

Follow Me

TEXT: Matthew 4:18-22; 11:28-30; 16:24-27

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:17-21

KEY VERSE: Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. — Matthew 16:24

Surrender to Christ brings a blessed relationship with the holiest, wisest, most powerful Being that is, was, or ever will be. This relationship affects all other associations we have, whether they are with the saved or unsaved. If we place Christ first in our lives, He will show us how our associations with those around us can be in conformity with His teachings.

1. In the first portion of our text, Jesus called Peter and Andrew. In Matthew 11:28-30 the call was extended to become a universal invitation. Explain the steps necessary to enter into a relationship with Christ.

2. Christ's yoke is easy and light compared to the load of sin. Too often people have the idea that a yoke is heavy, and they don't get much farther than that thought. In reality, yoking shares the load and the effort. A weaker, less experienced animal is yoked to a strong, lead animal. In essence, the lead animal pulls the heavier load or carries the most weight. With this thought in mind, what are the advantages of having Jesus' yoke upon you?

3. When Jesus met Peter and Andrew, He used these words to call them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." How would you explain the word *follow*? Using your definition, what do you think Jesus was really asking of these men?

4. What was the reaction of these men? Give an example of one with an opposite reaction.

5. How did this relationship with Christ affect other people with whom they came into contact? See Acts 4:13. How do people today recognize a follower of Christ?

6. When Jesus spoke of taking up the cross, He was not referring to a symbol on a chain around the neck, a shiny pin on the lapel, or the smooth and varnished emblem at the front of the church. He was not speaking of a rough instrument of torture and death, but an evidence of self-denial and sacrifice. With this thought in mind, what can we determine regarding this command of Christ in relation to our lives? What advantage can there be for one in denying himself and taking up his cross?

7. Explain Matthew 16:26 in your own words.

8. Galatians 5:22,23 describes some of the characteristics we will evidence if we have a close relationship with Christ. How will these characteristics help us live in harmony with others?

Submission to Spiritual Leaders

TEXT: Ezekiel 33:1-11; Jeremiah 3:15

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Ephesians 4:11-17; 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1-5

KEY VERSE: And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. — 1 Thessalonians 5:12,13

The Word of God teaches us in many places that the ministers are instructed by God to feed us His Word, and they will be held accountable as to whether they have done this. We are taught to obey those who have the spiritual responsibility for the welfare of our souls.

1. How did God provide for the spiritual leadership of His people in Old Testament times? See John 1:17 and 2 Peter 1:21.

2. Under the Law, it was vitally important for the people to obey what "Thus saith the Lord" as it was revealed to them through His priests and prophets. Punishment, many times death, was inflicted on those who disobeyed (Hebrews 10:28). There are many places in the Scriptures where we are shown the importance of being obedient to those God has put in a position of authority over us. Why should His commands be obeyed and the instructions from His ministers and pastors be heeded in our day?

3. What provisions did God make for the spiritual leadership of His people in the New Testament church? See Ephesians 4:11,12.

4. The leader of a church congregation is usually called a pastor. Webster defines *pastor* as one who is a “shepherd of the flock,” or one who feeds the people spiritually. Note some of the responsibilities of a shepherd in Bible times, and parallel these duties to the duties of a pastor.

5. Why is it important that a pastor, or one with similar responsibilities, seeks God’s guidance and wisdom in all the decisions he makes for the welfare of the congregation, and that he be faithful to the soul of each one?

6. Many times, students in school are taught to think things out for themselves, to question authority and, indirectly, not to submit to their elders. How does Hebrews 13:17 refute these humanistic teachings?

7. At what age should children be taught to honor and obey their elders and ministers? See Isaiah 28:9.

8. What kind of life does God’s Word command His ministers to live? (Titus 2:7,8) What effect will this type of example have on a minister’s congregation and on others who meet him?

9. Why is it not necessary for us to fully understand the reason for each decision made by the ministry in order to heed it?

God's Love

TEXT: Matthew 1:21; 2:1-15; John 16:27

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: 1 Peter 1:8; 1 John 3:8; 4:9,10

KEY VERSE: In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. — 1 John 4:9

God gave His best when He sent His only Son Jesus to this earth so that we might have eternal life. His love lies at the very heart of Christianity and is the essential key to the relationship between God and man. God not only loves but He is love. All human love, whether Godward or manward, has its source in God. However, if it is not manifested toward both God and one's fellowman it is dead and worthless. A Christian must love God supremely and his neighbor as himself; he must love his enemy as well as his brother. Love is the bond uniting all Christians as well as all Christian virtues.

1. Paul the Apostle in 2 Corinthians 9:15 referred to Jesus Christ as God's unspeakable gift. Give a definition of the word *gift*. Using your definition, compare the attributes of a gift in our secular society to Jesus—the great Gift that God gave.

2. There are certain aspects of any gift which affect our regard for it: its usefulness, uniqueness, value, source, and durability. Using these five words, write a brief comment describing how each relates to Jesus—God's Gift to us.

Usefulness

Uniqueness

Value

Source

Durability

3. The Wise Men who came to Jerusalem probably had little light on the birth of Christ, the manifestation of God's love. Undoubtedly, they encountered many hardships and problems as they sought to find the newborn King. However, God in His love provided a means of leading the Wise Men to their hearts' desire. What means does God's love provide in our day to bring men to Him?

4. The gifts the Wise Men brought to Jesus had a special significance, perhaps even beyond the comprehension of those who brought them. Gold was representative of deity; frankincense of worship or the priesthood of Christ; and myrrh of suffering. Match the following Scriptures with the appropriate gift:

Isaiah 53:4,5

Luke 1:35

Hebrews 5:6

5. What reason did the angel give to Joseph that the Child's name should be Jesus?

6. The name Jesus was not chosen by Joseph and Mary, but was given to them by the angel Gabriel. The name Jesus is a transliteration of the Hebrew name Joshua meaning, "Jehovah is salvation." Using Philippians 2:9-11 as a reference, what place does the name Jesus hold in the plan of God? What is the meaning of your name?

7. If we consider God's love in sending Jesus to this world, we can see that it encompasses the whole of man's needs. Colossians 2:10 says, "Ye are complete in him" (Jesus Christ). How many titles given to Jesus can you think of which lend credence to this statement?

Examples: Wonderful, Counsellor, Good Shepherd, Bread of Life

Unity Among Believers

TEXT: Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 2:1-4

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Peter 1:22

KEY VERSE: Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous. — 1 Peter 3:8

In this lesson we discuss the relationship between the members of the Body of Christ. Good relationships begin with individuals following Jesus first and then submitting to the authority of the ministry as discussed in previous lessons. When we put into practice the admonition given in our key verse, the end result is unity—oneness of spirit, aims, interests, and feelings among individuals. When this is present, we will receive God's blessing and see much accomplished for the Lord.

1. Give an example, Biblical or otherwise, where two or more worked in unity and achieved positive results.

2. Define the following words as used in our key verse and text:

Compassion

Edifying

Endeavoring

Forbearance

3. We are told in Ephesians 4:2 to forbear one another in love. Give an example of how someone might need to forbear (endure or tolerate) you.

4. Give an example of the coordination, or unity, that exists within your physical body. Then discuss the result of a breakdown in this unity, such as a physical ailment. Finally, explain what Ephesians 4:15,16 means to you.

5. Adam Clarke explains the phrase, *in one accord*, in this way: "It signifies that all their minds, affections, desires, and wishes, were concentrated in one object, every man having the same end in view; and, having but one desire, they had but one prayer to God, and every heart uttered it." What are the advantages of the spiritual Body of Christ being in one accord?

6. What is the difference between Christian unity and the unity in worldly organizations such as unions and political parties? With this thought in mind, what kind of statement can be made regarding the importance of maintaining Christian unity?

7. In the space of thirteen verses in John 17 (verses 11-23), the need for oneness is mentioned four times. What conclusion can we draw from this passage of Scripture?

8. Name five of the spiritual roles recorded in our text that Christ gave to men, and explain why He gave them.

9. How is it possible to have spiritual unity among individuals with diverse personalities, backgrounds, and preferences?

10. If a person finds himself in a situation where his unity with another is being threatened, what should he do?

The Responsibility of Witnessing

TEXT: Acts 16:13-32; Mark 16:15; Luke 15:1; 24:47

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE: James 5:20

KEY VERSE: And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. — Daniel 12:3

In the first chapter of Acts we are told that Jesus, shortly before leaving this earth to go back to Heaven, commanded His disciples not to depart from Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Ghost who would give them power to witness. Christ's purpose for His followers today is that they witness to the unsaved and endeavor to win them for Him. All of us cannot be missionaries in foreign lands, but we can help to spread the Gospel. The man across the street needs to hear the story of Jesus just as much as the man on the other side of the ocean.

1. Define *witness* as pertaining to the Gospel. Why cannot a sinner be an effective witness for Christ?

2. Verbal communication is one way of witnessing. It can be used as an objective approach (one which points to Christ), or a subjective approach (one which points to one's own experience). Which approach is used in Mark 5:18,19? in Acts 8:35? Which of the two approaches can be used by all Christians? Why?

3. In our text, Paul is the chief speaker. As pertaining to objective and subjective witnessing, to which was he ordained? Along with the text, refer to Acts 26:9-19 for your answer.

4. Prior to the earthquake, we have no record of a verbal witness to the jailer by Paul and Silas. Yet there must have been something which prompted him to ask the question, "What must I do to be saved?" What might this have been?

5. Name some opportunities for nonverbal witnessing other than in times of persecution.

6. What kind of testimony might the former demoniac of Gadara have given to his friends at home? (Mark 5:1-20) Contrast this to the testimony given by the little maid to Naaman's wife. (2 Kings 5:1-3) What would be the main point of difference?

7. In our text, we are given the admonition to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." How might this apply to those who do not have the privilege of standing in the pulpit to preach?

8. Witnessing! Is it a spiritual gift given to some or a commandment to all Christians? See 1 Peter 3:15.

Who Is My Neighbor?

TEXT: Luke 10:25-37

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Deuteronomy 15:7; Isaiah 58:10; Matthew 25:34-46

KEY VERSE: For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
— Galatians 5:14

Jesus Christ left us many beautiful examples of ministering to the needs of one's neighbors, even to the extent of going a great distance or spending much time in order to do it. In this parable Jesus shows us that our neighbors are those with whom we come into contact, regardless of nationality or social status.

1. The lawyer who came to Jesus asked, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" This was a good question, but there are indications he was not sincere. What were these indications?

2. In John 4:4-29 and 21:8,9,12,13, we see two examples of Jesus showing brotherly love or concern for those about Him. Describe the ways Jesus ministered in these two instances.

3. Read Luke 11:5-8. What excuse was given for not meeting the friend's need? Do you think that this was a valid or acceptable excuse? Why or why not?

4. Some of the duties of a priest were to make sacrifices, burn incense, and teach the people God's Law. The Levites were appointed to assist the priests and, no doubt, had heard the message of the priest. In what way did they fail in their obligations?

5. The Samaritans were absolutely despised by the Jews, and they had no dealings with each other. In spite of this, when the Good Samaritan saw the man's suffering, what did he do?

6. In John 5, we read of a man who suffered from a serious physical affliction. In verse 7, he tells Jesus why he had not been healed. What reason did he give? How might this relate to our duty to those who are physically disabled or afflicted?

7. If you love your neighbor as yourself, what are some of the things you will be doing as outlined in the following Scriptures?

Matthew 5:16

John 13:35

Romans 15:2

Ephesians 4:32

1 John 3:17

8. Consider the admonition in our key verse that instructs us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Then note some of the ways we care for our physical, mental, and spiritual selves and our material requirements. Which of the ways noted should be extended to others?

Encouraging the Spiritually Weak

TEXT: Isaiah 35:3-4; John 13:34,35; 15:12-17

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Ecclesiastes 4:9,10; Galatians 6:1,2

KEY VERSE: Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand. — 2 Corinthians 1:24

The relationship between Christ and the true believer provides the basis for a worthwhile and fulfilling life. The one who is at peace with God is at peace with himself. An extension of that inward contentment is evidenced in the caring concern the Christian shows to those who suffer from spiritual weakness and discouragement. Admonitions to encourage one another, build each other up, and inspire each other to love and good works are woven all through the Word of God. One of the plainest expressions of love in the Scriptures is that of sharing with others. Some of the most valuable things we can share are our time, talents, and energies in building up those in the Body of Christ who particularly need spiritual support or encouragement.

1. We need to develop our power of spiritual observation and discernment in order to see areas where we can be used to encourage someone. What are indications that a person may be spiritually weak?

2. When we observe that a brother or sister is having spiritual difficulties, what is our responsibility in the matter? Doing nothing is not the answer. How can we best approach him in an encouraging manner, and avoid the risk of offending or alienating him?

3. The first two verses of our text in Isaiah list three things that we should do for the weak. How would you translate these instructions into some specific ways we should reach out to the spiritually weak?

4. There is a distinct difference between the spiritually weak person who is finding fault with holiness, the church, Christian people, etc., and the person who is simply ignorant of the deeper truths of the Gospel. How are we, as mature Christians, to identify and minister to their needs?

5. Jesus promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit would dwell in them. The Greek word *parakletos*, or “helper,” was used to describe the Holy Spirit. That word in its literal sense means “one called alongside.” How can the Holy Spirit’s role in our lives be a pattern for our influence in other people’s lives?

6. There is a danger in neglecting our duties as Christians. Refer to Ezekiel 34:10 and Matthew 25:44-46. How might these verses apply to us?

7. Our greatest example of servanthood was Jesus, who was the essence of compassion. In Philippians 2:7, we read that He took on Himself the form of a servant. Though many of the miracles Jesus did while on earth related to helping those in physical distress, He also ministered to people with spiritual needs. In both the Old and New Testaments, we read of God’s encouragement to those in need. Describe how God encouraged:

Abram — Genesis 15:1-6

Gideon — Judges 6:11-23

David — II Samuel 7:8-16

Palsied man — Matthew 9:2

The disciples — Matthew 14:25-27

8. In reading John 13:34,35, we see that the Lord gave a new commandment. Explain what this commandment was, and how it relates to us as we attempt to strengthen the spiritually weak.

9. Our text in John 15 reiterates the commandment discussed in the previous question, but this time with an added depth to it. Explain verse 13 in your own words, and describe how we can fulfill it in our day.

10. Of all the promises and assurances you know in the Bible, which has been the most encouraging to you in a time of weakness?

Resisting Satan

TEXT: Job 1:1-22

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:13-18

KEY VERSE: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist stedfast in the faith. — 1 Peter 5:8,9

The relationships we have studied so far this quarter have been positive. However, there is one unpleasant situation that every Christian is faced with from the moment of conversion. The power of the devil is real, but God sets the limit as to how far he can go. Man is made a free moral agent and it is within his power to choose to withstand the fierce powers of darkness or to let them overcome him. When God provides the armor to withstand the devil, He gives man the means of victory.

1. The Bible uses different names for Satan. Write the names beside the particular verses below.

Matthew 4:3

Matthew 13:19

John 14:30

2 Corinthians 4:4

Ephesians 2:2

Revelation 12:10

Revelation 20:2

What are we to deduce from these names?

2. When the Lord asked Satan, "Whence comest thou?" Satan answered that he had been going to and fro in the earth and walking up and down in it. What verse in our lesson lets us know that he is doing the same today, and more?

3. What type of man, spiritually speaking, was Job? What four tragedies befell him, as recorded in the first chapter?

4. Upon hearing the news of these calamities, what did Job do immediately?

5. Why do you think God allowed Satan to attack Job?

6. What heavenly assistance did Jesus have when combating the devil in the wilderness? (Matthew 3:16; 4:1,11) What defense did Jesus use? What is the Christian's defense against the devil today?

7. Define *resist*. Refer to James 4:7 and 1 Peter 5:9.

8. List the six separate parts of the spiritual armor which make up the whole armor of God as found in Ephesians 6:14-17.

9. According to Revelation 12:10,11, how does a Christian overcome Satan?

10. Describe a spiritual battle that you have fought and won. What was the key to obtaining the victory?

Non-Retaliation

TEXT: Matthew 5:38-48; Romans 12:17-21

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE: Acts 7:57-60

KEY VERSE: Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth.
— Proverbs 24:17

Down through the ages, Christians have continually been opposed by Satan and his followers. The human instinct, when one has been attacked or injured, is to respond with vengeance and inflict punishment. However, God's Word teaches us that as Christians we are not to retaliate, and that His Spirit dwelling in us will give us power to stand even though we are afflicted or persecuted.

1. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us many instructions concerning Christian living. What did He say about our attitude toward those who would do us harm?

2. If we show love for our enemies, what has God promised to give us in return? See Luke 6:35,36.

3. What actions will we take toward our enemies if God's love is abiding in us? (Luke 6:27,28) Give an example, Biblical or otherwise, of one who was eventually brought to the Lord through a Christian's acting in this manner.

4. What responsibility does Romans 12:17,18 place on a Christian regarding his actions, whether in the company of believers or non-believers.

5. What is the general attitude of the non-Christian toward someone who does him wrong? (Proverbs 24:29) What should the Christian's attitude be toward someone who does him wrong? See 1 Peter 3:9.

6. How did the Christians retaliate when Satan's efforts threatened the Early Church? See Acts 4:15-31.

7. Previous questions have dealt with our reactions when attacked by an enemy. However, Satan often tries to bring disunity or hard feelings even between the brethren in Christ. When a difference arises, what are some ways we might be tempted to retaliate? What are some of the ways we can resist a response which would not be pleasing to Christ?

8. What should one do if faced with an enemy's threats which could cause one to compromise his Christian principles? See Acts 5:27-29.

9. What does Peter tell us we should do when we are reproached by others and suffer because we are Christians? See 1 Peter 4:12-16.

Duties of Employers and Employees

TEXT: Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Timothy 6:1,2

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Deuteronomy 24:15; Colossians 4:1; Titus 2:9; 1 Peter 2:18

KEY VERSE: Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. — Matthew 7:12

The Law of God is sometimes divided into two parts: That which applies to our duty toward God, and that which applies to our duty toward our fellowman. We cannot serve God acceptably without proper regard for our fellowman—our neighbor, our servant, our master. The world sees an example more quickly than it hears a precept. It is possible that nowhere is Christianity more observed than in the conduct of the Christian laborer on the job.

1. What is the responsibility of the employer, as far as his employee is concerned? Use our text and Colossians 4:1 to substantiate your answer.

2. What is, perhaps, the most important word that governs the employee's relationship to his employer? (Ephesians 6:5) Why is this so important?

3. Many times an employee may have complaints about his boss—he doesn't spend enough time on the job, he doesn't pay enough wages, he expects too much, etc. The employee must remember that the boss pays the wage that has been agreed upon and it is his prerogative to do whatever he pleases—this is not the employee's business. Does the Bible give any license to the employee to talk in a derogatory manner about his employer? What does our text say regarding this?

4. What is meant by the phrase: “Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers”?

5. Why is it so important to work faithfully in this world? How would the Scripture quoted in question 4 apply to monitoring carefully the amount of time spent on breaks, lunch hours, etc.?

6. Who is the most important—the employer or the employee? Explain.

7. Name at least one result of employees’ counting their employers worthy of all honor.

8. Explain how our key verse relates to both employer and employee.

Respect for Governmental Authority

TEXT: Daniel 6:1-5; Romans 13:1-8; 1 Peter 2:13-17

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 22:21; 1 Timothy 2:1,2; Titus 3:1

KEY VERSE: Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter. — Ecclesiastes 10:20

One of the most beautiful examples of proper conduct toward governmental authority in all the Bible is given to us in the life of Daniel. Here was a Hebrew lad, perhaps of princely descent, who found himself forcibly torn away from his people and homeland, and placed in a heathen court in the city of Babylon. Being a captive (essentially a slave), it would have been easy for him to hate his captors and feel resentment and rebellion. Instead, even after much testing and many years of service, the record shows that Daniel was so cooperative in this foreign environment that the people could find no fault with him until they wrote a law which required him to choose between God and King Darius. He not only obeyed the civil law of the Babylonians, Medes, and Persians where it did not conflict with God's Law; but, because of his trust in God and God-given wisdom, he actually rose to a position where, as the man-in-charge next to the ruling monarch, he administered that law.

1. In what way did the young exile, Daniel (Daniel 1:1-16), show us how to blend the spirit of cooperation and obedience to authority, with the power of appeal to that authority?

2. Why do you think Paul and Peter, through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, instructed followers of the Lord to obey governmental authority?

3. List two laws with which you are acquainted, and the benefits of obeying these laws.

4. According to Romans 13:5, what are two motivating factors for keeping the law?

5. Clip from a current newspaper or magazine an article showing how a “minor” infraction of the law led to a major problem. Take the article and be ready to discuss it in class.

6. What should the Christian’s attitude be toward existing tax laws?

7. Suppose, for a moment, that you live in a totalitarian state where you are forbidden to openly declare Christ or gather with other Christians to worship God. What would you seek to do about the situation, and why?

The Responsibility of Marriage

TEXT: Ephesians 5:22-32; Matthew 19:3-6

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Genesis 2:18,22-24; 1 Peter 3:1-7

KEY VERSE: Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. — Genesis 2:24

“I do,” is the beginning of the closest of all human relationships—marriage. Marriage was instituted by God in the Garden of Eden. God’s plan is that man should leave his father and mother and be as one with his wife. This makes a wife the closest companion a man has, and the closest companion that a woman has is her husband. Together they can enjoy the pleasures of life, share hardships and sorrows, and can be a comfort and strength to each other.

1. A Christian marriage is a total commitment of two people to the person of Jesus Christ and then to each other, a commitment in which nothing is withheld. It is also a pledge of mutual fidelity, and a union which helps both parties become all that God intends for them to be. Along with the commitment of marriage comes responsibilities. List some of the responsibilities that marriage places upon a couple. In addition to the text given, use Deuteronomy 6:6,7 and 1 Timothy 5:8.

2. God can and will use a Christian marriage for His purpose. He will mold and refine the parties involved for their own spiritual benefit and for His glory. However, this can occur only when both husband and wife determine to fulfill the directives God has outlined for their marriage. How should a husband and wife meet the spiritual responsibilities of marriage?

3. After a man and a woman take the wedding vows, they are married for life. Explain what Jesus meant by the phrase, “let not man put asunder.”

4. Clarifying the husband-wife roles in a marriage can eliminate one of the major causes of marital disruption. The Word of God has specific directives regarding this. The Biblical assignment of authority and responsibility does not create a rigid relationship, but rather, it promotes order and understanding. Explain what Paul the Apostle meant when he stated that “the husband is the head of the wife.”

5. In a God-directed marriage, each person is a complement to the other. Man realizes that woman was created for him; woman realizes that man is incomplete without her. Each cherishes the other as an extension and completion of himself. Amplify this thought using the words, “For no man ever yet hated his own flesh.”

6. The bond of love in marriage is used as an illustration of the much closer tie that binds the Church (the Bride) to Jesus Christ (the Bridegroom). List the similarities.

7. Why is it so important in a Christian marriage that the couple show love, honor, and preference to each other? See 1 Peter 3:5-7.

8. How can a couple be assured that their marriage will be blessed of the Lord, and that they will continue to be happy together?

Duties of Parents and Children

TEXT: *Parental Duties:* *Instructions for Children:*

Deuteronomy 6:7 Deuteronomy 27:16

Proverbs 22:6 Proverbs 20:11

2 Corinthians 12:14 Proverbs 23:22

Ephesians 6:4 Ephesians 6:1-3

1 Timothy 3:4

Titus 2:4,5

KEY VERSE: And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. — Ephesians 6:4

Countless volumes have been written by educators, psychologists, and learned writers in regard to the education and upbringing of children. They seem to feel that if this or that course were followed, the ills of mankind would be greatly reduced. How sad that many do not promote God's plan for rearing children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. That would, indeed, make the world a better place in which to live.

1. In the home, parents are responsible for teaching a child the Word of God. Why is Bible reading and study so important?

2. Explain in your own words what Proverbs 22:6 means. Consider the concern, time, and financial resources parents will invest in various types of secular education or training, in the hope of securing particular goals for their children. If the primary goal for one's children is that they make Heaven, what priority will be placed upon spiritual training?

3. In 2 Corinthians 12:14, Paul makes a statement to the Corinthians regarding his feeling that they should not be financially burdened with his needs. To what parental duty is he referring? See 1 Timothy 5:8.

4. The father's duty is to correct and admonish his child, even though this may cause the child to become angry. With this thought in mind, what is your explanation of the key verse?

5. Paul's exhortation is that the young women should love their husbands and children. Give several hypothetical situations where showing love to a child or teenager is a vital part of the response to the situation.

6. Our text says that if you honor father and mother, your days may be prolonged and that it will go well with you. What do you think *honor* means and how could it prolong your days?

7. Tell in your own words what Proverbs 20:11 means.

8. Since Proverbs 23:22 was written many centuries ago, do you think it still applies today? Why?

9. Under Moses' Law, a curse was pronounced on those who dishonored or despised their parents. In what way is a parallel in force in our day?

10. What do you think is the most important factor in having a happy home?