

## Lesson # 7 – The Principles Related to a Correct View of Daily Life.

### Introduction

- A. In these lessons we have been constantly reminded that the Kingdom of God is like a supernatural invasion into the Kingdom of Satan. The King - the Lord Jesus - came into this world by divine appointment. He is the spearhead of that invasion.
- B. The Kingdom of God is an invasion of light into darkness - of life into death - of truth into error - of freedom into slavery.
- C. While we were once citizens of the Kingdom of Satan and characterized by its darkness, death, error, and slavery - the Lord Jesus has come to us and set us free. We are now characterized by His light, His life, His truth, and His freedom.
- D. Now we have the privilege and opportunity of living in His Kingdom. The old way of living must be understood and rejected for ever. We must seek to comprehend and implement this new way of life and truth.
- E. The basic text for this lesson.

*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. Matthew 7:21*

*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. Matthew **7:24***

*And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered . . . Then saith he (the Lord Jesus) to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth, and it was restored whole, like as the other. Matthew 12:10-13*

### I. The Divine Provision for the Daily Life.

#### A. The Biblical principle.

1. We understand, from the Bible, how the basic provision for salvation and all the aspects of the daily life - is simply God Himself. He is our very life. He created us originally, and re-created us in the new birth spiritually.
2. The basis of all this ministry of grace finds its source in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. He came into this world as our representative. In His suffering and death He broke the power of Satan, made atonement for our sin, died our death, and set us free from the condemnation of hell.
3. The application of all of this has been brought to us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He has convicted us of our sinful and lost condition, He has brought us through the re-creation of the new birth, and He dwells within us to teach us the Word of God and how to live in harmony with the truth.
4. The glorious provision that God has made is now clearly before us. God has given us His Word. The Holy Spirit dwells within us to teach us the Word of God and how to implement it in our daily life. It is the divine plan that through His Word every good thing will come to us. This is the theme of our lesson.

- a. God created us so that He could communicate with us - and we with Him.
  - b. We are basically "spirit" (Lesson #2) and thus the most important facet of our life is the spiritual.
  - c. It must be recognized that the term "Word of God" is much broader than simply the Holy Scripture. This would include the very name of the Lord Jesus (John 1:1,11;), and all of the "speaking of God" such as in creation.
  - d. However, we also understand that all of God's ministry to us is in harmony with His written Word. Basically this is the source of the grace and power of God in our daily life.
  - e. We may not, therefore, ever separate the written Word of God (the Holy Scripture), from the living Word of God (the Lord Jesus Christ). The Bible is not simply - ink on paper. It is God speaking to us. The Scripture has been created and designed by God to be the channel through which we receive His divine grace and power.
5. In the Scripture that forms the text of this lesson - we recognize this principle. When the Lord Jesus spoke to the man with the withered hand - divine grace and power for healing - accompanied His Word. When the man recognized and honored the Lord Jesus in a response of faith and obedience - he was healed. It is this provision of a divine speaking - and its relationship to our daily life - that we must now seek to understand.

#### B. Biblical Illustrations of this principle.

1. The divine instruction of the wilderness wanderings.

*All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers.*

*And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.*

*And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know, that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live. . . . that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end.*

Deuteronomy 8:1-3,16

#### Observations:

1. These verses bring the lesson into sharp focus. God allowed His people to be hungry and in danger in the wilderness so that they would learn that their provision and protection came, either directly or indirectly, from God Himself.
2. What Israel was here taught by way of manna - they were to learn in less material ways. When God promised them that they would overcome their enemies - as they believed His Word and obeyed Him - they saw the power of God in the defeat of their foes.
3. If God was to bless Israel and to give them the land of Canaan - the lesson before us in these verses had to be learned. Not

many of them understood and therefore not many of them entered the land. Joshua understood and under his leadership the Word of God was carefully followed at Jericho - and the power of God was manifested among them.

2. The instruction in the temptation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*

*And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.*

*And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

*But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

Matthew 4:1-4

Observations:

1. Satan is here tempting the Lord Jesus to act on His own initiative and to satisfy a legitimate desire by illegitimate means. By His answer the Savior states that He would rather be hungry in the will of God than be satisfied physically - out of His Father's will.
2. It is particularly helpful to contemplate the answer of the Lord Jesus - in regard to the theme of this lesson. As we meditate on His answer we recognize that He is saying more than simply, "My Father will provide food for Me in due time". He is affirming that He was living by the very word and will of God and could continue to so live as long as it was the will of God. His very existence as the God-man did not depend on bread - but on the word of God.
3. To apply this statement of the Lord Jesus to our lives is most helpful. Even though He had an immediate need for food the Lord Jesus did not approach the "problem" as a body. His reply indicated how His bodily needs were subservient to and subject to Himself as "spirit". We must understand this priority of the spiritual and realize how truly our very life depends on God's word and will.

3. The instruction in Paul's explanation of the Kingdom of God.

*For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.*

I Corinthians 1:20

Observations:

1. This verse emphasizes the great truth that the power of God accompanies the Word of God. This would lead us to believe that God desires to minister to us - by His power - whenever we read, hear, and obey the Scripture.
2. As we consider this principle we must keep before us the thought that God desires to work with us and to minister to us spiritually. He is concerned about how we are in the "inner man". Our walk with Him, our fulfillment, our fruitfulness, our participation in the Fruit of the Holy Spirit - is high on the list of His priorities.
3. The plan and provision that He has for us - so that we may have these spiritual needs continually met - is through His Word. We

must learn to recognize that which is the will of God for us - and to claim the appropriate promises of the Word of God - in the obedience of trust.

4. The instruction in Paul's reference to His own ministry.

*For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance ....*  
I Thessalonians 1:5

Observations:

1. Here the Apostle describes how God used His Word to work, with power, by the Holy Spirit, in the lives of those who heard him preach at Thessalonica. His ministry was not simply the presentation of great truths. As the people heard the Word of God - and responded - their needs were met.
2. Do these verses describe how it ought to be today? I can only say, "Yes". We have fallen into a terrible habit of simply accepting the Word of God by hearing only. Too often we may not even "hear" the Word - or we criticize the speaker or even God - and express doubt concerning the Scripture.

II. The Biblical Explanation of This Theme for the Daily Life.

A. The Word of God described.

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.* Romans 1:16

*Holding forth the word of life, that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.*  
Philippians 2:16

*For the word of God is quick (living), and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* Hebrews 4:12

Observations:

1. All of these verses clearly present the theme of this lesson. God has designed the Word of God so that He can speak powerfully into our lives through it. This truth formed the basis of the Apostle's confidence in God and the gospel. He spoke of the Bible as the "Word of life", i.e., through the Scripture God brought eternal life to those who obeyed in repentance and faith.
2. The passage in Hebrews presents two characteristics of the Bible which encourage us - the Scripture is living and powerful. This is the very opposite of thinking of the Word of God as ink on paper.

B. The Word of God and salvation.

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*  
Romans 10:17

*Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.* James 1:18

*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.* I Peter 1:18

Observations:

1. These verses illustrate the power that-God speaks into our life through His Word. Our very salvation is a result of this. We will never have a greater need than this and there will never be an area of our life where we are more helpless.
2. The principle of this lesson is seen in these verses. The power of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ is brought to us and made a reality in our life - through the Word of God.

C. The Word of God and the daily life.

1. God will use His Word to "build us up", Acts 20:32.

*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.*

Observation: The word "able" in this verse is a translation of "dunamis" from which we get our word "dynamite". Through His Word God has provided a means whereby we may be edified, strengthened, unified, enabled, and made fruitful. When we learn to respond to God, on the basis of His Word - as the man with the withered hand - we will continually experience the fulfillment of this promise. We will be daily edified.

2. *God will use His Word to "sanctify" us, John 17:17*

*Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth.*

Observation: This word "sanctify" refers to many of the goals which the Holy Spirit desires to make a reality within us. Basically it means to separate from sin and to make holy. This is of the highest priority for every believer. There is nothing that is more necessary, more helpful, more fruitful, more fulfilling, and more in the will of God for each of us than our - sanctification. The means provided by God so that this will come to pass daily - is the Word of God.

3. God will use His Word to "sanctify and cleanse" us, Eph. 5:25,26

*. . . Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it. That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.*

Observation: Here the emphasis is again on the daily work of sanctifying. Paul speaks of this as the goal that God continually desires to accomplish through His Word. Our responsibility is to fully respond to God on the basis of the Word by obedience, setting of priorities, and the decisions of faith and love.

4. God will use His Word to "protect" us, Eph. 6:14,17.

*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

Observation: In both of these references it is the power of the Word of God that serves to protect the believer from Satan and his demons. It must be noted, however, that this protection only is a reality when the truth is practiced (loins girt about) and when the truth is put to use (sword). A mere hearing or knowing of the Word of God is not sufficient. When the Lord Jesus was attacked by Satan - it was the Word of God that He used.

### III. The Biblical Application of This Theme Regarding the Daily Life.

#### A. The Word of God must be read, I Peter 2:2.

*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*

Observation: Before we can put the Word of God to use, and before. God can bring His power into our life through His Word, we must have some knowledge and understanding of the Scripture. Many Christians have a sincere desire to live for God, and often try very diligently to live the Christian life. All too often such a person will be confused at the lack of freedom and fruitfulness in their daily life. It is clear in the Bible that God is pleased with every desire we have for Him and all efforts that are characterized by sincerity. However, God can only bless us through our practice of His Word. He cannot bless us in our error. What we do not know - we cannot practice, We must make up our mind to read and study the Bible - and this will make it possible for God to bring His power into our daily life.

#### B. The Word of God must be mixed with faith, Hebrews 4:1,2.

*Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.*

*For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them, but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*

Observation: Once we know the Word of God then we can "mix it with faith". This is a necessary response to God - if we are to have God's "rest" (practical fulfillment of His promise) in our daily life. The illustration in these verses relates to those who came out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses and yet did not believe God in regard to all His promises that He would give them the Land of Canaan. Because of their unbelief they could not enter in and God could not give them the ability they needed to take the land. This is a warning to us. Faith is a decision (not a feeling) to take God at His Word and to put it into practice (obedience) while continually trusting Him.

#### C. The Word of God must be practiced in the obedience of faith.

*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?*

*But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

*Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*  
Romans 6:16-18.

*Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.* Philippians 2:12,13.

*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth ....*  
I Peter 1:22.

Observation: The message of these verses is clear - when we obey God He works in us. The theme of this lesson and the key to a successful Christian life is unmistakably presented in these three passages. When we know the Word of God, and mix the Word with faith, and practice the truth is the obedience of faith - then God can pour His provision of power into our daily life.

Conclusion.

- A. This lesson brings a serious responsibility to all of us. We must learn to do what we now know is right - obey God through His Word in practical decisions of faith.
- B. In order to make this more practical use the following schedule for the coming week. Pray the prayer at the beginning of each day and read the designated verse. Ask God to help you to learn the principle found in this lesson.

Suggested Prayer: O Lord God - I worship before you and thank you for yourself and your grace made known to me in the Lord Jesus Christ. I commit myself and this new day to you for your glory. Enable me to understand and practice this passage of your Word today (read the text). Bring these truths to my attention through the day. Teach me to trust you and obey your holy Word. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Friday - II Cor. 12:9

Saturday - Eph. 1:18-20

Sunday - Eph. 3:20

Monday - Phil. 3:10

Tuesday - Col. 1:10,11

Wednesday - II Timothy 1:7

Thursday - I Peter 1:5