

THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST U.S.A., INC.



2021
Bible Study
AND HOME CELL GUIDE

COMPILED BY
NATIONAL LITERATURE COMMITTEE

THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST



2021 BIBLE STUDY AND HOME CELL GUIDE

Compiled by

National Discipleship & Leadership Development Committee

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The National Discipleship & Leadership Development Committee

Printed in U.S.A

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FOREWORD

The overarching theme for Vision 2023 as we are by now very well abreast with, is "*Possessing the Nations: Equipping the Church to Transform Every Sphere of Society with Values and Principles of the Kingdom of God*". This overarching theme inspires us to raise an army of Christians who, being filled with the Holy Spirit and fully equipped with the knowledge of God's word, will engage and transform their societies with godly values and principles. Thus, our overall goal is a church where members go to possess their nations by transforming every worldview, thought and behavior with values, principles and lifestyles of the Kingdom of God and thereby turning many people to Christ.

In 2020, the Lord led us to the second step towards the "Possessing the Nations" agenda, under the theme, "A Glorious Church to Possess the Nations". Our focus was to build a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish; a "holy and blameless" bride prepared for the Bridegroom, who is Christ. We were made to understand that God is always working in His church through His people to prepare the church as a glorious bride for Himself and to make her credible before the watching world. This is to make the church's witness

easier. This is because an untransformed church cannot transform the society. This theme therefore was to focus more on the goal of the church. To help us achieve this goal, specific topics including the following were rolled out to be treated throughout the year:

That there may be Glory in the Church, The Church: Called to a holy living, living a life of integrity as a Christian, and Possessing the nations through prayer. Others were, Raising Godly children to possess the nations, and I am an Agent of transformation.

However, in 2020, due to the ravaging effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, we were unable to treat the theme effectively as expected. Since these annual themes are guiding steps towards the overarching theme, we believe that introducing a new theme will distract the intended process towards the realization of the “Possessing the Nations” agenda.

In view of this, the Executive Council has prayerfully decided to repeat the 2020 annual theme for 2021. To this end the word “Revived” has been inserted into the theme for 2020 hence the theme for 2021 is: *“A Glorious Church, Revived to Possess the Nations”*.

The topics to be treated in the 2021 Bible Study and Home Cell manual remain the same as those of 2020, except with a few supplementary topics to be treated

with the intention to spark off a revival in the church. For, we are fully convinced that if we have experienced a pandemic in our lifetime, we should also experience a revival in our lifetime that many would be brought to the salvation in Jesus Christ. This can only be made possible by the Holy Spirit through a glorious church which in itself is revived.

It is my prayer that the repetition of the theme will afford the church public the opportunity to delve much deeper into the theme, derive a better understanding of it, be affected by it and reach out to potential converts and members for Christ.

May the Lord continue to be with us and grant us the needed hunger and thirst for righteousness in our collective quest to experience lasting revival as a glorious church. God bless us all and may 2021 be a glorious year!!

Aps. Eric Kwabena Nyamekye
Chairman, The Church of Pentecost

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The theme chosen by the Chairman and the Executive Council for the year 2021 is '*A Glorious Church Revived to Possess the Nations*' (Ephesians 3: 21, 5; 27). Essentially, the 2021 theme is similar to that of 2020. The rationale for this unique direction flows from the backdrop of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic that made it difficult for the church to thoroughly engage with the 2020 theme. However, the 2020 theme is significant and pivotal to the 5-year vision, "Possessing the Nations", for it takes a glorious church to possess the nations. With this direction, most of the 2020 Bible Studies and Home Cell outlines will be repeated to enable the whole church to study the lessons.

The effectiveness of the 2021 Bible Study and Home Cell classes, among other things, would be dependent on District Ministers being abreast with the schedule for each week and communicating same to all local Assemblies. Additionally, the effective organization of preparatory classes for Bible Study and Home Cell leaders spear-headed by the district minister is highly recommended. The preparatory classes enhance the understanding of the material and also provide the opportunity for the minister to assess the effectiveness of the cells and study groups. As stated in previous editions, the emphasis of the study should be on how to apply lessons gleaned from the text to

daily life. Thus, the Cell Leader should study the outline prayerfully and diligently ahead of the class.

As a Committee we are grateful to God for His unfailing guidance in developing and publishing scripts annually. We deeply acknowledge the Chairman, Apostle Eric Nyamekye for his visionary leadership and the ready support he extends to the Committee. Further, we commend the General Secretary, Apostle A. N. Y. Kumi-Larbi, the International Missions Director, Apostle Emmanuel Gyasi-Addo and the entire Executive Council Members for their commitment to discipleship in the Church of Pentecost. The members of the National Discipleship & Leadership Development Committee also deserve commendation for their painstaking efforts expended in the production of this year's manual. They are:

Pastor Henry Sowah Ako-Nai	Secretary
Apostle Vincent Anane-Denteh	Member
Apostle William Boakye Agyarko	Member
Pastor Enoch Teye Narh	Member
Pastor Eric Ansah	LLTS Organiser
Pastor Joseph Owusu Boateng	Member
Samuel Kojo Gakpetor (Apostle)	
(Coordinator, NDLDC)	

2021 WEEK BY WEEK GUIDE FOR BIBLE STUDY

WEEK	DATE	ACTIVITY	BIBLE STUDY
JANUARY			
1	3 RD	LORD'S SUPPER	
2	10 TH	Local Week	Revival
3	17 TH	Local Week	The Nature of Revival
4	24 TH	Local Week	Repentance – A Catalyst for Revival
5	31 ST	Gospel Sunday	Revival – The Role of Intercessors
FEBRUARY			
6	7 TH	LORD'S SUPPER	
7	14 TH	Local Week	Overcoming Obstacles to Revival
8	21 ST	Local Week	Revival Leads to Restoration
9	28 TH	Gospel Sunday	Maintaining Your Spiritual Fervor
MARCH			
10	7 TH	LORD'S SUPPER	
11	14 TH	McKeown Missions Week	Supporting Missions Work
12	21 ST	Local Week	Manifesting the Glory of God
13	28 TH	Gospel Sunday	Witnessing About Christ to Others
APRIL			
14	4 TH	EASTER SUNDAY	
15	11 TH	Local Week	Beware of False Teachers
16	18 TH	Local Week	How to Identify False Teaching
17	25 TH	Gospel Sunday	How to Engage in Personal Evangelism
MAY			
18	2 ND	LORD'S SUPPER	
19	9 TH	Mothers' Day	The Biblical Roles of Wives in Marriage
20	16 TH	Local Week	Sources of False Teaching
21	23 RD	Local Week	Effects of False Teaching
22	30 TH	Gospel Sunday	The Reward of Personal Evangelism
JUNE			
23	6 TH	LORD'S SUPPER	
24	13 TH	Local Week	Responding to False Teaching in the Local Church
25	20 TH	Local Week	The Biblical Roles of Husbands in Marriage
26	27 TH	PENTSOS Week	Fulfilling the Social Responsibility of the Church

JULY			
27	4 TH	LORD'S SUPPER	
28	11 TH	Local Week	Upholding Truth and Justice in the Marketplace
29	18 TH	Local Week	The Cost of Laziness
30	25 TH	Gospel Sunday	The Role of the Holy Spirit in Witnessing
AUGUST			
31	1 ST	LORD'S SUPPER / CHILDREN'S WEEK	
32	8 TH	Local Week	Jesus – Friend of Little Children
33	15 TH	Local Week	Integrity in the Market Place
34	22 ND	Local Week	Don't Abuse the Privilege
35	29 TH	Gospel Sunday	Don't Withhold Your Worker's Pay
SEPTEMBER			
36	5 TH	LORD'S SUPPER	
37	12 TH	Local Week	Dreams about Heaven and Hell
38	19 TH	Local Week	Honoring Officers of the Church
39	26 TH	Gospel Sunday	Examine Yourself
OCTOBER			
40	3 RD	LORD'S SUPPER	
41	10 TH	Local Week	Unity in the Body of Christ
42	17 TH	Local Week	Don't Compromise Your Christian Values
43	24 TH	Local Week	Bad Company Corrupts Good Character
44	31 ST	Gospel Sunday	Remembering the Lord's Servants
NOVEMBER			
45	7 TH	LORD'S SUPPER	
46	14 TH	Local Week	Church Discipline for Corporate Holiness
47	21 ST	Local Week	Restoring Disciplined Members to Fellowship
48	28 TH	Gospel Sunday	Truly Acknowledging Christ's Lordship
DECEMBER			
49	5 TH	LORD'S SUPPER	
50	12 TH	Local Week	The Church as a Model of Society
51	19 TH	Local Week	The Lord Jesus Deserves Worship
52	26 TH	CHRISTMAS CONVENTION	

BIBLE STUDY

WEEK 1

LORD'S SUPPER

WEEK 2

REVIVAL

Main Text: Ezra 7: 8-10, 9: 1-6

Memory Verse: *Will you not revive us again that your people may rejoice in you?* Psalm 85: 6

Introduction

The Babylonian captivity of the Jews brought severe consequences for their religious and social life. The temple, a revolving point of Israel's religious life and identity and the walls of Jerusalem which offered security were destroyed. Nonetheless, in fulfilment of prophecy (Dan 9: 25), King Cyrus allowed the Jews to return and rebuild the city after seventy years in exile (Ezra 1:1-11). God used 3 key leaders to restore the people to true spirituality. Zerubbabel was used to reconstruct the temple (Ezra 3:8), Nehemiah was used to rebuild the broken physical walls (Neh. 2:4) and Ezra was used to rebuild the spiritual walls. When Ezra arrived in Jerusalem with the second group, he discovered that God's people had not separated themselves from the detestable practices of their neighboring pagan nations and had thus, lost their distinctiveness as God's chosen people. He therefore

started a revival to restore the people of God to true worship. Ezra's intentional and painstaking approach to rebuilding their spiritual walls is the subject of this study.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why was Ezra angry with the Israelites? (Ezra 9:1-3)
2. List three qualities (character traits) of Ezra as stated in Ezra 7:10.
3. Explain how each of these traits helped Ezra to lead a revival among his people?
4. What was the result of Ezra's intentional approach? Ezra 8:9, 12, 17.
5. From the discussions above, what do you consider as the most important requirement for spiritual awakening or revival in the Local Church?

Conclusion

Revival is a return to spiritual health after a period of decline into sin and broken fellowship with God. Revival is essential for God's people when they need to be forgiven and restored to spiritual health and vitality. The people of Israel had forsaken the way of the Lord and therefore

needed to be restored to true worship. Nevertheless, Ezra who led the revival did not hasten with programs but rather committed himself first to the study and obedience of God's word. He then proceeded to teach the laws of God in Israel.

The first lesson from the example of Ezra is that rebuilding the spiritual walls of the church must first start with the devotional life, spiritual intimacy and obedience of leadership to the word of God. Furthermore, the teaching of the word of God must be given priority in order to rebuild the spiritual walls of members. As exemplified by Ezra, the word provides the basis for all genuine revival. It is the response to the word of God that produces repentance and a spiritual thirst in a person. Thus, any effort at revival which does not emphasize the teaching of the word will produce shallow members without any trait of spiritual transformation.

WEEK 3

THE NATURE OF REVIVAL

Text: Acts 4: 23-37.

Memory Verse: *And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.* – Acts 4:31, KJV

Introduction

In this study we shall look at the meaning, motivation, means, marks and measure of revival. Revival is defined as the outflow of the church's conscious awareness of its vulnerability with sustained dialogue with God to see His will done on earth through it as energized by the Holy Spirit. The motivation for revival is the desire of the church to have a clean break with the world – a lifestyle which is ignoble, mean, vulgar, in bad taste, ill-mannered, shallow, vindictive, self-centered, and corrupt. This enables the church to experience restoration of godly fortunes and values, fruitfulness, attractiveness, renewal of passion for moral integrity, fervent prayer, doctrinal purity, ministerial excellence, and unfettered love.

Questions for Discussion

1. What did the Council decide to do to halt the apostles' witness to the death and resurrection of Christ? Verse 15-18.
2. How did the disciples respond to the report of threats they received from Peter and John? Verse 24-30.
3. Identify the specific request that the disciples placed before God. Verses 29 and 30.
4. What happened immediately after the disciples had prayed? Verse 31.
5. How did the Holy Spirit manifest Himself in the church after He had filled them? Verse 32-35.
6. What do you think your church can do to experience lasting revival?

Conclusion

The means to revival involve extensive sessions of Bible study and teaching, prevailing sessions of effective fervent prayers, genuine self-examination, and preparedness to pay the price. With these in place, the marks of revival become evident. It is the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit to bless the church with spectacular events, prophetic messages, harvest of

souls, consciousness of sin, cry for holiness, generous giving, all embracing brotherly love and rapid growth and expansion of the church. Measure of Revival – The impact of a revival is far-reaching. The blessings are experienced by individuals, groups, organizations, nations, and globally. This happens provided the church continues to keep abreast with the Holy Spirit in fulfilling its mandate with the appropriate sacrifices and exemplary lives especially of the corporate managers of God's resources.

WEEK 4

REPENTANCE – A CATALYST FOR REVIVAL

Text: 2 Chronicles 7, 12-15

Memory Verse: *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.* 2 Chronicles 7,14. KJV

Introduction

According to the Concise Oxford Dictionary, revival is a reawakening of religious fervor, especially by means of evangelistic meetings. Genuine and lasting revivals must be birthed (not organized) by saints who conceive righteousness and passion for souls without monetary motives. On the other hand, repentance which acts as a catalyst to the break, buoyancy and blessings of lasting revival is the feeling of intense sorrow for going contrary to the will of God by deeds, thoughts, utterances, desires and things looked at, often to the hurt of others. What complements repentance is the genuine confession of the misdeed and a resolve to abstain from it. It is also essential to state that repentance needs to be both vertical and horizontal. In each case the offending party must show

genuine remorse and ask for forgiveness while the offended party must be gracious to forgive offences.

Questions for Discussion

1. What assurance did God give to Solomon? V.12
2. With what acts did God warn Israel He would bring hardship on them? V.13
3. Identify the process of repentance that God recommends to His people. V.14a
4. How will God respond to His children when they show genuine repentance? V.14b.
5. Discuss some of the personal sins and group sins to be confessed in a church yearning for lasting revival.

Conclusion

Solomon had completed the building of the Temple and made all arrangements for its dedication (2 Chronicles 5,1-7). Following a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the successful completion of the project, Solomon petitioned the LORD to temper justice with mercy in the event of Israel sinning against Him (2 Chronicles 6,24-30, 36-39). Key elements of the petition show that the king was familiar with the curses that God had

outlined for Israel should they disobey Him (Deuteronomy 28, 24-68). From the passage read God outlines specific steps that His children need to take to have audience with Him and be restored to a life of plenty and prosperity (2 Chronicles 7,14). Churches often hasten to present petitions to God, but appear reluctant to live by the conditions attached to His granting the reliefs sought. Lasting revivals break out when both leaders and members appear before God as people who need God's forgiveness and then confess their sins – hidden and open – to one another. Failing to do these, what we experience as revivals are passing events without depth.

WEEK 5

REVIVAL – THE ROLE OF INTERCESSORS

Text: Nehemiah 1:1-4

Memory Verse: *And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.* – Nehemiah 1: 4.

Introduction

Judah's disobedience and abject waywardness engendered their spiritual distancing from God. They eventually suffered Babylonian attack and captivity. After seventy years of exile, they had the opportunity to begin the difficult reconstruction of Jerusalem left in ruins by the captivity. Zerubbabel, Joshua and Haggai led the first batch of returnees to begin the reconstruction. They raised the altar and eventually rebuilt the Temple. But Jerusalem was still without walls with spiritual, security, socio-economic, cultural and racial implications. It was against this backdrop that Nehemiah appeared on the scene to address rippling effects of the national disaster.

Questions for Discussion

1. What three things did Nehemiah seek to know from Hanani and his colleagues? Verse 2.
2. How did the people respond to the questions? Verse 3.
3. Why do you think Nehemiah afflicted himself as stated in verse 4?
4. Can you identify some walls which appear to have been broken down in the church?
5. What should the church do in times of national and even global crises?

Conclusion

The walls of the earth appear to have been broken down. Satan is hard at the heels of humanity using moral decadence and false teachings to destroy precious lives. Yet God is still on the throne and will not leave humanity to be destroyed. Nevertheless, He is looking for human vessels to position themselves as His partners to roll back the raging waves of the ungodly. We cannot afford to disappoint Him.

The deep depression associated with Covid-19, for instance, to which we are exposed calls for divine intervention. Nothing but sincere appeal to the

sovereignty of God can be the road to deliverance that can neither be found in medical science nor political rhetoric. This is where the church can stand in the gap for the nations. However, God is looking for men and women with deep love for Him and humanity who will be willing to pay the price for the task of stemming the tide of the pandemic. Who knows that a mighty revival will follow the pandemic?

WEEK 6

LORD'S SUPPER

WEEK 7

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO REVIVAL

Text: Nehemiah 4: 9-20

Memory Verse: *In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.* – Nehemiah 4:20

Introduction

Nehemiah, the leader put his confidence in God. He inspired the people to believe in and be committed to the vision of the reconstruction of Jerusalem. Thus, the Jews watched as much as they prayed. They prayed to seek God's favor in the work at hand for good success. They prayed for God to protect them against the plans of the enemy. They prayed for wisdom to take the right decisions on the job, and they prayed for the determination to complete the job come what may.

Questions for Discussion

1. What did the people do to overcome obstacles to their work? Verse 9.

2. What did Nehemiah do when he received news of a planned enemy attack on his people? Verse 13 and 14.
3. How else did Nehemiah prepare his people to ward off the planned enemy attack? Verses 16-18.
4. Identify some practical lessons that the church can use in her efforts to experience a lasting revival.

Conclusion

The Jews made prudent use of insider information (Neh. 4:12). Nehemiah inspired the people to rest on the greatness and goodness of God (v.14). Both the leaders and the people committed themselves to a mission strategy (verses 16-18). The nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people readily submitted to the assigned leadership of Nehemiah (verses 19-20), and the people worked cheerfully even under severe hardships (verse 23). To experience and enjoy lasting revival in the church, it is necessary for church leaders to know that revivals do not come without obstacles. To this end, there is the need for church leaders to adhere to prudent leadership principles. It is when church leaders are seen by their followers as passionate about values and principles that define revival that both groups labor in prayer, fasting and doctrinal depth to birth and nurture revival as ordained by God.

WEEK 8

REVIVAL LEADS TO RESTORATION

Text: Joel 2:12-28

Memory Verse: *Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God.* – Joel 2:17.

Introduction

The book of Joel opens with a description of the devastation caused by swarms of diverse kinds of locusts, accompanied by a terrible drought. The plague of locusts, one of the most dreadful scourges of the East, is highly suggestive of an invasion of hostile legions such as have often ravaged Judea; and many have understood it to be the Chaldeans, Persians, Greeks, or Romans. The prophet, however, summons the stricken people to fasting and penitence, and encourages them by promising the removal of the divine judgments and the return of fertility. While describing this returning plenty and prosperity, the prophet casts his view forward on a future still more remote, and predicts the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the signs and wonders

and spiritual prosperity of the Messiah's reign (Joel 2:28).

Questions for Discussion

1. How did God say His people should turn to Him? Verse 12.
2. What attributes of God come to play when His people repent? Verse 13.
3. Who were those to be gathered for the solemn assembly? Verse 15 and 16.
4. What blessings did God promise to His people? Verses 24-28.
5. How can the church position herself to experience meaningful revival?

Conclusion

It can be said that the ignoble practices for which Judah suffered exist in the church today, only in different forms. There is hatred, betrayal, envy and jealousy and moral impropriety among church leaders and members. Some of them sometimes become guilty of nepotism and favoritism. In some cases, people become dangerously interested in empire building. It can also be said that church leaders are at times neglected and

even despised by the very people they risk their lives to shepherd. Against the above background, the church needs conscious repentance, and breaking of her fallow ground as she looks forward to the promised showers of blessings. For, the vitality of effective fervent prayer is rooted in obedience to God.

WEEK 9

MAINTAINING YOUR SPIRITUAL FERVOR

Main Text: Rev 3: 14-18

Memory Verse: *Never be lacking in zeal but keep your spiritual fervor serving the Lord – Rom 12:11*

Introduction

History has shown that periods of intense revival are sometimes followed by times of spiritual apathy towards the things of God. Such lethargic disposition towards spiritual growth and advancement of the Kingdom can be dealt with when we maintain our spiritual fervor. Spiritual fervor can be defined as intense passion, interest and enthusiasm for the things of God. This is very important because God's Kingdom is driven by Spirit-filled and zealous Christians who dare to transform their spheres of influence with the gospel of Christ and values of the kingdom of God. In view of the foregoing, Paul's command to 'never be lacking in zeal' is a wakeup call to avoid complacency which could eventually dampen our love, zeal, and passion for the kingdom business.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does it mean to be 'neither hot nor cold' as a Christian? Verse 14
2. How does verse 17 reflect the attitude of Christians who are indifferent to their spiritual growth and the kingdom business?
3. Discuss factors that account for loss of spiritual fervor?
4. What are the effects of losing spiritual passion and zeal?
5. How can we maintain our spiritual fervor irrespective of our past spiritual experiences and achievements?

Conclusion

Spiritual fervor is an intense yearning, zeal and enthusiasm for the things of God initiated and sustained by the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, being 'neither hot nor cold' implies the condition of being indifferent to the cause of the kingdom and consequently, the personal spiritual empowerment needed for such tasks. This is often caused by laziness, lack of fellowship with the Holy Spirit and worldliness. It is important to note that, soulish strength is not the same as spiritual fervor. When we lose our spiritual fervor, we become lethargic, and apathetic to issues pertaining to the kingdom of God. Zeal can wane and fervor diminish with time. However, engaging in spiritual

disciplines daily will always increase our zeal, passion and enthusiasm for the things of God. Some of these spiritual disciplines include prayer, fasting, meditation, solitude, bible study, and service. Daily, it is our responsibility to ‘fan into flame’ our passion and enthusiasm for the kingdom business in order to maintain and increase our spiritual fervor.

WEEK 10

LORD'S SUPPER

WEEK 11

SUPPORTING MISSIONS WORK

Main Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15.

Memory Verse: *But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in this grace of giving.* — 2 Corinthians 8:7.

Introduction

The word “missions” refers to the various activities that the church undertakes to reach out to various cultures with the gospel of Christ as expressed in the Great Commission. The CoP has branches in over 100 countries worldwide, and the Missions Board, supports both the internal and external branches with funds for acquisition of evangelism equipment and construction of church buildings. These funds are realized from the monthly Missions Offerings and annual McKeown’s Missions Week Offerings. In the passage read, we observe the eagerness of the Macedonian churches to support churches outside their region in spite of their difficulties. These lessons will guide us as we endeavor to support the work of missions.

Questions for Discussion

1. What did the churches in Macedonia do to support the work of missions in spite of their hardship? Verses 2, 3.
2. What advice did Paul give to the Corinthian church concerning supporting missions work? Verse 10-14.
3. What would be the consequences if we fail to support the work of missions?
4. From the example of the Macedonian churches, how should we give towards missions?
5. Apart from giving, discuss other ways by which we can support missions.

Conclusion

The Macedonians, though poor and tested by many troubles, rejoiced exceedingly for the opportunity they had to support churches outside their region. They gave freely beyond their ability to the extent of pleading with much urgency that their gifts must be received. Paul entreated the Corinthian church to emulate the good work of helping those in need with their substance, and not relent. We should also make others (including sinners and those in need) know Christ as we open our hands to support the work of missions without considering our present challenges. Apart from giving in support of missions, we should

also pray continually for the work of missions, and encourage missionaries by communicating frequently with them.

WEEK 12

MANIFESTING THE GLORY OF GOD

Main Text: 2 Corinthians 3:16-18, Exodus 34:33-35.

Memory Verse: *And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.* – Ephesians 5:27.

Introduction

The Scriptures teach that the mystery of the glory of God was hidden for many ages and generations but has now been revealed to us as ‘Christ in you, the hope of glory’. In today’s lesson, Paul draws from the Old Testament experience where Moses had to veil his face before he communicated with the people of Israel because, they were afraid of the radiance in his face. In today’s lesson, we shall discuss what happens when one turns to the Lord and focuses on His glory. We shall also discuss how we as individuals and as a Church can manifest the glory of God.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why do you think Moses had to put a veil over his face before speaking with the people of Israel?

Exodus 34:33, 35.

2. What happens to the veil in the New Testament? 2 Corinthians 3:16.
3. What happens to us when we focus on the Lord's glory with unveiled faces? 2 Corinthians 3:18.
4. How can we manifest God's glory as a Church?

Conclusion

Paul explains to us that when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed so that with unveiled faces we can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. As we continue to contemplate on His glory, we become more and more like Him as we are transformed into His glorious image (2 Cor. 3:18). When we have the glory, we must manifest it through our character. It is contradictory to have the glory of the Lord and still be comfortable with the deeds of darkness because the glory must be radiated as light in every dark space.

Additionally, we must radiate the glory through preaching the gospel, praying for the sick and demonstrating the power of God, which reveals the glory of God deposited in us.

WEEK 13

WITNESSING ABOUT CHRIST TO OTHERS

Main Text: John 1:35-42.

Memory Verse: *He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation’.* – Mark 16:15.

Introduction

The greatest desire of God has always been for the salvation of humankind. He wants everyone to come to repentance and be reconciled to himself through faith in Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 2:3-5). But how can the lost believe in Christ and be saved when they have not heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? (Rom. 10:14, 17). That is why in Mark 16:15, Jesus commands us to ‘preach the good news to all creation’. We learn from the main text that when Andrew heard about Christ through the testimony of John, the first thing he did was to look for his brother Simon and tell him about his newly found Lord.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why did John testify of Christ as, ‘the Lamb of God’? Verse 36.

2. How did the two disciples with John respond to this testimony about Christ? Verse 37.
3. What was the first thing Andrew did after he had chosen to follow Christ? Verse 40-41.
4. What can we learn as Christians from what Andrew did?
5. Discuss some of the things that often prevent Christians from sharing their faith.

Conclusion

Everyone who has received Christ should have a deep desire to share the good news about Him with others. Like Andrew, we must carry the gospel message to our unbelieving friends, relatives, co-workers and others. God is counting on us to move out of our comfort zones to seek the unsaved (in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, on the streets, etc.) and bring them to Jesus. Doing this would bring great joy in Heaven (Luke 15:7, 10).

WEEK 14

LORD'S SUPPER /EASTER SUNDAY

WEEK 15

BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS

Main Text: 2 Peter 2: 1- 8

Memory Verse: *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves* - Matt. 7:15

Introduction

The Bible is replete with warnings about false teachers. In general, false teachers can be categorized under two main groups; those who are genuinely in error due to ignorance and others who distort the truth for ulterior motives. Irrespective of the backgrounds and motives of false teachers, false teaching constitutes a major threat to the preservation of the true gospel and unity of the body of Christ. It is therefore important to be reminded of what the Bible says about false teachers, their activities and the effect of their teachings on immature and unstable Christians.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the cardinal mark of false teachers? Verse 1

2. Why do false teachers pervert the truth? verse 3
3. Who are the target of false teachers? Acts 20:29
4. Discuss why their methods are likened to the way of Balaam. Verse. 15, Nu 31:16
5. How would you handle a false teacher if you encountered one?

Conclusion

The striking characteristic of false teachers according to the scriptures is the introduction of heresies and doctrines that deny Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of the world. For dishonest gain, they pervert the truth to attract a large following. Usually, they do not seek the lost but target the flock in the church with deceptive teachings. False teachers are likened to Balaam because he perverted the truth for material gain (Nu 31:16; Nu 25:1-9). In 1 Peter 2: 16 -18, false teachers are described as wells without water, and clouds carried by the tempest. This is to point out their deceptive nature, emptiness and detachment from Christ who is the source of streams of living water (Col. 2:8). We must be careful not to give audience to false teachers by feeding on their materials or patronizing their programs (Rom. 16:17). They are very cunning and must be avoided at all cost.

WEEK 16

HOW TO IDENTIFY FALSE TEACHING

Main Text: 1 Tim. 6: 3-5; Acts 17: 11

Memory Verse: *Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ - Col. 2:8*

Introduction

To identify is the ability to recognize a thing for what it really is. False teaching is a major threat to Christianity. This is because false teachers often start with sound doctrine and at some point later begin to introduce erroneous teaching. This makes it difficult for the immature and undiscerning to spot the difference. In addition, they neglect the whole counsel of God and emphasize the error of their teaching consistently. Overtime, the error becomes plausible to their listeners due to the repetitive emphasis with scriptures taken out of context. In view of this, we must be armed with the basic knowledge of how to identify false teaching.

Questions for Discussion

1. How do false teachers present their message? (Verse 18, Rom. 16:18, Jude 1:16)
2. What is the basic content of false teaching? (1 Tim.6 :3)
3. Why does false teaching sometimes sound like the truth?
4. Discuss why false teaching seems to flourish in these times.
5. How can Christians guard against false teaching (Acts 17: 10, Rom. 16:17)

Conclusion

False teaching often neglects the simplicity of the gospel for high and great things which have no link with the finished work of Christ (2 Cor. 11: 3-4). Pretending to have unique interpretation of the secret things of God, and departing from right belief, false teaching is not Christ-centered (Col. 2:8). Rather, it imposes restrictions on the flesh as a requirement for salvation but provides no help in dealing with the sinful desires of mankind (Col. 2:23). On the other extreme, false teaching induces people to embrace and accommodate all manner of sinful lifestyle in keeping with their interpretation of what liberty in Christ

entails. Basically, false teaching does not agree with the words of Christ and the whole counsel of God that reflect godliness (1 Tim. 6:3). False teaching thrives in situations where people are not ready to put up with sound doctrine but rather crave for something spectacular, though outside the basic message of the gospel. More so, many believers who are ignorant of the Scriptures become easy prey for false teachers. Thus, the antidote to false teaching is believers who are abreast with the whole counsel of God and are ready to remain in the basic message of Christ.

WEEK 17

HOW TO ENGAGE IN PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Main Text: John 4:5-15.

Memory Verse: *To the Jews I became like a Jew to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.* – 1 Corinthians 9:20.

Introduction

Personal evangelism is one of the most effective ways to witness about Christ. However, many Christians fail in their attempts to engage in it. This happens usually because they do not know how to go about it. Knowing how to share our faith is what often makes the difference between effective and ineffective witnessing. In today's main text, Jesus provides an example in effective witnessing. He demonstrates how we can go about sharing our faith with others so clearly and convincingly that they can make the decision to accept Him as Lord and Savior.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why did Jesus return to Galilee from Judea? Verse 1-3.
2. In what state did Jesus find himself when He came to Sychar? Verse 5-6.
3. What did Jesus request from the woman, and what was her response? Verses 7, 9.
4. Discuss the approach and style Jesus used in witnessing to the woman.
5. Briefly demonstrate how to witness to others from Jesus' example.

Conclusion

We have observed how Jesus witnessed to the woman of Samaria. He was well prepared, calm, and patient with her. He also engaged her in a very conversational way. He began on the natural side and gradually focused the conversation on spiritual things. To be able to witness effectively to others, we must be well prepared in the Word and prayer, and have a pleasing lifestyle. We must be calm and patient with those we want to lead to Christ. We must be conversational in our approach by asking and allowing relevant questions. More importantly, our focus should be to help the other person to understand

who Jesus Christ is, what He has done for them and how they can receive Him into their lives.

WEEK 18

LORD'S SUPPER

WEEK 19

THE BIBLICAL ROLES OF WIVES IN MARRIAGE

Main Text: Ephesians 5:21-24.

Memory Verse: *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.* – Ephesians 5:22

Introduction

There are misunderstandings in today's world concerning the roles of wives in marriage. These seem to mislead some Christians in their marriages. The misunderstandings come from emerging liberal groups with philosophies, theories and practices that seek to oppose the biblical roles of husbands and wives. It is important for Christians to understand what the Bible says about their responsibilities. Today's lesson discusses the roles of wives in marriage.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does it mean for wives to submit to their husbands in all things?
2. What are some other roles of wives in marriage?
3. How do roles of wives' impact their families?

4. What cultural or traditional factors hinder wives from exhibiting their roles in marriage?
5. What possible ways should wives handle these cultural or traditional challenges?

Conclusion

From our study, we have known that wives are to submit to their own husbands as to the Lord since the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the Church. Wives must act under the authority of their husbands, as the Church acts under the authority of Christ. This does not mean wives must submit to committing acts of dishonesty and wrong-doing. They are to submit themselves under the watch of Christ. Wives must not submit to other peoples' husbands and fight their own. Rather, they are to submit to their own husbands while relating kindly with others.

In submission, wives must manage the home and the family. They must support their husbands to train their children in the fear of the Lord (Prov. 22:6). This creates family unity, joy and happiness which influence unbelieving singles and couples. Wives must avoid usurping the roles of husbands as this creates friction,

disharmony and infighting. They must be watchful of the influences of Satan from false doctrines, teachings and cultural or traditional beliefs and practices which tend to weaken the role of wives in marriage. It is important for husbands to perform their roles even when it is contrary to what they are familiar with.

WEEK 20

SOURCES OF FALSE TEACHING

Main Text: 1 Tim. 1: 1-10

Memory Verse: *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them* (KJV). – Rom. 16:18

Introduction

False teaching originates from several factors. These include the gospel's interaction with different cultures, inordinate craving for wealth by some people, ignorance of the whole counsel of God, and misunderstanding of difficult passages in the Bible. Others are the desire by self-acclaimed prophets to be accorded exclusive status in the introduction of new doctrine or interpretation of scripture. Daily, we come into contact with such contemporary knowledge and teachings which could lead us into falsehood. Our discussion today seeks to enlighten us on these entry points so we can take measures to avert their influence in the body of Christ.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why was Timothy asked to remain in Ephesus? Verse 3, 4
2. What were the likely sources of false doctrine in the church? 1 Tim 1: 4, 4:1-3,
3. How can one ensure that they interpret the Scriptures in harmony with sound doctrine?
4. Discuss examples of contemporary knowledge and teachings that could subtly lead Christians into error.
5. How can you guard against these sources of false doctrine?

Conclusion

One source of false doctrine in the church in Ephesus was a group of people who were not qualified to teach but had assumed titles as teachers of the Law. As a result, Paul instructed Timothy not to allow such people to peddle falsehood through their teachings. Usually, people without the requisite training to handle the Scriptures introduce a lot of error in their delivery. On the other hand, those who have been trained could drift from orthodoxy in their bid to bring about novel interpretations of both simple and difficult

passages of the Bible. At other times, the fear of being branded as conservative and unaccommodating of the culture of people groups, causes people to interpret the Scriptures to be acclaimed. Finally, the fascination of teaching or sharing contemporary knowledge accessed from various media without proper checks could spread false teaching in the church. These entry points of false teaching must be guarded against. This is because we live in an increasingly pluralistic, diverse and global world where there is an attempt to discredit absolute truth in favor of personal interpretations.

WEEK 21

EFFECTS OF FALSE TEACHING

Main Text: Gal. 5: 1-10

Memory Verse: *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage* (KJV) – Gal. 5: 1

Introduction

False teachings have dire consequences for both false teachers and their hearers. A cursory look at church history reveals that every dispensation of time has had its own struggle dealing with the menace of false teaching. In the Old Testament people suffered plagues and missed God's providence because they heeded the counsel of false teaching. Also, churches in the New Testament were rocked by the false teaching on circumcision as a requirement for salvation. Today, we shall examine the effects of false teaching on the body of Christ and the believer using the churches in Galatia as case study.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why were the believers entreated to stand firm? Verse 1
2. How was circumcision going to affect their liberty in Christ? Verse 3-4
3. Discuss the statement, 'a little leaven leavens the whole lump' in relation to the effect of false teaching on the church. Verse 9
4. How does false teaching lead people into bondage?
5. Share some of the negative effects of false teaching you have witnessed.

Conclusion

The churches in Galatia had received sound doctrine from Paul but were distracted by false teachers (Acts 15:1). Paul, recognizing that this false teaching would eventually lead the believers back into bondage, entreated the churches in Galatia to uphold the doctrine that salvation comes by grace through faith in the atoning death of Jesus Christ (Eph 2:8). False doctrine leads people into bondage, and self-indulgence. Thus, a little leaven leavens the whole lump, (Acts 5:9) implies that the minutest drop of false

doctrine, can subtly influence the conduct of a person or a whole congregation such that they eventually become totally alienated from Christ. Other effects of false teaching include harsh treatment of the body (Col. 2: 20-23), schisms and divisions in churches (Rom 16:17), doctrinal blasphemy (2 Pet. 2:2) and shameless moral misconduct of believers (Rom 1:28, 2 Peter 2:18).

WEEK 22

THE REWARD OF PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Review of Previous Lesson (5 Minutes)

- a. What was the topic of our last study?
- b. Explain briefly what you remember in that lesson.

Main Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20.

Memory Verse: *Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.* – Daniel 12:3.

Introduction

A reward is a thing that is given to someone in recognition of their service, effort, or achievement. It could be a prize or an honor. In the New Testament, many rewards are spoken of. For example, there is the crown of life for those who patiently endure trials and tests (Jam. 1:12) and the crown of glory for those who faithfully care for the flock (1 Pet. 5:2-4). In today's passage, Paul adds that there is also the crown of rejoicing for those committed to leading others to Christ. He indicates that the conversion of the Thessalonian believers, which was through his ministry, is a good ground for his hope, glory and joy before the Lord Jesus (1 Thess. 2:19-20).

Questions for Discussion

1. Why was Paul so eager to see the believers in Thessalonica? Verse 17.
2. What hindered his desire to see them face to face? Verse 18.
3. How did Paul see the conversion of the Thessalonians through his ministry? Verse 19.
4. Share your understanding of the statement, 'Indeed, you are our glory and joy' Verse 20.
5. How has today's studies encouraged you to win more souls for Christ?

Conclusion

There is deep satisfaction found in witnessing about Christ to others. The mere sense of obeying the command to preach the gospel, and the gratitude of those we lead to Christ gives us peace and joy. It is dreadful rather to withhold the message of salvation from the unsaved because we can be held responsible for their loss (Ezek. 33:6-9). As the return of Christ draws near, we must hurriedly reach out to the lost with the message of life, bearing in mind that a reward awaits faithful soul-winners in Heaven.

WEEK 23
LORD'S SUPPER

WEEK 24

RESPONDING TO FALSE TEACHING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Main Text: Acts 15: 1-21

Memory Verse: *Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? - Acts 15:10*

Introduction

Church history abounds with conscious efforts made by leadership to provide clarity and curtail abuses emanating from wrong interpretation of scriptures. While the edict from the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15: 1-21) addressed the simmering tension between Jewish Christians and gentile converts, Martin Luther's response to the heresies of his day brought about tremendous reforms within the church. Thus, it suffices to say that these informed and Spirit-led interventions have preserved the body of Christ from the ravaging effects of false teaching. Our discussion today will help us to identify the most appropriate method to use in responding to false teaching within the local church.

Questions for Discussion

1. How did Barnabas and Paul respond to the false teaching propagated by Jews in the Gentile churches? Verse 2
2. Discuss what went into the amicable settlement of this internal wrangling. Verse 5-21
3. How should the local church respond to false teaching within their ranks?
4. At what point should such issues be reported to higher authority in the church?
5. What should each member do in fighting false teaching in the local church?

Conclusion

Spreading the gospel to the gentile lands witnessed remarkable success leading to the conversion of many people to the Lord. However, the insistence that converted Gentiles be circumcised threatened the stability of the budding church. The apostles having assembled to consider the question, listened to all sides of the matter and provided direction for the churches to follow. Responding to false teaching in the local church must be done prayerfully, using the word of

God as basis for their ruling.

People who peddle falsehood should be warned and gently instructed in the way of the Lord. However, the right channels of authority must be engaged to ensure the amicable settlement of such disputes. Also, every member of the church must be vigilant and discerning to preserve the doctrinal integrity of the church at the grassroots. Teachings which are not in accord with sound doctrine must not be tolerated regardless of how harmless it appears. In addition, we must embrace the direction of leadership to protect the church from pests, wolves and bad seeds.

WEEK 25

THE BIBLICAL ROLES OF HUSBANDS IN MARRIAGE

Review of Previous Lesson (5 Minutes)

1. What did you learn in the previous study?
2. How did you apply it to your life?

Main Text: Ephesians 5:25-30.

Memory Verse: *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.* – Ephesians 5:25.

Introduction

Today's world has many fellowships, movements and groups with different ideologies, beliefs and practices which influence people including Christians. These beliefs and practices have led to both significant social changes in today's world about the roles of spouses in marriage. These have also brought the confusion and offensiveness of the subject on 'marital roles'. This calls for Christians to appreciate what the Bible says about their responsibilities at home. Today's study focuses *on the biblical role of husbands.*

Questions for Discussion

1. What does it mean for husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the Church?
2. What other roles of husbands in marriage can you think of?
3. How do husbands' roles impact their families?
4. What cultural factors hinder husbands from exhibiting their roles in marriage?
5. In what possible ways should husbands handle these cultural challenges?

Conclusion

From today's discussions, we have known that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her. Thus, husbands are to lay down their lives for their wives in protection and support as Christ did for the Church. They must express their love as a duty, in respect and principle rather than attraction. This must be from a sincere, pure, passionate, and constant affection just as they love their bodies.

Husbands are to love their wives even when they get displeased with some of their actions. In love, husbands

must provide essential needs such as food, water and shelter for their families in love and respect. They must train their children in love to fear the Lord (Prov. 22:6), and serve as mentors and companions to them. Husbands must lead their families to Christ and ensure family unity to create joy and happiness. This will positively influence unbelieving singles and couples. Husbands should be vigilant to the manipulations of Satan from false doctrines, teachings, cultural or traditional beliefs and practices, which tend to water down the role of husbands in marriage. It is important for husbands to perform their biblical roles even when it is contrary to what they are culturally accustomed to.

WEEK 26

FULFILLING THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHURCH

Main Text: Matthew 25:31-40.

Memory Verse: *I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.* – Matthew 25:36 (ESV).

Introduction

The Church is the salt of the earth and light of the world. Thus, the Church has a responsibility to reflect the love of Christ to the world in which she operates. In view of this, the Pentecost Social Services (PENTSOS) was established in the year 1983. Among other functions, PENTSOS is charged with the mandate to formulate policies and provide direction that would enable the Church to meet its social responsibilities. In the passage read, Jesus reckons the various actions taken to meet the needs of people as help extended to Him. Our study today seeks to highlight the Church's contributions in meeting some needs of humankind, as stated in the passage.

Questions for Discussion

1. Identify some of the needs of humankind stated in verse 34-37.
2. Why do some Christians and churches overlook or neglect people with such needs? Verse 37-39.
3. Discuss the statement, 'Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me'. Verse 40.
4. Which of the social intervention programs of The Church of Pentecost do you know of?
5. How can we resource PENTSOS to fulfil their mandate?

Conclusion

The Church through PENTSOS is committed to meeting its social responsibilities. In Ghana, according to Vision 2023, the Church envisages to construct twenty-five (25) water boreholes for deprived communities, one Community-Based Health Planning and Service (CHPS) compound, and two correctional facilities at Nsawam and Ejura Prisons. Currently, there are eighty-six basic schools, two Senior High Schools, two Vocational Schools, one Skills Learning Centre and eight health facilities under PENTSOS. Also, the Pentecost

Educational Scholarship Scheme (PESS) and another Scholarship for students who qualify to study at the Pentecost University College have been instituted among other measures to assist needy students in the Areas and Districts of the Church. From the above, it is evident that the Church is contributing to feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, giving water to the thirsty, and visiting prisoners. We need to appreciate these efforts being made by the Church and support PENTSOS to fulfil the social responsibilities of the Church.

WEEK 27

LORD'S SUPPER

WEEK 28

UPHOLDING TRUTH AND JUSTICE IN THE MARKETPLACE

Main Text: Isaiah 59:12-15.

Memory Verse: *Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices.* – Colossians 3:9.

Introduction

In the marketplace, the moral distortion of truth and deceit in doing business is often overlooked. Though subtle, the impression is that lying is unavoidable if one is to be successful in business. Unfortunately, deceptive characters have wrongfully assumed the title of being smart. In the passage, the Prophet Isaiah laments the perversion of justice in the daily affairs of the people. He concludes that truth has fallen in the streets. Our discussion today will highlight the reasons for this situation and our responsibility towards restoring truth to its rightful place in the marketplace.

Questions for Discussion

1. Identify the three issues being addressed in the passage. Verses 14, 15. Discuss the statement “truth has fallen in the streets”. Verse 14b.
2. What challenges do honest people face in the marketplace? Verse 15a.
3. How should Christians respond to these challenges?
4. How would you personally uphold truth, justice and fairness in the marketplace?

Conclusion

The statement “truth has fallen in the streets” describes the total disregard for truth, honesty, and fairness in the public place; market, political arena, courts, hospitals, etc. The Prophet goes further to say in verse 15 that, those who stand for the truth are oppressed by the vanguards of falsehood. When lies and falsehood control the affairs of the marketplace, honest people are persecuted. Nevertheless, we have been mandated by God to restore order to the marketplace. In pursuing this agenda, Christians need to avoid half-truths, trickery and manipulation at the workplace. It is a call to be straightforward, firm, transparent and sincere. Truth can fall where proverbially, there is no pillar to support it. As agents of transformation, we must uphold truth, honesty and fairness in the marketplace.

WEEK 29

THE COST OF LAZINESS

Main Text: Proverbs 24:30-34.

Memory Verse: *The sluggard says, ‘there is a lion outside! I will be killed in the public square’.* – Proverbs 22:13.

Introduction

Many people have the tendency to use excuses to neglect their responsibilities. What is common to lazy people is the attitude of blaming others and finding reasons for their inability to perform a task. Often, the habitual excuse-maker is seen as the weak-link at the workplace. This is a reputation every Christian should avoid. In this light, we shall discuss the underlying causes of this attitude and solutions to dealing with them.

Questions for Discussion

1. From the passage, what are the marks of a lazy person? Verses 31-34, Prov. 22:13
2. In what ways is the attitude of laziness expressed in contemporary times?

3. How does the attitude of laziness lead to poverty?

Verse 33-34

4. How can the attitude of laziness be dealt with?

Conclusion

The field of the sluggard as described in Proverbs 24:31-34 is overgrown with thorns, covered with weeds and has its fence is broken. This is because daily, the sluggard finds an excuse to procrastinate, idle about and avoid work. Little by little, work undone accumulates and the sluggard is overwhelmed by the backlog. Laziness brings failure, poverty and lack of progress. Possibly, it is for this reason that some people live in unclean environments while others suffer unemployment and avoidable poverty. No one takes a habitual excuse maker serious at the workplace. They are often bypassed during promotion for which they complain bitterly. Such people are bad examples and their testimony as Christians may not be taken seriously. To avoid being lazy, inculcate the habit of self-discipline, avoid procrastination, and plan your day by apportioning time for every task.

WEEK 30

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN WITNESSING

Main Text: Acts 1:4-8.

Memory Verse: *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* – Acts 1:8.

Introduction

Before Jesus ascended to Heaven after His death and resurrection, He commanded His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they had received the Father's promise, which was the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The purpose for the baptism was to empower them to be witnesses of Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the world. After the outpouring on the Day of Pentecost, we observe how with power and boldness the disciples preached about Christ in the temples, neighborhoods and on the streets. Christians today can likewise engage in effective witnessing only through the power and leading of the Holy Spirit.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why did Jesus command His disciples to wait in Jerusalem? Verse 4-5.
2. What did the disciples ask Jesus, and what was His response? Verse 6-7.
3. Discuss the purpose of the power the disciples were to receive. Verse 8.
4. Where were the disciples expected to witness about Christ? Verse 8b.
5. In which other ways does the Holy Spirit help believers to share their faith?

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit helps us in many ways to engage in effective witnessing. He gives us the boldness to preach the good news (Acts 4:31) and bears in us the character of Christ so we can live a pleasing lifestyle. He also gives us an understanding of the Word of God, reminds us of what we learn from it (John 14:26), and teaches us what to say at any point (Luke 12:11-12). As we witness to others, the Holy Spirit convicts them of sin and draws their heart to Christ (John 14:8). Clearly, we cannot do effective witnessing without the help of the Spirit. We must therefore learn to always wait on Him in prayer and allow Him to lead us

WEEK 31

WEEK 32

JESUS, FRIEND OF LITTLE CHILDREN

Main Text: Mark 10:13-16.

Memory Verse: *But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these'. – Luke 18:16.*

Introduction

In the CoP, children are considered as gifts to the family and Church. For this reason, the Church has a strong Children's Ministry which provides training along biblical principles of spiritual growth. These include lessons on salvation, worship, manners and respect for authority. The Church observes Children's Week annually to celebrate children and reinforce the need to be intentional about their holistic growth. Today's study focuses on how Jesus sees children with a view to shaping our perception about children with the word of God.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why do you think the disciples stopped the people and how is this behavior expressed in our churches?
2. What was Jesus' reaction when His disciples rebuked them? Verses 14, 15.

3. What was Jesus' command to His disciples and by extension all Christians? Verse 14
4. Explain Jesus' statement, "...whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."
5. How should parents and guardians complement the work of the Children's Ministry?

Conclusion

We can infer from the behavior of the disciples that they did not place value on the children's meeting with Jesus. Leaders and members of the church must give priority to children. We must avoid the tendency to belittle the need for them to be involved in various aspects of the church service. Parents and guardians should involve children in family devotions, Bible study, and other church activities all in the effort to guide their growth and love for Jesus. In the CoP, children are considered as members of the church and thus should be accorded all the courtesies that will enable them to grow in Christ.

WEEK 33

INTEGRITY IN THE MARKETPLACE

Main Text: Daniel 6:1-6.

Memory Verse: *The integrity of the upright guides them but the unfaithful are destroyed in their duplicity.* – Proverbs 11:3.

Introduction

Integrity basically reflects how people demonstrate moral values they profess to believe in. However, some Christians do not exhibit Christ-like character in the workplace. In view of this, we shall discuss the need for Christians to integrate faith-based virtues in all aspects of their conduct at the workplace. In the passage, Daniel was found to be without any corruption in the discharge of his duties as one of the governors in Babylon. We shall draw practical lessons from this passage in our bid to influence the marketplace with kingdom values and principles.

Questions for Discussion

1. In your view, in what areas did Daniel's friends seek

to find a fault against him?

2. How do you understand the statement 'they could find no corruption in him' in verse 4?
3. Discuss what constitutes integrity in the areas of politics, civil service, and entrepreneurship.
4. In what other areas do we need to demonstrate integrity as Christians?
5. How does a lack of integrity affect our work as Christians?

Conclusion

Daniel was found to be without corruption at the workplace and could only be accused on account of issues that contradicted the principles of his faith. Integrity in business involves the quality of being trustworthy, honest, fair, reliable, and transparent. When trust and reputation are built overtime in business, they become a brand for the person. Often, people are secure when dealing with a person of integrity. Demonstrating integrity in the marketplace manifests the Kingdom's values in a more concrete and authentic way. To do this, one must be free from deceit, trickery and manipulation. Also, we must

decide never to cheat uninformed and ill-informed customers or business partners. In addition, deceiving customers on the promised time of delivery of services should be avoided. Finally, loans and credit purchases should be paid on time to gain the trust of financial institutions and creditors.

WEEK 34

DON'T ABUSE THE PRIVILEGE

Main Text: Genesis 39:1-9.

Memory Verse: *And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?* – Luke 16:12.

Introduction

A job offer and its subsequent acceptance indicates a mutual trust between the employer and employee. It reveals a desire to serve an employer in good faith and not to act against the employer's interest. In the passage read, Joseph remained faithful and loyal when he was given the rare privilege to manage the entire household of his master, Potiphar. Though this is often unwritten, faithfulness and loyalty reflect a quality every employer looks for in an employee. This quality is the glue that binds the employer and employee together. Our discussion today will help us come out with practical steps to guard against abusing the privilege of being favored and trusted by our employees as Christians.

Questions for Discussion

1. What influenced Potiphar to entrust the management of his household to Joseph? Verses 3, 4.
2. Why did Potiphar choose not to concern himself with anything except the food he ate? Verse 6.
3. Share experiences of how people mismanaged businesses when they were trusted by their superiors.
4. With lessons from Joseph, how should Christians handle the privilege of being favored and trusted by their superiors at the workplace?

Conclusion

Sometimes, we are privileged to be favored and trusted by our superiors because they know we are Christians. Many a time, people have abused this privilege. In the passage, Potiphar concerned himself with nothing except what he would eat because he trusted Joseph. Joseph could have used this privilege to indulge in sin, but he was faithful. He remained steadfast when he was tempted by Potiphar's wife. Unfortunately, some people abuse the privilege of being favored by colluding with people to run down businesses, falsifying accounts, selling properties, and absconding with huge sums of money. The only reason Joseph passed the test was the fear of God. He considered any act against his master as wickedness and

sin against God (Gen. 39:9). We must come to the realization that whatever we do against the progress of our superiors and businesses is sin against God. The privilege of being favored is an opportunity to demonstrate to the world that there are still honest, loyal and faithful people because Christ lives in them.

WEEK 35

DON'T WITHHOLD YOUR WORKERS' PAY

Main Text: Deuteronomy 24:14-15.

Memory Verse: *Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his countrymen work for nothing, not paying them for their labor.* – Jeremiah 22:13.

Introduction

Hired servants in biblical times were to receive their wages by the end of the period agreed upon. Thus, people who hired them were bound by Law not to withhold their wages even for a night. This is because that was their only hope for subsistence. Treating the needy, subordinates and the vulnerable justly is a major theme of the Bible. Today, we shall examine the reason for the deliberate delay of wages by some employers and the biblical response to such practices.

Questions for Discussion

1. How should 'hired persons' be paid? Verses 14, 15.
2. Why should we pay people we hire for work

promptly? Verse 15.

3. Discuss why some employers withhold workers' wages deliberately.
4. How do you think God sees such practices?
5. Personally, how would you pay people who render services for you promptly?

Conclusion

In Deuteronomy 24:15, we understand that withholding what is due people who render services for wages is an offense against God. From the passage, we can infer that the command is to pay people we engage for work promptly because it is their only hope for survival. Delaying payments without just cause makes them cry unto God for justice. This is what every employer should avoid because according to the Scriptures, the cry of the worker becomes sin for the employer who has withheld their wages. Some employers delay payments because they reinvest it in other businesses. Others do it out of sheer exploitation of the poor because of their helpless situation. As light to the world, Christian employers are encouraged to avoid such behavior and pay workers promptly. According to Jeremiah 22:13 and James 5:4, people who accumulate wealth using the toil of others

unjustly will be punished by God. Where the employer is unable to pay promptly for any plausible reason, they should dialogue amicably with workers.

WEEK 36

LORD'S SUPPER /NATIONAL EVANGELISM

WEEK

WEEK 37

DREAMS ABOUT HEAVEN AND HELL

Main Text: Luke 16:26-31

Memory Verse: *But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"*

Introduction

Visions and dreams about heaven and hell constitute one area of concern in dealing with false teaching in the body of Christ. Many times, these subjective experiences and in some cases, unsubstantiated claims of people have become the foundation of doctrine and core values in some churches. It is therefore necessary to note that, though visions and dreams are channels of revelatory gifts, they risk becoming a bedrock of false doctrine if not handled well. Today, we shall engage on how to handle the myriad of revelations about heaven and hell being circulated through various media such as books, television, radio and social media.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does the response to the rich man's plea mean for us today? verse 28 -30
2. What does the phrase, "Moses and the Prophets" represent in the passage? verse 31
3. What should be our response to doctrine and practices built on the foundation of revelations and dreams about heaven and hell?
4. How can we maintain a healthy balance between sticking to sound doctrine and not despising revelations?
5. Discuss how the account of some dreams and revelations from people differ from what the Scriptures have revealed about heaven and hell.

Conclusion

In the passage, the rich man's request was denied though it seemed a very good idea. Many a time, people seek mysterious encounters to authenticate the ways of God. However, God has chosen his word as the primary source of information and revelation, hence the reference to Moses and the Prophets. Thus, other sources of revelation must not override but

rather, reflect the Scriptures. Dreams and visions are vehicles for conveying revelatory gifts like word of wisdom, word of knowledge and discerning of spirits. However, they are very subjective experiences whose meanings may vary in relation to contexts and personalities to whom the message is addressed. As Pentecostals, we are aware that just as God communicates through dreams and visions, evil spirits can use the same channel to bring confusion. It is thus important for us to always subject the contents of these revelations to critical review using the bible as the standard of judgement. Thus, we forestall conjectures gaining grounds to contradict sound doctrine.

WEEK 38

HONORING OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Main Text: Philippians 2:24-30.

Memory Verse: *Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you.* – 1 Thess 5:12.

Introduction

To honor is to obey, revere, speak kindly to, and think well of another. Officers of The Church of Pentecost deserve honor for their dedicated service which enables the church to reach more souls and disciple them. They include Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses who offer voluntary service in various roles in the Church. In view of this, the Church has instituted the Officers' Appreciation Day to celebrate their invaluable contribution towards the growth and sustenance of the Church. This is to recognize their efforts and also provide an opportunity for members to honor them. In our study, we shall examine Paul's encouragement to the church to honor Epaphroditus who risked his life for the flock in Philippi.

Questions for Discussion

1. Who was Epaphroditus and what was his role in the church in Philippi? Verse 25-27.
2. From Verse 30, what happened to Epaphroditus while laboring for the Lord? How would you relate this to the experiences of officers in the local church?
3. Discuss the statement, 'welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him'. Verse 29.
4. Share a testimony of how an officer of the Church impacted your life.
5. How would you honor an officer in your local church?

Conclusion

Paul described Epaphroditus as a brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier, and a messenger of the church in Philippi. He risked his life for the work of Christ while Paul was under arrest in Rome. Many officers make significant sacrifices for the progress of the Church. Being custodians of the local church, they complement the efforts of ministers in administration, discipleship, pastoral care, etc. As Paul instructed the Philippians, people who render such selfless services are worthy of appreciation and honor which can be expressed through

visitation, giving of gifts, and respect for authority.

Also, we must learn to say ‘thank you’ when an officer extends a hand of help, and pardon them when they offend us. Honor is not only in the giving of gifts but obedience, reverence, goodwill and submission. On behalf of the Church, we say “Thank You” to all Officers of the Church of Pentecost for their selfless service.

WEEK 39

EXAMINE YOURSELF

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 11:27-34.

Memory Verse: *A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.* – 1 Corinthians 11:28.

Introduction

One of the key objectives of Paul in writing first Corinthians was to correct and instruct the church in Corinth on issues that were affecting their growth, one of which was the manner in which they were taking the Communion. In the ‘love feasts’ which they held along the Communion, some were overfilling themselves while others were left hungry. While the rich were separated to eat their meal, the poor who could not contribute much were ignored Verses 21-22. Paul condemned the behavior because it was encouraging division within the congregation and defeating the purpose of the Communion. He then charged them to examine themselves before partaking in the Lord’s Supper so they do not bring judgement on themselves.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is your understanding of 'eat and drink in an unworthy manner'? Verse 27a.
2. Discuss what it means to be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. Verse 27b.
3. How can we examine ourselves before partaking in the Holy Communion? Verse 28.
4. When does a person eat and drink judgement upon themselves? Verse 29.
5. Which factors can prevent a person from partaking in the Lord's Supper?

Conclusion

In the Church of Pentecost, several behaviors can hinder a member from coming to the Lord's Table, apart from not being baptized in water (by immersion). These include being involved in marital relations without the required customary rites, having more than one spouse, among other public lifestyles that do not glorify God. Members serving suspension for certain misconducts may also not be allowed to partake in the Communion. The most important thing, however, is doing a personal 'heart-check' or self-

examination to determine whether or not it is appropriate to dine with the Lord. This does not imply being perfect, but rather being sure there are no unconfessed sins or areas in your life which have not been surrendered to the authority of Christ. Like the psalmist, we should genuinely ask God to forgive our hidden faults and be ready to turn away from them.

WEEK 40

LORD'S SUPPER

WEEK 41

UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Main Text: Ephesians 4:1-6.

Memory Verse: *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.* – Ephesians 4:3.

Introduction

The Church at Ephesus was composed of Jewish and Gentile converts. Due to their different backgrounds, there was a tendency for frequent disagreements. One possible area of dissent was how the Gentiles had been admitted to the faith without bearing the yoke of circumcision in the Mosaic Law. Paul in this passage provides direction for the unity of people from various backgrounds in the church. Ephesians 4:16, captures the power of unity in the universal church notwithstanding our diversity, “He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love” (Eph 4:16 - New living translation). Today, we shall examine the basis for unity in the body of Christ.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the basis for Christian Unity? Verse 4.
2. Why do some Christians look down on people in other denominations?
3. How should we relate with Christians in other denominations?
4. In what ways does unity in the body of Christ enhance the Great Commission?

Conclusion

Unity in the body of Christ is very important. This is because we belong to various ethnic groups, educational backgrounds, and political persuasions. However, we are united by one Body, one Spirit, and one Hope. One Body implies there is one Universal Church with people belonging to different denominations, race, and ethnicity but united by their faith and continuous confession of the lordship of Christ. One Spirit refers to the Holy Spirit indwelling all true believers causing them to do the will of the Father. The meaning connoted by One Hope is that all Christians are looking forward to everlasting life (1 Pet. 1:3-4). Thus, all true believers in the Universal Church are joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17). Christians are united by the same body, the same spirit, and one hope though we may belong to different denominations.

Sometimes, people look down on other denominations out of ignorance of the unity of the body of Christ, perceived departure from the right Christian doctrine, quest for dominance and superiority, historical rifts, etc. However, the Great Commission is bigger than any one denomination. Thus, we must pray that all churches will pursue the right doctrine such that our coming together will speed up the progress of the kingdom business.

WEEK 42

DON'T COMPROMISE YOUR CHRISTIAN VALUES

Main Text: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

Memory Verse: *Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness.* – 2 Corinthians 7:1.

Introduction

We live in communities with different kinds of people, some of whom do not believe in Christ and have no desire to be like Him. Moreover, we have been called to influence these people positively for Christ. In engaging them, we must be careful to always uphold our Christian values. As Christians, God indwells us and is among us. Our prime response to Him is a life of holiness which is, separating ourselves from uncleanness, filthiness and corruption so as to fully dedicate ourselves to Him. In this study, we shall look at how to live among and interact with non-Christians without compromising our faith in Christ.

Questions for Discussion

1. What advice does Paul give to Christians? Verse 14.
2. What does 'Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers' mean?
3. How do we become unequally yoked with unbelievers?
4. How does Paul describe the difference between the Christian and the non-Christian? Verse 14-16.
5. In what practical ways can we engage unbelievers around us without compromising our faith in Christ?

Conclusion

Paul calls on Christians not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers. He shows that Christians and non-Christians do not share the same values just as 'righteousness' and 'lawlessness', 'light' and 'darkness', cannot coexist. Thus, a true Christian cannot be one with unbelievers doing the things they enjoy doing which do not reflect the life of Christ. When Paul says, 'Do not be unequally yoked', he is referring to a law, which forbade the yoking of an ox with a donkey (Deut. 22:10). Though, an ox and a donkey can graze together, they are not compatible enough to plough a field under the same

yoke. Practically, we cannot engage in corrupt and immoral practices such as paying bribes, stealing from coffers of organizations, etc. just like some non-Christians do. However, we are called to influence those who misconduct themselves positively as we uphold our Christian integrity.

WEEK 43

BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS GOOD CHARACTER

Main Text: Psalm 1:1-6.

Memory Verse: *Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character'.* – 1 Corinthians 15:33.

Introduction

The tendency to sing the tune of the masses in many cases is compelling. Thus, if all the people around us are going in one direction, the temptation to follow that route is high. The psalmist admonishes believers to desist from associating with the wicked, sinners and mockers. The incidence of social vices such as armed robbery, suicide, drug abuse, gambling and premarital sex may be due to the influence of bad company. One sure way to maintain integrity is to watch the company we keep.

Questions for Discussion

1. How can a Christian's association with the wicked, sinners and mockers influence their personal

integrity?

2. How does a Christian's meditation on the word of God keep them from the corrupting influence of the ungodly?
3. Identify the difference between the end of the wicked and that of the righteous Verse 3-6
4. How do we develop good friendship within the body of Christ?

Conclusion

The passage begins with a benediction for those who fear the Lord. The best form of association the Psalmist recommends has to do with those who give godly counsel, the righteous and those who do not mock others. Our lives of integrity will be enhanced if we delight in what the word of God says day and night and live by them. There is no form of integrity beyond what the word of God prescribes. It is important that in our workplaces, schools, communities and even at church, we are careful of the people we associate with. Those who keep ungodly company are likened to chaff because they have no integrity. People of integrity have standards. They are likened to trees planted by the waterside which are not affected by drought but yield their fruits in season. It is

important we keep godly standards and desist from wrong associations in order to preserve our sanctity and influence others with our fruits.

WEEK 44

REMEMBERING THE LORD'S SERVANTS

Main Text: 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

Memory Verse: *Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.* – Hebrews 13:7 (KJV).

Introduction

Every organization has a retirement structure and package for its workers. The Church of Pentecost has instituted the Pensions Fund as part of its retirement package for retired ministers. These men and women who have served the Lord, humankind and the Church did so passionately and in some circumstances at the peril of their lives. In view of this, the Church should see it as a blessing to have these retired ministers and widows around and contribute generously to the Pension's Fund.

Questions for Discussion

1. How do you understand the phrase being poured

out as a drink offering? Verse 6.

2. What are the three key things Paul said he had done as he neared the end of his ministry? Verse 7.
3. Identify any factor that motivated Paul to work as hard as he did?
4. In what ways can we demonstrate our love for our retired ministers?
5. How should the lives of our retired ministers spur us unto good works? Hebrews 13:7

Conclusion

In his service to the Lord, Paul compared his life to a drink offering. In the Old Testament, drink offering was part of the basic offerings presented to the Lord. It signified a person's devotion, and once offered, recovery was not possible. Paul's motivation for the ministry was not the material gains the churches of God could or would bring to him. He had eternity in view and so looked at life with joy. His example shows that while time and age do require adjustments, there is never an appropriate time to cease in the work of the Lord. Inasmuch as he was content with life, he also longed for human companionship and so requested for Mark's visit and bemoaned how some had neglected

him (2 Tim. 4:10-11). This is why CoP has a well-structured retirement plan for ministers and contributes to the PENSION'S FUND. Today, we are encouraged to look around and visit retirees, encourage and pray with them. We must learn from the exemplary service of our retired ministers and offer ministry in the Lord's vineyard while we have strength.

WEEK 45

LORD'S SUPPER

WEEK 46

CHURCH DISCIPLINE FOR CORPORATE HOLINESS

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.

Memory Verse: *Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.* – Hebrews 12:10.

Introduction

The Church of Pentecost has a divine destiny, being marked out distinctively by her unique covenant and relationship with God dating back as far as 1931. The covenant has two parts – God's part and the Church's part. One of God's part is His promise to, from time to time, prune and purge His Church of all parasites, pests, personality cults, false doctrines, and social and religious evil in order to make the Church holy and radiant to avoid spiritual decline and apostasy. In the main passage, Paul wrote to the church in Corinth not to condone sexual immorality but discipline people who indulge in such practices.

Today, we shall look at church discipline as God's tool for ensuring the corporate holiness of the church.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the nature of the immorality in the Corinthian church and how did Paul react to it? Verse 1-3.
2. How is the local church to treat brethren who fall into open sin? Verse 4-11.
3. How do you understand the phrase “Hand him over to Satan”? Verse 5
4. For what reasons do we sometimes fail to report issues of misconduct of members/officers when these come to our personal attention? What is the effect on the church?
5. How is the local church affected by the sinful life of a church member?

Conclusion

A brother in the Corinthian church was sleeping with his father's wife and the church leadership had failed to discipline him. Paul was enraged at this state of affairs and rebuked them for seeing nothing wrong with what was going on. Immorality is like yeast; if it is allowed to continue, many people in the church will imitate it thinking there is nothing wrong with it. Human beings

learn by association that is why bad company corrupts godly character (1 Cor. 15:33). The church leadership is expected to confront members who live in immorality in the spirit of love and apply appropriate disciplinary actions. Disciplinary sanctions in the Church of Pentecost include warning, open or public rebuke, suspension from full membership for members, revocation of office, demotion, downgrading, and excommunication.

WEEK 47

RESTORING DISCIPLINED MEMBERS TO FELLOWSHIP

Main Text: 2 Corinthians 2: 5-10

Memory Verse: *This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.*

– 2 Corinthians. 2:6-7.

Introduction

Restoration in church discipline is when a person disciplined by the church for an offense is reinstated back to the fellowship and privileges of the church. This is done on the evidence of true repentance of the person serving disciplinary sanctions of the church. In the passage read, Paul pleaded with the church to forgive and restore the immoral brother who had earlier been disciplined by the church. Our discussion today will help us understand the biblical basis for this practice and also, appreciate how it is applied in The Church of Pentecost.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why was Paul calling for the restoration of the brother who had earlier been disciplined by the church? 1 Corinthians 5:4-5, 2 Corinthians 2:6-7.
2. How should church members treat suspended members who show genuine repentance? Verse 7.
3. How do you understand the statement, *I urge you to reaffirm your love for him* in verse 8?
4. Identify and discuss some challenges suspended members who have repented go through in the local church?
5. How can we demonstrate love and compassion for such people who have shown genuine repentance?

Conclusion

In 1 Corinthians 5:4-5, Paul wrote to the church in Corinth to discipline the immoral brother. After a period of time, Paul instructed the same church to restore this brother to fellowship (2 Cor. 2: 1-7) because the disciplinary action had served the purpose of preserving the image of the church as well as bringing the offender to repentance. In the Church of Pentecost, disciplined members who show genuine repentance are restored to

fellowship. Thus, the local church should forgive, affirm their love for, and welcome disciplined members who show genuine repentance. The decision to restore a disciplined member in the local church to fellowship is taken by the District Pastor in consultation with the local presbytery. Depending on the gravity of the offense and disciplinary action applied, a person may cease to hold leadership positions even after being restored. We must balance compassion with caution in order not to hastily restore unrepentant offenders to fellowship of the local church.

WEEK 48

TRULY ACKNOWLEDGING CHRIST'S LORDSHIP

Main Text: Matthew 7:21-23.

Memory Verse: *Why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not what I say?* – Luke 6:46.

Introduction

During Jesus' stay on earth, many people followed Him for several reasons. Some identified themselves to be disciples and acknowledged Him to be their teacher and master. Yet, their actions proved otherwise. Their persistent reference to Jesus as Lord did not match their obedience to His teachings. To call someone Lord and disobey the person is contradictory because lordship implies total control and ownership. In this lesson, we will come to know the difference between genuinely acknowledging Jesus as Lord and paying lip service to His lordship over a person's life.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does it mean to say Jesus is your Lord?
2. Why would Jesus deny the categories of people mentioned in verse 22-23?

3. What accounts for the gap between people's confession of Jesus as Lord and their obedience to His teachings?
4. How does the mere profession of Jesus as Lord affect our testimony as Christians?
5. How can we practically demonstrate that Jesus is truly the Lord of our lives?

Conclusion

To call Jesus Lord is to acknowledge His rulership over one's life. This implies that a person's decisions and actions are subject to the dictates of the Lord Jesus Christ which is revealed in His word, and leading of the Holy Spirit who indwells the believer. Sometimes, there is a huge gap between the profession of Christ as Lord and obedience to His teachings due to ignorance of some believers of what the confession of Christ as Lord entails. To be a Christian is to truly be under Christ's lordship; that He has full control over every area of our lives. This means, taking orders from Him through the Holy Spirit He has given to us and choosing to follow His way against the desires of our flesh.

Truly acknowledging Christ as Lord demands total surrender of our will, interests, desires and aspirations

to His authority, and direction for our lives. We can do this by yielding daily to our Lord Jesus Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit.

WEEK 49

LORD'S SUPPER

WEEK 50

THE CHURCH AS A MODEL FOR SOCIETY

Main Text: 1 John 5:1-4.

Memory Verse: *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.* – 1 John 5:4 (ESV).

Introduction

The New Testament reveals what God wants His Church to be in terms of modeling His principles in the world. No one sees God physically, but the Church as His bride and community is called to demonstrate the nature of God and portray His beauty to the world. When people see the Church, they should have a mental picture of God and His kingdom.

As a model for society, whose power and image are derived from Christ, the Church remains an agent of transformation of society through its glorious ministry. For example, the victory in the sense of 1 John 5:4 implies that ungodly practices in the world, such as homosexuality, corruption, and other social vices must not have an expression in the Church, no matter the pressure mounted against it.

Questions for Discussion

1. What qualifies one to be a child of God? Verses 1,
2. How do you understand the statement ‘those born of God have overcome the world’? Verse 4.
3. Faith in Christ is the victory of believers. Explain.
4. Identify who the Bible refers to as a person ‘born of God’ Verse 4.
5. Mention practical ways by which the Church, as a model for society, can fight moral decadence.

Conclusion

As an institution of victory, the Church has been divinely empowered to overcome all sorts of evil in society, both present and those to come in the future. We must all rise and build a Church that fulfils that mandate. The radiance of God’s glory in it should be one that heals the moral decadence in the world (Matt. 5:13) and restores humanity to their original glory (Rom. 3:23).

The Church is a chosen and holy nation unto the Lord. It must stay awake and be the binding force that Jesus Christ empowers to transform the world. The implication is that, every believer should be a model of good character, which others can emulate. Today, it has become obvious that the

world is crumbling under the weight of corruption and other social vices, while many Christians are unfortunately compromising their faith to worldliness. Christ expects us as His ambassadors in the world, to impact our society positively with authentic and godly principles such as integrity and holiness.

WEEK 51

THE LORD JESUS DESERVES WORSHIP

Main Text: Philippians 2:5-11.

Memory Verse: *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name. – Philippians 2:9.*

Introduction

Some religious sects do not understand why we ascribe worship to Jesus. They adduce several reasons to reject the deity and lordship of Christ. However, the New Testament bears witness to Jesus as God incarnate and a revelation of His nature and character. This special revelation of God through Christ enables us to acknowledge Jesus' deity and lordship. Also, through Jesus' redemptive work, God the Father has exalted Him above all else giving Him a name that is above every other name (Phil. 2:6-11). Thus, the Lord Jesus deserves to be worshiped. Our discussion today seeks to highlight why we ascribe worship to the Lord Jesus.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does the passage teach about the deity of Christ? Verse 6, John 1:1-2, Hebrews 1:3
2. What did Jesus do according to verse 7?
3. How do you understand the statement, "God has exalted Him" in verse 9?
4. Discuss why Jesus deserves to be worshipped John 17:1-2, Ephesians 1:20-22, Philippians 2:10-11.
5. What separates Jesus from other religious leaders such as Muhammed, Buddha, etc?

Conclusion

The deity of Christ is not questionable. This is because the Bible ascribes characteristics of deity to him. He is described as eternal (Rev. 1:8), immutable (Heb. 1:10-12), omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. Also, the Prophets and angels who spoke about His birth called Him Mighty God, Everlasting Father (Isa. 9:6) and Immanuel (God with us). Also, the works of Jesus proved His deity; He is the upholder of all things (Col. 1:15-16), He forgives sin (Col. 3:13), He will raise the dead and execute judgement (John 5:21-25). The passage read indicates that, Christ being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God (Phil. 2:6-

7). What this means is that, from the beginning, Jesus had the same infinite glory with the Father as God. Also, being exalted by God (Phil. 2:9) implies that Christ has glory, honor and power which no being, either in Heaven or earth has. Thus, no other name can be compared to Jesus' Name. His rank, dignity, and titles are above all others. Jesus is equal with the Father and is worshipped as God. Jesus was not a mere prophet and messenger sent by God to accomplish a task. His existence before creation, incarnation, birth, life, death, resurrection, and role in future judgement of the righteous and wicked prove Jesus' divinity and lordship. The Lord Jesus indeed deserves to be worshipped.

WEEK 52

CHRISTMAS CONVENTION

HOME CELL

2021 WEEK BY WEEK TABULAR FOR HOME CELL GUIDE

WEEK	DATE	ACTIVITY	HOME CELL
JANUARY			
1	3 RD	LORD'S SUPPER	FAMILY DAY
2	10 TH	Local Week	Cell Social Impact
3	17 TH	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
4	24 TH	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
5	31 ST	Gospel Sunday	How to Use the Bible in Your Devotion
FEBRUARY			
6	7 TH	LORD'S SUPPER	FAMILY DAY
7	14 TH	Local Week	Cell Social Impact
8	21 ST	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
9	28 TH	Gospel Sunday	Tithing – Consequences of Unfaithfulness
MARCH			
10	7 TH	LORD'S SUPPER	FAMILY DAY
11	14 TH	McKeown Missions Week	Cell Social Impact
12	21 ST	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
13	28 TH	Gospel Sunday	Respect for Subordinates
APRIL			
14	4 TH	EASTER SUNDAY	
15	11 TH	Local Week	Cell Social Impact
16	18 TH	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
17	25 TH	Gospel Sunday	Communion – Significance of the Lord's Supper
MAY			
18	2 ND	LORD'S SUPPER	FAMILY DAY
19	9 TH	Mothers' Day	Cell Social Impact
20	16 TH	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
21	23 RD	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
22	30 TH	Gospel Sunday	Getting Stakeholders on Board
JUNE			
23	6 TH	LORD'S SUPPER	FAMILY DAY
24	13 TH	Local Week	Cell Social Impact
25	20 TH	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
26	27 TH	PENTSOS Week	The Local Church and her Social Responsibility

JULY			
27	4TH	LORD'S SUPPER	FAMILY DAY
28	11TH	Local Week	Cell Social Impact
29	18TH	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
30	25TH	Gospel Sunday	Family Commitment to Biblical Values
AUGUST			
31	1ST	LORD'S SUPPER / CHILDREN'S WEEK	FAMILY DAY
32	8TH	Local Week	Cell Social Impact
33	15TH	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
34	22ND	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
35	29TH	Gospel Sunday	Integrity in the Market Place
SEPTEMBER			
36	5TH	LORD'S SUPPER	FAMILY DAY
37	12TH	Local Week	Cell Social Impact
38	19TH	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
39	26TH	Gospel Sunday	Don't abuse the Privilege
OCTOBER			
40	3RD	LORD'S SUPPER	FAMILY DAY
41	10TH	Local Week	Cell Social Impact
42	17TH	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
43	24TH	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
44	31ST	Gospel Sunday	Don't Compromise your Christian Values
NOVEMBER			
45	7TH	LORD'S SUPPER	FAMILY DAY
46	14TH	Local Week	Cell Social Impact
47	21ST	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
48	28TH	Gospel Sunday	Bad Company Corrupts Good Character
DECEMBER			
49	5TH	LORD'S SUPPER	FAMILY DAY
50	12TH	Local Week	Cell Social Impact
51	19TH	Local Week	Pastoral Care / Visitation
52	26TH	CHRISTMAS CONVENTION	

WEEK 1
FAMILY DAY

WEEK 2

CELL SOCIAL IMPACT

WEEK 3

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 4

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 5

HOW TO USE THE BIBLE IN YOUR DEVOTIONS

Main Text: Acts 17:10-14.

Memory Verse: *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.* – 1 Peter 2:2.

Introduction

The Bible plays a critical role in our spiritual growth. Reading the bible could follow a character study, topical study, book study or a devotional guide. In our passage today, the Bereans set an example of examining the Scriptures daily. In studying the Bible during devotions, three main questions could be asked; what does the passage say? (Observation), what does the passage mean? (Interpretation) and how does the passage apply to my life? (Application). These are reflective questions that must engage our minds as we read the Bible during our daily devotions.

Questions for Discussion

1. How were the Bereans different from the

Thessalonians? Verses 10, 11.

2. Explain the phrase, ‘examining the Scriptures’ Verse 11.
3. How is ‘examining the Scriptures’ different from ‘reading the Scriptures’?
4. What is the procedure for Bible study during devotions?
5. How does effective Bible study during devotions enhance spiritual growth?

Conclusion

The Greek word for ‘examining’ as rendered in the passage is “anakrino”. This word implies the repetitive act of studying a document. Examining the Scriptures daily as the Bereans did is crucial. A time of devotion should ideally start with prayer. Thereafter, read a passage from the Bible and reflect on it to get the meanings of words and phrases in the passage. Your understanding of a passage you read should be consistent with the entire doctrine of the Bible. The next stage is to connect the lessons in the passage to your personal life and relationship with God.

This should be followed with a response: thanksgiving, repentance, prayer, faith and how to obey what the

scriptures says. It is good to keep a journal of lessons, discoveries, prayers and favorite Bible verses encountered during the devotions.

WEEK 6

FAMILY DAY

WEEK 7

CELL SOCIAL IMPACT

WEEK 8

WEEK 9

TITHING: CONSEQUENCES OF UNFAITHFULNESS

Main Text: Malachi 3:7-12.

Memory Verse: *You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.* – Malachi 3:9 (NKJV).

Introduction

The tithing system began during the time of Moses (Lev. 27:30-34, Deut. 14:22). The Levites received some of the tithes because they could not possess land of their own (Num. 18:20, 21). During the time of Malachi, however, default in giving tithes and offerings was a national issue as all (the priesthood inclusive) were culpable. The misconduct attracted stiff punishment from God. Specifically, failing to obey the commands of the Torah brings a curse on the people. In this study, we shall look at the consequences that Israel suffered for non-payment of tithes.

Questions for Discussion

1. How did God describe Israel's failure to observe His ordinances? Verse 7.

2. Why did God charge the children of Israel with the criminal offence of robbery? Verse 8.
3. Of what commodity was Israel robbing God? Verse 8.
4. What punishment did God prescribe for Israel for robbing Him? verse 9.
5. How does the main text speak to you as a Christian?

Conclusion

During Malachi's day, the people were not giving tithes, so the Levites went to work to earn a living, thereby neglecting their God-given responsibilities to care for the Temple and for the service of worship. Thus, the Israelites were reduced to a community of poverty-stricken residents. They were suffering while the nations prospered. For this reason, they complained that God had blessed the nations, but ignored them. However, God charged Israel with robbery. They were robbing God in tithes and offerings through non-compliance with provisions in the Covenant. God placed them under a curse for which they missed all the benevolences. Their only way out of this misery was for them to tithe. Today, we are called to the same obedience to God through tithing.

WEEK 10

FAMILY DAY

WEEK 11

CELL SOCIAL IMPACT

WEEK 12

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 13

RESPECT FOR SUBORDINATES

Main Text: Ephesians 6:5-9.

Memory Verse: *For God does not show favoritism.* – Romans 2:11.

Introduction

The Scriptures abound on the need to treat strangers, slaves (subordinates), the poor and needy with respect. In Exodus 22:21, God told the Israelites not to oppress foreigners by remembering that they were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. Sometimes, we forget the miseries we suffered under our superiors and mete out the same treatments we dreaded to people who work under us. These issues will engage our attention as we discuss the position of the Scriptures on these matters.

Questions for Discussion

1. How were masters to treat their slaves? Verse 9
2. Why was it necessary for masters to treat their slaves well? Verse 9b.

3. What constitutes maltreatment of a subordinate at home or the workplace?
4. Why do masters sometimes mistreat their subordinates?
5. How can we avoid the tendency to disrespect subordinates?

Conclusion

Having exhorted subordinates to be of good conduct in Ephesians 6:5-8, masters were asked to treat their subordinates with much respect. The reason for this command is that, God is no respecter of persons, that is, He treats all men with love. In biblical times, slaves (subordinates) were the properties of masters and they could do as they pleased with them. However, masters who were in the faith were not to follow this practice. Likewise, anything one does to spite, disrespect and infringe on the fundamental human rights of a subordinate constitutes maltreatment. Christians should not take advantage of leadership positions to oppress and punish subordinates. To avoid such tendencies, we must treat subordinates with love, kindness and mercy. We must humbly accept that our subordinates are not less human; they just happen to work under our supervision. They deserve our respect and kind treatment because we

could easily be where they are.

WEEK 14
EASTER SUNDAY

WEEK 15

CELL SOCIAL IMPACT

WEEK 16

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 17

COMMUNION - THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Memory Verse: *And when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me'.* – 1 Corinthians 11:24.

Introduction

The Lord's Supper signifies the unique fellowship we have with Christ. It is a time to experience companionship with our Lord and to commune with other believers in the Church (1 Cor. 10:16-17). The occasion is also an open declaration of the New Covenant we have with God through the sinless life, atoning death and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:25b). Through this commemorative ceremony, we accept the lordship of Christ over our lives, and affirm our commitment to remain faithful to Him.

Questions for Discussion

1. From whom did Paul receive his account on the

Lord's Supper? Verse 23.

2. In your view, how often should one partake of the Lord's Supper?
3. According to verse 26, how significant is the Lord's Supper to believers?
4. Personal evangelism is connected to one's participation in the Lord's Supper. Discuss. Verse 26.
5. How would you remember Christ when you participate in the Lord's Supper?

Conclusion

In today's study, we have considered the present significance of the Lord's Supper. In 1 Corinthians 11:26, Paul indicates that the practice of it can be as often as possible. Hence, while some denominations practice it weekly, others do it annually. In The Church of Pentecost, it is observed on the first Sunday of every month, and is officiated by either a minister or an elder. The unique significance of the Lord's Supper is that, participants proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (1 Cor 11:26). This should motivate us to always get ourselves well prepared before partaking in it. The full significance of this sacred ordinance can only be realized when we approach the Lord's table with a pure heart, genuine commitment to God's Word and in

earnest prayers. That is why in The Church of Pentecost, the week preceding the Lord's Supper day is set aside for preparatory prayers and teachings. We should make all efforts to actively take part in such church meetings.

WEEK 18

FAMILY DAY

WEEK 19

CELL SOCIAL IMPACT

WEEK 20

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 21

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 22

GETTING STAKEHOLDERS ON BOARD

Main Text: Nehemiah 4:13-23.

Memory Verse: *In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.* – Nehemiah 4:20 (KJV).

Introduction

The background to this passage was the conspiracy by Sanballat, Tobia, the Arabians, Ammonites and Ashdodites to frustrate the rebuilding project. In response, Nehemiah mobilized all categories of stakeholders to resist these detractors. Working with stakeholders is one strategic means of accomplishing great tasks with ease. A stakeholder is basically anyone who has something to gain or lose from a project or development initiative. They can be categorized under key stakeholders, primary stakeholders and secondary stakeholders. As a church, it is vital that we also engage stakeholders in all our social service initiatives such as the food pantries or prison ministry endeavors.

In this lesson, we shall discuss how Nehemiah interacted and worked with all categories of stakeholders to rebuild the broken walls in fifty-two days.

Questions for Discussion

1. Identify the three groups of people Nehemiah addressed after pondering over the threat. Verse 14.
2. In your view, how did these groups influence the success or failure of the rebuilding project?
3. Who are the stakeholders in our community based initiatives?
4. How do we ensure that all categories of stakeholders are involved in such social service based initiatives?

Conclusion

Nehemiah's address to the nobles, rulers, and common people is very instructive for community participation in all our social service initiatives. He conferred with the various categories of stakeholders: nobles, rulers and the rest of the people. These groups can be likened to political leaders, government agencies and people in our communities respectively. Key stakeholders are people, groups and institutions who can influence the

success of a project significantly. Government agencies, political leaders, judicial systems, unions, service providers or vending companies, etc. are key stakeholders in the society. Primary stakeholders include those who are directly affected by a project.

They are usually referred to as beneficiaries of a project. Last but not least, secondary stakeholders are all other groups who are indirectly impacted by the project. These include corporate organizations, NGOs, the media, government, etc. The coming together of all these categories of stakeholders helps the community to own the project and also, assist with logistics for the successful implementation of the campaign.

WEEK 23
FAMILY DAY

WEEK 24

CELL SOCIAL IMPACT

WEEK 25

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 26

THE LOCAL CHURCH AND HER SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Main Text: Jeremiah 29:7, Deuteronomy 15: 11

Memory Verse: *Therefore I command you to be open handed towards your brother, to the needy and the poor in your land.*

– Deuteronomy 15:11b (NLT).

Introduction

Social responsibility can be defined as the moral concern and commitment aimed at improving social conditions in communities. While some people applaud such initiatives by the Church, others are of the opinion that resources of the Church are meant solely for the propagation of the gospel and thus, should not be used to meet the social needs of communities, cities and nations. In the passage read, the captives were mandated to seek the interest of the land they inhabited. Our discussion today would help us appreciate the need to engage in social intervention programs as a local church and home cell.

Questions for Discussion

1. How do you understand the command in the light of the social responsibility of the local church? Jeremiah 29:7, Deuteronomy 15:11.
2. Discuss the reason for the involvement of the local church and home cell in community transformation? Luke 3:11, 1 John 3:17.
3. How can the local church and home cells collaborate with other stakeholders (government, chiefs, NGOs, etc.) to improve social conditions in their communities?
4. How would you respond to the notion that church resources should not be used to improve social conditions in our communities?

Conclusion

The Christian's responsibility towards meeting social needs is evident in the Scriptures. God reminded the chosen nation, Israel, of their moral obligation to see to social justice and fairness in the distribution of wealth, judgment, access to opportunity and protection of the vulnerable. More so, they were to seek the prosperity of the land where they lived. The lesson here is that we all live in communities and thus, promoting the wellbeing of

the population will ultimately inure to our benefit. In view of this, the local church is God's chosen instrument of change; she cannot dissociate herself from issues that relate to the wellbeing of our communities and societies. The local church and home cells should be able to partner with other stakeholders to bring desirable change to their communities.

WEEK 27
FAMILY DAY

WEEK 28

CELL SOCIAL IMPACT

WEEK 29

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 30

FAMILY COMMITMENT TO BIBLICAL VALUES

Main Texts: Acts 5:1-11.

Memory Verse: ‘Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?’ declares the Lord. ‘Do not I fill heaven and earth?’ declares the Lord. – Jeremiah 23:24.

Introduction

Building a healthy family requires that we agree to live by Biblical values. This notwithstanding, there are situations where certain values contradict our Christian values. In such instances, we must remain steadfast as Christians. Unfortunately, in our text today, Ananias and his wife who were part of the church, failed to live by Christian values, leading to their tragic death. In view of this, we shall discuss how family members can hold one another accountable in ensuring that they uphold Christian values at all times.

Questions for Discussion

1. What could be the motivation behind the couple’s decision to sell the land?

2. What was wrong with the action of the couple? Verse 4, 8
3. How did the attitude of the couple contradict Biblical values?
4. Discuss how Ananias and Saphira could have prevented what happened to them.
5. In which ways can we uphold Christian values in our family lives?

Conclusion

Ananias and Sapphira were most likely motivated by the good examples of members who had previously sold their possessions and brought the proceeds to the Apostles to meet the needs of the saints. However, their actions lacked integrity as compared to the good examples set earlier by some of the believers. Couples should be accountable to each other in upholding biblical values. Though the couple knew their action was wrong, none advised the other against this evil act of deceit. Possibly, they sought to have the Church applaud them, but God plucked them out of the midst of the believers. Sadly, this attitude of the couple prevails in some homes, churches and workplaces. It is always essential to help each other to stand by biblical

values in our homes. Remember, God is watching every deed (Jer. 23:23-24).

WEEK 31
FAMILY DAY

WEEK 32

CELL SOCIAL IMPACT

WEEK 33

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 34

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 35

INTEGRITY IN THE MARKETPLACE

Review of Previous Lesson (5 Minutes)

- a. Narrate briefly what you can recall from the previous lesson.
- b. Briefly explain the effect the lesson had on your life.

Main Text: Daniel 6:1-6.

Memory Verse: *The integrity of the upright guides them but the unfaithful are destroyed in their duplicity.* – Proverbs 11:3.

Introduction

Integrity basically reflects how people demonstrate moral values they profess to believe in. However, some Christians do not exhibit Christ-like character in the workplace. In view of this, we shall discuss the need for Christians to integrate faith-based virtues in all aspects of their conduct at the workplace. In the passage, Daniel was found to be without any corruption in the discharge of his duties as one of the governors in Babylon. We shall draw practical lessons from this passage in our bid to influence the marketplace with kingdom values and principles.

Questions for Discussion

1. In your view, in what areas did Daniel's friends seek to find a fault against him?
2. How do you understand the statement 'they could find no corruption in him' in verse 4?
3. Discuss what constitutes integrity in the areas of politics, civil service, and entrepreneurship.
4. In what other areas do we need to demonstrate integrity as Christians?
5. How does a lack of integrity affect our work as Christians?

Conclusion

Daniel was found to be without corruption at the workplace and could only be accused on account of issues that contradicted the principles of his faith. Integrity in business involves the quality of being trustworthy, honest, fair, reliable, and transparent. When trust and reputation are built overtime in business, they become a brand for the person. Often, people are secure when dealing with a person of integrity. Demonstrating integrity in the marketplace manifests the Kingdom's values in a more concrete and authentic way. To do this, one must be free from deceit, trickery and manipulation.

Also, we must decide never to cheat uninformed and ill-informed customers or business partners. In addition, deceiving customers on the promised time of delivery of services should be avoided. Finally, loans and credit purchases should be paid on time to gain the trust of financial institutions and creditors.

WEEK 36

FAMILY DAY

WEEK 37

CELL SOCIAL IMPACT

WEEK 38

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 39

DON'T ABUSE THE PRIVILEGE

Main Text: Genesis 39:1-9.

Memory Verse: *And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? – Luke 16:12.*

Introduction

A job offer and its subsequent acceptance indicates a mutual trust between the employer and employee. It reveals a desire to serve an employer in good faith and not to act against the employer's interest. In the passage read, Joseph remained faithful and loyal when he was given the rare privilege to manage the entire household of his master, Potiphar. Though this is often unwritten, faithfulness and loyalty reflect a quality every employer looks for in an employee. This quality is the glue that binds the employer and employee together. Our discussion today will help us come out with practical steps to guard against abusing the privilege of being favored and trusted by our employees as Christians.

Questions for Discussion

1. What influenced Potiphar to entrust the management of his household to Joseph? Verses 3, 4.
2. Why did Potiphar choose not to concern himself with anything except the food he ate? Verse 6.
3. Share experiences of how people mismanaged businesses when they were trusted by their superiors.
4. With lessons from Joseph, how should Christians handle the privilege of being favored and trusted by their superiors at the workplace?

Conclusion

Sometimes, we are privileged to be favored and trusted by our superiors because they know we are Christians. Many a time, people have abused this privilege. In the passage, Potiphar concerned himself with nothing except what he would eat because he trusted Joseph. Joseph could have used this privilege to indulge in sin but he was faithful. He remained steadfast when he was tempted by Potiphar's wife. Unfortunately, some people abuse the privilege of being favored by colluding with people to run down businesses, falsifying accounts, selling properties, and absconding with huge sums of money. The only reason Joseph passed the test was the fear of God. He

considered any act against his master as wickedness and sin against God (Gen. 39:9). We must come to the realization that whatever we do against the progress of our superiors and businesses is sin against God. The privilege of being favored is an opportunity to demonstrate to the world that there are still honest, loyal and faithful people because Christ lives in them.

WEEK 40

FAMILY DAY

WEEK 41

CELL SOCIAL IMPACT

WEEK 42

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 43

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 44

DON'T COMPROMISE YOUR CHRISTIAN VALUES

Main Text: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

Memory Verse: *Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness.* – 2 Corinthians 7:1.

Introduction

We live in communities with different kinds of people, some of whom do not believe in Christ and have no desire to be like Him. Moreover, we have been called to influence these people positively for Christ. In engaging them, we must be careful to always uphold our Christian values. As Christians, God indwells us and is among us. Our prime response to Him is a life of holiness which is, separating ourselves from uncleanness, filthiness and corruption so as to fully dedicate ourselves to Him. In this study, we shall look at how to live among and interact with non-Christians without compromising our faith in Christ.

Questions for Discussion

1. What advice does Paul give to Christians? Verse 14.
2. What does ‘Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers’ mean?
3. How do we become unequally yoked with unbelievers?
4. How does Paul describe the difference between the Christian and the non-Christian? Verse 14-16.
5. In what practical ways can we engage unbelievers around us without compromising our faith in Christ?

Conclusion

Paul calls on Christians not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers. He shows that Christians and non-Christians do not share the same values just as ‘righteousness’ and ‘lawlessness’, ‘light’ and ‘darkness’, cannot coexist. Thus, a true Christian cannot be one with unbelievers doing the things they enjoy doing which do not reflect the life of Christ. When Paul says, ‘Do not be unequally yoked’, he is referring to a law, which forbade the yoking of an ox with a donkey (Deut. 22:10). Though, an ox and a donkey can graze together, they are not compatible enough to plough a field under the same yoke. Practically, we cannot engage in corrupt and

immoral practices such as paying bribes, stealing from coffers of organizational, etc. just like some non-Christians do. However, we are called to influence those who misconduct themselves positively as we uphold our Christian integrity.

WEEK 45

FAMILY DAY

WEEK 46

CELL SOCIAL IMPACT

WEEK 47

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 48

BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS GOOD CHARACTER

Main Text: Psalm 1:1-6.

Memory Verse: *Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character'.* – 1 Corinthians 15:33.

Introduction

The tendency to sing the tune of the masses in many cases is compelling. Thus, if all the people around us are going one direction, the temptation to follow that route is high. The psalmist admonishes believers to desist from associating with the wicked, sinners and mockers. The incidence of social vices such as armed robbery, suicide, drug abuse, gambling and premarital sex may be due to the influence of bad company. One sure way to maintain integrity is to watch the company we keep.

Questions for Discussion

1. How can a Christian's association with the wicked, sinners and mockers influence their personal integrity?
2. How does a Christian's meditation on the word of

God keep them from the corrupting influence of the ungodly?

3. Identify the difference between the end of the wicked and that of the righteous Verse 3-6
4. How do we develop good friendship within the body of Christ?

Conclusion

The passage begins with a benediction for those who fear the Lord. The best form of association the Psalmist recommends has to do with those who give godly counsel, the righteous and those who do not mock others. Our lives of integrity will be enhanced if we delight in what the word of God says day and night and live by them. There is no form of integrity beyond what the word of God prescribes. It is important that in our workplaces, schools, communities and even at church, we are careful of the people we associate with. Those who keep ungodly company are likened to chaff because they have no integrity. People of integrity have standards. They are likened to trees planted by the waterside which are not affected by drought but yield their fruits in season. It is important we keep godly standards and desist from wrong associations in order to preserve our sanctity and influence others with our fruits.

WEEK 49

FAMILY DAY

WEEK 50

CELL SOCIAL IMPACT

WEEK 51

PASTORAL CARE / VISITATION

WEEK 52

EXTRA SCRIPTS AVAILABLE FOR USE

The Church as a Model for Society

Handling Polygamous Believers in The Church

The Purpose of Ascension Gifts: Equipping the Saints

Fellowship in the Church

The Biblical Roles in Marriage

Understanding Customary Marriage from the Christian Perspective

Singlehood in the Light of the Scriptures

Mentoring the Youth

Building Godly Character as Singles

THE CHURCH AS A MODEL FOR SOCIETY

Main Text: 1 John 5:1-4.

Memory Verse: *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.* – 1 John 5:4 (ESV).

Introduction

The New Testament reveals what God wants His Church to be in terms of modelling His principles in the world. No one sees God physically, but the Church as His bride and community is called to demonstrate the nature of God and portray His beauty to the world. When people see the Church, they should have a mental picture of God and His kingdom.

As a model for society, whose power and image are derived from Christ, the Church remains an agent of transformation of society through its glorious ministry. For example, the victory in the sense of 1 John 5:4 implies that ungodly practices in the world, such as homosexuality, corruption, and other social vices must not have an expression in the Church, no matter the pressure mounted against it.

Questions for Discussion

1. What qualifies one to be a child of God? Verses 1,

2. How do you understand the statement 'those born of God have overcome the world'? Verse 4.
3. Faith in Christ is the victory of believers. Explain.
4. Identify who the Bible refers to as a person '*born of God*' Verse 4.
5. Mention practical ways by which the Church, as a model for society, can fight moral decadence.

Conclusion

As an institution of victory, the Church has been divinely empowered to overcome all sorts of evil in society, both present and those to come in the future. We must all rise and build a Church that fulfils that mandate. The radiance of God's glory in it should be one that heals the moral decadence in the world (Matt. 5:13) and restores humanity to their original glory (Rom. 3:23).

The Church is a chosen and holy nation unto the Lord. It must stay awake and be the binding force that Jesus Christ empowers to transform the world. The implication is that, every believer should be a model of good character, which others can emulate. Today, it has become obvious that the world is crumbling under the weight of corruption and other social vices, while many Christians are unfortunately compromising their faith to worldliness. Christ expects us

as His ambassadors in the world, to impact our society positively with authentic and godly principles such as integrity and holiness.

HANDLING POLYGAMOUS BELIEVERS IN THE CHURCH

Main Text: 1 Samuel 1:1-7

Memory verse: *But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.* – 1 Corinthians 7:2.

Introduction

The practice of polygamy dates as far back as the days of Lamech (Gen. 4:19) when human fell. The Bible also records several other instances of the practice (Gen. 36:2; 1 Sam. 1:2; 2 Sam. 2:2). Just like any other institution, marriage is guided by rules and regulations which those who desire to enter it must comply with. The Scriptures clearly explain that monogamy is the divine ideal for marriage (Gen. 2:24). Today's lesson will seek to unravel the original plan God has for humankind concerning marriage and how The Church of Pentecost handles polygamous members.

Questions for Discussion

1. How did Elkanah treat his two wives? Verses 4, 5.
2. What conflict ensued between the two wives of Elkanah? Verse 6.

3. What was the aftermath of the conflict between Hannah and Peninah? Verse 7.
4. How do you understand the statement ‘each man should have his own wife’ (1 Cor. 7:2)?
5. How can we avoid polygamous marriages in the church?

Conclusion

The Bible is clear on regulations regarding marriage. Thus, it is our duty to comply with God’s plan for marriage. In the beginning, He instituted marriage as a union between one man and one woman. This proves that monogamy was the original practice of marriage just as Christ emphasized (Matt. 19:4, 5). Polygamy is not an antidote for sexual immorality (1 Cor. 7:2). It rather poses numerous family conflicts (1 Sam. 1:4, 5; Gen. 29:30). In The Church of Pentecost, converts who are polygamists are baptized but not received into full membership of the Church until they renounce polygamy. They are also excluded from being given the right hand of fellowship, giving testimonies or becoming officers of the church (Titus. 1:6, 1 Tim. 3:12). At their funerals, ministers may conduct the service but no tribute or testimonies are given on behalf of the Church at such funeral services. This is done to create room for God’s

original intent for marriage to be maintained.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ASCENSION GIFTS: EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

Main Text: Ephesians 4:11-16.

Memory Verse: *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers.* – Ephesians 4:11.

Introduction

One cannot talk about the Kingdom of God without discussing the ministerial gifts (ascension gifts) given to men to expand the Kingdom of God. Some call them ascension gifts because, it was made manifest after Jesus Christ ascended on high (Eph. 4:8). Ascension or ministerial gifts are gifts of people God gives to His church to enhance the ministry by equipping the saints. The five-fold ministries or offices that Jesus established after His ascension provide pastoral care for His church. Our lesson today will highlight these gifts, their relevance in equipping the saints and developing God's Kingdom.

Questions for Discussion

1. Name the five-fold ministerial gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11.

2. Why does God give ascension gifts to the church?
Verse 12.
3. According to verses 13 and 14, what does God expect from the saints who have been given the ascension gifts?
4. How do you understand the statement 'no longer children tossed by the wind'? Verse 14.
5. Share your experiences on how you have been equipped by one of these gifts of men.

Conclusion

When Jesus ascended on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men. These are the offices of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and the teacher. They are primarily to 'equip the saints for the work of ministry; till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man'. God expects the fullness of Christ in the believer, hence, the giving of these gifts. In some respects, Christians are to be like children. They are to be docile, gentle, mild and free from ambition, pride and haughtiness (Matt. 18:2-3). But children have other characteristics besides simplicity and meekness; this is what Paul is referring to. It is certain that the child is ignorant, weak and

unsteady, tossed about in the nurse's arms. We are not to be influenced easily and led astray by others; rather we are to be firm through the equipping power of the gifts of ministry. Let us continue to submit to the leadership of the church so that we will reach the perfection Christ desires of us.

FELLOWSHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Main Text: Acts 2:42-47.

Memory Verse: *By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.* – John 13:35.

Introduction

Humans are social beings. Thus, everyone desires to belong to a group where the sense of oneness and bonding is strong. When people become Christians, they leave the ‘fellowship’ of sinners to become ‘fellows’ in the ‘ship’ of Christians. Thus, fellowship is not just for challenging times but necessary for the survival of the Christian. In view of this, the Church is expected to intentionally promote fellowship among members. The early Church was committed to expressing the love of God as they worshipped together and cared for one another.

Questions for Discussion

1. In what ways did the early Church spend their lives together? Verse 42
2. How were the needy among the believers supported?
Verses 44, 45

3. How does fellowship affect church growth? Verse 47
4. What challenges militate against fellowship in the local church?
5. How can the local church promote strong fellowship among members?

Conclusion

Fellowship as used in Acts 2:42 expresses the idea of being together for mutual interest. The early Church demonstrated this quality. With one accord, they received, retained and acted on the teachings of the Apostles. More so, with great sensitivity, they provided support for the needy among them through sacrificial giving. Strong fellowship in the local church brings unity, retains converts in the church and influences outsiders towards faith in Christ Jesus.

We can build strong fellowship by strengthening the small groups in the church such as the cells, Bible study groups and ministries. This is because it is difficult to foster strong fellowship in a crowd or large group. In addition, we can create opportunities for fellowship outside the church. This may take the form of profitable discussions on social media platforms, phone calls and visitation to the homes of members. More importantly,

church leaders must teach on the subject of fellowship
– purpose, method, practice and importance of biblical
fellowship.

THE BIBLICAL ROLES IN MARRIAGE

Main Text: Ephesians 5:22-33.

Memory Verse: *However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*
– Ephesians 5:33.

Introduction

In our world today, there are fellowships, movements and groups with different ideologies, beliefs and practices which influence society, including Christians. These beliefs and practices have led to significant social changes in today's world about roles in marriage. This calls for the need for Christians to appreciate what the Bible says about the responsibilities God has assigned to husbands and wives at home. It is important for us to know and follow God's design for couples even when it is contrary to what we are familiar with. Our lesson focuses on the mutual roles of husbands and wives.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are the roles of wives in marriage? Verse 22.
2. What are the roles of husbands in marriage? Verse 25.
3. Identify some cultural or traditional factors that

hinder husbands and wives from honoring their roles.

4. How can couples handle challenges raised in question 3?
5. What happens when husbands and wives perform their roles in marriage effectively?

Conclusion

In today's lesson, we have looked at the roles of husbands and wives in marriage. Husbands are to love their wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. In addition, husbands are to provide leadership and serve as breadwinners, protectors, mentors and companions to the family. On the other hand, wives are to submit to the authority of their husbands as to the Lord. They must support their husbands, take care of the household and must abstain from a life of laziness (Prov. 31:27). In situations where cultural and traditional practices conflict with biblical roles, husbands and wives must go for the latter. When couples perform their roles well, they experience joy and happiness in their marriages and become a positive influence for unbelieving couples. Husbands and wives should become vigilant to forestall falling into the traps of Satan that come through false doctrines and teachings that

usurp the authority God has established in marriage.

UNDERSTANDING CUSTOMARY MARRIAGE FROM THE CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Main Text: Genesis 24:1-4, 50-61.

Memory Verse: *Here is Rebekah before; you take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son as the Lord has directed.* – Genesis 24:51.

Introduction

For believers, marriage is not just a relationship between husband and wife, but also between spouses and God. Therefore, the procedure for contracting marriage is important. Traditional marriage forms the basis for all marriages. Some basic requirements and procedures are also followed in almost all cultures. Families of would-be couples are involved in the marriage contract. In the Christian context, much emphasis is placed on prayer and the leading of Holy Spirit. In today's study, we would look at the foundational procedure and requirements for marriage.

Questions for Discussion

1. Who were those involved in the process of contracting the marriage for Rebekah? Verses 50, 54, 58.
2. Why do you think Rebekah's family was so willing to

give her in marriage? Verses 50, 51.

3. What practice in contemporary marriage contract is similar to the one in verse 52 to 54?
4. What are some measures families can put in place to make the marriage processes simple?
5. In which area do you think the church and families can work on to make traditional marriage as easy as possible?

Conclusion

Marriage is a covenant relationship but has some laws governing it. Abraham's servants, Laban, Bethuel, Rebekah's mother and Rebekah herself were involved in Rebekah's traditional marriage process. Rebekah's parents gave her in marriage because they realized God had a hand in it. The family did well to see her off responsibly by pronouncing blessings on her and giving her other physical needs. Abraham's servant also paid the price for Rebekah by giving precious things to her family. This is what we call 'dowry', and the practice is still common today. It is given to honor the parents of the bride and not as the 'selling price' of their daughter. Dowries may differ from one traditional setting to another. One of the best things the Church can offer

would-be couples is to provide a serene atmosphere for godly guidance and counselling.

SINGLEHOOD IN THE LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES

Main Text: Matthew 19:10-12, 1 Corinthians 7:7-10.

Memory Verse: *But I would have you to be free from cares. He that is unmarried is careful for the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord.* – 1 Corinthians 7:32 (ASV).

Introduction

Singlehood can be described as the state of being unmarried. This could be by choice, bereavement or circumstances beyond a person's control. The Scriptures deal with the subject of singlehood comprehensively. In the discussion of these scripture passages, we shall find vital lessons that would empower singles to maximize the use of this period of their lives to the glory of God. On the other hand, misconceptions on the subject of singlehood would be addressed by the word of God in order to avoid perceptions that drive the stigmatization of singles in our homes, communities and churches.

Questions for Discussions

1. Identify the three types of eunuchs in the passage
Matthew 19:12.

2. How do these situations relate to singlehood in our contemporary times?
3. How do Jesus and Paul's statements address negative perceptions about singlehood? Matthew 19:12, 1 Corinthians 7:7-8.
4. What identity do all Christians, including the single and married, have in Christ? 1 Corinthians 12:13.
5. What is the right approach to encourage singles in our homes, church and communities about marriage?

Conclusion

In His teachings on marriage, Jesus intimated that the single state of a person may be due to life's circumstances, nature and choice (Matt. 19:12). Though He condemned divorce, He did not speak against being single but rather explained the underlying causes. Also, Paul encouraged widows and the unmarried to remain single if that would not inconvenience them (1 Cor. 7:7-8). In both passages, the Lord Jesus and Paul did not condemn singlehood and marriage. This means that both situations are acceptable before God. John the Baptist, the Lord Jesus, Anna the Prophetess and Apostle Paul were single persons who pursued their

God-given mandate creditably. A Christian's identity is firmly rooted in their union with Christ; loved, forgiven, valued, sanctified, and prepared for every good work (Eph. 2:10, Col. 3:10-11). Other situations in life are temporary and should not become the yardstick for defining a Christian. Being single, married, unemployed, without biological children are all temporary situations in life as compared to our eternal identity of being joint heirs with Christ.

Christians who are single should not be stigmatized or made to feel they are incomplete. While we encourage singles to prepare for marriage, we must avoid disparaging remarks about their situation because such comments could make them take hasty decisions concerning marriage to their detriment.

MENTORING THE YOUTH

Main Text: Exodus 24:12-13, Exodus 17:8-13.

Memory Verse: *So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.* – Exodus 17:10.

Introduction

Mentoring can be defined as a relational learning and developmental partnership between people with different levels of experience and knowledge in a particular area. This can be seen in the relationships that existed between Jesus and His disciples (Mark 3: 14-15), and other prominent biblical characters such as Jethro and Moses, Moses and Joshua, Paul and Timothy, among others. In the passage read, Moses brought Joshua close and provided him the opportunity to mature in various aspects of leadership. Mentoring the youth is needful for the transfer of right doctrines and values from one generation to the other. Our discussion of the main text would help us draw useful lessons as we endeavor to become intentional about mentoring the youth.

Questions for Discussion

1. From the scriptures, how did Moses mentor Joshua?

Exodus 24:12-13, Exodus 17:8-13.

2. How valuable were these experiences in preparing Joshua for leadership?
3. How can the youth be mentored to take up roles in the Church and society?
4. What are the challenges to mentoring young people in the Church?
5. Discuss practical solutions to the challenges identified in Question 4.

Conclusion

When God instructed Moses to meet Him on the mountain for the tablets of stone, law and commandment, he was accompanied by Joshua (Exo. 24:12). Also, Joshua was part of the men chosen to spy the land of Canaan (Numb. 13:16). In addition, Moses instructed Joshua to choose men and fight the Amalekites while he stood on the mountain (Exo. 17: 8-13). All these experiences contributed to building Joshua into a strong leader who led the Israelites to the Promised Land. Mentoring is intentional, that is, it starts when mature members of the Church identify or accept to establish a relationship that provides an avenue for training, accountability, and modelling of the Christian faith to a

young person (1 Thess. 2:8). The lesson here is that adults should consciously identify young people with potentials and entrust responsibilities to them. With patience, the youth should be guided to accomplish their mandates. The role of the youth in this mentoring relationship is to possess a teachable spirit and be determined to be groomed for future roles.

BUILDING GODLY CHARACTER AS SINGLES

Main Text: Gen. 24: 12 -24; 50-53

Memory Verse: *The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again.* – Gen. 24:16

Introduction

Every period of life presents unique opportunities and challenges. Thus, the period of being single is not freedom to indulge in all kinds of misbehavior as some unbelievers do. Rather, one must use the time to build godly character through self-discipline, personal devotions and humility. In view of this, young singles who hope to get married must consciously abstain from sexual immorality, cohabitation and other vices associated with some singles. They should consciously inculcate good values and get themselves abreast of the right information concerning marriage. In the scripture read, we observed the good qualities of Rebecca when she met the eldest servant of Abraham. Our discussion today will help us identify some qualities singles need to learn and imbibe as they prepare for marriage in the future.

Questions for Discussion

1. Discuss the character traits of Rebecca. Verse 16-17
2. How can singles build such godly character in this age?
3. Where and how did the servant contract the marriage between Isaac and Rebecca?
4. Discuss the relevance of family consent in contracting marriage.
5. How should singles who are Christians respond to their challenges in contemporary times?

Conclusion

Rebecca was a beautiful single woman who remained a virgin until the appropriate rites were performed for her hand in marriage. With the help of the Holy Spirit and self-discipline, we can live holy lives as singles. Also, her interaction with the servant showed that she was respectful, humble, good nurtured, polite, kind and hospitable. The lesson here is that, singles must be conscious about building good character and inculcating strong moral values.

This could possibly open the door to meeting future wives and husbands. We also realize that contracting the marriage took place with the consent of Rebecca's family even though the idea was conceived by the servant while they interacted at the well. Singles must be careful to avoid

behaviors such as cohabitation and spending weekends with the opposite sex who has not performed all rites necessary for marriage because this is not acceptable for us as Christians. Families and the church should be informed immediately issues of contracting marriage between singles come up. This is necessary for direction and guidance for a successful marriage.

APPROPRIATE DRESSING TO PLEASE GOD

Main Text: 1 Timothy 2:8-10

Memory Verse: *The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them (NIV). – Gen. 3:21.*

Introduction

When God created humanity, He clothed them in His glory. Thus, though they were physically naked, they did lack a covering until the fall. After the fall, humanity fell short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23) and their nakedness began to bother them. Unfortunately, their attempts at covering their nakedness further revealed their corrupt minds (Gen. 3:7). What can fig leaves cover? Some prohibitions or prescriptions on gender specific clothing and use of ornaments engender controversial teachings in our days. In today's lesson, we will look at what the Scriptures say about the use of ornaments and clothing that please God.

Questions for Discussion

1. What three things does Paul suggest should be considered in dressing? Verse 9.

2. What message should our dressing convey to the world? Verse 10, 1 Peter 3:4.
3. How does the use of ornaments and makeup violate God's prescription on dressing?
4. Does God affirm or forbid the use of jewelry and braided hairstyles? (Ezek. 16:11, 13).
5. God will endorse a woman in decent trousers but frown on a woman in a dress that reveals her thighs and other parts of her body unduly? Discuss.

Conclusion

Creation has been adorned by God for beauty and elegance, yet in modesty and decency. Take a look at a flower and how it is adorned! The psalmist speaks of humanity being wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). God appreciates beauty but abhors that which is extravagant and indecent. The use of ornaments and fine clothes are not against the dictates of God. What God prohibits is dressing in fine clothing with glamourous jewelry to march when the inner person is 'naked' (1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Pet. 3:3, 4). Again, making a hard and fast rule about what is male and female wear cannot apply universally. In every culture, there is a

way of dressing for the people. It is common in Scotland to see the men dressed in skirts, while women wearing trousers is common across the globe. When Adam and Eve needed clothes, they went for fig leaf which was not decent. God provided a more durable, decent and modest alternative crafted from animal skins. Truly, God appreciates what we wear provided our outlook is decent, appropriate and modest, and we honor Him in our character.

RAISING GODLY CHRISTIAN WORKFORCE

Review of Previous Lesson (5 Minutes)

- a. Summarize the previous lesson on the Lord's Supper.
- b. What does 'self-examination' mean?

Main Text: Jeremiah 35:1-14.

Memory Verse: *But they replied, 'We do not drink wine, because our forefather Jonadab son of Recab gave us this command: "Neither you nor your descendants must ever drink wine"'. – Jeremiah 35:6 (NIV).*

Introduction

The development of human resource of a nation is very important to national development. However, for sustainable and meaningful development, the teaching and learning of technical skills must be linked to godly values. Failing this, the nation risks raising a highly skilled workforce who are indifferent to righteousness. With such tall trees with rotten roots at the helm of affairs, the nation risks setbacks of spiritual blindness, moral decay and economic hardship. In today's study we shall see the sterling example of the Recabites who refused to compromise godly values passed on to them by their forebears.

Questions for Discussion

1. How did Jeremiah invite the Rechabites to drink wine? Verses 1, 2
2. What answer did the Rechabites give to the invitation, 'Drink Wine'? Verse 6a
3. Why did the Rechabites refuse to drink the wine offered them? Verse 6b
4. How did the Rechabites show the value of their godly upbringing? Verse 8
5. In what ways should Verses 13 and 14 inspire us to support PBC to raise godly professionals?

Conclusion

The Rechabites traced their lineage to Jehonadab (Jer. 35:8) who had ordered them to abstain from alcohol, among other things. They upheld this command with the needed strictness such that not even Jeremiah could convince them in the name of the Lord to do otherwise. This is the sort of attitude expected of products of Christian universities. As a Christian university, the Pentecost University College (PUC) intentionally integrates the values and principles of the Kingdom of

God into its academic programs. This is to shape the character of professionals it produces to transform every sphere of society with these values and principles. Raising godly professionals requires inflows of commitment, steadfastness, and adequate funding. This is why we must pray for, promote, and financially support the PBC to achieve its goal of raising godly professionals for national transformation.

THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

The Church is the household of God, redeemed and sanctified by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The Church is therefore not a mere social institution, but a family of saints being trained and equipped until we all attain the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:13). The following guidelines are therefore intended to help you walk worthy of your calling as a child of God:

1. Set aside a period daily for a personal quiet time in prayer and meditation on the Word (Matt. 6:6; Eph. 6:18-20).
2. Always endeavor to adequately prepare yourself through prayer and meditation before coming to the house of God (Heb. 4:15-16).
3. Be in your seat in good time before the commencement of service and participate fully in every aspect of the service.
4. Endeavour, by word and deed, to bring up your children in the fear of the LORD, and bring them with you to the house of God. Supervise and monitor the active participation of your children in Sunday School and Youth Ministry, as the case may be. Do not neglect

the spiritual well-being of the other relatives and house-helps under your care; they also need salvation (Gen. 18:19; Jos. 24:15; 2 Tim. 1:5, 6; Prov. 22:6; Deut. 6:4-7).

5. Make the Church your spiritual home. Love the brethren with brotherly affection and, if you are able, contribute to the needs of the saints (Phil. verse 7; Ac. 2:46).
6. During casual conversation at home or at work, do not speak disrespectfully or disparagingly about the Church and God's servants. Make your concerns and grievances known to the appropriate authority for explanation or redress (3 Jn. 9,10; Num. 12:12).
7. Endeavour to study the Bible diligently on your own and take it with you anytime you go to the house of God (2 Tim. 2:15; Ac. 17:11; Jos. 1:8).
8. Enter reverently; pray fervently; listen attentively; give praise from a grateful heart, and worship God in the beauty of holiness (Ps. 118:27-29; Eccl. 5:1; Rom. 7:12; Jas 1:19). "Enter into His gates with thanks-giving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name" (Ps. 100:4).
9. Marital fidelity and chastity before and during marriage are the hallmarks of a true Christian and are, therefore, strongly urged upon every child of God. Pre-

marital and extra-marital relationships have no place in the Church of God; members found in such relationships should be punished by suspension and/or withdrawal from fellowship (1 Cor. 5; Heb. 13:4).

10. In your business, endeavor to make all your dealings and transactions Bible-based, honest and transparent (Prov. 16:8; 21:6; 22:13,16; Jer. 17:11; 22:13). A true child of God should not deal in items known to be detrimental to the spiritual, mental and physical health of others, e.g., alcohol, cigarettes and narcotic drugs.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR GUIDE

With this Bible Reading guide, you can go through the Bible verse by verse and Book by Book in one year. You also may start this plan any time and progress at your pace too.

Week	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Genesis 1-3	Genesis 4-7	Genesis 8-11	Genesis 12-16	Genesis 17-19	Genesis 20-23	Genesis 24-25
2	Genesis 26-28	Genesis 29-30	Genesis 31-33	Genesis 34-36	Genesis 37-39	Genesis 40-42	Genesis 43-45
3	Genesis 46-47	Genesis 48-50	Exodus 1-4	Exodus 5-7	Exodus 8-10	Exodus 11-13	Exodus 14-16
4	Exodus 17-20	Exodus 21-23	Exodus 24-27	Exodus 28-30	Exodus 31-34	Exodus 35-37	Exodus 38-40
5	Leviticus 1-4	Leviticus 5-7	Leviticus 8-11	Leviticus 12-14	Leviticus 15-17	Leviticus 18-20	Leviticus 21-23
6	Leviticus 24-25	Leviticus 26-27	Numbers 1-2	Numbers 3-4	Numbers 5-6	Numbers 7-8	Numbers 9-11
7	Numbers 12-14	Numbers 15-17	Numbers 18-20	Numbers 21-23	Numbers 24-26	Numbers 27-30	Numbers 31-33
8	Numbers 34-36	Deuteronomy 1-2	Deuteronomy 3-4	Deuteronomy 5-7	Deuteronomy 8-11	Deuteronomy 12-15	Deuteronomy 16-19
9	Deuteronomy 20-23	Deuteronomy 24-27	Deuteronomy 28-29	Deuteronomy 30-31	Deuteronomy 32-34	Joshua 1-4	Joshua 5-7
10	Joshua 8-10	Joshua 11-14	Joshua 15-18	Joshua 19-21	Joshua 22-24	Judges 1-3	Judges 4-5
11	Judges 6-8	Judges 9-11	Judges 12-15	Judges 16-18	Judges 19-21	Ruth 1-4	1 Samuel 1-3
12	1 Samuel 4-7	1 Samuel 8-10	1 Samuel 11-13	1 Samuel 14-15	1 Samuel 16-17	1 Samuel 18-20	1 Samuel 21-24
13	1 Samuel 25-27	1 Samuel 28-31	2 Samuel 1-3	2 Samuel 4-7	2 Samuel 8-11	2 Samuel 12-13	2 Samuel 14-15
14	2 Samuel 16-18	2 Samuel 19-20	2 Samuel 21-22	2 Samuel 23-24	1 Kings 1-2	1 Kings 3-5	1 Kings 6-7
15	1 Kings 8-9	1 Kings 10-12	1 Kings 13-15	1 Kings 16-18	1 Kings 19-20	1 Kings 21-22	2 King 1-3
16	2 Kings 4-5	2 Kings 6-8	2 Kings 9-11	2 Kings 12-14	2 Kings 15-17	2 Kings 18-20	2 Kings 21-23
17	2 Kings 24-25	1 Chronicles 1-2	1 Chronicles 3-5	1 Chronicles 6-7	1 Chronicles 8-10	1 Chronicles 11-13	1 Chronicles 14-16
18	1 Chronicles 17-20	1 Chronicles 21-23	1 Chronicles 24-26	1 Chronicles 27-29	1 Chronicles 1-4	2 Chronicles 5-7	2 Chronicles 8-11
19	2 Chronicles 12-16	2 Chronicles 17-19	2 Chronicles 20-22	2 Chronicles 23-25	2 Chronicles 26-29	2 Chronicles 30-32	2 Chronicles 33-34
20	2 Chronicles 35-36	Ezra 1-4	Ezra 5-7	Ezra 8-10	Nehemiah 1-4	Nehemiah 5-7	Nehemiah 8-10
21	Nehemiah 11-13	Esther 1-4	Esther 5-10	Job 1-4	Job 5-8	Job 9-12	Job 13-17

22	Job 18-21	Job 22-26	Job 27-30	Job 31-34	Job 35-38	Job 39-42	Psalms 1-7
23	Psalms 8-14	Psalms 15-18	Psalms 19-24	Psalms 25-30	Psalms 31-34	Psalms 35-37	Psalms 38-42
24	Psalms 43-48	Psalms 49-54	Psalms 55-60	Psalms 61-67	Psalms 68-71	Psalms 72-75	Psalms 76-78
25	Psalms 79-84	Psalms 85-89	Psalms 90-95	Psalms 96-102	Psalms 103-105	Psalms 106-108	Psalms 109-115
26	Psalms 116-118	Psalms 119	Psalms 120-131	Psalms 132-138	Psalms 139-144	Psalms 145-150	Proverbs 1-3
27	Proverbs 4-7	Proverbs 8-10	Proverbs 11-13	Proverbs 14-16	Proverbs 17-19	Proverbs 20-22	Proverbs 23-25
28	Proverbs 26-28	Proverbs 29-31	Ecclesiastes 1-4	Ecclesiastes 5-8	Ecclesiastes 9-12	Song of Solomon 1-4	Song of Solomon 5-8
29	Isaiah 1-3	Isaiah 4-6	Isaiah 7-9	Isaiah 10-13	Isaiah 14-16	Isaiah 17-21	Isaiah 22-25
30	Isaiah 26-28	Isaiah 29-31	Isaiah 32-34	Isaiah 35-37	Isaiah 38-40	Isaiah 41-42	Isaiah 43-44
31	Isaiah 45-47	Isaiah 48-50	Isaiah 51-53	Isaiah 54-57	Isaiah 58-60	Isaiah 61-64	Isaiah 65-66
32	Jeremiah 1-3	Jeremiah 4-5	Jeremiah 6-8	Jeremiah 9-11	Jeremiah 12-14	Jeremiah 15-17	Jeremiah 18-21
33	Jeremiah 22-23	Jeremiah 24-26	Jeremiah 27-29	Jeremiah 30-31	Jeremiah 32-34	Jeremiah 35-37	Jeremiah 38-41
34	Jeremiah 42-45	Jeremiah 46-48	Jeremiah 49	Jeremiah 50	Jeremiah 51-52	Lamentations 1-2	Lamentations 3-5
35	Ezekiel 1-4	Ezekiel 5-9	Ezekiel 10-13	Ezekiel 14-16	Ezekiel 17-19	Ezekiel 20-21	Ezekiel 22-23
36	Ezekiel 24-26	Ezekiel 27-28	Ezekiel 29-31	Ezekiel 32-33	Ezekiel 34-36	Ezekiel 37-39	Ezekiel 40-42
37	Ezekiel 43-45	Ezekiel 46-48	Daniel 1-2	Daniel 3-4	Daniel 5-6	Daniel 7-9	Daniel 10-12
38	Hosea 1-4	Hosea 5-9	Hosea 10-14	Joel 1-3	Amos 1-3	Amos 54-6	Amos 7-9
39	Obadiah & Jonah	Micah 1-4	Micah 5-7	Nahum 1-3	Habakkuk 1-3	Zephaniah 1-3	Haggai 1-2
40	Zechariah 1-6	Zechariah 7-10	Zechariah 11-14	Malachi 1-4	Matthew 1-4	Matthew 5-7	Matthew 8-9

	Matthew 10-12	Matthew 13-14	Matthew 15-17	Matthew 18-20	Matthew 21-22	Matthew 23-24	Matthew 25-26
41							
42	Matthew 27-28	Mark 1-3	Mark 4-6	Mark 7-9	Mark 10-13	Mark 14-16	Luke 1
43	Luke 2-3	Luke 4-5	Luke 6-7	Luke 8-9	Luke 10-11	Luke 12-13	Luke 14-16
44	Luke 17-18	Luke 19-20	Luke 21-22	Luke 23-24	John 1-3	John 4-5	John 6-7
45	John 8-9	John 10-11	John 12-13	John 14-15	John 16-17	John 18-19	John 20-21
46	Acts 1-2	Acts 3-4	Acts 5-6	Acts 7-8	Acts 9-12	Acts 13-16	Acts 17-19
47	Acts 20-23	Acts 24-28	Romans 1-3	Romans 4-7	Romans 8-10	Romans 11-13	Romans 14-16
48	1 Corinthians 1-4	1 Corinthians 5-9	1 Cor. 10-13	1 Cor. 14-16	2 Cor. 1-4	2 Cor. 5-7	2 Cor. 8-10
49	2 Cor. 11-13	Galatians 1-3	Galatians 4-6	Ephesians 1-3	Ephesians 4-6	Philippians 1-4	Colossians 1-4
50	1 Thess. 1-3	1 Thess. 4-5	2 Thess. 1-3	1 Timothy 1-6	2 Timothy 1-4	Titus & Philemon	Hebrews 1-4
51	Hebrews 5-7	Hebrews 8-10	Hebrews 11-13	James 1-5	1 Peter 1-5	2 Peter 1-3	1 John 1-5
52	2 John, 3 John & Jude	Revelation 1-3	Revelation 4-7	Revelation 13-16	Revelation 17-19	Revelation 20-22	Revelation 20-22

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