

## **SCHEME OF WORK FOR SS1 ON CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

### **THIRD TERM**

1. CHRISTIAN LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY
2. SOCIAL VICES AND WITNESSING TO CHRIST.
3. CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY / GOOD CITIZENSHIP
4. CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS PERSECUTION
5. IMPARTIALITY
6. IMPARTIALITY (CONTS)
7. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST
8. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.
9. CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
10. THE RESURRECTION AND CHRISTIAN FAITH

#### **LESSON NOTE FOR SS1– WEEK 1**

##### **TOPIC: THE MEANING OF CHRISTIAN LIVING**

Christian living means Christians living the exemplary life of Christ.

It means living for Christ and leading a life that is not only above reproach, but also a life that glorifies God above anything else.

Christian living means to manifest the fruit of the Spirit as listed in Gal. 5:22-23.

##### **The Need for Christian Living**

- Christians are supposed to be light and shining examples for others to emulate. Christians must maintain good conduct above reproach in the community.
- Christian living is necessary to promote love and unity within the Christian fold, e.g. denominations.
- By good conducts, Christians can bring more people to the knowledge of God.
- Christian living will consequently be able to create and sustain a God-fearing human society where hatred, wickedness, injustice, violence, etc. will be minimized if not totally eradicated.
- It is also necessary to promote tolerance, harmony and peaceful coexistence between Christians and non-Christians.

##### **Peter's Teaching on the Expected Lifestyles of Christians Living Among Non-Christians (Characteristics of Christian Life in the Community – I Pet. 2:9-25)**

Peter said, as holy people of God, Christians should do away with all carnal desires and live holy lives so that they can exhibit exemplary life, worthy of emulation by others. They must maintain good conduct among non-Christians so that in case of false accusation, people would see their good deeds and glorify God.

They should be good citizens and should submit to constituted authority. They should honour their obligations to the state/government of their nation by paying their taxes, rates, etc.

They should render meaningful services to their community and should endure trials and suffering for Christ for their faith just as Jesus Christ did on the cross. When Christians are persecuted unjustly, they should not retaliate but pray and sober always. They should live as freemen who live under the freedom of Christ without using their freedom as a pretext for evils.

They should live as servants of God, should honour all men, love their fellow Christians, and fear God and honour the emperor/leader. Christians should maintain high standard wherever they find themselves.

### **Christians as “a Chosen Race and a Royal Priesthood”**

Peter in his epistle described Christians as a Chosen race and a Royal Priesthood. According to him, the conducts of Christians living among the nations are expected to be as follows:

- Declaration of the wonderful deeds of God who called them out of darkness into marvelous light at all times.
- Having received mercy, they are to practice hospitality without complaining, love one another, honour all men, fear God and honour the emperor.
- They are to submit to every human and civil authority or an institution as such authority exists to punish wrong doers and commend obedient citizens.
- As a servant who is a Christian, is called upon to obey his master in all aspects, not only the kind and gentle ones but also the difficult ones.
- Trust in God and live exemplary life such that even pagans can recognize you as a good Christian.
- Emulate the suffering of Christ by committing no sin and uttering no evil words (threats) in the face of persecution.

### **Examples of a Christian’s Daily Lives as a Chosen Race and Royal Priesthood**

- (i) Payment of taxes, rates, dues, other duties, self-discipline, obedient to government and keeping ourselves under the authority.
- (ii) Teaching good ethics and moral standard through the churches, schools and youth organizations.
- (iii) Honouring God, not telling lies and being our brother’s keeper.
- (iv) Keeping laws and obeying the constitution.
- (v) Assisting in meaningful services in their communities, endure suffering and trials for their faith in Jesus who died on the cross of Calvary.

### **Ways Christians Promote Good Relationship with Non-Christians**

- By living exemplary lives worthy of emulation. Our lifestyles and faith in Christ should win the hearts of others to Christ.
- Mutual love, care and respect to others.
- Preaching the gospel and living a life worthy of the gospel.

- Maintaining high moral standard wherever they are.

### **Lessons /Significance**

1. Christians must abstain from social vices of the modern age such as drunkenness, drug addiction, fraud, robbery, fighting, stealing, bribery/corruption, etc.
2. Christians must be good to non-Christians so as to make them see that God works through Christians.
3. Christians are called to be different from the world – to be holy and spotless.
4. Christians are to declare the wonderful message of salvation to those who are still in the darkness of sin.
5. Christians are to obey the governors and rulers of their country or anyone in authority because God approves of their leadership.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. (a) Highlight Peter's advice to Christians living among non-Christians.  
(b) In what THREE ways can Christians promote good relationship with non-Christians? (SSCE 2011, Q11)
2. (a) Explain Peter's description of Christians as "a Chosen Race and a Royal Priesthood".  
(b) Give TWO examples in Christian's daily life to support the above description? (SSCE 2007, Q12)
3. State the behavioural patterns which Peter recommended for Christian servants living among non-Christians?

### **CRS LESSON NOTE FOR SS 1 – WEEK 2.**

#### **TOPIC: SOCIAL VICES AND WITNESSING TO CHRIST.**

#### **Biblical Integration**

Heb. 12:14 – "Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."

#### **Meaning of Social Vices**

Gal. 5:19-21; I Cor. 6:9-11

Social vices are evil or immoral behaviour in our society.

Social vices are sins both to governmental authority and God.

They attracts punishment from God and constituted authority.

The opposite of vices is virtues.

#### **Some of the Social Vices of Our Society**

Man's social vices in contemporary society are:

1. Fornication: sexual (infidelity) relationship between a man and woman who are not married.

2. Adultery: this mean illicit marital relationship between two married people or a married person and an unmarried person.
3. Prostitution: it is indulging in sexual activity in return for money or any other material gain.
4. Drunkenness: it is a woe to the family, a thief to the purse and a source of death and wretchedness.
5. Bribery: this is giving and receiving money, favour for the purpose of influencing decisions, requests, etc.
6. Corruption: setting aside laid-down laws, regulations, traditions, customs and practices for selfish gains. It may be self-motivated or externally influenced.
7. Drug abuse: this is indulgence in the use of hard/dangerous drugs and wrong self-medication.
8. Examination malpractices.
9. Bullying at home or in the school.
10. Stealing.
11. Fighting.
12. Smuggling
13. Tax evasion and false declaration of age or assets are social ills of our time.

#### Ways Christians can Abstain from These Social Vices – (I Thess. 5:22; I Cor. 6:18)

- (i) Confess and totally repent of any social vices involved in the past.
- (ii) Be ruled by the will of God, not by passions or lusts.
- (iii) Demonstrate brotherly love – do unto others as you want them to do to you.
- (iv) Love peace – Christians should live peaceably with all people as much possible.
- (v) Make holy living a priority in your life as Christian.
- (vi) Christians should be ready to suffer persecution, victimization and denial of rights.
- (vii) Run / flee from sin. (I Cor. 6:18)

#### Factors Which May Cause Conflict in the Society

- Misappropriate of government funds.
- Gossiping and backbiting.
- Lack of united spirit to work together.
- Favouritism from leadership.
- Greed.
- Excessive use of power and social injustice.
- Tribalism/nepotism.
- Pride and selfish action.
- Sexual immorality.
- Bribery and corruption.
- Jealousy and envy.
- Failure to forgive one another.
- Indolence and covetousness.
- Lack of respect or regard for constituted authority.
- Negligence of one's duties and obligations.

## **TOPIC: INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP AMONG CHRISTIANS**

### **Meaning of Interpersonal relationship**

Interpersonal relationship is a strong, deep, or close association or acquaintance between two or more people.

### **Interpersonal Relationship Among Christians (I Pet. 5:1-11)**

In his letter to Christians, St. Peter advised how Christian should relate to one another:

(a) Leaders (I Pet. 5:1-4): they are witness to the suffering of Christ and thereby partakers of the glory to be revealed at Christ's coming.

(b) Young Ones (I Pet. 5:5-7): the young ones were advised to be in humble subjection to the elders as God opposes the proud but give grace to the humble.

(c) Warning Against Demonic Forces (I Pet. 5:5-9): the Christian is warned to cast all our anxieties on God, for He cares about us.

We are to be sober, be watchful. Our adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. We should resist him, firm in our faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of our brotherhood throughout the world.

### **The Duties of Good Church Leaders**

- To take good care of the flock entrusted to them willingly and cheerfully.
- They are not to drive but to lead by their example of mature Christian character. That is, they should be a living example to the congregation.
- They should live modestly.
- Evangelism should be encouraged by the leaders.

## **CRS LESSON NOTE FOR SS1 – WEEK 3**

### **TOPIC: CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP**

#### **SUBTOPIC: CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY**

(Rom. 13:1-7)

### **Biblical Integration**

**Rom. 13:7** – “Pay all of them their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.”

### **The Meaning of Civic Responsibility**

Civil responsibility means the duties we have to perform as citizens of a country so as to promote order, unity, peace, progress and development in the country.

These duties must be done in obedience to constituted authority.

The Need for Order in the Society (Paul's Teaching About Submission to the lawful authorities)  
– Rom. 13:1-7.

Paul in his epistle to the Romans teaches the following:

Every person should be subjected to the governing authorities. Rulers are appointed by God for the purpose of maintaining peace and stability of a country. Therefore, anyone who resists the authorities resists God indirectly and hence risks the judgment of God.

Rulers according to Paul, are not a terror to good conduct, but to wrong doers. Obedient citizens should not entertain unnecessary fear about those in authority as far as they obey and conduct themselves well.

A Christian has TWO reasons to be submissive to authorities:

- To avoid God's wrath and possible punishment.
- To have a clear conscience.

Above all in order to submit to lawful authorities and live a life of a good citizen, they should pay their dues, taxes, revenue and respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Reasons for Submitting to Civil Authorities

- For the Lord's sake and for purpose of orderly society.
- By their obedience to the law, others may come to the knowledge of the true God.
- Christians are not free from duty or obedience to God's law, one of which is the total submission to the civil authorities.

Significance of St. Paul's Teaching On the Need for Order in the Society to Christians

- Christians should avoid rebellion against lawful authority because it is appointed/ordained by God and seeks for the good of the masses.
- Christians should desist from rumour mongering and agitators.
- Christians should not make derogatory statements against their rulers.
- Christians must learn to express their grievances through dialogues and not through violent demonstrations.
- Christians must pray for their leaders.
- Christians should obey the rulers and carry out societal obligations.
- Christians must take part in public enlightenment campaigns to eradicate diseases, illiteracy, piracy, bribery, corruption, cultism and other social vices.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Discuss Paul's teaching on civic responsibility and show how we can apply three of the instances in our daily living. WASSCE 1988 Q8
2. With reference to 1st Peter, what are the characteristics of Christian life in the community? WASSCE 1989 Q9.
3. (a) What did Paul teach on the need for order in the society?  
(b) List FOUR ways by which Christian can show he is a responsible citizen. WASSCE 1998 Q7.

4. (a) Explain why Paul advocated submission to the authority.  
(b) State FOUR ways by which you can help your school authority to maintain law and order.  
WASSCE 2001 Q9.
5. (a) What was Paul's advice on the right attitude to civil authority?  
(b) State THREE ways in which a Christian can demonstrate the qualities of a good citizens.  
WASSCE 2004 Q9.

## **TOPIC: CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP**

### **SUBTOPIC: GOOD CITIZENSHIP**

(I Pet. 2:13-17)

#### **Biblical Integration**

**I Pet. 2:15** – “For it is God's will that by doing right you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.”

#### **Good Citizen and Citizenship**

A good citizen can be described as a law-abiding person in the society.

Good citizenship means the act of having the right attitudes to one's duties and obligations towards the nation and civil authorities.

#### **St. Peter's Teaching on Good Citizenship**

- In the general admonition of St. Peter, Christian should for the Lord's sake be subject to every human institution.
- Christians should show respect to our rulers who have been put there by God to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right.
- It is God's will that by doing right we should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.
- Christian were also urged to live as free men, yet without using our freedom as a pretext for evil; but to live as servants of God.
- Peter summarizes the Christian good citizenship as follows: to honor all men.
- love the brotherhood of believers.
- fear God, and honour the emperor.
- Christians should trust God when they suffered unjustly.
- Christ bore our sins on the cross, so we ought to die to sin and live righteously.
- We should not retaliate for any wrong done to us as Christ did not but entrusted Himself totally to God in His suffering.
- Christian servants owe their masters respect and obedience, not minding the master's characters –either gentle or harsh.

### Qualities of a Good Citizen. (Ways Christians Can Act As a Good Citizen)

- ✓ Have love for his nation, its legitimate institution, both civil and religious.
- ✓ A good citizen should defend the territorial integrity of his nation if the need arises.
- ✓ Obeying all laws and regulations set up for the smooth administration of the country.
- ✓ Praying for the leaders of his nation.
- ✓ He must never be party to any form of corruption and immorality.
- ✓ Cooperate as much as possible with security agents to maintain law and order.
- ✓ He should be philanthropic or have due regard for other and ensure that he lives at peace with others.
- ✓ He must be patriotic.
- ✓ Performing of civic responsibilities such as tax paying and other legitimate dues, voting if one is of age, etc.
- ✓ Express grievances through constitutional means or dialogue and not through violent demonstrations.
- ✓ Shunning membership of secret cult societies.
- ✓ Refraining from all form of criminal offences.

### **PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. (a) Explain Peter's concept of a good citizen.  
(b) Identify THREE qualities of a good citizen. WASSCE 2002 Q12.
2. (a) Outline Peter's instructions on good citizenship.  
(b) In what THREE ways can Christians act as good citizens today? WASSCE 2005 Q12.
3. (a) Discuss how Peter exhorts Christians to be good citizens.  
(b) In what THREE ways is Peter's exhortation to Christians significant? WASSCE 2014 Q12.
4. (a) Relate Peter's teaching on submission to authority.  
(b) State SEVEN ways Christians can be a good citizens. WASSCE 2016 Q9.

### **CRS LESSON NOTE FOR SS1 – WEEK 4**

#### **TOPIC: CHRISTIANS AND PERSECUTIONS**

(I Pet. 1:3-17; 4:12-19)

#### **Biblical Integration**

**I Pet. 4:15-16** – *“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or a wrongdoer, or a mischief-maker; yet if one suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but under that name let him glorify God.”*

#### **The Meaning of Persecution**

Persecution is the unjustifiable punishment inflicted on a person or group of persons because of their faith.

Furthermore, persecution is simply a form of harassment or intimidation or victimization which comes in form of oppression, incarceration, physical assault, denial of rights or even



death. Example is, the suffering of Jesus from the Jewish leaders and His death on the cross of Calvary.

#### Various Forms of Persecution Suffered By Christians in the Early Church

Forms of persecution meted out to the early church include:

- (i) Rejection and excommunication by the Jewish religious leaders on the grounds of preaching Christ, the crucified.
- (ii) Violent persecution involving the killing of disciples. E.g. The martyrdom of Stephen – Acts 7. Herod the king, killed James, the brother of John with sword – Acts 12:1-2.
- (iii) Indiscriminate imprisonment of the Apostles. E.g. Peter – Acts 12:3, Paul.
- (iv) It should be noted that, persecution may also be as a result of crime or anti-social behaviour of the victim.

#### Peter's message to Christians under persecution – I Pet. 1:3-17; 4:12-19.

Peter admonished Christians to see persecutions as a test of faith in Jesus. God allows persecution as disciplinary judgment to purify the lives as fire refines gold, of those in the family of God.

He said that those who suffer persecution must be joyful because this is temporary and if they endure they would have their rewards in heaven.

Peter advised Christians not to be discouraged when they are faced with trials and temptations for they are protected by the power of God through faith and salvation.

Christians should believe in Jesus and rejoice in the face of persecutions and sufferings for Christ as there is assurance of the reward for eternal life.

It is also emphasized that Christians should rejoice and count it a blessing since such is their share of Christ's suffering, because they will specifically glorify with Christ who suffered many things so as to redeem us.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or a wrongdoer, or a mischief-maker; yet if one suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but under that name let him glorify God.

Peter advised that Christians should not conform to their former lusts which they had through ignorance but should conduct themselves with the fear of God.

Therefore, let those who suffer according to God's will do right and entrust their souls to a faithful Creator.

#### The Rewards of Persecution As Admonished By Peter – I Pet. 1:6-9.

- The genuineness of his faith is being tested, just as genuine gold is proved by its ability to resist fire.
- At the end, the ability of the Christian to endure sufferings will result in his praise, glory, honour and salvation at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- It is in the outcome of our faith we obtain the salvation of our souls.
- Promotion and upliftment.
- Eternal life.

#### **TOPIC: CHRISTIANS AND PERSECUTIONS (CONTS.)**

(I Pet. 1:3-17; 4:12-19)

### Various Ways By Which Christians are Persecuted in Nigeria and The World Today

Persecutions of Christians in Nigeria and the world today comes in the following forms:

- Outright denial of lands to build churches, schools or hospitals.
- Denial of promotion.
- Not giving admission into tertiary institutions for being a Christian.
- Physical attack on Christian communities.
- Burning of churches.
- Imposition of laws that goes contrary to Christian beliefs.
- Denial of rights to Christians by non-Christians in government.
- Imposition of one form of government on another.
- Assaults/insults.
- False accusation.
- Molestation.
- Imprisonment.
- Murder / killing.

### Virtues Christians Should Manifest To Show Their Joy

Virtues Christians should manifest to show their joy include the following:

- Christian should not conform to worldly desires.
- They should be sober and hopeful of the glory that would be theirs at Christ's parousia (second coming).
- Faithful Christians should remain unshakeable in the face of trials and persecutions or thrust of the enemy (Satan).
- They should have the fear of God who is an impartial judge.
- They should always praise God in the time of sadness and joy.

### Significance of Peter's Teaching Christians and Persecution

- Persecution should be regarded as part and mark of Christian faith.
- Christians must be ready to face persecution at any time because even Christ their role model suffered persecution and died as well.
- Christians should not renounce their faith in times of suffering but should remain in Christ to the very end and not to deny Him.
- Persecutions strengthens the Christian faith.
- Christians should prefer to be victims of persecutions rather than being instruments of wrongdoing.
- Christians should not blame God or anybody for being persecuted.
- Persecution should always be received with joy.
- Suffering for Christ must bring glory to God.

### PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. What, according to Peter, should be the right Christian attitude to persecution and suffering? – WASSCE 1994, Q9.
2. (a) Why, according to Peter, should Christians rejoice in spite of the trials they may be going through?  
(b) What TWO virtues should Christians manifest to show their joy? – WASSCE 1999, Q12.
3. (a) Why did Peter advise Christians to rejoice despite the trials they may be going through?  
(b) State TWO virtues which Christians should manifest to show their joy. – WASSCE 2003, Q12.
4. (a) According to Peter, what should be the Christian attitude in the face of persecution?  
(b) State THREE types of persecution Christians may encounter today. – WASSCE 2011, Q12.

### **CRS LESSON NOTE FOR SS1 – WEEK 6**

#### **TOPIC: PARTIALITY AND IMPARTIALITY**

(James 2:1-13)

#### **Biblical Integration**

**Matt. 7:12** – *“So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.”* – (The “Golden Rule”)

#### **Meaning of Partiality Nepotism, Favouritism, and Tribalism.**

- Partiality means giving undue preference or advantage to certain persons or groups of persons at the expense of others.  
In other words, Partiality also means bias, favouritism and discrimination. It may be ethnic, regional or racial basis.
- Nepotism is the practice among those with power or influence of favouring relatives or friends, especially by giving them jobs.  
In other words, Nepotism is the practice of appointing relatives and friends in one’s organization or political office for which outsiders might be better qualified.
- Favouritism is the practice of giving unfair preferential treatment to one person or group at the expense of another.
- Tribalism is a very strong feeling of loyalty to a political or social group so that you support whatever they do.  
It is also to have a strong feeling of loyalty to only your tribe at the expense of other tribes.

#### **St. James’ Teaching on Partiality – James 2:1-13**

James in his teaching exhorts us to refrain from any act of partiality in the church as we become transgressors if we do.

He said that partiality can manifest when a well-dressed and a poorly-dressed person go to church and the poorly dressed person is asked to stand up for the rich and well-dressed person; this is partiality.

God according to James honours the lowly placed in the society and those who are despised on earth, but are highly faithful in spiritual affairs.

The rich who are oppressors of the faithful poor can drag them to court without cause. Therefore, all Christians must observe the royal law of 'loving one's neighbor as himself'.

You are guilty of the law if you commit sin by showing partiality. To James, whosoever keeps the whole law but fails in one has become guilty of all of it. For example, if you do not commit adultery but do kill, you have become a transgressor of the law.

Also a Christian who fails to show mercy to the oppressed and the poor will receive God's condemnation. Hence, all our thoughts and actions must be in accordance with observation of the law of liberty.

James' emphasis is that we should discourage partiality because:

- God is not partial.
- Everybody is equal before God.
- The children of faith are rich in the sight of God and are heirs of the kingdom.
- The physically rich might not be rich in the sight of God.
- We must therefore not to be partial but appreciate God's mercy by showing mercy so that they would be judged with mercy. Thus, mercy triumphs over judgment.

#### Advantages of Impartiality

It enhances:

- (i) Love.
- (ii) Confidence.
- (iii) Cooperation.
- (iv) Genuine competition
- (v) Peace.
- (vi) Impartiality helps to minimize vices in the society.

#### **PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. How did James deal with the problem of partiality in the church? In what TWO ways does the church today fall short of the standard which James recommended? – WASSCE 1992, Q8.
2. (a) What did James teach on partiality?  
(b) Identify TWO effects of partiality in society. – WASSCE 1998, Q9.
3. (a) Give James' exposition on partiality in the church.  
(b) Highlight THREE ways impartiality is promoted in our society. – WASSCE 2013, Q12.

#### **TOPIC: IMPARTIALITY (CONTS)**

(James 2:1-13)

**BIBLICAL INTEGRATION: Luke 6:31** – *“And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.”*

#### Areas of Partiality in the Church

- Allocation of special seats to some people in the churches during Sunday services or occasions because of their social status.
- Appointment to church positions or posts are often based on their social status or wealth other than merit.
- The poor are not allowed a say in the affairs of the church.
- Non-recognition of contributions in terms of money/funds made by the poor in churches today as that of the rich.
- The rich are usually exempted from certain duties.
- Only the poor participate in daily labour of the church.
- Only the rich have access to products at bazaars.
- Consideration of special status other than spirituality or character on certain matters.

#### Ways Partiality is Being Promoted in Our Society

- There is widespread social injustice, favouritism and nepotism in the country.
- Appointments and promotion in the public service in the country are not based on merit, but social and political factors like tribe, sex, religion, membership of a political group, etc.
- There is discrimination in the candidates for sporting activities and national awards.
- The injustice of the poor by the judiciary.
- The rich often violated by the rich and yet go unpunished.
- Building of infrastructures and social amenities in some communities while others are completely forgotten.

#### Negative Effects of Nepotism, Favouritism, and Tribalism on The Society.

Nepotism, Favouritism, and Tribalism in whatever form they are expressed have negative and effects on the nation in the following ways:

- It brings disunity, hatred and enmity among various groups in the nation.
- It promotes distrust and unhealthy rivalry among the people.
- It does not foster sense of belonging.
- It encourages greed and selfishness.
- It hinders the development and progress of a nation.
- It brings about preferential treatment to certain persons or groups in the society.

#### Significance of Impartiality to the Christians/church or Lessons Learnt from Impartiality

- Christians should see all men as equal before God. This will help us to relate justly and fairly with them.
- Christians should not discriminate against anyone but should treat people from all tribes in the country as equals.
- Partiality in whatever form is a sin and punishable by God.
- God is no respecter of persons.

- Any offence against the poor is an offence against God.
- Impartiality encourages love and unity in every congregation.
- It is wrong to give more regard to the rich at the expense of the poor. By so doing, we make God false in His creative act.

### **CRS LESSON NOTE FOR SS1 WEEK 8**

#### **TOPIC: THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.**

(Matt. 28:1-10; Mark: 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12.)

#### **BIBLICAL INTEGRATION**

**Rom. 6:9** – *“Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dies no more; death has no more dominion over him.”*

#### **The Meaning of Resurrection And Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

To resurrect means to come back to life after being declared dead.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is His rising from the dead after the THIRD day of crucifixion and burial. This was to show His victory over death.

#### **The Synoptic Account of the Resurrection (Matt. 28:1-10; Mark: 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12)**

The account the resurrection appears in the Synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke in their accounts of the resurrection of Jesus rose up from the grave on the third day, which is our own Sunday.

#### **Matthew’s Account of the Resurrection – Matt. 28:1-10.**

According to Matthew’s gospel, after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre, there was an earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. The guards trembled and became like dead men for the fear of that angel.

But the angel said to the women (Mary Magdalene and the other Mary) who came to the tomb of Jesus that they should not be afraid; for Jesus was no longer in the tomb.

The angel told the women to go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and would appear to them in Galilee.

#### **Mark’s Account of the Resurrection – Mark: 16:1-8**

Mark’s account tells us of the visit of Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome to the tomb so as to anoint Christ.

They found the stone rolled away and wondering who would have done that. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed.

The man said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him.

They were told to go, tell his disciples and Peter that Christ would see them in Galilee. So, they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

#### Luke's Account of the Resurrection – Luke 23:55-56; 24:1-12

Luke's account tells us of the women's visit to the tomb on the first day of the week, taking the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, without the body inside.

While they were perplexed about this, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? And that Christ has risen as He said.

They further told the women that: "He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise.

The women remembered his words. So, Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary *the mother* of James, and other *women that were* with them, went to tell told these things unto the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they did not believe them.

Peter came to the tomb and looked into it but found that the body of Jesus was not there.

#### **PRACTICE QUESTIONS ON THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.**

1. (a) Narrate the Synoptic account of the resurrection of Jesus bringing out the role played by the women.  
(b) In what two ways is the resurrection significant to the Christian faith? (WASSCE 2000)
2. Give an account of the Resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ as related in St. Matthew's Gospel. (WASSCE 1999)
3. (a) Explain the Luke's account of the resurrection.  
(b) State three lessons that can be derived from this episode. (WASSCE 2006)
4. (a) Narrate the story of resurrection and appearances of Jesus to the women in the Gospel of Matthew.  
(b) What is the significance of the resurrection to Christians? (WASSCE 1989)

#### **TOPIC: THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST AND CHRISTIAN FAITH.**

#### **SUBTOPIC: RESURRECTION APPEARANCES AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE.**

(Matt. 28:16-20; Mark: 16:9-18; Luke 24:13-49.)

#### **BIBLICAL INTEGRATION**

**Acts 13:30-31** – "*But God raised him from the dead; and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.*"

#### **The Significance of The Resurrection of Jesus Christ to Christian Faith**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead has the following significance:

- Jesus conquered death with the resurrection and so will believers conquer the power of death.
- The resurrection story is the pillar of Christian faith.
- Christian faith was fully established with the resurrection of Christ. That is, faith in the resurrection of Jesus is the Christian hope of salvation.
- It shows that death is the beginning of a new phase or eternal life.
- Jesus' resurrection is our hope for eternal life.
- Like the three women ministered to Jesus even unto death, Christians should be ready to serve.
- It gives hope and courage that we are serving a living Lord today, and even life after death.
- Christ's death and resurrection opens the gate of heaven for us and provide eternal salvation to all mankind.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ shows that all who died in Christ will resurrect at the last day.

### **RESURRECTION APPEARANCES**

Jesus Christ appeared to many people after His resurrection from the dead. The various appearances were recorded in the FOUR Gospels:

#### **Appearances in Matthew's Gospel – Matt 28:16-20**

Jesus appeared to the women disciples. He told them to go and tell his brethren (other disciples) to meet Him at Galilee.

The eleven disciples met Him at a mountain in Galilee where He gave what is referred to as the "Great Commission".

#### **Appearances in Mark's Gospel – Mark 16:9-18**

Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene.

He appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at table, and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart.

#### **Appearances in Luke's Gospel – Luke 24:13-49**

He appeared to two men, one whose name was Cleopas, on the way to a village called Emmaus; talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. Jesus joined in the conversation.

They knew it was Jesus when he was at table with them, took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. Then He vanished out of their sight.

### **The Significance of The Appearances of Jesus Christ After His Resurrection**

1. The appearances of Jesus Christ strengthen the faith of the disciples and drove away their doubts.
2. Jesus showed His disciples their position in His work of redemption. Luke 24:48 – "And you are witnesses of these things."



3. The appearances encouraged the worship and adoration of Christ by the disciples. (Matt. 28:17)
4. The appearances confirmed the glorification of Jesus.

### **ASSIGNMENT**

Read John 21:1-14 and 20:24-28 to see the appearance of Jesus in John's gospel.

### **PRACTICE QUESTIONS ON RESURRECTION APPEARANCES**

1. (a) Describe the appearance of the risen Christ to the two men on their way to Emmaus.  
(b) What three benefits do Christians derive from the resurrection of Jesus Christ? (WASSCE 2015)
2. Give the highlights of Christ's resurrection appearances as outlined in I Corinthians. (WASSCE 2002)

### **CRS LESSON NOTE FOR SS1 WEEK 9, LESSON 1**

#### **TOPIC: THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST**

(I Thess. 4:13-18; II Thess. 2:1-12; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:1-11 and II Tim. 4:1.)

**BIBLICAL INTEGRATION: II Pet. 3:10** – *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.”*

### **Meaning of Concepts**

#### **The Second Coming of Christ**

The second coming of Jesus Christ otherwise known as “The Parousia” is the expectation of the coming again (second coming) of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is an event every Christian is looking forward to. That is, It is the hope of the believers.

### **Hell**

1. Hell is the place or state of punishment for the wicked after death. Luke 16:19-31.
2. The place of the dead, or of souls of sinners after death; the lower regions, or the grave; called in Hebrew, ‘**sheol**’, and by the Greeks, ‘**hades**’ – Psalm 16:10; Jonah 2:1-2.

### **Heaven**

Heaven Dwelling Place or habitation of God – Psalm 11:4; 33:13  
Heaven is the future dwelling place of the righteous – Heb. 11:6.  
Heaven is a resting place for the dead in Christ – Rev. 14:13.

### **Judgment-Day**

The last day, or day when final judgment will be pronounced on the subjects of God's moral government.

## **Judgment**

The final trial of the human race, when God will decide the fate of every individual, and award sentence according to justice.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. (Eccl. 12:14.)

“... For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” – Rom. 14:10.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.” – II Cor. 5:10.

## **Proofs of Christ's Second Coming**

Jesus did not leave His disciples in darkness concerning His second coming. Proofs of Christ's second coming are:

- Jesus told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them and that He is coming back to take them to live where He is. (John 14:1-3).
- Jesus told His disciples the signs of His second coming and of the close of the age. (Matt. 24:1-51).
- Jesus told many parables concerning preparation for His second coming. E.g. parable of the Ten Virgins in Matt. 25:1-13.
- During Christ's ascension to heaven, the two men in white robes (believed to be angels) confirmed that Christ will come again. (Acts 1:1-11, note v11).
- Apostle Paul also taught and reminded the church in Thessalonica about the promise of Christ's second coming and how it will take place.

## **Reason for Christ's Second Coming**

To judge the living and the dead – II Tim. 4:1

## **Description of the coming of the Lord according to Paul's teaching. (I Thess.4:13-18)**

Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians dealt with the issue of those who have died and those who will die before the second coming of the Lord. He told them not to grieve for their dead like those who have no hope.

Just as Jesus died and rose again from the dead, those who died in Christ will be raised again from the dead.

The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then the believers who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Then they would be with the Lord and would come down to earth and inherit it with Christ forever.

Paul said that they should comfort one another with these words.

## **Significance of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ**

- Christians should live a new life in Christ that they will be counted worthy before Christ.

- The second coming is the time of God's intervention directly and dramatically in the world affairs.
- It is the day of punishment for sinners and reward for faithful believers.
- It is the day when God will defeat all forces of evil on earth.
- It is the day that Christ will judge sinners and set up His eternal kingdom.
- Christians should know that death is not the end of human existence. It is transition into spiritual life.
- Christians should have faith in the resurrection and ascension of Christ.

### **TOPIC: THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST (CONTS)**

(II Thess. 2:1-12; I Thess. 5:1-11.)

**BIBLICAL INTEGRATION: 2Pet. 3:14** – *“Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.”*

#### **Signs of The Parousia – II Thess. 2:1-12**

With the death of their colleague who died as a born again Christian before the coming (parousia) and seeing the physical death as end of their effort and faith in Christ, the Thessalonians questioned one another. But Paul clarified the problem as follows that:

- The Thessalonians and indeed all Christians need not worry about the fate of their brothers and sisters who died in Christ (not as a sinner) or will die before the second coming as they would share in glory of Jesus Christ and live again.
- Those still living need not to be over-anxious about the time but assured of the hope of salvation for all true Christians either dead or alive.
- The Lord Jesus would descend from heaven with a cry of command, sound of the trumpet of God and the Archangel's call, then those living and the dead in Christ would meet Him in the air and thus remain with Him forever.
- The second coming according to Paul would be preceded by the coming of the lawless one with false signs and wonders, whom he described as the sons of perdition who would claim to be God.
- The lawless one come through the activity of Satan with other power. This the Lord would destroy by the breath of his mouth when the lawless one will be revealed.
- False signs, wonders and wicked deception will abound for those destined for destruction since they refused to love truth and be saved.
- The Lawless one will lead those who have pleasure in unrighteousness to eternal condemnation as they failed to believe the truth.

#### **Preparation for the Second Coming of Christ (I Thess. 5:1-11)**

Ways, according to Paul, Thessalonian Christians are to prepare for the second coming of Christ:

In Paul's letter to the Thessalonians on the second coming, he wrote that it should be an unexpected event on the last day by every true Christian. It is the central theme of Christian beliefs and teachings.

According to Paul, the signs of the second coming shall be known and commenced by the command of the Lord, with the archangel calling with trumpet sound.

Then Jesus would appear in heaven. Those who have already died in the Lord would rise first, while the living would join them together to meet the Lord in the mid-air.

As one of the conditions, Christians are to get prepared for the day, as it would come unexpectedly like the thief in the night. He advised that there should be no confusion in the church concerning the second coming of Jesus. They should not panic nor be deceived by the false prophecies about it nor caught unaware.

Christians as children of moral uprightness should not be taken unaware but rather, they should be awake, sober, watchful and bearing in mind the faith, love and hope which are means of salvation.

Live a life of holiness and godliness – II Pet. 3:10-12. (Note v11)

### **Lessons Relevant To Christian Living By Paul's Explanation.**

- Preparedness: Christians should learn to always be ready for the great day that will be sudden like a thief in the night. They should therefore put on the Christ armoury of faith, hope and love and not anxious over when how Christ will come.
- Christians should not allow themselves to be deceived by the deceptive and lawless ones.
- Christians should learn to be vigilant with sober responsibility needed to resist the flesh and the devil.
- Christians should learn to always live according to the teaching of Jesus and faith in the resurrection of Jesus as a living fact to benefit from the promise of eternal life through Christ.
- According to Paul, Christians should know that the parousia cannot be identified by time and seasons and should not even worry about it as it will be unexpected and sudden.
- Christians should not worry nor grieve so much for colleagues who died in the Lord nor themselves because they will live again on the resurrection day.
- Christians should help and encourage colleagues who are weak in faith, have faith in the resurrection of Christ as a living fact and also expect their own resurrection. This is the greatest asset for adequate preparation for the day of the Lord.

### **PRACTICE QUESTIONS ON THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST**

1. (a) Describe the coming of the Lord according to Paul's teaching.  
(b) What does this teach us as Christians? (WASSCE 1990)
2. (a) What according to Paul are the signs of parousia?  
(b) State THREE lessons relevant to Christian living by Paul's explanation. (WASSCE 2007)
3. (a) Using St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonian Christians describe the second coming of Jesus.  
(b) Show how this would involve the living and the dead. (WASSCE 2002)

4. (a) Why according to Paul, should believers prepare for the second coming of the Lord?  
(b) State TWO reasons why this second coming is significant. (WASSCE 2005)
5. In what ways, according to Paul, should Thessalonian Christians prepare for the second coming of Christ? (WASSCE 1993)

### **CRS LESSON NOTE FOR SS1 WEEK 10**

#### **TOPIC: THE RESSURECTION AND CHRISTIAN FAITH**

(I Cor. 15:1-58)

**BIBLICAL INTEGRATION: I Cor. 15:19** – *“If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied.”*

#### **Highlights of Christ’s resurrection appearances as outlined in first Corinthians – I Cor. 15:1-10**

Reminding the Corinthians, Paul highlights the resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ in the following ways:

- The content of the gospel of salvation which he already preached to them.
- He later appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, some of which were still alive, while some had fallen asleep.
- Then He appeared to James and all the apostles and lastly to Paul.
- Being the least of the Apostles, Paul, in spite of being unfit to be an Apostle because he persecuted the church of God.
- That the grace of God made Paul to work harder than any Christ before Him.
- And that if there was no resurrection, it means that Christ had not risen. Hence, the apostolic preaching and faith would have been in vain.

#### **Outline Of The Arguments Used By Paul To Defend Resurrection.**

Paul wrote to the Corinthians to counter the wrong teaching imparted to them. First he reminded them about his early teaching on the subject which they accepted which he hoped would give them justification and salvation if they continue in true faith in Christ.

Paul told them that he delivered the doctrine of resurrection to them as he received it. That Jesus died for their sins, was buried and rose on the third day according to the scriptures.

As proofs of His resurrection, he appeared to His disciples including Peter, James and five hundred others. Lastly He appeared to him (Paul) though the least of the apostles being a persecutor of the church.

He (Paul) wondered why some unbelievers should deny the resurrection of Christ if there were such abundant and clear evidence to prove it. Paul averred that Jesus could not have been raised if there was no resurrection and if He was not raised, then his preaching and those of others were in vain and there would render their faith useless and make them remain in sin.

If Jesus did not resurrect, then the dead in Christ remain perished and those alive in faith in Christ stand to be pitied, but the fact remains that Christ has been raised from the dead and has become the first fruit of those who are falling asleep.

Paul said further that death first came through the first man Adam, so also life after death has come to man through Jesus Christ. God had put all under Christ's authority and through His grace Christians are assured of life eternal.

Significance of Paul's Teaching on Resurrection to Christians Today.

- Resurrection of Jesus proves His sonship to God.
- Faith in resurrection of Jesus Christ is the bedrock of Christianity and Christian faith.
- Victory over death had been won for the children of God by Jesus Christ.
- Death of a Christian is only the gate for eternal life in kingdom of God for all believers.
- There is hope for the dead Christians who are alive who will witness the coming of Christ.
- Christians should not mourn so much for the dead colleagues as they are not gone forever, they will be raised on the last day.
- Life after resurrection is imperishable.
- Christ who raised Christ from the dead will also raise those who are in Christ from the dead on the last day.
- Jesus is shown to the world as the authentic son of God by raising Him from the dead.
- We should as Christians model our lives after Jesus to attain the goal of salvation.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS ON THE RESURRECTION AND CHRISTIAN FAITH**

1. (a) Outline the arguments used by Paul to defend resurrection.  
(b) In what THREE ways is the resurrection significant to believers? (WASSCE 2011)
2. Give the highlights of Christ's resurrection appearances as outlined in first Corinthians.  
(WASSCE 2002 Q11)
3. (a) Explain Paul's teaching on Resurrection.  
(b) Give TWO reasons why the resurrection of Jesus is of great significance to Christians.  
(WASSCE 1999)
4. Describe how Paul dealt with the problem of the Corinthian Christians who did not believe in the resurrection. What is the significance of the resurrection of Christ to Christians?  
(WASSCE 1995)