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HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

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HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

INCLUDING THE BEST TEXTS TO USE
IN DEALING WITH DIFFERENT CLASSES
OF PEOPLE, AND HOW TO USE THEM

By

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HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE.

There is great profit in Bible study, but not all Bible study is equally profitable. The Bible is a gold mine but many do not know how to get the gold out of the mine. A few simple suggestions that any one of ordinary intelligence can follow will show how to get the gold out of this exhaustless mine:

I. Study your Bible daily. (Acts 17: 11.)

Regularity in eating is of the highest importance for our physical health. It is of even greater importance for our spiritual health. Many a life that has been barren and unsatisfactory has become rich and useful through the introduction into it of regular, persevering, daily study of the Bible. This study may not be very interesting at first, the results may not seem encouraging, but, if one will keep persistently at it, it will soon begin to count as nothing else has ever counted in the development of character and in the enrichment of the whole life. Set apart at least fifteen minutes of each day for Bible study. Have some regular time that you hold sacred for that purpose. Choose a time when the mind is clearest. The best time of all is when you first arise in the morning. The poorest time is just before you go to bed. And the next poorest is just after eating a heavy meal. The way to get time is to take it. When men are digging for gold, everything else has to give place to the digging. When you study your Bible, you are digging for gold, and everything else should give way for Bible study. If possible, when you study lock yourself in with God alone.

II. Study systematically.

That is the way Jesus studied His Bible. (Luke 24: 27.) System pays in business, in domestic work, in education, everywhere. There is no place where it pays more richly than in Bible study. Don't read your Bible at random. Have a plan of study and a place where you are studying. A poor plan is better than none at all, so have an intelligent plan.

III. Study the Bible comprehensively. (Luke 24: 27.)

Do not confine your study to any single part of the Bible. The whole Bible is the Word of God, therefore the whole Bible should be studied. Men become insufferable cranks by confining their Bible study to single books or to a narrow circle of topics. Settle it in your own mind that you will study the whole Bible and have a comprehensive grasp of all that God has revealed.

IV. Study the Bible consecutively.

Begin at the beginning and go in order through to the end. This is the way that Jesus studied and taught the Bible. "Beginning at Moses (the first five books of the Bible) and all the prophets (the books that followed) He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." One should begin at Genesis and go right through the Bible. This is not the only way to study the Bible, as we shall see later, but it is an important way and all should pursue it. It is the only way to cover the whole Bible. It is well to begin at the first chapter of Genesis and go through the Bible chapter by chapter, asking yourself nine questions on each chapter and writing down the answers.

(1) What is the principal subject of this chapter? (State the principal contents of the chapter in a single phrase or sentence.)

(2) Who are the principal persons of this chapter?

(3) What is the truth most emphasized in this chapter?

(4) What is the best lesson in this chapter?

(5) What is the best verse in this chapter?

(6) What is the most notable fact in this chapter?

(7) What mistakes to be avoided are suggested by this chapter?

(8) What actions to be imitated are suggested by this chapter?

(9) What does this chapter teach about Jesus Christ?

At the rate of two chapters a day the whole Bible can be covered in about two years. Another good plan for consecutive Bible study is to study a chapter in the Old Testament, a chapter in the New Testament and a Psalm each day. The Scofield Reference Bible will prove of inestimable value in this consecutive study of the Bible. If one will begin at Genesis and go right through the Bible chapter by chapter, reading the introductions to the books carefully, noting the chapter divisions and studying the notes and principal references, by the time he is through the Bible he will have a wonderful grasp of Bible truth as a whole.

V. Study the Bible comparatively.

Compare Scripture with Scripture. Nothing explains Scripture like Scripture. There is not a difficult passage in the Bible that is not cleared up by some other passage in the Bible. The best help for this comparative study of Scripture is

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"The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge." The references in the "Scofield Reference Bible" will also be found of great help. They are radically different from and far better than the references found in any ordinary Bible.

VI. Study the Bible topically.

Jesus studied and taught the Bible in that way. (Luke 24: 27.) So did Paul. (Acts 17: 2, 3.) Take some great topic and go through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, searching out all that the Bible has to say on that topic. In this way, you will learn more on that subject than you will in any other way. It may be important to know what the great men have to say on important subjects—it is far more important to know what God has to say on these subjects. It is also important to know all God has to say. The only way to know what God has to say on any subject is to go through the Bible on that subject. The topical method of Bible study is the simplest, most fascinating, and yields the largest immediate results. It was Mr. Moody's favorite method of Bible study. But it is not the only method of Bible study, and the one who pursues it exclusively will miss much of the blessing God has for him in Bible study. The way to study the Bible topically is to take a topical text book and turn to the subject you are studying, look up one after another the passages given and study them carefully and see just what their teaching is. Sometimes it will be necessary to look up other subjects that are closely related to the one in hand. For example, you wish to study what the teaching of God's Word is regarding the Atonement. In this case, you will not only look up the passages under the head "atonement" but also under the head "blood," under the head "death of Christ," "sacrifice of Christ," etc. A concordance is also often helpful in topical study. For example, if you are studying the subject of "prayer," you can look up in the concordance passages that contain the words "pray," "prayer," "cry," "ask," "call," "supplication," "intercession," etc. The Scofield Reference Bible takes up the great topics treated in the Bible in the order in which the passages occur in the Bible, giving the first place in which the topic is mentioned, and then by the references giving the next passage, and then another, and summarizing all the passages and teachings at the close. (For index of summaries see pp. 1361, 1362.) In my book "WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES" I have given the results of years of topical study of the Bible. There are four important suggestions to make regarding topical study of the Bible.

1. *Be systematic.*

Do not take up subjects for study at random. Have a carefully prepared list of subjects you wish to know about, and take them up one by one in logical order.

2. *Be thorough.*

When you take up a subject do not be content to study a few passages on this subject, but find, just as far as possible, every passage in the Bible on this subject.

3. *Be exact.*

Find the exact meaning of each passage given in the text book, or Reference Bible, on any subject. In the first place, note the exact words used; in the second place, get the exact meaning of the words used. This is done by finding out how the word is used in the Bible, by looking up the various passages where it is used. In the third place, notice the context, what comes before and what comes after. Lastly, see if there are any parallel passages. The meaning of many of the most difficult passages in the Bible is made perfectly plain by some other passage that throws light upon them. Many of the most important parallel passages are given in the margin of the Scofield Reference Bible, but one also needs "The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge," an exhaustive compendium of parallel passages.

(4) *Arrange the results of your topical study in an orderly way and write them down.*

One should constantly use pen and paper in Bible study. When you have gone through the text book on any subject, you will have a large amount of material but you will need to get it into usable shape. Take, for example, the subject "Faith." Passages might be classified as follows:

A. What is faith?

- a. Meaning of faith in general.
- b. Meaning of faith when used in connection with prayer.
- c. Meaning of faith when used in connection with God.
- d. Meaning of faith when used in connection with Jesus Christ.

B. Saving faith.

- a. The character of saving faith, or how we must believe in order to be saved.
- b. The contents of saving faith, or what we must believe in order to be saved.

C. How faith is manifested.

D. The results of faith.

E. How to get faith.

F. The relation of faith and repentance to each other.

Here are some topics that every Christian should study and study as soon as possible:

GOD.

(His nature; unity; eternity; omnipresence; personality; omnipotence; omniscience; holiness; love; justice; mercy; faithfulness.)

JESUS CHRIST.

(His deity; subordination to the Father; humanity; character; death; resurrection; ascension; coming again.)

THE HOLY SPIRIT.

(His personality; deity; distinction from the Father and from the Son; subordination to the Father and the Son; His names and their significance; His work; the baptism with the Spirit; His work in prophets and Apostles; His work in Jesus Christ.)

MAN.

(His original condition; fall; present standing before God; present condition; future destiny out of Christ; justification; new birth; adoption; sanctification; repentance; faith; love to God; love to Christ; love to man; prayer; thanksgiving; worship; assurance; future destiny of believers.)

ANGELS.

(Their nature; position; number; abode; work.)

SATAN.

(His existence; nature; position; character; abode; work; destiny; our duty toward him.)

VII. Study the Bible attentively.

Pay attention to what you read. Most people read their Bibles with their eyes shut, they do not really see what it says. They do not see simply because they do not pay attention. There is no magic value in the Bible. It only helps by the truth it contains, and to see the truth you must look steadily at it and look sharply. The Psalmist pronounces that man blessed who *meditates* in the Word of God day and night. (Ps. 1: 1, 2.) Don't hurry. Hurry is one of the greatest enemies to profitable study in any line, but it is particularly the enemy of profitable Bible study. Think long and deeply about what you read. Do not set so many chapters for daily study, but so much time for daily study. Sometimes you can go rapidly; oftentimes you need to go slowly. One verse thoroughly digested is better than many chapters simply skimmed. Weigh each word. Turn it over and over in your mind. Meditate; mark; memorize. (Ps. 119: 11.) Do not memorize like a parrot. Master the verse and then memorize it. Memorize by chapter and verse. Memorize passages of Scripture connected in thought in a systematic way (*e. g.*, the passages in "The Best Texts to use in Dealing with different Classes of People" in the order given).

VIII. Study a passage repeatedly.

Read the same book over and over at a single sitting. Read "consecutively, repeatedly, independently, prayerfully." Read the same chapter over again and again. Read the same verse over again and again. It is wonderful how some verses open up with new depths of meaning as you go over them again and again.

IX. Study the Bible by chapters.

This method of Bible study is not above any person of average intelligence who has fifteen or more minutes a day to put into Bible study. It will take, however, more than one day for the study of a chapter.

1. Select the chapters you wish to study. Oftentimes it is well to take a whole book and study the chapters in their order. The Acts of the Apostles or the Gospel of John is a good book to begin with.
2. Read the chapter for to-day's study five times. Read it aloud at least once.
3. Divide the chapter into its natural divisions and find headings to describe those divisions in a most striking way. The 12th chapter of Revelation in the Scofield Reference Bible gives a fine illustration of chapter division.
4. Note the important differences between the Authorized Version and the Revised.
5. Write down the leading facts of the chapter in their proper order.
6. Make a note of the persons mentioned in the chapter and of any light thrown upon their character.
7. Note the principal lessons of the chapter. Classify these lessons. For example, Lessons about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, etc.
8. The central truth of the chapter.
9. The key verse of the chapter if there is one.
10. The best verse in the chapter—mark it and memorize it.
11. Note the verses that are usable as texts for sermons, or talks, or Bible readings. Make an analysis of the thought of these verses.
12. Note subjects for further study. In the Scofield Reference Bible these will be suggested by the marginal references.
13. Words and phrases for further study. For example in John 3, "eternal life," "born again," "water," "believeth," and "the kingdom of God."
14. Write down what new truth you have learned from the chapter.
15. What truth already known has come to you with new power?
16. What definite thing have you resolved to do as the result of studying this chapter?
17. What mistake or sin of your life have you resolved to give up?

X. Study the Bible as the Word of God.

(I Thess. 2: 13.)

The Bible is the Word of God and we get the most good out of any book by studying it as what it really is. We should study the Bible as we do any other book in the sense that we should apply the same grammatical laws and laws of literary construction and interpretation as we do all other books; but we should study the Bible as we do no other book, for it is an entirely unique book. It alone is the Word

of God. Studying the Bible as the Word of God involves five things:

1. A greater eagerness and more careful and candid study to find out just what it teaches than is bestowed on any other or all other books. The one all-important thing is that we know the mind of God and here it is revealed.

2. Believing everything it says.

3. Relying absolutely upon all its promises in all their length and breadth and depth and height.

4. Obeying promptly, exactly, unquestioningly, and joyously every command that it is evident from the context applies to you. Be always on the lookout for new orders from your King. Fullness of blessing lies in the direction of obedience to them. God's commandments are only sign boards that mark the road to present success and blessedness and to eternal glory hereafter.

5. Studying it as God's own voice speaking directly to you. When you open the Bible to study it, realize that you have come into the very presence of God and that now He is going to speak to you. Study it as in God's very presence. Every hour thus spent in Bible study will be an hour's walk and talk with God. "When we pray we talk to God; when we study the

Bible God talks to us. Better let God do most of the talking." Have you never said, "I wish God would come and talk to me as He did in the olden days to Abraham and others"? He will any hour of the day or night. Open your Bible and see God standing right there and saying to you what the Bible says. One of the greatest secrets of understanding the truth taught in the Bible is absolute surrender to the will of God. (John 7: 17.)

XI. Study the Bible prayerfully.

Nothing opens the Bible like prayer. Nothing opens our eyes to see what is in the Bible like prayer. (Ps. 119: 18.) The Holy Spirit is the great Interpreter (John 16: 12, 13), and He comes in answer to prayer. It is our privilege to have the greatest of Bible teachers by our side every time we open our Bibles to study them. The great secret of profitable Bible study is found in four words—*study in the Spirit*. It is well to often study the Bible on your knees.

XII. Improve spare moments in Bible study.

Carry a pocket Testament or pocket Bible with you and never let a moment run to waste.

THE BEST TEXTS TO USE IN DEALING WITH DIFFERENT CLASSES OF PEOPLE AND HOW TO USE THEM.

I. HOW TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO HAVE A REAL DESIRE TO BE SAVED.

1. Show them Jesus as the One who has borne all their sins in their place on the cross.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Is. 53: 6.

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Gal. 3: 13.

"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. II Cor. 5: 21.

"Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." I Pet. 2: 24.

"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith

in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rom. 3: 21-26.

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die, but God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement." Rom. 5: 6-11.

2. Show them Jesus as a risen Saviour, able to save to the uttermost.

"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7: 25.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." Matt. 28: 18.

"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." Jude 24.

"And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins." Matt. 1: 21.

"Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." Rom. 7: 20, 21, 23-25.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Is. 41: 10, 13.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4: 13.

3. Show them Jesus as their Lord.

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." Acts 2: 36.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10: 9.

4. Show them how to make Jesus their own.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1: 12.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3: 16.

"To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." Acts 10: 43.

"And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Acts 13: 39.

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16: 31.

"Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? Who hath told it from that time? Have not I the Lord? And there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is

none beside me. *Look unto Me*, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else." Is. 45: 21, 22.

5. Show the need of confessing Christ with the mouth.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom. 10: 9, 10.

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10: 32, 33.

6. Lead them into assurance that their sins are forgiven, and that they have eternal life.

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Acts 13: 38, 39.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3: 36.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, HATH everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5: 24.

7. Give them directions as to how to live the Christian life.

Any young convert who will observe the following instructions will never backslide but grow in grace every day.

(1) Keep looking at Jesus.

When troubled about your sins, look at Jesus on the cross and know that *there* every one of your sins was settled forever. (Gal. 3: 13.) When tempted to sin, look at Jesus at the right hand of the Father and trust Him to give you victory. (Heb. 7: 25; Jude 24.) When perplexed as to what to do, look at Jesus as He lived on earth and follow in His steps. Follow no man—Jesus only. (I John 2: 6.)

(2) Confess Christ every opportunity you get.

The more you make of Jesus the more He will make of you. (Matt. 10: 32, 33.)

(3) Study the Bible at least fifteen minutes every day. (I Pet. 2: 2; Ps. 119: 11.)

(Read HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE, p. 3, for instructions as to how to study it.)

(4) Take plenty of time for prayer. (I Thess. 5: 17; Is. 40: 31.)

Pray the first thing in the morning when you get up. Ask God to guide you,

help you and give you victory over every temptation during the day. Get victory for the day before you leave your room. Pray the last thing every night before you retire for the night. Ask God to show you if there has been anything wrong in your life that day, anything that is displeasing in His sight. Wait in silence before Him for Him to do so. If He shows you anything, confess it at once and know that He forgives it because He says so. (I John 1: 9.) If you do this you can never backslide for more than twenty-four hours. Pray every time you are tempted. Pray every time you are moved to pray. (I Thess. 5: 17.) Pray when you feel like it. Pray when you don't feel like it.

(5) Surrender your will absolutely to God and obey Him in all things. (Acts 5: 32; John 7: 17.)

(6) Go to work to bring others to Christ and keep working for Christ. (Matt. 4: 19; Acts 8: 4; John 15: 16; Matt. 25: 14-30.)

Begin to-day. Try to bring some one else to Christ every day. If you are bringing the world to Christ, the world will not draw you back into sin.

(7) Be a constant and generous giver. (II Cor. 9: 6-8; Mal. 3: 10.)

II. HOW TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO HAVE LITTLE OR NO CONCERN ABOUT THEIR SOULS.

This is the largest class of men and women that we meet, and oftentimes even when we think that men already have a real desire to be saved, it is best not to be too sure, but deal with them at first as if they had little or no concern about their souls.

1. Show him that he is a great sinner before God.

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." Matt. 22: 37, 38.

(Ask him if he has kept this first and greatest of God's commandments, and show him that if he has not, that having broken the first and greatest of God's commandments, he has committed the greatest sin that a man can commit.)

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Rom. 14: 12.

"Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." Amos 4: 12.

"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my Gospel." Rom. 2: 16.

"If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquity, O Lord, who shall stand?" Ps. 130: 3.

2. Show him the awful consequences of sin.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6: 23.

"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Is. 57: 20, 21.

"Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." John 8: 34.

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Rom. 6: 16.

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them."

3. Show him the awfulness of unbelief in Jesus Christ.

"He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." John 3: 18, 19.

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2: 36, 37.

"And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on Me." John 16: 8, 9.

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." John 10: 28, 29.

4. Show him the awful consequences of unbelief.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Heb. 11: 6.

"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." John 8: 24.

"Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go ye cannot come." John 8: 21.

"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord.

and from the glory of His power." II Thess. 1: 7-9.

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whore-mongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Rev. 21: 8.

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Rev. 20: 15.

5. Show him that all one has to do to be lost is simply to neglect the salvation that is offered in Christ.

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." Heb. 2: 3.

"For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people." Acts 3: 22, 23.

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware, therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you." Acts 13: 38-41.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3: 36.

6. Show him the wonderful love of God. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3: 16.

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed." Is. 53: 5.

"And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22: 44. "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Matt. 27: 46.

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Gal. 3: 13.

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5: 6, 8.

"Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God." Rom. 2: 4, 5.

7. If he will not let you talk with him for any length of time, just give him Rom. 6: 23, or Mark 16: 16; or John 3: 36; or Is. 57: 21; or Heb. 10: 28, 29.

III. HOW TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO HAVE DIFFICULTIES.

1. "I am too great a sinner."

(1) *General Treatment.*

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." I Tim. 2: 15.

"But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, they that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matt. 9: 12, 13.

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5: 6-8.

(2) *Special Cases.*

a. The man who says, "I am lost."

"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19: 10.

b. Murderers.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Is. 1: 18.

"Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness." Ps. 51: 14.

"I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." Ps. 32: 5.

(3) *General Remarks.*

a. Never give false comfort by telling the inquirer, "You are not a very great sinner."

b. After meeting the specific difficulty, show the inquirer how to be saved. (See 1.)

2. "My heart is too hard."

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6: 37.

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of

flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." Ezek. 36: 26, 37.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 6: 17.

3. "I must become better before I become a Christian."

"But when Jesus heard that, He said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matt. 9: 12, 13. (Luke 15: 18-24; 18: 10-14.)

4. "I cannot hold out." "Or, I am afraid I shall fail if I try."

(1) *General Treatment.*

"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." Jude 24.

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." I Pet. 1: 5.

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." II Tim. 1: 12.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed: for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Is. 41: 10.

"For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Is. 41: 13.

"And I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand." John 10: 28, 29.

"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come to God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7: 25.

(2) *Special cases.*

a. Those afraid of some temptation that will prove too strong.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Cor. 10: 13.

b. Those who dwell upon their weakness. "And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest

upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." II Cor. 12: 9, 10.

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Is. 40: 29-31.

5. "I cannot give up my evil ways."

(1) *You must or perish.*

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6: 23.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6: 7, 8.

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Rev. 21: 8.

(2) *You can in the strength of Jesus Christ.*

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4: 13.

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8: 36.

(3) *Show the risen Christ with all power in heaven and in earth as the Deliverer from the power of sin.*

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures: And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." I Cor. 15: 1-4.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." Matt. 28: 18.

"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7: 25.

(4) *Show them how to get victory over sin.*

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Rom. 6: 12-14.

6. "I have tried before and failed."

(1) *Say to such a man, "I can show you how to try and not fail."*

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having in all things, may abound to every good work." II Cor. 9: 8.

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." I Pet. 1: 5.

(2) *Find out the cause of failure.*

a. *Did you put all your trust for pardon in the finished work of Christ?*

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Is. 53: 6.

"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Rom. 4: 5.

b. *Did you surrender absolutely to God?* (Acts 5: 32.)

c. *Did you confess Christ openly before men?* (Matt. 10: 32, 33; Rom. 10: 9, 10.)

d. *Did you study the Word of God daily?* (Ps. 119: 11; I Pet. 2: 2.)

e. *Did you look each day to God alone and not at all to self for strength and victory?* (Is. 40: 29; II Cor. 12: 9; I Pet. 5: 5.)

f. *Did you pray constantly?* (I Thess. 5: 17; Is. 40: 29-31; Heb. 4: 16.)

g. *Did you go to work for Christ?* (Matt. 25: 14-29.)

7. "The Christian life is too hard."

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt. 11: 30.

"Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace." Prov. 3: 17.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not grievous." I John 5: 3.

"Whom not having seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." I Pet. 1: 8.

"Good understanding giveth favor; but the way of transgressors is hard." Prov. 13: 15.

"There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Is. 57: 21.

8. "There is too much to give up."

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8: 36.

"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." Ps. 84: 11.

"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Rom. 8: 32.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes,

and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." I John 2: 15-17.

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." Phil. 3: 7, 8. (See also Luke 12: 16-21.)

9. "I cannot be a Christian in my business." Or, "It will hurt my business," or "I will lose my position."

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8: 36.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6: 33.

"And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." Mark 10: 29, 30.

10. "I will lose my friends."

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever, therefore, will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." Jas. 4: 4.

"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." Prov. 13: 20.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD: and in His law doth he meditate day and night." Ps. 1: 1, 2.

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ." I John 1: 3. (See also Mark 10: 29, 30.)

11. "I am afraid of ridicule."

"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe." Prov. 29: 25.

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." Mark 8: 38.

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for

great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matt. 5: 11, 12.

12. "I will be persecuted if I become a Christian."

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." II Tim. 3: 12.

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us." II Tim. 2: 12.

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Rom. 8: 18.

"But our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." II Cor. 4: 17, 18.

"And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name." Acts 5: 40, 41.

"For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps." I Pet. 2: 20, 21.

13. "I have no feeling."

(1) *It is not a question of feeling but believing.*

"And this is His commandment. That we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment." I John 3: 23.

"Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him Whom He hath sent." John 6: 29.

(2) *What feeling are you waiting for?*

a. *The joy and peace that Christians tell about.*

Show them that this joy and peace are the result of accepting Christ, confessing Him, and thus receiving the Holy Spirit.

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10: 32, 33.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith" (Gal. 5: 22.)

"In Whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." Eph. 1: 13.

"And we are His witnesses of these things; and so also is the Holy Ghost whom God hath given to them that obey Him." Acts 5: 32.

"Whom not having seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." I Pet. 1: 8.

b. *"Sorrow for sin."*

(a) *Show the passages already given to produce conviction of sin.* (See II, 1, p. 8.)

(b) *Show them that it is not sorrow for sin but turning away from sin and accepting Christ that God demands.*

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Is. 55: 7.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1: 12.

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16: 31.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2: 38.

14. "I have been seeking Christ but cannot find Him."

"And ye shall seek me, and shall find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jer. 29: 13.

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19: 10.

(See also Luke 15: 3-10.)

(Sometimes the best thing to do is to say, "If you are earnestly seeking Christ, let me show you how to find Him." Then deal with the inquirer in the way described in I.)

15. "Christians are so inconsistent."

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Rom. 14: 12.

(See also Rom. 2: 1-5; Matt. 7: 1-5.)

16. "There is some one I cannot forgive."

(1) *You must forgive or perish.*

"But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matt. 6: 15. (See also Matt. 18: 21-35.)

(2) *The wrong they have done you is nothing to the wrong you have done Jesus Christ.*

"And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph. 4: 32.

(Use also Matt. 18: 23-35.)

(3) *You can forgive in Christ's strength.*

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4: 13.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness,

faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Gal. 5: 22, 23.

17. "A professed Christian has done me a great wrong."

(1) *That is no reason why you should wrong Christ. Has He wronged you?*

"Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in ME, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?" Jer. 2: 5.

(2) *The fact that a professed Christian has done you a great injury is no reason why you should do yourself a greater injury by refusing Christ and losing eternal life and being lost forever.*

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3: 36.

"And you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power." II Thess. 1: 7-9.

18. "I have done a great wrong and will have to make it right and cannot."

(1) *Tell the inquirer to take Christ first and then to seek His guidance and strength in setting the wrong right.*

(2) *Make it very plain that the only thing God requires of the sinner is to accept Christ and all other points must be left until that point has been settled.*

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3: 36.

"To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." Acts 10: 43.

(3) *Show them that if there is any wrong to be made right, Christ will give them strength to make it right.*

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4: 13.

19. "I have sinned away the day of grace."

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6: 37.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10: 13. (II Chron. 33: 1-13 is useful as showing the extent to which one could go and yet how God will receive him unto Himself.)

20. "It is too late."

"All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." John 6: 37.

"When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD

thy God, and shalt be obedient unto His voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God) He will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which He swore unto them." Deut. 4: 30, 31.

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Pet. 3: 9.

"And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22: 17. (See also Luke 23: 39-43.)

21. "I have committed the unpardonable sin."

(1) *Show just what the unpardonable sin is. (Matt. 12: 31, 32.)*

(2) *Having shown what the unpardonable sin is and that the inquirer has not committed it use John 6: 37.*

22. Those who stumble over Heb. 6: 4-6.

(1) *Show him first of all that this passage is addressed to Hebrew Christians who are in danger of apostatizing, renouncing Christ and going back to Judaism. Then ask him if this describes his case.*

(2) *Show that it does not describe a person who has merely fallen into sin but one who has fallen away, that is, has apostatized and deliberately renounced Christ.*

(3) *Show him that the difficulty is not that God is not willing to receive such an one back but that "it is impossible to renew them again unto repentance," that is, that their hearts are utterly hardened and they have no desire to come to Christ.*

(4) *Show by the case of Peter that one who has been a follower of Christ may fall into deep sin, and yet be restored and become more useful than ever. (Luke 22: 31, 34; Mark 14: 66-72; John 21: 15-19.)*

(5) *Use John 6: 37.*

23. Those who stumble over Heb. 10: 26, 27.

Explain that the word "wilfully" means deliberately and of stubborn choice. It does not describe a man who in weakness falls into sin, even though it is known sin, but a man who with his whole heart leaves obedience to God and the service of Christ, and throws himself with all his soul into sin. Ask him if this describes his case. Finally use John 6: 37.

24. "God seems to me unjust and cruel."

"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?" Rom. 9: 20.

"O the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" Rom. 11: 33.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Is. 55: 8, 9.

"Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct Him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it." Job 40: 2.

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" Heb. 12: 5-7.

"For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees." Heb. 12: 10-12.

"In all their affliction, He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old." Is. 63: 9.

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." II Cor. 4: 17, 18.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3: 16.

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed." Is. 53: 5.

25. "There are so many things in the Bible that I cannot understand."

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Cor. 2: 14.

"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." I Cor. 13: 11, 12.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!" Rom. 11: 33.

"If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." John 7: 17.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1: 5.

IV. HOW TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO ENTER-TAIN FALSE HOPES.

1. The hope of being saved by a righteous life.

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." Gal. 2: 16.

"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Rom. 3: 19, 20.

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them." Gal. 3: 10.

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2: 10.

"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5: 20.

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." Matt. 22: 37, 38.

"And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Luke 16: 15.

"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my Gospel." Rom. 2: 16.

"But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." I Sam. 16: 7.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Heb. 11: 6.

"Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him Whom He hath sent." John 6: 29.

"Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke 18: 10-14.

"I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42: 5, 6.

2. God is too good to damn any one.

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God." Rom. 2: 4, 5.

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?" II Pet. 3: 9-11.

"And ye will not come to Me that ye might have life." John 5: 40.

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Ezek. 33: 11.

"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; and spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah unto ashes condemned them with an overflow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly, The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." II Pet. 2: 4-6, 9.

"Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed,

into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels: and these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Matt. 25: 41, 46.

"He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." John 3: 18, 19.

"I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13: 3.

3. The hope of being saved by "trying to be a Christian."

(1) *Show them it is trusting and not trying that saves.* (Is. 12: 2; Acts 16: 31; Rom. 3: 23-26; Rom. 4: 3-5.)

4. "I feel saved," or "I feel I am going to heaven."

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Who can know it?" Jer. 17: 9.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14: 12.

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." Titus 1: 2.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3: 36. (Luke 18: 9-14.)

5. The hope of being saved by a mere profession of religion or by a religion that does not save from sin and lead to repentance.

"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." Titus 1: 16.

"Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7: 21, 22, 23.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3: 3-5.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in

him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." I John 3: 9.

"If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." I John 2: 29.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5: 17.

"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but *faith which worketh by love.*" Gal. 5: 6.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe *in thine heart* that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For *with the heart* man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom. 10: 9, 10.

"What doth it profit, my brethren, if a man say he hath faith, but have not works? can that faith save him?" Jas. 2: 14 R. V.

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" I John 5: 4, 5.

V. HOW TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO LACK ASSURANCE.

It is not enough that a man be saved. To be of the most use to God, he must know he is saved, and no small part of our work as personal workers will be to lead into assurance of salvation men and women who do not know as yet that they are saved.

1. Those who lack assurance because of ignorance.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, *that ye may know* that ye have eternal life." I John 5: 13.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1: 12.

"He that believeth on the Son HATH everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3: 36.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, HATH everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5: 24.

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I John 5: 12.

"And by Him *all that believe* are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Acts 13: 39.

2. Those who stumble over the fact that they have not the witness of the Spirit.

(1) *Show them that the witness of the Word to their acceptance is sufficient.*

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; *because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son.*" I John 5: 10.

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I John 5: 12.

(2) *Show them that after we believe the testimony of the Word, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.*

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also *after that ye believed*, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." Eph. 1: 13.

(3) *Show them that the natural order in assurance is this:*

a. Assurance of our justification resting upon the naked Word of God (Acts 13: 39); b. public confession of Christ with the mouth (Rom. 10: 10) and c. the witness of the Spirit. (Eph. 1: 13; Rom. 8: 16.)

3. Those who lack assurance because of sin.

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: *he that followeth Me* shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8: 12.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Is. 55: 7.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Prov. 28: 13.

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. *When I kept silence*, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, *I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD*; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." Ps. 32: 1-5.

VI. HOW TO DEAL WITH BACKSLIDERS.

1. Careless backsliders. Those who have no desire to come back to the Saviour.

"Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?" Jer. 2: 5.

"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." Jer 2: 13.

"Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove

thee; know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts." Jer. 2: 19.

"The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways; and a good man shall be satisfied from himself." Prov. 14: 14.

"And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice." I Kings 11: 9.

"I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning; yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel; and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." Amos 4: 11, 12.

2. Backsliders who are sick of their wandering and sin and desire to come back to the Lord.

"Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you; for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD. Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God." Jer. 3: 12, 13, 22.

"O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto Him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the works of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in Thee the fatherless findeth mercy. I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him." Hos. 14: 1-4.

"But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel. Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities. I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions, for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." Is. 43: 22, 24, 25.

"He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand? Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and as a cloud, thy sins:

return unto me; for I have redeemed thee." Is. 44: 20-22.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jer. 29: 11-13.

"And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find Him, if thou seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, *even in the latter days*, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shall be obedient unto His voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) He will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them." Deut. 4: 28-31.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chron. 7: 14.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1: 9.

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world." I John 2: 1, 2.

"But go your way, tell His disciples *and Peter* that He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him, as He said unto you." Mark 16: 7. (II Chron. 15: 4; 33: 1-9, 12, 13; Luke 15: 11-21.)

When the backslider returns to Christ, he should always be given instructions as to how to live so as not to backslide again. (See I, 7.)

VII. HOW TO DEAL WITH SKEPTICS AND INFIDELS.

1. Skeptics who are mere triflers.

"For the preaching of the cross is *to them that perish* foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Cor. 1: 18.

"But if our gospel be hid, it is *hid to them that are lost*: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." II Cor. 4: 3, 4.

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know

them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Cor. 2: 14.

"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power." II Thess. 1: 7-9.

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16: 16.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3: 36.

2. Earnest-minded skeptics.

(1) Ask four preliminary questions: What cannot you believe? Why cannot you believe? Do you live up to what you do believe? What do you believe?

(2) Use the following Scriptures:

"If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." John 7: 17.

"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name." John 20: 31.

(3) Set him to promise to read the Gospel of John, and have him carefully note especially the following verses: (1: 32-34; 3: 2; 3: 3; 3: 16; 3: 18, 19; 3: 32; 3: 34; 3: 36; 4: 10; 4: 14; 4: 23; 4: 34; 4: 52, 53; 5: 8, 9; 5: 22-24; 5: 28, 29; 5: 40; 5: 44; 6: 8-14; 6: 19; 6: 27; 6: 29; 6: 35; 6: 40; 6: 66-68; 7: 17; 7: 37-39; 7: 45, 46; 8: 12; 8: 18; 8: 21; 8: 24; 8: 31, 32; 8: 34; 8: 36; 8: 38; 8: 42; 8: 47; 9: 17; 9: 24, 25; 9: 35-39; 10: 9; 10: 11; 10: 27-29; 10: 30; 11: 25, 26; 11: 43-45; 12: 26; 12: 32; 12: 35, 36; 12: 42, 43; 12: 46; 12: 48-50; 13: 3; 13: 13; 14: 3; 14: 6; 14: 9; 14: 15, 16; 14: 21; 14: 24; 14: 27; 15: 5; 15: 7; 15: 9-11; 15: 18, 19; 15: 23-26; 16: 3; 16: 7-11; 16: 13, 14; 16: 24; 17: 3; 17: 5; 17: 12; 17: 14; 17: 22; 17: 24; 17: 25, 26; 18: 37; 19: 6; 19: 7, 8; 20: 13-19; 20: 24, 25; 20: 27-29; 20: 31; 21: 24).

3. Special classes of skeptics.

(1) Those who doubt the existence of God.

"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Rom. 1: 19-22.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge." Ps. 19: 1, 2.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." Ps. 14: 1.

"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power." II Thess. 1: 7-9.

(2) Those who doubt that the Bible is the Word of God.

"Making the Word of God of none effect." Mark 7: 13.

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matt. 5: 18.

"If he called them gods, unto whom the Word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken." John 10: 35.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Matt. 24: 35.

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14: 26.

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come." John 16: 12, 13.

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." I Thess. 2: 13.

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." II Pet. 1: 21.

"He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." John 8: 47.

"For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." Rom. 3: 3, 4.

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar,

because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son." I John 5: 10.

"And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Luke 16: 30, 31.

(3) *Those who doubt the divinity of Christ.*

a. Show him that we find several divine titles applied to Christ, the same titles applied to Christ in the New Testament as are applied to Jehovah in the Old. (Acts 10: 36; I Cor. 2: 8 cf.; Ps. 24: 8-10; Heb. 1: 8; John 20: 28; Rom. 9: 5; Rev. 1: 17 cf.; Is. 44: 6.)

b. Show him that offices are ascribed to Christ that only God can fill. (Heb. 1: 3, 10.)

c. Show him that the Bible expressly declares that Jesus Christ should be worshipped as God. (Heb. 1: 6; Phil. 2: 13; John 5: 22, 23; cf. Rev. 5: 13.)

d. Show him that Jesus claimed the same honor for Himself as for His Father. (John 5: 22, 23; Mark 14: 61, 62.)

e. Show him that the Bible says that the one who denies the divinity of Christ, no matter who he may be, is a liar and an antichrist. (I John 2: 22, 23; 5: 1, 5; 5: 10-12.)

f. Make it clear to the inquirer that God regards it as a matter of awful folly and guilt, deserving the severest punishment, to reject Christ as the Son of God. (Heb. 10: 28, 29. Follow this up with John 8: 24; John 20: 31.)

(4) *Those who doubt the doctrine of future punishment, or the conscious, endless suffering of the lost.* (As a rule, it is not wise to discuss this difficulty with one who is not an out and out Christian.)

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Rev. 21: 8.

"The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." Rev. 17: 8.

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet, that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." Rev. 19: 20. Compare:

"And the Devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Rev. 20: 10.

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt. 10: 28.

"But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him." Luke 12: 5.

"Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation." Mark 3: 28, 29.

"The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born." Mark 14: 21.

"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." II Pet. 2: 4.

"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Jude 6.

"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace." Heb. 10: 28, 29.

"Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels." Matt. 25: 41.

VIII. HOW TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO WISH TO PUT OFF A DECISION UNTIL SOME OTHER TIME.

i. "I want to wait," or "Not to-night," or "I will think about it," or "I will come to-morrow night."

"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near." Is. 55: 6.

"Boast not thyself of to-morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Prov. 27: 1.

"He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Prov. 29: 1.

"And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not." Matt. 25: 10-12.

"And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this

night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Luke 12: 19, 20.

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24: 44.

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word." I Kings 18: 21.

"Go to now, ye that say, To-day or to-morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4: 13, 14.

"Because there is wrath, beware lest he take thee away with his stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee." Job. 36: 18. (See also Luke 13: 24-28.)

"Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go ye cannot come." John 8: 21.

"Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth." John 12: 35.

"Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto Him that sent me. Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come." John 7: 33, 34.

2. "I must get fixed in business first, then I will become a Christian."

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6: 33.

3. "I am waiting for God's time."

"For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation." II Cor. 6: 2.

"While it is said, To-day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation." Heb. 3: 15.

4. "I am too young to be a Christian," or "I want to wait until I am older."

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." Eccle. 12: 1.

"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 19: 14.

"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 18: 3.

(It is oftentimes wise in dealing with persons who wish to put off a decision to give them the passages for those who have little or no concern about their salvation.)

IX. HOW TO DEAL WITH THE DELUDED.

1. Roman Catholics.

"And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Acts 13: 39.

"In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." Eph. 1: 7.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." John 3: 3-5, 7.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5: 17.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." II Pet. 1: 4.

"For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." Ezek. 36: 24-27.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. . . . We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. . . . But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" I John 3: 9, 14, 17.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1: 12.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of

God, which liveth and abideth for ever." I Pet. 1: 23.

"Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3: 19.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Is. 55: 7.

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." I Tim. 2: 5.

(Show the necessity of Bible study. John 5: 39; I Pet. 2: 1; II Tim. 3: 13-17; Jas. 1: 21, 22; Ps. 1: 1, 2; Josh. 1: 8; Mark 7: 7, 8, 13; Matt. 22: 29. These texts, except the one in I Pet. 1: 1, 2, are the same in the Douay Bible as they are in the Protestant Bible.)

2. Jews.

Use Isaiah 53 entire chapter.

"And after threescore and two weeks shall *Messiah be cut off*, but not for Himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined." Dan. 9: 26.

"And I will pour out upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born." Zech. 12: 10.

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been of old, from everlasting." Micah 5: 2.

(The whole book of Hebrews is excellent to use with the Jew.)

3. Spiritualists.

"So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it. And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse." I Chron. 10: 13, 14.

"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Is. 8: 19, 20.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out

into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." I John 4: 1-3.

"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them: that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." II Thess. 2: 9-12.

"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God." Lev. 19: 31.

"And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people." Lev. 20: 6.

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee." Deut. 18: 10-12.

"Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzi-bah. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. . . . And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD to provoke Him to anger." II Kings 21: 1, 2, 6.

4. Christian Scientists.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: And this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." I John 4: 1-3.

"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be

made the righteousness of God in Him." II Cor. 5: 21.

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Gal. 3: 13.

"Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." I Pet. 2: 24.

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and *without shedding of blood is no remission.*" Heb. 9: 22.

"Many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name *done many wonderful works?* And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7: 22, 23.

"And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is *after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.*" II Thess. 2: 8, 9.

"And no marvel; for *Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.* Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." II Cor. 11: 14, 15.

X. HOW TO DEAL WITH CHRISTIANS WHO NEED COUNSEL, REBUKE, ENCOURAGEMENT OR COMFORT.

1. Christians who are neglecting the open confession of Christ.

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10: 32, 33.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom. 10: 9, 10.

"Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." John 12: 42, 43.

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." Mark 8: 38.

2. Christians who are neglecting the Bible.

"As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby." I Pet. 2: 2.

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Acts 10: 32.

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls, but be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." Jas. 1: 21, 22.

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the *holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation* through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Tim. 3: 13-17.

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." Eph. 6: 17.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. . . . Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee. . . . The entrance of Thy Word giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Ps. 119: 9, 11, 130.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and *in His law doth he meditate day and night.*" Ps. 1: 1, 2.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for *then* thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Josh. 1: 8.

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and *searched the Scriptures daily*, whether those things were so." Acts 17: 11.

3. Christians who are neglecting prayer.

"Ye lust and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, *because ye ask not.*" Jas. 4: 2.

"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or, if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? or, if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye, then,

being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" Luke 11: 9-13.

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing Psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit." Jas. 5: 13-18.

"And He said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." Luke 22: 46.

"Evening and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice." Ps. 55: 17.

"And in the morning rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Mark 1: 35.

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being opened in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." Dan. 6: 10.

"And when He had sent them away, He departed into a mountain to pray." Mark 6: 46.

"And it came to pass in those days that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Luke 6: 12.

"Pray without ceasing." I Thess. 5: 17.

"And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not faint." Luke 18: 1.

4. Christians who are leading careless lives.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my

sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." II Cor. 6: 14-7: 1.

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matt. 6: 24.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." I John 2: 15-17.

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded." Jas. 4: 4, 6-8.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12: 14.

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." I Pet. 1: 13-19.

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" I Pet. 4: 17, 18.

"And they which fell among thorns are they which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with the cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection." Luke 8: 14.

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Luke 21: 34-36.

"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants." Luke 12: 35-38.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Rom. 12: 1, 2.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." I Tim. 4: 7, 8.

5. Christians who are not working for Christ.

"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word." Acts 8: 4.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lay in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Eph. 4: 14-16.

"But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, *redeeming the time*, because the days are

evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph. 5: 14-20.

"And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel." Mark 5: 20.

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and *they that turn many to righteousness* as the stars forever and ever." Dan. 12: 3.

"And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22: 12. (Mark 13: 34-37.)

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matt. 24: 44-51. (See also Matt. 25: 14-30.)

6. Christians who are undergoing temptation.

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations: knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Jas. 1: 2-4.

"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." Jas. 1: 12.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." I Pet. 5: 8-10.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be

tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Cor. 10: 13.

"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then am I strong." II Cor. 12: 9, 10.

"Pray without ceasing." I Thess. 5: 17. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4: 13.

"I have written unto you, fathers, because you have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." I John 2: 14.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy Word." Ps. 119: 9.

"He giveth power to the faint; and to him that hath no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Is. 40: 29-31.

7. Christians who are undergoing persecution.

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matt. 5: 10-12.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified." I Pet. 4: 12-14.

"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." I Pet. 4: 16.

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth; who when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed

Himself to Him that judgeth righteously." I Pet. 2: 21-23.

"For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." I Pet. 3: 17, 18.

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." II Tim. 3: 12.

"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." Acts 14: 22.

"And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." Acts 5: 40-42.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." Heb. 12: 1-4.

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the Devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. 2: 10.

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12: 32.

8. Christians who are passing through affliction.

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? . . . Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Heb. 12: 5-7, 11.

"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away. re-

served in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." I Pet. 1: 4-7.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." I Pet. 5: 6, 7.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof." Ps. 46: 1-3.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Ps. 23: 4.

"And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Ps. 50: 15.

"The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles." Ps. 34: 17.

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in His tabernacle sacrifices of joy: I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD. . . . I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." Ps. 27: 1-6, 13, 14.

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11: 28, 29.

9. Christians who have lost loved ones.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My

Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14: 1-3.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14: 27.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." John 13: 7.

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." Ps. 46: 10.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." Rev. 14: 13.

"And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." II Sam. 12: 22, 23.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." I Thess. 4: 13-18.

"Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." II Cor. 5: 6-8.

"For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better." Phil. 1: 23.

"It is sown in dishonor: it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. . . . For this corruptible must put on incorruption,

and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I Cor. 15: 43, 44, 45, 53-58.

10. Christians who have not received the Holy Spirit.

"This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" Gal. 3: 2.

"Then Peter said unto them, *Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*" Acts 2: 38.

"And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him." Acts 5: 32.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him." Luke 11: 13.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2: 1-4.

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brethren." Acts 1: 14.

"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the Word of God with boldness." Acts 4: 31.

"Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: For as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." Acts 8: 15, 16.

"Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11: 24.

"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: and if we

know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." I John 5: 14, 15.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Gal. 5: 22, 23.

"And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of Me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. . . . But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1: 4, 5, 8.

11. Christians who do not have victory in their Christian life.

(1) *Because they have not learned to rest absolutely in the finished work of Christ for pardon and for peace.*

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Is. 53: 6.

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Gal. 3: 13.

"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." II Cor. 5: 21.

"Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 5: 1.

"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Rom. 4: 5.

"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rom. 3: 21-26.

"And he found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." Phil. 3: 9.

(2) *Because they have not surrendered absolutely to the will of God.*

"And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost,

whom God hath given to them that obey Him." Acts 5: 32.

"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but *yield yourselves to God*, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. . . . I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now *yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*" Rom. 6: 13, 19.

(3) *Because of neglect of the study of the Word.*

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby." I Pet. 2: 2.

"Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." Ps. 119: 11.

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." Eph. 6: 17.

(4) *Because of neglect of prayer.*

"Pray without ceasing." I Thess. 5: 17.

"And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation." Luke 22: 40.

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly

fall: But *they that wait upon the LORD* shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Is. 40: 29-31.

(5) *Because of failure to constantly confess Christ before men.*

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, Him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10: 32, 33.

(6) *Because of neglect to work for Christ.*

"For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." Matt. 25: 29. (Explain the meaning of this passage by the context.)

(7) *Because they have not received the Holy Spirit.*

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." Eph. 5: 18.

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. . . . But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Gal. 5: 16, 22, 23.

DEFINITION OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN.

A Christian is any man, woman or child, who comes to God as a lost sinner, accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, surrenders to Him as their

Lord and Master, confesses Him as such before the world and strives to please Him in everything day by day.

A SUGGESTED FORM FOR PERSONAL DECISION IN THE ACCEPTANCE OF JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOUR AND LORD.

God's Sure Promise.

"As many as received Him (that is, Jesus Christ), to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1: 12.

I believe God's testimony concerning Jesus Christ, namely that God laid all my iniquity upon Him (Is. 53: 6) and that He bore my sins in His own body on the cross (1 Pet. 2: 24), and that He has thus redeemed me from the curse of the law of God (which I had broken) by becoming a curse for me (Gal. 3: 13), and

I do now accept Jesus as my Sin-bearer and Saviour and believe what God tells me in His Word, namely, that all my sins are forgiven because Jesus died in my place. (Acts 13: 38, 39.)

I also believe God's further testimony concerning Jesus Christ that He is both Lord and Christ (anointed King); and I do now receive Him to be my Lord and King. (Acts 2: 36.)

I therefore yield to Him the control of all I am and all I have, my thoughts, my words, my actions. Lord Jesus, Thou art my Lord; I belong to Thee; I surrender all to Thee.

I purpose to confess Jesus as my Lord before the world, as I shall have opportunity (Rom. 10: 9, 10), and to live to please Him in all that I do each day. (Gal. 1: 10.)

I will take no man for my example, but Jesus only. (1 John 2: 6; Matt. 17: 5, 6.)

Having thus received Jesus Christ I know on the authority of God's sure Word of promise that I am a child of God (John 1: 12) and that I have everlasting life. (John 3: 36.)

SOME HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PERSONAL WORK.

I. Choose persons to deal with of your own sex.

II. Choose persons to deal with of about your own age.

III. Whenever it is possible deal with a person alone.

IV. Let your reliance be wholly on the Spirit of God and on the Word of God. Have no confidence in yourself.

V. Have the one with whom you are dealing read the passages himself.

VI. It is oftentimes well to use but a single passage of Scripture.

(Drive that passage home by iteration and re-iteration.)

VII. Always hold the person with whom you are dealing to the main point of accepting Christ.

VIII. Be courteous under all circumstances and in face of all insults.

IX. Avoid unwarranted familiarities with those with whom you deal.

X. Be dead in earnest.

XI. Never lose your temper.

XII. Never have a heated argument with one whom you would lead to Christ.

XIII. Never interrupt any one else who is dealing with a soul.

XIV. Don't be in a hurry. (It is patient, persistent, thorough work that counts.)

XV. Get the person with whom you are dealing on his knees before God.

XVI. Whenever you seem to fail in any given case, go home and pray over it and study to see why you failed. Never give a case up because of one failure.

XVII. Before parting with the one who has accepted Christ, be sure to give him definite instructions as to how to succeed in the Christian life. (See I, 7 under "How to deal with those who have a real desire to be saved, p. 7.")

XVIII. When you have led any one to Christ, follow him up and help him in the development of his Christian life.

THANKS BE UNTO GOD FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT.

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