

Adamic Nature

TEXT: Genesis 3:1-10; Romans 5:12-14

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Genesis 6:5; Isaiah 43:27; 53:6; 64:6,7; Romans 5:15-21

KEY VERSE: 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. — Romans 5:12

Even though crimes of a violent nature may seem unlikely and far removed from your way of living, each of us has done things we later regretted. Why is this so? How does it happen that none of us, just by trying, can totally eliminate doing wrong things or thinking angry or evil thoughts? People who wish to find excuses for their sins often blame God for the sinful state of things, but by searching the Scriptures we find that man has a sinful nature because of the original transgression in the Garden of Eden. This can only be changed through salvation.

1. Why has man had the choice to obey or disobey, even from the beginning? What does man have that enables him to obey or disobey?

2. God does not compel us to love Him, even though He is our Creator. If you think on this subject you will conclude that there is no such thing as unwilling love. So, we can see there will not be one person in Heaven who did not really want to go there—who did not really want to love God and serve Him! God, through Christ, has provided the way. Every person must choose! The Bible evidence is indisputable. Contrast the choices made by Cain and Abel in chapter 4 of Genesis. Give three other scriptural examples of contrasting choices.

3. Identify what the serpent's first words to Eve were designed to do. How did this relate to the choice she eventually made?

4. Satan knew that as long as Adam and Eve depended upon God, they could not be ruined. He therefore endeavored to seduce them from this dependence, using doubt and lies, saying, “Ye shall not surely die.” What were some of the effects of their yielding?

5. Eve’s statement proves her detailed knowledge of God’s instructions. She knew that God had decreed the death penalty for disobedience in eating the forbidden fruit. Why did Eve decide to follow the serpent’s suggestion instead of God’s instructions? Note several mistakes she made which may help us avoid Satan’s trap.

6. Explain the meaning of our key verse.

7. What proof do you see that the sinful Adamic nature in man is at work in the world today? List three or more specific items. If you wish, bring clippings to class from newspapers or magazines to illustrate your points.

THOUGHT PROVOKER: Though we are, or were, all guilty in the sight of God—“all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”—God in His mercy provided a remedy. In 1 Corinthians 15:22 we read, “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

The Remedy — A Redeemer

TEXT: Romans 5:15-21; 1 Peter 1:17-25

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:12-14; Hebrews 9:11,12; Revelation 5:9

KEY VERSE: For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. — Romans 5:19

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. 49 — The Atoning Blood

God's commandment was clear and plain. Adam could eat fruit of any of the trees in the Garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, "for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Adam disobeyed God and ate of that tree. Spiritually, he died immediately. Physically, he died some years later. The curse of sin passed upon Adam and all future mankind. The situation would have been hopeless, except for God's love and grace. Along with the curse upon sin, God promised a Redeemer—our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The word *redeem* means, "to buy back, repurchase, or free from the bondage of sin." Review the previous lesson, and in your own words briefly summarize why there was a need for redemption.

2. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). This being true, who then can be redeemed? See John 3:17; Romans 5:17; 1 Peter 1:17; and 2 Peter 3:9.

3. There are those who think they can purchase their own redemption by giving largely to religious organizations or worthwhile charitable concerns. Others may depend on their own good works or their adherence to certain rules of conduct to make their way into Heaven. Read 1 Peter 1:18,19 and describe how the Bible says we receive redemption.

4. In what unique way does Jesus Christ qualify to be our Redeemer? Use 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 1:19 to help you with your answer.

5. When was Jesus Christ foreordained as our Redeemer from sin?

6. How does the Apostle Peter compare the life span of man with the grass of the field? What does this have to do with redemption?

7. The disobedience of Adam in the Garden caused the curse of sin to pass upon all men. The obedience of Jesus Christ brought redemption, or righteousness, to all who believe in Him. How can one avail himself of this redemption?

8. What is the end result of our righteousness through Christ Jesus, if we remain faithful? See Romans 5:21. Find another verse in the Bible which gives a parallel promise.

9. How does Matthew 16:26 relate to man's redemption?

Conviction

TEXT: Psalm 38:1-18; Acts 24:24-27

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Ezekiel 33:10; John 8:7-9; Acts 9:6; 16:29,30; 26:28,29

KEY VERSE: Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? — Acts 2:37

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. 22 — Weighed in the Balance; Tract No. 86 — From Bowling Alley to Pulpit

The dictionary lists several meanings for the word *conviction*, but we are concerned with the one which says, “an aroused perception of error or sin; a strong admonition of the conscience.” It would be impossible to come to the Lord unless we realize our need of Him. The Spirit of God is faithful to show us our need and to draw us unto the Lord. He speaks to us through our conscience and we are made to realize that we are sinners and need to repent.

1. Paul was called upon to stand trial before Felix, the Roman governor of Judea. What was Paul’s attitude, and why? See Acts 24:10-13.

2. Felix deferred sentence until the chief captain, Claudius Lysias (Acts 24:22-24), should come, but why did he call for Paul?

3. What effect did Paul’s message have on Felix? What does this tell us concerning Felix?

4. The governor told Paul, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." How did his response indicate that he was being convicted? Why is it dangerous to try to evade conviction?

5. What did Felix hope that Paul would do?

6. In Psalm 38, David graphically portrays a man under conviction. This may well have been something he experienced personally, or it may be allegorical. In any case, it is an excellent description of a person feeling the guilt of his sins. In verse 1, what does David indirectly acknowledge?

7. Aside from physical afflictions, explain, in your own words, how conviction affected David. See Psalm 38:3,4,6,8.

8. Contrast the effects of conviction on David and Felix.

9. Read Acts 2:37-41. What brought about the salvation of the three thousand souls who were mentioned in this passage?

Repentance

TEXT: Ezekiel 18:20-32; 2 Corinthians 7:9,10

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: 2 Chronicles 7:14; Proverbs 28:13; Mark 1:15; Luke 15:7

KEY VERSE: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. — Isaiah 55:7

When Jesus began to preach, His message was, “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). What is repentance? Who is to repent? How does repentance affect an individual? God’s Spirit causes us to understand that this message comes from Heaven and is directed to each of us. We cannot repent without God’s help. So the Holy Spirit was sent into the world to “reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8), thus leading men to repentance.

1. Repentance is a godly sorrow for sin with a renunciation of it, and is necessary in order to receive salvation. What is the penalty for sin as stated in our text in Ezekiel? What does the prophet say the wicked should do?

2. The Spirit reveals sin. Without this enlightenment from Heaven one will never be able to comply with the call to repentance. One must first realize he is a sinner and that God’s judgment hangs over his Hell-bound soul. Then the Holy Spirit assures him there is hope. You aren’t doomed forever. There is forgiveness of sins through the Name of Jesus if you will repent. Using the text, the key verse, and 1 John 2:25, list the promises made to those who turn away from their sins.

3. Before Jesus came, John the Baptist preached the message, “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2). He preached with such power and anointing that whole cities in that area were emptied of their inhabitants as people went out to hear him. Some did repent, others did not. There were many scribes and Pharisees who joined the crowd presenting themselves as candidates for baptism but who had not repented of their sins. John rebuked them saying, “O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance” (Matthew 3:7,8).

What do you think John meant by the words in the 8th verse?

4. Many people in Christian circles today believe that once you have given your life to the Lord you are eternally secure, and that there is no way you can drop out of fellowship with Christ. In our text in Ezekiel, find a verse that refutes this idea and explain, in your own words, what that verse says. Then find a verse in the New Testament which states the same truth.

5. Many times people like to place the blame for not being a Christian on someone else. They use this as an excuse to justify themselves for living an ungodly life. From our text we realize that the blame rests upon the one who sins. "The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him." If they continue to excuse their ungodly lives, and fail to repent, they will find that sin has negative repercussions. Briefly tell how sin ruins lives today.

6. The Lord said that He had no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He loves all mankind. It is not His will that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. He didn't say, "join a church," or "subscribe to some creed," or "do the best you can to live a good life." He said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish," (Luke 13:3). What provision did He make so that the wicked would not have to die? List several Scriptures that prove the Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

7. Our text in 2 Corinthians 7:9 tells us that Paul rejoiced because the people sorrowed to repentance. What is the difference between being sorry and having sorrow to repentance and what is the outcome of both?

8. Jesus said that He came not to call the righteous, but the sinners to repentance. We should understand that repentance was necessary under the Law (of which John the Baptist was a representative), but it is of no less importance under the dispensation of grace (of which Jesus is a representative). Many people think that God is so merciful that they can come to Him any time they are ready. We are warned in the Bible against presuming on the mercy of God (Psalm 19:13). Read what is said about Esau in Hebrews 12:17, and then explain why it is dangerous to put off the call of the Lord.

Salvation

TEXT: Ephesians 2:1-8; 1 John 1:9

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 45:22; John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Revelation 22:17

KEY VERSE: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.
— Ephesians 2:8

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. 30 — The New Birth

After a person has been convicted of his sins and is truly repentant, he must believe that the Lord will save him. He will then receive an experience of Bible salvation, an act of God's grace by which he receives forgiveness of sins. This is not just a mental assent or a hope-so or guess-so type of Christianity, but His Spirit will witness with that one that he is a child of God. See Romans 8:16.

1. Give the meaning of the word *quicken*ed, as used in the first verse of our text. Review the last two lessons which deal with conviction and repentance. How do these two words relate to the word *quicken*ed?

2. Explain in your own words what walking "according to the course of this world" might mean.

3. Peter tells us that our salvation has been purchased through the shedding of the Blood of Jesus on Calvary. He speaks of this as redemption, and explains that this was God's plan for our salvation before the world was created. These words are precious to us when we consider that Jesus gave His own life to be our Redeemer. *Redemption* means literally, "the buying back and freeing of our souls from sin and its penalty, death," which was brought upon the world by Adam's transgression. Jesus paid the ransom price in the only way possible to satisfy God's justice, by the shedding of His innocent Blood. How can this great salvation be obtained, and why is it necessary?

4. If after one has been converted he then returns to sin, is that person still a Christian? Using Ezekiel 33:12; 2 Peter 2:20,21; and 1 John 3:8,9; 5:18, explain your answer.

5. Our text states that God is merciful and has great love for us. Do you think He might overlook just a little sin in our lives? Explain.

6. Who is the prince of the power of the air? What influence does he have in the lives of sinners? How does he attract the Christian?

7. Who are the children of disobedience? Who are the children of wrath?

8. Tell in your own words the meaning of verses 6 and 7 of our text.

Sanctification

TEXT: John 17:9-23; Hebrews 13:12

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Leviticus 20:7,8; Ephesians 5:25-27; 2 Timothy 2:20,21; Hebrews 2:11; 12:14,15

KEY VERSE: Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. — Hebrews 13:12

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. 125 — Sanctification

When a person turns to God, repenting of and forsaking his sins, God is faithful and just to forgive those sins. However, there still remains in the heart the sin-principle which was born in him. He is not responsible for it; it was handed down from his forebears. Yet, God has made a way for this to be removed. The same Sacrifice that brought salvation to man also provides the means by which he might be sanctified—a second, definite work of grace in the heart, in which the principle of sin, or Adamic nature, is eradicated. Therefore it is necessary to seek sanctification.

1. Who was Jesus praying for in John 17:9? What would you say was the spiritual condition of these people? Why do you think so?

2. What verse from today's lesson proves that the world hates the followers of Jesus? Why is this true?

3. In verse 11, Jesus prayed to His Father, "that they may be one, as we are." Ephesians 4:3-6 gives a further description of this oneness. Why is this unity among believers so vital?

4. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." What is sanctification? How does this experience help a follower of Jesus?

5. The dictionary gives two definitions for the word *sanctify*: "to set aside for a sacred purpose or to consecrate," and "to free from sin, or purify." When Jesus said, "I sanctify myself," to which of the definitions did He refer? How do the two definitions apply to us when we seek to be sanctified?

6. How do we know that sanctification is within God's will for us? See John 17:15-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3.

7. Why is sanctification necessary in the life of a Christian? See Matthew 5:8; Hebrews 12:14.

8. Describe, in your own words, what you think the key verse means. See also Leviticus 16:11-19,27.

9. How do we know that Jesus' prayer was answered in the lives of His disciples? See Acts 2:1.

Baptism of the Holy Ghost

TEXT: Acts 1:8; 2:1-13; 3:1-7

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Joel 2:28,29; Matthew 3:11; Luke 24:49

KEY VERSE: For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. — Acts 2:39

One of Jesus' last instructions to His disciples was that they tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. As they obeyed His word and tarried in one accord, they all received the experience of the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, speaking in other languages as the Spirit gave utterance.

1. The disciples were commanded to tarry in Jerusalem until they received the power. Why was it important for the disciples to wait for this power, rather than to start right away to preach the Gospel? How does this principle apply to us?

2. Jesus told His disciples He would send the "promise of the Father" upon them. This promise was that they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:4,5). See also Joel 2:28. What does it mean to be *baptized* with the Holy Ghost? What is the purpose for which this experience is given? See also John 14:26 and 15:26.

3. There is no Scripture or verbal instruction by Christ that the disciples were to seek for a manifestation of tongues when seeking the gift of the Holy Ghost. If not tongues, what were they instructed to seek for? See Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8.

4. What phenomenon in the receiving of the gift of the Holy Ghost convinced the listeners that this was of God?

5. The disciples did not know how long they would have to continue in prayer, but they were encouraged that before many more days had passed they would receive the Gift. What spiritual attributes did the disciples display as they waited for the outpouring of the Spirit? See Acts 1:14 and 2:1.

6. It is interesting to note that among the first acts recorded after the Day of Pentecost is that of disciples going to a prayer meeting. What significance does this hold for us in our day?

7. What was one of the first acts Peter did which gave evidence of the power he received at Pentecost by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

8. Some may feel that only those who are called to be preachers, evangelists, missionaries, or to do similar services need the baptism of the Holy Ghost. What does Acts 6:1-6 reveal to us?

Into All the World

TEXT: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:14-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 24:14; Luke 24:45-48; Acts 26:17,18

KEY VERSE: “Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” — John 20:21

After His resurrection, Jesus gave His eleven disciples what we now call the Great Commission. He told them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to everyone. The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus lives, and all who believe on Him will be saved. The disciples were to teach the people God's Word and to assure them that Jesus' presence would always be with them. That commission is for Christians today too. The world has grown and every Christian has his or her part to do in spreading the Gospel. Great joy is experienced by all who love Jesus, when a new soul is added to the Church.

1. Just before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He gave His Great Commission. What was that Commission, and who were directed to have a part in the work?

2. Constant communion with God the Father was vitally important for the disciples, and the Holy Spirit was the important communicating Agent that they needed. He fills the same office for the Church on earth today. Name several of the ways in which overcoming Christians are dependent upon the Holy Spirit today.

3. Jesus told His disciples, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” Jesus imparts a portion of that power to His followers to help them perform the work of His Kingdom on earth. How was this God-given power to be used? Were the disciples to rule with rigor the Church and people who came under their influence?

4. The disciples were to preach Christ's message of salvation. That message was not just for a select few. Jesus had commanded them to preach to "every creature," wherever they could be found. What were the results that followed the disciples as they went forth preaching and teaching as Jesus had commanded?

5. Although Jesus' Great Commission was given to the eleven disciples who were with Him at the time, they could not speak the Gospel to every person in every part of the world throughout all the ages of time. However, the Gospel faithfully proclaimed made new disciples who in turn took up the commission. We know that Jesus promised, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." What did He mean by that?

6. The Apostle Paul is an example of one who became a "new disciple," and obeyed Christ's command to preach the Gospel. Name some of the situations that Paul faced during his ministry.

7. Implicit faith in the Son of God will bring about great and marvelous things. Jesus assured the disciples that mighty miracles would follow their preaching of the truth. List some Scriptures which give us assurance that Jesus Christ still manifests Himself in behalf of those who truly honor and work for Him today.

8. The Great Commission included water baptism. It is an outward act that is indicative of the inward work performed by the grace of God. It is performed in behalf of those who have given their lives to Christ. How is the Holy Trinity represented in the ordinance of water baptism?

A Universal Call

TEXT: Acts 10:1-48; Romans 10:12,13

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 28:19,20; Luke 4:18

KEY VERSE: For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. — Romans 10:12

Up to this time the Gospel had been preached only to the Jews, Samaritans who observed the Law of Moses, and converts to Judaism. The Apostles seemed to think that the Gentiles had to be circumcised before they could be accepted into the Church. However, God soon made it plain that the Gospel message was to all men. In this lesson we learn that, by an extraordinary series of events, an orthodox Jew is witnessing to a Roman centurion. It was God's divine orchestration that caused this unusual occurrence.

1. What spiritual attributes did Cornelius, the Roman centurion, exhibit that caused God to take note of his life (Acts 10:2)? What conclusions can be drawn about the type of person this man was?

2. Peter had a vision of a sheet which was let down from Heaven. In the sheet were all kinds of animals that were considered by the Jews to be unclean, but God revealed to Peter that they had been cleansed. God used this to open his understanding that the Gentiles were to be full beneficiaries of God's graces. Why is this revelation of such great importance to us?

3. We see the moving of the Holy Spirit throughout this entire account. He moved in Cornelius' house in Caesarea, and then at the house in which Peter was staying in Joppa—He instructed Cornelius to send for Peter, and told Peter to return with Cornelius' servants. What is the limit to which God will go to reach a hungry soul? Relate an experience in your own life or in the life of an acquaintance wherein the Holy Spirit has worked in a special way in this regard.

4. Why would it have been natural for Peter and the Jews who went with him to hesitate to go into Cornelius' house? See Acts 10:28 and Leviticus 20:26.

5. As Peter preached Jesus to Cornelius and his house, they received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Verse 34 of our text states, "God is no respecter of persons." In the context of Peter's statement, what is the significance of this verse? Name several souls who would have been lost if Jesus had not reached out to them, even though others thought they were not worthy.

6. Paul the Apostle recognized the universality of the Gospel call, and this was reflected in his words to the Romans. He told them, "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call on him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:12,13). Elaborate on the ways the Lord is "rich" to anyone who comes to Him in honest repentance.

7. Read Matthew 28:19,20, and note here the phrase which ties these two verses to the theme of this lesson. Think of a story or conversion experience of someone you know about which illustrates this theme.

Used of God

TEXT: Acts 6:1-6; 8:5-8,26-40

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 16:24; Luke 14:33; 1 Timothy 3:1-13

KEY VERSE: And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the work with signs following. — Mark 16:20

It is good, especially in the work of the Lord, if responsibility can be distributed among as many people as possible. This is sound practice for several reasons. In the first place, there are to be no “lords over God’s heritage” (1 Peter 5:3), but all are to be “subject one to another,” and “clothed with humility” (1 Peter 5:5). Like the stones that were cut and shaped in the quarries and then brought to the Temple site, the saints of God are prepared by God for a specific place in His Church. This is accomplished through the consecration of one’s self to God and the seeking of His gifts and graces. All of God’s people have a place in the work of the Lord. None are excluded; none are forgotten; none are to be inactive. None are considered unworthy of some place in the service of God—in a capacity that fits their capabilities. Each one, then, will be rewarded for the manner in which he fills his God-given responsibility.

1. What was the first recorded task Philip was asked to do for the Lord? Why was this task so important? What types of helpers are most needed in the church today?

2. The duties to which Philip and the other six men were appointed consisted of ministering to a physical rather than a spiritual need. Why, then, would the Apostles require spiritual qualifications? See John 4:23,24.

3. In your own words define the spiritual qualifications required by the Apostles for this task.

4. What circumstances brought Philip to Samaria (Acts 8:3-5)? How did he seem to react to his circumstances?

5. Philip was the first called upon to help the Apostles, and in Acts 8:14,15 we read how two of the Apostles came to help Philip. In what way did Peter and John help Philip? How did their actions set an example for us?

6. Give a specific example of how a person was used of God to help you.

7. In today's lesson, how did being full of the Holy Ghost help Philip?

8. Philip was living his life to be used of God when suddenly he had the opportunity to speak to one who wanted to hear the message he had. God gave him that privilege because he was living a spotless life, filled with God's Spirit. Many people have similar opportunities today only to be passed by because their ears aren't in tune with God's directing Spirit. How can you insure that you will be alert to the opportunities God sends your way?

Prepared for Battle

TEXT: Ephesians 6:10-18

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 59:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:8; Hebrews 4:12

KEY VERSE: Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. — Ephesians 6:13

The Christian soldier's strength and power is in the Lord. God has provided spiritual armor for us. It is not enough for us to know that it is available. If we are to stand in the day of battle we must put the armor on. The battle is not against foes which we can see, but against principalities and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God" (2 Corinthians 10:4). The armor of God has several parts, and like any system of personal armor, works best when it is complete. As we put on each part and use it effectively we can be more than conquerors.

1. In our text, the first mention of the armor is that the loins be girt about with truth. In the context of this verse what does *truth* mean? Using Jesus' experience in the wilderness of temptation, explain the importance of this part of the armor. See Matthew 4:1-11.

2. The second piece of equipment is the breastplate of righteousness. Can you explain the difference between self-righteousness and the righteousness received from God? Use Matthew 3:7-10 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 as references.

3. Another part of the armor is the helmet of salvation. Read how it is described in 1 Thessalonians 5:8. Using Isaiah 26:3, explain the importance of having our minds covered with the helmet of salvation.

4. The Christian soldier's feet are shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. This allows him to be prepared at all times to declare God's peace and goodwill to the world. Using 2 Timothy 4:2 and 1 Peter 3:15, define *preparation* as it relates to our walk with Christ. List ways we can be better prepared for Christian service.

5. "Above all, taking the shield of faith." Why is faith so important in this spiritual warfare? And why, "above all"?

6. We have observed thus far that all of the pieces of armor mentioned have been of a protective nature. However, the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, is designed to be used both offensively and defensively. It is to guard the Christian soldier, and by it he can vanquish all his foes. The Sword can be adapted to every state and circumstance in which we are placed. How can we effectively use the Sword of the Spirit? See Psalm 119:11 and 2 Timothy 2:15.

7. Prayer is essential to the Christian warfare. What did the Apostle Paul mean when he said, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit"?

8. Ephesians 6:11,13 refers to the "whole armour of God." What a relief to know that we do not have to lean upon our own understanding to provide proper protection. The Christian warfare is a battle of right against wrong. Some have said that the best defense is a good offense. A Christian is not merely holding his own, but is moving forward and defeating the enemy. Where, in your own life, might you use the offensive weapons illustrated by the following verses: Proverbs 15:1; Romans 12:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:15?

Spiritual Endurance

TEXT: 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Revelation 3:11

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: 1 Timothy 6:12; Hebrews 10:31-39; 11:31-35

KEY VERSE: Ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. — Mark 13:13

Down through the centuries battles have been won and battles have been lost. Yet, in every conflict there is a common goal—VICTORY! That victory may have been conquering a hill, a city, a country, or it may just be achieving a personal goal. To the Christian engaged in spiritual conflict with the “enemy” of his soul, victory means “enduring unto the end” and spending eternity with Jesus.

1. Paul commanded Timothy to be “instant in season, out of season.” How can we as Christians do this?

2. Before a person can go to battle he must identify the enemy. List ways that you think might help one to be able to identify his spiritual enemy.

3. Timothy was told, “watch thou in all things.” Why is it necessary that we watch? See 1 Peter 5:8.

4. The enemy challenges Christians in every phase of life: in school, at home, on the job, wherever they are. How will one who has determined to endure to the end respond when he encounters:

Temptations

Physical affliction

Pressure from acquaintances

Financial burdens

Depression

5. Verse 5 of our text lists three other things that the Christian is instructed to do in addition to enduring affliction, the subject of our lesson. What are these three things, and what connection can you see between each of them and the command to “endure afflictions”?

6. Everyone, Christians and non-Christians alike, have things in their lives that they must endure. Afflictions come to Christians for various reasons. Explain. See 1 Peter 2:19,20.

7. How would you relate the word *motivation* to the Christian walk? What is our motivation to endure for Christ's sake? What are some ways we might be able to increase our motivation?

8. Every Christian will not face the same set of circumstances or trials. What are some specific things a Christian may endure for Christ? Consider Biblical examples as well as examples from your own knowledge or experience.

9. In verses 7 and 8 of our text, Paul speaks of having finished his course, and goes on to tell about the reward he expects to receive. Those that “love his appearing” are eligible for the same reward. In Revelation 3:11, we find the key to Christian endurance. State it in your own words.

Quarter Review

TEXT: Review Quarter Texts

KEY VERSE: Student's choice from this quarter

As we look at the three words which express the theme for this quarter—pardoned, prepared, and powerful—we find a spiritual goal set before each of us. God's part and our part in each of these words are closely intertwined. When we come to God in a spirit of consecration and surrender, He pardons our sins, prepares us for service by giving us the deeper spiritual experiences, and makes us powerful witnesses to the world. As we review the lessons we have studied this past quarter, let us not fail to give honor to God who has provided so much for us.

1. How do the consequences of Adam's disobedience extend to all mankind? See Romans 5:12. Given that knowledge, what is our hope? See 1 Corinthians 15:22

2. What does the word *redemption* mean, as used in the Biblical sense?

3. What is the difference between conviction and repentance, and why are both necessary?

4. Salvation is a gift, and our redemption was purchased on Calvary by the Blood of Jesus. Still, action must be taken to receive this experience. Read Ephesians 2:8, 2 Corinthians 7:10, and 1 John 1:9, and then describe this action.

5. Is the great work of sanctification immaterial? Is it left to the individual Christian as to whether he should seek for this second definite work of grace? Why or why not? See Genesis 17:1, Leviticus 11:44, and 1 Thessalonians 4:3.

6. In reference to Acts 1:8, what does the Holy Ghost bring into our lives? Why is it important to put this into action?

7. Jesus' command, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15) was basically limited to personal witnessing. Preaching to large groups was also a possibility, as the Apostle Peter did on the Day of Pentecost. What are some of the means of communication used effectively in spreading the Gospel today? How can each individual help in this endeavor?

8. The Gospel in the early time of the Apostles had been preached only to the Jews, Samaritans who observed the Law of Moses, and converts to Judaism (known as proselytes), excluding the Gentiles. Peter, in preaching at Cornelius' home, stated, "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). What was the significance of this statement? What happened as Peter was preaching?

9. We have often heard the quote, "Keep on keeping on." Several Scriptures encourage us to do this in order to have complete victory. List some of the ways Satan would try to hinder our walk with the Lord. In addition, list some of the ways we can fight the enemy's attack. See James 4:7, 1 Peter 1:13, Isaiah 26:3, James 1:12, and Galatians 6:9.