



**Earliteen Sabbath
School Lessons**

Third Year, Fourth Quarter

*Saved
by Grace*

EARLITEEN
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

THIRD YEAR, FOURTH QUARTER

SAVED BY GRACE

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INTRODUCTION

Salvation by faith alone is a truth which is very difficult for the proud, carnal heart to accept. And it is this same pride that Satan appeals to in trying to keep mankind from seeing the glory of the gospel—Christ's atonement for man's salvation.

In this quarter, we will study this central point of salvation and at the same time see the many deceptions which can obscure this most important of all doctrines. The relationship of faith and obedience to God's law is clarified. May God bless not only the study of these lessons but also each student's personal walk with God on the way to salvation.



1

The Source of Goodness

1. How good is man? Romans 3:10-12, 23.
2. Can he ever be good in his own strength? Jeremiah 10:23.
3. Who only is good of Himself? Matthew 19:16,17.
4. Does God want people to be righteous? 2 Corinthians 13:11. How righteous? Matthew 5:48. When? Psalm 95:7, 8. For how long? John 6:51.
5. How may true goodness become a part of the human being? Hebrews 13:20, 21.

“Thus it is with the truly righteous man. He is unconscious of his goodness and piety. Religious principle has become the spring of his life and conduct, and it is just as natural for him to bear the fruits of the Spirit as for the fig tree to bear figs or for the rosebush to yield roses. His nature is so thoroughly imbued with love for God and his fellowmen that he works the works of Christ with a willing heart.” –*The Sanctified Life*, p. 13.

6. Can one be counted truly righteous through the combination of Christ’s works and human works? Philippians 3:3. Why, or why not? Ecclesiastes 7:20; Colossians 3:3, first part.

“We cannot, of ourselves, conquer the evil desires and habits that strive for the mastery.... God alone can give us the victory.... But He cannot work in us without our consent and cooperation....

“The victory is not won without much earnest prayer.... The will must be placed on the side of God’s will. You are not able, of

yourself, to bring your purposes and desires and inclinations into submission to the will of God; but if you are 'willing to be made willing,' God will accomplish the work for you...." –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p.142.

7. Where does everything come from? Colossians 1:17.

8. What is the condition of the old nature? Romans 8:7.

"The old nature, born of blood, and of the will of the flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The hereditary tendencies, the former habits, must be given up." –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 141.

9. What happens to the old nature when the new birth takes place? Romans 6:6.

10. How does this affect sin's hold on a person? Romans 8:2.

11. But what is possible? Galatians 2:18; 2 Peter 2:20.

12. What is certain? 1 John 5:18; Romans 6:7.

13. Who alone has power over sin? Colossians 1:12-14.

Thought questions

1. Is anyone without the "old nature"?
2. What makes a person want to experience the "new birth"?
3. How can one tell if he is "born again"?

2

Living Faith

1. Define “faith.” Hebrews 11:1.

“True faith is that which receives Christ as a personal Saviour. God gave His only-begotten Son, that I, by believing in Him—should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ John 3:16.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 62.

2. Who begins and ends a person’s faith? Hebrews 12:2.

3. Therefore, where does it come from? Romans 10:17.

“Faith is the gift of God, but the power to exercise it is ours. Faith is the hand by which the soul takes hold upon the divine offers of grace and mercy.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 431.

4. How does faith work? Galatians 5:6.

“Now genuine faith always works by love. When you look to Calvary it is ... to create faith in Jesus, faith that will work, purifying the soul from the slime of selfishness.” —*Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 20.

5. What is a lack of faith? Romans 14:23.

6. Why is something that is done without faith sin? Hebrews 11:6; 10:38, 39.

7. What is the difference between genuine faith and a nominal faith in Christ?

“Faith claims God’s promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequences of their sin.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 260.

8. What shows that one has this living faith? James 2:20-24.

“Faith is not feeling.... But a faithful performance of duty goes hand in hand with a right estimate of the character of God.”
–*Messages to Young People*, p. 106.

9. What does faith in God bring about? Romans 1:16.

10. What is the only way to life? Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17.

11. How will the righteous live? Galatians 2:20.



“It is not enough to believe about Christ; we must believe in Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion. But saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 261.

Thought question

Give an example of your personal faith in action.

Slavery vs. Freedom

Many verses of scripture explain the gospel message of salvation by faith alone. They show the worthlessness of trying to earn salvation or achieve it by diligently keeping the commandments. And yet obedience to the Ten Commandments, God's holy law, is necessary to enter into eternal life. Let us study an analogy made by the apostle Paul to search into the truth of salvation by faith alone.

Read Galatians 4:21-31, then answer the questions

1. Abraham is called the father of faith in the Scriptures. Why? James 2:23; Galatians 3:6; Romans 4:16.
2. He had two sons. What were their names, and who were their mothers? Genesis 16:15; 21:1, 2.
3. What was the relationship between these two women? Why did Abraham take Hagar as a wife? Genesis 16:1-3.
4. Which son was born under God's promise? Genesis 17:15, 16, 19.
5. Which of these sons was born under the exercise of faith?

"By hearkening to the voice of Sarah, and taking Hagar as his wife, Abraham failed to endure the test of his faith in God's unlimited power, and brought upon himself, and upon Sarah, much unhappiness. The Lord intended to prove the firm faith and reliance of Abraham upon the promises He had made him."
—*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 1, p. 101.

6. In giving the Ten Commandments and the earthly tabernacle at Mount Sinai and later in the building of the temple at Jerusalem, God intended for the people of all nations to see in them a representation of the heavenly realities—the plan of salvation by faith in Christ’s atonement. But Israel refused to look by faith to Heaven’s work and based its religion on salvation by ceremonies and works. What did Paul call such a religion, and what two geographic locations on earth were symbols of work righteousness? Galatians 4:24, 25.
7. By contrast, what place symbolized salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? Galatians 4:26.
8. What type of religion did Hagar, the slave and bondwoman, represent? Galatians 4:25, 27, last part.
9. What type of religion did Sarah, the lawful wife of the father of faith, represent? Galatians 4:26, 27, first part.
10. Salvation will be granted to those who accept salvation by faith. But what do they go through, and with what result? Galatians 4:29, 30.
12. What does salvation by faith in Jesus mean in reference to God’s law? James 2:17-22.



“Faith will never save you unless it is justified by works. God requires of you to be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate, laying up in store for yourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that you may lay hold on eternal life.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 159.

“Righteousness is right doing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 312.

Thought question

Why do you think that it is so important to know and believe that salvation comes totally and solely by faith in Jesus?

1. How is a lost soul saved? Ephesians 2:8, 9.
2. What did the salvation of mankind cost? 1 Peter 1:18,19.

“You must consider that you are not at your own disposal to do that which you please for your own self. You are the Lord’s property. Christ has purchased you with the price of His own blood. Your body is to be sanctified unto the Lord as a vessel unto honor. It is Christ’s purchased possession.” –*Our High Calling*, p. 41.

3. To whom does the allegiance of all mankind thus belong? 1 Corinthians 7:23.

“God has a positive ownership of every power He has committed to the human agent. By His own wisdom He makes the terms of man’s use of every gift of God. He will bless the proper use of every power put forth for His own name’s glory. The talent of speech, of memory, of property, all are to accumulate for the glory of God, to advance His kingdom. God has left us in charge of His goods in His absence. Each steward has his own special work to do in advancing God’s kingdom. Not one is excused.” –*Our High Calling*, p. 40.

4. Who gives grace? 2 Corinthians 9:8.
5. What is it? Romans 5:15; 6:14; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Ephesians 2:8.

“To learn of Christ means to receive His grace, which is His character.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 271.

6. What lesson is contained in the parable of the ten virgins? Matthew 25:1-13.

“All had lamps, that is, an outward semblance of religion; but only five of them had the inward piety. Five of them were wanting in the

oil of grace. The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit, was not abiding in their hearts....

“You must pray, believe, and obey. In your own strength you can do nothing; but in the grace of Jesus Christ, you can employ your powers in such a way as to bring the greatest good to your own soul, and the greatest blessing to the souls of others.” –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 118.

7. Is the grace of God limited in its ability to sustain a person forever? 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10.

8. What good work is God in His grace able to accomplish in one’s character? 1 Peter 5:10.

“Blessed is the soul who can say, ‘I am guilty before God: but Jesus is my advocate.... I cannot change my own character, save by partaking of the grace of Him who is all goodness, righteousness, mercy, and truth. But by beholding Him, I shall catch His spirit and be transformed into His likeness.’” –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 120.

9. What is the relationship between grace and God’s law? Romans 7:12, 13; 8:2.

10. Do God’s grace and His law work together in the Christian life? Romans 8:1-4; 6:14, 15; 3:31.

“The grace of Christ and the law of God are inseparable. In Jesus mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.... The only-begotten Son of God took upon Him the nature of man, and established His cross between earth and heaven. Through the cross, man was drawn to God, and God to man. Justice moved from its high and awful position, for at the cross justice was satisfied.” –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 349.

Thought question

Why does allegiance to God, rather than to man, elevate a person spiritually and intellectually?

The Way of Righteousness

1. How does Inspiration define man's righteousness? Isaiah 64:6; Psalm 143:2.
2. Why is this so? Romans 6:16; 5:12.

"He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. Man cannot be saved without obedience, but his works should not be of himself; Christ should work in him to will and to do of His good pleasure." –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 364.

3. Will human efforts to obey the law bring about justification, the forgiveness of past sins? Galatians 2:16.
4. How only is one justified in God's eyes? Romans 4:24, 25.

"Faith is the only condition upon which justification can be obtained, and faith includes not only belief but trust." –*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 389.

5. Why is man's righteousness insufficient for justification by God? Philippians 3:9, first part.
6. What is man's only hope of receiving the righteousness that is acceptable to God? Romans 5:8-10.
7. Is a simple desire for righteousness enough to obtain it? Galatians 2:17.
8. Who is responsible for the spiritual condition of a person's heart? Galatians 2:18.

9. What would have been unnecessary if justification could be obtained by doing the works of the law? Galatians 2:21.
10. How is one's heart prepared to receive the righteousness of Christ? Galatians 3:23, 24.

“Reign yourself up to the tribunal of God, and see as in the light of God if there is any secret sin, any iniquity, any idol you have not sacrificed. Pray, yes, pray as you have never prayed before, that you may not be deluded by Satan's devices; that you may not be given up to a heedless, careless, and vain spirit, and attend religious duties to quiet your own conscience....” –*Messages to Young People*, p. 84.

11. Speaking both spiritually and literally, what experience will a person make after he or she becomes an heir of righteousness? Galatians 2:20.

“... Human nature is ever struggling for expression, ready for contest; but he who learns of Christ is emptied of self, of pride, of love of supremacy, and there is silence in the soul. Self is yielded to the disposal of the Holy Spirit. Then we are not anxious to have the highest place. We have no ambition to crowd and elbow ourselves into notice; but we feel that our highest place is at the feet of our Saviour. We look to Jesus, waiting for His hand to lead, listening for His voice to guide.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 15.

Thought question

What does the Holy Spirit do in the process of one receiving Christ's righteousness by faith?

“Do Ye Not Hear the Law?”

1. What is the character of the moral law? Psalm 19:7; Romans 7:12.

“Without the law, men have no just conception of the purity and holiness of God or of their own guilt and uncleanness. They have no true conviction of sin and feel no need of repentance. Not seeing their lost condition as violators of God’s law, they do not realize their need of the atoning blood of Christ. The hope of salvation is accepted without a radical change of heart or reformation of life. Thus superficial conversions abound, and multitudes are joined to the church who have never been united to Christ.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 468.

2. What did Christ do for God’s law? Isaiah 42:21. How? John 15:10. Why? Psalm 40:8.
3. What is the converting power of the law?



“God has given us His holy precepts, because He loves mankind. To shield us from the results of transgression, He reveals the principles of righteousness. The law is an expression of the thought of God; when received in Christ, it becomes our thought. It lifts us above the power of natural desires and tendencies, above temptations that lead to sin. God desires us to be happy, and He gave us the precepts of the law that in obeying them we might have joy.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 308.

4. What does obedience to the Ten Commandments bring about? Matthew 19:17.
5. What does the law show? Romans 3:20. What does sin do? Isaiah 59:2.
6. Therefore, what does the law of God do for us? Galatians 3:24.

“In the life of Christ the principles of the law are made plain; and as the Holy Spirit of God touches the heart, as the light of Christ reveals to men their need of His cleansing blood and His justifying righteousness, the law is still an agent in bringing us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 308.

7. “Do we then make void the law through faith?” Romans 3:31, last part.
8. If the law of God is in one’s heart, what else will be found there? Isaiah 51:7; Psalm 37:30, 31.
9. Who is one’s righteousness? Jeremiah 23:6.
10. What standard will be used in the judgment? Romans 2:12, 13; Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14.
11. Who will be privileged to enter through the gates of the Holy City? Revelation 22:14.

“By the word and the Spirit of God are opened to men the great principles of righteousness embodied in His law. And since the law of God is ‘holy, and just, and good,’ a transcript of the divine perfection, it follows that a character formed by obedience to that law will be holy. Christ is a perfect example of such a character.... The followers of Christ are to become like Him—by the grace of God to form characters in harmony with the principles of His holy law. This is Bible sanctification.

“This work can be accomplished only through faith in Christ, by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 469.

Thought question

How is faith in Christ and obedience to Him a protection for His child?



The House of Faith

1. With what is the pathway leading to the house of faith paved? Matthew 3:2, 3; Acts 3:19.
2. Of what importance is the selection of the building site? Matthew 7:24-27.
3. Of what is the house of faith constructed? 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16; 1 Peter 2:5.
4. Who are the master builders? 1 Corinthians 3:10. Upon whom must the builders depend for their talents? Psalm 127:1.
5. What is the foundation of a sound spiritual house? 1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20, first part
6. What materials are for the flooring, a necessary part of the foundation? 2 Corinthians 7:10; Psalm 51:7-10.

“As a wise master builder, Jeremiah at the very beginning of his life work sought to encourage the men of Judah to lay the foundation of their spiritual life broad and deep, by making thorough work of repentance.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 409.

7. Who is the chief cornerstone of the spiritual house, and what are the qualities of that stone? Ephesians 2:20, last part; Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 2:6.

8. Of what is the framework of this structure made? Ephesians 2:19-22.

9. What are some of the materials to be chosen from to build one's house of faith? 1 Corinthians 3:12; 1 Peter 2:3-5.

“Long had they [men of Judah] been building with material likened by the apostle Paul to wood, hay, and stubble, and by Jeremiah himself to dross.... Now they were urged to begin building wisely and for eternity, casting aside the rubbish of apostasy and unbelief, and using as foundation material the pure gold, the refined silver, the precious stones—faith and obedience and good works—which alone are acceptable in the sight of a holy God.” —*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 409, 410.

10. What “roof” completes and protects the spiritual house? Psalm 36:7; 91:1.

11. A homeowner's insurance policy provides monetary protection against fire, theft, and natural disasters. What does the insurance plan that is provided for one's house of faith do? 1 Corinthians 3:13-15.



1. What is faith? Hebrews 11:1; Romans 8:24, 25.

“True faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption, for presumption is Satan’s counterfeit of faith.

“Faith claims God’s promises and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequences of their sin. It is not faith that claims the favor of heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 260.

2. What will be the result for those who practice faith? Hebrews 11:2; Romans 5:2.
3. What is the Christian’s understanding of creation? Hebrews 11:3; John 1:1-3.
4. What was the result of Abel’s “more excellent sacrifice”? Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 4:4.
5. How was it possible for Enoch to be translated to heaven? Hebrews 11:5; Genesis 5:21-24.
6. Who else walked with God? Genesis 6:9; 17:1.

7. Why is faith important? Hebrews 11:6; John 3:18, 36.

“In order to be prepared for the judgment, it is necessary that men should keep the law of God. That law will be the standard of character in the judgment.... Faith is essential in order to the keeping of the law of God; for ‘without faith it is impossible to please Him.’ And ‘whatsoever is not of faith is sin.’ Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:23.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 436.

8. What gave Noah the courage to obey God? Hebrews 11:7, first part.

9. What happened to him by faith? Hebrews 11:7, last part; Genesis 6:18.

10. What does it mean to be an “heir of righteousness”?

“Jesus brought to our world the accumulated treasures of God, and all who believe upon Him are adopted as His heirs. He declares that great shall be the reward of them who suffer for His name’s sake. It is written, ‘Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.’ 1 Corinthians 2:9.” –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 138.



1. What was God's first command to Abraham when He called him into service? Hebrews 11:8; Genesis 12:1-3.
2. What did the patriarch go through? Hebrews 11:9, first part; Genesis 12:4, 5, 8, 10, 20; 13:7, 12.
3. How long did Abraham's journey last? Hebrews 11:9, last part, 13.
4. What was he looking for? Hebrews 11:10; Isaiah 14:32.
5. What did God promise him? Genesis 12:2, 3. When was the promise to be fulfilled? Romans 4:13, 18, 21; Hebrews 11:16.

"Abraham himself was to share the inheritance.... The gift to Abraham and his seed included not merely the land of Canaan, but the whole earth." *—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 170.*

6. What was one test of faith for Sarah and Abraham? Hebrews 11:11, 12; Romans 4:19.
7. What was the greatest test of faith for Abraham? Hebrews 11:17-19; Genesis 22:1-13.

"The ram offered in the place of Isaac represented the Son of God, who was to be sacrificed in our stead. When man was doomed to death by transgression of the law of God, the Father, looking upon His Son, said to the sinner, 'Live: I have found a ransom.'

“It was to impress Abraham’s mind with the reality of the gospel, as well as to test his faith, that God commanded him to slay his son. The agony which he endured during the dark days of that fearful trial was permitted that he might understand from his own experience something of the greatness of the sacrifice made by the infinite God for man’s redemption.” *–Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 154.

8. For whom was righteousness through faith in Jesus intended? Romans 4:22-24.

9. What confession of faith was made by those who believed in righteousness by faith in Christ? Hebrews 11:13; Genesis 49:10.

10. Like Abraham, what do all pilgrims on the earth seek? 2 Peter 3:13; Hebrews 11:14-16.

“The earth promised to the meek will not be like this, darkened with the shadow of death and the curse....

“There is no disappointment, no sorrow, no sin, no one who shall say, I am sick; there are no burial trains, no mourning, no death, no partings, no broken hearts; but Jesus is there, peace is there.”
–Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 17.

Thought question

Why do you think Abraham was chosen by God to be entrusted with His law and the way of salvation?



1. List some examples of people who lived by faith before the birth of Jesus. Hebrews 11:20-31.
2. Besides them, who else suffered and died by faith for Jesus' sake? Hebrews 11:32-38.
3. How can knowing about these faithful people bless us today? Hebrews 12:1.
4. What inspiration do we receive from Christ's walk of faith? Hebrews 12:2, 3.
5. What enormous blessing comes from faith in God? Galatians 3:6-9.
6. What happens to one who looks for salvation through obedience to the law? Galatians 3:10.
7. Why are the works of the law without faith a curse to mankind? Galatians 3:11, 12; Deuteronomy 27:26.

"If a man could save himself by his own works, he might have something in himself in which to rejoice. The effort that man makes in his own strength to obtain salvation, is represented by the offering of Cain. All that man can do without Christ is polluted with selfishness and sin; but that which is wrought through faith is acceptable to God...."

“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 364.

8. How did Jesus suffer the curse to free every man from sin? Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:23.

9. How is freedom from the curse of the law brought about? Galatians 3:14.

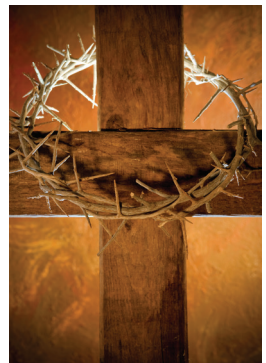
“The same law that was engraved upon the tables of stone is written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of the heart. Instead of going about to establish our own righteousness [which, as we have studied, is worthless in God’s eyes], we accept the righteousness of Christ. His blood atones for our sins. His obedience is accepted for us.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 372.

10. What is the “promise of the Spirit”? Ezekiel 11:19, 20; Joel 2:27-29.

“Then the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth ‘the fruits of the Spirit.’ Through the grace of Christ we shall live in obedience to the law of God written upon our hearts. Having the Spirit of Christ, we shall walk even as He walked.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 372.

Thought question

How does a person become free through faith and obedience?



Salvation by Grace through Faith—the Struggle

1. What error has always been a danger for God's church? Ephesians 2:8, 9.

“Christ warned the disciples who had been first called to follow Him, lest the same evil should be cherished among them. He saw that the weakness, the curse of the church, would be a spirit of self-righteousness. Men would think they could do something toward earning a place in the kingdom of heaven. They would imagine that when they had made certain advancement, the Lord would come in to help them. Thus there would be an abundance of self and little of Jesus. Many who had made a little advancement would be puffed up and think themselves superior to others. They would be eager for flattery, jealous if not thought most important. Against this danger Christ seeks to guard His disciples.” —*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 400, 401.

2. What happened in the early Christian church? 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4.

“Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, the mystery of iniquity carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. The spirit of compromise and conformity was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under paganism. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions....

“The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the Dark Ages. As her power increased, the darkness deepened. Faith was transferred from Christ, the true foundation, to the pope of Rome. Instead of trusting in the Son of God for

forgiveness of sins and for eternal salvation, the people looked to the pope, and to the priests and prelates to whom he delegated authority. They were taught that the pope was their earthly mediator, and that none could approach God except through him; and further, that he stood in the place of God to them, and was therefore to be implicitly obeyed.... Thus the minds of the people were turned away from God to fallible, erring, and cruel men, nay, more, to the prince of darkness himself, who exercised his power through them. Sin was disguised in a garb of sanctity. When the Scriptures are suppressed, and man comes to regard himself as supreme, we need look only for fraud, deception, and debasing iniquity. With the elevation of human laws and traditions, was manifest the corruption that ever results from setting aside the law of God." –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 49, 55.

3. After about 1,000 years, what truth rocked Christendom and began the Protestant Reformation? Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38.

4. How long was the Protestant Reformation to continue?

"The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. It is to be continued to the close of this world's history. Luther had a great work to do in reflecting to others the light which God had permitted to shine upon him; yet he did not receive all the light which was to be given to the world. From that time to this, new light has been continually shining upon the Scriptures, and new truths have been constantly unfolding." –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 148, 149.

5. In spite of the great light given to the Adventist people, what darkness had come over them by 1887?

"What is our condition in this fearful and solemn time? Alas, what pride is prevailing in the church, what hypocrisy, what deception, what love of dress, frivolity, and amusement, what desire for the supremacy! All these sins have clouded the mind, so that eternal things have not been discerned." –(*Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887) *Christ Our Righteousness*, by A.G. Daniells, p. 32.

6. Therefore, what message did God send to His people in 1888?

“The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 91, 92.

7. When will a person see his need of and accept Christ’s righteousness?

“What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ.” –(*Review and Herald*, September 16, 1902) *Christ Our Righteousness*, p. 104.

8. What truths will shine clearly when the latter rain is poured out?

“The Saviour of men will be glorified, and the earth will be lightened with the bright shining of the beams of His righteousness. He is the fountain of light, and light from the gates ajar has been shining upon the people of God, that they may lift Him up in His glorious character before those who sit in darkness....

“It is Christ in His fullness as a sin-pardoning Saviour, that the sinner must see; for the unparalleled love of Christ, through the agency of the Holy Spirit, will bring conviction and conversion to the hardened heart.” –(*Review and Herald*, November 22 and 29, 1892) *Christ Our Righteousness*, p. 127.

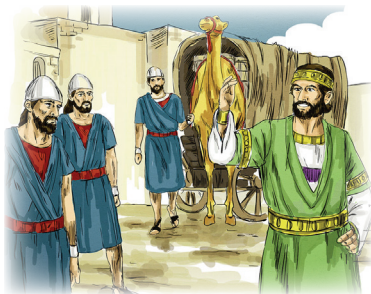
Thought question

How can one avoid self-righteousness with all its evils?

1. How is the kingdom of heaven pictured in the parable of the talents?
Matthew 25:14.

“The man traveling into a far country represents Christ, who, when speaking this parable, was soon to depart from this earth to heaven. The ‘bondservants’ ... represent the followers of Christ.”
–*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 325, 326.

2. How did the master distribute the talents to his servants? Matthew 25:15.



“Our Lord teaches that the true object of life is ministry....

“Each is to work in cooperation with Christ for the salvation of souls....

“The talents that Christ entrusts to His church represent especially the gifts and blessings imparted by the Holy Spirit....

“The gifts are already ours in Christ, but their actual possession depends upon our reception of the Spirit of God.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 326, 327.

3. What did the two servants do with the five talents and two talents that had been entrusted to them? Matthew 25:16, 17.

“The development of all our powers is the first duty we owe to God and to our fellowmen.... In making a profession of faith in Christ we pledge ourselves to become all that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master, and we should cultivate every faculty to the highest degree of perfection, that we may do the greatest amount of good of which we are capable.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 329, 330.

4. What did the servant with the one talent do with it? Matthew 25:18.

“In this is given a warning to all those who feel that the smallness of their endowments excuses them from service for Christ.... The man who neglected to improve his talent proved himself an unfaithful servant.... His misuse of one talent showed that he despised the gifts of heaven....

“However small your talent, God has a place for it. That one talent, wisely used, will accomplish its appointed work. By faithfulness in little duties, we are to work on the plan of addition, and God will work for us on the plan of multiplication. These littles will become the most precious influences of His work.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 355, 360.

5. What reward did the first two servants receive when they returned the capital and profits to their lord? Matthew 25:19-23.

“It is the faithfulness, the loyalty to God, the loving service, that wins the divine approval....

“And our reward for working with Christ in this world is the greater power and wider privilege of working with Him in the world to come.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 361.

6. How did the man with one talent excuse his irresponsibility? Matthew 25:24, 25.

“There are many who in their hearts charge God with being a hard Master because He claims their possessions and their service. But we can bring to God nothing that is not already His.... All things are God’s, not only by creation, but by redemption. All the blessings of this life and the life to come are delivered to us stamped with the cross of Calvary. Therefore the charge that God is a hard Master, reaping where He has not sown, is false.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 362.

7. What was the Lord’s response to the servant’s words? Matthew 25:26, 27.

8. What did the master do with the wasted talent? Matthew 25:28.

"Here, as in the reward of the faithful worker, is indicated not merely the reward at the final judgment but the gradual process of retribution in his life. As in the natural, so in the spiritual world: every power unused will weaken and decay. Activity is the law of life; idleness is death.... Employed to bless others, his gifts increase. Shut up to self-serving they diminish, and are finally withdrawn." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 364.

9. What is the primary lesson of this parable? Matthew 25:29.

10. What will finally happen to the faithful and the unfaithful servants respectively? Matthew 25:31-46.

"All men have been bought with this infinite price. By pouring the whole treasury of heaven into this world, by giving us in Christ all heaven, God has purchased the will, the affections, the mind, the soul, of every human being. Whether believers or unbelievers, all men are the Lord's property. All are called to do service for Him, and for the manner in which they have met this claim, all will be required to render an account at the great judgment day." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 326.

Thought question

Make a list of your talents, and explain how you are increasing each one for God's glory.



Heirs According to the Promise

1. What promise did God make to Abraham, and for whom else are the blessings? Galatians 3:7-9.



“The gift to Abraham and his seed included not merely the land of Canaan, but the whole earth. So says the apostle, ‘The promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.’ Romans 4:13. And the Bible plainly teaches that the promises made to Abraham are to be fulfilled through Christ. All that are Christ’s are ‘Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise’—heirs to ‘an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away’—the earth freed from the curse of sin. Galatians 3:29; 1 Peter 1:4.”

—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 170.

2. To whom were the promises first made? Galatians 3:16.
3. Who are the children of Abraham who will inherit the promised blessings? Galatians 3:6, 7.
4. How great will the blessings be? Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 37:11; 1 Corinthians 2:9.
5. How far reaching will the intellectual blessings be?

“Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body.

"All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed. Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar—worlds that thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe, and rang with songs of gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul. With unutterable delight the children of earth enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. They share the treasures of knowledge and understanding gained through ages upon ages in contemplation of God's handiwork. With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation—suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity. Upon all things, from the least to the greatest, the Creator's name is written and in all are the riches of His power displayed." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 677, 678.

6. How great will the spiritual blessings be?

"The people of God are privileged to hold open communion with the Father and the Son. 'Now we see through a glass, darkly.' 1 Corinthians 13:12. We behold the image of God reflected, as in a mirror, in the works of nature and in His dealings with men; but then we shall see Him face to face, without a dimming veil between. We shall stand in His presence, and behold the glory of His countenance.

"There the redeemed shall 'know, even as also they are known.' The loves and sympathies which God Himself has planted in the soul, shall there find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages, who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, the sacred ties that bind together 'the whole family in heaven and earth' (Ephesians 3:15)—these help to constitute the happiness of the redeemed....

"And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 677, 678.

7. To whom is all praise, honor, and glory due? Revelation 5:12, 13.

"... The burden of every song, the keynote of every anthem, is, Salvation to our God, and unto the Lamb." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 665.