveness, . . . have opened the way for the entrance of the Word of God."—"The Great Controversy," pages 287, 288.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," Appendix, pages 689, 690.

September 16

Part 5
THE ADVENTIST
MISSION IMPULSE

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb."

Rev. 14:6-10

"At times during the early days of the message, Seventh-day Adventists caught glimpses of a broadening work that would eventually embrace many nationalities. Not until the early 70's, however, did the leaders in the advent movement begin to comprehend that theirs was a mission to the whole world. Even as late as in 1872, the scripture, 'This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come,' was regarded simply as a 'prominent sign of the last day,' meeting fulfillment in the extension of Protestant missions. . . . But in 1873 a marked change of sentiment began to appear in the utterances of leaders among Seventh-day Adventists regarding their duty to warn the world."—*Life Sketches*, footnote, page 203.



What providential leading of the Spirit of God did Paul have on his missionary journeys? Acts 16:6, 9.

At one time the Spirit of God restrained Paul from entering a certain country and guided him to Macedonia instead. In our time the Holy Spirit led the Advent people to establish foreign missions.

THINK IT THROUGH

The Lord used Christians of other faiths and other nationalities to lay the foundation for a strong foreign mission work when the time came for the third angel's message to be given to the world.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Life Sketches," pages 203-207.

September 17

Part 6
ONE CHURCH IN
ALL THE WORLD
Eph. 4:4-6

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

"There is a sevenfold repetition of the word 'one' in ch. 4:4-6. Unity is the apostle's theme in these verses. There are many members, but one body. . . . The Christian is not a solitary pilgrim; he belongs to a vital organism, the family of God."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Eph. 4:4.

Seventh-day Adventists around the world constitute one great family, and to this fellowship they invite all who love the Lord Jesus, who desire to order their lives in harmony with His purpose for them, and who look for His promised return. This invitation to all men everywhere will culminate in the call of the mighty angel of Rev. 18:1-4, summoning those who choose to obey God rather than to follow human traditions to unite with God's remnant people.

"When the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd's voice. . . . And many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the Great Shepherd."—*Christian Service*, page 166.

THINK IT THROUGH

If you were sent out to pioneer mission work in a new country, how would you begin? Would you start (a) an English class, (b) a school, (c) medical work, (d) an evangelistic campaign, (e) a publishing house, (f) literature distribution?

"The object of this Conference is to teach all nations the everlasting gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and the commandments of God."—"Seventh-day Adventist Year Book," 1970, page 7.

"The particular business and objects for which this corporation is formed are for the purpose of diffusing moral and religious knowledge throughout the entire world by means of churches, organizations, publishing houses, medical or health institutions, educational institutions, publications, missionary agencies, and all other instrumentalities and methods appropriate and available for

and tending to the advancement of such ends and aims."—"General Conference Working Policy," page 64.

"Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Rev. 14:6-12, the church [apostate] will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work."—"The Great Controversy," page 390.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 603-612.

Part 7 ◇ SUMMARY QUESTIONS ◇ A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER

1. "The church . . . could be so much to the world if every stone were in its _____, a living stone to emit _____! A stone that does not _____ is _____."
2. The church is Heaven's appointed channel for (a) improving social conditions; (b) revealing mysterious doctrines; (c) the revelation of God to man; (d) condemning sin.
3. Why did the early church lose its "first love and zeal, and what would you say were contributing causes? _____

4. True or False: Luther and the other great Reformers failed to sense the importance of missionary outreach. _____
5. When did the Seventh-day Adventist leaders become aware of our duty to warn the world? _____
6. "When the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, . . . many who have _____ from the _____ will come back and _____ the Great Shepherd."

(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

Answers: (1) proper place, light, shine, worthless; (2) c; (3) the church gradually became popular and involved with the state, which eventually enforced Christianity; (4) False; (5) 1873; (6) strayed, fold, follow.

September 25, 1971



THE MIRACLE OF MISSIONS 13

"For He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth." Rom. 9:28.

The task of evangelizing the world with the everlasting gospel, the "good news of the ages," will be complete before Christ returns to our world. He who has all power in heaven and earth, He who has every resource at His disposal, has decreed it so. Men fail because they neglect to take all factors into account, or because their resources are limited, or because they do not possess the determination that is required. But there can be no failure in God's great program of missions when we take into account His omniscience, His power, and His sovereign will to "finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness."

The story of the growth and development of Christian missions is thrilling. The miracles of divine grace on the hearts and in the lives of men in lands near and far inspire us all. But do we want this adventure to continue indefinitely? Will the end never come? We close this quarter's series of lessons with a consideration of "The Miracle of Missions," with the church of God triumphant on the sea of glass in the kingdom of glory.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **The Miracle of Power**
Rom. 1:16
2. **The Miracle of Transformed Lives**
Eph. 2:1, 2
3. **The Miracle of a Harvest**
Acts 6:7; 12:24; 19:20
4. **The Miracle of One World Church**
John 10:16
5. **The Miracle of a Completed Task**
Matt. 24:14
6. **The Miracle of the Church Triumphant**
Rev. 7:9

September 19

Part 1
THE MIRACLE
OF POWER
Rom. 1:16

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

The word translated into English as "power" is the same one from which our word "dynamite" is derived. The gospel is the dynamic power of God to save men. It is the good news about God and His infinite purpose.



What is the gospel to those who find salvation through it? 1 Cor. 1:18.

"Power of God. The gospel is the way in which God exerts His power for the salvation of men. Wherever the gospel finds believing hearts it is a divine power by which all the obstacles to man's redemption are removed."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Rom. 1:16.

"There is a great work to be done. The world will not be converted by the gift of tongues, or by the working of miracles, but by preaching Christ crucified. The Holy Spirit must be allowed to work."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, page 424.



What did Christ say would give His disciples power to witness and carry out His commission to go into all the world? Acts 1:8.

"It is the unction of the Holy Spirit and the testimony of the living witness that is to warn the world. The worker for God is the agent through which the heavenly communication is given, and the Holy Spirit gives divine authority to the word of truth."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, p. 1053.

THINK IT THROUGH

To what extent is our salvation the concern of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

Why did Christ entrust the proclamation of the gospel to finite, erring men?

"I saw that God could send means from heaven to carry on His work; but this is out of His order. He has ordained that men should be His instruments, that as a great sacrifice was made to redeem them, they should act a part in this work of salvation, by making a sacri-

fice for each other, and by thus doing show how highly they prize the sacrifice that has been made for them."—*"Spiritual Gifts,"* Vol. 2, p. 245.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Testimonies to Ministers," pages 423-425.

September 20

Part 2
THE MIRACLE OF
TRANSFORMED
LIVES
Eph. 2:1, 2

"And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

"Quick, Quicken. Old English words appearing in the KJV with the meaning 'alive' and 'to make alive' (Num. 16:30; Ps. 55:15; 71:20; Acts 10:42; Rom. 4:17; etc.)"—*SDA Bible Dictionary*, page 897.

This epistle was addressed to the Ephesian church, to which the apostle John wrote a generation later that they had left their first love. Rev. 2:4.



After reminding the Ephesians that they had been "made alive" by the love and grace of God, how did Paul describe their present state? Eph. 2:4-6. What had made the transformation in their lives? Eph. 1:13.

Men, physically dead, cannot restore themselves to life. Nor can men who are spiritually dead. The power to impart life must come from outside themselves.

"Miracles can be wrought through the Word; for it is profitable for all things."—*Evangelism*, page 489.



In writing to the Corinthians, what picture did Paul paint of men before and after this transforming experience? 1 Cor. 6:9-11.

Paul reminds the Corinthians, persons whom he says are "called to be saints" (1 Cor. 1:2), of their notorious past. But he indicates that God's gift of justification and His promise of sanctification had given them a wholly new outlook. See 2 Cor. 5:17-20; 6:1 for the responsibility resting on one who has experienced transformation through Christ.

THINK IT THROUGH

What new relationship does the Christian sustain to God after conversion? 1 John 3:1, 2; John 1:12.

"Through the power of Christ, men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. They have renounced selfishness. The profane have become reverent, the drunken sober, the profligate pure. Souls that have borne the likeness of Satan have become transformed into the image of God. This change is in itself the miracle of miracles. A change

wrought by the Word, it is one of the deepest mysteries of the Word. We cannot understand it; we can only believe, as declared by the Scriptures, it is 'Christ in you, the hope of glory.'"—*"The Acts of the Apostles,"* page 476.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Acts of the Apostles," pages 469-484.

September 21

Part 3
THE MIRACLE OF
A HARVEST
Acts 6:7; 12:24;
19:20

"And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."

"But the word of God grew and multiplied."

"So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed."

How inadequate meager human resources must have seemed to Noah when God called him to warn and save the world of his day; or to Abraham, when God promised that his seed would become as sand upon the seashore; or to Israel, a slave nation, when God called them out of Egypt; or to Gideon, when his army was reduced to 300 men; or to the eleven apostles, to whom Christ committed a world task; or to the pioneers of the remnant church, when God entrusted them with a threefold message for the world.

What facilities do we have in our day that Paul and the other apostles did not have, or that the pioneers of the message did not have one hundred years ago? Are we making the best possible use of all of these facilities?

"God does not generally work miracles to advance His truth. If the husbandman neglects to cultivate the soil, God works no miracle to counteract the sure results. He works according to great principles made known to us, and it is our part to mature wise plans, and set in operation the means whereby God shall bring about certain results. Those who make no decided effort, but simply wait for the Holy Spirit to compel them to action, will perish in darkness."—*Christian Service*, page 228.



Having the message, the commission, the assurance of power, and the promise of the Holy Spirit, what shall we do? Matt. 9:38; John 4:35.

Christ never told His disciples to pray for the harvest. God has promised the harvest if we will pray for laborers, and then help Him answer our prayers.

THINK IT THROUGH

In this godless age in which we live, are there any prospects of reaping a good harvest?

"Among earth's inhabitants, scattered in every land, there are those who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Like the stars of heaven, which appear only at night, these faithful ones will shine forth when darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in

China, in India, in the islands of the sea, and in all the dark corners of the earth, God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth."—"Prophets and Kings," pages 188, 189.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "Evangelism," pages 692-707.

Part 4
THE MIRACLE OF
ONE WORLD
CHURCH
John 10:16

“Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one Shepherd.”

There is no more reason to think that there may be several folds or several flocks than to rationalize that there must be more than one Shepherd. In every instance, Christ spoke in the singular.

The apostolic church thought in terms of one church (1 Cor. 12:12, 13, 25, 27), one faith (Eph. 4:13), one baptism (Eph. 4:4-6)—not a divided church or a divided Christ. Christ loved the church, not churches (Eph. 5:25-27), which He earnestly desires to cleanse and purify so “that He might present it to Himself a glorious church.”

When the Adventist pioneers considered organizing the church, they thought in terms of *one* church, as they did of *one* message. Today the organization has grown into missions, conferences, unions, and divisions of the one church the world around. In this respect Seventh-day Adventists stand out as unique in the Protestant world. In striking contrast, with China as an example, in the book *The Communist Church in China*, Francis Price Jones describes the religious situation there in 1949: There were some fifteen or twenty separate Lutheran mission boards at work, eight different Methodist mission boards, three from Britain, four from the United States, and one from Canada.

In varying degrees the same might be said of many another country. As a result, sixty years ago Protestant mission boards inaugurated what was called the “comity” plan, of dividing up each country among the boards already operating there. But in all the world there is only one Seventh-day Adventist Church. This church functions on the basis that it has a distinctive judgment-hour message to proclaim, indeed the closing gospel invitation and final warning to be given to all the world.



What final invitation has God extended to His “other sheep”? Rev. 18:4.

THINK IT THROUGH

What is my part in this whole plan?

“To you, My disciples, I commit this message of mercy. It is to be given to both Jews and Gentiles—to Israel, first, and then to all nations, tongues, and people. All who believe are to be

gathered into one church.”—“The Acts of the Apostles,” page 28.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: “SDA Encyclopedia,” article “Mission.”

Part 5
THE MIRACLE
OF A COMPLETED
TASK
Matt. 24:14

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

"Christ made it clear that the kingdom He established at His first advent was not the kingdom of glory."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Matt. 3:2.

"The 'kingdom of heaven' was established at the first advent of Christ. Jesus Himself was King, and those who believed in Him became its subjects. . . . But, as Jesus Himself made clear, this kingdom of grace was preparatory to the kingdom of glory."—*Ibid.*, on Matt. 4:17.

"Hand in hand with foreign missions have gone the translation and circulation of the Scriptures. Whereas the first 18 centuries of the Christian Era saw the Bible translated into only 71 languages, the next century—the 19th—saw the total climb to 567. By the middle of the 20th century the number had grown to over 1,000. [And today, that number has swelled to over 1,400]. There are but few people in the world today who do not have access to at least some part of Scriptures in their own tongue."—*Ibid.*, on Matt. 24:14.

"Christ ascended to heaven and sent His Holy Spirit to give power to the work of His disciples. Thousands were converted in a day. In a single generation the gospel was carried to every nation under heaven."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 26.

As human beings we are prone to want to speculate and figure. From the human point of view we may say that it has taken so many years for the church to reach its present position, and that it will take us so many more years to warn the whole world. People are being born faster than we can reach them. Obviously, to complete the task will take a miracle of God's power.



What did Paul say about the work of God in the earth? Rom. 9:28.



How will God "finish His work" and conclude the task of warning the world? Read Joel 2:1, 28-32; Rev. 10:7; 18:1.

THINK IT THROUGH

Are there now evidences of the "latter rain"?

"Let them understand that there is a large work to be done outside the pulpit by thousands of consecrated lay members. . . . When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel

commission, the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory."—"The Acts of the Apostles," page 111.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 611, 612.

September 24

Part 6
THE MIRACLE OF
THE CHURCH
TRIUMPHANT
Rev. 7:9

"I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands."

There may be different views concerning the relationship of the great multitude to the 144,000 presented in the first part of chapter 7 as having been sealed. Suffice it to say that here we have pictured the redeemed from all the earth, the triumphant saints of all ages.

"Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, p. 970.

In Rev. 14:3 the 144,000 are pictured again, while in the fifteenth chapter (verses 2, 3) we find the great multitude of redeemed saints.

What is the difference between the two groups as to

- (a) their experience,
- (b) their victory, and
- (c) their song of rejoicing?

"What sustained the Son of God during His life of toil and sacrifice? He saw the results of the travail of His soul and was satisfied. Looking into eternity, He beheld the happiness of those who through His humiliation had received pardon and everlasting life. His ear caught the shout of the redeemed. He heard the ransomed ones singing the song of Moses and the Lamb."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 601.



What will be the reward of the faithful? 1 John 3:1, 2; Rom. 8:17.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is "reward" the best word with which to refer to the reward of the faithful?

"When the earthly warfare is accomplished, and the saints are all gathered home, our first theme will be the song of Moses, the servant of God. The second theme will be the song of the Lamb, the song of grace and redemption. This song will be louder, loftier, and in sublimer strains, echoing and reechoing through the heavenly courts. Thus the song of God's providence is sung, connecting the varying dispensations; for all is now seen without a veil

between the legal, the prophetic, and the gospel. The church history upon the earth and the church redeemed in heaven all center around the cross of Calvary. This is the theme, this is the song,—Christ all and in all. . . . It is a new song, for it was never before sung in heaven."—"Testimonies to Ministers," page 433.

FOR DEEPER STUDY: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 593-602.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER**

1. "God has ordained that men should be His _____ . . . and by thus doing show how highly they _____ the _____ that was made for them."
2. What is the meaning of the old English word "quicken"? _____
_____. How does this happen spiritually? _____

3. True or False: It is wrong to pray for a harvest of souls. _____
4. Is it true that only members of the Seventh-day Adventist church can enter heaven? _____
5. The work of carrying the gospel message to all the world is assigned primarily to (a) ordained ministers, (b) elected church officers, (c) trained missionaries, (d) all church members. _____
6. What is the theme of the new song the redeemed will sing in heaven?

(The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

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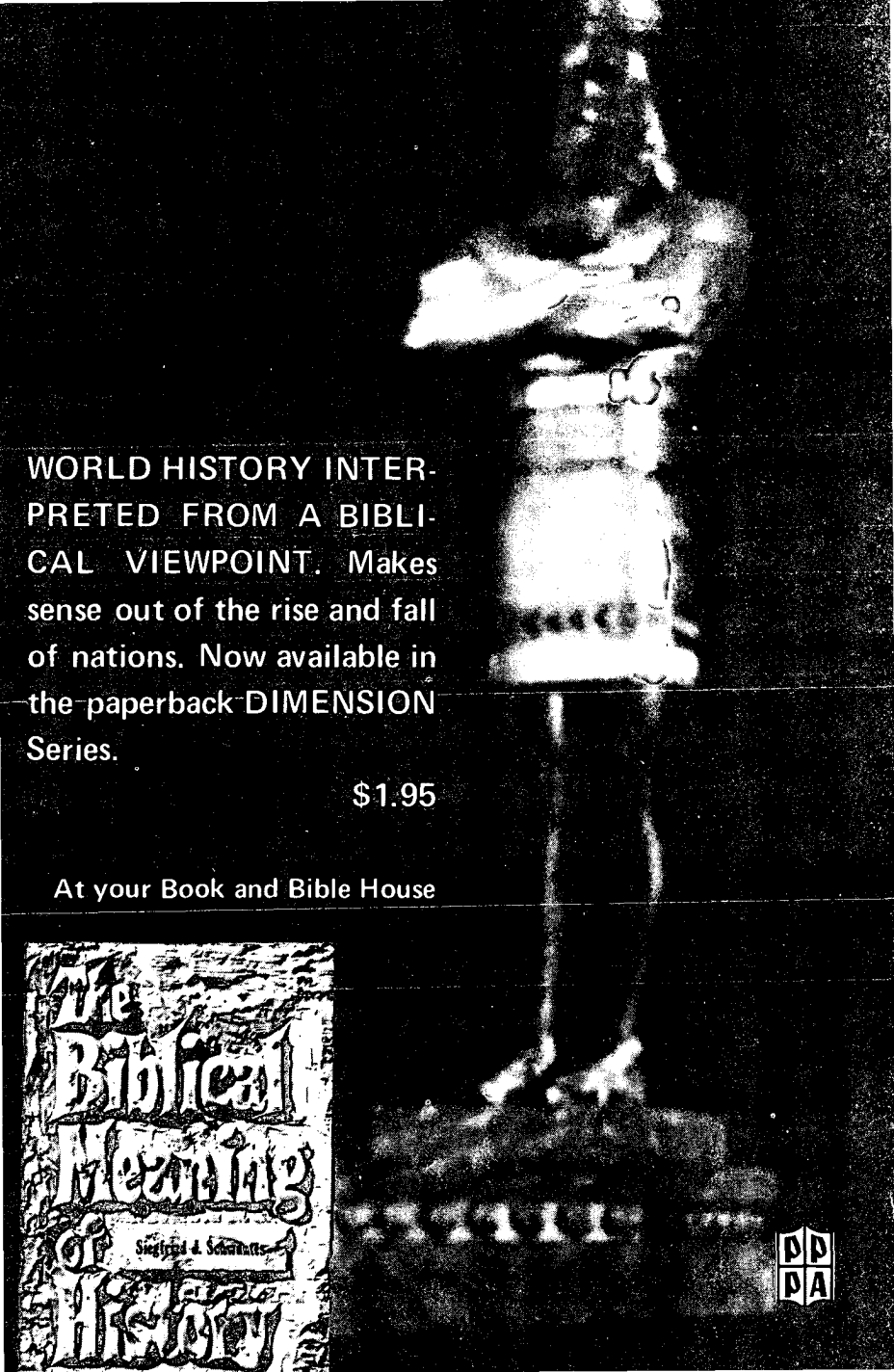


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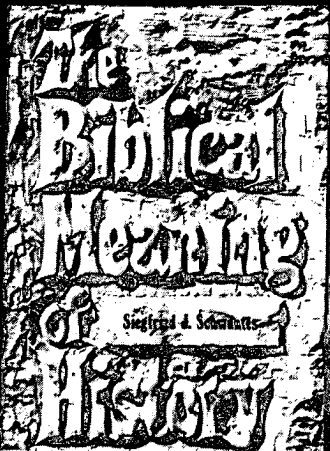
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At your Book and Bible House



Thirteenth Sabbath Overflow Offering

SEPTEMBER 25, 1971 · TRANS-AFRICA DIVISION

The Congo and Central African Unions, which are French-speaking areas, comprise nearly one half the membership of the Trans-Africa Division. These unions include the countries of Rwanda, Burundi, and the Congo, to which our Thirteenth Sabbath Overflow Offering goes. The specific projects are (1) a classroom and administration building at Kivu Adventist Seminary, Congo; (2) an administration building, including a library and laboratory, for the Gitwe College in Rwanda.

After years of trouble and war, stability and peace have now come to the Congo. This country, four times the size of the state of Texas or the country of France, offers great potential and promise for our work. Tribalism is gradually eroding. The prejudice and opposition which made our work difficult in past years have all but disappeared under the existing government.

The word *missionary* is still magic in this country, for great respect and appreciation are shown the missionary who has left his homeland to help these people in their need. Be assured, however, that our national believers do not sit back in indolence, expecting the work of spreading the gospel to be done by the missionaries alone. They work together as an effective team.

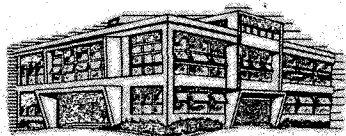
You may not have been to the Congo, Rwanda, or Burundi. But you know their people: They are the same as you; they want to learn; they want to be of help to others—to be ready to meet Christ.

You are both alike—except they need an opportunity.

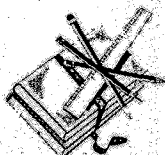
Lessons for the Fourth Quarter of 1971

Sabbath School members who have not received an adult *Lesson Quarterly* for the fourth quarter of 1971 will be helped by the following outline in studying for the first lesson. The title of the series is "Home Relations." The title of the first lesson is "The Home Is Built." The memory verse is Psalm 127:1.

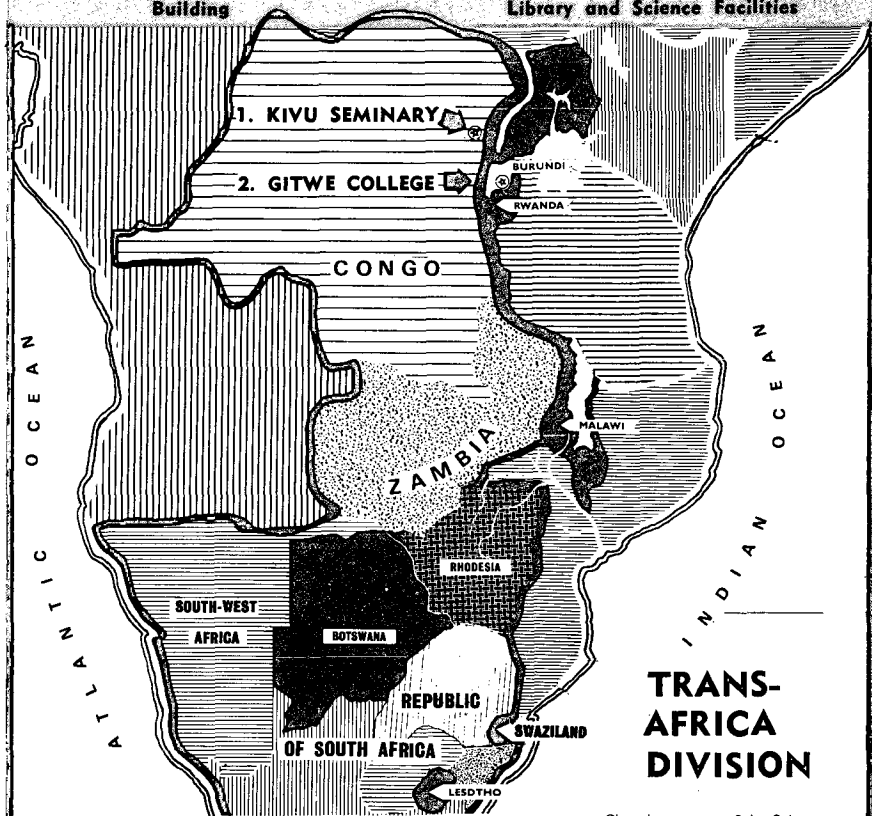
The outline is as follows: (1) God, the Architect. Gen. 1:27, 28. (2) Man, the Builder. Prov. 24:3, 4. (3) The Role of the Husband. Eph. 5:23. (4) The Role of the Wife. Prov. 18:22. (5) Role of the Children. Eph. 6:1-3. (6) The Purpose of the Home. Prov. 24:3, 4.



1. KIVU SEMINARY
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TRANS- AFRICA DIVISION

Union	Population	Churches	Church Memb.	Sab. Sch. Members
Central African U.	5,550,000	483	86,604	177,452
Congo U.	16,400,000	156	23,250	49,660
South African U.	7,626,255	141	12,220	13,997
South-East Africa U.	4,042,412	165	28,038	47,898
Southern U.	14,979,000	157	10,908	17,854
Zambesi U.	9,875,600	345	51,565	103,793
Division Totals	58,473,267	1,447	212,585	410,654