

Central Study Hour – Sabbath School Lesson Notes

“Stewardship”: Lesson 4, “Escape From the World’s Ways”

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read the Memory Text. *Are riches bad? In the day of wrath, will it matter if a person was rich or poor? What phrase in the M.V. shows what can be the problem with riches? “He who trusts in his riches.” According to the verse, what is easily more important, righteousness or riches?*

Share highlights from the 2nd paragraph. Only Jesus can provide the way of escape from the world’s ways.

SUNDAY: “A Relationship With Christ”

Read the 1st sentence. *Why can worldly possessions bind a poor person as much as a rich person? Read the rest of the 1st paragraph.*

“What is our only protection?” Read Col. 3:2 (quarterly). How do we do what Paul tells us to do?

Read Psalm 119:11. Keep in God’s Word for help against sin.

Eph. 6:18 tells us to pray watching with perseverance.

Being in the Word and in prayer are critical elements for having a relationship with Christ. “The only cure for worldliness, in whatever form it comes, is a continual devotion to Christ” through prayer and the Word.

Read the last paragraph.

What should we be keeping our mind focused upon?

Read Phil. 4:8 (Comment if needed). *Can we maintain focus like this without prayer and being in the Word?*

Discuss the box at the bottom of the page.

MONDAY: “In the Word”

To have a relationship with Christ we must be “in the Word.”

Read or Share Highlights from the opening two paragraphs.

What does each of the following texts say about Jesus and why He is so important to us and to all that we believe? **John 5:39.** Scripture testifies of Jesus.

John 14:6. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life; the only way to the Father.

John 20:31. Believing in Jesus is the way to life.

Read or share highlights from the middle paragraph.

Read Romans 8:5-6. *What are we being warned against here? Don’t follow after the flesh or be carnally minded as that leads to death. “Love of the world never elevates the mind to spiritual morality; instead, it replaces biblical principles with greed, selfishness, and lust.”*

What is contrasted with being carnally minded? Following after the Spirit, being spiritually minded which leads to life and peace.

This page’s point is about getting into the Word. *How can the study of the Word of God help in*

our struggle over being spiritually minded versus being carnally minded? God's Word helps us become spiritually minded. "That's why we must keep ourselves in the Word, which points us to eternal and spiritual realities that are so crucial for the Christian life."

Read Romans 8:4. *What does Paul say is possible for the Christian who walks after the Spirit, who is truly spiritually minded? They fulfill or live out the righteousness of the law – that would be impossible without the power of the Spirit.*

TUESDAY: "The Life of Prayer"

Read or highlight the 1st paragraph.

Share the Samuel Chadwick quotation from the Teachers' Comments, p. 54-55. Share from the top half of p. 55, including "Consider This."

"By its very nature, prayer points us to a higher realm than that of the world itself. Yet even here, we must be careful, because sometimes our prayers can be merely an expression of our own selfish nature. That's why we need to pray in submission to the will of God....We, too, must be sure that when we pray....we are seeking God's will, not just our own."

Read Heb. 11:1-6. *What is the crucial component that must be mingled with our prayers? Faith. According to verse 6, what does it mean to exercise faith in praying? We must believe that He is, and that He rewards them that diligently seek Him.*

Read the whole last paragraph.

Share the box at the bottom of the page for deep thought.

WEDNESDAY: "The Life of Wisdom"

Highlight the opening paragraph.

Read the first question and answer from **I Kings 3:14**. Read the second question and answer from **I John 5:3** and **I Peter 4:17**.

How could Solomon, who had such great wisdom, go off track so badly? "Solomon's lack of obedience caused him to stray from the paths to which the Lord had called him."

But why? How? He became confident in self and as a result he abused his spiritual gifts.

"Only later in life did he truly come to his senses, writing in humility: 'For wisdom is better than rubies, and all things one may desire cannot be compared with her' (Prov. 8:11)."

Share highlights from the next to last paragraph (difference between wisdom and knowledge). Living it out shows wisdom is the ability to make good decisions and find solutions to challenges.

THURSDAY: "The Holy Spirit"

The Holy Spirit has a huge part in giving us a way to escape from the world's ways.

Share the first paragraph and the 1st sentence of the 2nd paragraph. "The Holy Spirit empowers us to live by principle and by faith."

Share highlights from the 3rd paragraph.

“Success in the battle with the world and its lures will be accomplished only from outside of ourselves.” *When we let the Holy Spirit take possession of us, what things does each of the following verses say that God will do to ensure that we have spiritual victory?*

Ez. 36:26-27. God will give us a new heart and a new Spirit.

John 14:26. The Comforter, the Holy Spirit will teach us all we need and help us remember.

Eph. 3:16-17. We will receive inner strength through Christ dwelling in our hearts.

Share the quotation from *The Desire of Ages*, p. 671.

Highlight the last paragraph.

Share the box at the bottom of the page. *What has the lesson emphasized?* A powerful relationship with Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit in our prayer life and being in God’s Word. If we don’t get into the Word regularly, and pray regularly, we die spiritually.

For deeper contemplation ask “Application Questions” #1, 2, and 7 from p. 56 in the Teachers’ Comments. If Sabbath School class is only a discussion on the lesson that doesn’t lead to real time in prayer and in the Word, that is fatal if it doesn’t change.

Conclusion: **From Friday’s page.**

“A steward operates from the twin principles of duty and love.”

Read 4T 62 from the opening paragraph.

“Duty is love in action.”

“In contrast are the principles of the world: hate and its twin, rebellion. Rebellion can be hate in action.”

Discuss and answer the questions under #1.

(Love without duty is disobedience and/or sentimentalism. Duty without love is uncaring and/or legalism. We must be both caring/loving and obedient!)