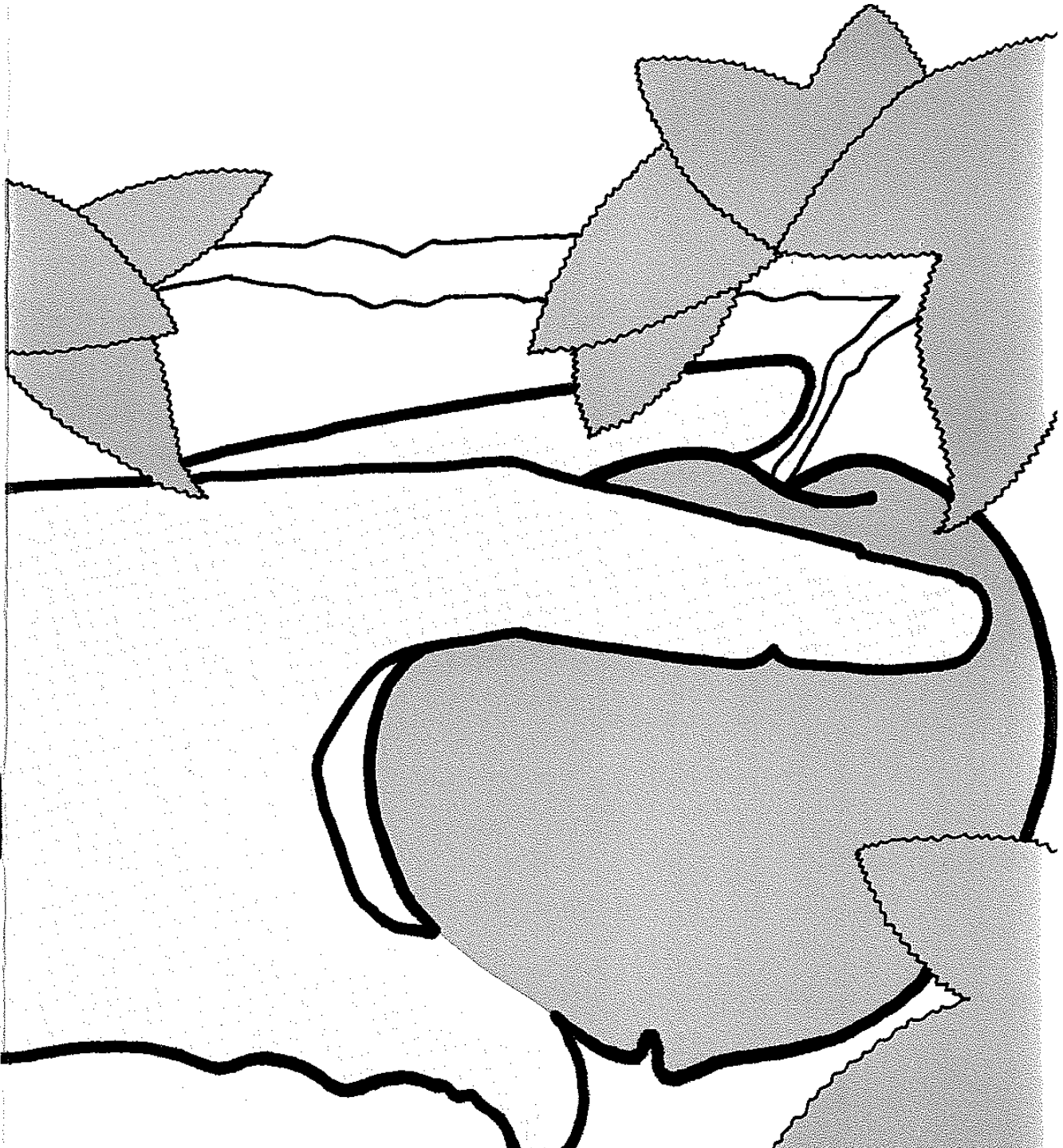


# ADULT BIBLICAL EDUCATION SERIES

Vol. III, Book 8

Paul's Letters to Maturing Churches

## TEACHER'S GUIDE



On the covers of this Bible Study Series, we have seen the seed sown, the tree grow, lovingly pruned and cared for by the fanner. Now we see the fruit ready for plucking. This recalls to our memory the words of Jesus to His disciples: "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for apart from me ye can do nothing." John 15:5

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**Teacher's Supplement  
to Volume III Book 8  
By Pat Franklin**

**PAUL'S LETTER TO MATURING CHURCHES  
(Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians)**

**LESSON ONE**

**Lesson Objective:** To consider the spiritual blessings which believers have through Jesus Christ.

**Lesson Goals:**

1. To enumerate the benefits of our faith in Christ.
2. To study Paul's prayer for the Ephesians as an example of how we ought to pray for other believers.
3. To be encouraged to claim God's blessings in our lives and thus lead more fruitful lives for Christ.

**Teacher Preparation:**

1. Ask God's Spirit to speak to your heart as you study the first chapter of Ephesians.
2. Read Ephesians 1 in at least two different translations (e.g. ESV and NIV).
3. Read the lesson objective and goals.
4. Re-read the Scripture passage in light of these goals. Make notes as you read. Try to list all the spiritual benefits of knowing Christ, which Paul names in this chapter.
5. Study Dr. Scott's notes and answer the application questions.
6. Familiarize yourself with the historical context of the writing of Ephesians.
7. Keep in mind your lesson objective and goals as you study Dr. Scott's notes.
8. Underline or write down key points which you will want to bring out in class.
9. Construct an outline of the lesson content you wish to teach.
10. Formulate your lesson plan. How will you teach the lesson? Plan specific ways to involve your students.
11. Be sure all materials and equipment needed will be ready for use at class time.

**Class Procedure:**

1. Open with a prayer of thanksgiving for the many blessings God has given us through Christ.
2. Begin the lesson by holding up a large, brightly gift-wrapped package. Pose a hypothetical question to the class: "What if I told you that in this box, which I will

give to you, is everything you need to live a successful and prosperous Christian life? How many of you would like to have this box?" Hand the box to an individual and say, 'Now, what does Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ have to do in order to get any benefit from this gift?' (He has to unwrap the present, take the gift out of the box and use it.) Point out that although there isn't really anything of spiritual benefit in this particular box, this is a good example of what God has done for us.

3. Have a class member read Ephesians 1:3.
4. Share your lesson goals with the class so that they will share your sense of direction during the study.
5. Briefly go over the historical background for the writing of the Book of Ephesians.
6. Move into a discussion of the blessings we have in Christ (vs. 3-14). You may want to have class members help you enumerate these on the chalkboard as you go through this passage.
7. Discuss Paul's focus on Christ and His work in verses 7 through 10.
8. Discuss the "mystery" (v. 9).
9. Discuss our inheritance/God's inheritance (vs. 11-12).
10. As you look at verses 13 and 14, help the class verbalize the three functions of the Holy Spirit in our redemption. This may be basic for some, but it is important for all of us to understand.
11. Go on to study Paul's prayer.
12. List the specific things that Paul prays for them. Comment on each one (see Dr. Scott's notes).
13. Discuss how Paul was able to pray so effectively for these people. (He knew them. You might want to touch on the importance of fellowship and sharing in the church.)
14. Discuss how we often pray, "Bless the pastor," or "Be with Aunt Sue," or "Lord, you know the missionary's needs." How is Paul's prayer an example for us?
15. Summarize the lesson by going back to your original object lesson. We have enumerated here our spiritual blessings in Christ. Are we taking advantage of these in our daily lives? How do we "unwrap" and use the gifts (blessings) God has made available to us?
16. Close with a time of conversational prayer. Thank God for His specific blessings to us.

**Assignment:** Read Ephesians 2 and 3. Study Dr. Scott's notes and answer the questions.

## LESSON TWO

**Lesson Objective:** To show the fact and the necessity of being recreated in Christ when we receive His salvation.

### Lesson Goals:

1. To compare and contrast the nature of our condition without Christ with our present condition in Christ.
2. To understand the relationship of good works to this change in our condition before God.
3. To compare and contrast our position, before and after salvation, with other believers (the church).
4. To understand the fullness of God's purpose for us and how we can realize it in our lives.

### Teacher Preparation:

1. Pray for godly wisdom and insight as you prepare this week's lesson.
2. Read Ephesians 2 and 3 in a modern translation (New American Standard Version or New International Version).
3. Read over the lesson objective and goals. Decide whether you will use these or formulate your own. Consider your students' needs.
4. Go back through the passage and make notes in light of your goals. For example, you might want to write down how our present condition in Christ differs from our former state without Christ.
5. Study Dr. Scott's notes.
6. Answer the questions for meditation and application.
7. With the Scripture, Dr. Scott's lesson and your notes before you, organize an outline of the lesson content you wish to teach.
8. Be prepared to share with the class how the Holy Spirit has touched your heart through this study.
9. Plan how you will involve your students in this lesson. Remember that the more they are involved, the more they will learn.
10. Decide on how you will use audiovisual equipment or object lessons to aid you in your lesson plan.
11. Be sure all equipment and materials are properly located and ready for use at class time.

### Class Procedure:

1. Open with prayer for willing and obedient hearts to respond to today's lesson.
2. Begin the class by inviting class members to give brief testimonies of the differences Christ has made in their

lives since salvation. Encourage them to share specific examples. You need to be prepared to share how your life is different since coming to Christ. This can be a time of real edification and encouragement.

3. Point out that the reason for these changes wrought by God's Spirit is that God has made a new creation of us. Hold up a badly smashed plate or vase. "Before we knew Christ, we, too, were beyond repair. It would be impossible to glue all these little pieces together. We would have to start over with a new lump of clay and re-create the plate or vase (whichever you brought in). God did the same thing for us by giving us a new heart (taking out our "heart of stone" and giving us a "heart of flesh")." You could also use the example of a heart transplant. Paul begins the second chapter of Ephesians by dealing with this very subject.
4. Have the class look at Ephesians 2:1-3. Have them describe our condition without Christ. You could record their answers on a "Before and After" chart on the chalkboard or overhead projector transparency.
5. Study verses 4 through 7 with the class to contrast our present condition in Christ.
6. Discuss the relationship of good works to this change (vs. 8-10). Why did God save us? It has been said that God not only saved us from something (sin and death), but also unto something (good works and a fruitful life).
7. You might use another "Before and After" chart to aid in your discussion of how our relationship to the church has changed since coming to Christ.
8. Be sure the class understands the Old Testament relationship of the Jews and Gentiles.
9. Look at Ephesians 2:13-22 to see how this relationship has changed.
10. Briefly go into Paul's further explanation in Ephesians 3:1-13 (see Dr. Scott's notes).
11. As you move into the final section of this study, you might ask class members if they feel or have ever felt that they are experiencing or have experienced the fullness of God's purpose in their lives. How many would like to?
12. Have the class examine Paul's prayer (vs. 14-19) in this light. (See Dr. Scott's notes.) How can we realize these things in our daily lives (vs. 20,21)?
13. Close with a time of conversational prayer. Thank God for His continuing work in our lives. Ask Him to make Himself and His will (or purpose) more fully known to us.

**Assignment:** Read Ephesians 4:1-24. Study Dr. Scott's notes and answer the application questions.

## LESSON THREE

**Lesson Objective:** To learn the kind of life the Lord expects of those whom He has redeemed.

### Lesson Goals:

1. To understand what it means to walk "worthy of our calling."
2. To study the church officers' exercise of their gifts in relation to the growth and goals of the church.
3. To contrast the way of the world with how Jesus instructed His church to live.

### Teacher Preparation:

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart as you study this week's Scripture passage. Ask Him for new wisdom and insight as you read and prepare the lesson.
2. Read Ephesians 4:1-24 in a modern translation (ESV or NIV).
3. Read the lesson objective and goals. Decide what you will want to focus on in this lesson. Consider your students' backgrounds and needs.
4. Go back through the Scripture passage and make notes on each of the subjects mentioned in the goals. Write down any new thoughts or questions that come to mind as you re-examine the passage.
5. Study Dr. Scott's notes. Underline or write down key points or new thoughts as you read.
6. Answer the questions for meditation and application.
7. Decide whether you will use Dr. Scott's outline or formulate your own. Organize your notes into a workable outline.
8. Plan how you will teach the lesson. Think about how you can most effectively involve your students.
9. Plan how you will use visual aids, object lessons and discussion to help your students gain the very most possible from this lesson.
10. Be sure all materials and equipment needed are properly located and ready for use at class time.

### Class Procedure:

1. Open with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to make God's Word clear to us in today's study.
2. Begin the lesson by briefly reviewing Dr. Scott's introduction.
3. Because Dr. Scott's text covers three distinct subjects, you may wish to divide the class into three small groups (if size permits) to complete this study. Each group should use the Scripture and Dr. Scott's notes to answer their questions. Assign each group the following:

#### Group One:

- a. Read Ephesians 4:1-10.
- b. What does Paul place as top priority in living the Christian life?
- c. How do the fruits of the Spirit indicate our spiritual stature?
- d. What is the key to keeping the unity of the Spirit?
- e. Describe the God-given unity to the church (vs. 5-6).
- f. Briefly summarize verses 7 through 10: what Paul says about spiritual gifts and the Christ who has given them to us through His Spirit.

#### Group Two:

- a. Read Ephesians 4:11-16.
- b. List the five categories of the officers in the church and briefly describe their functions.
- c. What is the single function that these officers have in common?
- d. Name and describe the three aspects of spiritual growth that Paul delineates.
- e. What is the church's goal?
- f. Contrast the picture of the church without true fellowship with the ideal church as God has designed it (vs. 14-16).

#### Group Three:

- a. Read Ephesians 4:17-25.
  - b. Describe the "walk" of the Gentiles. (Compare Romans 1, Genesis 11:1-9).
  - c. What positive steps can we take to avoid walking in this manner (vs. 20-24)?
  - d. How does the Holy Spirit aid in our Christian walk?
  - e. Compare Ephesians 2:10 with 4:24.
  - f. How is this an encouragement to us in our daily struggles?
4. Bring the class back together so that each group can share their questions and answers.
  5. Allow time for class members to share new insights they have gained from this lesson.
  6. Share what the lesson meant to you personally.
  7. Close with prayer for unity in your church and the "perfecting of the saints" for Christ's work.

**Assignment:** Read Ephesians 4:25-6:24. Study Dr. Scott's notes and answer the application questions.

## LESSON FOUR

**Lesson Objective:** To show how our recreation in Christ affects every area of our lives.

**Lesson Goals:**

1. To learn how to put off the old sinful nature and put on our new nature in Christ.
2. To study God's order and commands for Christians in the home and at work.
3. To understand how to fight and overcome Satan as we struggle to live fruitful and holy lives for Christ.

**Teacher Preparation:**

1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to illumine your heart and mind as you study this week's Scripture passage.
2. Spend time in prayer for each of your students. Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare each heart for this week's lesson.
3. Read Ephesians 4:25-26 in a modern translation (ESV or NIV).
4. Study the lesson objective and goals.
5. Consider your students' needs and decide if you will use some or all of the suggested goals or formulate your own.
6. In light of your goals, go back through the Scripture passage and make notes.
7. Think in terms of how these verses can be practically applied to specific areas of your/our lives. Make notes.
8. Write down any questions or new insights that come to mind.
9. Study Dr. Scott's notes. Underline or make notes as you read.
10. Answer the questions for meditation and application.
11. In light of your goals, organize an outline of the lesson content you wish to teach.
12. Plan how you can most effectively involve your students in this lesson.
13. Gather all materials and equipment needed and be sure all are ready for use at class time.

**Class Procedure:**

(This will vary, depending on your goals. The following is designed to focus on the second goal.)

1. Open with prayer for the Holy Spirit's guidance and blessing in this lesson time.
2. Briefly review Dr. Scott's introduction.
3. Begin the lesson by asking the class to name a few major areas of life in which Christians are under attack today. You might suggest the home and on the job.
4. Ask the class to list specific pressures in each area; for example, the home: high divorce rate, financial pressures, "do your own thing" philosophy. The job: fear of unemployment, race to "get ahead," unethical business practices. List these on the chalkboard or overhead projector.
5. Have the class open their Bibles to Ephesians 4:25ff to find God's plan and order for these areas of our lives.
6. Briefly discuss Paul's instructions for putting away the

old life and learning to walk in love. This is basic to your discussion of home and work.

7. Move on to discuss the husband-wife relationship. Focus on the words "subjection" and "love." (See Dr. Scott's notes.) Obviously, you will not be able to cover the whole subject of Christian marriage entirely, but this Scripture passage clearly shows God's plan for the home.
8. You might bring up such statements as: "If my husband loved me like he should, then I could submit to him." "If my wife would submit like she should, then I could love her."
9. Move on to discuss the employer-employee relationship. Use Dr. Scott's notes as a basis for your discussion. Note particularly how he deals with our attitudes toward our daily jobs.
10. Encourage class members to share how they, personally, are dealing with job pressures and attitudes.
11. Discuss the difference a changed attitude can make toward dealing with job pressures. In striving to maintain a godly home and a godly perspective on our jobs, we have a continual battle as Satan tries to defeat us.
12. Discuss Paul's instructions for battling Satan. Help class members to verbalize how these can specifically be applied in the home and at work.
13. Close the discussion by asking class members to share what they have gained from this lesson and how they will be better able to face the week ahead.
14. Close with a time of prayer for each other in the daily struggles of being a godly example in the home and at work.

**Assignment:** Read Philippians 1 and 2. Study Dr. Scott's notes and answer the application questions.

**LESSON FIVE**

**Lesson Objective:** To learn about the fellowship in labor and the suffering which all believers have with one another.

**Lesson Goals:**

1. To study Paul's prayer for the Philippian Christians.
2. To study Paul's personal testimony concerning his circumstances and attitudes while in prison.
3. To study Paul's instructions to the Philippians concerning their daily Christian walks.
4. To be challenged to truly labor in fellowship and suffering with other believers.

**Teacher Preparation:**

1. Pray for wisdom and guidance as you prepare this week's lesson.
2. Read Philippians 1 and 2 in a modern translation (ESV or NIV).
3. Read over the lesson objective and goals.
4. Go back through the Scripture passage and make notes on key thoughts, new insights, or questions that come to mind as you read.
5. Answer the questions for meditation and application. Did these questions stimulate your thinking in any new directions? Make notes.
6. Study Dr. Scott's notes.
7. Underline or make notes as you read.
8. With the Scripture, Dr. Scott's notes, your goals and notes before you, organize an outline of the lesson content you wish to teach.
9. Be prepared to share what this study has meant to you personally.
10. Plan visual aids and discussion to involve your students.
11. Be sure all materials and equipment needed are properly located and ready for use at class time.

**Class Procedure:**

1. Open with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's Word and the godly example we have in the life of Paul.
2. Briefly review Dr. Scott's introduction concerning the historical background of the Book of Philippians.
3. Share the lesson objective with the class so that they will share your sense of direction.
4. Have the class open their Bibles to Philippians 1 and 2.
5. Begin the lesson by showing how Paul fellowshiped with the Philippians through his prayer (1:3-11).
6. List the parts of Paul's prayer on the chalkboard or overhead projector and have the class comment on each one.
7. Discuss how this type of prayer could increase the fellowship among believers (as opposed to the "God bless Sue" or "Lord, be with John" type of prayer).
8. How might this type of prayer make a difference in the life of the one being prayed for? (What an encouragement to know someone was praying like that for me!)
9. Move on to discuss verses 12 through 26. Why did Paul give personal testimony here?
10. Encourage class members to share what is particularly meaningful to them from Paul's testimony.
11. List these thoughts on the chalkboard or overhead projector.
12. Go through the rest of the passage and list Paul's exhortations to the Philippians. Briefly discuss each

one. (See Dr. Scott's notes.)

13. Be sure to discuss Christ's example of humility.
14. Review the three ways in which Paul fellowshiped and labored with the Philippians (prayer, personal testimony, exhortation).
15. Go over the application questions or just have class members share how they plan to apply these principles in their lives.
16. Close with a time of conversational prayer. Labor in prayer for your church's pastor, session and missionaries.

**Assignment:** Read Philippians 3 and 4. Study Dr. Scott's notes and answer the application questions.

**LESSON SIX**

**Lesson Objective:** To learn about the fellowship in rejoicing which all believers have with one another.

**Lesson Goals:**

1. To contrast rejoicing in the Lord with rejoicing in the flesh.
2. To learn how to maintain a joyful spirit in the Lord.
3. To examine ourselves in the area of personal joy to see where our joy comes from and how it is being manifested in our lives.

**Teacher Preparation:**

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit's wisdom and understanding as you study Philippians 3 and 4.
2. Read Philippians 3 and 4 in a modern translation (NASV or NIV). Make notes on what this passage says about joy.
3. Examine your own heart. Is your joy from the Lord or is it dependent on circumstances? What positive steps do you need to take to grow in this area?
4. Read over the lesson objective and goals.
5. Decide whether you will use these or formulate your own. Consider your students' needs.
6. Study Dr. Scott's notes.
7. Answer the questions for meditation and application.
8. Organize an outline of the lesson content you wish to teach.
9. Plan visual aids, object lessons, or discussion to involve your students.
10. Formulate your lesson plan (how you will teach the lesson).
11. Be sure all materials and equipment needed are properly located and ready for use at class time.

**Class Procedure:**

1. Open with a prayer of thanksgiving for fellowship with other believers in joy and suffering.
2. Begin by posing the following questions to the class. (You could have cartoons on the overhead projector illustrating these situations.) "How would (or do) you react when:
  - a. You're late for work and the car won't start?
  - b. It's time for the big vacation you've been planning and the kids get sick?
  - c. You get all your groceries in the cart and discover you left your checkbook at home?" (You might need to change these questions depending on the age group and circumstances of your students.)
3. If students answer honestly, most would react in anger, disgust, aggravation, etc. Ask why they would react in these ways. (Plans were upset, others might get angry with them, and personal inconvenience was caused.)
4. Ask how many would like to be able to face life's daily situations and still maintain an inner peace and joy. Use Dr. Scott's basic outline (or your own) as a basis for discussion of this subject.
5. Discuss the source of true joy and why it is better to have it in the Lord rather than in the flesh.
6. Describe "human" (flesh) joy.
7. Discuss the meaning of "knowing Christ" and how it relates to joy.
8. Discuss the significance of fellowship and attaining joy.
9. List Paul's practical helps for being joyful (4:4-20).
10. Talk about anxiety as a hindrance to joy. What is the antidote for anxiety?
11. Discuss Philippians 4:8. Comment on each adjective: true, honorable, etc.
12. What is the secret of contentment?
13. This is a day and age where people are constantly searching for inner peace and joy in all the wrong places. Christians are not immune from this either. Allow time for class members to comment in this regard or to review the principles learned in this lesson.
14. Close with prayer for spiritual strength and discipline to always be joyful in the Lord.

**Assignment:** Read Colossians 1-3:4. Study Dr. Scott's notes and answer the application questions.

## LESSON SEVEN

**Lesson Objective:** To show how the understanding of the means of our salvation had to await Christ's coming and finishing the work foretold by the Old Testament.

### **Lesson Goals:**

1. To see how the mystery of Christ was revealed in the Colossian believers.
2. To note Paul's role in bringing the gospel to the Colossians.
3. To study the threat to the gospel in Colossae and Paul's solution to this threat.

### **Teacher Preparation:**

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you prepare this week's lesson. Take time to pray for each of your students individually. Pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare each heart to respond in obedience to this lesson.
2. Read Colossians 1 and 2 in at least two different translations.
3. Write down any questions that come to mind as you read: You might also refer to Matthew Henry's commentary on the Bible.
4. Familiarize yourself with the historical background and context for the writing of Colossians. See Dr. Scott's notes and for more detail, Eerdman's Handbook To The Bible.
5. What was the main issue which Paul was addressing in this letter? Compare it to our situation today.
6. Study Dr. Scott's notes. Underline or make notes as you read.
7. Answer the questions for meditation and application.
8. Decide on your lesson goals. What do you want your students to learn and do as a result of this lesson?
9. Formulate an outline of the lesson content you wish to teach.
10. Decide how you will teach the lesson. How can you most effectively communicate these truths to your students?
11. Gather all materials and equipment needed and be sure all are ready for use at class time.

### **Class Procedure:**

1. Open with prayer thanking God for bringing us salvation in Christ.
2. Introduce the study by going over the historical background and context for the writing of this book.
3. Note the similarities and differences to Paul's other letters. (See Dr. Scott's introduction.)
4. Review the meaning of the term "mystery" of Christ.
5. Have the class list and comment on the three evidences of the "mystery" revealed in the Colossians.
6. Discuss Paul's strategy in spreading the gospel. How does this compare with the work our church is doing?
7. Note the two parts of Paul's prayer. Discuss each part.
8. Look carefully at Paul's testimony concerning his ministry to the Gentiles.



9. What was the threat to the gospel in Colossae? List the three major threats and elaborate on each.
10. What is the solution to these threats? (Note Paul's final exhortations.)
11. Have class members recall periods in history where the church has undergone similar threats. What has happened?
12. How can we avoid this happening in our church? List specific positive steps.
13. Close with a time of prayer for the "purity and peace" of the church.

**Assignment:** Read Colossians 3:5-4:18. Study Dr. Scott's notes and answer the questions.

## LESSON EIGHT

**Lesson Objective:** To show that in Christ all relationships and purposes are new for the believer.

**Lesson Goals:**

1. To study God's expectations for the believer's attitude and conduct in the church, home and on the job.
2. To understand how to "redeem the time" and be an effective steward of what God has given us.
3. To study Paul's salutations and get a clearer picture of his circumstances and work.

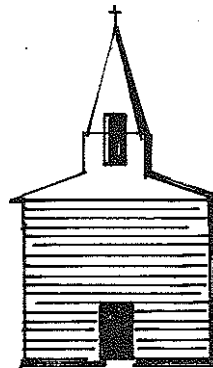
**Teacher Preparation:**

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit's illumination and wisdom as you study this week's Scripture passage. Pray that your students will be challenged to please God in all areas of life. Ask God to make this lesson effective in your life.
2. Read Colossians 3:5-4:18 in at least two different translations.
3. Read the lesson objective and goals.
4. Decide what you will want to focus on in this lesson. Consider your students' needs.
5. Go back through the Scripture passage and make notes of key points pertaining to each goal. How is God speaking to your heart?
6. Study Dr. Scott's notes. Underline or make notes as you read.
7. Answer the questions for meditation and application. What areas in your life need changing?
8. Construct an outline of the lesson content you wish to teach.
9. How can you make this lesson applicable in your students' lives? Plan effective ways to involve your students in this lesson.
10. Gather all materials and equipment needed and be sure all are ready for use at class time.

**Class Procedure:**

1. Open with prayer for willing hearts to respond in obedience to God's Word.
2. Briefly go over Dr, Scott's introduction.
3. Have the class open their Bibles to Colossians 3 and 4.
4. Share your lesson goals with the class.
5. You could use an overhead projector to aid in your discussion.
6. Show a transparency that illustrates the areas of life the study will include:

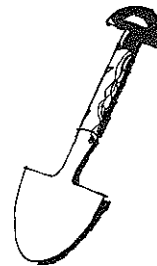
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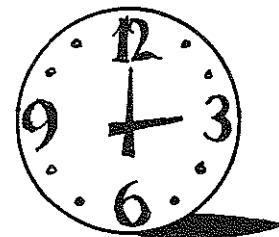
(church)



(home)



(job)



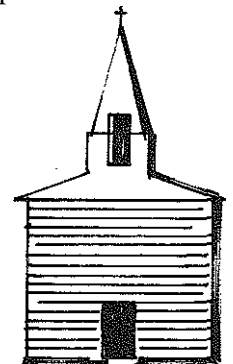
(use of time)

7. Have a separate transparency for each subject and record God's principles for each area on the appropriate transparency. Add input from class members.

Example:

(church)  
Help and encourage one another.

Worship often together.



8. Use Dr. Scott's notes as the basis for your discussion. Encourage class members to take notes.

9. You may wish to spend a little less time in the areas of home and job since those were recently covered in detail. Let class members give a review of these subjects.
10. When you get to the subject of time, you might want to contrast God's view with our society's current attitudes toward leisure and pleasure. Where should a Christian draw the line? Should we never recreate or have time for ourselves?
11. Briefly go over Paul's conclusion. (See Dr. Scott's notes.)
12. Close with prayer for each other in these all-important areas of life.

**Assignment:** Read I Thessalonians 1 and 2. Study Dr. Scott's notes and answer the questions for meditation and application.

## LESSON NINE

**Lesson Objective:** To show the great impact of Paul's brief ministry (three weeks) on the church in Thessalonica.

**Lesson Goals:**

1. To look at the testimony of the Thessalonians' lives.
2. To study Paul's ministry among the Thessalonians.
3. To study the way in which the Thessalonians received God's Word.

**Lesson Preparation:**

1. Pray for guidance and wisdom as you prepare this week's lesson.
2. Read I Thessalonians 1 and 2 in a modern translation (ESV or NIV).
3. Decide on your lesson goals.
4. What do you want your students to learn and do as a result of this Scripture study?
5. Go back through the Scripture passage and make notes on key points, new thoughts, and questions.
6. Answer the questions for meditation and application.
7. Study Dr. Scott's notes. Underline or make notes as you read.
8. Organize an outline of the lesson content you wish to teach. Keep your goals and your students' needs in mind.
9. Plan how you can effectively involve your students in this lesson.
10. Be sure all materials and equipment needed are properly located and ready for use at class time.

**Class Procedure:**

1. Open with prayer that all may receive God's Word as

the Thessalonians did.

2. Go over the historical background and context for the writing of this book.
3. Have the class open their Bibles to the first two chapters of I Thessalonians.
4. Discuss the testimony of the Thessalonians' lives. Be sure to note Paul's description of their faith, hope and love.
5. How is their example in these areas a challenge to us?
6. Move on to discuss Paul's ministry among the Thessalonians. Use the chalkboard or overhead projector to list the main "ingredients" of Paul's ministry and how we should apply these as we witness for Christ.
7. Note Paul's avoidance of flattery, covetousness and self-glorification. Elaborate on these temptations and what their effect could be on a ministry.
8. Discuss the way in which the Thessalonians received God's Word. (See Dr. Scott's notes.) How is this an example for us today?
9. Conclude your discussion by going over Paul's desire to return to them and the background of that situation.
10. Go over the questions for meditation and application.
11. Invite class members to share what this lesson has meant to them personally. What would they particularly like to follow upon in their own lives? Be prepared to start the sharing.
12. Close with prayer for each class member your church as a whole to carry on an effective ministry as Paul did.

**Assignment:** Read I Thessalonians 3:1-4:18. Study Dr. Scott's notes and answer the application questions.

## LESSON TEN

**Lesson Objective:** To show the challenge of the present life for believers and the hope that awaits those who die in Christ.

**Lesson Goals:**

1. To study Paul's concern for and comfort to the Thessalonians.
2. To study Paul's exhortations concerning sanctification.
3. To learn how to live Christ-like in the face of the world.
4. To be encouraged regarding our hope for Christians who have died and for ourselves when we die.

**Teacher Preparation:**

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you prepare this week's lesson.
2. Pray for each of your students individually. Remember

their special needs before the Lord.

3. Read the lesson objective and goals. Pray that these might be accomplished in the lives of your students.
4. Read I Thessalonians 3:1-4:12 in a modern translation (ESV or NIV).
5. In light of your goals, make notes as you read on key points, new thoughts, or questions that come to mind.
6. Answer the questions for meditation and application.
7. Study Dr. Scott's notes.
8. If you still have unanswered questions, consult your pastor or an elder.
9. Organize an outline of the lesson content you wish to teach.
10. Plan how you will involve your students: visual aids, role-play, discussion, and small group study.
11. Gather all materials and equipment needed and be sure all are ready for use at class time.

#### **Class Procedure:**

1. Open with a prayer of thanksgiving for the hope we have in Christ for this life and the life to come.
2. Briefly go over Dr. Scott's introduction.
3. If class size allows, divide your students into two small groups to complete this study. Assign each group the following:

#### **Group One:**

- a. Read I Thessalonians 3:1-4:12.
- b. Why did Paul send Timothy to the Thessalonians?
- c. What report did Timothy bring back to Paul?
- d. Define "sanctification."
- e. List Paul's exhortations concerning their sanctification.
- f. Why does Paul put such strong emphasis on their abounding in love?
- g. How is hard work important in maintaining a Christian witness in the world? Explain.

#### **Group Two:**

- a. Read I Thessalonians 4:13-18.
  - b. Why does Paul write concerning the death of Christians?
  - c. Contrast the view of death for the Christian and the unbeliever. (Give some illustrations from Scripture. See Dr. Scott's notes.)
  - d. Relate Christ's death and resurrection to our hope.
  - e. Describe the Last Day in terms of the dead in Christ and those who are alive at His return.
  - f. How are these truths a comfort to us?
4. Bring the class back together so that each group can share their questions and answers.
  5. Close with a time of conversational prayer. Ask for grace to live godly lives and express your eager hope

for life after death, in Christ.

**Assignment:** Read I Thessalonians 5. Study Dr. Scott's notes and answer the application questions.

## **LESSON ELEVEN**

**Lesson Objective:** To consider how believers ought to expect and be ready for the return of Christ.

#### **Lesson Goals:**

1. To understand how to maintain an attitude of watchfulness and sobriety concerning Christ's return.
2. To study the importance of respecting the leadership in the church and ministering to others in the church.
3. To understand how to be ready through prayer and faith and trust in the Lord.

#### **Teacher Preparation:**

1. Pray for Christ's return. Pray that you would be ready for His second coming. Pray for your students to be ready for Christ's return.
2. Read the lesson objective and goals.
3. Read I Thessalonians 5 in a modern translation (NASV or NIV). Make notes on how Paul says to be ready for Christ's return.
4. Study Dr. Scott's notes. Underline or make notes as you read.
5. Write down any questions that come to mind as you study.
6. Consult your pastor or an elder for clarification on your questions.
7. Organize an outline of the lesson content you wish to teach.
8. Plan how you will involve your students.
9. Gather all materials and equipment needed and be sure all are ready for use at class time.

#### **Class Procedure:**

1. Open with prayer that we all might be ready for Christ's return.
2. Briefly review Dr. Scott's introduction.
3. Ask the class how many would be truly ready if Jesus Christ would return right now. Although we might be ready as far as our assurance of salvation goes, most of us would want to tie up some loose ends: witness to that neighbor, visit that shut-in, be reconciled with a relative, be a better parent, etc. (You could use illustrations on an overhead projector here.)
4. Paul gives us very specific instructions on how to be ready for Christ's return. Have the class open their Bibles to I Thessalonians 5.

5. Discuss what the class knows about the time of the Lord's return. What does it mean to be watchful or "awake?"
6. Describe what Paul means by sobriety. Not drunk?
7. Name the two primary ways Paul tells us to be ready concerning our relationships in the church. Discuss each of these in detail. (See Dr. Scott's notes.)
8. Discuss how prayer helps us to be ready for Christ's return.
9. Discuss what it means to pray without ceasing.
10. Talk about why it is important to remember that only God can preserve us to the end.
11. Briefly go over Paul's closing remarks.
12. Discuss the application questions.
13. Give class members time to ask any further questions they may have.
14. Close with a time of prayer. Ask Christ to come quickly. Pray for ready hearts. Thank God for His patience and long-suffering.

**Assignment:** Read II Thessalonians 1-3. Study Dr. Scott's notes and answer the questions for meditation and application.

## LESSON TWELVE

**Lesson Objective:** To make believers aware of the opposition from the world which they can expect until Christ returns.

**Lesson Goals:**

1. To study Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians.
2. To be prepared for the coming of the "Lawless One" and his evil works.
3. To study Paul's call to steadfastness in the face of an evil and uncertain world.
4. To study Paul's admonitions to the disorderly.

**Teacher Preparation:**

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit's illumination as you study II Thessalonians.
2. Read the lesson objective and goals.
3. Pray that these might be accomplished in the lives of your students so that they would be able to live effectively for Christ until he returns. Pray for each student individually.
4. Read II Thessalonians in a modern translation (NASV or NIV). Write down any questions you have as you read.
5. Carefully study Dr. Scott's notes.
6. If you still have unanswered questions, consult your pastor or an elder.
7. Answer the questions for meditation and application.

8. Plan to use Dr. Scott's outline for your lesson content. Underline or make notes of key points or new thoughts you will want to bring out.
9. Plan discussion questions and visual aids to involve your students.
10. Gather all materials and equipment needed and be sure all are ready for use at class time.

**Class Procedure:**

1. Open with prayer for godly living in the midst of this world until Christ returns.
2. Go over Dr. Scott's introduction.
3. Have the class name the two major parts of Paul's prayer.
4. Discuss why Paul doesn't mention the Thessalonians' hope.
5. Describe the judgment scene as Paul elaborates on it.
6. List Paul's petitions for the Thessalonians.
7. Cover what the Thessalonians' error was in regard to the time of Christ's return and their service to the Kingdom.
8. Why does Paul bring up the 'Lawless One?' Describe the nature of the Lawless One. Has he come yet?
9. Discuss the works of the Lawless One. How does God's sovereignty relate to the appearance (coming) of the Lawless One?
10. Discuss how the world will be implicated in the guilt of the Lawless One. Is it possible to be neutral?
11. Discuss how it is possible to have any assurance in the face of such things to come.
12. Discuss how it is possible to remain steadfast. Why is it important to do so?
13. Discuss how Paul dealt with the disorderly in the Thessalonian church.
14. Describe the problem and Paul's solution.
15. Go over the application questions and allow time for any further questions or comments.
16. Close with a time of conversational prayer. Thank God for His return for us. Pray for steadfast lives in the meantime. "Even so, Lord, quickly come."

## LESSON THIRTEEN

**Part I: What Do You Remember?**

Below, we have given the answers to the questions with reasons for our answers, where necessary.

1. True, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians have been so-called.
2. True
3. True
4. False, it pertains to the salvation of the Gentiles and

Jews who believe, through the life and death of Jesus Christ, and His resurrection from the dead.

5. False
6. True
7. True
8. True
9. True
10. False
11. True
12. True
13. True
14. True
15. False, He planned their salvation from before He created heaven and earth.
16. True
17. True
18. True
19. False, though he taught that true unity is not the same as visible unity.
20. False, the apostles were listed first.
21. True
22. True
23. True
24. False, he taught that it was difficult.
25. True
26. True
27. True
28. False, he taught that we can and do grieve the Spirit when we are not led by Him through His Word.
29. True
30. False
31. True
32. True
33. False, he taught them to serve those masters as serving Christ.
34. False, he was speaking of his own times.
35. True
36. True
37. True
38. True
39. False, he saw it as an occasion to serve Christ.
40. False, he counted that as good, because Christ was being preached.
41. True
42. True
43. True
44. True
45. False, he was sure about himself until he met Christ.
46. False, he was pressing on toward that perfection to which God, in Christ, had called him.
47. True
48. False, he taught that we should live as citizens of heaven in this sinful world.
49. False, he mentions it only once.
50. False, only what God has willed for us to do.
51. False, it was in Asia Minor.
52. True
53. True
54. True
55. True
56. True
57. False, we cannot know for certain that he ever visited there.
58. True
59. True
60. False, he encouraged them to serve the Lord in the state in which they found themselves when saved.
61. False, it was the responsibility of employers to give just wages.
62. True
63. False, he delivered it.
64. True
65. True
66. True
67. True
68. True
69. True
70. False, he was very pleased with their strong faith.
71. False, he assured them of the reliability of what he had preached among them.
72. False
73. True
74. True
75. True
76. True
77. True
78. False, he taught that they must stand negatively to the world in which they lived.
79. True
80. False, he taught every Christian to bear his own responsibilities.
81. True
82. False, throughout the Old Testament are many allusions to the believers' hope after death.
83. True
84. False, the dead in Christ will be raised first to meet Christ in the air.
85. True
86. False
87. True
88. True
89. False, there is only accord between the two teachings.
90. True
91. True
92. True
93. True
94. True
95. True

- 96. False, he is very blunt about the end for all unbelievers.
- 97. False, he shows that they will get worse and worse in the world until Christ comes.
- 98. True
- 99. True

100. True

**Part II:**

We suggest that this part of the lesson can be read by all and discussed as time allows.