

STANDARD 8

FOR THE NOTICE OF THE TEACHERS

1. This syllabus consists of twenty lessons. Teachers should so divide and teach the lessons, taking into account the standard of the students, as to cover the syllabus within a year.

2. It is also essential to conduct periodical tests in order to know whether the students have learnt what they have been taught.

3. Before teaching a lesson, teachers should first study not only the Bible portions and verses given in the lesson, but also portions and verses corresponding to the subject found elsewhere in the Bible. It is sufficient, if after that the lesson is taught in a simple way according to the standard of the children. Teachers should be faithful in this respect, because it will be impossible to teach the children, unless they themselves study the lessons in detail.

4. Teachers should train the students to memorise the memory verses the day the lesson is taught and make them recite the same in the following class.

5. If errors are noticed in any lesson, the teachers should make a note of such errors in the blank sheet sub-joined to the syllabus, and later bring them to the notice of the Secretary of the Sunday School.

We publish this syllabus, giving thanks to the Lord for all the benefits He has hitherto bestowed upon the Sunday School work. May the Almighty God make this syllabus a blessing to all the Sunday School teachers and students !

CONTENTS

1. *The reformatations of king Hezekiah*
2. *Hezekiah's sickness and healing*
3. *The attributes of Nehemiah*
4. *The reformatations of Nehemiah*
5. *Vashti and Esther*
6. *Mordecai and Haman*
7. *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego*
8. *Daniel in the den of lions*
9. *Jonah in the belly of the fish*
10. *St. Paul's second missionary journey*
11. *Conversion (Born again experience)*
12. *Water Baptism (Part I)*
13. *Water Baptism (Part II)*
14. *Separation (Part I)*
15. *Separation (Part II)*
16. *The Baptism of the Holy Spirit*
17. *The working of the Holy Spirit in us*
18. *The formation of the New Testament Church*
19. *The tenets of the New Testament Church*
20. *Crowns*

LESSON 1

THE REFORMATIONS OF KING HEZEKIAH

II Kgs.18:1-4; II Chron.29 :1-35; 30:1-5,15,21; 31:1-4

Contents :

1. Hezekiah, the king of Judah, removed the high places, broke the images, cut down the groves, and broke in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made and called it Nehushtan (II Kgs.18:1,4).
2. He opened the doors of the house of the Lord and repaired them (II Chron.29:3).
3. He gathered together the priests and the Levites, and commanded them to sanctify themselves and cleanse the temple (II Chron.29:4-19).
4. He renewed the offering of sacrifices in the temple of God. The service of the house of the Lord was set in order (II Chron.29:20-24,31-35; 31:3).
5. He set the Levites in the temple, with musical instruments (II Chron.29:25,26).
6. He appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service (II Chron.31:2).
7. He commanded the people to give the priests and the Levites their portion (II Chron.31:4).
8. He celebrated the feast of the passover and the feast of unleavened bread which they had failed to observe for a long time (II Chron.30:1-5,15,21).

Moral :

We ought to be zealous like king Hezekiah, to remove backsliding from the Church and to restore it to its first love.

Memory Verse : James 5:19,20

LESSON 2

HEZEKIAH'S SICKNESS AND HEALING

II Kgs. 20 :1-11

Contents :

1. Hezekiah was sick unto death (II Kgs.20:1).
2. The prophet Isaiah came to Hezekiah. Isaiah declared the message of God to Hezekiah. Hezekiah's sorrow (II Kgs.20:1-3).
3. The Lord's answer — fifteen years added (II Kgs.20:4-6).
4. When a lump of figs was laid on the boil, he recovered (II Kgs.20:7).
5. Hezekiah asked for a sign — the shadow returned ten degrees backward in the dial of Ahaz (II Kgs.20:8 -11).

Moral :

Like Hezekiah, the children of God should seek only God for their healing when they fall sick.

Memory Verse : James 5:14-16

LESSON 3

THE ATTRIBUTES OF NEHEMIAH

In II Chronicles chapter 36, we read that Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city of Jerusalem, set the temple on fire and took the Jews captive to Babylon.

Nehemiah was also one of the Jews taken captive. He was king Artaxerxes' cup-bearer. On hearing of the miserable state of the Jews who still remained in Jerusalem he mourned and prayed to the Lord. Later, he took permission from the king, and returned to Jerusalem, viewed the broken walls and encouraged the people to build them.

Contents :

1. Though Nehemiah was in the palace, he was burdened about his people and his city (Neh.1:1-3).
2. He was a prayer warrior (Neh.1:4 -11).
3. He was humble (confession of sins) (Neh.1:6,7).
4. He was grateful (remembers redemption) (Neh.1:10).
5. He did not hand over his work to others, but did it himself (Neh.2:12-16).
6. He encouraged the people (Neh.2:17,18).
7. He was not discouraged even when enemies conspired against him. He took precautionary measures (Neh.4:7-18).
8. He had firm confidence in God (Neh.2:18-20).
9. He had the fear of God (did not take from the people the bread of the governor). He did not exercise unlawful authority over them (Neh.5:14,15).
10. Though the enemies repeatedly threatened them, he revealed the responsibility he had concerning his work (Neh.6:2-9).
11. He did not forsake his work and flee for fear of losing his life (Neh.6:10,11).
12. He was zealous concerning the law of the Lord (Neh.13:23-27,30).

Moral :

Like Nehemiah we too should be zealous about the people of God, and the things of God, be prayer warriors, have confidence in God and have responsibility concerning our ministry and work.

Memory Verse : I Corinthians 3:10,11

LESSON 4

THE REFORMATIONS OF NEHEMIAH

Contents :

1. Nehemiah rebuilt the broken wall of Jerusalem and its gates (Neh.ch.3).
2. Stopped the exacting of usury among brethren (Neh.5:1-13).
3. Reckoned the people by genealogy and put out those priests who could not prove their genealogy (Neh.7:5,61,63 - 65).
4. He renewed the practice of observing the feast of booths which the children of Israel had failed to observe for a long time (Neh.8:14 -18).
5. Reformation concerning marriage — put an end to inter-marriages with the heathen (Neh.10:28 -30; 13:23 -30).
6. Renewed the observance of the sabbath (Neh. 10:31; 13:15-22).

7. Renewed the practice of leaving the seventh year — with no tilling, sowing or gathering of fruits — when exaction of every debt was stopped (Neh.10:31). [See also Exo.23:10,11; Deut.15:1-18].

8. Made ordinances to charge themselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of the Lord (Neh.10:32,33).

9. Renewed the wood offering (Neh.10:34).

10. Renewed the offerings of the firstfruits (Neh. 10:35 -37).

11. Renewed the offering of tithes to the Levites and the Levites' tithe of the tithes to the priest (Neh.10:37,38).

12. Reformation concerning the children of Israel and the children of Levi to bring in the offering of the corn, new wine and oil towards the sustenance of the house of God (Neh.10:39).

13. Reformation concerning those who were to dwell in Jerusalem and other cities (Neh.11:1-3).

14. Reformation concerning the portions from the land to be given to the priests and Levites (Neh.12:44,47).

15. The temple was cleansed — The household stuff of Tobiah was cast out (Neh.13:4 -9).

16. Reformation concerning the portions to be given to the Levites (Neh.13:10 -13).

Moral :

When the doctrines which preserve the Church are lost and the Church is in a backsliding state, we should co-operate with the servants of God, who with the spirit of Nehemiah resist sin and teach the doctrines.

Memory Verse : Psalm 51:18,19

LESSON 5

VASHTI AND ESTHER

Esther 1 ; 2

Contents :

1. The feast of Ahasuerus (Esth.1:1-8).
2. Vashti's feast (Esth.1:9).
3. Vashti's disobedience (Esth.1:10 -12).
4. The king rejected Vashti (Esth.1:13 -22).
5. The plan to choose another queen in the place of Vashti (Esth.2:1-4).
6. The young virgins were gathered together (Esth.2:3,8).
7. Esther was one of the maidens gathered (Esth.2:5-8).
8. Esther was brought under the custody of Hegai (Esth.2:8,9,15).
9. Esther's obedience (Esth.2:10,20).
10. All the maidens were purified (Esth.2:12).
11. The manner in which the maidens were taken to the king (Esth.2:12-14).
12. Esther was taken to the king. She obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins (Esth.2:16,17).
13. Esther was crowned queen (Esth.2:17,18).

Moral :

Vashti's disobedience to the king caused her to lose her high position. We should not disobey Jesus, our King and thereby lose His blessings.

Memory Verse : Proverbs 31:30,31

LESSON 6**MORDECAI AND HAMAN****Contents :**

1. The conspiracy of Bigthan and Teresh, against king Ahasuerus was informed (Esth.2:21,22).
2. Bigthan and Teresh were hanged (Esth.2:23).
3. Haman was exalted (Esth.3:1).
4. Haman hated Mordecai (Esth.3:2-5).
5. Haman planned to destroy the Jews, obtained the king's decree and sent letters by posts into all the provinces (Esth.3:6 -14).
6. The city of Shushan was perplexed (Esth.3:15).
7. Mordecai's cry — great mourning among the Jews (Esth.4:1-3).
8. The messages exchanged between Esther and Mordecai (Esth.4:5 -16).
9. Esther boldly went to the king. The king and Haman invited for her banquet (Esth.5:1-4).
10. After the first day's feast, Haman returned home — the conversation at home — the plan to make gallows (Esth.5:9-14).
11. The king sleepless that night — the book of records of the chronicles read (Esth.6:1).
12. The conversation between the king and his servants (Esth.6:1-5).
13. The counsel of Haman, and Mordecai being honoured accordingly (Esth.6:6-11).
14. Esther's second banquet and her petition to the king (Esth.7:1-6).
15. The king's fury and judgment — Haman hanged (Esth.7:7-10).
16. Mordecai was exalted after Haman was hanged; he was next unto the king (Esth.8:2,15; 9:4; 10:3).
17. The decree devised against the Jews made null and void and the message sent to all provinces (Esth.8:3-14).
18. The city of Shushan rejoiced (Esth.8:15 -17).
19. The Jews smote their enemies (Esth.9:1-16).
20. The feast of Purim (Esth.9:17-32).

Moral :

When we plead with the Lord with fasting and prayer, He will give us victory over our enemies. The wicked shall fall into the pit which he himself digged.

Memory Verse : Galatians 6:7,8

LESSON 7**SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO**

Dan. ch. 3

Contents :

1. The image of gold set up by king Nebuchadnezzar (Dan.3:1).
2. The king's command (Dan.3:2-6).
3. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were accused and the matter was brought before the king (Dan. 3:7-13).
4. The king's enquiry and the three men's answer to the king (Dan.3:14-18).
5. The king's fury — The furnace was heated seven times more than usual and the three men were bound and cast into it (Dan.3:19-23).
6. The king's surprise in seeing four men loose, walking in the furnace (Dan.3:24,25).
7. Nebuchadnezzar called out the three men. He found them safe and sound (Dan.3:26,27).
8. The king praised God — His decree (Dan.3:28,29).
9. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were promoted (Dan.3:30).

Moral :

In the midst of fiery trials, if we stand true to the revelations that God has given us, then God will miraculously deliver us.

Memory Verse : Jude 3,4

LESSON 8***DANIEL IN THE DEN OF LIONS*****Dan. ch. 6****Contents :**

1. Daniel was the first of the three presidents whom Darius set over the hundred and twenty princes, who ruled over the whole kingdom (Dan.6:1,2).
2. The excellent spirit that was in Daniel — the king's thought to set Daniel over the whole realm (Dan.6:3).
3. The presidents and princes were envious of Daniel — their conspiracy to accuse him concerning the law of his God since no fault could be found in him concerning the kingdom (Dan.6:4,5).
4. A new decree was passed that all men should ask petition of no God or man for thirty days, except of the king (Dan.6:6 -9).
5. Daniel prayed to his God, as usual (Dan.6:10).
6. The presidents and princes accused Daniel before the king (Dan.6:11-13).
7. The king's effort to save Daniel failed as the accusers were adamant — Daniel was cast into the den of lions (Dan.6:14 -17).
8. The king spent the night fasting and without sleep (Dan.6:18).
9. He hastened to the den of lions early in the morning. His question and Daniel's reply (Dan.6:19 -22).
10. The king commanded to take Daniel up out of the den of lions. No manner of hurt was found upon Daniel when he came out (Dan.6:23).
11. Those who accused Daniel were cast into the den of lions (Dan.6:24).
12. The king's decree (Dan.6:25-27).

Moral :

When we have a conscience void of offence before God and men, the conspiracies of men cannot harm us.

Memory Verse : Hebrews 11:33-35

LESSON 9***JONAH IN THE BELLY OF THE FISH*****Jonah ch. 1- 4****Contents :**

1. The word of the Lord came unto Jonah (Jon.1:1,2).
2. Jonah's disobedience — He fled from the presence of God, went down to Joppa and got into a ship going to Tarshish (Jon.1:3).
3. The tempest in the sea and the fear and confusion in the ship (Jon.1:4,5).
4. Jonah had gone down into the sides of the ship and was fast asleep. The shipmaster woke him up and asked him to call upon his God (Jon.1:5,6).
5. Lots were cast and the lot fell upon Jonah (Jon.1:7).
6. The conversation of the men in the ship with Jonah and Jonah's suggestion (Jon.1:8 -12).
7. Jonah cast into the sea — He was swallowed up by a great fish and was in the belly of the fish three days (Jon.1:15 -17).
8. Jonah's repentance and supplication in the belly of the fish (Jon.2:1-9).
9. The Lord spoke to the fish and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land (Jon.2:10).
10. The word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time. Jonah obeyed now and proceeded to the city of Nineveh (Jon.3:1-3).
11. Jonah's sermon in Nineveh (Jon.3:4).
12. The people believed God, fasted and put on sackcloth (Jon.3:5).
13. The king of Nineveh humbling himself (Jon.3:6).
14. The decree of the king (Jon.3:7-9).
15. The Lord repented of the evil that He had said that He would do unto the city and did not do it (Jon.3:10).
16. Jonah's anger and his prayer — The Lord's question to him (Jon.4:1-4).
17. Jonah's booth and the gourd (Jon.4:5-7).
18. The lesson that the Lord taught Jonah through that (Jon.4:8-11).

Moral :

Though the people of Nineveh were great sinners, the Lord had mercy on them, when they repented of their sins, humbled themselves, fasted and turned to God. Likewise, He is willing to show mercy to any man who repents of his sins.

Memory Verse : Isaiah 55:6,7

LESSON 10***ST. PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY***

Acts 15:36 — 18:22

Contents :

1. Antioch — Paul invited Barnabas to revisit the places they had been to on their first journey. Contention arose when Barnabas decided to take with them, John whose surname was Mark and Paul disagreed. So Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus. Paul chose Silas and went to Syria and Cilicia. This was in A.D.49 (Acts 15:36-41).

2. Syria and Cilicia — Confirmed the churches there and then proceeded to Derbe and Lystra (Acts 15:41; 16:1).

3. Derbe and Lystra — Paul met Timotheus in Lystra and desired to take him with him. Timotheus' mother was a Jewess and father, a Greek. Timotheus was circumcised because of the Jews. They went through the cities and delivered them the decrees to keep, which were ordained of the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. So the churches were established in the faith and increased in number daily (Acts 16:1-5).

4. Phrygia, Galatia — As they went through these regions, they were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the Word in Asia (Acts 16:6).

5. Mysia — Then they went to Mysia. The Spirit forbade them to go to Bithynia (Acts 16:7).

6. Troas — in a vision, a Macedonian called Paul to Macedonia. They immediately set sail and arrived at Neapolis (Acts 16:8-11).

7. Philippi — A city in Macedonia, under Roman rule, built by Augustus. They went to the customary place of prayer by a river side outside the city. Here a woman called Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, was converted and baptized. They cast out the spirit of divination from a damsel possessed with it. Her masters seeing that the hope of their gains was gone, handed Paul and Silas over to the magistrates. They both were beaten and put into prison. The Lord miraculously delivered them. The keeper of the prison and his household were saved. They passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to Thessalonica (Acts 16:12-40; 17:1).

8. Thessalonica — Paul went to a synagogue of the Jews and reasoned with them out of the Scriptures. Many of them accepted the Word. The Jews who did not believe, drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers. Paul and Silas were sent away by the brethren to the city of Berea because of this trouble (Acts 17:1-10).

9. Berea — Berea was sixty miles from Thessalonica. The Jews and Greeks here accepted them with joy. Here the people were more noble than those of Thessalonica. The Jews from Thessalonica came and stirred up the people. Paul was sent away to go to the sea coast and conducted to Athens (Acts 17:10-15).

10. Athens — This was a city wholly given to idolatry. Paul disputed in the synagogue with the Jews and devout persons and in the market daily with the people he met. Philosophers encountered him. He preached from Mars' hill. When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, a few accepted the Word and believed. Among them were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris. Paul departed from Athens and came to Corinth (Acts 17:16-34; 18:1).

11. Corinth — This was the capital of Achaia, a Roman State. Paul did tent making with Aquila and Priscilla. He reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath and exhorted the Jews and the Greeks. Some Jews opposed. He departed thence and stayed in the house of Justus which was next to the synagogue. Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house. Many Corinthians believed the gospel and were baptized. The Lord appeared to Paul in a vision at night, and told him that He had many people in that city and that he should speak and not be afraid. So Paul continued there for one year and six months and taught the Word of God. Some of the Jews accused Paul before Gallio, the deputy who refused to interfere in matters pertaining to their Law and drove them out. Paul then went to Cenchrea, a harbour near Corinth and sailed to Ephesus (Acts 18:1-19).

12. Ephesus — He left Aquila and Priscilla here. He reasoned with the Jews. After that he set sail from Ephesus and came to Caesarea (Acts 18:19-22).

After arriving at Caesarea, he went to Jerusalem, saluted the church and then returned to Antioch from where he had commenced his journey. This was in A.D.54 (Acts 18:21,22).

Moral :

The apostles depended entirely upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit, whether the Spirit bade them to go to certain places or it forbade them. We should also be willing to obey the Holy Spirit in all matters in our daily life.

Memory Verse : II Corinthians 4:8 -10

LESSON 11

CONVERSION (BORN AGAIN EXPERIENCE)

‘Conversion’, ‘New Birth’, and ‘Born Again experience’ are all various terms used for the first step of salvation which is the forgiveness of sins. There are other steps of salvation also like water baptism, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, etc. The term ‘salvation’ has also been used in the Word of God in several places to indicate Conversion or the experience of being Born Again.

Every man born in this world is a sinner before God (Rom.3:23). It is not the will of God that a man should continue to be a sinner. God wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (I Tim.2:4).

Man is a sinner in two ways :

(a) Nature of sin — This is the nature already in a person when he is born (Psa.51:5; Eph.2:3).

(b) Works of sin — sins committed by actions (Col.1:21; Gal.5:19 -21). He must be born again by the Word of God and thus must get deliverance from works of sin. (To be delivered from the nature of sin, however, he must take water baptism).

The seven steps leading to the experience of Conversion :

1. Conviction of sin (Acts 2:37) :

When the people heard Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost they were pricked in their hearts and asked Peter and the other apostles : “Men and brethren, what shall we do [to be saved]?”. It was the conviction of sin in their hearts that prompted them to ask so.

2. Repentance (II Cor.7:10,11) :

This is an experience received by the contrition of heart caused by the conviction of sin.

3. Confession (I Jn.1:9; Prov.28:13) :

Confession has two aspects — one, a putting off and the other, a putting on. Firstly, with true repentance we must confess and forsake the sins committed in the past. This is the experience of putting off or the negative aspect. Secondly, we should accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour and confess Him with our mouth. This is the aspect of putting on or the positive aspect (Rom.10:9,10).

4. Restitution (Ezek.33:15; Lk.19:8) :

If we have taken anything from anybody unjustly, it is not enough if we merely beg their pardon. The articles must be restored; because it is the commandment of God that we should not covet anything that belongs to our neighbour (Exo.20:17). We find that when Zacchaeus was saved, he observed the law of restitution.

5. Reconciliation (Matt.5:23,24;18:35) :

By confessing our sins we receive forgiveness from God and are reconciled to Him. Likewise, we should also receive forgiveness from man and be reconciled to him. If we, from our hearts, do not forgive our brethren their faults, our Heavenly Father will do likewise unto us.

6. Justification (Rom.3:24; 4:24,25; 5:1,18) :

Christ was offered for our offences and raised again that we might be justified. For us who believe in Him Who raised up the Lord Jesus from the dead, that faith is counted as righteousness. Being justified means being accounted as one who has not committed any sin at all. It is because Jesus died and rose again that we are justified (Rom.4:21-25).

7. Cleansing (I Jn.1:7) :

This experience denotes our being wholly separated unto the Lord. At salvation we are separated from sin and from sinners. As the Israelites were delivered from Egypt and from the bondage of the Egyptians and were separated wholly unto the Lord in the day that they were redeemed by the blood of the paschal lamb, even so we who are redeemed by the blood of Jesus are separated from the works of sin and from sinners and we become the people of God. In this experience that we receive at salvation, the work of sanctification begins in us.

Moral :

Adam committed sin and lost eternal life. When we repent, confess our sins and are saved, we receive eternal life.

Memory Verse : Romans 6:23; I John 5:10,11

LESSON 12

WATER BAPTISM (PART I)

Jesus Himself set an example for us when He took water baptism saying, "... thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness" (Matt.3:15,16). Baptism is an act of our obedience to the commandment of our God (Matt.28:19). It is the counsel of God (Lk.7:30). It is the answer of a good conscience toward God (I Pet.3:21). Moreover, it prepares us for a higher experience and for a deeper life.

We shall see below the blessings that we receive through baptism.

1. Baptism is a step to entering into the kingdom of God (Jn.3:5).

2. At water baptism we die to the nature of sin (Rom.6:2,3). Though a man may be born again and delivered from the works of sin, he is once again liable to do the works of sin (Rom.6:6), if the nature of sin (Eph.2:3; Psal.51:5) which is in him is not removed. In water baptism, the old man with the body of sin is buried into the death of Christ (Rom.6:4-6). Through this, a separation (death) takes place between us and the nature of sin.

3. Water Baptism is a preparatory step to receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38;5:32).

4. Baptism is also called a salvation (Mk.16:16). This salvation is the deliverance we receive from the nature of sin.

5. At baptism, we begin to live a victorious life (Rom.6:6,7,9).

6. At baptism, we put on Christ and become the sons of God by faith. Here all distinctions are removed (Gal.3:26-28).

7. Baptism is a prerequisite for the resurrection of the body at the coming of the Lord. "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Rom.6:4,5). (In the original it reads as 'resurrection', instead of 'likeness of his resurrection').

Moral :

We should not stop with the act of taking baptism, but bring the baptismal experience by faith in our every day life by yielding every member of our body to God. Then we shall be fully dead to sin and can walk in newness of life. This will keep our body ready for the Rapture.

Memory Verse : Colossians 2:12

LESSON 13

WATER BAPTISM (PART II)

Contents :

1. Who should take baptism ?

One should repent (Acts 2:38), confess his sins (Mk.1:5), believe (Mk.16:16) and then take baptism. As infants cannot fulfil these conditions, infant baptism is not in accordance with the Word of God. Jesus did not take or give infant baptism. He only laid His hands and blessed the little children who came to Him, but did not baptize them (Matt.19:13-15).

2. How should baptism be given ?

The word 'baptism' comes from the original Greek word 'Baptizo'. It means immersion. Jesus took immersion baptism (Mk.1:9,10). As there was much water in Aenon, it was chosen by John the Baptist to baptize people (Jn.3:23). Therefore, immersion baptism is the correct baptism.

Baptism should be given in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matt.28:19).

3. Who should give baptism ?

Only those who have received the anointing of the Holy Spirit must give baptism. The baptism given by those who have not received the Holy Spirit is not correct. Such people must be rebaptized. Though Apollos was mighty in the Scriptures and fervent in the spirit, he had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He baptized twelve people at Ephesus. But when Paul went to Ephesus, he came to know that they had been baptized by a non-Spirit baptized person and baptized them again (Acts 18:24-28; 19:1-7).

Moral :

We must study the doctrine of baptism well and surrender ourselves to that truth. Every day we should reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Memory Verse : Romans 6:2- 4

LESSON 14

SEPARATION (PART I)

When apostle Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, he exhorted the people saying, "Save yourselves from this untoward generation" (Acts 2:40). This untoward generation can be divided into two groups :

1. Perverse in doctrine

2. Perverse in life

Perverse in doctrine :

a) Those who do not hold the doctrine of repentance :

A man cannot call himself a Christian merely because he is born in a Christian family, brought up by Christian parents, has a Christian name, goes to church regularly, leads a moral life, gives offerings and observes traditional rituals. Some think it is sufficient to live such a life and therefore they teach accordingly. However, such a teaching is completely contrary to the Word of God. In his

epistle, Peter explains that we are not redeemed from vain traditions by silver and gold, but by the precious blood of Christ (I Pet.1:18,19), and that we are born again by the incorruptible seed, even the Word of God or the gospel (I Pet.1:23,25). A saved Christian is therefore, one who has accepted Jesus, through the gospel, as his personal Saviour and Lord (Jn.1:12; Rom.10:9) and has confessed and forsaken all his sins having repented of them (Prov.28:13; I Jn.1:9).

(b) Those who hold wrong teachings about water baptism :

Certain erroneous baptisms :

- (i) Infant baptism
- (ii) Baptism by sprinkling
- (iii) Baptism given by those who are not Spirit-baptized.
- (iv) Baptism in Jesus' name, without faith in the Trinity.

(c) Those who do not believe in the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the sign of speaking in tongues, and preach or teach against it. (e.g. The Brethren Mission, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, Nominal Christians).

(d) Those who do not believe in the Trinity (Unitarians, Jesus' Name Mission etc.).

(e) Those who do not believe in the fully consecrated apostolic ministry (Lk.14:26,33).

John, the disciple of love, says that we should not bid 'God speed' to a man who holds perverse doctrines. This shows how important it is to be separated from such people (II Jn.10,11).

Moral :

The doctrine of Christ not only leads us to salvation, but also does a work of sanctification in us. As perverse doctrines are not from God, they do not fulfil these purposes. So, we should not have fellowship with those who teach perverse doctrines.

Memory Verse : II Corinthians 2:16,17

LESSON 15

SEPARATION (PART II)

Perverse in Life :

(a) The unconverted : We should separate ourselves from unconverted people (II Cor.6:14 -17).

(b) The wicked brethren : We should not keep company with a brother, a believer, if he lives in sins like fornication. Such a person should be put out of the church (I Cor.5:11,13).

(c) The disorderly brethren : We should separate from those believers who once lived according to the Word of God and afterwards live a disorderly life (II Thess.3:6,14).

(d) We must avoid brethren who cause divisions in the church (Rom.16:17).

(e) We must turn away from those who have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof (II Tim.3:1-5).

Moral :

Fellowship with unbelievers and brethren who live disorderly lives, may cause a child of God to lose the divine nature he has gained. So we should separate ourselves from such people.

Memory Verse : II Corinthians 6:16 -18

LESSON 16

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit was one of the experiences of the early apostles. They preached it as one of their doctrines (Heb.6:1,2).

2. It is about this experience that Jesus said that rivers of living water shall flow from the belly of him who believes in Him (Jn.7:38,39).

3. Many names are given for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit such as 'being filled with the Holy Ghost', 'anointing of the Holy Spirit', 'outpouring of the Holy Spirit', 'receiving the Holy Spirit'. 'the seal of the Holy Spirit', 'the earnest of the Spirit' — all of which point to the same experience.

4. The Holy Spirit has been compared to fire (Matt.3:11; Acts 2:3) ; water (Jn.7:38,39) ; wind (Jn.3:8) and oil (Psa.89:20).

5. The outward sign of receiving the Holy Spirit is speaking in unknown tongues (Acts 2:4; 10:44 - 46; 19:6; Isa.28:11,12; I Cor.14:21).

6. In the Old Testament period, the Most Holy Place became the resting place of God only after the glory of God came down into the temple (II Chron. 6:41; 7:1; Psa.132:8). This is a shadow of the reality in the New Testament period, when, by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Triune God comes to dwell in us (Jn.14:16,20). And we become the habitation of God (I Cor.3:16,17; Eph.2:21,22).

7. In the Old Testament, priests and kings were anointed with the holy anointing oil and this was a type of our receiving the Holy Spirit in the New Testament period.

Moral :

We should be very careful about preserving our body in holiness because it becomes the temple of God by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Memory Verse : I Corinthians 6:19 -20

LESSON 17

THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US

1. We are sealed unto the day of redemption by the Holy Spirit (Eph.4:30). Though our soul has already been redeemed, we are waiting for the redemption of our body (Rom.8:23) and the Holy Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance until we are redeemed unto the praise of the glory of Christ (Eph.1:13,14).

2. The Holy Spirit helps us to worship God in the Spirit. A Spirit-baptized believer is able to bring his spirit under the control of the Holy Spirit and enter into the presence of God (Jn.4:24; Phil.3:3).

3. When we do not know how and what to pray for, due to various cares and weaknesses, the Spirit makes intercession from within us. The Holy Spirit prays through us, takes away our cares, quickens our spirit, and makes us pray in the Holy Ghost (Rom.8:26; Jude 20).

4. The Holy Spirit comforts us (Jn.14:26). By speaking in unknown tongues we receive a rest (Isa.28:11,12).

5. The Holy Spirit endues us with power to be witnesses for Christ. He witnesses together with the saints about the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8; 4:33; 5:29 -32). He witnesses with our spirit that we are the sons of God (Rom.8:14,16).

6. The Holy Spirit mortifies the deeds of the flesh (Rom.8:13). When we yield ourselves to Him, He destroys all our evil habits and practices and the works of the flesh.

7. The Holy Spirit quickens our mortal bodies (Rom.8:11). When we fall sick or go through paths of persecution for the sake of Christ, He quickens our body.

8. The Holy Spirit brings us under a great law, the law of the Spirit of life (Rom.8:1,2). There is no condemnation for those who live under this law. The law of sin and death has no dominion over them.

9. The Holy Spirit strengthens our inner man with might (Eph.3:16). We need inward strength to rejoice and be patient in the midst of trials and to resist Satan and overcome him (Col.1:11; Eph.6:10,11).

10. From the time the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us (Rom.5:5), the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22,23 is formed in us.

11. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the powers of the world to come (Heb.6:4-6). The 'world to come' is the kingdom of the saints. The saints who have overcome and conquered all things will reign in that kingdom. Therefore, 'the powers of the world to come' speak of a victorious life wherein all their enemies and even death which is the last enemy are conquered.

12. The Holy Spirit also sanctifies us (Rom.15:16; I Pet.1:2). This sanctification occurs through the working of the Holy Spirit in the inner man.

13. We are called to be conformed to the image or the character of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom.8:29,30). Day after day, the Holy Spirit performs this work of transformation in our inner man, changing us from glory to glory (II Cor.3:18).

14. Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we who are many in the Church, are made into one body (I Cor.12:13). The Holy Spirit distributes gifts according to His own will (I Cor.12:7-11). It is the Holy Spirit who appoints the servants of God in the churches as according to the will of God (Acts 13:2; 20:28), and gives the messages that the churches need, through them (Rev. chs. 2,3).

Moral :

We should yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit to work in us in full measure and always be diligent to keep ourselves pure. Only then will the Holy Spirit do His work of transformation in us and make us worthy for the coming of the Lord.

Memory Verse : Ephesians 4:30-32

LESSON 18

THE FORMATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

While Jesus was on the earth, He told Peter, "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matt.16:18). In his epistle, Peter writes about this rock as Jesus Himself, a living stone, disallowed of men, but chosen of God and precious. He also says that the Church is a spiritual house comprising lively stones, being built on this stone. He also quotes from the Scripture to say that this corner stone is laid in Zion. In His crucifixion Jesus became the stone which the builders rejected, but after His death, God raised Him up and exalted Him to Zion (I Pet.2:4 -7) where He was glorified to be the corner stone for the New Testament Church, and the Head over all things (Eph.1:20 -23).

In his gospel, John writes that the Holy Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified (Jn.7:39). After Jesus was glorified and exalted far above all heavens to Zion, He received of the Father, the promise of the Holy Ghost and shed it forth upon about one hundred and twenty persons, comprising both apostles and believers, who were waiting in the upper room (Acts 1:13-15; 2:1-

4,33). This happened on the day of Pentecost, i.e., ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven. In the Old Testament, the day of Pentecost was also called the Feast of Weeks (Deut.16:10), the Feast of Harvest (Exo.23:16) and the Day of the Firstfruits (Num.28:26). It was customary for all the Jews from far and wide to gather together in Jerusalem to celebrate this feast. This was the day when the Church was formed.

When the disciples were waiting on the day of Pentecost, there came a sound as of a rushing mighty wind. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire and it sat upon each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke in other tongues. The Jews who had gathered together to celebrate this feast of Pentecost from about eighteen nations were astonished to hear these Galileans speaking in their own tongues declaring the wonderful works of God. Some mocked at them saying that they were drunk with new wine. It was then that Peter stood up and affirmed that all this happened in fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel which said, “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions” (Joel 2:28), and he preached to them about the crucifixion, resurrection and the glorification of Jesus (Acts 2:7-36).

The people who heard him were pricked in their hearts and asked Peter and the apostles what they should do. Peter exhorted them to repent and be baptized, in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, adding that they should also separate themselves from the untoward generation. Around three thousand souls gladly received the Word, were baptized, and were added to the Church (Acts 2:37-41). They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine, fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayer; and the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:42-47).

Moral :

God is pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh. Let us, therefore, repent, be baptized in water, wait in the presence of God and receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, abide in the fellowship of the apostles and grow to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

Memory Verse : I Peter 2:4 -6

LESSON 19

THE TENETS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

To bring the Church to perfection, the Church has to be founded on certain basic tenets called the principles of the doctrines of Christ. They are listed out in Hebrews 6:1,2. They are :

1. Repentance from dead works : A genuine repentance unto salvation by means of confession with godly sorrow for all the works of sin (II Cor.7:10,11; Heb.9:14; Jn.3:3).

2. Faith toward God : Faith in the Triune God and His Name (I Jn.5:7; Isa.48:16).

3. Doctrine of baptisms : (Jn.3:5; Acts 19:2-6).

(a) Baptism in water — at the hand of a Spirit-baptized servant of God by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:2-7; Matt. 28:19).

(b) Baptism of the Holy Ghost — being filled with the Holy Spirit with the outward sign of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:2-4; 10:44 -47; 11:15,16) of which it is written “this is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest” (Isa.28:11,12). The Triune God comes to dwell in man (Jn.14:16,20,23).

4. Laying on of hands :

(a) For the dedication of infants (Matt.19:13-15).

(b) For the healing of the sick (Mk.16:18 ; Jam. 5:14-16).

(c) For separating people for the ministry from the Spirit-baptized, in accordance with the doctrine of the New Testament Ministry (Acts 13:2,3).

5. Resurrection of the dead (Rev.20:4-6,11,12 ; I Cor.15:20-23).

6. Eternal Judgment — The righteous will inherit New Earth, New Heaven and New Jerusalem comprising Zion (Rev. 21:1-4; 14:1). The wicked will be cast into the Lake of Fire meant for Satan and his angels (Matt.25:41; Rev.20:15).

The Church, being founded on these basic doctrines, has to go on unto perfection, following the teachings given by the fully consecrated servants of God who can lead it to entire sanctification and a victorious life. Referring to the consecration of these servants of God, Jesus said that except a man forsake his all and hate all carnal ties, he cannot be His disciple (Lk.14:26,33), and that a man intending to build a tower should therefore sit and count the cost; otherwise, having laid the foundation he will not be able to build to perfection (Lk.14:28 -30).

God has also ordained in the Church nine gifts of the Holy Spirit (I Cor.12:8 -10), five kinds of offices called the gifts of Christ (Eph.4:11-13) and eight ministries (I Cor.12:28) to bring the Church to perfection.

Moral:

We should not be tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine but continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and go on to perfection.

Memory Verse : Hebrews 6:1,2

LESSON 20

CROWNS

Kings wear crowns. This shows dominion and victory. In the spiritual realm also, it is the victorious who shall be crowned. Man had dominion before he fell into sin (Gen.1:26; Psa.8:5-8). The crown which was upon his head fell because of sin (Lam.5:16). The fallen man can become victorious through the Lord Jesus Christ and receive dominion again (Rom.5:17).

Since Jesus is the Lord of lords and the King of kings, there are many crowns upon His head (Rev. 19:12,16).

The Scriptures speak of three crowns kept for the saints who have overcome.

1. Crown of Life (Jam.1:12; Rev.2:10) :

For those who have surrendered themselves not counting their lives dear and have endured temptations, for the sake of the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and for His Word. They remain faithful unto death even when persecuted, without any decrease in their love for Jesus.

2. Crown of Righteousness (II Tim.4:7,8) :

This crown is kept for those who finish their race victoriously, having desired ardently for the appearing (secret coming) of Jesus. They are those whose spirit, soul and body are wholly sanctified and are caught up when Jesus comes (I Thess.5:23). It is for them that look ardently for Him without sin, that Jesus shall appear the second time unto salvation (Heb.9:28). St. Paul had this experience and hope and therefore says with confidence that he will receive the crown of righteousness (II Tim.4:7,8).

3. Crown of Glory (I Pet.5:1-4) :

This is the crown received by faithful shepherds (servants of God). This reward is given when Jesus, the Chief Shepherd, appears the second time to gather together His Bride, the Church. They are those who take the oversight of the flock of God which is among them -

(a) not by constraint but willingly ;

(b) not for filthy lucre but of a ready mind ;

(c) not as being lords over God's heritage but being ensamples to the flock.

Moral :

We should run our race victoriously and receive our crowns, keeping before us the hope of the inheritance that is kept for us in heaven.

Memory Verse : James 1:12 ; Rev.3:10,11
