

THE RIGHTEOUS PURSUES HOLINESS

Chapter 3 Lesson 1

Chapter's Subject: Committed to a Life of Obedience in Pursuit of Holy Living

Main Point: Disaster of Disobedience

Today's Study:

1. Disobedience
2. Ruined by Disobedience
3. The Curses of Disobedience (Deut. 28:15-68 ... Outline)

Time is available for only a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.

READ PRAYERFULLY PHIL. 2:12-18: "SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD!" (*Due to the volume of material for this lesson it is not possible to quote the Amplified Bible version; if you have a copy of this translation please read the reference noted*).

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

It is my intention to be as brief as possible and while I am conscious of the time factor, I will remain open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It is very important that emphasis is placed on the **importance of obedience**, as a priority for all children of God. The history of man from Adam to our present day has revealed the awful consequences of disobedience, as well as the awesome benefits and blessings resulting from a life of obedience to the Word, will and way of God.

Priceless Treasure

The Word of God must be treasured, stored in the heart and obeyed, in order for us to be well pleasing to God and for us to maintain a continued Christlike lifestyle (Psa. 119:11, etc.; Deut. 6:6; Rom. 10:8; Col. 3:16; etc.). The story was told of a woman who sold all her possessions, purchased a pearl with the money and took a cruise. She was seen one day, flipping the pearl and was cautioned about losing such item of great value. She replied, explaining that all her wealth was wrapped up in this one pearl and had no intention of losing it. She continued flipping the pearl and at one point the ship rocked by the waves and caused her to fumble and alas, her precious pearl went plunging into the ocean, but it was too late, her precious pearl was lost!

All **genuine Christians** are in possession of the most precious and priceless treasure that anyone can possess. The truth is, all the wealth of this world cannot purchase the salvation of one person. Our salvation is pure, precious, and priceless (1 Peter 1:18-23; etc.) and can be obtained only through Jesus Christ and this experience is man's only real source of victory, deliverance, protection and preservation from the tyranny and dominion of Satan!!

Although salvation is priceless, there are too many who have failed to do what must be done to protect this precious gift, freely given to us by God. Salvation is a treasure, the Word of God speaks of "... this treasure (*the divine light of the gospel*) in earthen vessels ..." (2 Cor.4:7KJV). We have something that must be treasured but only as we continue on the pathway of obedience daily, in pursuit of holy living.

Brief Overview

In this study, "The Righteous Pursue Holiness," we have previously discussed:

1. Clothed in Christ Righteousness (Chapter 1)
2. Created Anew in Righteousness and True Holiness (Chapter 2)

In this section, Chapter 3, we will discuss: **Committed to a life of Obedience in Pursuit of Holy Living.**

Throughout the study, we have used several definitions for holiness but have placed emphasis on two:

1. The primary meaning of holiness is separate.
2. Holiness is freedom from the dominion of sin.

I have also frequently made reference to the following quote: "There is no better term to describe the essence of holiness of life than Christlikeness."

While holiness is separation, there are some who seem to limit it only to that word (separation) and not the full extent of what is meant. **The life of holiness is indeed separation but we need to understand that it involves separation from the world and unto God. It is also important to remember that if we are going to maintain this Christlike lifestyle one of the basic need is a life of obedience as we press forward daily pursuing a holy life.** In such a situation it calls for a life that is totally given to God in surrender, obedience, humility, renunciation, etc because the life that we now live is lived in Jesus Christ (Gal 2:20. John 15:1-8; etc)

In this chapter (Chapter 3) I have identified three areas for discussion:

1. Disaster of Disobedience (Lesson 1)
2. Dutiful (Lesson 2)
3. Divine Delight (Lesson 3)

Consider the following quotes:

"The greatest test of life is obedience to God." Ezra T. Benson

"Obedience is an act of faith; disobedience is the result of unbelief." Edwin L. Cole

Because of the reality of both obedience and disobedience and the awful disasters being experienced because of disobedience, I am committing this first lesson (of chapter 3) to that subject. As we saw in Chapter 2 Lesson 11 (also as well as in other lessons) **man's cardinal problem is sin.** We continue to see man struggle with finding the right solutions for the problems that face humanity but they are not willing to admit that **sin is a reproach to any**

people (Prov. 24:34). We must also acknowledge that **sin is disobedience, violating God’s specific commands** (Gen. 3:1-12; 19:26; Num. 20:11; 1 Sam. 13:13; Rom. 5:19).
DISOBEDIENCE!!

A. Disobedience

1. Definitions and Synonyms

(a) Definitions

- (1) “Neglecting or refusing to obey, omitting to do what is commanded or doing what is prohibited; ... not observant of duty or rules prescribed by authority; as children are disobedient to parents; citizens disobedient to the law.”
- (2) “... not yielding to existing force or power.”

(b) Synonyms

- (1) Disobedient (adj.): disorderly, headstrong, naughty, non-observant, non-compliant, perverse, unruly, wayward, etc.
- (2) Disobedience (n): defiance, disregard, indiscipline, neglect, rebellion, revolt, stubbornness, transgression, waywardness, etc.

(c) Briefly, expanding the definition of disobedience:

The following has been presented with help from the Topical Bible

The word is used chiefly in the New Testament and has the general meaning of a lack of regard for authority or rulership. The stronger meaning of actual stubbornness or violence is perhaps conveyed in the Old Testament (1 Kings 13:26; Neh. 9:26 compare with 1 Kings 13:21).

- (1) In the New Testament there seems to be two rather clearly defined uses of the word (disobedience), one objective and practical, the other ethical and psychological.

OBJECTIVE AND PRACTICAL	ETHICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL
Refers to conduct	Refers to belief and one’s attitude toward the object of disobedience
Associated with such passages as the <u>overt</u> act of disobedience to one’s parents (Rom. 1:30; 2 Tim. 3:2) (“ <i>overt: obvious, visible, public, etc.</i> ”)	

Illustrating this definition just a little more, note 1 Tim. 1:9, “disobedience” is translated “unruly” in the Revised Standard Version.

- (2) By far the greater emphasis, however, is placed upon the distinctly ethical quality. **In this situation disobedience is really an attitude of the mind and finds its essence in a heart of unbelief and unfaithfulness.**

- Note: 1 Peter 2:7, 8; Eph. 2:2; 5:6; Col. 3:16

- The latter three references: “children (sons) of disobedience” are mentioned, as if one should become the very offspring of such unhappy state of mind.

(3) **The classic phrase of the N.T. literature (Acts 26:19) contains both practical and ethical aspects of defining disobedience** (demonstrated in Paul’s obedience to the heavenly vision).

- **Practical aspect:** Paul’s convictions were changed by the vision (he no longer persecuted the Christians ... conduct).
- **Ethical aspect:** Also because of the vision his conduct was made to conform to the vision he received. (His beliefs and attitude were changed by the vision resulting in a change in his conduct)
(**Conduct:** *The manner in which a person behaves*)

2. Disobedience to God Produces Awful Consequences

The following is presented with some materials taken from a presentation by Living Alone for Jesus Ministries.

(a) **Disobedience Disrespect and Disregard for God**

God is and He is, there is none like Him, or above Him!! He is the Transcendent Creator and Sovereign King, King of Kings and Lord of Lords; He is the Almighty God (our El Shaddai (Ex. 6:2-6). He is to be worshipped, receive our homage, our loyal unflinching service and our undivided attention!! He is worthy!! (Rev.5:11-14). Who is like unto Him? He is glorious in holiness and fearful in praise (Ex. 15:11). **We ought to serve and obey Him, because we love Him and we know that He first loved us and paid the ultimate price for our salvation (1 John 4:10; Rom. 5:6-8).**

In regards to 1 John 14:12-18, Joseph H. Mayfield noted that in these verses we have **some** “Perquisites for the Gifts of the Spirit”: (1) Faith to Receive, Vv. 12-14; (2) Enough Love to Obey, v. 15; (3) The Reward of Obedience, Vv. 16-18.

I am placing emphasis on the need to **sincerely love God**; because it is the surest way to live in obedience to His will. Note again John 14:15, 23.

KJV:

“If ye love me, keep my commandments If a man love me he will keep my words ...”

Amplified Bible:

“If you [really] love Me, you will keep [obey] my commandments Jesus answered, If a person [really] love Me, he will keep My word [obey My Teaching]”

Now note verse 24 (John 14:24)

Amplified Bible

“Anyone who does not [really] love Me does not observe and obey My teaching...”

Beloved, it is inconsistent and deceptive for anyone to claim how much they love God and at the same time is a **habitual sinner** (1 John 3:4-12). To live in such manner not only disrespect and disregard God, but it is like crucifying Christ anew (Heb. 6:6). We are saved (delivered) from the compulsion of sin; and yes there is still the possibility of sinning; this fact is not a license to practice sin (Rom. 6). The Word of God is not saying that the believer will sin but he may sin and if he does then he needs to seek forgiveness (1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-6; etc.). Habitual sinning is disobedience which is also disrespecting and disregarding God and His righteous standards and is contrary to our genuine love for Him (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31).

Sin which is a product of disobedience is a deliberate contemptuous act against God who is of infinite goodness. In other words sin is an act which dishonors God. Let’s say that you instructed your child to do something and somehow he or she repeatedly, continuously, rebels against you, such would clearly tell you what the child’s attitude is towards you as a parent.

When we disobey God, the message we convey is that His Word, His will and His way are not important to us; we’ll simply do what we want to do regardless of His desires are concerning our choices. **These kinds of evil tendencies really create an environment where God can no longer operate in our lives. We literally kick Him out of our life, so that we can get to have our own ways. Our sinful attitudes literally quench the Holy Spirit. Bear in mind, whenever God is dishonored, someone else receives the honor, and that person is Satan.**

When we are tempted and inclined to yield, we are well aware that what we are planning to do is not going to please God; but we do it anyway. **Sin hardens people’s heart and makes them very selfish because it is all about what they want.** Furthermore, it’s all about engaging in sinful activities in order to please themselves instead of pleasing God. **Although, sin may bring some temporary pleasures, however, the price to pay is always catastrophic.**

When we are living in sin, there is no doubt that we are out of control, which renders us useless in the eyes of God. In addition, we give Satan the opportunity to dominate every aspect of our lives, and to hold us captive as long as he can, so that we can lose everything that God has in store for us. Consequently, we lose our spiritual appetites, and we become disengaged, in the things of God.

We can no longer serve God, and we can no longer worship Him in the beauty of holiness. We do not even appreciate the fact that our soul is valuable, and we

can no longer care about other people's spiritual lives either. The question is, how we can care about other's spiritual lives while we don't even care about ours by the way we choose to live.

(b) Disobedience Denies God of His Rightful Place in Our Lives.

A very important question that we need to ask and which requires an honest answer is: "Is God sincerely FIRST PLACE in our lives?" How do we start each day? What transpires during the day? Etc. And when the day is over: How much of the day did we give to God? Who or what controlled our thoughts, words and actions? **Think carefully, a day has 24 hours, how many were genuinely given to God?**

God is the giver of life and good gifts, but there is a great danger when we love the gift more than the Giver of the gifts.

God saw that man was alone and made him a companion. Eve was meant to be a compliment, etc. Eve was a gift from God to Adam to be shared as a life's partner and do what God intended to be accomplished through them. Instead of walking in obedience, Adam allowed his wife to convince him to do what seemed to be a better way of living than what God intended. Adam had the responsibility of refusing to disobey God, instead he willingly transgressed.

Adam became more devoted to the gift rather than the Giver; God's rightful place in his life was replaced and as a result he lost fellowship with God (*However, there was a ray of hope, see Gen. 3:15, 21; nevertheless sin has its consequences Gen. 3:14-24*). Likewise there are so many families who once had a zeal for God, He was first and foremost in their lives; their family altar was rich and meaningful; the Word of God was prioritized in their lives; etc but all those qualities gradually were replaced with the things of the world. How we like to make excuses when we turn away from God. We are quick to explain our actions by making vain excuses when in truth and the fact is, there is no longer any room for God; room for everything else but not for God!! These factors are evident in so many families and yet we callously blame others and circumstances for the turmoil, disasters, etc. that are destroying families and sad to say Christian families are not exempted.

Looking at the family, there are some parents who have removed God from being first place in their family and as a result the way they grow their children, the things that they allow at home are totally inconsistent with the word of God. The Bible specifically states: "Train up a child in the way he should go ..." (Prov. 22:6). But because God is not "First Place" in some families, children are allowed to grow totally inconsistent with the Word of God, we need to see what is

happening to our precious young people, because a great percentage of this generation do not know God (Judges 2:10).

We are getting in a lot of details and do need to move on but allow me to note: (1) There is a need for parents to focus on “Parental Duties: Deut 6:7, 20; 21:9; 22:6; 1 Tim. 3:4; etc. (2) Do not ignore the rebellion of your children, who live in defiance of God! Eli did and it resulted in disaster for his family and the nation of Israel (1 Sam.2, 3, and 4).

After Israel’s deliverance from Egypt and God began to lay the foundation on which their stability and prosperity would depend, He (God) included the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17. The very first commandment was: **“You shall have no other God before me ...” (Ex. 20:3).** Nothing or anyone should influence you, captivate your attention, your loyalty, above God; God must always be FIRST!! Idolatry is not limited to the worshipping of gods of wood or stone or any crated thing being worshipped but whatever we prioritize above God. An idol is anything that occupies the position of influence in our lives instead of God. This was clearly illustrated by Christ in the story of the “Rich Young Ruler.” (Luke 18:18-27)

Several lessons are found in the account of the Woman with the Issue of Blood (Mark 5:25-34). At this time, however, I want to note that man has a void and only God can adequately fill that void. You will observe that this woman tried everything possible to be cured but nothing worked until she had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ (Vv. 25-30). Not only do we need God **but He MUST have the preeminence;** we must put Him above everything and everyone (including ourselves) (Matt. 6:33; see also Matt. 16:24-26; Luke 9:23-25). The sad reality is, too many, far too many have replaced God with things, be it financial wealth, academic accomplishments, houses and other real estate investments, vehicles, family, self, etc. These individuals feel so assured, so comfortable with their way of life that they develop a false sense of security. As you read the following, observe also the context in which they are used: Isa. 47:8; Jer. 51:2; 12:13; Obadiah 3; **Luke 12:16-21.**

We are definitely out of time but allow me to briefly note another three examples of what it means to deny God of his rightful place in our lives (BRIEFLY!):

(1) Corrupted Judah will be Judged (Isa. 1)

Lifting three pointers:

- Their Ingratitude Vv. 2-3
- Their Iniquities v. 4
- The Insufficiency of their Sacrifices Vv.11-17
- Etc.

Time wouldn't allow but note: the corruption was so evident because they denied God His rightful place in their lives (note carefully Vv. 2-4).

(2) **The Mighty Nebuchadnezzar Humbled (Dan. 4)**

- Note his dream Vv. 4-18
- Note the interpretation Vv. 24—26
- Note Daniel's plea to Nebuchadnezzar v. 27
- Note his refusal to humble himself and acknowledge the True and Living God and note the awful consequences Vv. 28-33
- Note, how his humbling process led him to acknowledge and exalt the True and Living God (definitely great lessons to be learnt!!) Vv. 34-37

(3) **Sin/Judgment – Rebellious Israel (Hosea 10, NB v. 3)**

As with the other two references, this passage has several lessons, we have time for a few highlighted pointers.

- God was angry not because of their prosperity but their selfishness. In their prosperity instead of increasing their gratitude to God they increased their Baal pillars (altars). Their devotion was to a false god, (compare Ex. 23:24; 1 Kings 14:23).
- Observe their divided attention (Hosea 10:2) because they replaced God with idols.
- Note the last clause of Hosea 10:3. We can translate that statement as: **“If we have no reverence for the Lord, what could a king do for us?”**
- God is a God of justice and appropriate action will be taken!! There are always consequences for disobedience!!

NOTE:

(4) Our victory in this Pilgrim's Pathway can be realized if we follow God's Words, note the following:

- **Gen. 17:1 Amplified Bible**
“When Abraham was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, I am the Almighty God; walk and live habitually before Me and be perfect (blameless, wholehearted, complete).”
- **1 John 5:21 Amplified Bible**
“Little children keep yourselves from idols (false gods)—[from anything and everything that would occupy the place in your hearts due to God, from any sort of substitute for Him that would take first place in you life].”

(c) **Danger of Disobedience**

“Disobedience is very consequential by nature. In many cases, it may eventually cost us more than we thought. The consequences of disobedience are plainly seen in Scriptures, from the book of Genesis to Revelation. Even today, we are

witnessing how people's lives are being destroyed through immorality, crime and other sinful activities.

Indeed, God has a reason why He allows all the negative stuff to be recorded in His Holy Word, things that came as a result of sin. He wants us to be able to learn from the horrible mistakes that people have made in the past by disobeying Him, so that we do not keep repeating the same costly mistakes over and over again. It's for our good that these things are recorded because God in His love for us wants to protect us from the awful consequences of rebellion against Him (1 Cor. 10:11). These examples should help us not to willingly choose to walk in the way of Satan.

Consequently, we really have to take these teachable lessons found in the Bible and learn them well. The reason is that we are going to face similar situations through which we will be tempted to make the same mistake that disobedient or rebellious individuals had made. God's will for us is to remain obedient to Him, by keeping His Word, so that we can peacefully and joyfully enjoy all His many blessings through Jesus Christ."

(d) **Disastrous Results of Disobedience**

(1) Some short quotes

- From: My childhood days (i.e. K. Wright)
 - "It's always too late to close the gate after the horse has gone through."
 - "If I had known, generally comes too late."
 - "The child who refuses to listen will be burnt by the scorching sun."
 - "If you will not hear you will feel."
- From: Good Read.Com
 - "When you disobey the rule, you sell your freedom. You cripple your real you. The daily direction of your life is restricted and directed by the rule of living." Earnest Agyemang Yeboah
 - "Any lack of joy in the world is the result of disobedience." Carolyn Shields
- From: Famous Quotes About Disobey
 - "Every person has free choice. Free to obey or disobey the Natural Laws. Your choice determines the consequences. Nobody ever did, or ever will, escape the consequences of his choice." Author: A.A. Montapert
 - **I will stay in prison till the moss grows on my eyelids rather than disobey God.** Author: John Bunyan

(2) Comments: Thoughts on Disobedience

We have all seen the disastrous results because of disobedience. Such disastrous experiences are evident in the family, the Church (Universal), government, businesses, etc. It is heartrending to see the damages experienced by so many individuals and, to see what is happening to our precious young people who are leaders in the making.

The consequences of disobedience occur in a variety of ways, for example: spiritually, physically, emotionally and mentally. You may have seen an individual who like a seed planted, germinates, grows up, matures with greatness, awe inspiring, produces abundantly, begins the dispersal process with the objective to expand (some did expand and some were in process of expanding), but suddenly, doom and disaster set in because somewhere along the way the abiding and adhering to necessary rules were disobeyed. For many their wrong remained concealed for a while until it festers and broke out, producing shame, defeat, destruction and great hurt. We have good news in Jesus Christ there is help for all who return to the source of life Jesus Christ (Matt. 11:28-30; see also Isa. 53:4, 5; John 3:14; 1 Peter 3:18; etc.).

The spiritual consequences of disobedience, results in separation from God.

When the Bible speaks of "... the wages of sin is death" (example Rom. 6:23); this is referring to separation from God and if the sin factor is not addressed it finally results in eternal damnation (**Gen. 3**; Matt. 25:46; John 3:36; etc.). One of David's requests in his prayer of repentance (Psa. 51) is for the continued presence of God (Psa. 51:11). We cannot go into details, but there are too many who believe they can live as they want, based on their terms. To many they do not see the need to make it right with God and live a life of obedience because according to them we all will physically die; but what they have ignored is what God says in His Word: "... after death comes the judgment." (Heb. 9:27; 2 Peter 2:9; Rev. 14:11; 20:15). Disobedience is rebellion, willfully transgressing the will of God and if anyone dies in his sin he will remain a sinner; and the destiny of such will not be pleasant (Rev. 21:8).

As noted above, the spiritual consequences of disobedience is separation from God. While this statement is biblically accurate; I have noted above that there is healing for every sin: (1) Forgiveness must be sought while there is still time (Isa. 55, NB Vv. 6-7; 2 Cor. 6:2; etc.). (2) Repentance is compulsory, it is not an option (Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3; etc.). (3) The choice must be made individually. Christ speaks of two roads and we must choose one (**Matt. 7:1-14**; 1 Kings 18:21; Jos. 24:15; John 3:36). Definitely, sin is pleasurable to the flesh (Gal. 5:13-21); but we should remember, to sow to the flesh means to

experience corruption (Gal. 6:8). Moses refused the glory of Egypt because in reality it was spiritual disaster (Heb.11:24-27). It is also very important to realize that living in sinful bondage and pleasures identifies one who although physically alive is spiritually dead (1 Tim. 5:6; Rev. 3:1). Loving and living a life of disobedience to the Word and will of God, says that all you can see and desire above obeying God is sensual pleasure, carnal gratification and the cheer of the crowd, but disaster awaits you, because in the end, the final outcome of disobedience comes with awful consequences (Psa. 37, NB Vv. 9-22; etc.).

The Physical Consequences of Disobedience

As to the physical consequences of disobedience, so many have been hurt in more ways than we have time to make mention of at this time. What amazes me is that there are some individuals who never seem to learn, as they repeat the same blunder time and time again, resulting in more hurt to them and others. There are others, who have witnessed what happened to a family member, a friend, etc. but they blindly do the same thing, experiencing the same or worse hurt. The cycle seems to continue and more and more lives are experiencing disastrous results because of a life of disobedience.

I have time to make mention of only a few examples and hope that someone will take heed or be able to help someone or take the matter of intercessory prayer more seriously and pray for the deliverance of those who are trapped in these horrific conditions. There is victory in Jesus Christ who came to seek and to save and He is still in the saving business!! (See Matt.1:21; 20:28; Luke 19:10; John 3:16, 17; etc.).

Some physical consequences are sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies (very few believe in delayed gratification), love relationships turning sour, some resulting in physical abuse, some lead to injury and even death; there are those who are trapped in gangs (resulting in so many atrocities including being sent to jail, etc.); there are those who are committed to terrorist groups with all their barbarous acts; and this listing of the physical consequences of disobedience goes on and on but the many examples are all around us and regrettable so!! We are living in a time when drugs (alcohol, cigarettes, cocaine, marijuana, etc.) ; sexual vice, crime, etc. are destroying so many because these destructive habits have been popularized and presented in such a way that many are trapped. Take it or leave it; disobeying the Word, will and ways of God,, leads to awful consequences. Man's ONLY alternative is to obey God and live according to His standards!!

3. **I will close this pointer by quoting from the article on disobedience by Living for Jesus Alone Ministries.**

“Emotional consequences relate to sadness and hurts that disobedience can bring to our lives. Disobedience can ruin the very person God wants us to be. Moreover, disobedience can inflict so much emotional pain on us to the extent that we become slaves to bitterness, anger, failure to forgive, and so forth.

And mental consequences have to do with the fact that sin burdens the conscience of men, it corrupts and cripples people’s judgment, and it has a strong hold on the memory, and fetter the free will. Consequently, there’s no genuine peace for those who are living in sin no matter what they say.

Let’s look at that Scripture found in Gal. 6:7 which states “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Life is a matter of reaping what you sow; yet oftentimes we reap far more than we’ve sowed. **Despite everything that sin has to offer, the deceptive pleasures that we may experience are not worth the price that we have to pay eventually.** Sin is controlling, powerful, and deceptive by nature. Besides, it literally blinds men to such a degree that causes them to lose all their capabilities to think right about the consequences that come along with their sinful lifestyles. Many times, people finally get an idea of how terrible their lives have been when finding themselves in the midst of disaster. Sin pretty much draws them further away from God who is the source of truth that could have opened their eyes, and kept them from destruction.

One thing about disobedience is that it has massive implications because oftentimes the person who breaks God’s law is not the only one who ends up paying the price. Therefore, the choice that we make can affect people around us either directly or indirectly in a big way. Our disobedience to God can significantly affect our ability to witness to others about Christ.

God in all His holiness and righteousness hates disobedience. In fact, we will never be able to fully comprehend to what extent God hates disobedience. If a sinner can be sent to hell for all eternity, this clearly demonstrates God’s full hatred towards obedience. Most importantly, God has never taken people’s rebellion against Him lightly.

The devil is fully aware of God’s complete hatred towards disobedience since he had been with God. Therefore he knows what God loves and hates. That’s the main reason he is always devising plan to keep us from remaining obedient to God. He is always trying to influence our behavior in a wide variety of ways. Thus the choices that we make determine who get to control our lives.”

It is very important to make sure that we all understand the consequences of disobedience; it is an area where so many are being destroyed and some of us have

known the experience of failing God, be it a big way or small way, what is important is to make it right and press forward, never looking back. There are other areas resulting from disobedience but due to time I have to close. I will close with a quote from Jerry Bridge; you may be acquainted with some of his publications and do not necessarily agree with some things that he has stated but in general he is an exemplary individual and a believer and defender for holy living. I actually came across this quote from Good Read.com.

“Too often, we say we are defeated by this or that sin. No we are not defeated. We are simply disobedient. It might be good if we stop using the term victory and defeat to describe our progress in holiness. Rather, we should use the terms obedience and disobedience. When I say I am defeated by some sin, I am unconsciously slipping out from my responsibility. I am saying something outside of me defeated me. But when I say that I am disobedient, that places the responsibility for my sin squarely on me. We may in fact be defeated but the reason we are defeated is because, we have chosen to disobey.

We need to brace ourselves up and realize that we are responsible for our attitudes, thoughts, words and actions. We need to reckon on the fact that we died to sin’s reign, that it no longer has any dominion over us, that God has united us with the risen Christ in all His power and has given us the Holy Spirit to work in us. Only as we accept our responsibility and appropriate God’s provisions will we make progress in our pursuit of holiness.”

B. Ruined by Disobedience... Three Scriptural Examples

1. Adam and Eve

(a) Made in God’s Image.

Discussing the creation account, in particular as applied to Adam, the Beacon Bible Commentary, quoted G. B. Williamson as follows (*note carefully each pointer*):

“In Gen. 1:26-30, we find ‘Made in God’s Image,’

(1) A spiritual being capable of immortality v. 26b

(2) A moral being bearing God’s likeness v. 27

(3) An intellectual being with capacity for reason and rulership Vv. 26c, 28-30”

I read an article in regards to Adam and Eve’s disobedience, in which the author noted that Adam was not created pure. Obviously, such an article was documented by someone who is not speaking of God. We are aware that God saw that all His creative work was perfect; you will observe in the creation account such words as, “... God saw that it was good” (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, etc.). Why would He do anything less for man, who He personally made instead of calling him into existence? This quote has been repeated throughout this study: **“Adam was the embodiment of all purity and goodness”** and that is a very deep and powerful statement. I have a brief presentation on “Created in the Image and Likeness of God;” see Chapter 1 Lesson 3.

Adam fell not because God's creative act fell short in anyway (**not the least!!**), but like all human being, Adam was blessed with a free will, having the right to choose. Adam was not a mediocre work of God!! God is God and produces nothing but the best!! Adam was the peak of God's creation and he enjoyed a status before he transgressed that we will experience only when we are glorified.

(b) If you desire to understand more about what is meant by "Created in the Image and Likeness of God" see my presentation referred to above. At this time note the following:

- (1) A summarized definition for "Created in the image and Likeness of God" refers to a "moral likeness of God."
- (2) Note also that it involves the fact that God granted Adam the status and power to rule; he was placed in control of the earth.
- (3) As we briefly look at a few pointers, the objective is to focus on who Adam was before The Fall and what happened when he disobeyed.

(c) **Quote from Bacon Bible Commentary**

"God gave man the authority to have dominion over all living creatures.

- (1) What we need to observe here is that God equipped Adam to act as a ruler.
- (2) Fitness to rule implies an adequate intellectual capacity to reason, to organize, to plan, and to evaluate.
- (3) Fitness to rule implies an adequate emotional capacity to desire the highest welfare of the subjects, to appreciate and honor that which is good and true and beautiful, to dislike and repudiate that which is cruel, false and ugly, to have a deep concern for the well-being of all nature, and to love the God who created him.
- (4) Fitness to rule implies an adequate volitional (**volitional: freewill**) capacity to choose to do at all times that which is right, **to obey God's command** positively and quickly, to surrender gladly all powers to God in joyous worship, and to participate in a wholesome fellowship with both nature and God."

(d) Another quote from Beacon Bible Commentary

"God created man to be a person who possessed self-consciousness, self determination, and inward holiness (Ecc. 7:29; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10). The image was distributed without distinction to the male and to the female, making them both equal before God."

(e) **Consequences resulting from Adams disobedience (BRIEFLY LISTED) Gen. 3:14-19**

(1) **Judgment upon Satan/Serpent Gen. 3:14**

The tempter was cursed above all creatures; he would be detested, disregarded and miserable.

(2) I will return to Gen. 3:15 below.

(3) **Judgment upon the woman Gen 3:16**

- She would experience pain when giving birth to a child

- Her husband will exercise authority over her (Eph. 5:20-23).
- “Sorrow” here means trouble, sorrow, and pain.

(4) Judgment upon man Gen. 3:17, 19

- Man was condemned to live in a cursed world, a world of imperfection and corruption. Think of the environment that they lived in before they transgressed. (Jer. 12:4)
- He would struggle for survival, condemned to struggle against nature for the most basic necessities of life . . . **“Paradise Lost!!”**
- “Sorrow” (v.17) means pain, toil arduous labor, strenuous work.

(5) Judgment on the earth Gen. 3:18

- In God’s creative act, “thorns” and “thistles” were not originally part of His creation; they came as a result of the curse, which was a result of man’s sin.
- Here is the irony, man would arduously labor in order to produce so he can feed his family but thorns and thistles would grow without cultivation. In Hosea 10:8, these plants are symbols of judgment and desolation.

(6) Judgment of death. Death becomes a reality Gen. 3:19

- Adam and the world were created perfect; in fact Adam was created to be an immortal being. Because of his disobedience all that was reversed.
- Adam himself, brought death and corruption to the world. He was warned by God what would happen if he disobeyed (Gen. 2:17); nevertheless he disobeyed!! (Gen. 3:6-13).
- The judgment of death was a judgment upon mankind.
 - All men die, all animal die and all plant life die. “The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” (Rom. 8:22)
 - “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23)

(7) “The Fall” produced humans with depraved nature. Paul states:

- 1 Tim. 4:2: “... having their conscience seared with hot iron.”
- Rom. 1:21: “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but they became vain in their imaginations, and **their foolish heart was darkened.**”

(8) Because of Adam’s sin all are born with a sinful nature.

- This is a great deviation from which Adam was before “The Fall,” remember he was “the perfection of all purity and goodness.” His disobedience changed that status!!
- The old sinful, rebellious, disobedient humanity finds its origin in Adam and it results in death (Rom. 5:12, 17).
- In The Fall of Adam, sin as an active principle or power, gained entrance into the human race.
- See Gen. 3:6; Isa. 43:27; Rom. 5:12; 17, 19; 1 Cor. 15:21.

(9) The Fall created a separation from God

- Before, The Fall, Adam and Eve enjoyed intimate fellowship with God.
 - When they sinned they hid from God, because there was a disconnection between them and the righteous and holy God they serve. Unfortunately, that sweet communion and blessed fellowship they once experience was lost and now they were avoiding God and were eventually cast out (Gen. 3:8-1; 22-24).
- (10) **The purpose of man's existence was also lost.**
- Man was created with the capacity to love, serve and obey God, to willingly yield his all to God, but his sin of disobedience changed him for the worse.
 - Man lost sight of the purpose for which he was created and that is to serve God (Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 6:20; 10:31; Psa. 86:9).
- (11) **Man's innocence with which he was created was lost because of his sin.**
Adam and Eve enjoyed an innocence of the highest quality before The Fall; the sad reality is, that was lost because of their disobedience.
- (12) **Happy, harmonious, and holy marital relationship lost.**
I believe there was a **divine bliss** that graced the union of Adam and Eve before The Fall. It was a **bliss** that most likely became a **miss** just as we are witnessing in so many marriages today (unfortunately).
- (f) **The mercies and grace of God extended (*details not possible*)**
- (1) **Gen. 3:15**
- There is so much more to this verse than we can share at this time. **This verse contains the first implicit promise of God's plan of redemption for the world.**
 - It predicts the ultimate victory for humankind and God over Satan and evil by prophesying a spiritual conflict between Jesus Christ ("seed of the woman") and the devil.
- (2) **Gen. 3:21**
- Man tied his way of covering (Gen. 3:7) but man's ways are always inadequate (See Isa.28:9)
 - God Himself clothed Adam and Eve (several lessons can be learnt, but for now note the following): **He covered them with "coats of skin."**
 - This was animal skin which meant the shedding of blood.
 - Blood is always associated with covenants and sacrifices and that includes the "New Covenant" (Jer. 1:31; Matt. 26:28; Rom. 5:9; Heb. 9:14; 12:24).
 - **Indeed!! Beloved, the ultimate sacrifice was Jesus Christ who died for the entire world (Isa. 53. John 3:16; etc.).**

2. King Saul

(a) Synopsis of His Life ... Lessons to be learnt.

- (1) King Saul was blessed with much but his blessings were not properly utilized for the establishment of his kingdom to the glory of God. He was charismatic

and physically gifted as well as extremely tall and handsome (1 Sam. 9:2). Some Jewish scholars teach that he was a charitable person who gave to the poor and noted other outstanding acts of charity exemplified by him. Obviously, he was a great warrior to the very end. His final battle was one that he could have stayed away from but instead he fought with his army to his death.

All his gifts only made him a more tragic figure. He had all the qualifications one could hope for as a leader and for a king; yet he was destroyed by his position.

You may think that you do not have much to offer but remember, **simple things can become great when they are placed in the absolute control of God.** When we place what we have in the control and hand of Jesus Christ, He can make it become more than what we can if we hold on to it for ourselves. King Saul didn't put his all exclusive talents under God's control which led to his downfall and destruction.

(2) **God chose Saul to lead a scattered nation.**

- Called to lead but he allowed self to distort and disrupt what could have been an outstanding, dynamic and exemplary leadership.
- Note the following brief statements:
 - He was chosen to lead but because of disobedience he was rejected.
 - God took him from a humble environment (1 Sam. 9:2) and exalted him but he was eventually degraded, humiliated and rejected.
 - He was to lead the people and maintain obedience to God's will but by example he taught them disobedience.
 - One of his roles was to unify the people but he was a source of distrust, discord and division.
 - In God, he was to enjoy tranquility, peace and hope but he led a life of turbulence, misery and un-certainty.
 - When he should have been pursuing the enemies of Israel, he was restlessly and relentlessly pursuing one of his own.
 - His insight was blurred, his vision was dimmed, he majored on the minor and minor on the major goals to be achieved.
- **Definitely, we can! We can accomplish what God intended for us, as long as we remain in Him** (Psa. 127:1; John 3:27; 15:1-8; 2 Cor. 3:5).

2 Cor. 3:5 KJV

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.”

- God had a plan for King Saul and He has a plan for every believer of Jesus Christ; there is work in the kingdom for everyone. The challenge is do we plan to live a life of surrender, renunciation, obedience and humility?
 - May God be glorified in all that we do, say and become to His honor and His glory!!
- (3) **Saul served as king until the time of his death but throughout his reign, he lived in a sphere of emptiness, fear, and uncertainty; it was a miserable condition but which was a result of his disobedience!!**
- He served as king but because of his disobedience the kingdom was given to another. We know that the fisherman puts his fishing rod away after he is through fishing and beloved, we do not want to preach to others and in the end be a castaway (Matt. 7:21-23; John 15:6; 1 Cor. 9:27).
 - We must obey the Lord and seek to do His will (Matt. 26:39, 42).
 - When blessed with authority, we must not wrongly use the authority endowed upon us (1 Peter 5:3).
 - We must lead the way God wants us to lead (1 Peter 5:2-10).
 - As leaders, we should be able to say to those that we lead, “Be ye followers of me, even as I am of Christ.” (1 Cor.11:1).
- (4) **Saul enjoyed barking up the wrong tree and never addressed the real issue of self.**
- To him, David was his avowed enemy and he was determined to kill David, who was a loyal servant to the end of Saul’s reign.
 - David was committed and patriarchic, through whom God secured many victories over the enemies of Israel.
 - David had the opportunity to kill King Saul but refused to do so but even then Saul was still determined to kill David. Saul was confused and distorted not knowing who his real enemies were.
 - In essence King Saul was plagued with insecurity and jealousy; it was so far gone that it drove him to the point of paranoia. He trusted no one, he saw traitors everywhere!! David was his trusted aid, confidante and loyal son-in-law, yet Saul despised him and made him his worst enemy.
 - You may have heard the statement: “It’s not so much what you eat as what is eating you.” We do support healthy eating but we must face the fact that many are destroyed because of hate, bitterness, jealousy, rage, etc. that they cherish deep within!! **King Saul was wasting away, being destroyed by what was eating him. His insecurity and paranoia returned and gnawed at him.**
 - Saul just didn’t know or was too reluctant to identify his real enemy and put an action plan in place.
 - Do we know who our real enemy is? (1 Peter 5:8) Have we made up our minds that with the help of God we will live a victorious life to the glory of God (Gal. 2:20; 1 Peter 1:3-5; etc.).

(5) **Saul enjoyed a blame shifting, sin denying, vain excuses ... I am innocent attitude.**

- It's amazing to see how some people always make excuses, blaming others, and out rightly deny wrong doing, etc. even when the facts of their wrong doing are easily seen.
- We wouldn't have time to discuss this destructive habit of denial and making excuses but allow me to briefly note some examples in the Book of Malachi.
 - Mal. 1:2: ...denying God's love for them. "Wherein hath thou loved us?"
 - Mal. 1:7: ... denying sacrificing wrongly. "Wherein have we polluted thee?"
 - Mal. 2:13-14: ... denying the facts as to why God rejected their worship. Note the verses.
 - Mal. 3:7: ... denying the need for penitence and returning to God. "Wherein shall we return?"
 - Mal. 3:8: ... denying the neglect of their financial dishonesty and responsibilities. "Wherein have we robbed thee?"
- Mal. 3:13... denying their self-righteousness.
- **King Saul lived in a state of denial which led to his destruction.**
- Beloved, do not pretend, or deny or cover-up your wrong deeds, instead seek God, He will pardon and restore (See Psa. 51, not verse 17).

(6) **King Saul knew that the throne was divinely given to David and that made him bitter, resentful, etc. and that root of bitterness within him wasted him away!!**

- The word "*infuriate*" do have a variety of synonyms, for example: enrage, irritate, provoke, madden, make blood boil, etc.
 - Think of Saul's hatred for David, somehow I would use all these synonyms to assist in describing his bitterness and yet his real problem was **his disobedience**.
 - No time for details on this subject but beloved, Christlikeness and bitterness are totally inconsistent (Heb. 12:15; James 3:14; Eph. 4:31).
- Note how farfetched King Saul was, how unbalanced he was as a leader who had an assignment from God but allowed disobedience and bitterness to destroy him.
 - He didn't destroy the Amalekites as God instructed (1 Sam. 15).
 - However, he slaughtered the city of God's priest' and their families (women and children included) because the priest Ahimelech gave food and a sword to David (1 Sam. 22).
- Saul was so enraged with hate for David that he tried to kill his own son, Jonathan, who loved David (1 Sam. 20, NB Vv.27-34)
- Oh, Beloved, let us love God, obey Him and love others (1 Cor. 13; 1 John 4, Mark 12:29-31; etc.).

(7) **Saul was easily swayed by people's opinion, by looking good in their eyes above God's; he should have focused on being acceptable and pleasing to God!!**

- Looking at my original notes, there is so much in this lesson that I have omitted because of volume of information; however please read carefully 1 Samuel chapters 13, 14 and 15.
- A true leader has to be unafraid at times to do things that are not popular. The task of the leader is not necessarily to do what the people want, but to do what is best for them and then lovingly convince them to follow him.
 - **Saul's character was mostly like a leaf on a tree branch, twisting whichever way the wind blew and that's a danger point for any leadership. He is there first and foremost to be a representative of God doing and communicating His will to the people.**
 - A leader cannot afford to be antagonistic to the point that no one wants to follow him. On the other hand, he cannot always do exactly what they want, because that is not the role of leadership. **We lead, guided by God's will, and leave the challenge for the people to follow as we follow Christ!!**

(8) There are some other points of interest, however, I will close this point with the following:

- Saul never genuinely repented. Repentance is not only sorrow but forsaking sin and to live a righteous life (1 Sam.13:12; 15:24-26).
- Saul was like one who was "born with a silver spoon in his mouth," but abused the privileges, the opportunities that were meant to enhance his dynasty and the cause to which he was called. **He started well and had a promising future.** If he had continued in God's plan, there would have been no need to anoint David king to replace him. See what Samuel told him in 1 Samuel 13:13-14
- A lot of information has been noted above but this I urge you to remember: King Saul's main problem was because **his disobedience**, this was also evident in the example of Adam and Eve. Beloved, "... to obey is better than sacrifice, . . ." (1 Sam. 15:22)
- **IT'S NOT HOW WELL YOU STARTED, IT IS HOW YOU FINISH!!**
Note these quotes:
 - "Faithfulness is shown by staying put. The trees whose wood is most sought after grow on the most rugged slopes of the mountain."
 - What makes a champion is not how elegantly you start, but how strongly you finish."
 - "You can get bitter or you get better. It's that simple. You both take what has been dealt to you and allow it to make you a better person,

or you can allow it to tear you down. The choice does not belong to fate, it belongs to you.”

- “Discipline helps you finish a job and finishing is what separates excellent work from average work.”
- “The minute you think of giving up... Think of the reason why you held on so long.”
- **Heb. 12:2 NIV**
“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

3. King Solomon

(a) Lessons to be Learnt

(1) Some Lessons from the Life of King Solomon

- **First**, when we seek God with all our heart He will be found (1 Kings 3:3-7). This is a basic requirement for all believers and it means that we are to love God with our ALL (Deut. 6:5; Matt 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31).
- **Second**, Those who honor God will be honored by Him (1 Kings 3:11-13; 1 Sam. 2:30). Jesus gave the assurance that if we acknowledge Him before men, He will acknowledge us before the Father (Matt. 10:32).
- **Third**, God will equip us to accomplish the task He calls us to do, if we rely on Him (1 Kings 3; Rom. 4:21; 2 Cor. 9:8; Phil 4:13)
 - You may have heard the statement: “The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.” (2 Cor. 12:9; Isa. 40:10; Eph. 3:16).
 - Remember: (a) God is the One who does the making (Matt. 4:19); (b) He is always with us (Matt. 28:20; (c) we are more than conquerors through Him (Phil.3:13-14; Rom. 8:37).
- **Fourth**, the spiritual life is a marathon, not a sprint. A good start is commendable but not enough to finish well (1 Kings 3 and 11).
 - **Endurance is imperative!**
 - Stay focus on the goal (Phil. 3:1-16, NB Vv. 10-16; etc.)
 - Endure difficulties (Matt 10:22; 24:13; Mark 13:13; etc.).
 - With a made up mind, maintain loving God (Rom. 8:31-39).
 - **Commit and obey**
 - Staying under God’s control (Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17; Col. 1:27)
 - You are divinely kept (2 Tim. 1:12)
- **Fifth**, do not make a lip (word only) commitment but of the heart!!
 - We can sincerely ask God to incline our hearts towards Him (1 Kings 8:57-58), but we will wander off the path of righteousness, if we choose to violate His revealed Word.

- Contrary to God’s written Word concerning kings; Solomon multiplied himself gold, horses, and wives (700 wives and 300 concubines) (Deut. 17:14-17).
- He married non-Jewish women who lived contrary to God’s will (Deut. 7:3, 4; Ex. 34:16).
- **Sixth, be careful who your associates are!!**
 - The saying is still true: “Show me your friends (company) and I will tell you who you are.”
 - We must be extremely careful of the company that we keep because those closest to us will affect our spiritual lives (Ex. 34:16; 1 Kings 11:1-8; Dan. 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:33).
- **Seventh, life without God is meaningless!**
 - Jesus Christ made it very clear that all the riches in this world are of no value in comparison to securing eternal life (Matt. 16:26).
 - Christ also illustrates this fact in the “Parable of the Rich Fool” in Luke 12:13-21.
 - **Life lived apart from God will be meaningless, regardless of education, fulfilled goals, enjoying the greatest of pleasures, and the greatest of an abundance of wealth. (Ecc.1:2; 2:1; 4:16; 11:10; Eph. 4:17)**
 - Give it all to Jesus beloved!! Give it all to Him!! (Rom. 12:1-2; Phil 3, NB Vv.. 8-17)

(2) Lessons from Solomon’s Downfall

The life of Solomon is only one of the many accounts recorded in God’s Word; and these are recorded for our benefit as we travel through this pilgrim land to our eternal home (1 Cor. 10:11). **“The Old Testament is not merely a history of secular events; it contains the revelation of God’s dealing with man. Thus Old Testament history is used to show a pattern of behavior to be followed or avoided.”(From the: Beacon Bible Commentary).**

The lessons in regards to King Solomon, as well as others referred to throughout this study, are recorded within Scriptures for our example and for our admonition (**admonition: friendly reproof or warning**). “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” (1 Cor. 10:12).

- **King Solomon started well but as we saw in King Saul’s situation, it’s not how well you start but how well you finish.**
 - Under Solomon’s rule there was a period of peace and security. His name in the Hebrew means peace which relates with that period of peace and security which was realized during the early period of his reign.
 - His prayer at Gibeon is an example of a leader’s deep desire to lead well and it serves as a model throughout history (1 Kings 3:3-15).

- He advanced his nation to great heights; he expanded the city of Jerusalem, built the glorious Temple and ushered in a Golden Age.
- Unfortunately, things changed for the worse and there are several lessons to be learnt; may all of us take heed lest we fall.
- **The following are quotes from a study by “Got Questions.org”**
 - “It is clear that Solomon was very devout in his early years, but as time went by, he was led by his non-Jewish wives into the worship of other gods.
 - He poured his effort into building a glorious Jerusalem and a magnificent Temple, but the cost of his construction and a strong military drained his treasury and forced him to tax his people heavily, diminishing their quality of life.
 - Solomon became materialistic and greedy. He became obsessed with wealth and extravagant living. In addition he gathered an enormous personal body guard of twelve hundred thousand horsemen, with all related expenses.
 - **Although he began his reign in quiet humility and yearning to be a wise ruler, Solomon’s life was soon marked by immorality, idolatry, dishonesty and intrigue.**
 - The story of Solomon is a tragedy, because, in spite of his closeness to God early in his life, his fame, power and wealth led him away from core values. Jesus once spoke of the danger of gaining the whole world but losing your soul; He very well may have had Solomon in mind.”

(3) Personal Application

Upon evaluating Solomon’s life several things can be noted I will briefly list four that are practically important and necessary for our admonition.

- **First: The outpouring of the blessings of God and the wrong attitude displayed**
 - It is amazing to see how many have become “swell-headed”, etc. because of their accomplishments and ignore the need to acknowledge and appreciate the favor of God.
 - **Satan.** I will begin with the one who introduced disobedience against the will of God. No time for details but in Isa. 14:12-14 we have what is applicable to Satan who intended to exalt himself above God and we know the consequences. Time wouldn’t allow for details but from verse 14, the application may be referring to either Sennacherib (2 Kings 19:36-37; 2 Chron. 32:21; Isa. 37:36) or Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 24:1; 25:8; Dan. 1-5; etc.). **We must remember that pride was the factor that caused Satan to fall and we must safeguard ourselves against this monster in disguise.**

Satan was the one who instigated rebellion and revolution against God until this day; but his doom is certain.

- **Nebuchadnezzar.** He was elated by his great accomplishments and exalted himself but God struck him, and he lived like an animal for a period after which he acknowledged the True and Living God (Dan. 4:34-37; read the chapter for context). God humiliated Nebuchadnezzar to show that almighty God, not Nebuchadnezzar, was Lord of the nations. **No matter how powerful a person may become, self-centered pride will push God out of his or her life. Pride may be one of the most dangerous temptations anyone will face! Oh, beloved, let us be on guard and do not allow our accomplishments to cause us to neglect or disobey God!!**

- **Herod.** Herod was arrayed not only in royal apparel but pride and self-glory!! God struck him and he died a horrible and painful death as he was literally eaten alive inside out by worms. **Pride is a serious sin, and in this case, God chose to punish it immediately, this may not always happen but so it was in the situation with Herod (Acts 12:20-23).**

- **Moses.**
 - = This example is in a different category from the above three examples but has been included that we as believers will be cautious in our walk before God and that we give Him the rightful place in all that we do, to His glory, **He MUST always have the preeminence!!**
 - = Moses was a true servant of God, loyal in his dedication; committed in his service; exemplary as a leader, a truly humble person, etc. **but at that moment of frustration with a difficult people to lead, he failed to obey and acknowledge God. As a result he was denied the opportunity of entering the Promise land of Canaan. (See Num 20, NB Vv. 7-13)**

- Let us be thankful and honor God with our all, sincerely (These references have been quoted frequently throughout this study Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31).
 - = Whether we believe that what we have is a result of our labor or it was handed down to us or given otherwise, beloved, all good things come from God!!

= We need to live with a sense of praise and gratitude to God; we should always remember that to whomever much has been given much shall be required (Luke 12:48).

- The song, "All Good Gifts," is an appropriate reference at this time; below I will quote only the refrain.

"All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above
Then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord for all His love."

- **Psa. 34:1 KJV**

"I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

- **Second: Be on Guard!!**

- In times past we were constantly reminded that as Christians we must always "watch" or "be on guard"
 - My principal in Bible College frequently stressed the need for the believer's watchfulness, noting the fact that our salvation is a "moment by moment experience that needs to be treasured."
 - And yes, there were times that I had my good days and bad days but by God's grace I am what I am today and His grace is sufficient to take me home. My responsibility is to press forward towards the mark of the high calling in Jesus Christ in obedience, humility, surrender, renunciation, etc. **His grace is sufficient!!!**
- In regards to King Solomon, his downfall was his success, wealth and power.
 - In Matt. 13:7, 22. We have an illustration of the "Strangled Heart."
 - This strangulation has been a reality for so many who originally gave positive signs as believers; yet they have allowed things of the world to rob their Christian testimony. Unfortunately they were choked by carnal things and they didn't seek help from the "Balm in Gilead," "The Healer and Restorer," "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29); who is the Author and Finisher of our faith.
 - We do need to be always on guard, protecting what God has freely given unto us!!
 - Personal commitment of prayer, fasting and study of the Word, etc. must be a norm, a way of life for every believer and we must do so with great delight and consistency!!

- There must be regular attendance of worship (corporate worship) and become involved with church activities to the honor and glory of God (not for the praise of men).
 - We must maintain our focus on God, always giving Him first place and live according to His perfect will!!
- **Third: Temporal Things were regarded by Solomon as Vanities of Vanities!!**
 - It is a fact that man has a tendency to crave after and pursue things that do not really satisfy; these worldly pleasures may gratify fleshly desires but such pursuit comes without lasting pleasure and genuine satisfaction, providing they destroy man both spiritually and physically.
 - The world system emphasizes who are the richest, who own the best mansions, most expensive vehicles, best yacht, the most modern private jet, etc. It is all about the rich and famous
 - Many are also attracted to terror groups, gangs, illegal drugs, prostitution, etc. Likewise these groups and habits emphasize satisfying the temporal but come with an awful and devastating price.
 - **The experience of King Solomon shows us that all the wealth and pleasures of this world can be hallow and meaningless.**
 - Solomon had all the riches, entertainment, etc. above and beyond what anyone could desire or even imagine. The problem is that he had no self control as he allowed himself to continually satisfy his greed.
 - But eventually he realized that despite the abundance that he had, it brought him no real joy.
 - = Solomon died a sad and defeated person.
 - = After his death, the kingdom of Israel was split in two, never again to be united and be as strong as it originally was when they walked before God in obedience.
 - The unrighteous may seem to be content, and have a great future although they live in defiance of God and His Word, but remember:
 - The prosperity of the wicked is temporal (Psa. 37:35-36; 73, NB Vv. 1-19)
 - The glory of man is like the most beautiful flower, but it eventually fades (1 Peter 1:24; Psa. 49:17).
 - Real lasting pleasure, genuine satisfaction is found only in God!! The Word of God encourages everyone to seek that which is eternal (2 Cor. 4:18; Heb. 12:27; 1 Peter 1:25)

➤ **The Hymn: I'd Rather Have Jesus**

First Verse

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands;
I'd rather be led by His nail pierced hand.

Refrain

Than to be the king of a vast domain
Or be held in sin's dread sway;
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.

● **Fourth: Solomon's, Repentance/Reformation/Restoration**

- These are debatable issues. There are several areas of disputes in regards to King Solomon over the years but I'd rather stay away from the debates. Two of these highly debated topics are:
- Whether or not King Solomon wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes?
 - The question has been asked, whether or not King Solomon actually repented and was restored?
 - ***I will briefly comment below on these two topics.***
- This much I will note as relates to the author of Ecclesiastes.
- Most scholars have accepted that the Book of Ecclesiastes has been written by Solomon.
 - There has been discussion in regards to the contents of the book as it relates to Solomon. Scholars have emphasized the word "vanity" is typical of Solomon's writing; which is clearly seen for example in Ecclesiastes 12.
- The key word in Ecclesiastes is vanity.
- The word does not mean foolish pride, but **the emptiness in final result of all life apart from God.**
 - We will not say that sinners do not enjoy sin but eventually it becomes obvious that to be happy apart from God is futile and empty.
 - Solomon was the wisest, richest, most influential king in Israel's history and in the Book of Ecclesiastes; he looks at life (Ecc. 1:9) and from a human perspective, declares it all to be empty.
 - Power, popularity, prestige and pleasure cannot fill the God-shaped void in man. Yet what a difference when God is in control of an individual's life!
- Focusing and exalting the gift instead of the giver means trouble!!
Briefly note:
- This is seen in Adam's situation; Eve was God's gift to him but he lost focus of the Giver and focused on the gift!

- Solomon asked of God wisdom and God blessed him with wisdom and abundantly more; unfortunately, he focused on and was controlled by the gifts not the Giver. He lost focus so much that he allowed heathen religions to be practiced and which eventually strangled his affection and devotion, etc that he had for God.
- Etc.
- Among several sources there are uncertainties about Solomon's repentance and eventually his restoration.
 - No one needs to go through life and remain uncertain that he/she has eternal life. Jesus Christ made such a reality possible (1 John 5:1; etc.)
 - We all need to continuously let God be **first in our lives** (Matt. 6:3); we must daily abide in Him (John 15:1-8); God is able to keep our commitment, yes, He is able!! (2 Tim. 1:12).
 - If you increase in earthly riches, you must stay in control, do not allow success or anything else to control you and take the place of God in your life (Psa. 62:10; 52:7; Mark 10:24; 1 Tim. 6:17).
- **Ecc. 12:1, 6-7, 11-14 NKJV**
 "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth; before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them. . . . Remember your Creator before the silver is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken at the well. Then the dust will return to God who gave it. . . . The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of the scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one shepherd. And furthermore, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing whether good or evil."

(b) **An Outline Presentation Based on King Solomon (*With brief comments*)**

He was a man of wisdom and folly.

(1) **Dedication**

- Obviously, there was a wholehearted dedication that characterized King Solomon during the first period of his reign.
- Observe how he commenced his reign with a request to lead his nation well (effectively) (1 Kings 3:3-35, NB Vv. 7-9; 2 Chron. 1:7-12)

(2) **Divine Favor**

- God's response to his request for wisdom, was granted but God added riches and honor (1 Kings 3:10-15)

- His fame, glory of his kingdom, etc. was world renown and surpassed other kings of the earth (1 Kings 4:29-34; 10, NB Vv 23-24)
- His expansion was impressive and he was showered with numerous gifts and tributes from others (1 Kings 4; 9:26-28; 10, NB Vv. 23-24)
- Fulfilling God's plan in building the Temple, it is obvious that he was blessed with all that was necessary to accomplish this particular assignment (1 Kings 5, and 6).

(3) **Departure from the Pathway**

- The Jewish nation had in place what was necessary for the people to know the Word and will of God in order to live a holy and happy life:
 - They knew the consequences of disobedience (Deut. 28:15-68, NB v. 15; etc.)
 - There was a law in place in regard to marrying those from the heathen nations (Gen, 24:3; 28:1; Deut. 7:3; Josh. 23:12; Ezra 9:12; etc.).
 - David had specifically cautioned Solomon; it was a solemn charge of the importance of living in obedience of the Word and will of God (1 Kings 2:1-4)
 - God Himself cautioned Solomon as to the conditions to be met in order for his reign as king and for the continuation of his dynasty. This condition of loyal obedience to the Word and will of God was also applicable to all his successors (1 Kings 3:5-15; 2 Chron. 7:17-22).
- In Matt. 1:7, 22, we have an example of the **"Strangled Heart"** (*noted before but it is important to repeat*): King Solomon is an example of the "Strangled Heart." He allowed things to choke the Word and create a life of rebellion to the known will of God.
- Disobedience, leads to sin, sin is transgression, straying from the right way to a life of apostasy (Neh. 13:23-31, NB Vv. 26-27).

(4) **Delight in Carnal Things ... Gratifying the Desires of the Flesh**

- Obviously, Solomon was controlled by the lust of the flesh; the lust of the eyes; and the pride of life (1 John 2:16).
- As noted before, he was a man of wisdom and folly and his folly is easily observed:
 - In luxurious living (1 Kings 4:22; 10:21)
 - In marrying heathen women (1 Kings 11:1-2; Neh. 13:23-26)
 - In Excessive sensuality (1 Kings 11:3)
 - In oppressing the people (1 Kings 9:15; 12:4)
 - In sanctioning idolatry (1 Kings 11:4-7)
- He delighted in these things so much that he seemed not to have enough, despite what he had (gold, silver, copper, women, various means of entertainment, etc.). He loved these things so much that they controlled him.

(5) Decline

- The following will be a limited listing of some areas wherein King Solomon declined.
 - There was a decline in his commitment to the True and Living God. This was the worst and most devastating area of his life because it meant a departure from the way of righteousness, and genuine commitment which was (is) one of the most effective ways to maintain an intimate, personal relationship with God.
 - He originally began to lead with wisdom but declined to a life of folly.
 - His name in Hebrew means peace and under his leadership Israel experienced a period of peace and security (much thanks to David, his father, who God used to subdue the enemies of Israel). Solomon's sins changed that period of peace and security and opened the way to trouble and unrest from within his kingdom and from other nations (1 Kings 11:9-43).
 - He inherited a united Jewish nation which would be divided because of his apostasy (1 Kings 11:9-43; 12, NB Vv. 16-19)
 - The following quote is taken from Thompson's Chain Reference Bible.
"His life furnishes a great warning
 He is known as the wisest man, yet his wisdom did not teach him self-control. He taught well but failed to practice his own precepts. He describes the fool in the Book of Proverbs and thus draws a vivid picture of his own fallings."

(6) Distressed by the Enemy

- There was a decline from peace to periods of distress, turmoil and conflicts.
 - By foreign nations (1 Kings 11:14-25; 2 Chron. 12)
 - From within the nation of Israel (1 Kings 11:26-40)
 - The enemies of Israel stripped Judah of their wealth, for example see 2 Chron. 12:9-10. After his death this invasion and defeat was the experience of both the Northern and Southern kingdoms which resulted from Israel's apostasy.
- There was a time when Solomon enjoyed peace, security and prosperity but his ungodly policies and lifestyle reversed this situation.
 - The Scripture says "God is angry with the wicked every day" (Psa. 7:11)
 - People may enjoy a life of sin but the fact remains that sin is rebellion against God and the unrighteous is like the "troubled sea." (Isa. 57:20)
 - In this study, I have made several references to Israel during the time of the judges.
 - When they forsook God, the enemy was allowed to distress them (Judges 2:6-23; etc.)

- When they repented God raised up a deliverer (Judges 2:18; etc.)
- How sad, however, they never seem to learn because when the deliverer of judge died they once more returned to a life of disobedience (Judges 2:19; etc.)
- The psalmist said “Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word” (Psa. 119:67).
- We are also taught that God chastises who He loves and it results in the individual’s good (Heb. 12:4-11)
- **The grim reality is, if anyone refuses to repent (*repent: sorrow for sin and stop sinning and yield wholly to God*) he will likewise perish (Luke 13:3, 5)**
- Indeed, sin is a reproach to any people, any nation!!(Prov. 14:34)

(7) DISASTER!!

King Solomon had a “goodly heritage” (Psa. 16:6) he had much at his disposal; his father not only secured the kingdom but had a great resource of supplies in place for the building of the Temple; for example: building material, the blue print etc. 1 Chron. 28 and 29. God Himself guaranteed His favor as long as he (Solomon) continues to live in obedience to His Word and will (see again 1 Kings 3:11-15; 2 Chron. 7:17-22). The future looked good for Solomon but it required commitment to a life of obedience in pursuit of godly living!! Unfortunately, disobedience led to a disastrous experience!! For coverage of Solomon’s life see 2 Sam. 12, NB Vv. 24-25; 1 Kings 1 to 11 and 2 Chron. 1 to 9.

The following are briefly stated and not presented in a chronological order.
Disobedience results in consequences and such was true in the situation with King Solomon.

- That which was bright and glorious became dismal, pessimistic and miserable.
- That which glowed and beamed across the then-known world became, dark, dull and was threatened with obscurity.
- The glory of God arrayed Israel in glory, brilliance and magnificence; straying from God made them become insignificant and lived as those who were ignorant of the True and Living God.
- That which was a mighty, powerful nation was overcome with moral weakness, powerless to resist evil and actually became incapable of resisting and destroying heathen practices.
- Initially, Solomon sought God and was blessed by Him but Solomon’s wisdom became of little value to him as he pursues a life of folly and as some describe him, he became a wise/foolish leader.

- He inherited a period of peace and security but his apostasy turned his later years into a period of turmoil, strife and war.
- He inherited a united kingdom but due to his transgressions it would be divided into two kingdoms (this became a reality after his death).
- Kingdoms that were subdued eventually became thorns in the flesh, and they strengthened themselves against Israel and maintained a period of conflicts until both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms were taken into captivity.
- Solomon loved God, he was dedicated to God but that dedication later became apathy, indifference and unfaithfulness.
- He wanted to lead the people wisely but in order to enhance his greed, extravagance, selfishness, etc. he grievously taxed his people, thus making their lives miserable.
- Solomon's government had no real sense of world missions. They had all the opportunities to teach other nations about the True and Living God but there is no record that this was done or even attempted. On the other hand, heathen religions and practices were allowed to infiltrate and these devious, destructive practices remained as a stumbling block for years.

This was disastrous and serves as a warning to us to live holy lives, daily committing ourselves to obedience to the perfect will of God, loving Him with our all and fulfill the mandate Jesus Christ gave to the Church.
(1 Peter 1:15-16; Mark 12: 29-31; Matt. 28:19-20)

C. The Curses of Disobedience Deut. 28:15-68

This will only be an outline presentation, especially due to the volume of material. We have seen so many place great emphases on the first fourteen verses of Deut. 28 but completely ignore these 54 verses. Comments are not possible but this I do need to emphasize: "The love of God is unconditional; the promises of God are conditional." The word "if" in verse 1 tells us that the promises laid out in verses 1-14 are conditional. They were (are) guaranteed based upon OBEDIENCE!! I will have a brief coverage on these first fourteen verses of Deut. 28 done in lesson 3 (of this chapter)

AN OUTLINE PRESENTATION Deut. 28:15-68

1. The First Set of Curses: Cursed Because of Disobedience and Stubbornly Refusing to Live by God's Standards (Vv. 15-46)

- (a) Continuity of being cursed ... wherever you are (v. 16)
- (b) The curse of basic necessities ... insufficiency (v. 17)
- (c) The curse on posterity and production (. 18)
- (d) The curse on all daily transactions (v. 19)
- (e) Comprehensive curses, confusion and frustration (v. 20)
 - (1) The result: Utter destruction (v. 20)

- (2) The reason: Forsaking God (v. 20)
- (f) The curse of consuming deadly diseases and plagues (Vv. 21-22a)
- (1) Wasting away of the body (consumption) (v. 22a)
 - (2) Fever and inflammation (v. 22a)
- (g) The curse on crops, all plant life and vegetation (Vv. 22b-24)
- (1) Heat and drought (v. 22b)
 - (2) Blight (plant disease) and mildew (fungus) (v. 22b)
 - (3) Drought ... thus resulting in hard, iron-like soil (v.23)
 - (4) Soil-like dust and powder blowing about in rain-like sand storms (v. 24)
- (h) The curse of defeat by the enemies (Vv. 25-26)
- (1) Terrorized by all other nations (v. 25)
 - (2) Carcasses eaten by birds and beast of the earth (v. 26)
- (i) The curse of painful, incurable diseases (physical and mental afflictions) (Vv. 27-28)
- (1) The plagues of Egypt (which they feared) (v. 27)
 - (2) Mental distress, confusion (mental blindness and fearful heart ... panic mode) (v. 28)
- (j) The curse of darkness, doom and distress (v. 29)
- (1) They rejected light, now they will fumble and stumble even with the midday glow (v. 29)
 - (2) Tragic situation ... lack of success (v. 29)
 - (3) Continually robbed and oppressed (v. 29)
- (k) The curse of tyranny from an oppressing nation (Vv. 30-35)
- (1) One's fiancée or wife will be raped (v. 30)
 - (2) Deprived of the ownership of their property
 - (3) One's harvest will be reaped and another will take it (v. 30)
 - (4) Livestock will be taken by force (v. 31)
 - (5) Children will be enslaved (v. 32)
 - (6) Crops will be plundered by strangers (v. 33)
 - (7) Oppression and defeat continuously experienced (v. 33)
 - (8) Afflictions will lead to mental distress and mental sickness (v. 34)
 - (9) Physical afflictions will continue to be experienced (v. 35; also Vv. 27-28)
- (l) The curse of exile ... taken to a strange land and exposed to idolatry (v. 36)
- (1) Compelled to serve false gods (v. 36)
 - (2) They will become a means of mockery, scorn and horror in the land of their exile (v. 36)
- (m) The curse of a ravaged economy (Vv. 38-44)
- (1) Despite the input of energy, effort, investment, the harvest will be destroyed by locust (v. 38)
 - (2) The harvest of the vineyard will yield little because of worms (v. 39)
 - (3) There will be no anointing oil because of failed production of olive trees (v. 40).
 - (4) Posterity not enjoyed because of captivity (v. 41)

- (5) Locust will continue to ruin plant life (v. 42; see also Vv.22-24, 38)
 - (6) Become subservient and will suffer under alien leadership (v. 43)
 - (7) Plagued with financial liabilities (v. 44)
 - (8) Will become the dregs of society; lose exalted position (v. 44)
 - (n) The curses: Definitely, positively they come upon you! They will pursue and overtake you until you are destroyed (Vv 45-46)
 - (1) The reason: Disobedience – you refused to obey the Lord (v. 45b)
 - (2) The purpose of the curses: To be a sign, a warning (v. 46)
2. **The second set of curses: Cursed due to lack of service, failing to serve God Vv. 47-57**
- (a) The curse of being under subjection of one’s enemy (Vv. 48-52)
 - (1) They will leave you hungry, thirsty, naked and poverty stricken (v. 48)
 - (2) You will be enslaved and destroyed (v. 48)
 - (3) Enemy from afar will swiftly and savagely crush you (v. 49)
 - (4) They will be ferocious and cold-hearted nation (v. 50)
 - (5) They will consume your food supply, livestock and crops until you starve and are destroyed.
 - (6) They will besiege and tear down all your cities (v. 52)
 - (b) The curse of intense suffering, inhumane situation under affliction of the enemy: The ghastly, repulsive horror of eating flesh of dead children (Vv. 53-57)
 - (1) Even the most tenderhearted and delicate man will have no compassion for his family: starvation will make him so degenerate and depraved that he will eat the flesh of his own children and share with his family (Vv. 54-55).
 - (2) Even the most tender and delicate woman will become callous and cruel: she will secretly eat after-birth and newborn children from her womb (Vv. 56-57).
3. **The third set of curses: Curses due to lack of fear and reverence for God—failing to fear His glorious and awesome name, “The Lord your God.” (Vv. 56-68).**
- (a) The curse of fearful plagues, harsh and prolong disasters and severe and lingering sickness (Vv. 59-61)
 - (1) They dread the plagues of Egypt but these will cling to them (v. 60; also v. 27)
 - (2) They will suffer every kind of disease, even those recorded in the Book of Law (v. 61)
 - (b) The curse of being almost annihilated, exterminated – reduced to a very small population (Vv. 62-63a)
 - (1) The Lord had increased your number (v. 63a)
 - (2) The Lord will decrease your population (v. 6b)
 - (c) The curse of being uprooted and scattered among all nations (Vv. 63b-68)
 - (1) Will worship false gods: commit idolatry and false worship (v. 64)
 - (2) Will find no security or resting place (v. 65a)
 - (3) Will have a mind gripped by anxiety, eyes that are weary and longing and hearts that are filled with sorrow and despair (v. 65b).

- (4) Will live in constant doubt, fear and hopelessness (v. 66)
- (5) Will be gripped by terror: in the morning one will wish it were evening and in the evening wish it were morning (v. 67)
- (6) Will even be scattered in Egypt and offer oneself as a slave: but no one will buy you (v. 68)

The hymn: Trust and Obey

First Verse

When we walk with the Lord, in the light of His Word,
 What a glory He sheds on our way!
 While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
 And with all who will trust and obey.

Fourth Verse

But we never can prove the delights of His love
 Until all on the altar we lay;
 For the favor He shows and the joy He bestows
 Are for them who will trust and obey.

Refrain

Trust and obey,
 For there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus
 But to trust and obey

2 Tim 2:15

KJV

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Amplified Bible

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.”

Chapter 3 Lesson 1 Review Questions

1. What does the word “treasure” used in 2 Cor. 4:7 (KJV) refers to?

2. Complete the following:

The life of (a) _____ is indeed (b) _____
 but we need to understand that it (c) _____ separation from
 the (d) _____ and unto (e) _____.

3. In regards to defining disobedience, how would you briefly explain (a) Objective and Practical (b) Ethical and Psychological terms used?

4. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer.

In the first epistle of John, it has been stated that the believer definitely will sin.

5. Complete the following:

When we (a) _____ God, the message we (b) _____
 is that His (c) _____, His (d) _____ and His way are not
 (e) _____ to us; we'll simply do what we want to do (f)
 _____ of what His desires are (g) _____
 concerning our choices.

6. Choose the correct answer to complete the following:
Sin hardens people’s hearts and makes them very selfish because it is all about

_____.

- (a) what is important.
- (b) the good result.
- (c) what they want.
- (d) the pathway ahead.

7. Explain the following statement:
“Disobedience denies God of His rightful place in our lives.”

8. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain you answer.
Idolatry is only when one worship gods made of wood, stone or any other created thing.
(c) Briefly define what an idol is.

9. Complete the following:
“When you (a) _____ the rule, you sell your (b) _____.
You (c) _____ your real you. The daily (d) _____
of your life is (c) _____ and (f) _____
by the rule of living.

10. Choose the correct answer to complete the following:
“Every person has free choice. Free to obey or disobey the Natural Laws. Your choices

- (a) determines the consequences.
- (b) divinely guides you.
- (c) delivers your requests
- (d) damage no one.

11. What does it say about an individual when he loves and lives a life of disobedience to the Word and will of God?

12. What are some physical consequences of disobedience?

13. Briefly explain the emotional consequences of disobedience.

14. Explain what is meant by the “massive implication” of disobeying God’s laws.

15. What is the main reason why Satan continuously devises plans to keep us from obeying God?

16. Complete the following:

We need to (a) _____ ourselves up and (b) _____ that we are (c) _____ for our (d) _____, thoughts, (e) _____ an actions.

17. Adam was given authority over all living creatures. Briefly explain what was involved in such given authority.

18. Briefly list at least seven consequences that resulted because of Adam's sin Give reference where applicable.

19. Although God pronounced judgment on Adam and Eve, in what ways He also demonstrated His mercy and grace (example see Gen. 3:15, 21)?

20. Complete the following:

Saul (a) _____ as king until the time of his (b) _____ but throughout his (c) _____, he lived in a sphere of (d) _____, fear, and (e) _____; it was a (f) _____ condition which was a result of his (g) _____.

21. Match the statements on the left with their correct reference listed on the right.

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCES	JUMBLED REFERENCES
Denying the need for penitence and returning to God		Mal. 1:2
Denying the facts as to why God rejected their worship		Mal. 3:8
Denying God’s love for them.		Mal. 1:7
Denying their self-righteousness		Mal. 3:7
Denying sacrificing wrongly		Mal. 2:13,14
Denying the neglect of their financial dishonesty and responsibilities.		Mal. 3:13

22. “The spiritual life is a marathon;” how was this explained in our lesson?

23. Complete the following:

The story of Solomon is a (a) _____ because in spite of his (b) _____ to God (c) _____ in his life, his (d) _____, power and (e) _____ led him away from core (f) _____.

24. Choose the correct answer to complete the following:

The experience of King Solomon shows us that all the wealth and pleasures of this world can be _____.

25. (a) What is the key word in the Book of Ecclesiastes? (b) What does it mean?

We will discuss the answers to as many questions as possible in our next class.