

Wrong Attitudes

That Will Cause Children of God to Miss Heaven

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LESSON ONE

WRONG THOUGHTS

INTRODUCTION

1. I want to teach some lessons on the wrong attitudes of heart that will cause us to lose our souls if they are not corrected.
2. God has always laid great stress upon right thinking so that men will do right in their relationship to God and man (Gen. 6: 5 - 7; Mk. 7: 20 - 23).
3. First, let us study the importance of right thinking before we study the wrong attitudes.

I. THE "ISSUES OF LIFE" COME OUT OF THE HEART

1. *"For out of it are the issues of life"* (Prov. 4:23) Above all else, guard your heart for it affects everything you do.
2. *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he"* (Prov. 23:7).
3. Every "THOUGHT SEED" that is allowed to take ROOT in the heart produces in time, if that thinking is not changed.
4. That "THOUGHT SEED" will bear its fruit when it has opportunity and the right circumstances (Matt. 12:35).
5. The good man who thinks upon good things (Phil. 4:8) does good things in life.
 - (1) A good man loves his wife (Eph. 5: 25, 28 - 29).
 - (2) A good man loves God (Matt. 22:37).
 - (3) A good man loves his enemies (Matt. 5: 44).
 - (4) A good man provides for his family (I Tim. 5:8).
 - (5) A good man attends the services of the church (Heb. 10:25).
 - (6) A good man teaches the gospel to all who will listen (Matt. 28: 19 -20).
 - (7) A good man does not talk ugly (Eph. 4:29).
 - (8) A good man is not filled with BITTERNESS, WRATH, ANGER, MALICE and EVIL SPEAKING (Eph. 4:31).
 - (9) A good man is kind (Eph. 4:32).
 - (10) A good man is tenderhearted (Eph. 4: 32).
 - (11) A good man is forgiving (Eph. 4:32).
6. An Evil man who thinks upon evil thoughts -- his thoughts will CRYSTALLIZE into EVIL ACTION.
 - (1) Selfish thoughts of all kinds crystallize into habits of SELF-SEEKING (2 Tim. 3:2).
 - (2) Think on hateful thoughts, and you will be hateful (Tit. 3:3).
 - (3) Think in adultery or fornication, and then if opportunity comes one will commit the overt act (Matt. 5:28).
 - (4) Think in fear and doubt, and these thoughts will crystallize into weakness, unmanliness, and failure.

7. A lesson we all need to learn is that circumstances will reveal what a man has been thinking about.
 - (1) Our thinking, whether it has been bad or good, will bear its fruit when it has opportunity and right circumstance.

II. HOW CAN I LEARN TO CONTROL MY THOUGHTS?

1. We need to CONFESS evil, sinful thoughts to God (I John 1:9).
 - (1) I must repent of all evil thoughts and ask God for forgiveness (Acts 8:22).
2. We need to PURPOSE in heart not to think on evil thoughts (Dan. 1:7).
 - (1) Man's mind has a will -- he must use it (John 7:17).
 - (2) We must force our minds to think pure thoughts (Phil. 4:8).
3. We need to renew our minds (Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:10).
 - (1) Renewing is achieved by a study of the Word (Phil. 4:8; Psa. 1:2).
 - (2) We must fill our minds with the Word of God (Psa. 119: 11).
4. We need to ask God continually in prayer for help in our overcoming evil thoughts (Matt. 6: 13; I Cor. 10:1).
5. Avoid that which would tempt you to evil thinking (I Thess. 5:22).
6. Ask yourself WHY you THINK the way you do.

LESSON TWO

DISCONTENTMENT

INTRODUCTION

1. The attitude of DISCONTENTMENT is found on every hand in the world today.
2. One of the great problems in the church is discontentment.
3. "DISCONTENT" means: One that is "filled with dissatisfaction"; "one desires something more or different"; "one is displeased"; "one is uneasy in mind".
4. The New Testament teaches that Christians are to be CONTENTED people:
 - (1) Phil. 4:11
 - (2) Heb. 13:5
 - (3) I Tim. 6: 6, 8
5. The contented person is not disgruntled or disheartened.
 - (1) He has a steady restfulness of spirit; a calm and satisfied feeling.
6. One who is discontented is always complaining and arguing, biting and devouring (Phil. 2:14; Gal. 5:15; I Cor. 10:10; Heb. 12:15).
7. The Hebrew writer tells us that our faith in God's care for us gives us contentment (Heb. 13: 5 - 6; I Pet. 5:7).
8. Jesus tells us that a lack of faith brings discontentment (Matt. 6: 25 - 33).

I. WHEN WE ARE DISCONTENTED WITH WHAT WE HAVE, WE NEED TO COUNT OUR BLESSINGS.

1. We have sun, moon, and stars (Psa. 19: 1 - 6).
2. We have heat and water.
3. We have many friends, and we make new friends often.
4. We have God who loves us and answers our prayers (James 5:16; I John 5: 14 - 15; I John 3:22; Matt. 7: 7 -11).
5. We have a Savior who died for us (I Cor. 15:3).
6. We have the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16 - 17).
7. We know the truth (John 8:32).
8. We have the hope of heaven (Tit. 1: 2; John 14: 1 - 6).
9. We have food on the table.
10. We can see natural beauty.
11. We can grow good things to eat.
12. We have fellowship of God's people.
13. We have the respect of the good people of the world.
14. We live in a free land.
15. We have the privilege of helping to save the world from sin (Mk. 16:15 - 16).

II. PAUL TELLS US THE REAL RICHES (OR GAIN) IN LIFE IS "*GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT*"

1. "*But godliness with contentment is great gain*" (I Tim. 6:6).
2. "*For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come*" (I Tim. 4:8).
3. Godliness with contentment does more to promote happiness than wealth can ever do.

III. LET US LOOK AT THINGS MEN ARE DISCONTENTED WITH.

1. Some brethren are unhappy and discontented with the congregation where they are members.
 - (1) They are not happy with the teachers.
 - (2) They are discontent with the song leaders.
 - (3) They are unhappy with many of the members and their families.
 - (4) They are unhappy with the preacher:
 1. He preaches too much on subjects that deal with their sins and failings.
 2. "The church is not growing" -- it is the preacher's fault.
 - (1) "*I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase*" (I Cor. 3:6).
 - (2) (NLT) -- "*My job was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God, not we, who made it grow*" (I Cor. 3:6).
 - (5) They are discontented with Truth.
 1. They do not love it! (2 Thess. 2:10).
 2. 2 Tim. 4: 3 - 4
2. Some are discontented with their MATERIAL POSSESSIONS:
 - (1) They think that MORE material things will bring happiness, but it isn't true! (Eccl. 5:10; Luke 12:15).
 - (2) Some are not content with anything they have -- their car, their house, what they have in their house, etc.
 - (3) They have not learned that TRUE RICHES in life is "*GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT*" (I Tim. 6:6; 4:8).
3. Many are discontented with their COMPANION.
 - (1) A man becomes discontented with the wife of his youth and seeks a younger woman, or another woman.
 - (2) The men of Judah divorced the wives of their youth and married women who worshipped idols (Mal. 2:11 - 16; I Pet. 3:7; Eccl. 5:4 - 5).
 - (3) Let us look at what the discontented man has forgotten:
 1. He has forgotten he needed her (Gen. 2: 18).
 - (1) This woman has completed him; she has fulfilled him emotionally, mentally, and physically, taking the void out of his life. She has been his "help meet" -- a helper suitable for his needs.
 - (2) This woman has shared his life and love, and has responded to him and encouraged him (Prov. 31:12).
 - (3) She has been his Sweetheart, Helper, Inspiration, and Counselor.

- (4) Without her he could never have achieved the full and balanced life -- she is his counterpart (Prov. 31: 23; 12:4).
- (5) She has shared and delighted in the triumphs and achievements he has had.
- (6) She has willingly dedicated herself to being his wife and helper all their married life.
- (7) She has been virtuous and faithful, and has done him good all the days of her life (Prov. 31: 10 - 12).
- (8) She has brought his children into the world, and has taken good care of them (Prov. 31: 27 - ff).
- (9) She has helped him gain respect of people (Prov. 31:23).
- (10) God hates the putting away of one's companion and dealing treacherously with her (Mal. 2:16).

IV. THINGS THAT CAUSE DISCONTENTMENT

- 1. COVETOUSNESS (Heb. 13:5).
 - (1) Covetousness is the inordinate desire for that which rightfully belongs to another.
 - (2) The Christian is to be free from the love of money (I Tim. 6: 9 - 10).
 - (3) It is the enemy of contentment.
 - (4) The secret of contentment is knowing how to enjoy what you have, and being able to lose all desire for things beyond your reach.
- 2. UNBELIEF (Heb. 13: 5,6; Matt. 6: 24 - 34; Psa. 37: 25).
- 3. ENVY: "Being discontent at the excellence or good fortune of another."
 - (1) SAUL was content with what praise he was receiving, until he saw that David was getting more (I Sam. 18: 7 - 9).
 - (2) THE PHILISTINES were not content with their lot when they saw the possessions of Isaac (Gen. 26: 12 - 16).
 - (3) THE ELDER SON was contented with things at home, until he knew of the feast given for his returned brother (Luke 15: 25 - 32).
 - (4) Men envy their neighbor if he does well (Eccl. 4:4).
- 4. A COMPLAINING ATTITUDE:
 - (1) Phil. 2:14: "*In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing*" (NLT).
 - (2) Some people are never satisfied with anything (I Tim. 6:6).
 - (3) These people complain about everything.

V. HOW TO CULTIVATE CONTENTMENT:

- 1. WORK AT IT (Phil. 4:11).
- 2. COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS and BE THANKFUL (I Thess. 5:18).
- 3. Transfer your attention and affection to higher and holier matters (Col. 3:1; Matt. 6:33).
- 4. KEEP BUSY:
 - (1) An idle mind is the devil's workshop.
 - (2) Be like Jesus and busy yourself going about doing good (Acts 10: 38).

5. Think about how bad things could be.
6. Learn that happiness is not tied to THINGS (Luke 12: 15).
7. Cultivate a deep sense of appreciation for the simple and necessary things of life; avoid overemphasizing the luxuries of life.
 - (1) I Tim. 6:8
 - (2) Psa. 37: 16
 - (3) Prov. 15:16

CONCLUSION

1. We must learn to be content with what we have (Heb. 13:5; I Tim. 6: 6).
2. We must NOT be content with what we are spiritually:
 - (1) This was the folly of the Laodiceans (Rev. 3: 14 - 22).
 - (2) Heb. 6:1; Phil. 3: 13 - 16

LESSON THREE

THE ATTITUDE OF THE DOUBLE MIND

James 4:8

1. James says, "*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*" (James 1:8).
2. "Double minded" signifies one who has TWO souls, TWO minds; one mind is of this opinion, the other of that opinion.
 - (1) One person having two minds.
 - (2) He is "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"
3. Having a double mind will cause a person to speak with a double-tongue (I Tim. 3:8).
 - (1) This tongue speaks one thing at one time, and a different thing at another time.
4. The double minded man tries to serve two masters (Matt. 6:24; 12:30).
5. He wants to live a worldly life, and also serve God (James 4:8).
6. He has one mind for the world, and another for heaven.
 - (1) He doesn't want to let the world or heaven go.
 - (2) This is an impossible task (Matt. 6: 24).
7. The double minded man has no settled principles; he is influenced by popular feeling.
8. The double minded man has divided affection (Col. 3: 1, 2).

I. THE DOUBLE MINDED MAN IS LUKEWARM

1. He is neither cold nor hot (Rev. 3: 15, 16).
2. He is not going to get involved.
3. You cannot depend on him to stand (Eph. 6: 11 - 14).

II. THE DOUBLE MINDED MAN IS UNSTABLE IN ALL HIS WAYS (James 1:8)

1. Gen. 49: 3 - 4 -- unstable as water.
2. He is carried about with every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14).
 - (1) He is never sure about what he really believes.
 - (2) He may tell you he believe one thing, and he practices another.
3. He may tell you one thing today, and deny he said it tomorrow.
4. You cannot depend on the double minded man.

III. THE DOUBLE MINDED MAN'S LIFE IS FILLED WITH DOUBLE ACTION

1. He goes to church on the Lord's day and praises God.
 - (1) He goes to work on Monday and curses his fellowman (James 3: 8 - 11).
2. He drinks the fruit of the vine on the Lord's Day (Lord's supper) (Acts 20:7).
 - (1) He drinks his beer on Monday.
3. He wants his wife and daughters to be modest in dress.
 - (1) He looks to lust on the wives of other men (Matt. 5:28).

4. He talks about loving brethren.
 - (1) He won't speak to some of his brethren.
5. He talks about the growth of the church.
 - (1) He never does any personal work.
6. He is upset with the attendance is down.
 - (1) He misses when he wants to.
7. He wants his children to be Christians.
 - (1) He wants his children to be popular.
8. He wants everybody to treat him like he wants to be treated.
 - (1) He does not treat others as he wants them to treat him (Matt. 7:12).
9. He wants to be a leader among God's people.
 - (1) He never serves God's people (Matt. 20:28).

IV. THE DOUBLE MINDED MAN HAS A DOUBLE TONGUE (I Tim. 3:8).

1. On the same subject he speaks two different things.
2. He will speak two different things about a person.
 - (1) To one individual he will praise the person.
 - (2) To another he will "run him down".
3. He will take two different positions on a Bible subject.
 - (1) To one man he is against what is going on in the church today.
 - (2) To another he sees nothing wrong.

V. THE DOUBLE MINDED MAN HAS DOUBLE VISION

1. Matt. 6: 22 -23
2. The double minded man sees double because his affections are divided (Matt. 6:24).
3. He looks at two objects at the same time.
4. He has blurred vision because of his lust and desire for things of the world (Matt. 6:24; I John 2: 15 - 17).

VI. THE ONLY WAY WE CAN SERVE GOD IS WITH SINGLENES OF HEART!

1. Acts 2: 46 *"And they continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart."*
2. Eph. 6:5
3. Col. 3:22
4. The single heart is "free from duplicity", "double-dealing", and "double-action".
5. The single heart does not try to serve God and mammon (Matt. 6:24, 19 - 21).
6. The single heart does not have divided affection (Col. 3:2; I John 2: 15 - 17).
7. The single heart will put God first (Matt. 6:33).
8. The single heart has single vision (Matt. 6:22; Luke 11:34).
 - (1) It does not see two objects at once.

- (2) It does not see heaven and the world, and want both (Col. 3:2).
- (3) The desires of the flesh have been put to death (Col. 3: 5 - 10; Rom. 6: 6, 12).
- 9. The Christian, with singleness of heart, uses the things of the world to serve his fellowman and to prepare himself for eternity.
 - (1) He looks to the things of others (Phil. 2:4; Eph. 4:28).
 - (2) I Tim. 6: 17 - 10
 - (3) The world is not his master (Matt. 6:24).
 - (4) He knows a man may either use the world, or be used by the world.
- 10. The Christian with the single heart knows if a man is worldly he cannot be godly.
- 11. The Christian with the single heart knows if his heart is to stay single his heart must stay pure (James 4:8).
 - (1) His thoughts, words, deeds, and emotions must stay pure.

LESSON FOUR

THE ATTITUDES OF ENVY AND JEALOUSY

INTRODUCTION

1. ENVY and JEALOUSY are works of the flesh, and will cause us to be LOST (Gal. 5: 19 - 21).
2. The words ENVY and JEALOUSY are words that express emotions of the heart that are close kin.
3. But, the words are not the same.
4. The word ENVY is never used in a good sense; the word JEALOUSY sometimes is used in a good sense.
5. Let us now study the two words.

I. THE WORD "JEALOUSY".

1. JEALOUSY is to see a friend have a new car or new clothes and "desire to have the same or the same sort of thing for self" -- where ENVY desires to deprive another of what he has Vine.
2. Jealousy "is to rivalry for a common object" Bakers Dictionary of Theology
 - (1) You have seen people who carried on a rivalry all the time to have the same thing.
3. Jealousy is "the desire to have what someone else has; the wrong desire for that which is not for us" Barclay
4. Jealousy fears to lose what it has; Envy is pained at seeing another have.
5. Jealousy is "Very watchful or careful in guarding or keeping one's rights" New World Dictionary.
6. Jealousy is an emotion inspired by the infringing or denial of the right of exclusive possession.
 - (1) God is Jealous for the worship and service of His people:
 1. Ex. 20:4 - 5
 2. Deut. 4: 23 - 24; Heb. 12:9
 - (2) God will not give his GLORY to another (Isa. 42:8).
 - (3) God's name is Jealous (Ex. 34: 14).
 - (4) God is pictured as the husband of Israel (Isa. 54:5).
 1. When his wife (Israel) worshipped and served other gods, God was provoked to Jealousy (Deut. 32: 16; Psa. 78: 58).
 - (5) Paul speaks of having "*godly jealousy*". (2 Cor. 11:2).

II. THE WORD "ENVY".

1. ENVY "is the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others" Vine
2. "A feeling of discontent and ill will because of another's advantages, possessions" New World Dictionary.
3. ENVY desire to deprive another of what he has.

4. ENVY "describes the spirit which grudges the fact that the other person has these things at all. It does not so much want the thing for itself; it merely wants to take them from the other person" *Barclay*
5. ENVY "grief at your neighbor's good fortune" *Basil*.
6. ENVY is that passion which sees in another qualities which it covets and hates their possessor -- Prov. 27:4 "*Who is able to stand before envy?*"
7. ENVY always desires, and often strives to degrade others because it delights in obscuring those who are more deserving.
8. ENVY is devilish (James 3: 14 - 15).

III. ENVY AND STRIFE GO TOGETHER.

1. I Cor. 3:3 "*envying and strife*".
2. Rom. 13:13 "*strife and envy*".
3. 2 Cor. 12:20 "*envying and strife*".
4. James 3:16 "*envying and strife*".
5. Gal. 5: 20 - 21 "*strife and envying*".
6. When envy is in the heart, strife brings about contention; strife is outward conflict.
7. Paul said, "*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory*" Phil. 2:3.
8. Envy is "*The rottenness of the bones*" (Prov. 14: 30).
 - (1) Envy, like a malignancy, eats away one's spiritual heart.
9. Envy is rooted in SELFISHNESS.
10. Envy is insatiable -- one victory demands another.
11. Envy admits a feeling of inferiority.

IV. EXAMPLES OF THE HAVOC ENVY HAS WROUGHT IN THE EARTH.

1. Because of envy, Cain slew Abel (Gen. 4:4 - 8; I John 3: 12,14).
2. The Philistines envied Isaac when he did well (Gen. 26: 12 - 26).
3. Rachel envied Leah because she had given Jacob children (Gen. 30:1).
4. Joseph's brothers envied him and sold him into Egyptian slavery (Gen. 37:11; Acts 7:9).
5. Moses and Aaron were envied (Psa. 106: 16; Num. 16:1 - 3).
6. The elder brother envied his younger brother in Luke 15 (Luke 15: 28 - 32).
7. The Jewish leaders envied Jesus (Matt. 27:18).

CONCLUSION

1. ENVY is overcome by repentance, confession, and prayer (Acts 8:22; I John 1:9) .
 - (1) If envy and jealousy is in our heart let us ask God to forgive us of these sins.
 - (2) Let us purpose in heart to overcome this.
 - (3) Let us ask God in prayer for help (Matt. 6: 13), and ask ourselves why we have this attitude.
2. Love (I Cor. 13:4).

LESSON FIVE

THE ATTITUDE OF FAULTFINDING

INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus deals with this attitude in Matthew 7: 1 - 5.
2. First, let us see what Jesus is NOT talking about:
 - (1) Jesus, in John 7:24, said, "*Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.*"
 1. "*Appearance*" here means "the outward appearance; look" *Thayer*
 2. The outward appearance of a situation does not always provide all the facts in the case.
 3. Judgment that is according to truth and facts in a case is righteous judgment.
 4. Righteous judgment is not condemned.
3. Examples of Righteous Judgment:
 - (1) We must judge all who will accept and who will reject the gospel (Matt. 7:6).
 - (2) We can judge when a man is a false teacher by his fruits (Matt. 7: 15 - 16; I John 4: 1; 2 John 9 - 11; I Thess. 5:21).
 - (3) The church can judge those who walk disorderly (2 Thess. 3:6; I Cor. 5: 1 - 5; I Cor. 5: 11 - 12).
4. What Jesus is talking about here is the rash, censored, uncharitable judgments that are according to appearance and evil surmise without examination of the charges (John 7:24; James 2:13).
 - (1) No man can judge the heart of another man without that man revealing the thoughts of his heart (I Cor. 2:11).
 - (2) James condemns this kind of judgment (James 4:11).
 1. This is bearing false witness (Rom. 13:9).
 2. This is not love (Rom. 13:8).
 3. To do this kind of judging is to set aside the law that forbids it.

I. WHY WILL ONE ENGAGE IN CENSORIOUS, UNCHARITABLE JUDGMENTS AND MOTE-HUNTING?

1. This is an effort, many times, for one to divert attention from one's own sins.
 - (1) Judas accused Mary of wastefulness when he was stealing from the bag (John 12: 5 - 6).
2. It is an effort to justify one's own sinful life and console a biting conscience.
 - (1) It is comparing and measuring of ourselves with others.
 - (2) Paul said this is not wise (2 Cor. 10:12).
 - (3) The Jews condemned in others what they were guilty of themselves (Rom. 2: 1 - 2, 3).
3. It is an effort to build up oneself while tearing others down.
 - (1) The Pharisee (Luke 18: 9- 14).
4. The fault-finder is often motivated by ENVY.
 - (1) Of all the sins, there is no sin meaner and more malicious than envy.
 - (2) ENVY is "discontent at the excellence or good fortune of others."

(3) It is a work of the flesh (Gal. 5: 19 -21).

II. JESUS CALLED THE CENSORIOUS MOTE-HUNTER A HYPOCRITE.

1. Matthew 7: 4 - 5
2. His behavior is hypocritical for a number of reasons:
 - (1) He is nothing like as good as he thinks or pretends -- Paul warns (Gal. 6: 3 - 4; 2 Cor. 10:12).
 - (2) His self-righteous eyes have blinded him to his own faults (Luke 18:9 - 14).
 - (3) He sees his neighbor's mistakes at a distance much better than he sees his own at close range.
3. His motivation is wrong; he desires to build himself up by tearing another down.
 - (1) He thinks the contrast will add to his own merit (Luke 18:11).
 - (2) No one makes his "light" brighter by blowing out the light of someone else.

III. THE FAULTFINDING ATTITUDE HURTS THE FAULTFINDER MORE THAN ANYONE.

1. He blinds himself to his own faults.
 - (1) The faultfinder "*beholdest*" the mote in his brother's eye.
 1. "*Beholdest*" means: to observe with scrutiny.
 2. He looks for things so small that it takes very close staring to see.
 - (2) "*But considerest not the beam (log) that is in thine own eye?*" (Matt. 7:3).
 1. His chances for improvement are few, for he sees no need to improve.
2. He has put out his eyes to the virtues of others.
 - (1) He cannot see good in his brother because he is looking for evil!
 - (2) Such persons found fault with Jesus; not because of sin, but because they were seeking to find fault (Matt. 9:11; John 8:48).
3. The faultfinder can have very few friends because his friendships are short-lived!
 - (1) He picks his friends to pieces, then he marks them off his list; and they're glad to get off!
4. The habit of mote-hunting so ministers to egotism that it makes repentance difficult.
 - (1) The mote-hunter so exalts himself he cannot humble himself to say "I have sinned".

IV. HERE ARE SOME RULES TO FOLLOW IN OVERCOMING THE SIN OF FAULTFINDING:

1. Remember that faultfinding is a despicable pastime that requires nothing great -- physically or mentally!
2. It takes no talent, no self-denial, no brains, and no character to go into the faultfinding business!
3. Become conscious of the sinfulness of it, and watch and pray against it (Matt. 26:41).
4. Make up your mind that you are going to look for good instead of evil; that you will magnify a brother's virtues and minimize his shortcomings.
5. Practice the golden rule (Matt. 7:12).
6. Make up your mind that you are going to look at self first (Matt. 7:5; 2 Cor. 13:5).

7. Consider how much hurt you inflict into the heart of the one you "pick" at.
8. Remember that our judgments are often wrong.
9. Develop a greater love for our brethren (John 13: 24 - 25; I Pet. 4:8).

V. SOME HELP FOR THOSE WHO ARE TARGETS OF FAULT-FINDING

1. Take comfort in that even the sinless Christ could not escape the censure of the faultfinders (Matt. 9:11).
 - (1) The servant is not greater than his Lord (John 13: 16).
2. Profit from the criticism, even though it was intended to hurt rather than help.
3. Be sure you are right and go ahead (I Pet. 3:17).
4. Don't take too seriously what you hear said about you, good or bad.
 - (1) Eccl. 7:21 - 22: *"Also take no heed unto all the words that are spoken: lest thou hear thy servant curse thee, For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself has cursed others."*

CONCLUSION

1. Let us all work hard in overcoming the habit of faultfinding.
2. This can cause us to lose our souls.

LESSON SIX

THE SIN OF INGRATITUDE

INTRODUCTION

1. "INGRATITUDE" means: "lack of gratitude"; "unthankful"; "one is ungrateful".
 - (1) Paul said one of the sins of these "*last days*" would be the sin of being "*Unthankful*" (2 Tim. 3:2).
 - (2) The Gentiles were not thankful (Rom. 1: 21).
2. The sin of INGRATITUDE and the sin of SELFISHNESS go hand in hand.
3. The very root of ingratitude is selfishness.
4. Paul, in this same text, said men would "*be lovers of their own selves*" (2 Tim. 3:2).
 - (1) Selfish and interested chiefly in that which gives themselves the enjoyments of life.
 - (2) These people want their gratification even when it CAUSES DISCOMFORT to others.
5. The selfish person:
 - (1) Lives for his own pleasure (2 Tim. 3:4).
 - (2) His own enrichment (Luke 12: 16 - 21).
 - (3) His own success.
 - (4) His own fame (John 12: 42 - 43).
 - (5) Seeks to assume self-domination:
 1. Love of power (3 John 9) "*Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence*".
 2. Dominates family.
 3. Dominates the church.
6. Let us first look at the sin of INGRATITUDE.

I. WHEN WE THINK ABOUT INGRATITUDE WE THINK ABOUT THE TEN LEPERS (Luke 17: 11 - 19.)

1. We are told when Jesus went to Jerusalem and passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee, and as he entered into a certain village there met Him ten men that were lepers (Luke 17: 11 -12).
2. Nine were Jews and one a Samaritan (Luke 17:16).
3. They had the horrible disease of leprosy:
 - (1) With this disease one would lose his hair and eyebrows; nails would loosen, decay and fall off; the gums and teeth would be absorbed. The nose, the eyes, and tongue would slowly be consumed. Many times whole sections of the body would disappear.
 - (2) This disease brought all men who had it to a common level -- they would forget racial hatred.
 - (3) Leprosy made the Jew unclean (Lev. 13: 44 - 45).
 - (4) Leprosy isolated them from society (Lev. 13: 45 - 46).
 - (5) Leprosy filled them with despair, for the disease there was no human remedy.
 - (6) The ten lepers cried for mercy (Luke 17:13).

1. Jesus healed them in the act of obedience to Him (Luke 17:14).
- (7) Only ONE of them was grateful to Christ (Luke 17: 15 - 19).
4. Lessons we need to learn about INGRATITUDE:
 - (1) It is an UGLY SIN (Isa. 1: 2 - 4).
 - (2) It is a COMMON SIN.
 - (3) It is one of the most UNIVERSAL and deeply seated of all the human failings.
 - (4) You may go out of your way to be kind and good to people and never receive any response from them.
 - (5) Paul experienced ingratitude (2 Cor. 12:15).
 - (6) Gratitude comes, most of the time, from people you least expect it to come from (Luke 17: 17, 16).

II. HOW WE SHOW INGRATITUDE TO GOD (Israel -- Deut. 31: 19 - 20)

1. First, let us look at how good God has been to us all:
 - (1) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from God (James 1:17; Matt. 6:33).
 - (2) He gives us life (Acts 17: 28).
 - (3) He gives us rain and fruitful seasons (Acts 14:17; Matt. 5:45).
 - (4) He has given us a Savior (Matt. 1:21; Luke 19:10).
 - (5) He has given us the church (Acts 20: 28).
 - (6) He has given us His Word (Heb. 1: 1, 2; Rom. 1:16).
 - (7) He gives us hope (Tit. 1: 2; I John 2: 25; John 14: 1 - 6).
2. How we show our ingratitude toward God:
 - (1) We fail to put His Kingdom first (Matt. 6:33).
 1. We put family before God many times (Matt. 10:37).
 2. Pleasure before God (2 Tim. 3:4).
 3. Work before God.
 4. Making money before God.
3. We are, many times, so ungrateful to one another.
 - (1) HUSBANDS are not grateful to their wives (I Pet. 3:7) for:
 1. Companionship (Gen. 2:18).
 2. Love (Tit. 2:4).
 3. Conjugal rights (I Cor. 7: 2 - 5).
 4. For the bearing of children.
 5. For the guiding of the house (I Tim. 5: 14).
 6. For the good she does him (Prov. 31:12).
 7. For her faithfulness (Prov. 31: 11).
 8. For her help as a Christian (I Pet. 3:7).
 - (2) WIVES are not grateful for their husbands for:
 1. Their love (Eph. 5:25, 28 - 29).
 2. Companionship
 3. Fulfillment of conjugal needs.
 4. For making a living.

5. For his faithfulness.
6. His help as a Christian.
- (3) CHILDREN are not grateful (Eph. 6: 1 - 3):
 1. For their parent's love.
 2. Their sacrifice.
 3. Their concern.
 4. For the things their parents provide.
 5. For their education.
- (4) BRETHREN are not grateful:
 1. For the concern and love that is shown.
 2. For the teachers in the local church.
 3. For the elders.
 4. For the preacher.
 5. For the good, sound church.
 6. For a good place to meet.
- (5) FRIENDS are not grateful for good friends.

III. WE OVERCOME INGRATITUDE BY COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

1. We should count our spiritual blessings:
 - (1) We know the truth (John 8:32).
 - (2) We have the Word of God (Heb. 1:1,2).
 - (3) God loves us and cares for us (I Pet. 5:7; Matt. 6: 24 - 34).
 - (4) We are the children of God.
 - (5) We are saved.
 - (6) God hears our prayers (I John 5:14 - 15).
2. We should count our physical blessings (I Tim. 6: 6 - 8; Heb. 13:5):
 - (1) Good houses to live in.
 - (2) Cars
 - (3) Clothes
 - (4) Food
3. Our blessings are innumerable!

IV. WE MUST NEVER FORGET WHERE ALL THESE BLESSINGS COME FROM

1. All that we have we have received from God (James 1:17).
2. The rich farmer failed to realize this (Luke 12: 16 - 21).

CONCLUSION

1. God commands us to be thankful.
 1. Eph. 5:20 "*Giving thanks always for all things unto God*".
 2. Phil. 4:6
 3. Heb. 13: 15
 4. Col. 2:7

LESSON SEVEN

PREJUDICE

INTRODUCTION

1. This subject needs to be studied by all of us because all of us have some prejudice.
2. Prejudice robs us of many good things in life, THE TRUTH many times most of all.
3. People in the denominational world are not the only people who are PREJUDICED; members of the church of Christ are very PREJUDICED many times.

I. WHAT IS PREJUDICE?

1. PREJUDICE is premature judgment, bias, pre-conceived judgment or opinion.
2. Prejudice is close-mindedness; disregard of the known facts.
 - (1) The most difficult thing to open is a closed mind.
 - (2) A prejudiced mind is one that truth cannot penetrate.
 - (3) This is the reason we fail so many times as we go forth to teach the gospel.
3. Prejudice is condemnation without investigation (John 1: 45 - 46).
 - (1) Many form convictions without bothering to get the facts (Matt. 7: 1 - 5).
 - (2) Many things are believed in religion that contradict what the Bible plainly teaches (i.e. "One church is as good as another."; "many faiths") (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4 - 5).
4. Prejudice will cause one to mock (Acts 17: 32).

II. MANY ARE PREJUDICED AGAINST THE TRUTH

1. Many of the Jews were prejudiced against the truth while Jesus walked upon the earth (Matt. 13:13 - 15).
 - (1) The Devil uses prejudice (2 Cor. 4: 3 - 4; Matt. 13:19).
2. Prejudice against the truth was one of the sins which crucified Jesus.
 - (1) In spite of the many overwhelming evidences that He was the Son of God, the majority of the people of His day closed their minds to the truth (John 20: 29 - 31).
 - (2) The majority of the people closed their minds to the truth and clamored for His blood (Matt. 27: 21 - 26).
3. The Jews in Antioch of Pisidia were prejudiced against the truth (Acts 13: 44 - 46).
4. The Jews in Acts 7 were prejudiced against the truth (Acts 7: 51 - 60).

III. CURRENT EXAMPLES IN DENOMINATIONALISM OF BEING PREJUDICED AGAINST THE TRUTH:7

1. Prejudice against BAPTISM being necessary to salvation.
 - (1) Many are prejudiced and teach it is not necessary to salvation.

- (2) The Bible plainly teaches it is necessary (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; I Pet. 3:21; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6: 3, 4).
2. Many are prejudiced against the teaching of ONE CHURCH.
 - (1) Many are prejudiced and teach that one church is as good as another.
 - (2) They teach that the church is not important.
 - (3) The Bible teaches that THERE IS BUT ONE CHURCH (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4).
 - (4) The saved are added to the church (Acts 2:47).
 - (5) Christ is the Savior of the body (the church) (Eph. 5:23; 2 Tim. 2:10; Eph. 1:3; Eph. 1: 22 - 23).
 - (6) Reconciled unto God in one body (Eph. 2: 13 ,16).
3. Many don't believe instrumental music in worship is wrong because of prejudice.
 - (1) The New Testament authorizes SINGING ONLY (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
 - (2) We are not to go beyond what is written (I Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22: 18 - 19).

IV. CURRENT EXAMPLES IN THE CHURCH OF BEING PREJUDICED AGAINST THE TRUTH.

1. Many are prejudiced against GIVING.
 - (1) They don't want it preached on.
 - (2) They think they will get by with giving only the "left-overs" to God.
 - (3) The Bible teaches HOW we are to give (I Cor. 16: 1, 2; 2 Cor. 9: 6 - 7; 2 Cor. 8: 2 - 5).
2. Many are prejudiced about DIVORCE and REMARRIAGE.
 - (1) Many say, "I think there are other circumstances which allows remarriage besides fornication."
 - (2) The Lord said there is ONE REASON (Matt. 19:9; 5:32).
3. Many are prejudiced about ATTENDING ALL THE SERVICES OF THE CHURCH.
 - (1) They say, "I don't believe you have to attend on Wednesday night."
 - (2) Heb. 10:25 "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together . . .* "
4. Many are prejudiced about THE WORK OF THE CHURCH:
 - (1) The work of the church is three-fold:
 1. Preach the gospel. I Tim. 3:15; Mk. 16: 15 - 16
 2. Edify saints. Eph. 4: 11 - 12
 3. Help needy saints. Acts 2: 44 -45; 4: 32 -35; 6: 1 - 6; 11: 27 - 30; I Cor. 16: 1 - 2; Rom. 15: 26,27; I Tim. 5:16; II Cor. 8; II Cor. 9
5. Many are prejudiced about the local church being the only organization that is to preach the gospel.
 - (1) They teach the church is not exclusive.
 - (2) The New Testament (I Tim. 3:15).

V. PREJUDICE TOWARD THE CHURCH:

1. Men were prejudiced toward the church during the apostolic days.
 - (1) It was known as "*the sect everywhere spoken against*" (Acts 28:22).
 - (2) It was persecuted (Acts 8: 1 - 4; 9: 1, 2).
2. The world is still filled with people who are prejudiced toward the church of Christ.
 - (1) They won't let you talk to them about the church.

- (2) They have formed pre-conceived ideas upon false testimony.
3. Because of prejudice, the church is sometimes maligned and derided as being:
 - (1) Bigoted
 - (2) Narrow-minded (Matt. 7: 13 - 14; Acts 4:12; Eph. 4: 1- 6).
 - (3) Unreasonable
 - (4) How can one convict the church of being wrong when it only tells men what the Bible says about:
 1. Baptism (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; I Pet. 3:21).
 2. The church (Matt. 16:18).
 3. Music-singing (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19).
 4. Living pure lives (Tit. 2: 11, 12; James 1: 27).
 5. Falling from grace (I Cor. 10:12; Gal. 5:4).

VI. TO OVERCOME PREJUDICE AGAINST THE TRUTH, LET US CONSIDER WHAT THE TRUTH WILL DO FOR US:

1. The truth will make men free from sin (John 8:32).
2. The truth purifies the soul when obeyed (I Pet. 1: 22,23; John 15:3; Psa. 119:9).
3. The truth produces faith (Rom. 10:17; John 17:17).
4. The truth sanctifies (John 17:17; I Cor. 6:11).
5. By the truth we will be judged (Rom. 2:2).
6. Instead of being prejudiced against the truth, we should:
 - (1) Hear the truth (Col. 1:5).
 - (2) Believe the truth (2 Thess. 2: 12 - 13; Mk. 16:15 -16).
 - (3) Obey the truth (I Pet. 1:22).
 - (4) Love the truth (2 Thess. 2:10; Psa. 119:113 "*Thy law do I love*").
 - (5) Speak the truth (Eph. 4:15).
 - (6) Live the truth (3 John 3, 4; Gal. 2:14).
 - (7) Rightly divide the truth (2 Tim. 2:15).

CONCLUSION

1. We must work against being prejudiced in our lives.
2. Areas wherein prejudice toward other people is often exercised:
 - (1) Toward Preachers
 - (2) Toward Elders
 - (3) Toward Neighbors
 - (4) Toward other races
 - (5) Toward rich people
 - (6) Toward intellectual people
 - (7) People of other ages
3. Prejudice is a robber which many of us entertain in our hearts.
 - (1) It robs us of generous feelings toward others.
 - (2) It shuts our eyes and stops our ears to many precious truths.
 - (3) It shuts us up in the darkness of our own ignorance.
4. How to keep free from prejudice:
 - (1) Do not exalt opinion above faith.
 - (2) Do not exalt men above faith (I Cor. 4:6).
 - (3) Be ready to examine any practice in light of the word of God (Acts 17:11; 2 Cor. 13:5).
 - (4) Receive the truth from any source.

(Preached at River Bend, AL 2001; Underwood Hts. VBS 2006)

LESSON EIGHT

THE ATTITUDE OF PRIDE

INTRODUCTION

1. "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord:" (Prov. 16:5).
2. "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." (Prov. 16:18).
3. Pride and selfishness are "root sins" of most all the sins we commit.
4. PRIDE defined:
 - (1) An inordinate self-esteem.
 - (2) Unreasonable conceit of one's own excellence or importance.
 - (3) An attempt to appear in a superior light to what we are.
 - (4) One who show himself above other people.
 - (5) Pride is attended with insolence and rude treatment of others.
5. Pride is the PARENT of discontent, ingratitude, presumption, passion and extravagance.

I. THE BIBLE SPECIFICALLY SAYS THAT PRIDE IS A SIN

1. Prov. 21:4
2. Prov. 16:5
3. Prov. 6: 16 - 19
4. Prov. 8:13
5. Mark 7: 21 - 23
6. I Pet. 5:5
7. Psa. 101:5

II. PRIDE CAN INVADE EVERY FACET OF A PERSON'S LIFE:

1. Paul had to deal with pride (2 Cor. 12:7).
2. A person can become proud of anything that belongs to him (I John 2: 15 - 16) "*the pride of life*".
 - (1) Pride over BEAUTY
 - (2) Pride over FAMILY
 - (3) Pride over HUMILITY
 - (4) Pride over a HOUSE
 - (5) Pride over a CAR
 - (6) Pride over ABILITY
 - (7) Pride over KNOWLEDGE
3. How a man acts when he becomes proud:
 - (1) He has a "*haughty spirit*" (Prov. 16:18).
 - (2) He has a "*high look*" (Psa. 101:5).
 - (3) He is "*high-minded*" (I Tim. 6:17).
 - (4) He is "*puffed up*" (I Cor. 4:6; I Cor. 8:1).

- (5) He "*boasteth great things*" (James 3:5; I Cor. 13:4).
 - (6) He behaves "*unseemly*" or "*rudely*" (I Cor. 13:5).
 - (7) He is "*desirous of vain glory*" (Gal. 5:26).
 - (8) He "*thinks of himself more highly than he ought to think*" (Rom. 12:3).
4. Pride leads to:
- (1) CONTENTION (Prov. 13:10) "*Only by pride cometh contention*".
 - (2) STRIFE (Prov. 28:25) "*He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife*".
 - (3) WRATH (Prov. 21:24) "*Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.*"
 - (4) SINFUL SPEECH (Prov. 14:3) "*In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride.*"

III. SOME THINGS PRIDE CAUSES:

- 1. Pride prevents many from being converted.
 - (1) One must humble himself as a little child to be converted (Matt. 18: 3, 4).
 - (2) One must be poor in spirit (Matt. 5:3).
- 2. Pride will cause one to refuse to confess his sins.
 - (1) One who cannot humble himself low enough to say:
 - 1. "I'm sorry; I have sinned" is filled with pride.
 - 2. Often we must say to God, "I have sinned." (I John 1: 8, 9).
 - 3. At times we must say to other, "I have sinned." (James 5:16; Luke 17: 3 - 4).
 - 4. At times I must say to the church, "I have sinned." (I Cor. 10:32).
- 3. Pride causes one to rebel against God (Prov. 10:4) "*The wicked through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.*"
- 4. Pride causes the "rule or ruin" attitude -- Diotrephes (3 John 9 - 10).
- 5. Pride leads to apostasy (I Cor. 10:12).
- 6. Pride makes one "wise in his own eyes" (Prov. 3:7) "*Be not wise in thine own eyes.*"
- 7. Pride causes one to underrate others.
 - (1) The Pharisee who prayed (Luke 18: 9 - 14).
- 8. Pride causes men to disregard the word of God (Psa. 119: 21) "*Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.*"
- 9. Pride causes self-deception (Gal. 6: 3; Rev. 3: 14- 19).
- 10. Pride brings men to destruction (Prov. 16:18).

IV. THE CURE FOR PRIDE

- 1. We must have the same attitude that God has toward pride -- we must HATE PRIDE (Prov. 6: 16 - 19).
- 2. LOVE will cure pride (I Cor. 13:4).
- 3. We must NEVER FORGET -- WE HAVE NO SUFFICIENCY OF OURSELVES (Acts 17: 28; Eph. 2:8).
- 4. We must AVOID THINKING OF OURSELVES MORE HIGHLY than we ought to think (Rom. 12:3).

5. We must WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD (Micah 6:8) "*He hath shewed thee O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God*".

CONCLUSION

1. "*A man's pride shall bring him low.*" (Prov. 28:23).
2. "*Pride goeth before destruction*" (Prov. 16:18).
3. "*The Lord will destroy the house of the proud:*" (Prov. 15:25).

LESSON NINE

WORRY

INTRODUCTION

1. I believe we would all agree that some sins are committed by a greater number of people than others.
2. One of the most common sins we all commit is WORRY.
3. Many members of the church are guilty of this sin.
4. Jesus has warned us about this sin (Matt. 6:25, 31:34).
5. Paul warned (Phil. 4:6).
6. WORRY indicates a lack of trust in God as though He either CANNOT or WILL NOT care for us (I Pet. 5:7).

I. WORRY DESTROYS PEACE OF MIND

1. Worry has been styled the "Gravedigger that digs an untimely grave".
2. It ROBS US OF SLEEP.
3. It DESTROYS OUR APPETITE.
4. It IMPAIRS OUR DIGESTION.
5. It produces HEART PALPITATIONS, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE and STOMACH ULCERS.
6. Scientists at John Hopkins University, after exhaustive tests, concluded that worry is ONE OF THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE FORCES IN ROBBING US OF OUR HEALTH (from *Peace of Mind* by Peter J. Wilson).
7. Worry DESTROYS US MENTALLY.
 - (1) It BLURS OUR MENTAL PROCESSES.
 - (2) It DISTORTS OUR REASONING.
 - (3) It is an established fact that MOST MENTAL BREAKDOWNS CAN BE TRACED TO WORRY.
8. Worried, anxious people are touchy, impatient, irritable.
9. Worry can DESTROY THE MOST MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS of life.
 - (1) The worried wife or husband is NOT the companion that God intended them to be.
 - (2) Worried parents cannot set the proper example before their children.
 - (3) The worried person cannot be a good workman; worry can cause one to lose his job.
10. Worry is SO FUTILE (Matt. 6:27).

II. THINGS PEOPLE WORRY ABOUT

1. Worry about THEIR SINS.
 - (1) A person should obey God and get forgiveness of his sins, not worry about them . . . Get forgiveness and forget about them. God does (Heb. 10:17) "*And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*"

1. The alien sinner (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).
2. The child of God (Acts 8:22; I John 1:9).
2. People worry over THE FUTURE
 - (1) Jesus said, "*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble*" (Matt. 6:34).
 - (2) We may not live until tomorrow (James 4: 14 - 16; Prov. 27:1).
3. People worry over THE PAST.
 - (1) It is like "crying over spilled milk".
 - (2) The past cannot be undone; the sins of the past can be forgiven and forgotten.
 - (3) We must learn to "close the doors behind us".
 - (4) Paul (Phil. 3:13 - 14).
4. People worry over MONEY.
 - (1) Because of money worries, people divorce.
 - (2) People commit suicide.
 - (3) Some desert their families.
 - (4) Most of our money worries are not over the necessities of life, but over the luxuries that we want.
 - (5) One of the greatest causes of money worries is that many families live way beyond their means.
 - (6) We all need to live within our means and learn to be content (I Tim. 6: 6 - 8; Phil. 4:11).
 - (7) We need to trust God to supply our needs (Matt. 6: 11, 25 - 33).

III. LESSONS ABOUT WORRY FROM MATTHEW 6: 24 - 34

1. God who gives the greater blessings, the body and life, will give the lesser blessings to sustain the greater -- and we should not worry about the lesser (Matt. 6:25).
2. The heirs of heaven are better than the fowls of the air, and He will surely feed us who reap and put into barns (Matt. 6:26).
3. Worry is futile (Matt. 6:27).
4. We should learn from nature to depend upon God's ample provision (Matt. 6; 28 - 30).
5. To worry is to be of "*little faith*" (Matt. 6:30).
6. Worry is heathenish (Matt. 6:32).
7. God knows our temporal needs (Matt. 6:32).
8. The matter of salvation, "*The kingdom of God, and his righteousness*" should be the dominant thing in our lives instead of material things (Matt. 6:33).
9. Don't worry about the future (Matt. 6:34).

IV. HOW TO OVERCOME WORRY

1. Make up your mind that you are going to conquer it (Rom. 8:37).
2. Learn to LIVE ONE DAY AT A TIME (Matt. 6: 11, 34).
3. Cultivate a STRONG FAITH in God.
 - (1) Abraham had strong faith (Rom. 4: 20 - 21).

- (2) Paul had strong faith (Acts 27: 25).
 - (3) We worry when we have little faith (Matt. 6: 30; Mark 4:40; Matt. 14:31).
 - (4) Psa. 23:1 - 6
 - (5) Isa. 26: 3 "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*"
 - (6) Heb. 13: 5 - 6
4. PRAYER is another of the remedies God has given us for the problem of worry (Phil. 4: 5 - 7).
- (1) God hears and answers our prayers because we do His commandments (I John 3:22; I Pet. 3:12; I John 5: 14 - 15; 2 Cor. 12: 7 - 9).
 - (2) God tells us to cast our care upon Him (I Pet. 5:7).
5. WORKING FOR THE LORD
- (1) Matt. 6:33
 - (2) Phil. 2: 12
 - (3) Luke 9:23
 - (4) I Cor. 15:58

CONCLUSION

- 1. To overcome worry I must have faith that God will help me overcome it (Gen. 41:51).
- 2. I must have faith in the Lord -- Faithfulness -- Heb. 10:23 (He is faithful that promised) 2 Tim. 1:12.
- 3. We need to have faith that "*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*" (Phil. 4:13).

LESSON TEN

SELF-CONTROL

2 Peter 1:6

INTRODUCTION

1. Self-control is "to have power over oneself"; it is self-restraint.
2. Self-control is the bringing of all our appetites, desires, and passions into harmony with the will of God (Psa. 119:11, 16; Col. 3:5; I Cor. 9:27).
3. Self-control is the opposite of "incontinency" (I Cor. 5:5; 2 Tim. 3:3).
4. Passages that call for our self-control:
 - (1) "*Flee fornication*" (I Cor. 6:18; Matt. 5:28).
 - (2) "*Flee also youthful lusts*" (2 Tim. 2:22).
 - (3) "*Abstain from fleshly lust*" (I Pet. 2:11).
 - (4) I Cor. 10:13

I. REASON FOR STUDYING SELF-CONTROL

1. Self-control is required of God (Gal. 5:23).
2. Man does not have to sin; he can avoid sinning by exercising self-control (Eph. 4: 25 - 29; 5:3; I John 2:1; I Thess. 4:3).

II. SELF-CONTROL OVER ONE'S BODY IS A MUST IN ORDER TO BE SAVED ETERNALLY.

1. I Cor. 9: 24 -27
2. Rom. 6: 1 - 2, 6, 12 - 14, 16
3. Col. 3: 5 - 7

III. SPECIFIC AREAS OF SELF-CONTROL INVOLVING THE FLESHLY BODY

1. HUNGER is a natural desire.
 - (1) We must have food to live.
 - (2) I must control my natural desire for food and not become an "excessive eater".
 - (3) I must not become a glutton (Prov. 23: 21).
2. SLEEP is necessary for a healthy body.
 - (1) But, sleeping away one's life is slothfulness, and is sinful (Prov. 6: 9 - 11; Prov. 24: 30 - 34; Prov. 23:21).
3. The SEXUAL DESIRES are God-given and as natural and as pure as the desire for food when properly controlled within a scriptural marriage.
 - (1) I Cor. 7: 2, 5; Heb. 13:4; Gen. 3:16
 - (2) The sexual desire fulfilled outside of marriage is sinful (Gal. 5:19).

- (3) Unmarried people must be continent (total abstinence).
- (4) Married people whose spouse is sick must be continent (I Thess. 4:3).
- (5) There are times in the life of every individual when the sexual desire cannot be fulfilled, therefore the necessity of self-control:
 1. Young people before marriage.
 2. People who do not choose to marry.
 3. People whose companion is dead.
 4. Married people who have to be separated for long periods of time.
 5. Married people whose companion is sick.
4. We must exercise self-control over our THOUGHTS.
 - (1) Prov. 4:23
 - (2) Phil. 4:8
 - (3) Mark 7: 20 -23
5. We must control our ANGER.
 - (1) Eph. 4:26
 - (2) James 1:19
6. We must control our DESIRE FOR MONEY.
 - (1) I Tim. 6: 6 - 11
 - (2) Matt. 6:24
7. We must control our TONGUES.
 - (1) Psa. 39:1
 - (2) Psa. 34:13
 - (3) I Pet. 2:1
8. We must control our OPINIONS.
 - (1) All people have opinions.
 - (2) We must control them and not force them on others (Rom. 14:22).

IV. HOW TO EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL

1. Self-control is a personal responsibility (I Cor. 9: 27).
 - (1) God teaches us right from wrong in His word (Heb. 5: 12 - 14).
 - (2) He leaves the fight up to us (James 4:7; I Cor.10:13; Matt. 26: 41; I Tim. 6:11; I Cor. 6:18).
2. We need strong convictions about what is right:
 - (1) DANIEL had convictions (Dan. 1: 8).
 - (2) JOSEPH had convictions (Gen. 39: 9).
 - (3) PAUL had convictions (I Cor. 9: 27).
3. We must completely cut off anything that would interfere with serving the Lord (Matt. 5: 28 - 30).
4. We must abstain from every form of evil (I Thess. 5:22).
5. Self-control can be developed by observing these principles:
 - (1) We must PURPOSE IN HEART WHAT WE WILL NOT DO (Dan. 1:8).
 - (2) We must GIVE DILIGENCE IN ALL OUR EFFORTS TO SERVE GOD (2 Pet. 1:5).

- (3) AVOID EVIL COMPANIONS (I Cor. 15:33).
- (4) AVOID SITUATIONS WHERE YOU MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO SIN (I Cor. 10:13).
- (5) FOLLOW IN THE STEPS OF JESUS (I Pet. 1:21).

CONCLUSION