

Studies in Christianity Christian Living #9

S#1.

Walking with God

S#2.

Text : **Psa. #1 ; II Cor. 6: 11-7:1**

A. Our last lesson showed us that Jesus is the central theme of the whole bible. S#3.

1. God's plan to save mankind is eternal.
2. Jesus is also eternal.
 - a. God's plan to save the world through Jesus was formulated before creation.
I Pet. 1: 20 – For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you **21** who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
 - b. Jesus has always been part of the eternal Godhead. **He did not begin at birth**,
John 1: 1– In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **S#4.**
 the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (Cf – **Col. 1: 15-17**)
14 – the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
3. The advent of Jesus was the fulfillment of many prophecies. S#5.

B. Thus, our last two lessons have taught us :

1. The bible reveals God to mankind.
2. The bible reveals God's eternal plan to mankind.

C. This lesson will demonstrate how one's relationship to God's word is directly correlated to his relationship with God Himself. S#6.

1. Christians are warned to avoid evil companions.
2. Christians strive to become more like God.
3. Walking with God requires commonness with God.

S#7.

I. The scriptures are replete with instructions to avoid close contact with the world.

A. We are most familiar with the most direct admonition in the N.T. S#8.

I Cor. 15: 33 – Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."
34 Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

S#9.

B. The N. T. also warns us about forming ongoing relationships with outsiders.

1. Christians must never be “bound” together with unbelievers.

II Cor. 6: 14 – Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership **S#10.** have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15** Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? **16** Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God;

2. Many try to limit this verse to marrying an unbeliever, BUT it involved much more.

- a. It does include marriage ... “believer in common with an unbeliever”
- b. It includes ALL areas of commonness .. “what fellowship has light with darkness?”
- c. Business partnerships ... “partnership have righteousness and lawlessness”

3. God is here emphasizing a high degree of separateness from non-Christians.

II Cor. 6: 17 – “Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate.” says **S#11.** the Lord. “And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you **18** and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.

- a. Notice this involves a physical separation, an action ... “come out”
- b. Relationship depends upon it ... “I will welcome you and I will be a father to you”

4. In the Revelation of John God’s people we told to flee for two reasons.

Rev. 18: 4 – I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my **S#12.** people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; **5** for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

- a. To avoid being lead to sin ... “so that you will not participate in her”
- b. To escape impending punishment .. “so that you will not ... receive of her plagues”

5. The commanded separation is not complete isolation from the world.

I Cor. 5: 9 – I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; **S#13.** **10** I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. **11** But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a one.

- a. Jesus prayed that we would survive in the world not be removed from it. **S#14.** **John 17: 15** – I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. **16** “ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
- b. To live in the world we must have interaction with believer – not a monastic life.
- c. There is a significant difference between **associate** and **fellowship** or **partnership**.

C. Fellowship, partnership and binding together leads to assimilation / imitation.

1. There is an old saying, *“One who lives with cripples learns to limp.”*
2. I knew a dog trainer who had a limp.
His dog limped when with him, so they were going to disqualify him from competing. He had someone else work the dog and he did not limp. He won the competition.
3. Glenda is from the same general area of the south where I am from within 100 miles. My wife complains that 5 min after I’m with her I have the same southern accent.
4. We are ALL susceptible to the influence of others.
5. God warns us to limit our exposure to evil or negative influences.
6. We are to be more strict about the Christians we fellowship,
because they more easily influence us.
7. Christians who tend to view denomination as Christians pick up their values.

II. Christians strive to become like God.**S#15.****A. One cannot work toward become like an unknown; any unknown.****S#16.**

1. An assignment given by an art teacher in an American school :
 - a. *The most beautiful tree I ever was in a village in Brazil. Paint that tree to scale.*
 - b. The assignment is an impossible because none of the American student saw it.
 - c. With a picture or an good description they might paint a reasonable facsimile of it.
2. Man has the ability to create and to invent, but not to duplicate what he has not seen.
 - a. Ancient men created gods that were very different, but which represented God.
 - b. There forms were often strange, but all represented power beyond man.
 - c. The form of the created gods were compilations of experience and imagination.

B. Through Abraham, God began to communicate Himself to man.**S#17.**

1. Before the flood God spoke to men, but did not appear to them.
2. In the time of Abraham, God sent angels in the form of men.
 - a. **Gen. 15: 1ff** ... After defeat of the five kings and meeting w/ king of Sodom
 - b. **Gen. 18** ... Angels warn of the destruction of Sodom and promise of son.
3. God communicated with the descendants of Abraham in dreams and visions.
III – Gen. 28: 12 ... *Jacob saw angels going up and down a ladder into Heaven.*
4. How does one learn what God showed to or said to these men ? *Reading the record !*

C. God revealed Himself to Moses as to no one other than Jesus.**S#18.**

1. God himself said Moses had a unique relationship with Him.
 - a. **Exod. 33: 11** – Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend.
 - b. **Num. 12: 8** – With him I speak mouth to mouth, even openly, and not in dark sayings, and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?" **S#19.**
 - c. **Deut. 34: 10** – Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face,
2. Jesus was the prophet foretold to replace Moses as the revealer of God.
 - a. God told Moses He would raise up a prophet to speak for Him. **S#20.**
Deut. 18: 18 – 'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.'
 - b. The Apostle Peter said that prophet was Jesus.
Acts 3: 19-24 – Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; **20** and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, **21** whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. **22** "Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet **S#22.** like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed to everything He says to you. **23** And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' **24** "And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days.
3. How does one learn what this great prophet gave us to obey ? *Read His writings !*

D. Man can duplicate anything for which he has a blueprint.**S#23.**

1. People who build anything work from detailed blueprints.
 - a. The largest and tallest buildings have blueprints for every section.
 - 1) Dimensions of each story, room, beam, column is specified.
 - 2) The size of the steel bars and how they are to be bent is given.
 - 3) The drawing is adjusted for the size and character of the building, but basically...
 - b. Like buildings, every machine is created from a blueprint, even toys.
2. The bible is the blueprint from which we are able to create God within us.
 - a. The scriptures teach us how God thinks about whatever we encounter in life.
 - b. The scriptures teach us how God responds to the things that people do and say.

III. As one becomes more like God, he is more able to walk with God.**S#24.****A. One of the most joy-filled verses in the scriptures.****S#25.**

1. **Gen. 5: 24** – Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.
2. God receives those who develop a close relationship with Him.

B. One does not have to be sinless to walk with God.**S#26.**

1. Noah got drunk soon after disembarking the ark, but it is said he walked with God.
Gen. 6: 9 – These are the records of the generations of Noah.
Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.
2. How can it be that Noah was called righteous ?
 - a. **Rom. 3: 10** – There is none righteous, not even one
23 – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

C. Noah distinguished himself from the world around him.**S#27.**

1. Noah lived in a time of great evil.
Gen. 6:5 – Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
2. Noah lived differently from the society around him.
Gen. 6:8 – But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

D. Notice the most significant observation which God made.

1. **Gen. 6:5** – Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. **S#28.**
2. God is primarily concerned with the hearts of man. **S#29.**
I Cor. 4: 5 – Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.
3. All sin originates in one's heart. **S#30.**
Matt. 15:19 – For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. **20** These are the things which defile the man;
4. Thus, God is not just examining the fruit, but he also examines the tree from which the fruit falls.
Matt. 7:18 – A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. **19** " Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

CONCLUSION :**A. So what has our lesson taught us ?****S#31.**

1. Christians must avoid their exposure to the evil of this world.
 - a. We can't avoid it 100% , **BUT** we must not attach ourselves to it.
 - b. This would include any close or long-term relationship. (*marriage, business, etc.*)
2. In order to become like God we must learn about Him.
 - a. One cannot reproduce God in his own heart without studying the blue print.
 - b. The **ONLY** blue print to God is the bible so we must study God in His book.
3. In order to walk with God one must be going where God is going.
 - a. **Amos 3: 3** – Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? (NKJV)
 - b. In order to be the companion of God one must conform his heart to God's.

B. God knows that our vessels of clay are defective so He looks past them to hearts

1. Therefore, our challenge is to transform our hearts by renewing our value system.

Rom. 12: 1 – Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present **S#32.** your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
2. How can we do this ? **S#33.**
 - a. Surround yourself with people who have the same goal ... to be like Jesus.
 - b. We become what we think about all day. So “ **dwell on**” .. **Phil. 4: 8**
 - c. Program your mind by prayer, meditation and immersion in our hand book/bible.

INVITATION :**S#34.** ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**II Corinthians 6: 11-7: 1**

11 Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide. **12** You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections. **13** Now in a like exchange — I speak as to children — open wide to us also.

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15** Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? **16** Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. **17** Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,” says the Lord. “And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you **18** and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.

7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Psalms #1

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! **2** But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. **3** He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.

4 The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away. **5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.