

Introduction to the Lessons

The eight study sheets presented in the *Teacher's Guide* have been published by the Gospel Light Publishing Company, P.O. Box 38, Delight, AR 71940 and can be ordered from the Gospel Light Publishing Company. Besides these eight lessons, fourteen others are available that deal with a variety of subjects that are important for home Bible studies.

The eight lessons in this *Guide* are important as beginning studies with those who need to learn what to do to be saved. They logically proceed from one lesson to another and can be used profitably in the order in which they appear in this work. However, a teacher might realize that a learner already understands and believes what is in the first three lessons and for this reason might want to begin with Lesson 4, the lesson on "Salvation."

Because of the sensitive nature of religious matters, it is sometimes important to begin with lessons that help lay a foundation for later studies. These beginning lessons may not contain material to help one learn what to do to be saved, but they might help train the pupil in an approach to the Bible that will be useful later in teaching truths that might cause disagreement if the background truths are not understood.

Before teaching any of the lessons, the instructor should become familiar with all the lessons so that he will know in what order he will want to present them. The eight lessons in this *Guide* develop the train of thought as follows:

Lesson 1. "What Is the Source of Sin and Death?" presents what happened in the Garden of Eden that caused God to place His good creation under a curse. In this lesson the teacher can show that, through Adam and Eve's eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, sin entered into the world and that mankind by eating of the tree was introduced to the problem of good and evil. Infants, however, are not born sinners or born with the knowledge of good and evil. They develop this knowledge later in life.

Lesson 2. "What Is God's Plan?" presents God's

plan to make of Abraham a great nation and to bless all the nations of the earth through a descendant of Abraham. The teacher can show that God never did plan to bless the world through the law (which instead of a blessing brought a curse), but rather that, even before creating the heavens and the earth, He planned to bless mankind through the death of His Son for our sins. The purpose of the law was to bring mankind to Jesus, but now that the faith of Jesus Christ has come, we are no longer under the law. Rather we are under the new covenant of Jesus Christ.

Lesson 3. "Is Jesus the New Way for Man?" presents Jesus, *not* the law with its animal sacrifices, as the *way* of salvation for mankind, which *way* began to be preached in Jerusalem and spread throughout the rest of the world. The teacher can show how God planned for the animal sacrifices to be a shadow of the death of Jesus on the cross. After His death, the new way could begin to be preached to all the world, beginning at Jerusalem. What was preached in Jerusalem as the way of forgiveness is what is required of all nations for all times.

Lesson 4. "Are You Saved?" presents what is required in order that one may receive the forgiveness of sins that has been provided by the blood of Jesus. The teacher can show that those who are taught about Jesus, believe in Jesus, resolve to live for Jesus, confess their faith in Jesus, and are buried with Jesus in baptism will be saved from their sins. This forgiveness through the blood of Jesus is for those who have been baptized into Christ. All who are in Christ are in His one body, the church of Christ.

Lesson 5. "What Does the Bible Say About the Church of Christ?" presents the church of Christ as being made up of all Christians. Jesus is, to this body of believers, the builder, foundation, head, and Savior. As head over them, He wants His body to be one unified body that lives in harmony and without division. Because of His love for them, He has died

for them so that He can present them to Himself without spot, contamination, or any such thing in order that they might be holy and blameless.

Lesson 6. "What Was the Organization of the Church of Christ?" shows that in the never-changing organization of the church, as a whole, are Jesus, the head, and the original twelve apostles and the New Testament prophets. Serving in the local congregations are the elders (also known as bishops and pastors), deacons, evangelists, teachers, and members. All of these have their proper functions and their qualifications.

Lesson 7. "Do You Worship God Acceptably?" presents the things God desires in worship to Him. The teacher can show that the church must seek to worship in the way that is acceptable to God through worship that is in spirit and truth. God has given us those things He desires in worship. He has asked us not to add to or take away from what He has instructed us to do.

Lesson 8. "What Will Be Your Eternal Destiny?" presents the truth that there are just two classes of people, unforgiven sinners and forgiven sinners. All are sinners because God's standards have been broken by all. The destiny of the unforgiven sinners will be agonizing, eternal punishment, while the destiny of the forgiven sinner will be eternal enjoyment with God in heaven. Those who are forgiven are those who obey God, and those who are unforgiven are those who do not obey Him. The

eternal destiny of mankind depends on mankind's response to the will of God.

Considerations

These eight lessons, when properly understood and presented, should bring a student to a realization that his salvation depends on Jesus, and also that his life must be lived with faith in Him and in obedience to His will. Any presentation that does not emphasize the authority of Jesus, the grace of God, the love of God, the need to respect Jesus as the Son of God, and the need for a personal relationship with Jesus will fall short of the goal a teacher should have when presenting these lessons.

After the teacher has become familiar with the eight study lessons in this *Guide*, he should then concentrate on the lesson he is going to present. He should read through the lesson and become thoroughly familiar with all that is in the lesson. He should look up all the Scriptures and know how they pertain to the lesson. After doing this, he is then ready to consider how he will present each aspect of the lesson.

The following material is given in order to help the teacher in preparation and presentation of each lesson. The teacher may not follow the material exactly as suggested in this *Teacher's Guide*, but the teacher should take time to understand the material in the *Teacher's Guide* before seeking to present each lesson.