

LEE'S SUMMIT BAPTIST TEMPLE

DISCIPLESHIP EIGHT

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

INTRODUCTION

Today we see more and more churches departing from soul-winning. Many reasons are given why they no longer do soul-winning, such as: people are not receptive, the church members don't have time, we just can't seem to motivate people to go soul-winning. No matter what the reason or excuse, it does not change God's instructions and mandates.

This discipleship series has been written to show God's instructions regarding soul-winning and to help everyone understand there are no accepted reasons for not fulfilling God's mandate to win-souls.

In this series only the Authorized King James Version of the Bible is used. Also all definitions are taken from Webster's 1828 dictionary. This is the first dictionary written in English and is best equipped to define what the King James Bible is saying.

As you study this discipleship course please open your hearts and minds to what God says and commit to being a soul-winner for the rest of your life. Thank you for every soul you lead to Christ and my God bless you for your work.

Fred Allen

Fred Allen,
Senior Pastor

Building Christian Soul-Winners

Table of Contents

Division One

God Provided Salvation For Lost Souls

- Lesson One Payment for Sin Requires the Shedding of Blood, Leviticus 17:10-11
- Lesson Two Saving A Lost Soul, Luke 12:19-21, Matthew 16:24-26

Division Two

Opposition To Soul-Winning

- Lesson Three The Struggle to Win Souls, Proverbs 11:30, John 15:16, Luke 14:23
- Lesson Four Those Who Oppose Christ's Soul-Winners, Psalms 3:1-8, Act 20:28-31

Division Three

Soul-Winners

- Lesson Five God's Watchman, Ezekiel 33:6-11
- Lesson Six Soul-Winners are Fishers of Men, Matthew 4:18-22, Luke 5:4-11
- Lesson Seven A Heart to Win Souls, Romans 9:1-5
- Lesson Eight Tell Your Friends What Jesus Has Done For You, Mark 5:1-20
- Lesson Nine Ministry of Reconciliation, II Corinthians 5:17-21
- Lesson Ten Soul-Winners Shine as Stars, Daniel 12:1-3
- Lesson Eleven Taking God's Righteous Way to the Lost, I Corinthians 4:9-17
- Lesson Twelve God Wants Christians He Can Send to the World, Isaiah 6:1-8

Division Four

Soul-Winning

- Lesson Thirteen The Purpose for all Christians is Soul-Winning, II Corinthians 4:1-14
- Lesson Fourteen The Fruit of Christians is Saved Souls, John 15:1-9

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION ONE GOD PROVIDED SALVATION FOR LOST SOULS

LESSON ONE PAYMENT FOR SIN REQUIRES THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD

Leviticus 17:10-11 And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people. 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar **to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.**

Introduction:

- A. Throughout history, blood is required to make atonement for sinful souls. A life must be given and its blood shed to pay the price for atonement. Life is in the blood.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Jesus gave His life to provide the blood needed for God's atonement for sinners. Those who have received the atoning blood are to take it to the lost sinner.

- B. The penalty for sin is death, and the only way to overcome death is with life. Salvation, or the atonement for sin, took place by the obedience and personal suffering of Jesus Christ. (atonement - satisfying the penalty or debt of sin.)

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

- C. Jesus was the lamb of God without spot or blemish and He gave His life to provide the atonement blood needed to cleanse the sins of all mankind.

1Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Jesus allowed His precious blood to be shed for the atonement for sinners, and soul winners are responsible to take it to them.

- D. In the Old Testament, a priest was needed to take the sacrificial blood to the altar for the atonement of sin. Today the sacrificial blood of Jesus has already been placed on God's altar, and soul-winners are needed to take this good news to sinners.

(soul - rational and immortal substance in a man, that part which enables a man to think and reason.) (win - to gain by persuasion or influence.) Soul-winning is persuading a human, where he thinks and reasons, to come to Jesus Christ.

Leviticus 4:16 And the priest that is anointed shall bring of the bullock's blood to the tabernacle of the congregation: 17 And the priest shall dip his finger in some of the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, even before the vail. ... 20 And he shall do with the bullock as he did with the bullock for a sin offering, so shall he do with this: and the priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them.

The blood of Jesus will cleanse the sins from any or all sinners. However, sinners must come to Jesus Christ with His shed blood or they cannot be saved. Soul-winning must take place or God's atonement will not be understood or accepted by the sinner.

- I. The way people get saved from Hell is by having their sin washed away in the blood of Jesus Christ. Sin darkens the minds and hearts of lost sinners, and without cleansing they will go to Hell. The only way the lost can know about God's cleansing is for someone to tell them. Soul-winning is the act of telling the lost about the cleansing power that is in the blood of Jesus Christ, and persuading them to accept His salvation.

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Please note that this verse says "in" His own blood, not "with" His own blood. If the verse had said "with" His own blood, it would have indicated a one-time action, while the word "in" signifies continual.

A. Salvation takes place when a person has faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. There is no other blood that could pay the price for sin. Throughout the Old Testament, people had to have enough faith to use the blood of innocent lambs to pay for their sins. Jesus gave His perfect, innocent blood to pay the price for sin.

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation **through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (propitiation: the atoning sacrifice offered to God to alleviate God's wrath and present Him propitious or favorable to sinners.)

B. Salvation takes place when a person has faith in the new testament, which is in the blood of Jesus Christ. (testament - covenant, a written will regarding the disposal of an estate.) God wrote that the new testament was in the blood of Jesus Christ. There is no inheritance from God without the application of the blood of Jesus Christ.

1Corinthians 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the **new testament in my blood**: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is **my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins**.

C. Salvation takes place when a person has faith in God's power to redeem sinners through the blood of Jesus Christ. (redeem - to rescue and deliver from the bondage of sin and the penalty of God's violated laws.)

The blood of Jesus Christ pays the price for redemption. The only way forgiveness for sins and the Lord's application of grace can take place is for the price of redemption to be paid.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

D. Salvation takes place when a person has faith in the blood of Jesus Christ, which brings him close to God. The Bible states that the lost are far off and have no hope. The only way a sinner can be brought close to God is through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

E. Salvation takes place in the blood of Jesus Christ. After salvation, the saved person can walk in the light because the blood of Jesus Christ **continually** cleanses him of his sin.

I John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (cleanse"th" is in the **continuing tense**)

II. The blood of Jesus Christ provides the passover for anyone who will accept His blood. When Israel was in Egypt and God rescued them, it was with a great price. God told all those in Egypt, (including the Egyptians) that the death angel was going to come and bring God's judgment, which was to kill every firstborn. The only way the death of the firstborn could be prevented was by killing a lamb and putting its blood over the door. When the death angel saw the blood he would pass over that house. The blood of Jesus (the Lamb of God) must be applied to a sinner, so the death angel will pass over them when God's day of judgment comes.

A. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ provided the blood for the passover for all who believe. God's eternal judgment is coming when every sinner, who is not under the blood, will be cast into the lake of fire for eternity. Every time a soul-winner leads a sinner to Christ, the blood of Christ is put over him and the passover is established.

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **Christ our passover is sacrificed for us**: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- B. God gave Israel the passover so they would understand the only way salvation can take place is by the shedding of blood.

Exodus 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. 7 And **they shall take of the blood**, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. 8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. 10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. 11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. 13 And **the blood shall be to you for a token** upon the houses where ye are: and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you**, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. 14 And **this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations**; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. (token - something intended to represent or indicate another thing or event.)

- C. Jesus told His disciples clearly that His blood was the new testament and the only way sin could be remised. (remised - to release a claim) The only way any of the blessings of the new testament can be received from God is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. (blessings such as grace, mercy, love, joy and all the others.)

Matthew 26:17 Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover? 18 And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples. 19 And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover.... 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 **For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins**. 29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

- III. The law required that the Israelites shed the blood of an innocent animal for atonement. The shed blood then had to be offered up to God in order to receive God's atonement. (atonement - satisfying the penalty or debt of sin.)

- A. The law requires that blood had to be offered for sin to be purged. (purge - to cleanse or purify by separating from what is corrupt or ungodly.) **When something is dirty or polluted it cannot cleanse itself. Cleansing must take place from someone else and with something that has the cleansing agent to**

make clean. For sinners to get cleansed, the innocent blood of Jesus Christ is the only cleansing agent that will take away their sin.

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. 16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. 18 Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. 19 For **when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law**, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, 20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. 21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And almost all things **are by the law purged with blood**; and **without shedding of blood is no remission.**

- B. God put His law in the hearts and minds of those who accept the blood of Jesus for their atonement. With God's law in their hearts, they can enter into the holiest of holies, but only by the blood of Jesus.

Hebrews 10:16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. 19 Having therefore, brethren, **boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus**, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

- IV. Salvation only comes through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Religions all over the world claim to have ways salvation can take place, but God only accepts the shed blood of Jesus for salvation.

- A. The blood of Christ provides salvation to sinners through justification. The only way a sinner can be absolved of his sin is through the death of Jesus Christ. (salvation - the redemption of man from the bondage of sin and accountability to eternal death); (justification - absolution from guilt and punishment of sin by the atonement of Jesus Christ).

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.** 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.** 9 Much more then, being now **justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to

God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom **we have now received the atonement**. 12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. 15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and **the gift by grace**, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

- B. Reconciliation is through the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross. The only means there is for a sinner to be brought into a state of favor with God is the blood of Jesus. (reconcile - the means by which sinners are brought into a state of favor with God; atonement).

Colossians 1:20 And, **having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself**; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

- V. Because a saved person is washed by the blood of Jesus, he can live the life of Christ here on earth. Salvation is not just being rescued from Hell, but it also gives the saved person a **new life**. God not only saves a person's soul from Hell, but also gives him a new, born-again spirit. The Bible says that when a person gets saved **all things become new**. God gives a new life through the blood of Jesus Christ.

2Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

- A. Those who are saved can walk with each other in the light of God because they are cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. Once a person is saved, he no longer walks in darkness.

1. God is light, and those who are saved are in God's light.

1John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all**. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But **if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another**, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

2. The saved are the children of light.

Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: **walk as children of light**: ... 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. ... 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

3. Salvation delivers a lost soul from the power of darkness.
Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
4. The children of light have put on faith, love, and the hope of salvation.
1Thessalonians 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all **the children of light**, and **the children of the day**: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, **putting on the breastplate of faith and love**; and for an helmet, **the hope of salvation**.
5. The saved are a peculiar people called out of darkness into God's marvelous light.
1Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness **into his marvelous light**;

B. Those who are saved are to go forth "without the camp" because they are washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. Israel was called "the camp", but they rejected Jesus and put Him out of their habitation and crucified Him. Jesus was crucified outside the camp, and if a Christian wants to be with Jesus Christ, he must go outside the camp. For the last 2000 years Christianity has been outside of Israel because Jesus went out from Israel. (without the camp - on the outside of the ground or place of habitation.)

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. 9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. 10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. 11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. 12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. 13 **Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp**, bearing his reproach. 14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. 15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

C. A church is also called the habitation of God, and God intends that Christians go forth from their church (assembly) and take the gospel of Jesus' atoning blood to the lost world. **Soul-winning is when a Christian goes out into the world to tell those who are lost about the atonement of Jesus.**

1. Jesus not only purchased individuals, but also churches, with His own blood.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the **church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.**

2. Church members are built together, so God can have a habitation on earth.

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom **ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**

Conclusion:

All the world tries to find some human way to have peace with God. They try good works, worship idols, get involved in religions, and even participate in a church. Many who fail in their humanistic ways of trying to reach God give up completely and lose all hope of ever being with God. Once hope is lost, people usually give themselves to sin of one type or other.

There is only one way to be saved and that is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Unless Christians tell the lost this good news, they will continue in their worthless religions. Or if the lost have already fallen into hopelessness, they will die without God. God knows the hopeless state of the lost and wants them to be saved. God is not willing that any should perish, and He provided the blood of His Son Jesus Christ for their salvation. The blood of Jesus Christ must be taken to the lost so they can be saved. In Christianity, soul-winning is the greatest area of failure in connecting lost sinners to God.

2Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION ONE GOD PROVIDED SALVATION FOR LOST SOULS

LESSON TWO SAVING A LOST SOUL

Luke 12:19-21 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, **this night thy soul shall be required of thee**: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Matthew 16:24-26 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. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For **what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?** or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Introduction:

Every soul must answer to God, and a man who loses his own soul loses his life. However, a person who loses (gives up) his life, for Christ's sake, will find it.

Lost souls are going to receive indignation from God. (indignation - the anger of a superior, the wrath of God against sinful men for their ingratitude and rebellion.)

Romans 2:8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

A. Jesus Christ seeks for lost souls. There are many who use the word "unsaved" to describe those who are not saved, but the word is not found in the Bible. Though it basically means the same as lost, it is not as easy to associate with. Jesus is willing to save everyone who is not saved, but He also seeks those who are lost. (unsaved - not saved or not having eternal life.); (lost - not able to find the right way, or the place intended.)

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

B. Lost souls have the gospel (the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ) hid from them. When a person is lost, he can't find the gospel. The only way a person can be saved is when someone (who isn't lost) goes and finds those who are lost. Soul-winning is the simple act of going out to find those who are lost to show them "the way" to Heaven. (hide - to conceal from knowledge; to conceal from sight.)

2Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

C. Jesus gave three parables in Luke chapter fifteen to help understand going to find lost souls. In chapter fourteen, Jesus had talked with them about going into the highways and hedges to get people to come into His kingdom.

Luke 14:16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: 17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. 18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. 19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. 21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. 22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. 23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and **compel them** to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

1. The first parable in Luke fifteen talks about joy in heaven when one sinner repents (is found) - like when the lost sheep was found. Jesus explained that a man will leave the ninety-nine sheep to go find the one that is lost. When that one is found, there is joy in Heaven more than over the ninety-nine who are just.

Luke 15:3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying, 4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? 5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

2. The second parable talks about joy in the presence of the angels when one sinner repents (is found) - like the woman who found the lost piece of silver. The woman lights a candle and sweeps the house until she finds the one she lost.

Luke 15:8 Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? 9 And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. 10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

3. The third parable talks about the father of the prodigal son who makes merry (celebrated) when his lost son (soul) is found. The son who went to the world was dead, but when he came to the father, he was received and given life. (merry - exhilarated to; delightful.)

Luke 15:11 And he said, A certain man had two sons: 12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. 13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat:

and no man gave unto him. 17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. 21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

- I. Only those lost souls who see, hear, understand, and believe with their hearts will be converted. (heart - the seat of affections and passions such as love, joy, enmity, etc.); (converted - changed from a state of sin to a state of holiness.)
 - A. When a lost soul is converted, his sins are forgiven. When a lost soul is converted (changed) from his sinful state to God, his sins are forgiven and God saves him from eternal damnation.

Mark 4:12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.
 - B. When a lost soul believes (with his heart) in the Light (Jesus Christ) he is converted and healed by God. Soul-winning is preaching (proclaiming) the Word of God to those who are lost so they can choose to believe it. (believe - to be persuaded of the truth of something upon the declaration of another.)

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

 1. Jesus stated that He was the Light and quoted Isaiah regarding who would believe the report of the Lord. There are many whom darkness has blinded their souls so they cannot see where they are going. The lost are those who do not believe because they have not heard. Also, there are some who **choose** to be **ignorant** and will not see what God is doing. When a person rejects God's gospel he becomes blind and hard, which also prevents him from being converted. (darkness - a state of being intellectually clouded; ignorant.)

John 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. 36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. 37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm

of the Lord been revealed? 39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

2. Lost people who do not believe are already condemned because they do not believe. Lost people do not have to do anything to go to Hell. Mankind is already condemned **simply because of not believing in the Son of God**. Many times a soul-winner is afraid he will say something that will cause the lost to go to Hell, when in reality, lost people are condemned already. No matter what a soul-winner says or does, the lost person's state is determined by his failure to believe. **Any action a soul-winner renders is better than doing nothing**. No matter what a soul-winner does, it is better than the state lost people are already in.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

3. Lost people cannot see eternal life because they do not believe - nothing else. When they die they will go to Hell without God. Soul-winners need to go find the lost and teach them so they have the option to believe in the Son of God.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

- C. When lost souls come to understand God's plan of salvation, they have the option to be converted. When the hearts of lost souls do not or will not understand God's plan, they will not be converted. When someone explains God's plan of salvation to lost souls, they can **still choose to reject** what is said and refuse to be converted. However, there are some lost souls who, when they hear, will understand with their heart and choose to be converted. (understand - to have just and adequate ideas of; to have the same idea as the person who speaks.)

Acts 28:27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Mark 4:12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

- II. Soul-winners go out seeking lost souls with the intent of converting them to Jesus Christ. There is no salvation for lost souls unless conversion takes place. No matter what a lost soul does, he is still lost **unless he has a change from his state of sin to God's holiness**. Only the shed blood of Jesus Christ can change a person's state of being. (state - the circumstances of a being or thing at any given time.)

- A. The conversion of lost souls take place through repentance. When a lost soul **believes** what the Lord (Word of God) has said, the mind will change. The lost often try to do things that will impress God hoping they will someday gain favor

with Him. When a lost person hears that the death of Jesus Christ provides favor with God, that person is faced with changing his mind. If that person repents (change mind) he can pray and accept God's salvation. (repentance - a change of mind; relinquishment of any practice.)

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

- B. Lost souls have to become like little children to be converted. Children are very trusting and follow someone easily. Lost souls have to trust Jesus, like a child trusts, in order to be saved.

Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Psalms 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

- C. Those with clean hearts and joy in their salvation will convert lost souls to the Lord. There are some who lose the joy of their salvation and only think about themselves. One of the greatest destroyers of Christians reaching the lost is self-indulgence, because they have no joy in being saved. When Christians lose the hope and joy God gave them when they got saved, it results in many lost souls never hearing about God's salvation.

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12 **Restore** unto me the **joy of thy salvation**; and uphold me with thy free spirit. 13 **Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.**

- III. The Word of God provides salvation to the lost. God spoke to chosen men throughout all time. These men were given instruction to write down what God said, and God comprised all His inspired words in His book called the Bible. That book is where God's plan of salvation is found.

- A. A lost soul who receives God's Word will have his soul saved. When a person's soul gets saved it is cleansed and preserved for eternity. (saved - to preserve from everlasting destruction; to rescue from eternal death.)

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Those who received the Word of God were enclosed in Christ - saved. (baptized - to put in; to cover in something that encloses on all sides - water, Holy Ghost, fire, cloud, Christ.)

- B. A lost soul who receives God's Word will have his soul divided from his spirit. The only thing that has the power to divide a soul from a spirit is God's Word. When a person gets saved, his soul must be divided from his human spirit so his soul can be saved. When a person gets saved, his spirit does not get saved - God gives him a **new spirit**. This is how a person is **born-again** and keeps his soul at the same time.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the **dividing** asunder of **soul** and **spirit**, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

IV. Soul-winners go after lost souls with the objective to deliver their souls from destruction in Hell.

Proverbs 14:25 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.

A. Soul-winners are to become all things to save lost souls. Paul stated that he became a Jew to gain the Jews, put himself under the law to gain those under the law; became weak to gain the weak; and became all things to all men so he could save some. (gain - to win to one's side.)

1Corinthians 9:20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; 21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. 22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

B. Soul-winners seek lost souls to profit the lost souls, not themselves. A soul-winner's motive can never be selfish or carnal. It must be because of grace and charity toward the lost soul. A soul-winner has to care about lost souls.

1Corinthians 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: 33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

C. Soul-winners know when lost souls die they go to the pit of corruption without hope. Those in Hell cannot praise God and have no chance of ever getting God's truth. Salvation has to take place **now, in this life**, because there is no chance after death.

Isaiah 38:17 Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but **thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption**: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back. 18 For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.

V. Soul-winners have to work against the disciples of Satan to win lost souls. The workers of Satan work to deceive lost souls.

A. Satan works, with all deceivableness and unrighteousness, through those who are going to perish. The workers of Satan have been deceived by Satan's false teachings and follow his ungodly actions. They not only go against what God says, but also work to lead or cause other lost souls to follow them and their ungodliness. (deceivableness - the state of being subject to believing what is false.) (unrighteousness - a violation of divine law.)

2Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

- B. The workers of Satan seek souls to destroy them. Satan's workers want lost souls to be destroyed and take pleasure in seeing them go to Hell.

Psalms 63:9 But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

CONCLUSION:

God needs Christians who will seek the lost to lead them to Christ. One of the most eye opening statements in the Bible is when David stated that "no man cared for his soul." David was not a lost man but certainly expressed what this lesson teaches, and that is: "where are those who care about the lost souls?"

Psalms 142:4 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

Satan and his workers seek souls to prevent them from getting saved and following Jesus Christ. They are working long and hard while many of God's workers (soul-winners) are sitting idle letting the lost go to Hell!!

How many lost people are on the face of the earth today that could say no man cared for their souls? Satan competes with Christ trying to win by keeping lost souls attached to him and his world system, resulting in them going to Hell. The easiest way for Satan to devour souls is for Christians to simply not get involved in soul-winning. **When Christians do nothing they let lost souls wander through life in darkness without ever seeing the light of God.**

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION TWO OPPOSITION TO SOUL-WINNING

LESSON THREE THE STRUGGLE TO WIN SOULS

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

INTRODUCTION:

The word "winneth" is the continuing tense of the word win and means "to get the victory by success in competition or contest."

In the New Testament the word "win" comes from the Latin word 'winnan' which means "to struggle."

In the Old Testament the word "win" comes from the Hebrew word 'laqach' which means "took or to take."

To win a soul clearly implies that there is a struggle or competition for souls. For a competition to take place, there must be two different sides with both seeking the same prize or soul. When the term "soul-winning" is used, it indicates that God and Satan are **both competing for lost souls**. Satan has many people who are on his team and God has His children on His team (Christians). Soul-winning is Christians winning souls to Jesus Christ.

Soul-winning is struggling in competition to win a soul from the world. Soul-winners struggle as they seek to **add** souls to God's kingdom (with His eternal life) and the followers of Satan struggle to **keep** lost souls (who are already condemned to eternal damnation in Hell.)

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

God provided the sacrifice or payment for sin and will give His salvation to everyone who comes to Him. The problem is that **lost souls do not come to God on their own - they must be brought**. Soul-winning is finding lost souls and bringing them to Christ.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

- I. It is a struggle to convert a lost person. (struggle - forcible effort to obtain an object); (convert - to change the heart and moral character from enmity to God and from vicious habits to love of God and to a holy life.)
- A. Much effort is required to convert a sinner from the control of Satan's forces. Soul-winning requires time, energy, and often money. Converting a sinner doesn't just happen. It takes personal dedication and participation in **reaching out to help** a sinner.
James 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.
- B. God did a lot of work and spent a lot of time to bring the plan of salvation to sinful mankind. God spoke through prophets in the Old Testament to tell Israel and the world that Christ was coming. Then God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the price required to remove the sins of mankind. God labored for over four thousand years to provide the means of conversion for sinful man.
Acts 3:18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. 19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.
- II. It is a struggle to win those who do not obey God's Word. It is difficult for soul-winners to continue in obeying God's Word when some, who profess to be saved, choose to reject God's demand completely while others depart from it. It is a struggle for Christians to remain steadfast with God's Word when the world is always presenting them with something they think is better than God's "old-fashioned" Bible. The only way those who disobey God's Word can come to Christ is by seeing Christians endure hardships and stay faithful to God - even though it is a struggle.
- A. God said that wives can win lost husbands to the Lord by showing godly actions in their lives. It often requires a lot of effort for a wife to **maintain** a godly life while living with a lost husband.
1Peter 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may **without the word be won by the conversation of the wives**; (conversation - the general course of manners or behavior, especially in respects to morals.)
- B. It was a struggle for Peter and the other apostles to continue preaching Jesus Christ. The high priest and Sadducees ordered them to stop preaching Jesus Christ, which would have been disobedience to God. The apostles went to prison for obeying God, and God honored them for enduring the hardships as they struggled to continue preaching Jesus Christ.
Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.** ... 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. 33 When they heard that,

they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them. ... 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

- III. It is a struggle for a Christian to deliver souls from their destructive, lost lives. (deliver - to snatch away, to set free, or to rescue.) It takes a lot of concern and concerted effort to rescue someone who is being destroyed by the circumstances of life. It is easy to look at the depraved state of a lost person and disregard the necessity to lead that person to Christ. It is easy to change from being the rescuer to being the judge.

It is also a struggle for a Christian to try to lead someone to Christ when it is evident the person is lying (such as when the person states that he is a Christian or attends a church when his life says he is not.)

1John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Often people will lie when approached about salvation because they feel condemned when confronted by God. They have not heard about God's love and salvation and are afraid they are going to hear that God is going to condemn them to Hell. The world system has taught them that God rejects sinners, so they condemn soul-winners as being religious fanatics. It is easier to relinquish the responsibility of soul-winning than to pray for the lost person, and continue to witness (present) Christianity, even if the lost person claims to be saved.

It also is a struggle for Christians to rescue lost people because of the worldly distractions in the Christian's life. The struggles for the Christian usually start with the material world (something breaks at home or in the car). Then the struggle goes to the physical (tired, don't feel good, lazy, etc.) Then the struggle goes to emotional or spiritual (soul-winning is a waste of time, soul-winning is not scriptural, God didn't call me to go soul-winning, etc.) **There is always something that works in the life of a Christian to prevent him from soul-winning.** A Christian must have a **strong resolve to win souls to be able to persist** in going after lost souls.

- A. A true witness has to struggle to deliver lost souls. Remember the word deliver is "to snatch away or rescue someone." To rescue a soul indicates the soul is lost and on the way to destruction. For a Christian to rescue lost souls, he or she must personally win the struggle of living Christianity while living in a selfish, sin-centered world.

Proverbs 14:25 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.

- B. The righteous lives of Christians can lead wicked people from their way of eternity in Hell. (The wicked are those who are on their way to Hell and believe their wickedness is right.) It is a struggle for Christians to maintain their righteous lives when they are around wicked people. Wicked people think they are right while violating God's righteousness. Often, lost people work to convince Christians that they are right and try to change Christians so they will follow what the wicked say is right. It is a struggle to adhere to God's righteousness, but without it there will be no soul-winning.

Proverbs 11:5 The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. 6 The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness.

- C. It is a struggle to remain upright while working to deliver sinners from Hell, especially with the mouth. (upright - straight, not deviating from correct moral principles.) Through the mouth of an upright Christian the wicked are delivered. However, if a Christian's mouth is critical and harsh, sinners will reject what the Christian says.

Proverbs 12:5 The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit. 6 The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them. 7 The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand.

- D. It is a struggle to not faint when adversity comes and strength is gone. If Christians allow adversity to keep them from delivering sinners from Hell, they need to remember that God renders to Christians **according to their works**. (adversity - events which oppose success or desire.) It is a struggle for Christians to not allow events or circumstances to control the actions of soul-winning in their lives.

Proverbs 24:10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. 11 If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; 12 If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

- IV. It is a struggle to graft a lost soul onto the Word of God. (ingraft - to set or fix deep and firm.) Grafting is when a tree is cut off from its roots and spliced onto a different set of roots (better, stronger roots). The way of life of a lost person is built on the roots of selfish humanism and cannot produce any godly fruit. God's way of life is built on the roots of His Word, the Bible. The only way a human can have eternal life or produce eternal fruit is by being grafted onto God's roots (Word).

- A. Grafting a lost soul onto the Word of God requires a lot of work and struggle, like grafting a tree. Just like a tree, **a person can never graft himself**. Someone else has to do the grafting. Grafting, whether it be a tree or a human, is a struggle.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and **receive with meekness the engrafted word**, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

- B. Paul stated that he would use any means to graft a lost soul onto God's holy roots.

Romans 11:14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. 15 For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? 16 For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. 17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

V. It is a struggle to provide a place of repentance where sinners can be converted. (repentance - a change of mind, relinquishment of a way.) For a person to repent and turn to God, it has to be at a place where God is present and in control. It is a struggle for Christians to maintain a place where God's presence is known. There are requirements for places where God is **present and in control**. Churches, as well as individual Christians, struggle to maintain a place where God is evident and can do His work. The struggle is to keep the unclean world (with its filthy people) out of God's places of repentance. Churches are to prevent lost people from being members and individual Christians are to keep the filth of the world out of their hearts. Churches and individual Christians are to have the presence of God (temple of God). Unless these places are kept clean from the world, sinners will not have places to repent. God needs clean soul-winners who can take Him and His holy nature into the presence of lost souls to lead them to Christ.

2Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and **be ye separate**, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

A. The struggle to provide places of repentance requires that **Christians maintain the evidence of the presence of the Lord**. There can be no repentance to the Lord unless it is where the Lord is. **Soul-winners take the presence of the Lord to the lost**. Jesus told His apostles that He would be with them as they went into the whole world.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

1. .The presence of the Lord is in His churches. A church is "a called out assembly" of believers and the Lord stated that He would be in their midst.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

2. The presence of the Lord is in His children. The Ethiopian eunuch had been to Jerusalem to worship and was returning to Ethiopia without being saved. Philip went to him and asked if he understood what the Word of God said and the Ethiopian eunuch answered that he couldn't **unless someone showed him**. The earthly place he got saved was in a chariot, but the actual place was where Philip was because Philip had the Lord.

Acts 8:30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

- B. The struggle to provide a place of repentance requires that Christians provide a place where the **goodness of God is found**. The Lord goes with Christians who go to the lost with His good news (gospel).

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

1. The Bible promises that God will be with those who **do** the things they have learned, received, and heard.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, **do: and the God of peace shall be with you.**

2. God's goodness is found where the Holy Spirit is located and working.

Ephesians 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

It is a continual struggle for Christians to **walk in the Spirit** so God's goodness (inside of them) can be **seen** by lost souls.

- C. The struggle to provide a place of repentance requires **Christians "to be" the places** where God calls lost sinners to Him. Christians can take the gospel of Christ to others anywhere because **they carry the Lord inside of them**.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

There must be someone sent by God to preach to the lost so they can repent. Soul-winners are those who have been saved and **willing** to take to the lost world what God gave them.

Matthew 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

- D. Esau struggled on his own trying to find a place to repent-but could not. God provides places where sinners can repent, and **every saved person who is walking in the Lord provides one of God's places**. Esau carefully sought a place to repent, but did not find one.

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; 16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. 17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

- VI. It is a struggle to seek the lost that they might be saved. (seek - to go in search of by going from place to place.) Many churches, as well as individual Christians, wait for the lost to come to them. It is always a struggle to go out into the world to search for the lost.

- A. It is a struggle to be like Jesus and seek the lost. The word Christian means "little Christ", or "like Christ." Christians cannot be like Christ unless they are seeking the lost that they might be saved.
 Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
 Matthew 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. 12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? 13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.
- B. It is a struggle for Christians to seek the lost when they have doubts that God will keep His promises. God promised Christians who seek the lost that **they will find them**. It is always a struggle to maintain faith to believe what God promised. Soul-winning is probably the greatest trying of a Christian's faith.
 Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.
- C. It is a struggle for Christians to seek the lost knowing the lost are not seeking the Lord. Knowing the condition of the lost, makes it easy to not care about them and let them continue on their road to Hell. It is a struggle to be like Christ and care for those who are depraved and have no fear of God.
 Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.
- VII. It is a struggle for a Christian to continue soul-winning when violent men try to destroy him. (violent - to abuse or treat ill, or to be urged or driven by force.) Violent men usually do not want to kill a Christian, they only want to destroy his Christianity. They work to make the Christian sin and become defeated in living a Christian life. The greatest reward a violent man can get is to hear a Christian say, "I just can't do it!", "I just can't live the Christian life!", "I just can't go soul-winning!"
- A. Christians struggle like David did when he stated that violent men (those that were proud and had rejected God) had risen up to seek his soul. When Christians think of violent men, it is usually dealing with the physical aspects, not spiritual aspects. However, there are many violent men (like those after David) who try to destroy the Christian's **soul**. Also, remember the job of a pastor is to take care of the souls of Christians. (Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls,...)

Psalms 86:14 O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent men have **sought after my soul**; and have not set thee before them.

- B. Christians struggle when their friends and neighbors entice them and try to lead them into a way that is not good. (entice - to seduce to sin by promises or persuasion.) All Christians experience someone they know who tries to persuade them to turn away from the way of Christ. One of the hardest trials a Christian will endure is when a friend (especially one who has turned from serving the Lord) works to entice him to turn away from Christ and from soul-winning.

Proverbs 16:29 A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good. 30 He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.

- C. Christians struggle when the devil seeks to discourage them. Christians are being sought by the devil, and when he catches one, he devours him and then "roars like a lion." Because of his roarings (after he has destroyed a Christian) it is easy for soul-winners to get discouraged and stop. It is wearisome for soul-winners to continue serving the Lord when the devil taunts, insults, and mocks them by showing them what he did when he destroyed others.

1Peter 5:8 Be **sober**, be **vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

CONCLUSION:

WHO WILL GO WIN THE LOST TO CHRIST????

There are millions of people in the world today whose souls are hanging in the balance between Satan (with his dark world) and Christ (with His soul-winners). Satan is working hard to retain them, while most Christians do nothing to rescue them.

2Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Christians today seem to want an "easy-do-nothing" life and expect God to still bless them. The primary reason Christians do not go soul-winning is because it takes time, energy, and is a continual struggle. It is much easier for Christians to simply do nothing and let Satan have the millions of lost souls than to expend their time and energy to reach them.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION TWO OPPOSITION TO SOUL-WINNING

LESSON FOUR THOSE WHO OPPOSE CHRIST'S SOUL-WINNERS

Psalms 3:1-8 LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! **many are they that rise up against me.** 2 **Many there be which say of my soul,** There is no help for him in God. Selah. 3 But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. 4 I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah. 5 I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me. 6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, **that have set themselves against me** round about. 7 Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly. 8 Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.

Acts 20:28-31 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

INTRODUCTION:

Salvation belongs to the Lord and is available to everyone. However, there are many who work to keep people away from Christ. There are many who declare that there is no help for lost souls. They are in opposition to Jesus Christ and work to keep everyone they can from coming to Christ for salvation. God has given the responsibility to Christians to take His salvation to the lost. To reach the lost, Christ must have soul-winners who will face the opposition and take Christ to them.

Those who are opposed to God say there is no help in the Lord. (oppose - to set or act against someone or something.) Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to show or prove that God cannot help sinners, by exposing and publicizing the consequences of others who have sinned. Those who oppose Christ want everyone to believe and accept that there is no hope for sinners.

Because of false teaching and false teachers, many Christians have fallen into damnable heresies. (heresy - that which subjects or renders liable to condemnation by any opinion that is contrary to biblical doctrine.) Once they follow Satan's pernicious ways, they become disciples of Satan himself and take upon themselves his destroying work. (pernicious - having the quality of injuring or destroying.)

2Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

- A. Satan and his disciples (the sons of perdition) oppose Jesus Christ and everything called by His name. (perdition - ruin or total destruction; eternal death.) They call themselves God or gods and work to deceive everyone they can, with the intent of making Christians fall away from Christ.

2Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

1. Jesus called Judas the son of perdition. Jesus knew that Judas was ruined by his desire for money.

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

2. Christians are not to be terrified of their adversaries. When the adversaries of God see Christians show terror, the adversary thinks the Christians are ruined or destroyed.

(adversary - acting in a contrary or opposite direction.)
(terrify - to alarm or shock with fear.)

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with **one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; 28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition**, but to you of salvation, and that of God. 29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; 30 Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Those who oppose the Lord Jesus Christ use fear as a controller to keep Christians from doing the work of the Lord. The Word of God instructed soul-winners to stand fast and strive for the faith of the gospel.

Those who oppose Jesus Christ try to terrify them. Those who oppose Christ think when a Christian is terrified it is a token of perdition. (token - something intended to indicate or represent another thing or event.)

3. When people **live** to be rich, they fall into temptation and a snare, which traps them in destruction and perdition. Riches are not sin, but those who spend their lives with the **purpose** of getting rich, which is sin, will end up in ruin.

(snare - anything by which one is entangled and brought into trouble.)

1Timothy 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, **and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction** and perdition.

4. Once someone gets saved they should never **draw back** unto a life of perdition. The Lord stated that He does not have any pleasure in those who draw back to their old lives of perdition. (perdition - ruin, destruction, and eternal death); (draw back - to recede back). Once a person is saved, he should not go back to his old lost life that would have led him to eternal death. If a saved person wants to please the Lord, he will go forward to work and lead lost souls to Christ.

Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

- B. Deceptive science (science falsely so-called) opposes trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ and uses profane and vain babbling to keep people away from God (science -knowledge, the comprehension or understanding of truth or facts); (profane - irreverent to anything sacred.); (babbling - to talk idly or irrationally).

1 Timothy 6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babbling, and oppositions of science falsely so called: 21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.

True science is based on unbiased knowledge, not preconceived ideas or prejudices that are against God. Once deceptive science gets the control over the studies of truth and facts, those who oppose God guide all the conclusions toward their prejudices instead of actual knowledge. If they can get Christians to accept things as facts (like evolution), they destroy soul-winning and purposeful Christian living.

1. Science itself is not wrong. However, that which is called science, but has deviation from truth and facts, is wrong. (science falsely so called) Science is needed and serves a great purpose in the activities of the world, as well as human health.

Daniel 1:4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

2. The Greek word translated "science" is also translated knowledge. In the time of Christ, lawyers worked to keep people from entering into God's kingdom by taking away the key of knowledge. True science points people to Christ and His kingdom instead of away from Him.

Luke 11:45 Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also. 46 And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers. 47 Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. ... 52 Woe unto you, lawyers! for **ye have taken away the key of knowledge**: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in **ye hindered**. 53 And as he said these things unto them, the

scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: 54 **Laying wait for him**, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that **they might accuse him**.

3. Christians are instructed to cast down anything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. God instructs Christians to restrict the thoughts of their minds from anything that exalts itself above true knowledge. (cast down - to impede or depress the mind.)

2Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

- I. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to disqualify Christians by cutting them off from the Lord. Those who oppose Jesus Christ set themselves against God and endeavor to incapacitate or destroy the Christians who work for Him (soul-winners). They use ungodly practices to destroy the lives of Christians so they will be disqualified for ministry.

- A. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to **disqualify Christians** by making them unclean. They know that when Christians become unclean, the Lord will cut them off, or render them unfit for His use.

In Leviticus, it explains that a person becomes unclean physically from coming in contact with a diseased or polluted animal. (unclean - to pollute or defile by disease or impure actions.)

Leviticus 22:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto Aaron and to his sons, that they separate themselves from the holy things of the children of Israel, and that they profane not my holy name in those things which they hallow unto me: I am the LORD. 3 Say unto them, Whosoever he be of all your seed among your generations, **that goeth unto the holy things**, which the children of Israel hallow unto the LORD, **having his uncleanness upon him**, that soul shall be cut off from my presence: I am the LORD.

- B. Those who oppose Jesus Christ know that unclean people will not have any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ. They know that God's wrath will come upon unclean people.

Ephesians 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, **nor unclean person**, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

- C. Many of those who oppose Jesus Christ are saved or profess to be saved. They often are religious but without submission to Jesus Christ. They follow their humanism and work to prevent true believers from following the instructions of the Lord.

2Peter 2:12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, **speak evil of the things that they understand not**; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; 13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they

are and blemishes, **sporting themselves with their own deceivings** while they feast with you; 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; **beguiling unstable souls**: an heart they have exercised with **covetous practices**; cursed children: 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. 18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, **they themselves are the servants of corruption**: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. 20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

1. Those who oppose Jesus Christ know that those who **walk in the lust** of uncleanness will utterly perish in their own corruption. They take pleasure in deceiving and speaking evil of those in authority.

2Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: 10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh **in the lust of uncleanness**, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, **selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities**.

2. Those who oppose Jesus Christ do not comprehend that God's **cleansing comes from the blood of Christ**. They can only see cleansing coming from the law or by some action of man. They do not realize that those who are saved have their cleansing from Jesus.

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

3. Those who oppose Jesus Christ know that those who become **prideful, vain in their imaginations**, and their foolish hearts become dark will be turned over to uncleanness. God will give them up unto their vile affections, rendering them disqualified for God's work (soul-winning).

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they **knew God**, they **glorified him not** as God, **neither were thankful**; but became **vain in their imaginations**, and their **foolish heart was darkened**. 22 **Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools**, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore **God also gave them up to uncleanness** through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. 26 For this cause **God gave them up unto vile affections**: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

4. Those who oppose Jesus Christ know that those who **walk in the vanity of their mind** will give themselves over to uncleanness and be disqualified for God's work (soul-winning).

Ephesians 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth **walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,** 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have **given themselves over** unto lasciviousness, **to work all uncleanness** with greediness. (lascivious - irregular indulgence of animal desires.)

- D. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to disqualify Christians by trying to make them despise the Word of the Lord. Those who oppose Christ know that when they remove Christians from the Word of the Lord, Christians are cut off from the Lord, which will disqualify them for His work (soul-winning). If those who oppose Jesus can get Christians to believe the Word of God is worthless, then they will be cut off from God and His work (soul-winning). (despise - to neglect as unworthy or to reject by considering worthless.)

Numbers 15:30 But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people. 31 Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; **his iniquity shall be upon him.**

1. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to cause Christians to despise God, so they will defraud their brothers and sisters. They know that God will avenge those who have defrauded a brother or sister, and the person who did the defrauding will be unclean and unfit to do the work of the Lord (soul-winning). (defraud - to deprive of rights by taking something wrongfully without the knowledge or consent of the owner.)

1Thessalonians 4:4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; 5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: 6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. 7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. 8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

2. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to cause Christians to love themselves and despise those who are good. They know that when a Christian loves himself he will put on a form of godliness, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. He will never be fit for God's work (soul-winning) because he will always put himself first.

2Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of

pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

3. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to get Christians to give themselves over to fornication. Once Christians turn themselves over to fornication, they have departed from God and are disqualified from the Lord's work (soul-winning).

Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. 5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. ... 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

4. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to get Christians to despise those who have dominion over them. When this happens, Christians corrupt themselves, disqualifying them from doing the Lord's work (soul-winning).

Jude 8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. ... 10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

- E. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to disqualify Christians by keeping them from hearing the Word of God. They know that if Christians do not hear God's Word they will be destroyed. **Also, Christians who will not hear the Word of God will be disqualified** from the work of the Lord (soul-winning). (destroy - to demolish or to lay waste.)

Acts 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. 23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, **which will not hear that prophet**, shall be destroyed from among the people.

1. There are some who stand against (withstand) the words of those who preach Christ, and work to subvert those who do hear. When someone asks a Christian what he or she thinks about a message that was preached, the Christian needs to be careful. Showing **wisdom is to let the other person state what he thinks first, so the Christian can properly perceive if his intention is to subvert.**

2Timothy 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. 14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. 15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath

greatly withstood our words. 16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. 17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

2. There are some who deceive themselves by not accepting what the Word of God says (hearers only, and not doers). They apply everything God says to their human, temporal life and forget what their earthly life produced. They are carnal and only seek something worldly, and never actually hear what God said.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye **doers** of the word, and **not hearers only**, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

3. There are some, like the rich man in Hell, who would not hear God's word and end up in Hell. Abraham told the rich man that people (Jews) were to hear the words of Moses and the prophets. He told the rich man that if people would not listen to the words of Moses and the prophets, they would not listen to one who had been sent back from the dead.

Luke 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.... 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

- F. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to disqualify Christians by trying to make them do evil, so they will spend their lives in tribulation and anguish. (evil - to do harm to someone.)

Sometimes a Christian will do something that hurts someone else. Many times the Christian is destroyed by the pain and suffering that comes from the guilt of doing harm to another.

Romans 2:9 Tribulation and anguish, **upon every soul of man that doeth evil**, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; 10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: 11 For there is no respect of persons with God. 12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

1. There are some who know the judgment of God, but reject it, and invent evil things they can have pleasure in. To invent something is to fabricate

or contrive something by the imagination, which is not approved by the Word of God.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, **inventors of evil things**, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

2. There are some who know it is wrong to do evil, but allow their tongue to speak evil to those who do evil. Those who do evil, and know the Lord is against those who do evil, work to entice or trick Christians into speaking evil back to them.

1Peter 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10 For he that will love life, and see good days, **let him refrain his tongue from evil**, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

3. There are some who are false teachers who speak evil of the truth, trying to make merchandise of Christians. These false teachers see Christians as merchandise they can buy, sell, steal, cast away, or destroy. They speak evil of God's truth, trying to tear down Christians considering them only earthly possessions, instead of being the precious children of God. The way to identify false prophets is by hearing them speak evil of God's way of truth.

2Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom **the way of truth shall be evil spoken of**. 3 And **through covetousness** shall they with feigned words **make merchandise** of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

- II. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to separate people from the Lord by trying to cause them to fear the adversary **instead** of God.

(adversary - an enemy or foe and in the Scripture refers to Satan.)

- A. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to keep people from fearing the one who is able to destroy body and soul in Hell. If they can keep people from believing in Hell, with its eternal destruction, they keep them from getting saved.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

- B. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to turn Christians into selfish believers who fear to give up their lives. Satan works to make Christians fear losing or denying their own lives (souls). These Christians turn away from the Lord as they fear not having or making money. Soul-winning is often neglected because Christians choose to make money and gain the things of the world, instead of taking the time to lead the lost to Christ. Their earthly fear causes them to lose the eternal rewards of reaching the lost for Christ.

Mark 8:34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For **whosoever will save his life shall lose it**; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and **lose his own soul**? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

- III. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to deceive people and keep them from knowing the truth, that the Lord saves sinners from Hell.

(deceit - leading another person to not believe what is true.)

Ignorance of the Lord is a great condemner. People cannot choose the way of Christ unless they hear the word of God.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and **how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?** and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- A. Those who oppose Jesus Christ use deceit to keep people from knowing that the Lord will save the souls of the needy.

Psalms 72:12 For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. 13 He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy. 14 **He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence:** and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

- B. Those who oppose Jesus Christ use deceit to keep people from knowing that the Lord will save those who obey His voice.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and **by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.**

Ephesians 5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Jeremiah 38:20 But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver thee. Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD, which I speak unto thee: so it shall be well unto thee, and thy soul shall live.

IV. Those who oppose Jesus Christ work to keep people from realizing that the Lord is the **only way** a person can be saved from Hell. There are not many ways to Heaven - only the "Jesus" way. False teachers have led people to believe, "you go your way and I'll go mine and we'll all meet in Heaven."

A. Those who oppose Jesus Christ try to convince others that God cannot or will not lift them up from the pit (Hell). Many think their sins and life actions are so evil that God cannot lift them up. The Lord is able to lift up the vilest person from the pit. (pit - hole or cavity in the ground. It is referring to Hell when it is preceded with the word "the".)

Psalms 30:1 I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. 2 O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. 3 O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to **the pit**.

B. Those who oppose Jesus Christ try to hinder or stop those who rescue souls from Hell. God works to deliver souls from Hell and sends His messengers for that purpose.

Psalms 86:12 I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. 13 For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

CONCLUSION:

Those who hate the Lord or choose to deny the Lord, work to keep lost souls from coming to the Lord. They work against soul-winners, trying to prevent them from leading lost souls to Christ. In their endeavors, they follow all kinds of pernicious ways to keep the lost from getting saved. They often despise anyone who loves lost souls and tries to lead them to Christ. The Lord commissions soul-winners to go to the lost and **empowers** them with **His power** to **resist** the consuming spirits who work against God. Soul-winners should dedicate their lives to reaching the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore**, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

John 15:18 If the world **hate** you, ye know that it **hated** me before it **hated** you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world **hateth** you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. 22 **If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.** 23 He that **hateth** me **hateth** my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, **they had not had sin**: but now have they both seen and **hated** both me and my Father.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION THREE SOUL-WINNERS

LESSON FIVE GOD'S WATCHMEN

Ezekiel 33:6-11 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. 7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. 8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but **his blood will I require at thine hand**. 9 Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. 10 Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live? 11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

INTRODUCTION:

Delivered thy soul - released, rescued.

Require - to call to account for.

Account - explanation by a recital of particular transactions.

A. Everyone will give account of himself to God.

Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

B. Ministers of Christ will give account regarding their faithfulness to others.

1 Corinthians 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

C. Pastors will give account to God for how they take care of the souls under their care.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

D. Shepherds (pastors) will give account to God for the sheep they are to feed.

Ezekiel 34:1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel **that do feed themselves!** should not the shepherds **feed the flocks?** 3 Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. 4 The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. 5 And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. 6 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. 7 Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; 8 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds **fed themselves, and fed not my flock;** 9 Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; 10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and **I will require my flock at their hand,** and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

I. The responsibility of a watchman (soul-winner). The root word of watchman is watch. (watch - attendance without sleep; vigilance in keeping or protecting against danger.) A Christian who is a watchman (soul-winner) is one who is vigilant in protecting others from danger. Danger is exposure to injury or loss, and the greatest danger in existence is the risk of going to Hell.

A. A watchman (soul-winner) is to warn those who are under attack from the disciples of Satan. Satan's disciples are seeking the lost, with the intent of destroying their souls and sending them to Hell. When a watchman (soul-winner) does not warn the wicked, God said He would require the blood of the lost soul at the hand of the watchman (soul-winner).

Ezekiel 3:16 And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and **give them warning from me.** 18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and **thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life;** the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but **his blood will I require at thine hand.** 19 **Yet if thou warn the wicked,** and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but **thou hast delivered thy soul.**

The watchman was to give warning to the wicked house of Israel. To warn the wicked to turn from their wicked ways before their lives were destroyed. God told the watchman that if the wicked died in their iniquity, He would require the wicked persons' blood at the watchman's hand. The only way the lost wicked world can be saved is by being warned by God's watchmen (soul-winners). (wicked - contrary to morality.) (iniquity - deviation from the principles and practices of righteousness.)

- B. A watchman (soul-winner) is to warn the lost soul, but God will not hold the watchman (soul-winner) responsible for those who will not hearken to the watchman's warning. (hearken - to comply with what is said).

Jeremiah 6:17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. ... 19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

- C. A watchman (soul-winner) is to warn others so they will know when the thieves are coming. Thieves invade homes and destroyed those inside.

Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

- II. There are dangers that come when a watchman (soul-winner) does not do his job. When a Christian is on watch, it is easy to become complacent and forget that danger is lurking just outside of sight. (In lesson one, point five B, we saw that soul winners have to go outside the safety of the "camp" to reach the lost.) Because it is safe where the watchman (soul-winner) is located, many times he doesn't see what is happening outside. He forgets that lost souls are going to Hell; therefore, he does nothing. It is imperative that watchmen (soul-winners) warn the lost because Hell is real and those who never hear go there.

- A. The danger of a watchman (soul-winner) not doing his job is that people will **continue to walk in darkness** -- not see the light. **There are many who walk in darkness because no one has ever told them about the Light.** Soul-winning is bringing a lost soul from the darkness to Jesus Christ, the Light. (darkness - the state of being intellectually cloudy, ignorant).

1Thessalonians 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But ye, **brethren, are not in darkness**, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but **let us watch and be sober**. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8 **But let us**, who are of the day, **be sober**, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but **to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ**, 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

- B. The danger of a watchman (soul-winner) not doing his job is that lost people live a deceived life, believing they are going to Heaven but are going to Hell. The Lord told the church at Sardis that they had a name that they were alive but were dead. Because they thought they were alive, they were not watching. The Lord warned them to watch because they didn't know when He was going to come. There are many false religions that give people false hope, causing them to think they are

alive, but they are dead. Soul-winners must warn those in these false religions that they are not going to Heaven, then show them The Way.

Revelations 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. 2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

- C. A danger of a watchman (soul-winner) not doing his job is that beasts will come and devour the lost. There are conditions in a watchman's (soul-winner's) life that cause him to fail to save those in danger. There are nine things listed in Isaiah 56 that prevent watchmen (soul-winners) from protecting people from the beasts of the field and forest. (beasts - brutal men acting in a manner unworthy of rational creatures).

Isaiah 56:8 The Lord GOD, which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him. 9 All ye beasts of the field, come to devour, yea, all ye beasts in the forest. 10 His watchmen are **blind**: they are all **ignorant**, they are all **dumb dogs**, they cannot **bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber**. 11 Yea, they are **greedy dogs** which can never have enough, and they are **shepherds that cannot understand**: they all **look to their own way**, every one for **his gain**, from his quarter. 12 Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will **fill ourselves with strong drink**; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.

1. Watchmen (soul-winners) fail because they are blind – they strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. They become so **consumed with trivial minutia that they fail to see the big picture**.

Matthew 23:24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. 25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. 26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

2. Watchmen (soul-winners) fail because they are ignorant – alienated from the life of God. Jesus stated that He came to seek and save those who are lost. A Christian who is the life of Jesus Christ on earth is to spend his time seeking those who are lost.

Ephesians 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 **Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them**, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

3. Watchmen (soul-winners) fail because they are like dumb dogs that do not bark – do not cry out a warning. It is amazing how Christians fail to speak

to others about Christ while talking about everything else. (bark - the noise of pursuit or alarm); (dumb - to deprive of the ability to speak).

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. 3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

4. Watchmen (soul-winners) fail because they are sleeping – lying down and loving to slumber. Christians are to be watchmen (soul-winners) and not given to sleep or slumber. Many times Christians will say things like "this is my only time to rest" instead of dedicating their time to soul-winning. (slumber - to be in a state of negligence, habitually idle or indisposed to labor).

1Thessalonians 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Matthew 26:40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

5. Watchmen (soul-winners) fail because they are greedy dogs – given themselves over to greediness. Calling someone a dog is always derogatory, and when God added greedy it identifies watchmen (soul-winners) who do not do their jobs as dogs who have given their lives to making money. When soul-winning time comes, many don't participate because they have to make more money to spend on selfish activities.

Ephesians 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

6. Watchmen (soul-winners) fail because they are shepherds that do not understand – their heart is waxed gross. Watchmen (soul-winners) fail because they will not allow their hearts to turn to the Lord's work. Remember what is in a person's heart is what he wants. When a Christian does not want to soul-win, he has a heart problem failing to understand God and His desire. (waxed - to become larger); (gross - rough, mean, vulgar, obscene.)

Matthew 13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart **is waxed gross**, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and **should understand with their heart**, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

John 10:12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

7. Watchmen (soul-winners) fail because they are going their own way – going about to establish their own righteousness. Often a Christian departs from God's directed way, thinking he can find or come up with something better. Many religions or charitable organizations think their way is better than God's.

Romans 10:2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

8. Watchmen (soul-winners) fail because they are after their own personal gain – supposing that gain is godliness. Some Christians become obsessed with getting more instead of reaching the lost. They spend their lives working to get bigger houses, better cars, boats, etc. at the expense of souls. (gain - to obtain by superiority or success).

1 Timothy 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; 4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, 5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

9. Watchmen (soul-winners) fail because they are filled with strong drink – they follow strong drink. Some Christians consume alcoholic beverages, which causes a person to mock or make fun of others who are committed to soul-winning. Alcoholic beverages deceive those who drink them causing the person to think he is right, resulting in bad decisions regarding life. (mock - to imitate in contempt or derision.)

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Isiah 5:11 Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!

III. Watchmen (soul-winners) are to follow God's instruction to take the gospel to the lost. They must warn the lost of the consequences of not accepting Jesus Christ as the Lord. All saved people should dedicate their lives to reaching out to the lost, **without ceasing**.

A. Watchmen (soul-winners) are to do the work of evangelists. Paul told Timothy to watch and do the work of an evangelist. Soul-winning is a work of the Lord and essential that it be done. (evangelist - one who instructs and preaches the gospel and convert the lost to a belief in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ).

2Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

B. Watchmen (soul-winners) are to preach and warn every man that Jesus Christ is the only hope of glory. Jesus Christ is the Lord and every saint knows that because each saint has the Lord inside. God instructs that Christians take the Lord (inside of them) to the lost.

Colossians 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 **Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom;** that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to **his working, which worketh in me mightily**.

C. Watchmen (soul-winners) are to share the knowledge of God with lost souls. It is a shame when some do not have the knowledge of God. Every Christian should feel some degree of guilt when they know of some who have not heard the gospel. (shame - a consciousness of guilt from having done something which injures reputation).

1Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this **to your shame**.

D. Watchmen (soul-winners) are to strive to preach the gospel to those who do not know Christ. Paul preached the gospel to the Gentiles, striving to reach those who had never heard. (strive - to make efforts or endeavor with earnestness).

Romans 15:18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, 19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. 20 Yea, **so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named**, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: 21 But as it is written, **To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand**.

- E. Watchmen (soul-winners) are to be vigilant. Many Christians become complacent with their daily activities and stop doing what God asked. The devil is seeking those he can devour. All a Christian has to do to be devoured is **relax and stop being watchful**. (vigilant - watchful and attentive to discover and avoid danger).
 1Peter 5:8 Be **sober**, be **vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
- F. Watchmen (soul-winners) are to watch like men. Children quit easily when things don't go their way. The character of men is that they don't quit easily. Watchmen (soul-winners) are to use their strength to keep giving out God's love to the lost. (men - strong, bold, and brave).
 1Corinthians 16:13 **Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong**. 14 Let all your things be done with charity.
- G. Watchmen (soul-winners) are to stand by faith. Watchmen (soul-winners) must live with such confidence in God that they follow His declarations. One of these declarations is that Christians are to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. (faith - an entire confidence or trust in God's character and declaration).
 2Corinthians 1:23 Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth. 24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for **by faith ye stand**.
- IV. Watchmen (soul-winners) are to continue God's mandate to reach lost souls. The only way soul-winning is to stop is for the Lord to return. Until then, every soul needs to hear the gospel.
- A. Jesus gave authority to His servants to watch and go tell every person that Jesus Christ is Lord, until He returns. Jesus departed from the earth and gave every saved person His work to accomplish and to watch for His return.
 Mark 13:34 For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and **gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch**. 35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.
 Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
- B. Paul stated that he was pure from the blood of all men because he did not shun to declare the grace of God. Paul did what God instructed him to do. (shun - to avoid, to decline, to neglect).
 Acts 20:20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, 21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. 22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit

unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: 23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. 24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to **testify the gospel of the grace of God**. 25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. 26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that **I am pure from the blood of all men**. 27 For **I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God**. 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore **watch**, and remember, that by the space of three years **I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears**.

CONCLUSION:

Unless the Lord does the soul-winning, it is in vain.

Psalms 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

At the judgment seat of Christ Christians will receive the things they did while still in their bodies.

2Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one **may receive the things done** in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION THREE SOUL-WINNERS

LESSON SIX SOUL-WINNERS ARE FISHERS OF MEN

Matthew 4:18-22 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. 19 And he saith unto them, **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.** 20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. 21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. 22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

Luke 5:4-11 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. 9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: 10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; **from henceforth thou shalt catch men.** 11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

INTRODUCTION:

Fish - (verb) to attempt or seek to obtain or catch.

Catch - to seize or to take hold.

Jesus used fishing to explain the work he was going to give His apostles. He told them they would be fishermen, but of men instead of fish. (fisherman - one whose occupation is to catch fish.) The Lord still wants Christians to be fishers of men or soul-winners. The Lord still wants lost souls to be caught and the way this happens is by Christians going out seeking those lost souls.

- I. The wicked of the world seek (fish) to catch and capture the souls of men. (wicked - persons who live in sin; transgressors of the divine law.) There are many who live sinful lives and disregard what God says. They want others to be like them, so they seek souls to catch and destroy. There is a continual battle to win souls with the world working hard to catch souls. Many Christians do nothing to try to bring souls to Christ, which makes it easy for the world to catch and keep lost souls. The following are eleven ways the wicked work to catch souls and keep them away from God.

- A. The wicked catch people in their nets of evil times.
 Ecclesiastes 9:12 For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.
 (Net - a cunning device or snare used to catch something.)
 (Snare - anything by which one is entangled and brought into trouble.)
 (Evil - having bad qualities, corrupt, perverse, wrong)
 (Time - the state of things at a particular period.)
- B. The wicked catch people by lying in wait with their traps.
 Jeremiah 5:26 For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men.
 (wait - to lie in ambush, as an enemy)
- C. The wicked are as lions, waiting to catch the poor and drawing them into their nets.
 Psalms 10:2 **The wicked** in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined. 3 For **the wicked** boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth. 4 **The wicked**, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts. 5 His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight: as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them. 6 He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be in adversity. 7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity. 8 He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor. 9 **He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor:** he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net. 10 He croucheth, and humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones. 11 He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see it.
 (Poor - destitute of saving grace.)
- D. The wicked catch people who do not resist the devil. These wicked people function as a roaring lion seeking whom they may devour.
 1Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.
 (Adversary - an enemy or foe, one who has enmity at heart.)
 (Affliction - suffering grief or distress in either body or mind.)
- E. The wicked catch people because they oppose themselves. There are many who have fallen into the snare of the devil and fight within themselves, trying to determine what is right. They have rejected the truth of the Word of God, and now battle between God's Word and their own feelings.
 2Timothy 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness **instructing those that oppose themselves;** if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, **who are taken captive by him at his will.**

(Oppose - to act against, to be in controversy or argument against.)

(Themselves - A plural pronoun referring to persons who have been captured in the snare of the devil.)

- F. The wicked catch people by using riches to bring temptation, with its snares and destruction.

1 Timothy 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

(Temptation - enticement to evil by arguments, by flattery, or by the offer of some real or apparent good.)

- G. The wicked catch people by using anger and fury to change a person's way and snare his lost soul.

Proverbs 22:24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: 25 Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

(Friendship - an attachment to a person springing from some interest.)

(Ways - manners of behavior or practice.)

- H. The wicked catch people by using their imaginations to deceive. A person who has a heart that devises wicked imaginations is one of the six things that God hates.

Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 **An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations**, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Psalms 38:12 They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long.

(Imagination - the power of an individual's mind that represents thoughts conceived and formed from his own ideas.)

- I. The wicked catch people by privately using their tongues to shoot out bitter words of destruction. Many get hurt by bitter words of wicked people who lay snares by diligently searching for some iniquity they can use to condemn.

Psalms 64:2 Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity: 3 Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, **even bitter words**: 4 That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not. 5 They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them? 6 They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search: both the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep.

(Bitter - afflicted, distressed, hurtful.)

(Iniquities - any act of injustice.)

- J. The wicked catch people by using pride as their snare. People who are controlled by their pride think they are better, know more, and have more authority than the workers of God.

Psalms 140:4 Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from the violent man; who have purposed to overthrow my goings. 5 **The proud have hid a snare for me**, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins for me. Selah.

(Gins - noose, snare)

(Pride - an unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority.)

K. Wicked women catch people (especially young men) with ungodly sexuality. (wicked - addicted to immorality, vice.) There are wicked women who do all the things listed above, but the Bible warns about wicked women who use **different** wicked devices to catch souls. The primary device wicked women use is their bodies.

1. A wicked woman (stranger) uses sex to catch lost souls. (stranger - one not admitted to any communication or fellowship.)

The young man talked about in Proverbs Chapter Seven was void of understanding. The wicked woman enticed him into her house, which verse 27 says is the way to Hell. She used ungodly enticement to lure the man into her trap.

Proverbs 7:5 That they may keep thee from **the strange woman**, from **the stranger** which flattereth with her words. 6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, 7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, 8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, 9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: 10 And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. 11 (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: 12 Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) 13 **So she caught him**, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, 14 I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. 15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. 16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. 17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. 18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. 19 For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: 20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. 21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. 22 He goeth after her straightway, **as an ox goeth to the slaughter**, or **as a fool to the correction of the stocks**; 23 Till a dart strike through his liver; **as a bird hasteth to the snare**, and knoweth not that it is for his life. 24 Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. 25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. 26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. 27 Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

- a. She dressed like a harlot.
- b. She had a deceptive heart.
- c. She was loud and stubborn.
- d. She would not abide at home.
- e. She hid and waited to catch him.
- f. She claimed to be right with God.
- g. She flattered, pretending to have chosen him.
- h. She prepared her bed excessively.
- i. She claimed that love was the motive.
- j. She claimed to choose him over her husband.
- k. She used much fair and flattering speech.

2. The wicked (strange) woman uses her mouth and her ways to cast young men into her pit. (strange - to turn aside, a foreigner, unusual, not according to the common way.)

Proverbs 5:3 For the lips of a **strange woman** drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: 4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. 6 Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them. 7 Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. 8 Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: 9 Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: 10 Lest **strangers** be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger; 11 And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,

Proverbs 22:14 The mouth of **strange women** is a **deep pit**: he that is abhorred of the LORD **shall fall therein**.

- a. Her mouth drops as honey.
- b. Her feet go down to death (Hell).
- c. Her ways are moveable.
- d. Her action is to take the honor of others.
- e. Her purpose is to take the wealth of others.
- f. Her trap causes mourning and consumption.

3. The wicked (evil) woman uses her eyelids to destroy the soul of her neighbor. (evil - bad, spoiled, good for nothing)

Proverbs 6:24 To keep thee from the **evil woman**, from the flattery of the tongue of a **strange woman**. 25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. 26 For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. 27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? 29 So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. ... 32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it **destroyeth his own soul**.

- a. Her tongue flatters.
- b. Her beauty produces lust.
- c. Her whoredom brings a man to a piece of bread.
- d. Her adultery hunts for the man's life.
- e. Her body burns her lover like fire.
- f. Her adultery destroys a man's soul.

4. The wicked woman (whore) uses alcohol to cast a young man into her pit. (whore - to practice unlawful sexual commerce or indecent sexual activity.)

Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. 27 For a **whore is a deep ditch**; and a **strange woman is a narrow pit**. 28 She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men. 29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? 30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. 31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. 32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. 33 Thine eyes shall behold **strange women**, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

- a. She is a deep ditch, a narrow pit.
- b. She waits as a trap for her prey.
- c. She makes her victim have woe, sorrow, contentions, babbling, wounds without cause, redness of eyes, drinks wine that bites like a serpent.
- d. She makes her man utter perverse things.

- II. When Jesus was physically on the earth, He sought to catch (to fish for) lost souls. Jesus knew that men do not seek God, but that God has to seek them. The Bible states that there are none that seek after God.

Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

- A. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Soul-winning is going fishing or seeking the lost. Jesus is our example, and the word Christian means little Christ or like Christ. If Christians are like Jesus Christ, they take up his ministry, which is to seek and save the lost.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

- B. Jesus, the good Shepherd, stated that hirelings flee when a wolf comes to catch the sheep. (wolf - an animal like a dog that is recognized for being crafty, greedy, and ravenous.) Hirelings are afraid of wolves and flee because they are not the shepherd. Christians who are not like Christ flee when wolves attack.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and know my

sheep, and am known of mine. 15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

III. Jesus wants Christians to be soul-winners, seeking (fishing) for lost souls. Christians are the Lord's instruments on earth. To reach the lost, Christians must seek them.

A. The Lord seeks fruit from His trees, and when a tree does not produce, He cuts it down. Jesus gave a parable warning those who do not produce fruit. A major question is, "why would the Lord keep and continue to bless a Christian who does not produce?" Jesus seeks fruit from Christians.

Luke 13:6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. 7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? 8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

B. Man seeks his own things, not the things of Jesus. The problem with many Christians is they do not seek the things of Christ. Many Christians are so consumed with the material things of the world that they never seek the things of Christ.

Philippians 2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

CONCLUSION:

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. 18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, **their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.**

The world has many disciples who seek to catch people in their traps, enslave them to the world, and ultimately send them to Hell. Jesus Christ has His children who are instructed to go seek the lost and bring them into His kingdom. If Christians would get as active in reaching the lost as the world does, many people would be saved and the world would be changed.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION THREE SOUL-WINNERS

LESSON SEVEN A HEART TO WIN SOULS

Romans 9:1-5 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, 2 That **I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.** 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; 5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION:

Heaviness - sadness, sorrow, depression of spirit.

Sorrow - the uneasiness or pain of mind which is produced by the loss of something good.

Paul had such heaviness in his heart for the Israelites that he stated he would give up his salvation if that would cause them to be saved. Before a Christian will become an active and aggressive soul-winner, the Christian must have a burden in his or her heart for the lost. The soul-winner must see, with deep regret, that those who are not saved are going to Hell. Today, it is evident that most Christians do not really believe that people who have not accepted the Lord Jesus Christ are going to Hell. Some who profess to be saved do not even believe there is a Hell or eternal damnation.

- I. Christians should have compassion for the lost. (compassion - a mixed compound of love and sorrow, to pity.) The Bible instructs Christians to love others, including lost sinners. At the same time, the Christian must feel sorrow because the person is on the road to hell. When a Christian really loves a lost person and sees him on the way to hell, the Christian will share the Gospel with him, which is soul-winning.
 - A. Jesus had a heavy heart for Israel and the whole lost world. Jesus came to the earth to seek and save the lost. When He looked upon the lost, He was heartbroken because He could not complete what He came to do. Jesus never forces salvation upon anyone, but offers salvation to everyone.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

 1. Jesus was moved with compassion because the multitudes had no shepherd. A shepherd is one who cares, leads, loves, assists, guides, teaches, admonishes, and much more. When people do not have a pastor, they do not have their soul cared for, and often fall into sin and destruction. When Jesus saw the people (who were like sheep without a shepherd) He had compassion on them, knowing they were lost and He could not do for them the things He came to do.

Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when he saw the multitudes, **he was moved with compassion on them**, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

2. Jesus cried out for Jerusalem because their house was desolate. (desolate - a forsaken state, gloominess, sadness, destruction.) The Lord had sent prophets and messengers to Jerusalem to tell them the way of the Lord, but they had rejected and even killed them. Jesus was moved even after all their rejection, and cried out again for them to hear.

Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **how often would I have gathered thy children together**, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! 38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

3. Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem because they did not know the things that belonged unto peace. Jesus wept because those in Jerusalem did not know how to be saved. They didn't know how to get the peace that only comes from God. Jesus wept because the way of peace was hidden from them. How many people are in the world today that have never heard the way of peace? How many Christians weep because so many have not heard? How many Christians are willing to give any time, money, or work to get the way of God's peace to them?

Luke 19:41 And when he was come near, **he beheld the city, and wept over it**, 42 Saying, **If thou hadst known**, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. 43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, 44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation. 45 And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; 46 Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves. 47 And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him,

- B. Paul stated that his heart's desire was for Israel to be saved. A person's heart shows what that person wants, and Paul wanted Israel to be saved. Remember that Israel rejected Jesus Christ and was responsible for his crucifixion. But even knowing that, Paul's desire was to see them saved.

Romans 10:1 Brethren, **my heart's desire** and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God,

but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

- C. Moses asked God to blot his name out of God's book if He would not forgive Israel their sin.

Exodus 32:30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin. 31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; **and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.** 33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. 34 Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them. 35 And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.

- II. Christians (little Christ) should have the same compassion for the lost that Jesus did. When Jesus looked on lost sinners He did not judge them. Instead, He stated that He came to save the world.

John 12:47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, **I judge him not:** for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.**

Jesus also told Christians to not judge anything before the time of judgment, when the Lord returns. When Christians look at lost sinners, they should not judge them, but should try to lead them to salvation, as Jesus did.

1Corinthians 4:5 Therefore **judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come,** who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

- A. When Christians sanctify the Lord in their hearts, they will be a witness to others of what God has done for them. (Sanctify - to cleanse and set apart for the work of the Lord.) When Christians have sanctified hearts, they want to give an answer to everyone **why** they have hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Peter 3:13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But **sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:** and **be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you** with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

- B. Christians should have compassion for others, like the Lord had pity on the servant. Christians should remember the debt for which the Lord forgave them, and then they will have compassion on sinners.

Matthew 18:23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then **the lord of that servant was moved with compassion**, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33 **Shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?** 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

- III. Christians should examine themselves to understand what moves them. (moved - stirred or excited.) When people are moved, they get excited and stirred into some action. When people are moved, they take some kind of action toward what excited them.

People are moved by many different things - some good and some not so good. Some are moved by music, some by pictures, and most by events in life. A person's emotions are what moves or stirs him, and each person's emotions are different. However, almost everyone is moved by circumstances and hardships of human life. People are moved by people who are sick, injured, homeless, penniless, as well as broken lives, marriages, jobs, friendships, etc.

Today there are very few Christians who are moved by people going to Hell. When Christians are moved today it is from some earthly need instead of a spiritual need. Christians are moved more by seeing sick or dying animals than they are from seeing lost souls going to Hell. Someone recently told the story of the man who took his daughter fishing. The man caught a fish and after showing it to his daughter, she started crying and asked him to put it back. Even though they needed the fish for food, the man put the fish back because he was moved by his daughter who was moved by looking at the displaced fish.

The Lord Jesus and His Word makes it clear that Christians are to be moved by seeing lost souls on their way to Hell. When Jesus looked upon the lost, He was stirred to take some kind of action. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and even raised the dead. But most of all, he wept because people would not trust Him as their Savior.

A person is referred to as hard-hearted when that person is not moved by the sufferings of others. There are some who are not moved by human or animal sufferings, and often are the ones who commit the evil that causes others to suffer. Christians who have no feelings for others are hard-hearted, and when a church is filled with hard-hearted members, it does not do soul-winning. Christians have hard-hearts when they have no feelings of despair, when they look at the lost and do not seek to lead them to Christ.

- A. When a person's heart is moved, it is like trees that move when the wind blows. The wind causes the action of the trees, and the events in the lives of Christians cause them to move. The Holy Spirit is the wind that moves the hearts of Christians. It is not enough to feel emotions when the heart is moved, but some action should be taken. When Christians are moved because someone is lost and on their way to Hell, they are to tell them about the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is why and how soul-winning is carried out.

1 Samuel 7:2 And it was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate with Ephraim. And his heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

- B. When David got the news that his son Absalom had been killed, he was moved so much he cried out that it would have been better if he had died instead of Absalom. Absalom had killed his own brother, and David had fled so Absalom could not kill him. Yet David was moved knowing that his son Absalom was not with God and, consequently, went to Hell.

2 Samuel 18:33 And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

- C. Jesus was moved with compassion because the people were as sheep without a shepherd. A shepherd takes care of his sheep and when they have no shepherd there is no one to care for them. It is easy to understand Jesus' compassion when you see people, especially Christians, who have no one who loves and cares for them. They are like David when he cried out, "no man cared for my soul."

Psalms 142:4 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; **no man cared for my soul.**

Mark 6:34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and **was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd:** and he began to teach them many things. 35 And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed: 36 Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat. 37 He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat? 38 He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes. 39 And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. 40 And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties. 41 And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. 42 And they did all eat, and were filled. 43 And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. 44 And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.

- D. Christians should never move away from the hope of the gospel. The gospel was preached to those who are saved, showing them the way to salvation. The saved are to continue in faith and preach the same gospel that saved them to the lost. Saved people carry the gospel of Christ inside them, and God wants them to carry that gospel of God to the world.

Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight: 23 **If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel,** which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; 24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: 25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom **God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:** 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

CONCLUSION:

Each person, Christians included, are controlled by what is in their heart. A person is moved to do things from his heart, and it is his heart that controls his life.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

To be a soul-winner, a Christian must be moved in his heart, like Jesus and Paul. To be a soul-winner, a Christian must see people going to Hell, and know the only hope they have is to hear the gospel. When a Christian sees people going to Hell and is moved to help them, he will become a soul-winner.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION THREE SOUL-WINNERS

LESSON EIGHT

TELL YOUR FRIENDS WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR YOU

Mark 5:1-20 And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. 2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, 3 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: 4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. 5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. 6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, 7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. 8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. 9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many. 10 And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. 11 Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. 12 And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. 13 And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea. 14 And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. 15 And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. 16 And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine. 17 And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts. 18 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. 19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, **Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee**, and hath had compassion on thee. 20 And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

INTRODUCTION:

Friend - one who is attached to another by affection and respect, which leads him to desire the company of the other.

When Jesus went to the country of the Gadarenes, a man who dwelt among the tombs met Him. The man had many unclean spirits in him, and Jesus cast them out, sending them into the swine. After the spirits left the man, he was found clothed and in his right mind. He asked Jesus if he could go with Him, but Jesus told him to go home and tell his friends the great things the Lord had done for him.

The man departed from Jesus and published in Decapolis the great things Jesus had done for him. Many marveled at his story, showing that, when he told his friends about Jesus, it had a great effect. When a person gets saved and has his life changed, he needs to tell his friends what the Lord did! More people will respect the Lord if those who are saved will tell their friends what the Lord did for them.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- I. Jesus told His friends to be afraid of the one who could cast them into Hell. People have many fears--often life debilitating fears. There are people who are afraid to fly in a plane, ride on a boat, take an elevator, and thousands of other fears. However, there are few who fear the one who can cast a soul into Hell. Jesus is the one who should be feared because He is the Judge who sends people to Hell. Christians should tell their friends that Jesus is the one that can give salvation. He is also the one to whom all will answer.

Luke 12:1 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. 3 Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops. 4 And **I say unto you my friends**, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

- II. Jesus told His friends all things His Father had told Him. Jesus did not withhold from His friends the things God had told Him.

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.** 14 **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.** 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but **I have called you friends**; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. 17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

- A. The greatest love a person can have for a friend is to lay down his own life. When the Bible says to "lay down your life" it is not saying to die, but to give up, to quit or relinquish, or to surrender the use of. The primary reason most saved people do not witness to their friends is because of their love for their own lives. They are more concerned about what others think of them, or the fear of rejection by their friends, than fulfilling the Lord's instructions. When a person lays down his life, he thinks more of others than he does of himself. Jesus loved others enough to relinquish the use of His own life.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

- B. Jesus stated that those who do whatsoever He commands are His friends. Becoming a friend to Jesus starts with doing what He commands. A saved person will remain only a servant, being judged by whether his actions are good or bad, unless he learns **to trust the Lord from his heart and do what Jesus says** without questioning. **A friend of Jesus does what He says, knowing that He is right.** A saved person who does not tell others, including his friends, about the Lord's salvation, will never be a friend of Jesus, but only a servant.

John 15:14 **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.**

- C. Jesus said that those who know what He did are His friends. Jesus stated that those who know what He is doing are not servants, because servants only do what they are told. Servants do not know what their master is doing - they only carry out what they are instructed or commanded.

John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

- III. Leading someone to the Lord should be a shared experience. Both the one who gets saved and the one who led him to Christ should share what happened. There is excitement that goes with soul-winning, and it will be contagious when shared.

- A. When Peter went to meet with Cornelius, Cornelius called his kinsmen and friends. He wanted his friends to hear the gospel. When a person devotes his life to the Lord and fears God, he wants all his friends and family to hear the gospel. A person who keeps his salvation to himself does not really love his friends and family. A soul-winner once talked to a man and found out he worked at the same place a member of his church worked. When he asked the man if he knew the church member, the man replied that he worked with him all the time, but never knew that he was a Christian. Christians need to tell others the gospel without regard to their own lives.

Acts 10:2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.

Acts 10:23 Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him. 24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and **he had called together his kinsmen and near friends.** 25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. 26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. 27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

- B. A soul-winner rejoices when he leads a sinner to Christ and tells his friends about the salvation. There is excitement when a person who was lost is found. The way lost sinners are reached is when soul-winners go searching for them.

Luke 15:3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying, 4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? 5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he cometh home, **he calleth together his friends and neighbours,** saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7 I say unto you, that **likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth,** more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. 8 Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? 9 And when she hath found it, **she calleth her friends and her neighbours together,** saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. 10 **Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.**

IV. A Christian is to love his friends enough to tell them about Jesus. Many saved people have numerous excuses for not sharing the gospel with someone they call a friend. A Christian is to look at what the scripture says regarding being a friend, and realize that when he doesn't follow what the Bible says, he is not a friend **from God's perspective**. There are many who say they are a person's friend but in reality, are only acquaintances. (acquaintance - a person or persons well known, usually a person you are accustomed to seeing and conversing with.) The Bible shows a difference between friends and acquaintances.

Psalms 88:17 They came round about me daily like water; they compassed me about together. 18 Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness.

A. A Christian tells his friends the gospel because he has the love of God which removes the fear of telling others about Jesus. When a Christian is a friend to a lost person, he will tell his friend that Jesus will be the propitiation for their sins. (propitiation - the act of appeasing the wrath of an offended person.)

1John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ... 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

B. A Christian tells his friends the gospel because he loves his friend at all times. A real friend does not turn his love on and off. Many times you hear people say, "I don't love you anymore." A true Christian can never say this, because God gave him a heart of love, which enables him to be a friend.

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

C. A Christian tells his friends the gospel as an act of showing himself friendly. A soul-winner is always a friend to others. The greatest way to show that you are a friend is to tell others the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

D. A Christian tells his friends the gospel with the sweetness of hearty counsel. (hearty - having the heart engaged in the action.) When a Christian tells someone they need to be saved, they are giving hearty counsel. There is no greater act of friendliness than telling someone why and how they can go to heaven.

Proverbs 27:9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

V. God showed Christians how to love their friends by how He was a friend to Abraham.

A. God gave the land to Israel that He promised to His friend Abraham.

II Chronicles 20:7 Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

B. God did not cast away the seed of His friend Abraham, and promised to help Abraham's seed.

Isaiah 41:8 But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. 9 Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. 10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

- C. God fulfilled the scripture and imputed unto Abraham His righteousness and called Abraham the friend of God.

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

- VI. The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

Exodus 33:9 And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. 10 And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. 11 And **the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend**. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

- VII. Jesus went among sinners and was a friend to them. God never intended for Christians to be isolated from sinners - only separated from their sins. Like Jesus, Christians should take the Lord **to the world without being of the world**.

- A. Jesus stated that people accused Him of being a friend of publicans and sinners. Jesus went among the lost to tell them about salvation and upbraided the cities that did not repent. (upbraid - to charge with something wrong or disgraceful)

Matthew 11:7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? ... 11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. 19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, **a friend of publicans and sinners**. But wisdom is justified of her children. 20 **Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not**: 21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. 23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

- B. Jesus called Judas friend even when he came to betray Him. On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus pointed out that Judas was going to betray Him, but still called him friend when they came to take Him.

Matthew 26:50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus and took him.

CONCLUSION:

It is imperative that Christians be friends to the lost so they will have opportunity to witness to them and lead them to Christ. **Being a friend should never cause a Christian to turn from their sanctified life in Christ and become like the world.** The lost person does not need another sinner in his life. What he needs is someone who will show him the way to Heaven. This can only be done if the saved person lives like he is going to Heaven.

- A. Be a friend to the lost, but do not have friendship with the world. Being a friend and having friendship is not the same thing. Being a friend is to assist or aid someone by being kind and loving. Having friendship is a mutual intimate attachment to each other. The Lord wants Christians to **be friends to** the world without establishing friendship.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will **be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

- B. When a Christian is a friend to a lost person, that does not save him. Many times being a friend opens the door to witness the salvation of Jesus Christ to them. The book of Matthew makes reference to a man that came to the wedding (of Jesus Christ) without a wedding garment (salvation) and was cast into Hell, even though he was a friend.

Matthew 22:8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. 11 And when the king came in to see the guests, **he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:** 12 And **he saith unto him, Friend,** how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION THREE SOUL-WINNERS

LESSON NINE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

II Corinthians 5:17-21 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, **who hath reconciled us** to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the **ministry of reconciliation**; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto himself**, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us **the word of reconciliation**. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God**. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

INTRODUCTION:

Reconciliation is to call **back** into union. The root word "conciliate" is to draw or bring together. To conciliate is to lead or draw together by moral influence or power.

The base word for conciliate is council, which is a small group that is brought together. The process of bringing about reconciliation is with a council. When two are divided, someone is needed to bring them back together.

Example -When a marriage breaks apart, God wants the husband and wife to reconcile.

1Corinthians 7:11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

Reconciliation is the means by which sinners are brought into a state of favor with God. A soul-winner is the one who takes the knowledge of how a person can be called back into union with God to those who are lost. When a child is born he is not lost (lost - to be separated from God). When the child reaches the age of accountability the child becomes lost (separated from God) because the sin the child commits separates him from God. Someone who knows the way must go to him to show him **the way back to God**.

Matthew 18:2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

- I. Reconciliation with God takes place by Jesus paying the debt a person owes to God. **The lost are separated from God and have become enemies of God because they are indebted to Him**. The sins they have committed cause them to make God their enemy. (enemy - a foe or an adversary who entertains personal enmity against another.) It is the same as someone who commits a crime, and after that, the police become his enemy. Every time he sees a police office, he fears him, and most of the time runs. When a sinner knows God is the righteous, holy judge, he avoids or even runs away from Him. That is

why soul-winners are necessary because the lost will not seek the Lord - they must be sought.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, **there is none that seeketh after God.** 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

A. Enemies toward Christ are those who do not want the truth heard or told. An enemy holds personal enmity against the Lord and against those who inform the lost regarding Christ's salvation. The Christians in the church at Galatia had turned away from Christ, and Paul challenged them by asking **if he had become their enemy because he told them the truth.** It is amazing how quickly a person will make another an enemy. When a soul-winner tells a sinner the truth about Christ, there are some who fight against the message of truth.

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? ... 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? 10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. 11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain. ... 16 **Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?** 17 They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.

B. Enemies toward Christ are those who walk after their own bellies and mind earthly things. The reason many become enemies of the truth is because it **interferes with their desires.** There are many who live to sin by using alcohol, drugs, sex outside of marriage (including homosexuality), control of others, money, and many more. When those who desire and live for sin hear the truth, they often attack the messenger or try to tear down the truth. Soul-winners become the bad guys and can even become their enemies.

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which **walk** so as ye have us for an ensample. 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that **they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:** 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

C. Enemies toward Christ are those who are friends of the world. Wanting to be a friend of the world, or to be accepted as part of the world, causes people to become enemies to the work of the Lord. They see soul-winners as reprobates, instead of workers and representatives of the Lord.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a **friend of the world** is the enemy of God. 5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

D. Enemies toward Christ are those who, by wicked works, become enemies in their minds. When a person does wicked works, his mind will alienate him from God,

believing he has become God's enemy. (alienate - to estrange or withdraw, to make adverse.) He will then look upon soul-winners as avengers, or those who come to bring the judgement of God.

Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

- E. There are some saved people who are to be avoided, because they have turned away from what the Lord teaches. Even though they are like enemies, they should not be treated as enemies. Soul-winners should not spend their time working to fix those who profess to be saved, but have become disorderly. (disorderly - violating or disposed to violate law and good order.) The disorderly are those who have turned from grace back to the law with its condemnation.

2Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye **withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly**, and not after the tradition which he received of us. 7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; ... 11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. 13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. 14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, **note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.** 15 Yet **count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.** (admonish - to mildly warn or notify of a fault.)

- II. The lost are reconciled to God by the death of Jesus Christ. Salvation can only come from the death of Jesus Christ, and the only way to defeat being an enemy of God is also through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For **if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.** 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. 12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Those who are saved have received the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. In verse eleven, the word atonement is the same Greek word as reconcile. Atonement is to satisfy or make restitution by giving an equivalent for an injury.

Reconciliation between God and sinful man comes from the Lord, who satisfied the cost of sin by making restitution to God for the injuries sin brought. Unless reconciliation is carried to lost sinners, they will never hear the great thing Christ did for them. There is a great need for soul-winners who will stand between God and man, evil and good, right and wrong, to deliver Christ's reconciliation to sinners.

Jesus died for those who made themselves enemies of God, but unless they hear, they cannot be saved. The only way they can believe is by someone declaring the gospel to them.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and **how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?** and **how shall they hear without a preacher?**

- A. Reconciliation with God comes from Jesus dying on the cross. It doesn't make any difference which nation or people group - salvation is the same for all.

Ephesians 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And **that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross**, having slain the enmity thereby:

- B. For reconciliation to take place the enmity that divides God and mankind must be removed. (enmity - a fixed and rooted hatred that puts a person at variance with the one he has a problem with.) When there is enmity between God and a person, there is a debt of sin that must be paid. Jesus Christ paid for the sin of all who come to Him - removing the enmity.

When a Christian knows his brother has ought against him he needs to practice reconciliation. (ought - to be held or bound by a debt.) When a Christian owes his brother a debt, and has not paid what he owes, there is enmity. The Christian who owes the debt should reconcile himself to his brother. He should go and pay the debt. The Lord told the one who owes the debt to go pay it before his offering will be accepted.

Matthew 5:21 Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 **Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother**, and then come and offer thy gift.

- III. Reconciliation with God comes through Jesus Christ, who is the faithful High Priest. (priest - one who presides over and officiates in a sacred office.) Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood, which He offered as the sacrificial blood to pay for sin. Jesus became **The High Priest**, seated in Heaven, whose blood forever covers the sins of those who come to Him for salvation. There is an incredible need for soul-winners to lead sinners to Christ, so their sins can be placed under the sacrificial blood of Jesus.

- A. Jesus makes reconciliation for the sins of the people. Jesus is the faithful High Priest who continually reconciles lost sinners with God. Jesus came to the earth and was made like men, so he could be a merciful and faithful High Priest. Jesus is the only one who can represent both God and man.

Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, **to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.**

There is only one mediator between God and man, because there is no other person who understands both God and man.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

- B. Christians can go boldly unto the throne of grace because Jesus is the High Priest seated in Heaven who understands the feelings and infirmities of mankind. Jesus was tempted as a man, but withstood sin and retained His Godship. He understands mankind, so when a person goes to God in prayer, Jesus understands and answers from God the fulfillment of the prayer. When a lost sinner calls out to God, the Lord Jesus Christ understands his need and saves him.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that **we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God**, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

- C. The job of the high priest was to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. Jesus became God's High Priest permanently, and His offering for sin was once, that He might be the author of eternal salvation to all who call upon Him. There is no other way of salvation, and this good news must be proclaimed all over the world. This is the primary job of soul-winners - to tell lost sinners the holy way to God.

Hebrews 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, **that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins**: 2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. 3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. 4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. 5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. 6 As he saith also in another place, **Thou art a priest for ever** after the order of Melchisedec. 7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; 8 **Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered**; 9 **And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him**; 10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

- D. Jesus Christ became the High Priest by taking His own blood into the holy place. Once a year the high priest was to take the blood offering into the holy of holies, to make atonement for the sins of the people of Israel. Jesus died on the cross and, immediately, the vail in the temple was torn from the top to the bottom. Jesus offered His holy blood once and the holy of holies that was on the earth was eliminated.

Hebrews 9:11 But **Christ being come an high priest** of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but **by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal**

redemption for us. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 9:25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

Hebrews 6:19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

- E. Remember from lesson one that all things are purged with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. (remission - the giving up of the punishment due to a crime, pardon.) There is no other way to have sin remised (remise - to forever release a claim and all its rights.) The only way sin (with its claims and rights) can be forever removed is by accepting the sacrificial blood that Jesus offered once in the holy of holies.

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

CONCLUSION:

Christians have been given the ministry of reconciliation, which is taking the news of what Jesus did when He died on the cross and offered His holy blood to pay for sins. Every soul-winner must realize there is no remission of sins without the shedding of blood. Also, there is no reconciliation with God without accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. A lost person does not have to understand all these things about reconciliation and remission of sins, but he must believe in his heart and accept that Jesus is the Lord, that He lived on the earth, died on the cross, was buried, and that He rose again from the dead.

Romans 10:8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 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. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The only way a lost person can know and accept Jesus Christ is for someone to tell (proclaim Christ) him. The only way a person can have enough faith to be saved is to hear the Word of God. When soul-winners understand reconciliation, it makes it easier and more urgent to tell the lost about God's love and sacrifice.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION THREE SOUL-WINNERS

LESSON TEN SOUL-WINNERS SHINE AS STARS

Daniel 12:1-3 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 **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.**

INTRODUCTION:

Stars are luminous bodies in the heavens that are fixed in the same position, in relation to each other, and are immense in number. In scripture, stars are used to describe people and spiritual beings that illuminate those around them. Jesus is the greatest star because He is God's great illumination to mankind. Stars are also those in the world, especially in sports, who stand out above others, and are used as examples for the world to emulate. Christians are to be stars that stand out to show attributes of God to the world.

- A. God created stars. God chose to make stars and establish their purpose in the creation. God created three sources of light--the sun, the moon, and the stars. The light of God was present before any of these were created.

Genesis 1:16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

- B. Stars are too numerous to count. With very strong telescopes, scientists are finding new stars every year. Scientists can guess how many stars there are in the universe, but they cannot do it with certainty.

Genesis 15:5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

- C. Stars have been of major significance throughout history. Stars were used to tell time and seasons, and even the state of the weather. Captains of old sailing ships determined their location and course by their knowledge of the stars. When Paul was on his trip to Rome, the ship was lost in a storm, and the sailors could not determine where they were because they couldn't see the sun or stars.

Acts 27:14 But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon. 15 And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive. 16 And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat: 17 Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven. 18 And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship; 19 And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship. 20 And **when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared**, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

D. God used a star to lead the wise men to Jesus. This was not a star they had seen in the heavens each night, but it was a special star that moved with them to show them the way to the King of kings.

1. The wise men had seen the star of the Lord in the east. Wise men are those who have the knowledge and power to discern and judge correctly. The wise men who came looking for Jesus had the knowledge to know that the star they saw was something special.

Matthew 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

2. Herod asked the wise men how long it had been since the star appeared. Following their departure, Herod commanded every male child under the age of two to be killed. This indicates that the wise men had traveled some two years to reach the place where Jesus was.

Matthew 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. 7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

3. The star went before the wise men and led them to the house where the young child Jesus was. The star stopped and stood over the house, showing them exactly where Jesus the King was located.

Matthew 2:9 When they had heard of the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

E. Each star is different from other stars in glory. Isn't it amazing that with millions of stars there are no two alike? Isn't it amazing that with billions of humans upon the earth, there are no two exactly alike?

1Corinthians 15:40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of

the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

God created stars to light and guide people on the earth. When people or things are called stars, their purpose is to light and guide.

I. The word star is used in the Bible to describe the Lord, men, and spiritual beings. There are both good and bad who are called stars, because of the influence (light) they have upon others.

A. In the Bible, Jesus Christ is called the Star.

1. Jesus is called the Morning Star. When God wrote to the church at Thyatira, He told them He would give the Morning Star to those who overcame the sins of Jezebel. The planet Venus is called the morning star, because it precedes the sun in rising and shining in the morning. Jesus is the one who will rise before the great day of judgment.

Revelations 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. 28 And I will give him **the morning star**.

2. Jesus is not just a star, He is the bright and Morning Star. Jesus sent His angel to the churches to tell them He was the bright and Morning Star. Jesus called Himself the bright (shining, glowing, splendid) Morning Star, telling the churches that He would light the way into the city, the holy Jerusalem.

Revelations 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ... REV 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and **the bright and morning star**. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

3. Jesus is called the Day Star. Salvation comes when a person takes the Day Star into their heart. The Word of God is a light that shines in the dark until the Day Star arises in the hearts of the lost.

2Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and **the day star arise in your hearts**:

B. Angels (both good and bad) are also called stars.

1. Angelic beings are called morning stars, as well as the sons of God. The morning stars sang when God created the earth, before mankind was created, and even before the stars in the heavens were created.

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, ... 4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; 7 **When the morning stars sang together**, and all **the sons of God** shouted for joy?

2. Lucifer made the statement that he would exalt his throne above the stars of God. Lucifer fell from heaven and weakened the nations. He said that he would sit upon the mount of the congregation and ascend above the clouds and be like the most High. Lucifer works to be above everything on the earth, even the angels of God.

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, **I will exalt my throne above the stars of God**: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

3. Daniel prophesied and said there would be a little horn that would exalt himself to the host of heaven. Daniel stated that he would cast some of the stars of heaven down to the ground and magnify himself to be the prince of the host of heaven.

Daniel 8:9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. 10 And it waxed great, even to the **host of heaven**; and it cast down some of the host and **of the stars** to the ground, and stamped upon them. 11 Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down. 12 And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.

II. False believers are called wandering stars. There are many who say they are believers, when in reality, they seek to lead people to their own way. They are wandering stars because their light draws others to their false teachings and doctrines.

- A. There are some Christians who, from their own greed, have gone the way of Cain. They are called wandering stars, because they **influence others to follow them and their ways**. These wandering stars present the hardest obstacles for soul-winners to overcome.

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye

should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. 5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. 8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. 9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. 10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. 12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; **wandering stars**, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. 14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. 16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. 17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; 18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. 19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

The preceding verses list those who are wandering stars. The following explains what they do:

1. filthy dreamers that defile the flesh - have dirty thoughts that lead to fornication, homosexuality, physical action with idols, etc.
2. despise dominion - have a low opinion of those given authority to be over them.
3. speak evil of dignities - talk to tear down positions of honor and those who fill them.
4. speak evil of those things which they know not - speak to tear down things they don't understand.
5. they speak of what they know naturally - can only talk about things that are made or produced on earth.
6. they speak as brute beasts - speak things that hurt like wild animals' bites.
7. in those things they corrupt themselves - believe the evil things they say and defile themselves.

8. they have gone in the way of Cain - do evil to others because they believe their gifts to God are greater than others.
9. they ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward - run to teach doctrines contrary to God's word to get money.
10. they perished in the gainsaying of Core - injure and torment themselves in doing and saying things for financial gain.
11. these are spots in your feasts of charity - they are spots, or dirt, or stains on the public celebration of Christian holidays like Christmas and Easter.
12. feeding themselves without fear - eat without giving thanks for the food, not afraid of what God will do in the future.
13. clouds they are without water, carried about of winds - have no substance in their Christianity and follow any new teaching that comes along.
14. trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots – any fruit they produce will quickly waste away so they have no fruit. They are plucked up because their roots are not anchored in Christ.
15. raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame - unstable and roll back and forth like waves, and their frothing and fuming is dishonorable.
16. **wandering stars**, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever – deviating from their duty and illuminating others to follow their ruined ways. God has reserved a place of black darkness for them.
17. These are murmurers - grumble and complain in a half articulate voice.
18. complainers - utter expressions of censure or resentment.
19. walking after their own lusts - follow after their own desires for things that belong to others (covet).
20. their mouth speaketh great swelling words - exaggerate everything they talk about.
21. have men's persons in admiration because of advantage - regard others with reverence for the purpose of gaining something the person has to give.
22. there should be mockers in the last time - scorn and show contempt to the people and things of God near the end time.
23. who should walk after their own ungodly lusts - follow their own polluted and wicked desires.
24. these be they who separate themselves, sensual - remove themselves from real Christians, following their own senses or what they individually think is right.
25. having not the Spirit - they are not saved.

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

- B. False workers transform themselves as ministers of light and righteousness. One of the greatest danger in Christianity is the false ministers of righteousness, because they deceive people into thinking wrong is right, and right is wrong.
- 2Corinthians 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

- C. Those who walk in darkness do not the truth. (darkness - a state of being intellectually clouded.) Those who say they are walking in the light (Jesus Christ) but are walking in darkness are liars.

1John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

- III. God provides His light to guide mankind. God is light, or the illumination, that is needed for a human to see Him.

- A. The light of God shines upon those who walk in darkness. God's righteousness is carried all over the world by those who are saved and living a godly life.

Isaiah 9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, **upon them hath the light shined.**

- B. The light of God is His righteousness. Those who carry it are the light bearers. The only way soul-winners can take the light of God to the lost, dark world is to live a righteous life.

Isaiah 62:1 For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof **as a lamp that burneth.** 2 And the Gentiles shall **see thy righteousness,** and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

- C. The life that was, and still is in Jesus, is the light of men. Salvation (being born-again) puts the life of Jesus Christ in a person, giving them light.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and **the life was the light of men.** 5 And **the light shineth in darkness;** and the darkness comprehended it not.

- IV. Christians are God's stars (lights) in the world. Once a person gets saved, the light of God is inside them, and they have the responsibility of taking that light into the dark world.

- A. The path of a just person is as a shining light. Where a saved person goes plays a great part in whether or not he shines. **There are many places a Christian can go where he cannot practice his Christianity, which annuls his ability to be a light in the darkness.**

Proverbs 4:18 But **the path of the just is as the shining light,** that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. 19 The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. 20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to

all their flesh. 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. 24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

- B. Christians are the light of the world and should never cover their light. If a saved person covers his salvation, he is covering the light the Lord placed inside him, and this prevents him from lighting the world.

Matthew 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. 13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. 17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

- C. A Christian is full of light and shines like a candle. The Christian should never cover his salvation, because he would render ineffective as a soul-winner. He must live, and shine out his salvation at all times.

Luke 11:33 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. 34 The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. 35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. 36 If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, **as when the bright shining of a candle** doth give thee light.

CONCLUSION:

The just are shining lights to take the gospel of Christ to the lost who follow darkness. The Lord needs and wants soul-winners who will go into the darkness with the light of Christ to lead the lost out of darkness to the light of salvation.

Proverbs 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. 19 The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION THREE SOUL-WINNERS

LESSON ELEVEN TAKING GOD'S RIGHTEOUS WAY TO THE LOST

I Corinthians 4:9-17 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. 10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. 11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; 12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: 13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day. 14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. 15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. 17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance **of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.**

INTRODUCTION:

Churches are to teach God's righteous ways, which were in Paul and was first in Christ. Soul-winning is the first step in changing a person's way, because it sets them on the way of Christ. Until a person is saved he cannot follow, or be a part of the way of Christ, because he has not changed ways.

- I. Christians are to take God's righteous way to the world because the unrighteous ways of man lead to destruction. Every human who has reached the age of accountability is on the way that leads to destruction. There is nothing any person can do to put himself on the way to Heaven. The sin people commit puts them on the way to Hell, and they do not know the way to Heaven. It is necessary that someone **who knows the way** directs them to the straight way of everlasting life. This is called soul-winning.

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Christians should not fear they will do something that will cause a person to go to Hell, because the person's sin put him on the way to Hell. Saved people should do anything and everything they can to lead the lost to Christ - the only way to Heaven. God will not condemn soul-winners if they do something incorrect when trying to lead someone to Christ. Most governments have a law called the "Good Samaritan" law which prevents prosecution when someone does wrong while trying to save someone's life. This is to encourage people to do anything they can to save a person's life, even if what they do is not what is recommended.

The way or ways of mankind are described in the Bible to help Christians understand the state of the lost.

A. The ways of mankind are unstable. (unstable - inconstant, wavering) The lost people of the world change ways many times because they are not stable. There are many ways that lead to Hell, and the greatest need for double-minded people is for someone to present the way of God to them. Showing a lost person the way to Heaven offers that person the blessing of being able to choose God's way.

James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

B. The ways of mankind are to hear and do nothing. The phrase "lead a person to Christ" is used because most lost people will do nothing when the gospel is delivered to them. It is an essential part of soul-winning to pray with the lost person, leading him to do what the Word of God tells him to do.

James 1:22 But **be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.** 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

II. Christians are to take God's righteous way to the world to influence them to change from their unrighteous ways to God's way. There will be no real godly change in a person unless they change from the ways of the world to God's way.

A. The way of mankind is to not fear God, which keeps them from turning to God's way. The world system presents many ways to people and most of them teach that there is no need to fear God. When people do not fear God, the primary motivation to get saved is not there.

Romans 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 **There is no fear of God before their eyes.**

1. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

2. Fools despise wisdom that will lead them to the Lord.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

3. The knowledge of the Lord is understanding which leads people to fear God.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

- B. When a Christian leads or converts a person from his or her unrighteous ways to God's righteous way, the Christian saves that soul from death and causes his or her sin to be covered.

James 5:20 Let him know, that **he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death**, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

- III. A Christian should follow God's righteous way because God's way takes Christ to the lost world. There is a great failure in soul-winning today because most saved people walk in the ways of the world - not the way of Christ. They are only concerned about their own selfish, earthly life and what they can gain for temporary pleasure.

- A. God's excellent way is charity, which God gives to a person when he gets saved. Christians are to follow the way of the Lord and freely share with others the salvation God gave to them.

1Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? 31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and **yet shew I unto you a more excellent way**. 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not **charity**, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

- B. The law has never been God's way but is essential in leading someone to God's way. God did not give the law to save people from Hell but to cause them to fear God. This is the primary motive that causes a person to get saved. Without the law, there is nothing to show a person he is a lost sinner. Without the knowledge that he is a sinner, there will be no salvation.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. ... 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. ... 3:24 Wherefore the law was our **schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ**, that we might be justified by faith.

1. Jesus nailed the way of the law to His cross. The law is still in effect for those who are not saved. The only way to have the control of the law removed is to accept what Jesus did when He died on the cross.

Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and **took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross**; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

2. The way into the holiest of holies was not known until Christ's death. The law could not save people; it only pointed out sin that had to be removed by the shedding of blood. The holy blood that Jesus shed fulfilled the law and became the permanent sacrifice for sin.

Hebrews 3:10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and **they have not known my ways.** ... 9:8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that **the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest**, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: 9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; 10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. 11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but **by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.**

3. The way of Christ is the living way. The way of Jesus Christ is not just a one-time event but an ongoing way because Jesus died, and rose again, and is living today. The law is dead through Christ, but when it is in effect, it can only deal with one sin at a time. Each sin had to be paid for one at a time.

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest **by the blood of Jesus**, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

- IV. Satan's world system works to remove Christians from God's way. This will prevent them from leading others to Christ. A saved person cannot lead another to a place unless he knows where the place is. To lead someone to the way of Christ requires that the Christian be **walking** in the way of Christ. A person can be saved but not walking in the way of the Lord. Satan works to remove the saved from the way of the Lord to make them ineffective in soul-winning. Even an ineffective, saved person who is not walking in the way of Christ is still going to Heaven, but will not be a soul-winner.

- A. False prophets and false teachers try to get Christians to follow their pernicious ways. (pernicious - ruin or loss, destroy fully.) (ruin - to cause destruction.) If a saved person is led into a pernicious way, he will not only live a ruined life but will also speak evil of the truth.

2Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And **many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.** 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

- B. Some saved people choose to go the ruined way of Balaam (who loved the wages of unrighteousness), which makes their lives useless to God. A saved person lives in error if he or she turns from God's way and goes back to the old ways of the lust of the flesh. They again become the servants of corruption, which destroys their ability to lead others to the way of Christ.

2Peter 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, **following the way of Balaam** the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. 17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. 18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, **they themselves are the servants of corruption**: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. 20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning**. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Jude 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and **ran greedily after the error of Balaam** for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

- V. Christians are to carry the light of God into the world. The darkness of sin covers the earth and the only way a person in darkness can be illuminated is by Christians taking God's light unto them. The word darkness means "the absence of light" and is applied to both physical and spiritual. The way of God cannot be seen unless there is light that enables the lost to see.

Matthew 4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

Luke 1:76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; 77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, 78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, 79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

- A. Christians carry God's way in earthen vessels. The way of Christ is the light of the Lord and is inside physical human bodies. The bodies of Christians are the vehicles that carry God's way of salvation (light) all over the world.

2Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But **we have this treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

- B. Christians are to shine as lights so the world can see the way of salvation. Those who are saved should hold forth the word of life and shine in the dark world that does not know the way of salvation. When a lost person who is living in darkness sees a Christian - what does he see?

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. 14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom **ye shine as lights** in the world; 16 **Holding forth the word of life**; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

CONCLUSION:

Ministers of Christ (soul-winners) are to open the eyes of the lost and turn them from darkness to light. The way of the Lord Jesus Christ is light, and is able to turn the lost from the dark power of Satan to God.

Acts 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, **to make thee a minister and a witness** both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; 17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, 18 **To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God**, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Luke 11:35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. 36 If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION THREE SOUL-WINNERS

LESSON TWELVE GOD WANTS CHRISTIANS HE CAN SEND TO THE WORLD

Isaiah 6:1-8 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. 4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. 6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: 7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, **Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?** Then said I, **Here am I; send me.**

INTRODUCTION:

Send or sent - to commission to go and act.

For a Christian to be sent it requires a sender. When missionaries go out, they are sent by a church or churches to go to another place to do the ministry of the church, which is to fulfill the great commission. God sends His children out to go all over the world with the responsibility of winning souls to Christ. Before Christians can be sent, they must qualify themselves to go. Churches and mission organizations have established guidelines that missionaries must meet before they can go out. There are also things that are necessary in a Christian's life to equip him to be sent by God:

1. Salvation - must be saved.
 2. Faith - must believe enough to trust;
 3. Faithful - must consistently do what is assigned to him.
 4. Dedicated to God and His work - must commit personal life to the work of the Lord.
 5. Willing to go - must be willing to do and go anywhere the Lord sends.
- A. Paul sent Timothy because he was competent to go by being like-minded with Paul. Paul was an apostle and he sent Timothy out as an evangelist. In First and Second Timothy, Paul tells of the qualifications Timothy had and why he sent him out.
- Philippians 2:19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus **to send** Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. 20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. 22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he

hath served with me in the gospel. 23 Him therefore **I hope to send** presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me. 24 But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

- B. Paul gave testimony about how God had sent him to the Gentiles. Paul stated that he was qualified to be sent by God because He was faithful.

Acts 26:14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. 16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; 17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, **unto whom now I send thee**, 18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. 19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

1Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that **he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;**

1Corinthians 4:2 Moreover **it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.**

- I. The Lord wants workers He can send into the world. Any time a person makes the decision to go on a trip, preparations must be made. There are many decisions that must be made, such as: What is the departure time? What is the destination? What should be taken on the trip? How will the trip be financed? What is the purpose of the trip? Who is going on the trip? God deals with all these things when He sends workers on a trip, whether it be a short trip or a lifetime trip.

- A. God told Christians to pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest. Most Christians pray but very few pray the prayer the Lord instructed Christians to pray.

Matthew 9:36 But when he **saw the multitudes**, he was **moved with compassion on them**, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that **he will send forth laborers** into his harvest.

1. Jesus saw the need for labourers and asked the disciples to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send laborers into His harvest.
 - a. Jesus visualized - "He saw the multitudes."
 - b. Jesus agonized - "He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted."
 - c. Jesus wanted the lost to be evangelized - "He will send forth laborers into the harvest."
2. Jesus saw that the harvest is truly plenteous. There is a great number ready to be harvested, but where are the laborers to bring in the harvest? One of the greatest hurts a farmer can face is to work planting, watering, and

caring for a crop, and then when it is time to harvest his crop, he cannot get help to accomplish it. For a farmer to watch his crop rot in the field would be a dreadful experience. How does God feel when He looks at the world, or a part of the world, that is ready for harvest and He can't find laborers?

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that **he would send** forth laborers into his harvest.

- B. Jesus ordained twelve men with the purpose of sending them out. When Jesus called the twelve apostles, He asked them to follow Him, knowing He was going to send them out into the world.
1. Jesus ordained the twelve that He might send them out. Jesus sent the apostles to preach and gave them the power of God to accomplish what He sent them to do.

Mark 3:14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he **might send them forth** to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:
 2. Jesus began to send them forth two by two, with the power over unclean spirits.

Mark 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began **to send them forth** by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;
 3. Before Jesus ascended up to Heaven, He commanded His apostles to go into all the world and preach the gospel.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
 4. When the disciples were scattered over the world they preached God's Word.

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.
 5. James, Cephas, and John gave Paul and Barnabas approval to go unto the heathen.

Galatians 2:9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.
- C. John wrote to Gaius and stated how he had rejoiced when he heard of the truth that was in Gaius, and that he was walking in truth. He rejoiced because Gaius did faithfully whatsoever he did, and went forth for Jesus Christ's name sake.

III John 1 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.
 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even
 as thy soul prospereth. 3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and
 testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. 4 I have no
 greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 5 Beloved, **thou doest
 faithfully whatsoever thou doest** to the brethren, and to strangers; 6 Which have
 borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on
 their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: 7 Because **that for his name's
 sake they went forth**, taking nothing of the Gentiles. 8 We therefore ought to
 receive such, **that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.**

D. Five times God told Jeremiah that He had risen up early to send His servants, the prophets, to tell Israel His words - but Israel would not listen. God tried to get His message to Israel through the servants He sent. God did His part by sending His messengers, but Israel would not listen.

1. God sent His servants from the day Israel came out of Egypt until this day to give God's message to them. God sent His messengers daily for over a thousand years to share His message, but only a few ever listened.

Jeremiah 7:25 Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day **I have even sent unto you** all my servants the prophets, **daily rising up early and sending them:**

2. God sent His servants to Israel, but they did not harken to God's voice. Israel would not harken to the messengers God sent. (harken - listen or lend an ear.)

Jeremiah 25:4 And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear. 5 To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom **I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them,** but ye have not hearkened;

3. God sent His servants to Israel, but they would not hear what the Lord said. Israel heard the sounds of the words but would not listen or pay attention to what the message said.

Jeremiah 29:19 Because they have not hearkened to my words, saith the LORD, which I sent unto them by my servants the prophets, **rising up early and sending them;** but ye would not hear, saith the LORD.

4. God sent His servants to Israel to tell them to repent and not go their evil way, but they would not listen. God used the messengers He sent to ask Israel to return to Him and change their evil way. Israel was going after and serving other gods, but would not turn back to Him. Like so many, they chose the things of the world over the things of God.

Jeremiah 35:15 I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, **rising up early and sending them,** saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

5. God sent His servants to Israel to tell the people that they were not to do the abominable things God hated, but they would not listen.

Jeremiah 44:4 Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, **rising early and sending them**, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate. 5 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense unto other gods.

- II. The rich man cried out from Hell asking Abraham to send Lazarus to tell his brothers about salvation. Abraham responded that they have Moses (the law) and the prophets (messengers of God), and if they would not hear them, they would not listen to one who returned from the dead.

Luke 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest **send him to my father's house**: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

- III. God sent the Holy Ghost to mankind when Jesus returned to Heaven. When Jesus ascended up to Heaven, He sent the Holy Ghost to communicate the things of God.

- A. The Holy Ghost was sent to bring to remembrance the things Christ had said. Many question the validity of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) doubting their ability to remember what had actually happened. When they do this, they are denying the power and work of the Holy Ghost.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

- B. The Holy Ghost was sent to testify of Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost is God and knew Jesus Christ from before the creation of the earth. The Holy Ghost knew Jesus Christ and everything that He did. Who better to testify the truth of who Jesus is and why He did the things He did.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

- C. The Holy Ghost was sent to guide people into the truth. (guide - to lead or direct someone in a way, a road, or a course he does not know.) The world does not know the way of truth, and only the Holy Ghost can guide those who are lost. The instruments the Holy Ghost uses to show His guidance to the lost are willing Christian soul-winners.

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but **if I depart, I will send him unto you.** 8 And when he is come, **he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. 12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit **when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:** for **he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.** 14 **He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.**

IV. God wants Christians to understand how God sends His messengers. (messenger - the bearer of a verbal or written communication.) There is a lot of mysticism regarding how soul-winning works, as well as how missions works. The process of sending someone out starts with the sender and then is followed by the carrying out of the assignment.

A. Jesus used how His Father sent Him to earth to explain how He sends His disciples out. God the Father sent Jesus to the earth to deliver the message of salvation to Israel and the world. Jesus sends His messengers out the same way.

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: 23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

B. People who receive those the Lord sends are receiving the Lord. There are some who received the message the messenger of the Lord Jesus brings and are saved, but many rejected the Lord Jesus and His message of salvation. When anyone receives the messengers Jesus sends, they are receiving Him, and all who receive Jesus receive His Father.

John 13:20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever **I send** receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

C. The ones the Lord sends are to be wise and harmless. God does not send fools or those who will prey upon the lost. The lost are not food to be consumed by Christians or soul-winners. The lost are souls who need to hear the message that Jesus sends. This message came from God when He sent Jesus, it continued when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, and continues today when the Holy Spirit sends soul-winners.

Matthew 10:11 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. 12 And when ye come into an house, salute it. 13 And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. 15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city. 16 Behold, **I send you** forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

CONCLUSION:

God sent His Son Jesus Christ because He was qualified to be sent to the earth. When Jesus ascended up to Heaven, He sent the Holy Ghost because He was qualified. Jesus looks for men and women who are qualified to be sent to represent Him to people who will receive Him. Everything God does in the life of people here on the earth (both saved and lost) is to prepare them for the great marriage of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the responsibility of His qualified servants (soul-winners) to fill His house with guests.

Luke 14:16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: 17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. 18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. 19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. 21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. 22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. 23 And the lord said unto the servant, **Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.**

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION FOUR SOUL-WINNING

LESSON THIRTEEN THE PURPOSE FOR ALL CHRISTIANS IS SOUL-WINNING

II Corinthians 4:1-14 Therefore seeing **we have this ministry**, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. 8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10 **Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.** 11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you. 13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; 14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. II Corinthians chapter three explains that there is a veil (the law) that blinds the minds and hearts of the lost. The only way the lost (that are blind) can **see** Christ is to have the veil removed. The only way this can happen is for the life of Jesus be made manifest in the bodies of Christians.

The veil is the law that brings condemnation. Every lost person is blinded by the condemnation in their own mind and heart. The mind brings thoughts and the heart brings guilt. When a Christian talks to someone about church or religion, without telling them about Jesus, it actually causes the person to go into guilt and condemnation, as well as being blind.

2Corinthians 3:13 And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: 14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. 15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. 16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

God gave Christians the ministry of turning the blind to the Lord. God wants every ministry of Christianity - the caring for the saints, the preaching the Word of God, the singing of music, and many more - to work in some way to reach the lost with the gospel of Christ.

- B. Paul identified Timothy as a minister of God who was a fellow laborer in the gospel. Paul stated that he had sent Timothy to establish the faith of the church at Thessalonica. Paul knew if their faith was established and increased, they would abound in love toward all men.

1Thessalonians 3:2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: ... 5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain. 6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you: 7 Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith: ... 10 Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith? ... 12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and **toward all men, even as we do toward you:** 13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

- I. Paul identified himself as a minister of Jesus Christ with the purpose of taking the gospel to the Gentiles. The work (or ministry) that Paul did is the **beginning of the ministry purpose for all Christians**. Jesus was, and still is, the purpose for Christians. Paul set up the process of carrying out what Jesus started, and it is up to Christians to continue to fulfil the ministry of the gospel to the world **as Paul established**. Paul told Timothy to commit to faithful men the things he had taught Timothy. The commission God gave Paul is to be handed down to all Christians.

2Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

- A. Jesus **gave Paul a purpose**, which was to take the gospel to the Gentiles. He told Paul that his ministry was to open the eyes of the Gentiles that they might receive forgiveness of sins. Paul then worked to fulfil the ministry Jesus gave him and passed it on to all churches and Christians who have followed.

Acts 26:15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. 16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for **I have appeared unto thee for this purpose**, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; 17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, 18 **To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

- B. Paul **fulfilled his purpose** by ministering the gospel to the Gentiles, so they could also be accepted by God. Christians now have the responsibility of making others acceptable to Jesus Christ by guiding them into salvation.
Romans 15:15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, 16 **That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ** to the Gentiles, **ministering the gospel** of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.
- C. Paul's **purpose was given with the grace of God**. This is still necessary to give Christians the ability to win souls. Without the grace of God, there is no Christian who has the ability to lead someone to Christ.
Ephesians 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: 7 Whereof I was made a minister, **according to the gift of the grace of God** given unto me by the effectual working of his power.
- D. Paul stated that God made him a minister to preach the gospel and fulfil the word of God. Every saved person receives the fullness of Christ at salvation, but they are given the assignment of fulfilling the word of God. The only way the Word of God can be fulfilled is by leading the lost to Jesus Christ.
Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; 24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: 25 Whereof **I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God**; 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is **the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, **warning every man**, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:
- E. Paul received the ministry of testifying the gospel of the grace of God. Christians are to proclaim the gospel and how they were saved by it as part of the process of leading a lost person to Christ.
Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.
- F. Paul reported to James and was able to testify what his ministry had done among the Gentiles. Christians should have a testimony of what the Lord has done in using them to lead others to Christ.

Acts 21:18 And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. 19 And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.

- G. Paul asked the church at Ephesus to pray for him that utterance would be given him to make known, the gospel. It is essential that **churches pray for those who go out to present the gospel to the lost.**

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. 21 But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:

- H. Paul thanked God for putting him in the ministry. Christians should be thankful that God has given them the responsibility of leading others to Him. Soul-winning should never be a burden but a privilege.

1Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

- II. Christians are to be ministers so the gospel will continue to go to the world. Over the last two thousand years, Christians have carried out the ministry of soul-winning that began with Paul. Over the years, there has been horrible persecution, threats, privation, and all kinds of actions taken to stop Christians from preaching the gospel to the lost. Today the greatest hindrance to soul-winning is apathy. (apathy - an insensibility to pain.) Christians do not want to be rejected or belittled so they do not participate in soul-winning. Even Paul had to stand alone because no man stood with him in preaching the gospel to the Gentiles.

2Timothy 4:16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. 17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

- A. To be a scriptural Christian, Christians must help others believe by being ministers. One of the greatest ways someone comes to believe that God's word is true is by **seeing** someone who believes what God said and does it! What the lost world needs most is men and women of God who live to give Christ to others.

1Corinthians 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but **ministers by whom ye believed**, even as the Lord gave to every man?

- B. To be a scriptural Christian, Christians must live lives that are approved as ministers of God. There are many things in the Bible about spiritual approval, but Christians should also be approved in "all things". It is imperative that Christians live to show Jesus Christ to others, especially the lost. Christians are to show Christ in all situations, whether good or bad, so the world will see the true Christ.

2Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) 3 Giving no offence in any thing, **that the**

ministry be not blamed: 4 But in all things **approving ourselves as the ministers of God**, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, 5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; 6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, 7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, 8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; 9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; 10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

- C. To be a scriptural Christian, Christians must take upon themselves the fellowship of ministering. There are many forms of fellowship, but Christians should fellowship around **doing the ministry**. Soul-winning is a fantastic way for Christians to spend time together.
- 2Corinthians 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the **fellowship of the ministering to the saints**. 5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. 6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. 7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.
- D. To be a scriptural Christian, Christians must use all Christian offices for the purpose of doing the ministry. Every office that God gave to churches (Christians) were for the purpose of overseeing the work of ministry. Many Christian officers today become consumed with the carnal (or earthly) work of a church, and forget their **real purpose is to edify others**. This absolutely includes leading the lost to Jesus Christ.
- Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:
- E. To be a scriptural Christian, Christians must be a minister to others. People rate the importance of others by their gifts and abilities, but God determines the importance of a Christian by his or her actions of serving others. The greatest help and assistance a Christian can do for someone is to lead him to Jesus Christ.
- Matthew 20:26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And **whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant**: 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

- F. To be a scriptural Christian, Christians must minister to the Lord. The way a Christian ministers to the Lord is by ministering to others. Ministry is always helping someone else, and the greatest way a Christian can minister to the Lord is by leading a lost person to Christ.

Matthew 25:44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.** 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

- G. To be a scriptural Christian, Christians must wait on (serve) their ministry. Christians were not made to sit and do nothing. When Christians are given a ministry, they are to serve in that ministry, working to reach the lost people in the world with the life of Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 **Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering:** or he that teacheth, on teaching;

- III. Christians need to understand what it means to minister the gospel to the lost. Minister is both a noun and a verb. As a noun it is the person doing the work and as a verb it is the work the person is doing. The job and responsibility of a minister is to minister. A Christian is not a true Christian unless he does what a Christ did.

- A. Minister, as a noun, is a Christian who is a steward that works to accomplish the commission given to him or her by the Lord Jesus Christ. Someone who says they are a minister but does not perform the **actions** of their ministry are false ministers.

(Minister (noun) - an agent appointed to transact or manage business under the authority of another.)

1. Christians are to be ministers of the New Testament. Christians are not ministers of the law (with its condemnation) but rather are ministers who give the life of Christ to others.

2Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able **ministers of the new testament**; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

2. Christians are to be good ministers who put the brethren in remembrance of the truth and the faith. Christians are to minister to others by causing them to remember Jesus Christ. Everything that matters in the life of a Christian is Jesus.

1Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. 4 For every creature of God is

good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: 5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. 6 **If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ**, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

- B. Minister, as a verb, is the action a Christian does. When a saved person says they are ministers of Jesus, but do not show the actions of ministering to others, they are false ministers.

(Minister (verb) - to give things needful or to supply the means of relief.)

1. Christians minister by giving the words of Jesus Christ to others. Christians are not to minister the words of Jesus to receive the things of the world. God promised to take care of His ministers and uses the world to provide for them, but His ministers must never work just to gain worldly income.

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. 34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. 35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

2. Christians minister because Christians have been made partakers of spiritual things. It is the duty of Christians to minister to others with their carnal things. The Lord provides the things of the world to take care of His ministers, but also gives abundantly so His ministers will have extra to give to others.

Romans 15:24 Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company. 25 But now I go unto Jerusalem **to minister** unto the saints. 26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. 27 It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, **their duty is also to minister** unto them in carnal things.

3. Christians minister by giving God's grace to others. Grace is giving to others what they have not earned. Christians who do not give are not ministers of Jesus Christ. Those who say they are ministers, but do not give, do not have the Lord's motive.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

- V. God provides what ministers need so they can minister to others. The Lord set up a system, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, to take care of His ministers. God promised to take care of His ministers who do His work.

1 Corinthians 9:7 Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? 8 Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? 9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. **Doth God take care for oxen?** 10 Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. 11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? 12 If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ. 13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? 14 **Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.**

- A. God provides nourishment for Christians who will minister for Him. Christians are to hold on to their Head (Jesus Christ) who provides the nourishment they need to minister. (hold - using strength to keep, retain, or maintain.)

Colossians 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands **having nourishment ministered**, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

- B. God gives abilities to Christians so they can minister. (ability - the active power to perform whether it be physical or mental.) When God gives a Christian an ability, it is to be used for ministry. Christians who have been given abilities, but do not use their abilities for ministry, are disobedient to God's commission.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:** 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. ... 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; **if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth:** that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- C. God ministers to His ministers, enabling them to minister to Him. Jesus ministered to Mary, Martha, and others and, in return, they ministered unto Him. They could give back what Jesus gave them. They could minister to Him with their earthly substance.

Luke 8:1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, 2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil

spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, 3
And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others,
which ministered unto him of their substance.

CONCLUSION:

There are some who do not endure sound doctrine, and they try to turn true ministers away from the truth. True Christian ministers are to turn away from these false ministers, who have a form of godliness but deny the power of God. Paul's warning to Timothy was followed by the exhortation to do the work of evangelist. An evangelist is one who is a preacher or publisher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is clear from Paul's warning to Timothy that false ministers work to shut down or hinder evangelism (soul-winning).

2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ... 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN SOUL-WINNERS

DIVISION FOUR SOUL-WINNING

LESSON FOURTEEN THE FRUIT OF CHRISTIANS IS SAVED SOULS

John 15:1-9 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and **every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.** 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself**, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, **the same bringeth forth much fruit:** for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;** so shall ye be my disciples. 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

INTRODUCTION:

The fruit of Christians is not the same as the fruit of the Spirit. Christians produce other Christians by soul-winning. Soul-winning is not completed until a lost person has become a part of God's great commission. To accomplish this, the lost must be reached through the gospel of Jesus Christ, then baptized and taught to follow the Lord. When they are following the Lord, they will also become soul-winners.

- A. Paul wrote to the church at Rome that he wanted to have some fruit among them also. The fruit Paul wanted at Rome was associated with him making a trip to Rome. Paul's purpose was to take the gospel to the Gentiles, so any fruit he wanted had to be a part of reaching the Gentiles with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. 11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; 12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. 13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) **that I might have some fruit among you also**, even as among other Gentiles.

- B. Paul wrote to the church at Philippi and told them he desired fruit that would abound to their account. The church at Philippi supported Paul financially, and Paul stated that he wanted fruit that would abound to their account. Again, reaching lost souls was the purpose of Paul's life. He made it clear that when he was responsible for the lost getting saved, it would go on the account of the church at Philippi. This is the purpose of churches supporting missionaries that go to other areas. When that missionary leads

someone to Christ, the church that is supporting the missionary also gets credit for the souls he or she led to Christ.

Philippians 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

Paul lived for the purpose of seeing souls saved. He knew that the only way Christians could produce their own fruit was by soul-winning. Every Christian should seek to lead others to Christ, which is fruit to their account.

I. God ordained that Christians are to go and bring forth fruit. When Jesus spoke to His disciples, He clearly stated that He had chosen them, and they were to go and bring forth fruit.

A. Jesus chose His disciples for the purpose of going out to bring forth fruit.

John 15:16 **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you**, and ordained you, **that ye should go and bring forth fruit**, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

B. The Lord told Ananias that Paul was a chosen vessel to take His name to the Gentiles.

Acts 9:13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: 14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. 15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

C. Jesus called certain men to follow Him and become fishers of men. From the beginning of having followers, Jesus worked to make them fishers of men.

Matthew 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. 19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. 20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

II. Christians must reproduce the Word of God in others by **showing** them how to be saved. The only way a sinner can be saved is by putting the Word of God inside of them. The only way a person can be saved is by believing in their heart that Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose from the dead.

Romans 10:8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 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. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- A. The Word of God has the power to divide a soul from spirit. The only way a lost soul can be saved is by being divided from the dead carnal spirit. When this division takes place, God gives the person a new spirit and saves the person's soul from Hell.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- B. The Word of God grafted onto a sinner saves his soul. (graft - insert something into a body to which it did not originally belong.) The only way the Word of God can put life in a human body is for it to be grafted in. Grafting takes place when a soul-winner inserts the Word of God into a person.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and **receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.** 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

- C. Once the Word of God is implanted into a lost person, God's Word gives that person the faith he needs to be saved. The only way lost people can have enough faith to be saved is to get it from someone who shares the Word of God with them. Without the preaching of the Word of God, no one will be saved.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- III. The way a lost person gets saved is by obeying the truth. The way sinners obey the truth is by having the truth presented to them. A lost person cannot be saved unless he **hears** and **accepts** the truth. There is much confusion today regarding what is truth because of the many false religions. Every religion claims to have the truth, but the only way **the truth** can be found is by going to the Bible, the Word of God.

- A. Souls are purified by obeying the truth. When souls are purified, they are made free from the guilt and defilement of sin.

1Peter 1:22 Seeing **ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth** through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born-again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free**. 33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? 34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin**.
John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth**.

- B. When Jesus stood before Pilate, He told Pilate that He came to bear witness of the truth. Pilate responded by asking what is truth. Pilate met Jesus in person but did not accept the truth because of the false statements the Jews had made to him.

John 18:33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? 34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or **did others tell it thee of me**? 35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? 36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. 37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, **that I should bear witness unto the truth**. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. 38 **Pilate saith unto him, What is truth?** And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

- C. The gospel comes from the Word of truth and brings forth fruit. When the Word of truth is preached, the gospel comes out.

Colossians 1:4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, 5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof **ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; 6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit**, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: 7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and **how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?** and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- IV. Christians are to bring forth fruit, which identifies them as children of God. Every life produces something, and **what** that life produces is how a person is identified. There are negative terms, as well as positive terms, that are used to identify people: He is a crook; he is a liar; he is lazy; or he is a good man; he works hard; he is a man of his word; etc. The greatest compliment that can be made about anyone is that he is a person who leads others to Christ. Everyone has some effect on others, which is the fruit they produce.

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are

ravens wolves. 16 **Ye shall know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

- V. Christians who are the bride of Christ are to bring forth fruit unto God. The fruit of a marriage is children (the fruit of the womb.)

Psalms 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should **bring forth fruit unto God.** 5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. 6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

- VI. Charity is how a Christian bears (carries) the gospel of Christ to the lost. Charity is love with giving incorporated into it. Christians must have giving lives because they love the lost people of the world enough to tell them about Jesus Christ. Christians must give of their carnal things, their time, their energy, their knowledge, their spiritual attitude, and their example of Jesus Christ. The only way the lost world will come to Christ is for Christians to dedicate their lives to taking Christ to them.

- A. Christian charity is what bears the gospel to the lost. Without charity the gospel would never go forth into the lost world. Christians must activate the love of Christ inside of them, which will give Christians the courage to go into the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 **Beareth all things,** believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: ...

- B. Charity caused Gaius to take the name of Christ to the Gentiles. The church members were fellowhelpers with Gaius because they showed charity to the brethren and strangers. John rejoiced when he heard that Gaius walked in the truth and that the church helped him.

III John 1 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.
2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even
as thy soul prospereth. 3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and
testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. 4 I have no
greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 5 Beloved, thou doest
faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; 6 Which have
borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on
their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: 7 Because that **for his name's
sake they went forth**, taking nothing of the Gentiles. 8 We therefore ought to
receive such, **that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.**

CONCLUSION:

Discipleship Eight started with learning that it is wise to win souls.

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is
wise.

When a Christian lives the righteous life he will bring forth fruit (saved souls) as long as he lives.

Psalms 92:12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in
Lebanon. 13 Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our
God. 14 **They shall still bring forth fruit in old age;** they shall be fat and flourishing; 15 To
shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.