

Sabbath School Lesson #12 – What Have They Seen in Your House? 15-21 June 2019

Christ would have us glorify God before those who visit our house. Peter reminds us who we are in Christ: “But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9). Seventh-day Adventists are professed “peculiar people” of God. We are called to show the praises of God. Like the stars that praise Him, we are to declare God’s praises. They do it by reflecting the light of God’s glory: “Let your light so shine.” The firmament witnesses to His wonderful handiwork: “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.” They manifest His glory: “The Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.” Let it be so.

Sunday: Learning from a King’s Mistake – The question that was asked of Hezekiah is asked of every Seventh-day Adventist: “What have they seen in thine house?” (Isaiah 39:4). In this great controversy, we must be proved whether we are truly God’s people who will show His glory before the world. What is in our hearts, is it the love of God or pride of life? God will allow us to be tested, as was the king of Judah, Hezekiah. After Hezekiah had been healed, the Babylonian ambassadors came to congratulate him and to know what power healed him, and he showed them all the treasures of his kingdom (2 Kings 20:12-13). This action was prompted by pride (2 Chronicles 32:24-25). We read of the test that God allowed: “Howbeit in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to inquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart” (2 Chronicles 32:31). Hezekiah had served God “in truth and with a perfect heart,” and yet when he was left to himself he revealed things in his heart of which he was ignorant; but God knew them. There was pride in Hezekiah’s heart, and it manifested itself in him not glorifying God. We will be tried, and God will not interpose His mighty power to miraculously preserve us from the wickedness that is in our own hearts.

Monday: Family First – It was a duty of every parent to teach their family God’s laws. We would today call it Bible study. In Deuteronomy 6:5-9 we have directions as to our duty in regard to the Bible. We will quote it in full: “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might and these words which I commend thee this day, shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou and liest down, when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt break them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” This is a complete model for Bible study. It was not intended to be local, for the Jews merely but is for all persons, in all time. Not that we are to wear phylacteries as the Jews did; this passage does not command that. The first part explains the last. The word of God is to be studied and meditated upon so much that it will have a controlling influence over every act that our hands perform. We should work so that all that we do will bear the impress of the word. Thus it will be for a sign upon our hands. In like manner the forehead stand for the mind, which is to be stored with the truths of God’s word. They are ever to be before our eyes. But turning to family first theme of this Lesson, we wish to call a special attention to the sixth and seventh verses. We are commanded to talk of the word when we sit in the house, and when we walk by the way, and when we lie down, and when we rise up. Now how can this be done? The previous expression explains: “And the words, which I command thee this day, shall be *in thine heart*.” That is the secret of Bible knowledge. The Bible must be read so carefully that the words will be indelibly fixed in our mind. Then we can meditated upon them wherever we are, or whatever we are doing. If we so read the Bible, it will become our constant companion. If we have the Bible for our constant companion, as we may have, our characters will be moulded by it. The Spirit of the Lord can the more easily make impressions on our hearts, for it works through the word. And we cannot be influenced by the Bible unless we do make it our own, and become permeated by it. Nothing will atone for neglect of God’s word. Shall we not, then, *search* the Scriptures?

Tuesday: Peace That Wins – Peter specifically counselled Christian women who had unbelieving husbands. “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if

any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (1 Peter 3:1-4). This is the counsel for every Christian women whose husbands are not with them in the faith. Is there room for compromising the truth of God in little things to keep things smooth and win her husband? Peter's counsel is simply this: do not compromise truth and principle at all, but win by your chaste conduct. If non-Adventists marry, one converts to Adventism, they should stay together, but it is no licence for an already Adventist marrying a non-Adventist. "He who has entered the marriage relation while unconverted is by his conversion placed under stronger obligation to be faithful to his companion, however widely they may differ in regard to religious faith; yet the claims of God should be placed above every earthly relationship, even though trials and persecution may be the result. With the spirit of love and meekness, this fidelity may have an influence to win the unbelieving one. But the marriage of Christians with the ungodly is forbidden in the Bible. The Lord's direction is, 'Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers' 2 Corinthians 6:14, 17, 18." {PP 175.1}.

Wednesday: Family Life Is for Sharing – Families can share the love of Christ and lead others to Christ. But be careful in making any your model. One of the most common hurtful practices among professed Christians is that alluded to in 2 Corinthians 10:12. Says the apostle: "We dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." Christ is the great example, the only perfect pattern, and the Christian can follow others only as they follow Christ. Said the apostle: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." But in thus following Paul, they would really have followed Christ, and they were to follow the apostle only as he followed the Master, and thus the life of Christ, not that of his apostle, was the pattern. It is not enough that we should be as good as our neighbour. "Every man," says the apostle John, "that hath this hope [the Christian hope] in him, purifieth himself," not as his brother in the church is pure, not as his minister is pure, but "even as he [Christ] is pure." "By beholding we become changed," and if we behold Christ we shall at last bear His divine image; but if we behold our imperfect fellow brethren we shall bear with us to the Judgment their imperfections, which instead of serving to excuse us, as we once fondly imagined they would, will serve only to sink us in perdition.

Thursday: Centers of Contagious Friendliness – Paul counsels, "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you; bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:9-21). Christ says to us today, "When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind; And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee; for thou shalt be recompensed *at the resurrection of the just*" (Luke 14:12-14). There is to be but one reward given. Of those who looked for a return for their charities in this life, who gave alms to be seen of men, the Lord said, "They *have* their reward" (Matthew 6:1-2). The applause of men, or an equivalent for the gift, is all the unjust men need expect; but those who live lives of unselfishness shall receive an everlasting recompense "at the resurrection of the just."