

CHAPTER 4

THEREFORE seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in

earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

8. *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair;

9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.

15 For all things *are* for your

sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

CHAPTER 5

FOR we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

4 For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

5 Now he that hath wrought us

for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

6 Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

8 We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

12. For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to *answer* them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

13 For whether we be beside

ourselves, *it is* to God: or whether we be sober, *it is* for your cause.

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

16. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

CHAPTER 6

WE then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)

3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:

4 But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and *yet* true;

9 As unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

11. O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged.

12 Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.

13 Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto *my* children,) be ye also enlarged.

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,

saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

CHAPTER 7

HAVING therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.

3 I speak not *this* to condemn *you*: for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with *you*.

4 Great *is* my boldness of speech toward you, great *is* my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.

5. For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without *were* fightings, within *were* fears.

6 Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

7 And not by his coming only,

but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more.

8 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though *it were* but for a season.

9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.

10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal,

yea, *what* revenge! In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

12. Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, *I did it* not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.

13 Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.

14 For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which *I made* before Titus, is found a truth.

15 And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him.

16 I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all *things*.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The Christian might be asked the question, “After death, then what?” Paul has given us his reasons for the joy in his sufferings, and has just said that the greater the suffering in this present world, the greater will be the glory in eternity. What is the teaching here? Paul is still discussing his ministry and answering the accusations of his enemies. He says that he works because of his love for the Lord, not because of fleshly desires. We notice four motives that controlled Paul. The first was his confidence in heaven. In chapter 4 Paul tells us his determination to serve Christ, in spite of the suffering and even death. He had lived by faith, not by sight, and his faith was not blind trust; it was a certain confidence in the Word of God. What a blessed challenge to Christians today to live by faith and not by sight. When we are willing to give ourselves fully to Christ, and trust Him for our future, we can then know the joy of real Christian living.

The second motive that controlled Paul was his concern to please Christ. This should be the concern of every Christian today. Not to please the world or self, but to please God in everything we do. In chapter 5:14-17 we see that Paul was constrained by love to go to every extreme to win men to Christ.

The third controlling power in Paul’s life was his love for Christ. When we are motivated by the same love, then we want to share with others what He has done for us. The truth of verse 17 has been shown in the lives of Christians down through the ages. If any man is in Christ he is truly a new creature; old things are passed away, and behold, all things are become new.

The final motive that controlled Paul was his commission from God. God had called Paul to preach the Gospel, and Paul was motivated because of that call.

In chapter 5:10 we are again confronted with the fact that “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” This verse should sober us into the realization that Christ is keeping a record of what is happening in our lives. Whether good or bad, the record is true and clear. The just God is keeping the books!

In chapter 6:11-13 Paul is appealing to the Christians at Corinth to be separate from the world. The church at Corinth had generally been negligent from walking uprightly before God. Paul gives specific instructions to them in these verses to be set apart for the work of the Lord. In verse 14 he tells us to not be

unequally yoked together with unbelievers. This refers to a business relationship, as well as a marriage relationship. It is impossible for a saved and an unsaved man to join in a successful business venture. Why? Because their interests are different. Generally, the saved man is controlled by the unsaved man, and the testimony of the Christian begins to slip. In verse 17 Paul tells all Christians to come out from among them and be separate. Separation, in Scripture, is two-fold. We are to come out from the things that are contrary to God, and come to God Himself. We are to be separated from the world for testimony’s sake. Too many people today are dealing and dabbling in the things of the world—thus hurting their testimony. When it is impossible for the world to tell the difference between Christians and non-Christians because of their associations, then it is time for the Christians to break those unrighteous associations! God has a great promise in verse 18 for those who will be separate. He says He will be a Father unto us, and we shall be His sons and daughters. There is nothing more blessed than the right relationship between father and son. Here God promises a wonderful relationship with Him, if we will but keep ourselves from the things of the world.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith” (Proverbs 15:17).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 30 (found on page 9).

HYMN FOR THE DAY

BLESSED BE THE NAME

W. H. Clark, 19th century,

Refrain by Ralph E. Hudson, 1843-1901

The Bible teaches that there are two things our Lord honors above all else: His Name and His Word. These two priorities should also be the most sacred trusts in our spiritual lives. A name is an individual’s main identification, as well as the carrier of his reputation. In the Bible, God renamed individuals—Jacob to Israel (Genesis 32:22-32) and Saul to Paul (Acts 13:9)—to reflect more accurately their changed lifestyles. It is only normal, then, to defend one’s name at all costs.

To many people today, the names “Jesus” and “God” are merely words to use in blasphemy. To those of us who associate these names with divine love,

such talk cannot be dismissed lightly. Christ Himself spoke out against becoming sacrilegious in our speaking when He cautioned His disciples never even to swear either by heaven or earth (Matthew 5:34-37). And it should be remembered that one tenth of the moral law deals with profaning God's name, with this serious warning— "The Lord will not hold him guiltless . . ." (Deuteronomy 5:11). Even our approach to the heavenly Father in prayer must always be done with reverence—in the name of Jesus (John 16:23). Let us determine to use this Christmas season to truly magnify His name and to proclaim His worth together:

"Jesus"—O how sweet the name "Jesus" —every day the same;

"Jesus" —let all saints proclaim its worthy praise forever

—J. C. Martin

The stanzas of "Blessed Be the Name" first appeared in 1891 in Hymns of the Christian Life. The melody was likely one of the early folk hymn tunes used in the 19th century camp meetings.

*All praise to Him who reigns above in majesty supreme,
who gave His Son for man to die, that He might man
redeem!*

*His name above all names shall stand, exalted more
and more,
at God the Father's own right hand, where angel-hosts
adore.*

*Redeemer, Savior, Friend of man, once ruined by the
fall,
Thou hast devised salvation's plan, for Thou hast died
for all.*

*His name shall be the Counselor, the mighty Prince of
Peace,
of all earth's kingdoms Conqueror, whose reign shall
never cease.*

Refrain:

Blessed be the name, blessed be the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name, blessed be the name of the Lord.

BIRTHDAY TODAY

ISAIAH WILLIAMS

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

519 B.C.

ZECHARIAH SAID, 'YE FASTED AND PRAYED FOR YOURSELVES AND NOT UNTO ME.'

Zechariah 7:1-7.

God is saying that these people had a form of godliness but their hearts were not in it. May we examine our own hearts, our own motives, our own incentives and ask God to cleanse them. May we not go through the motions only and be routine in our service for God, but may our preaching, our singing, and our serving be from heart for His glory.

1854

MARY REED, THE FAMOUS LEPER MISSIONARY, WAS BORN.

This turns our attention today toward missionaries. No doubt you have personal friends on the mission field. Perhaps there are those from your church for whom you ought to pray. May we today pause to pray for the missionaries, for God's blessings, God's comfort, and God's power to rest upon their lives.

1674

THE DATE OF THE FIRST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, DWELLING.

Chicago is the city of Moody, the city of some of the great works of Billy Sunday, the city of R.A. Torrey, the city of James M. Gray, the city of Paul Rader, the city of the famous Moody Bible Institute, the city of the famous Pacific Garden Rescue Mission, the city of the famous Moody Memorial Church, and the scene of many great revivals in the past. Yet, Chicago stands today in dire need of spiritual revival and soul-winning ministries. Pray for Chicago, the city in the heart of the nation. Pray for preachers and Christians by name with whom you are acquainted. Let us pray for Chicago.

1783

THE DATE OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS.

Let us pause today to thank God for George Washington. Let us thank Him for the men who founded our nation. Let us thank Him for the leaders He has given us through the years. Then, let us pray for the leaders of today. Pray for the President and those who hold authority over us. May God give them leadership in their decisions.

**ON THIS DATE IN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY
1807**

Death of Prince Hall, activist and Masonic leader, in Boston.

1833

American Anti-Slavery Society organized.

1895

South Carolina Constitutional Convention adopted new constitution with "understanding clause" designed to eliminate black voters.

One hundred and thirteen blacks were reported lynched in 1895.

Fort Valley State College established.

1906

Alpha Phi Alpha, first black Greek letter fraternity, founded.

1899

Fifty-sixth Congress convened. One black congressman: George H. White, North Carolina. Eighty-five blacks reported lynched in 1899.

1915

Ku Klux Klan received charter from Fulton County, Ga., Superior Court. Modern Klan spread to Alabama and other Southern states, and reached height of its influence in the twenties. By 1924 the organization was strong in Oklahoma, Indiana, California, Oregon, Indiana, and Ohio. At the height of its influence, the organization had an estimated four million members.

Great Migration began. Approximately two million

Southern blacks moved to Northern industrial centers in the following decades.

NAACP led protest demonstrations against showing of movie *Birth of a Nation*.

1927

Duke Ellington opened at the Cotton Club in Harlem.

President Coolidge commuted Marcus Garvey's sentence. Garvey was taken to New Orleans and deported to his native Jamaica.

Spingarn Medal awarded to Anthony Overton, publisher, insurance executive and cosmetics manufacturer, for his achievements as a businessman.

1969

Two Black Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark killed in Chicago police raid. Civil rights leaders said the two men were murdered in their beds.

Pulitzer Prize for photography awarded to Moneta Sleet Jr. of *Ebony* magazine. He was the first black male cited by the Pulitzer committee.

Clarence Mitchell Jr., director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, awarded the Spingarn Medal "for the pivotal role he....played in enactment of civil rights legislation."

A Christian Life . . .

CHARLES FREDERICK WEIGLE (1871-1966)

Evangelist and Gospel songwriter. His keen interest in music led him to attend the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, where he received training that later helped him in his ministry. Not only was he an inspiring preacher, but was also a gifted songwriter, having written more than 1,000 songs. The most famous is, *No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus*.

On December 3, 1966, he went home to be with the Lord after spending the last 15 years of his life on the campus of Tennessee Temple Schools in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 30 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION: SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY OF SCRIPTURES

The earth a round ball. (740 B.C.)

() Isaiah 40:22

It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants therefore are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.

The earth hangs out in space on nothing. (1600 B.C.)

() Job 26:7

He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

Night time on one part of the globe when Christ returns.

() Luke 17:34

I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

Day time on the other part of globe when Christ returns.

() Luke 17:36

Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Christ holds the earth in its orbit.

() Colossians 1:17

And he is before all things, and by him all t hings consist. (hold together)