

RIGHTLY DIVIDING

THE WORD OF TRUTH

(2 TIMOTHY 2:15)

BEING
TEN OUTLINE STUDIES
OF THE MORE
IMPORTANT DIVISIONS OF THE SCRIPTURE
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INTRODUCTION

IN the second chapter of Second Timothy the believer is presented in seven characters. He is called a son, ver. 1; a soldier, ver. 3; an athlete, ver. 5; a husbandman, ver. 6; a workman, ver. 15; a vessel, ver. 21; and a servant, ver. 24.

With each of these characters there is a *suited* exhortation. As a son, Timothy is exhorted to be strong in grace. *Grace* goes with *sonship*, just as *law* goes with *servitude*—as we learn from Galatians. Then, as a soldier, Timothy is exhorted to endure hardness, and to avoid worldly entanglements; these are right elements of good soldiership. As a vessel, he is to be cleansed, separated; as a servant, gentle, patient, meek, and so of each of these seven aspects of his life as a Christian.

In verse 15 he is told what is required of him as a *workman*: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly *dividing the Word of Truth*."

The Word of Truth, then, has right divisions, and it must be evident that, as one cannot be "a workman that needed not to be ashamed" without observing them, so *any study* of that Word which ignores those divisions must be in large measure profitless and confusing. Many Christians freely confess that they find the study of the Bible weary work. More find it so, who are ashamed to make the confession.

The purpose of this pamphlet is to indicate the more important divisions of the Word of Truth. That this could not be fully done short of a complete analysis of the Bible is, of course, evident; but it is believed that enough is given to enable the diligent student to perceive the greater outlines of truth, and something of the ordered beauty and symmetry of that Word of God which, to the natural mind, seems a mere confusion of inharmonious and conflicting ideas.

The student is earnestly exhorted not to receive a single doctrine upon the authority of this book, but, like the noble Bereans (Acts 17: 11), to search the Scriptures daily whether these things are so. No appeal is made to human authority. "The anointing which ye have received of HIM abideth in you, and *ye need not that any MAN teach you*" (1 John 2: 27).

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THE JEW, THE GENTILE, AND THE CHURCH OF GOD

KEY TEXT: "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God" (1 Cor. 10: 32).

WHOEVER reads the Bible with any attention cannot fail to perceive that more than half of its contents relate to one nation—the Israelites. He perceives, too, that they have a very *distinct* place in the dealings and counsels of God. Separated from the mass of mankind, they are taken into covenant with Jehovah, who gives them specific promises not given to any other nation. Their history alone is told in Old Testament narrative and prophecy—other nations being mentioned only as they touch the Jew. It appears, also, that all the communications of Jehovah to Israel *as a nation* relate to the Earth. If faithful and obedient, the nation is promised earthly greatness, riches and power; if unfaithful and disobedient, it is to be scattered "among all people, from the one end of the earth even to the other" (Deut. 28: 64). Even the promise of the Messiah is of blessing to "all the families of the *Earth*."

Continuing his researches, the student finds large mention in Scripture of another distinct body, which is called the Church. This body also has a peculiar relation to God, and, like Israel, has received from Him specific promises. But similarity ends there, and the most striking contrast begins. Instead of being formed of the natural descendants of Abraham alone, it is a body in which the distinction of Jew and Gentile is lost. Instead of the relation being one of mere *covenant*, it is one of *birth*. Instead of obedience bringing the reward of earthly greatness and wealth, the Church is taught to be content with food and raiment, and to expect persecution and hatred, and it is perceived that just as distinctly as Israel stands connected with temporal and earthly things, so distinctly does the Church stand connected with spiritual and heavenly things.

Further, Scripture shows him that neither Israel nor the Church always existed. Each had a recorded beginning. That of Israel he finds in the call of Abram. Looking then for the birth of the Church he finds (contrary, perhaps, to his expectations, for he has probably been taught that Adam and the Patriarchs are in the Church) that it certainly did not exist before, nor during, the earth-life of Christ, for he finds Him speaking of His Church as *yet future* when He says (Matt. 16: 18), Upon this rock I WILL build my Church."

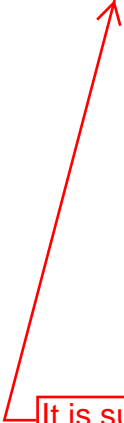
Not *have* built, nor *am* building," but "WILL build."

He finds, too, from Eph. 3: 5-10, that the Church is not once mentioned in Old Testament prophecy, but was, in those ages, a mystery "hid in God." Scripturally, he finds the birth of the Church in Acts 2, and the termination of its career on the earth in 1 Thess. 4.

The student also finds, in the scriptural division of the race, another class, rarely mentioned, and distinguished in every respect from either Israel or the Church—the Gentiles. The comparative position of the Jew, the Gentile, and the Church may be briefly seen in the following scriptures:

<i>The Jew</i>	<i>The Gentile</i>	<i>The Church</i>
Rom. 9:4, 5	Eph. 2:11, 12	Eph. 1:22, 23
John 4:22	Eph 4:17, 18	Eph. 5:29-33
Rom. 3:1, 2	Mark 7:27, 28	1 Pet. 2:9

See Ed. Note on next page.



It is suggested that the student do a study of the biblical teaching on "Paradise." A few suggested scripture references to assist in the study are: Lk 23:39-43; Eph 4:8-9; Lk 16:22-26; Job 19:25-27; I Sam 28:13-15.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people . . . And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth (Isa. 11:11-12).

For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, *and set them in their own land*: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob (Isa.14:1).

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: *and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers* (Jer. 16:14-15). Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jer. 23:5-6).

Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God (Jer. 32:37-38).

Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: *the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee*: thou shalt not see evil any more (Zeph. 3:14-15).

It may safely be said that the Judaizing of the Church has done more to hinder her progress, pervert her mission, and destroy her spirituality, than all other causes combined. Instead of pursuing her appointed path of separation from the world and following the Lord in her heavenly calling, she has used Jewish Scriptures to justify herself in lowering her purpose to the civilization of the world, the acquisition of wealth, the use of an imposing ritual, the erection of magnificent churches, the invocation of God's blessing upon the conflicts of armies, and the division of an equal brotherhood into "clergy" and "laity."

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End of Lesson One

LESSON TWO

THE SEVEN DISPENSATIONS

THE Scriptures divide time (by which is meant the entire period from the creation of Adam to the "new heaven and a new earth" of Rev. 21: 1) into seven unequal periods, usually called "Dispensations" (Eph. 3: 2), although these periods are also called " ages " (Eph. 2: 7) and " days—as, " day of the Lord," etc.

These periods are marked off in Scripture by some change in God's method of dealing with mankind, or a portion of mankind, in respect of the two questions: of sin, and of man's responsibility. Each of the dispensations may be regarded as a new test of the natural man, and each ends in judgment—marking his utter failure in every dispensation.

Five of these dispensations, or periods of time, have been fulfilled; we are living in the sixth, probably toward its close, and have before us the seventh, and last—the millennium.

1. MAN INNOCENT.—This dispensation extends from the creation of Adam, Gen. 2: 7, to the expulsion from Eden. Adam, created innocent, and ignorant of good and evil, was placed in the garden of Eden with his wife, Eve, and put under responsibility to abstain from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Dispensation of Innocence resulted in the first failure of man, and in its far reaching effects, the most disastrous. It closed in judgment—" So He drove out the man." See,

Gen 1:26
Gen 2:16-17

Gen 3:6
Gen 3:22-24

2. MAN UNDER CONSCIENCE. — By the Fall, Adam and Eve acquired, and transmitted to the race, the knowledge of good and evil. This gave conscience a basis for right moral judgment, and hence the race came under this measure of responsibility—to do good and eschew evil. The result of the Dispensation of Conscience, from Eden to the Flood (while there was no institution of government and of law), was that " all flesh had corrupted his way on the earth; " that "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually; " and God closed the second testing of the natural man with judgment—the Flood. See,

Gen. 3:7,22

Gen.6:5,11,12

Gen.7:11,12,23

3. MAN IN AUTHORITY OVER THE EARTH.—Out of the fearful judgment of the Flood God saved eight persons, to whom, after the waters were assuaged, He gave the purified earth with ample power to govern it. This, Noah and his descendants were responsible to do. The Dispensation of Human Government resulted, upon the plain of Shinar, in the impious attempt to become independent of God and closed in judgment—the Confusion of Tongues. See,

Gen. 9: 1, 2

Gen. 11: 1-4

Gen. 11: 5-8

THE SEVEN DISPENSATIONS

Rev. 3: 15, 16

2 Thess. 2:7-12

The first event in the closing of this dispensation will be the descent of the Lord from heaven, when sleeping saints will be raised and, together with believers then living, caught up "to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord " (1 Thess. 4: 16,17).

Then follows the brief period called " the great tribulation."

Matt. 24: 21, 22

Dan. 12: 1

Zeph.1: 15-18

Jer.30:5-7

After this occurs the personal return of the Lord to the earth in power and great glory, and the judgments which introduce the seventh, and last dispensation.

Matt. 24:29, 30

Matt. 25:31-46

7. MAN UNDER THE PERSONAL REIGN OF CHRIST.—After the purifying judgments which attend the personal return of Christ to the earth, He will reign over restored Israel and over the earth for one thousand years. This is the period commonly called the Millennium. The seat of His power will be Jerusalem, and the saints, including the saved of the Dispensation of Grace, viz., the Church, will be associated with Him in His glory. See,

Acts 15:14-17

Rev. 19:11-21

Isa. 2:1-4

Rev. 20:1-6

Isa. 11-the entire chapter.

But when Satan is "loosed a little season," he finds the natural heart as prone to evil as ever, and easily gathers the nations to battle against the Lord and His saints, and this last dispensation closes, like all the others, in judgment. The "great white throne" is set, the wicked dead are raised and finally judged, and then come the "new heaven and a new earth"—eternity is begun.

Rev. 20: 3,7-15

Rev. chaps. 21 and 22

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End of Lesson Two

LESSON THREE

THE TWO ADVENTS

KEY TEXT . . . "When it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow" (1 Pet. 1: 11).

WHOEVER carefully considers Old Testament prophecies must be struck by two contrasting, and seemingly contradictory, lines of prediction concerning the coming Messiah. One body of prediction speaks of Him as coming in weakness and humiliation, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, as a root out of dry ground, having no form nor comeliness, nor beauty that He should be desired. His visage is to be marred, His hands and feet pierced, He is to be forsaken of man and of God, and to make His grave with the wicked. See,

Isa. (entire chapter)	Dan 9:26
Isa 7: 14	Zech 13: 6,7
Ps 22: 1-18	Mark 14: 27

The other line of prophecy foretells a splendid and resistless Sovereign, purging the earth with awful judgments, regathering dispersed Israel, restoring the throne of David in more than Solomon's splendor, and introducing a reign of profound peace and perfect righteousness. See, as examples,

Isa. 11: 1, 2, 10-12	Dan 7: 13,14
Deut 30:1-7	Micah 5:2
Isa. 9: 6,7	Matt. 1: 1
Isa. 24: 21-23	Matt. 2: 2
Isa. 40: 9-11	Luke 1: 31-39
Jer. 23: 5-8	

In due time the fulfilment of Messianic prophecy began with the birth of the Virgin's Son according to Isaiah, in Bethlehem according to Micah, and proceeded with perfect literalness unto the full accomplishment of every prediction of Messiah's humiliation; for sin must first be put away, before the Kingdom could be established. But the Jews would not receive their King in the form in which He was presented, "meek and sitting upon an ass and a colt the foal of an ass;" and they crucified Him:

Zech.9:9with Matt.21: 1-5,etc.	John 19: 15,16.
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But we must not conclude that the wickedness of man has baffled the deliberate purpose of God, for His counsels include a second advent of his Son, when the predictions concerning Messiah's earthly *glory* will receive the same precise and literal fulfilment as did those which concerned His earthly *sufferings*.

Hoses 3: 4, 5	Acts 1: 6, 7
Luke 1: 31-33 (verse 31 has already been literally fulfilled).	Acts 15: 14-17
	Matt. 24: 27-30

THE TWO ADVENTS

single exegete of universally recognized eminence. These all maintain the bodily and visible second coming of Christ.

It is, however, sometimes said that this coming cannot occur until after the world has been converted by the preaching of the gospel, and has submitted to the spiritual reign of Christ for one thousand years. It is submitted that this view is wholly erroneous, because:

- 1st Scripture clearly describes the condition of the earth at the second coming of Christ to be one, not, of millennial blessedness, but of awful wickedness (Luke 17: 26-32, with Gen. 6: 5-7 and Gen. 13: 13; Luke 18: 8; Luke 21: 25-27).
- 2nd Scripture describes the whole course of this dispensation from the beginning to the end in such terms as to exclude the possibility of a converted world in any part of it (Matt. 13:36-43, 47-50; Matt. 25: 1-10; 1 Tim. 4: 1; 2 Tim. 3: 1-9; 4: 3, 4; 2 Pet. 3: 3,4; Jude 17-19).
- 3rd The purpose of God in this dispensation is declared to be, not the conversion of the world, but to "gather out of the Gentiles a people for His name." After this He "will return," and *then*, and not before, will the world be converted. See Acts 15: 14-17; Matt. 24: 14 ("for a witness"); Rom. 1: 5 ("among," not "of" all nations) ; Rom. 11 : 14 ("some," not "all") 1 Cor. 9: 22; Rev. 5: 9 ("out of," not "all" of).
- 4th It would be impossible to "watch" and "wait" for an event which we knew could not occur for more than one thousand years.

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End of Lesson Three

LESSON FOUR

THE TWO RESURRECTIONS

THE Word of Truth teaches in the clearest and most positive terms that all of the dead will be raised. No doctrine of the faith rests upon a more literal and emphatic body of Scripture authority than this, nor is any more vital to Christianity.

But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then Christ not risen. And if Christ be not risen, then our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain (1 Cor: 15: 13, 14).

But it is important to observe that the Scriptures do not teach that all the dead are raised at time. A partial resurrection of *saints* has already occurred:

And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many (Matt 27:52-53).

Two resurrections, differing in respect of time of those who are the subjects of the resurrection, yet future. These are variously distinguished "the resurrection of life" and "the resurrection of damnation"; as "the resurrection of the unjust," etc. The scriptures bearing upon this important subject are as follows:

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the *resurrection of life*; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29).

If it be objected that the word " hour " would indicate a *simultaneous* resurrection of these two classes, it is answered that the " hour " of verse 25 has already lasted eighteen hundred years. (See also day," in 2 Pet. 3: 8; 2 Cor. 6: 2; John 8: 56.)

But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the *resurrection of the just* (Luke 14:13-14). In this passage our Lord speaks of the first resurrection only. In the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians the distinction still further appears:

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. **But every man in his own order:** Christ the first fruits; *afterward they that are Christ's* at his coming (1 Cor 15:22-23).

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so *them also which sleep* in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and *the dead in Christ* shall rise first (1 Thess. 4: 13-16).

This "resurrection of life," of "the just," of "the dead in Christ," is that of which Paul speaks in Phil. 3: 11. Literally, it is "the resurrection out of the dead ones." If the Apostle had in mind a resurrection of all the dead, how could he speak of attaining it "by any means," since he could not possibly escape it?

In Revelation 20: 4-6 the two resurrections are again mentioned together, with the important addition of the time which intervenes between the resurrection of the saved and of the unsaved.

THE TWO RESURRECTIONS

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which not worshipped the Beast, neither his image, received his mark upon their foreheads, hands; AND THEY LIVED and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the REST OF THE DEAD lived not again *until the thousand years were finished*. This is the FIRST RESURRECTION. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Verses 12 and 13 describe the second resurrection—that “unto damnation.”

The testimony of Scripture, then, is clear that believers’ bodies are raised from among the bodies of unbelievers, and caught up to meet the Lord in the air a thousand years before the resurrection of the latter. It should be firmly held that the doctrine of the resurrection concerns only the bodies of the dead. Their disembodied spirits are instantly in conscious bliss or woe (Phil. 1: 23; 2 Cor. 5: 8; Luke 16: 22, 23).

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End of Lesson Four

LESSON FIVE

THE FIVE JUDGMENTS

THE expression, "general judgment," of such frequent occurrence in religious literature, is not found in the Scriptures, and, what is of more importance, the idea intended to be conveyed by that expression is not found in the Scriptures.

Dr. Pentecost well says: "It is a mischievous habit that has led the Christian world to speak of the judgment as being one great event taking place at the end of the world, when all human beings, saints, sinners, Jews and Gentiles, the living and the dead, shall stand up before the 'Great White Throne' and there be judged. Nothing can be more wide of the teaching of the Scriptures."

The Scriptures speak of five judgments, and they differ in four general respects:

- (1) As to who are the *subjects* of judgment,
- (2) As to the *place* of judgment,
- (3) As to the *time* of judgment; and
- (4) As to the *result* of the judgment.

1. AS TO BELIEVERS:

Their sins *have been* judged.—Time: A.D. 30. Place: the cross. Result: death for Christ: justification for the believer.

And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they *crucified him* (John 19:17-18).

Who HIS OWN SELF *bare our sins* in his own body on the tree (1 Pet 2:24).

For Christ also *hath once suffered for sins*, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit (1 Pet 3:18).

Christ *hath redeemed us* from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: (Gal 3:13).

For he [God] hath made him [Christ] *to be sin for us*, who knew no sin; *that we might be made the righteousness of God in him* (2 Cor 5:21).

But now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself (Heb 9:26).

When he had *by himself* purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb 1:3).

There is therefore now *no condemnation* to them which are in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:1).

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath *everlasting life*, and *shall not come into condemnation*; but is passed *from death unto life* (John 5:24).

The "condemnation" in this passage is the same word rendered "judgment" in Matt. 10: 15; Heb. 9: 27; 2 Pet. 2: 4. An entirely different word is used in 2 Cor. 5: 10, where the judgment of our works as believers is referred to.

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THE FIVE JUDGMENTS

[Note.—The Scriptures speak, also, of a judgment of angels (1 Cor. 6: 3; Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2: 4). Luke 22: 30 probably refers to judges as under the Theocracy—an administrative office, rather than judicial. See Isaiah 1: 26.]

Some may be troubled by the word "day" in such passages as Acts 17: 31 and in Rom. 2: 16. See the following passages, where "day" means a lengthened period: 2 Pet. 3: 8; 2 Cor. 6: 2; John 8: 56. The " hour " of John 5: 25 has now lasted more than eighteen hundred years.

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End of Lesson Five

LESSON SIX

LAW AND GRACE

THE most obvious and striking division of the Word of Truth is that between Law and Grace. Indeed, these contrasting principles *characterize the* two most important dispensations—the Jewish and Christian.

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1: 17).

It is not, of course, meant that there was no law before Moses, any more than that there was no grace and truth before Jesus Christ. The forbidding to Adam of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2: 17) was *law*, and surely *grace* was most sweetly manifested in the LORD God's seeking His sinning creatures, and in His clothing them with coats of skins (Gen. 3: 21) —a beautiful type of Christ who "is made unto us . . . righteousness " (1 Cor. 1: 30). Law, in the sense of *some* revelation of God's will, and grace, in the sense of *some* revelation of God's goodness, have always existed, and to this Scripture abundantly testifies. But "the law," everywhere mentioned in Scripture, was given by Moses, and from Sinai to Calvary, dominates, characterizes, the time; just as grace dominates, or gives its peculiar character to, the dispensation which begins at Calvary, and has its predicted termination in the rapture of the Church.

It is, however, of the most vital moment to observe that Scripture never, in *any* dispensation, *mingles* these two principles. Law always has a place and work distinct and wholly diverse from that of grace. Law is God prohibiting and requiring. Grace is God beseeching and bestowing. Law is a ministry of condemnation; grace, of forgiveness. Law curses; grace redeems from that curse. Law kills; grace makes alive. Law shuts every mouth before God; grace opens every mouth to praise Him. Law puts a great and guilty distance between man and God; grace makes guilty man nigh to God. Law says, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth;" grace says, "Resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Law says, "Hate thine enemy;" grace, "Love your enemies, bless them that despitefully use you." Law says, Do and live; grace Believe and live. Law never had a missionary; grace is to be preached to every creature. Law utterly condemns the best man; grace freely justifies the worst (Luke 23: 43; Rom. 5: 8; 1 Tim. 1: 15; 1 Cor. 6: 9-11). Law is a system of probation; grace, of favor. Law stones an adulteress; grace says, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more," Under law the sheep dies by the hand of the shepherd: under grace the Shepherd dies for the sheep.

Everywhere the Scriptures present law and grace in sharply contrasted spheres.

The mingling of them in much of the current teaching of the day spoils both; for law is robbed of its terror, and grace of its freeness.

The student should observe that "law," in the New Testament Scriptures, always means the law given by Moses (Rom. 7: 23 is the only exception); but sometimes the whole law—the moral, so-called, or the Ten Commandments, and the ceremonial—is meant: sometimes the commandments only; sometimes the ceremonial only. Among passages of the first class, Rom. 6: 14; Gal. 2: 16, and 3: 2 are examples. Of the second class, Rom. 3: 19 and 7: 7-12 are examples. Of the third class, Col. 2: 14-17.

It should be remembered also, that in the, ceremonial law are enshrined those marvelous *types*—the beautiful foreshadowings of the Person and work of the Lord Jesus as Priest and Sacrifice, as in the Tabernacle (Exod., chaps. 25-30) and Levitical offerings (Lev., chaps. 1-7), which must ever be the wonder and delight of the spiritually minded.

How complete, how all-inclusive! Grace saves, justifies, builds up, makes accepted, redeems, forgives, bestows an Instance, gives standing before God, provides a throne of grace to which we may come boldly for mercy and help; it teaches us how to live, and gives us a blessed hope!

It remains to note that these diverse principles cannot be intermingled.

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work (Rom. 11 : 6).

Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness (Rom. 4: 4, 5; see also Gal. 3: 16-18; 4: 21-31).

Finally:

So then, brethren, we are not children of the bond-woman, but of the free (Gal. 4: 31).

For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words: which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more (for they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: and so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake). But ye are come unto Mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel (Heb. 12: 18-24).

It is not, then, a question of dividing what God spoke from Sinai into " Moral Law " and " Ceremonial Law "—the believer does not come to that mount at all.

As sound old Bunyan says:

" The believer is now, by faith in the Lord Jesus, shrouded under so perfect and blessed a righteousness, that this thundering law of Mount Sinai cannot find the least fault or diminution therein. THIS IS CALLED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD WITHOUT THE LAW."

Should this meet the eye of an unbeliever, he is affectionately exhorted to accept the true sentence of that holy and just law which he has violated: "For there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3: 23). In Christ such will find a perfect and eternal salvation, as it is written: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved (Rom 10: 9) ; for Christ is " the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth " (Rom. 10: 4).

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End of Lesson Six

LESSON SEVEN

THE BELIEVER'S TWO NATURES

THE Scriptures teach that every regenerate person is the possessor of two natures: one, received by natural birth, which is wholly and hopelessly bad; and a new nature, received through the new birth, which is the nature of God Himself, and therefore wholly good.

The following scriptures will sufficiently manifest what God thinks of the old, or Adam nature:

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me (Ps. 51: 5).

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked : who can know it? (Jer. 17: 9). (Dr. Young's literal rendering of this passage is: "Crooked is the heart above all things, and it is incurable-who doth know it?")

There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one (Rom. 3: 10-12).

God does not say that none of the unregenerate are refined, or cultured, or able, or sweet-tempered, or generous, or charitable, or religious, even; but He does say that none are righteous, none understand God, or seek after Him.

It is one of the sorest of faith's trials to accept the divine estimate of human nature; to realize that our genial and moral friends, who, not infrequently, are scrupulous in the discharge of every duty, who are filled with sympathy for the woes and the aspirations of humanity, and strenuous in the assertion of human rights, are yet utter contemners of God's rights, and untouched by the sacrifice of His Son, whose Divinity they with unspeakable insolence deny, and whose word they contemptuously reject. A refined and gentle lady who would shrink with horror from the coarseness of giving a fellow-creature the lie, will yet make God a liar every day! (See 1 John 1: 10; 5: 10.) And this difficulty is vastly increased for thousands by the current pulpit laudations of humanity.

How startling the contrast between appearances and realities in the time before the flood. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that (*i.e.*, improving still upon that), when the sons of God (descendants of Seth) came in unto the daughters of men (descendants of Cain), and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown (Gen. 6: 4).

And so it appeared that the world was growing better, in men's eyes; a continual improvement they probably would trace, and the apparent result of the unholy intermarriage of the godly with the worldly was the lifting up of human nature to still grander heights.

But, just here,

God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Gen. 6: 5).

See, further:

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man (Mark 7: 21-23).

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (1 Cor. 2: 14).

THE BELIEVER'S TWO NATURES

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God (Rom. 8: 7, 8).

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath (Eph. 2: 3).

By these it appears that the unconverted man has a threefold incapacity. He may be gifted, or cultured, or amiable, or generous, or religious. He may pay his honest debts, be truthful, industrious, a good husband and father—or all these together—but he can neither obey God, please God, nor understand God.

The believer, on the contrary, while still having his old nature, unchanged and unchangeable, has received a new nature which "after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." The following scriptures will show the origin and character of the new man.

It will be seen that regeneration is a creation, not a mere transformation: the bringing in a new thing, not the change of an old. As we received human nature by natural generation, so do we receive the divine nature by re-generation.

Verily, verily, I say unto thee (Nicodemus, a moral, religious man), Except a man be *born again*, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3: 3).

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were *born*, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but *of God* (John 1: 12, 13).

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3: 26).

(It will be observed what bearing these scriptures have upon that specious and "taking," but utterly unscriptural phrase, so popular in our day, "The universal fatherhood of God, and the universal brotherhood of man"—an expression all the more dangerous for the half-truth of the last clause. Not all who are born, but all who are *born again* are the children of God. The Scripture tells us indeed that Adam was the son of God, but it is also careful to state that Seth was the son of Adam — (Luke3:38).

And that ye put on the *new man*, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4: 24).

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new *creature* [literally, "a new creation"]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Cor. 5: 17).

And this "new man" is linked with Christ.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Gal. 2: 20).

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is *Christ in you*, the hope of glory (Col. 1: 27).

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When *Christ who is our life* shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory Col. 3: 3,4).

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of *the divine nature* (2 Pet. 1: 4).

And *if Christ be in you*, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness (Rom. 8: 10).

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that *hath the Son* hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life (1 John 5: 11, 12).

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But this new, divine nature, which is Christ's own, subsists in the believer together with the old nature. It is the same Paul who could say, " Yet not I, but, Christ liveth in me," who also says, " For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh), dwelleth no good thing" (Rom. 7: 18) ; and, "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me" (Rom. 7: 21). It was Job, the " perfect and upright man," who said, " I abhor myself." It was Daniel, eminently a man of God, who said, " My comeliness was turned in me into corruption," when he saw the glorified Ancient of Days.

Between these two natures there is a conflict. Study carefully the battle between the two "I's" the old Saul and the new Paul in Romans 7: 14-25. It is an experience like this which so discourages and perplexes young converts. The first joy of conversion has subsided, his glowing expectations become chilled, and the convert is dismayed to find the flesh with its old habits and desires within himself as before his conversion, and he is led to doubt his acceptance with God. This is a time of discouragement and danger. Paul, in this crisis, cries out for deliverance, calling his old nature a " body of death." The law only intensifies his agony (though a converted man), and he finds deliverance from "the flesh," not through effort, nor through striving to keep the law, but " through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 7: 24, 25).

The presence of the flesh is not, however, an excuse for walking in it. We are taught that "our old man is crucified with Christ;" that, in that sense, we "are dead," and we are called upon to make this a constant experience by mortifying ("making dead") our members which are upon the earth.

The power for this is that of the Holy Spirit who dwells in every believer (1 Cor. 6 : 19), and whose blessed office is to subdue the flesh.

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would (Gal. 5: 16, 17).

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live (Rom. 8: 13).

Therefore, instead of meeting the solicitations of the old nature by force of will, or by good resolutions, turn the conflict over to the indwelling Spirit of God.

The 7th of Romans is a record of the conflict of a regenerate man with his old self, and is, therefore, intensely personal. "I would," "I do not," "I would not," "I do," is the sad confession of defeat which finds an echo in so many Christian hearts. In the eighth chapter the conflict still goes on, but how blessedly impersonal! There is no agony, for Paul is out of it; the conflict is now between "flesh"—Saul of Tarsus—and the Holy Spirit. Paul is at peace and victorious.

(It will be understood that this refers to victory over the flesh, such *inward solicitations* to evil as lust, pride, anger, etc.; temptations from without are met by recourse to Christ our High Priest).

Consider attentively the following passages:

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed (annulled, rendered powerless) that henceforth we should not serve sin (Rom. 6: 6).

For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3: 3).

For ye are dead (*i.e.*, have died—in Christ), and y our life is hid with Christ in God (Col. 3: 3).

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Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 6: 11).

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof (Rom. 13: 14).

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh (Rom. 8: 12).

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End of Lesson Seven

LESSON EIGHT

THE BELIEVER'S STANDING AND STATE

A **DISTINCTION** of vast importance to the right understanding of the Scriptures, especially of the Epistles, is that which concerns the standing or position of the believer, and his state, or walk. The first is the result of the work of Christ, and is perfect and entire from the very moment that Christ is received by faith. Nothing in the afterlife of the believer adds in the smallest degree to his title of favor with God, nor to his perfect security. Through faith alone this standing before God is conferred; and before Him, the weakest person, if he be but a true believer on the Lord Jesus Christ, has precisely the same title as the most illustrious saint.

What that title or standing is, may be briefly seen from the following scriptures:

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the *sons of God*, even to them that believe on his name (John 1: 12).

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is *born of God* (1 John 5: 1).

And if children, then *heirs*; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ (Rom. 8: 17).

To *an inheritance* incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (1 Pet. 1: 4,5).

In whom also we *have obtained an inheritance* (Eph. 1: 11).

Beloved, *now are we the sons of God*; and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, *we shall be like him* (1 John 3: 2).

But ye are a chosen generation, a *royal priesthood*, a holy nation (1 Pet. 2: 9).

Unto him that loved us, *and washed us from our sins* in his own blood, and hath made us *kings and priests* unto God and his Father (Rev. 1: 5, 6).

And *ye are complete in him*, which is the head of all principality and power (Col. 2: 10).

Therefore being justified by faith, we have *peace with God* through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into *this grace wherein we stand*, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God (Rom. 5: 1,2).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but *have everlasting life* (John 3: 16).

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; *that ye may know* that ye have eternal life (1 John 5: 13).

Having therefore, brethren, *boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus* (Heb. 10: 19).

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with *all spiritual blessings* (Eph. 1: 3).

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us *accepted in the beloved* (Eph. 1: 6).

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath *quicken'd us together with Christ* (by grace ye are saved), and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2: 4-6).

But now, in Christ Jesus, ye who sometime were far off, are *made nigh* by the blood of Christ (Eph. 2: 13).

In whom also, after that ye believed, ye were *sealed* with that Holy Spirit of promise (Eph. 1: 13).

For by one Spirit are we all baptized *into one body* (1 Cor. 12: 13).

THE BELIEVER'S STANDING AND STATE

For we are *members of his body*, of his flesh, and of his bones (Eph. 5: 30).

What! know ye not that your body is the *temple of the Holy Ghost*? (1 Cor. 6: 19).

Every one of these marvelous things is true of every believer on the Lord Jesus Christ. Not one item in this glorious inventory is said to be gained by prayer, or by diligence in service, or by church-going, or by alms-giving, or self-denial, or holiness of life, or by any other description of good works. All is the *gift* of God, through Christ, to *faith*, and therefore belongs equally to *all believers*. When the jailor of Philippi believed on the Lord Jesus Christ he became at once a child of God, a joint heir with Christ, a king and priest, and had the title to the incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading inheritance. In the instant that he believed with his heart and confessed with his mouth, Jesus as Lord, he was justified from all things, had peace with God, a standing in His grace, and a sure hope of glory. He received the gift of eternal life, was made accepted in the full measure of Christ's own acceptance, was indwelt by, and sealed with the Holy Spirit, by whom also he was baptized into the mystical body of Christ-the church of God. Instantly he was clothed with the righteousness of God (Rom. 3: 22), quickened with Christ, raised with Him, and in Him seated in the heavenlies.

What his actual state may have been is quite another matter; certainly it was far, *far* below his exalted standing in the sight of God. It was not all at once that he became as royal, priestly, and heavenly in walk as he was at once in standing. The following passages will indicate the way these two things are constantly discriminated in the Scriptures:

Standing

Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus . . . I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:2-9).

But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (1 Cor. 6: 11).

Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? (1 Cor. 6: 15).

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven (Matt. 16: 17).

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son (Col. 1: 12,13).

State

For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you (1 Cor. 1: 11).

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal ... For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye *not carnal*, and walk as men? (1 Cor. 3: 1-3).

Now some are puffed up (1 Cor. 4: 18).

And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you (1 Cor. 5: 2).

Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another (1 Cor. 6: 7).

Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot? (1 Cor. 6: 15).

But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan; for thou art an offence unto me; for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men (Matt. 16: 23).

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds (Col. 3: 8, 9).

THE BELIEVER'S STANDING AND STATE

The student cannot fail to notice, also, that the divine order, under grace, is first to give the highest possible standing and then to exhort the believer to maintain a state in accordance therewith. The beggar is lifted up from the dung-hill and set among princes (1 Sam. 2: 8), and then exhorted to be princely. As examples, see:

Standing

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed (Rom. 6: 6).

Ye are the light of the world (Matt. 5: 14).

Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began (2 Tim. 1: 9).

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2: 6).

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory (Col. 8: 4).

For ye were sometime darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord (Eph. 5:8).

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day. we are not of the night, nor of darkness (1 Thess. 5: 5).

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him (1 Thess. 5: 9, 10).

By the which will we are sanctified, through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Heb. 10: 10).

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us . . . sanctification (1 Cor, 1: 30).

For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified (Hob. 10: 14).

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded (Phil. 3: 15).

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world (I John 4: 17).

State

Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances? (Col. 2: 20).

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Matt. 5: 16).

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2: 12).*

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God (Col. 3: 1).

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth (Col. 3: 5).

Walk as children of light (Eph. 5: 8).

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober (1 Thess. 5: 6).

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do (1 Thess. 5: 11).

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth (John 17: 17).

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly (1 Thess 5; 28).

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect (Phil. 3: 12).

Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection (Heb. 6: 1).

He that saith he abideth in him, ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked (1 John 2: 6).

*Let it be observed, in reading this much-abused text, that the salvation spoken of here is not that of the soul, but out of the snares which would hinder the Christian from doing the will of God.

THE BELIEVER'S STANDING AND STATE

The student will be able to add largely to this list of comparative passages showing that the Scripture makes a clear distinction between the standing and state of the believer. It will be seen that he is not under probation to see if he is worthy of an inconceivably exalted position, but, beginning with the confession of his utter unworthiness, receives the position wholly as the result of Christ's work. *Positionally* he is "perfected forever" (Heb. 10: 14), but looking within, at his *state*, he must say, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect " (Phil. 3: 12).

It may be said that all the after-work of God in his behalf, the application of the Word to his walk and conscience (John 17: 17; Eph. 5: 26), the chastisements of the Father's hand (Heb. 12: 10; 1 Cor. 11: 32), the ministry of the Spirit (Eph. 4: 11, 12), all the difficulties and trials of the wilderness way (1 Pet. 4: 12-14), and the final transformation when He shall appear (1 John 3: 2), all are intended simply to bring the believers character into perfect conformity to the position which is his in the instant of his conversion. He grows in grace, indeed, but not *into* grace.

A prince, while he is a little child, is presumably as wilful and as ignorant as other little children. Sometimes he may be very obedient and teachable and affectionate, and then he is happy and approved.

At other times he may be unruly, self-willed and disobedient, and then he is unhappy, and perhaps is chastised—but he is just as much a prince on the one day as on the other. It may be hoped that, as time goes on, he will learn to bring himself into willing and affectionate subjection to every right way, and then he will be more princely, but not more really a prince. He was *born* a prince.

In the case of every true son of the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, this growth into kingliness is assured. In the end, standing and state, character and position, will be equal. But the position is not the reward of the perfected character—the character is developed from the position.

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End of Lesson Eight

LESSON NINE

SALVATION AND REWARDS

THE New Testament Scriptures contain a doctrine of salvation for the lost-for sinners, and a doctrine of rewards for the faithful services of those that are saved; and it is of great importance to the right understanding of the Word that the student should clearly make the distinction between these. What that distinction is may be seen by carefully noting the following contrasts:

SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT

Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have *given thee* living water (John 4: 10).

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk *without* money and without price (Isa. 55: 1).

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come: and whosoever will, let him take the water of life *freely* (Rev. 22: 17).

For the wages of sin is death; but the *gift of God* is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 6: 23).

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the *gift of God* not of works, lest any man should boast (Eph. 2 : 8, 9).

But in contrast with the freeness of salvation, note that:

WORKS PLEASING TO GOD SHALL BE REWARDED

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward (Matt. 10: 42).

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4: 7, 8).

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be (Rev. 22: 12).

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible (1 Cor. 9: 24, 25).

And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities (Luke 19: 17).

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire (1 Cor. 3: 11-15).

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life (Rev. 2: 10). Not receive "life"—the suffering saints in Smyrna had life, eternal life, and were suffering for righteousness' sake—but a "*crown of life*" they should receive.

SALVATION AND REWARDS

Crowns are symbols of reward—of distinctions earned. It may be remarked that four crowns are mentioned: that of joy, or rejoicing, the reward of *ministry* (Phil. 4: 1; 1 Thess. 2: 19); of righteousness, the reward of faithfulness in *testimony* (2 Tim. 4: 8); of life, the reward of faithfulness under trial (James 1: 12; Rev. 2: 10); and of glory, the reward of faithfulness under *suffering* (1 Peter 5: 4; Heb. 2: 9).

SALVATION IS A PRESENT POSSESSION

He that believeth on the Son *hath* everlasting life (John 3: 36).

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life (John 5:24).

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me *hath* everlasting life (John 6: 47).

Who *hath* saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace (2 Tim. 1: 9).

And he said to the woman, Thy faith *hath* saved thee; go in peace (Luke 7: 50).

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he *saved* us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost (Titus 3: 5).

And this is the record, that God *hath* given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son (1 John 5: 11). But:

REWARDS ARE BESTOWED IN THE FUTURE

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father, with his angels; and then he shall reward every man *according to his works* (Matt 16: 27).

For thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just (Luke 14: 14).

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be (Rev 22:12).

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away (1 Pet 5:4).

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (2 Tim 4:8).

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them (Matt 25:19).

God's purpose in promising to reward with heavenly and eternal honors the faithful service of His saints is to win them from the pursuit of earthly riches and pleasures, to sustain them in the fires of persecution, and to encourage them in the exercise of Christian virtues. See:

Heb. 11: 8-10,24-27

Heb. 12: 2, 3

Luke 14: 12,14

Matt. 10: 41,42

Heb. 6: 10

Col. 3: 22-24

Matt. 5: 11, 12

John 4: 35, 36

Daniel 12: 3

Luke 12: 35-37

2 Tim 4: 8

Finally, let us heed the warning —Rev. 3: 11

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End of Lesson Nine

LESSON TEN

BELIEVERS AND PROFESSORS

EVER since God has had a people separated to Himself they have been sorely troubled by the presence among them of those who professed to be, but were not, of them. And this will continue until "the Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity ... Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Matt. 13: 41-43).

Scripture plainly tells us of this mingling of tares and wheat—of mere professors among true believers; yet misguided students have frequently applied to the children of God the warnings and exhortations meant only for the self-deceived or hypocritical.

The fact of such admixture is abundantly recognized in the Scriptures. See:

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|---------------|------------------------|
| Gen. 4: 3-5 | Matt. 13: 24-30, 37-48 |
| Exod. 12: 38 | 2 Cor 11: 13-15 |
| Num. 11: 4-6 | Gal. 2: 4 |
| Neh. 13: 1-3 | 2 Pet. 2: 1,2 |
| Neh. 7: 63-65 | |

It is impossible, in a brief Bible-reading, to refer to all the passages which discriminate true believers from the mass of mere formalists, hypocrites, or deceived legalists, who are working FOR their own salvation, instead of working OUT a salvation already received as a free gift. See Phil. 2: 12,13 with Eph. 2: 8, 9.

The following, however, will sufficiently indicate the lines of demarcation:

BELIEVERS ARE SAVED, MERE PROFESSORS ARE LOST.

Compare:

<i>True Believers</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
<p>And he said to the woman, Thy. faith hath saved thee; go in peace (Luke 7: 50).</p> <p>And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers (Acts 2: 42).</p>	<p>Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip. But Peter said unto him . . . Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God (Acts 8: 13,21).</p> <p>They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us (1 John 2:19).</p>

BELIEVERS AND PROFESSORS

<i>True Believers</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
<p>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand (John 10:27-29).</p> <p>All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day (John 6:37, 39).</p> <p>And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut (Matt. 25: 10).</p> <p>Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference (Rom 3:22).</p> <p>Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints (Rev 19:7-8).</p> <p>I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine (John 10:14).</p> <p>Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity (2 Tim 2:19).</p> <p>Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life (John 6:47).</p> <p>Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world (John 17:24).</p> <p>Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil 1:6).</p> <p>But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul (Heb 10:39).</p>	<p>But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him (John 6:64-66).</p> <p>Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not (Matt. 25: 11, 12).</p> <p>Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? (Matt 23:28-33).</p> <p>And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt 22:11-13).</p> <p>Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (Matt 7:22-23).</p> <p>What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? (James 2:14)</p> <p>For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame (Heb 6:4-6).*</p> <p>Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him (Heb 10:38).</p>

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* Probably this passage , more than any other in the Bible, has been perverted to the distress of children of God, between whom and this supposititious "taster" there is no real likeness. The text shows how very far tentative profession may be imagined to go and yet fall short of entire surrender to Christ, which alone is conversion. Verse 9 ought to guard true believers against the perversion referred to, for it distinctly states things which accompany salvation are "better" than these.

BELIEVERS ARE REWARDED, PRETENDERS ARE CONDEMNED

Compare:

Matt. 25: 19-23	with	Matt. 25: 24-30
Luke 12: 42-44	with	Luke 12: 45-47.
Col. 3: 24	with	Matt. 7: 22, 23

Some texts are not free from difficulty, but with prayer, careful study, and keeping in mind the important rule: "Never use a doubtful or obscure passage to contradict a clear and positive one," light will surely come. Do not use an "if" to contradict a "verily"—Heb. 6: 6 to contradict John 5: 24.

The cases of Judas Iscariot and of Peter should present no difficulty. Judas was never a believer. (See John 6: 68-71.) Peter never ceased to be one (Luke 22: 31, 32).

Finally: It should be ever remembered that these principles are to guide us only in rightly dividing the Word of God, but are never to be applied to living persons. The judgment of professors is not committed to us, but is reserved to the Son of Man.

Study carefully Matt. 13: 28, 29; 1 Cor. 4: 5.

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Ed. Note:

Heb 6:4-6

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”
(Underline added for emphasis.)

The passage in Hebrews does not say that a believer CAN fall away. What it is saying is that IF they did, they could never again be restored to repentance. And we know that without repentance there can be no Salvation. Therefore, the reference to those who **“had tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,”** is, and must be, truly referring to someone who is saved because only the saved can be partakers of the Holy Ghost; but, the primary reason the passage is there is as a warning to them that IF they fell away, IF that could happen, then they would be eternally doomed with no chance of restoration without a new crucifixion. And the Bible teaches very adamantly, and specifically in Hebrews, that Christ only came once and died once for all mankind, and that He will never come again as Saviour/Messiah.

This passage furnishes a good argument to use in discussions of the “once saved, always saved” plain teaching of the Bible in such passages as John 3:16 and a plethora of others because it serves as a warning of what the fate would be for someone “if” they could and “if” they ever did fall away.

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End of Lesson Ten