

## Sabbath School Lesson #12 – The Biblical Worldview – 10-16 December 2022

**C**hrist is the sanctified heir of all that believe. He “of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30). All who are in Christ are saints and will not be corrupted by the worldly view. True Christianity will survive all lawful contact with the darkness of the world. Christ’s prayer was, “I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil” (John 17:15). Joseph in the house of Potiphar, Nehemiah in the court of Artaxerxes, Daniel and his three friends in the palace of the king of Babylon, are shining examples of saints during the worst kind of heathenism. When Christ shall come the second time, it will be “to be glorified in all His saints” (2 Thessalonians 1:10). But He will be glorified in all those who believe on Him, for all His people are to be changed, and “fashioned like unto His glorious body” (Philippians 3:21). Therefore all who believe in Christ are His saints. A saint is one who is sanctified, and Christ is the sanctified heir of all that believe. Christ is not divided. He is not one thing to one person, and another thing to another person. All that He is to one, He is to all. God is no respecter of persons, and therefore He has no special favourites among His children. Christ’s prayer for all who should believe on Him, was “that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me” (John 17:23). And so, the possibility for all, and to which all are called, is shown by the inspired prayer, “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

**Sunday: The Model of Jesus** – After presenting the depiction of Jesus, quoting Luke 2:52 and *Desire of Ages* pages 68-69, the Lesson writer states: “And though, as fallen beings, we will never be equal to the depiction of Jesus as presented above, we are by God’s grace to emulate it.” How are Christians to emulate Christ? “They will partake of the nature of Christ, and their lives will emulate his example” {2SP 210.1}. How do they partake of the nature of Christ? By Christ dwelling in them. “So by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous” (Romans 5:19). Men are not saved through their own obedience, but through the obedience of Christ. Here is where the skeptic cavils, and says that it is unjust that one man’s obedience should be counted as another’s. But the man who rejects the counsel of the Lord does not know anything about justice, and is not qualified to speak in the case. The Bible does not teach us that God calls us righteous simply because Jesus of Nazareth was righteous many thousand years ago. But it says that by His obedience we are made righteous. Notice that it is present, actual righteousness. The trouble with those who object to the righteousness of Christ being imputed to believers is that they do not take into consideration the fact that Jesus lives. He is alive today, as much as when he was in Judea. “He ever liveth,” and He is “the same yesterday and to-day, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). His life is as perfectly in harmony with the law now as it was then. He lives in the hearts of those who believe on Him. Therefore, it is Christ’s present obedience in believers that makes them righteous. They can do nothing of themselves; Christ in His love does it in them. They can say, “I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Jesus prayed to His Father, “Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth” (John 17:17); and as He is the Divine Word He also said: “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). Christ dwells in the heart by faith (Ephesians 3:17). The perfect righteousness of the law is found only in Him. It is in Him in absolute perfection. “This is the work of God that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent” (John 6:29). It is not per se that the more we read the Bible we become sanctified; No! The Bible is the written word, but it is the author of the Bible, Jesus, through who God sanctifies us. The Jews searched the scripture for sanctification, ignoring Christ and killing Him to retain their written word. But Jesus said to them, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39). He who truly knows Christ knows the truth, and so can tell the truth, for the truth is the very life of Christ in the believer. God sanctifies us only through Christ. “But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” (1

Corinthians 1:30). You need Christ for sanctification. God has given everything in the life of Christ. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). When God says, "Thou shalt not," we may take it as His assurance that if we but trust Him He will preserve us from the sin against which He warns us. God's law is fulfilled in you through Christ who is "able to keep you from falling" (Jude 1:24). It is not you who are to do that, which the Lord pleases, but the word of God, "it shall accomplish that which I please" (Isaiah 55:11). You are not to read the word of God and say, 'I will do that,' but open your heart to "the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (1 Thessalonians 2:13) and "let the word of Christ dwell in you" (Colossians 3:16) that it may accomplish the will of God in you.

**Monday: The Body as a Temple** – How can understanding our bodies as "the temple of God" (1 Cor. 6:19-20 and 10:31) positively influence our lifestyle? We are asked: "Shall we who have had such great opportunities allow the people of the world to go in advance of us in health reform? Shall we cheapen our minds and abuse our talents by wrong eating? Shall we transgress God's holy law by following selfish practices? Shall our inconsistency become a byword? Shall we live such unchristianlike lives that the Saviour will be ashamed to call us brethren?" {RH May 27, 1902, Art. A, par. 14}. "Far better give up the name of Christian than make a profession and at the same time indulge appetites which strengthen unholy passions" {RH May 27, 1902, Art. A, par. 15}. Remember, it is "the Lord that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26). All natural remedies are only God's agencies. It is God "who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:3-4). "The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17). If we use natural remedies with faith, we have real life; without faith, we have no real life at all. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12). The life of faith must live in our body. We read: "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). If we use natural agencies with faith, we acknowledge that "in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

**Tuesday: The Mind of Christ** – What mind should be in us and what are characteristics of that mind? "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). The mind of Christ was characterised by: (i) Humility (Philippians 2:6-8); (ii) Dependence upon God (John 5:19, 30); (iii) Determination to do only the Father's will (John 5:30; 6:38); (iv) Thoughtfulness of others (Acts 10:38; John 14:10; Matthew 20:28; Luke 22:27); and (v) Willingness to sacrifice or suffer for others (2 Corinthians 8:9; Romans 5:6-8; 1 Peter 2:24).

**Wednesday: The Guidance of the Spirit** – Lest we be guided by a false spirit, is the "Holy Spirit," "Spirit of God," "the Spirit of Christ," different? There is one Spirit (Ephesians 4:4). That one Holy Spirit is the personal and omnipresent Spirit of the Father and the Son (Romans 8:8-10) and flows forth from the Father and Son as their Spirit (Revelation 22:1). It is through this mighty agency that Christ personally comforts us and strengthens us. "Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil" — Ellen White {DA 671.2}. "It is not safe to catch the spirit from another. We want the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ" — Ellen White {Lt66-1894 (April 10, 1894) par. 18}.

**Thursday: Ready for His Appearing** – What will be the sign and when will Christ return? The Saviour's discourse to His disciples upon the Mount of Olives, gives in answer to their query, "What shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3). Yet no man can know the exact time of Christ's coming. Christ said, "of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven but My Father only" (Matthew 24:36). Our duty is not to set dates for Christ's return; but it is to "watch" and be "ready," taking heed to the condition of our hearts. The person who attempts to fix upon the exact date of his Lord's return is not obeying the Lord's command to "watch." To watch for a thing is to look for it, without knowing when it is to appear. We are told what the attitude of those who will be watching and waiting: their hearts will not be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life (Luke 21:34). They will "walk honestly, as in the day" (Romans 13:11-14); be "sober," having on "the breastplate of faith and love," and rejoicing in "the hope of salvation" (1 Thessalonians 5:8); manifest "all holy conversation and godliness" (2 Peter 3:11); "exhorting one another," more so as they "see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).