

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why, when the Greeks asked to see Jesus, did Jesus then announce that His time had come?
2. Should a Christian “hate his life?”
3. How does Christ crucified attract Gentile and Jew to Himself?
4. By what power was Christ raised from the dead?
5. How shall we be resurrected? (Romans 8:11)

SUMMARY:

While we may never know fully why God required the blood of Jesus to atone for our sins, we know Christ’s love was great enough to offer Himself to bring us back to God. The same love that moved Him to die for us should also motivate us to sacrifice ourselves if necessary to serve Him. We all hope some day to share in the resurrection, but have already a benefit of His resurrection. We have a living hope, as it is written, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3)

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #2

April 10, 2005

Second Quarter

CHRIST EXPLAINS DEATH AND RESURRECTION

LESSON TEXT: John 12:23-36

LESSON SETTING: In Jerusalem during Passover week.

TIME: Approximately 33 A.D.

I. THE SEED. John 12:23-24

- A. Planting or Death. Isaiah 53:9; Romans 6:3-7;
- B. Germination of New Life (beginning of new growth) John 3:6; Romans 8:1; 1 John 3:14
- C. Yield From Single Seed. Psalm 1:3; Matthew 13:23, 32; John 15:5

II. THE SERVANT. John 12:25-26

- A. No Regard For His Own Life. Isaiah 53:7; John 4:34; 1 Peter 2:21
- B. Service Means Obedience. Matthew 7:24; Hebrews 5:8; 10:9
- C. Reward For Faithful Service. John 14:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 22:14

III. THE SAVIOR. John 12:27-36

- A. Christ the First Fruit. Acts 26:23; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23
- B. Assurance That Believers Will Be Resurrected. John 5:25; 6:40; 11:25; 1 Thessalonians 4:14
- C. Believers Will Be In The Likeness Of Christ. Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 3:2

GOLDEN TEXT: EXCEPT A CORN OF WHEAT FALL INTO THE GROUND AND DIE, IT ABIDETH ALONE; BUT IF IT DIE, IT BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT.

John 12:24

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: John 13:1-17

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Samuel 16:5-14;

Philippians 2:1-11;

1 Peter 2:18-24; 5:5-6;

1 John 2:6

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, the Son of God

TOPIC: CHRIST DEMONSTRATES HUMILITY

INTRODUCTION:

Christ Jesus is the ideal for every man. If He had not come down to this little planet, divesting Himself of His divine and matchless glory, to live in lowliness and poverty among the poorest of men, He could not have been our model and guide for all generations. If He had chosen to live on earth as an esteemed wise man, or a wealthy personage—which would have been his prerogative—His earthly life would not have been the ordeal that it was, but neither would His influence have radiated to all men. The perspective of the ages has revealed more and more that the plan of salvation was flawlessly conceived and executed. Although at the time, His life appeared to the undiscerning to be a series of unexpected and often times unfortunate incidents culminating in tragedy. The humility that He demonstrated in so many ways leaves no doubt as to our responsibility in displaying this virtue.

He is the ultimate source of grace that enables us to live out this life. If He had not shown us how to live the Christian life in the purest sense, and then given us His Holy Spirit to aid us, He could not have commanded us to follow His steps. Because He has taken care of the “willing and the doing,” we can live closer to God. Our part is to simply yield to the divine will for humility as for every other precious fruit of the Spirit.

CENTRAL TRUTH: By humbly serving others, we follow the example of Christ.

GOLDEN TEXT: *I HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXAMPLE, THAT YE SHOULD DO AS I HAVE DONE TO YOU.* John 13:15

The opening verse of the Book of the Acts reads, “The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began, both the do and teach.” Note the order: first to do, then to teach.

How much more effective our witnessing might be if we first would do, and then teach others. It is not enough that we tell others how to live, but we need to show them how. It is an elementary principle that pupils learn much more quickly when they are shown how to do things than only to be told how.

Since Christ was and is our example, He asks that we in His stead set the example of a dedicated God-honoring life. Each one can do this by His grace.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF April 11 - 17

M. Humility Encouraged. Daniel 4:19-27

T. Humility Learned. Daniel 4:28-37

W. Humility Needed. Matthew 20:20-28

T. *Humility Demonstrated. John 13:1-10

F. *Humility Taught. John 13:11-17

S. Humility Commended. Luke 18:9-17

S. Humility Rewarded. Matthew 15:21-28