

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Which is more important, our prayer for removal of an affliction or our prayer for wisdom and understanding?
2. What are God's promises to the afflicted?
3. Why is it so important to be joyful as we are tested and tried?
4. How does hesitation or doubting affect God's blessings on us?
5. What is the secret of living a victorious life?

SUMMARY:

Everyone wants to be a winner. In the contest for eternal life we can all be winners. Since we contend only once, it is essential we run so that we may be victorious. The Apostle gives us some instruction, which can be helpful to us in overcoming the obstacles we encounter along the way.

Knowing our tendencies to self-pity and discouragement, the Apostle suggests that the initial step to victory is to rejoice, knowing, as our faith is tried, patience causes us to be content. As we are being tried it is essential to follow faith without wavering and pray for wisdom and understanding, so that we will not become confused.

The Apostle recognized that we, ourselves, are often the greatest obstacle in the way of God's leading in our lives, and recommended that we control ourselves and receive the Word of God, which contains the power to save our souls.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #2

July 11, 2004

Third Quarter

VICTORY

LESSON TEXT: James 1:1-21

LESSON SETTING: Probably written from Jerusalem to the dispersed Jewish Christians.

TIME: Approximately 60 A.D.

I. ENDURING James 1:1-11

- A. By Rejoicing (vs. 2) Acts 5:41; 2 Corinthians 6:10; 1 Peter 4:12-13
- B. By Faith (vs. 3) 1 John 5:4-5
- C. By Patience (vs. 3-4) Luke 21:19; Roman 12:12
- D. By Prayer (vs. 6-7) Luke 18:1; Colossians 1:9

II. OVERCOMING James 1:12-18

- A. Endurance Brings Victory (vs. 12) Matthew 24:13; Galatians 6:9
- B. Blessings are From God (vs. 17) Isaiah 41:10

III. OBEYING James 1:19-21

- A. Hear (vs. 19) Matthew 7:24; Luke 8:15
- B. Control Self (vs. 19) Proverbs 16:32; Galatians 5:24
- C. Receive the Word (vs. 21) Psalm 119:11; Colossians 3:16

GOLDEN TEXT: BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT ENDURETH TEMPTATION: FOR WHEN HE IS TRIED, HE SHALL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE, WHICH THE LORD HATH PROMISED TO THEM THAT LOVE HIM.
James 1:12

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Colossians 3:1-17

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Chronicles 29:1-36;
Luke 12:49-53;
2 Corinthians 6:11-18

QUARTERLY THEME: Marks of a Christian

TOPIC: SEPARATION

INTRODUCTION:

Separation from the world for a Christian means that he has no fellowship with that which is evil. Even in the Old Testament God asked His people, the Israelites, to keep themselves separated from their surrounding nations. He wanted them to be a holy nation, unsoiled by the idolatry of the heathen people.

Again and again in the New Testament He speaks to us today to keep ourselves clean from the evil of the world. We are to have no part in its sin or pleasures. In 1 Corinthians 5:9-11, Paul writes "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators . . . covetous, extortioners, idolators . . ." and makes it even stronger by saying, "if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one no not to eat." In Ephesians 5:11, Paul writes "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them." "Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord . . ." (2 Corinthians 6:17)

CENTRAL TRUTH: Complete consecration requires separation from the world and separation to God.

GOLDEN TEXT: IF YE THEN BE RISEN WITH CHRIST, SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST SITTETH ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. Colossians 3:1

When the grace of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit have wrought new life in one who was dead in sin, new desires are born into the heart. This should lead to a separation from the things which once seemed worthwhile, but were really only the husks and chaff of this life.

The closer we cling to God and His ways, the farther we will keep from the former evil ways, even though we are ridiculed by those who have not "risen with Christ." "Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you." (1 Peter 4:4)

May we ever seek the will of the One who said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF July 12 - 18

- M. Separation Requested. 2 Chronicles 29:1-11
- T. Separation Demonstrated. 2 Chronicles 29:12-19
- W. Separation Brings Division. Luke 12:49-53
- T. Separation is Commanded. 2 Corinthians 6:11-18
- F. *Separation Requires Union with Christ. Colossians 3:1-8
- S. *Separation Requires Positive Action. Colossians 3:9-17
- S. Separation Affects Every Relationship. Colossians 3:18-25