

SS-Q4-L13-Epilogue: Knowing Jesus and His Work

December 21-27, 2024

Adult

Sabbath School Lesson

Meat in Due Season

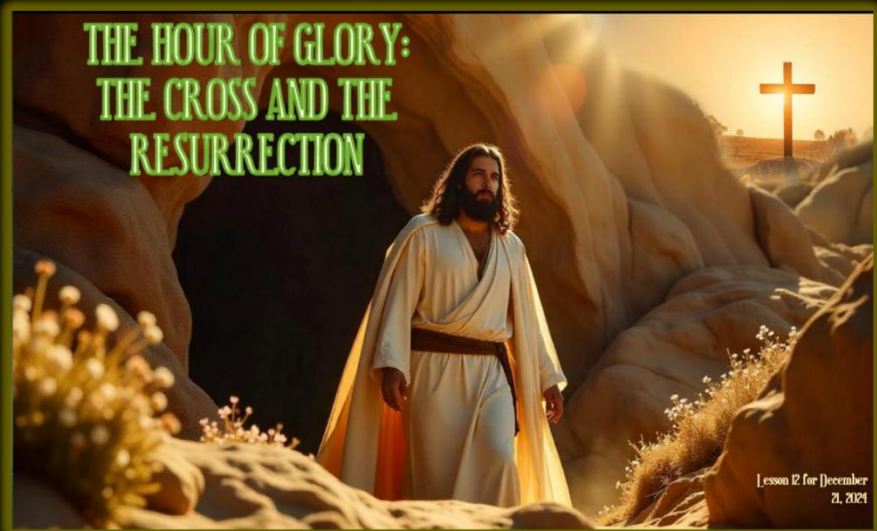
Oct Nov Dec 2024

Themes in the
GOSPEL of JOHN
4th Quarter



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THE HOUR OF GLORY:
THE CROSS AND THE
RESURRECTION



Lesson 12 for December
21, 2024

Sabbath Afternoon—December 21, 2024

Scripture Reading for the Week:

[John 21:1-25](#); [John 11:9-10](#); [John 8:42-44](#); [John 4:46-54](#); [2 Timothy 3:16](#);
[John 15:1-11](#).

Thought for Meditation

The present is a time of great peril to the people of God. God is leading out a people, not an individual here and there. . . . “Take heed, therefore, how ye hear” is an admonition of Christ. We are to hear for the sake of learning the truth, that we may walk in it. And again: “Take heed what ye hear.” Examine closely, “prove all things,” “believe not every spirit.” . . . This is the counsel of God; shall we heed it? {CTr 332.2}

Memory Verse

“ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me ’ ” (John 5:39).

"This week's Sabbath School lesson will have the following objectives:

To Emphasize the Importance of Scripture

Highlight the central role of the Bible as the inspired Word of God (**2 Timothy 3:16**) and its purpose in pointing to Christ as the source of eternal life (**John 5:39**).

To Encourage Discernment

Urge believers to examine and prove all teachings carefully (**John 8:42-44; 1 Thessalonians 5:21**), following Christ's admonition to "take heed how and what you hear" (**CTr 332.2**).

To Strengthen Faith in Christ's Power and Presence:

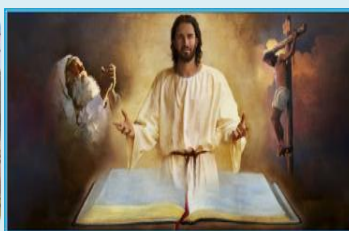
Reflect on miracles (e.g., **John 4:46-54**) and Christ's assurance of guidance even in challenging times (**John 11:9-10**), fostering trust in His ability to lead His people.

To Foster a Life of Abiding in Christ:

Explore the metaphor of Christ as the True Vine (**John 15:1-11**) to encourage believers to remain connected to Him for spiritual growth and fruitfulness.

To Promote Corporate Unity:

Emphasize that God is leading a collective body, not just individuals, and inspire a commitment to unity in truth and purpose within the faith community.



Outline of the Study

The Epilogue of the Gospel of John

Sunday-December 22, 2024

Meeting in Galilee-The Restoration of Peter (John 21:1-19)

[John 13:37, 38](#); [John 20:1-31](#); [John 21:1-19](#); [Luke 5:1-11](#).

Monday-December 23, 2024

Keeping your Eyes on Jesus-The Right Approach (John 21:20-27)

[John 21:18, 19, 20-22, 23-25](#).

Knowing Jesus and His Word

Tuesday-December 24, 2024

Light and Darkness - Light and Darkness

[John 1:4-10, 18](#); [3:19-21](#); [5:35](#); [8:12, 42-44](#); [9:5](#); [11:9-10](#); [12:35](#).

Wednesday-December 25, 2024

Theology from "Above" or from "Below" - How to Interpret the Word

[John 4:46-54](#); [6:14-15](#); [7:17](#); [8:31](#); [12:48-49](#); [14:23](#); [2 Timothy 3:16](#).

Thursday-December 26, 2024

Abiding in Jesus-Remain in Jesus

[John 12:32](#); [John 15:1-11](#); [Revelation 14:1-12](#)

Friday-December 27, 2024

Insights and Further Study

From the Pen of Inspiration

Points to Ponder Upon

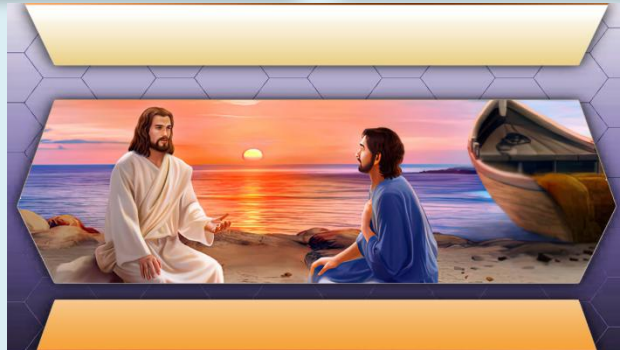
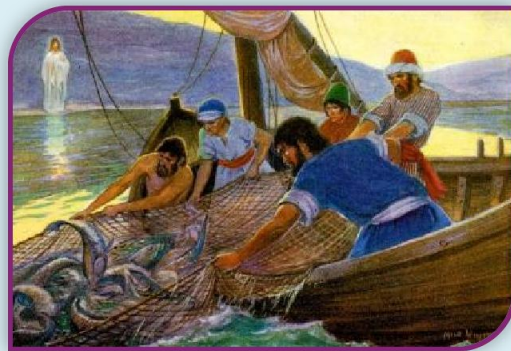
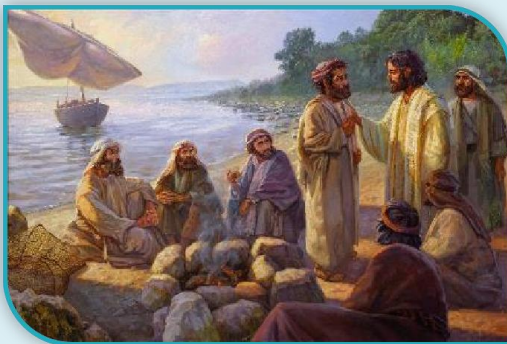
The Epilogue of the Gospel of John

Sunday-December 22, 2024

Meeting in Galilee - The Restoration of Peter (John 21:1-19)

[John 13:37, 38](#); [John 20:1-31](#); [John 21:1-19](#); [Luke 5:1-11](#).

"So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?' He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him, 'Feed My lambs.' " (John 21:15)



This passage, particularly **John 21:1-19**, beautifully encapsulates the restoration of Peter after his denial of Jesus. It speaks not only of Peter's personal reconciliation with Christ but also of his mission and role in the early Christian Church. Let's consider this story in the light of the Bible, Ellen G. White's writings, and the Shepherd's Rod (SRod), integrating these sources to provide a richer commentary.

The Context of Peter's Restoration

In **John 21**, after the resurrection of Jesus, Peter and some of the disciples are fishing on the Sea of Tiberias. They've returned to their old life, perhaps out of confusion or despair. They had witnessed the resurrection

of Jesus (**John 20:1-31**), yet Peter had denied Christ three times before His crucifixion (**Luke 22:61**). This denial weighed heavily on Peter's conscience.

In **Ellen G. White's writings**, particularly in *Desire of Ages*, she explains that Peter's denial was not just an individual failure but a temptation that arose from his overconfidence. He had vowed to follow Jesus even unto death (**Matthew 26:35**), yet in the moment of trial, his faith faltered. White explains that this experience taught Peter a critical lesson in humility and dependence on God's strength rather than his own (**Desire of Ages, p. 813**). The restoration of Peter demonstrates God's grace, where, despite human failure, Christ extends forgiveness and trust.

In **John 21**, Jesus appears on the shore while the disciples are fishing and directs them to cast their net on the right side of the boat. When they do so, they catch 153 large fish. This mirrors the earlier event in **Luke 5:1-11**, where Jesus calls Peter by performing a similar miracle, marking the beginning of Peter's call to discipleship. The repetition of this miracle emphasizes that Christ's call to Peter has not changed, despite his previous failure.

The Question of Love – “Do you love Me?” (John 21:15-17)

The crux of this passage comes when Jesus asks Peter three times, "Do you love Me?" (**John 21:15-17**). In a way, this echoes the three denials Peter had made before the crucifixion. Each question allows Peter the opportunity to reaffirm his love and commitment to Christ, which corresponds to his earlier failure.

Ellen White notes that Jesus' questioning was not for Jesus' own assurance, but for Peter's benefit. **Peter needed to understand that forgiveness and restoration could only come through true love and commitment to Christ.** His failure was not final because Christ's grace is greater than our sins. White writes: "It was in the presence of his brethren, and in the sight of the world, that Peter was to proclaim his loyalty to Christ... To accept Christ's forgiveness, Peter must confess his sin" (**Desire of Ages, p. 813**).

This is deeply significant for all believers. **Restoration** after failure comes not through our own strength or merit, but through sincere love for Christ, shown by repentance and commitment. The act of asking Peter to tend to

His sheep is both a call to leadership and a reminder of the responsibility of love and service in Christ's name.

The Role of Peter in Shepherding – “Feed My Lambs” (John 21:15-17)

When Jesus asks Peter, “Do you love Me?” and Peter responds affirmatively, Jesus' command is to **"Feed My lambs"** and **"Tend My sheep"** (John 21:15-17). This emphasizes the **responsibility** of the disciple, not only to care for their own spiritual life but also to lead others in the faith.

The Shepherd's Rod also highlights the importance of leadership in Christ's church. In SRod writings, there is a strong emphasis on the qualifications of those who are to lead God's people. Leadership is seen as a service to the flock, much like Jesus' own example of humility (**SRod, Vol. 1**). In this sense, Peter's restoration and commissioning represent the broader call to all Christians to shepherd others, not from a place of pride or authority, but in love, humility, and service.

In *Desire of Ages*, Ellen White emphasizes that Peter's experience reveals the principle that “the first work of the Christian leader is to help the lambs—the weak and tender believers, and those who are newly converted” (**Desire of Ages, p. 813**). Christ's instruction to Peter highlights that leadership is about guiding others to a deeper relationship with Christ, nurturing their faith, and encouraging them in their journey.

Peter's Future – The Cost of Following Christ (John 21:18-19)

In **John 21:18-19**, Jesus gives Peter a glimpse of his future, telling him that he will face martyrdom. “When you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” Jesus was speaking of Peter's death, indicating the ultimate test of love and commitment that Peter would face—dying for the faith. This prediction, however, serves to affirm that Peter's earlier failure (denying Christ) was not a barrier to his full commitment to the gospel, which would later involve the ultimate sacrifice.

Ellen White points out that Peter's death was a fulfillment of his earlier proclamation: “I will lay down my life for You” (**John 13:37**). While Peter had faltered earlier, he would eventually come to understand the depth of his commitment to Christ, which would lead him to death on the cross, like his Lord (**Desire of Ages, p. 815**).

This reminds us that the Christian journey is one of growth, from failure to victory, and that every believer has a call to live and, if necessary, to die for the gospel. The SRod writings also stress the importance of remaining faithful, even in the face of persecution and trials, for it is in those moments that our true love for Christ is proven.

Consider the Following

❖ The restoration of Peter (Jn. 21:1-19)

—What prompted Peter to return to his old activity? Was it boredom from waiting? Was it the need to find resources to support himself and others? Was it remorse? Was it insecurity? In any case, the night of fishing – again was a failure (**John 21:3**).

—“Simon [...] do you love me (*agapaō*)?” “Yes, Lord; YOU KNOW that I love you (*fileō*)” (**Jn. 21:15**).

—Leaving behind his former arrogance [“I will lay down my life for you” (**Jn. 13:37**)], Peter humbly admitted that, on his own, he could not come to love as Jesus loved him. His only security was to put himself in Jesus’ hands: “you know.”

—Like Peter, put your life in the hands of Jesus and do not trust your own opinion

The restoration of Peter in **John 21** is a profound and beautiful narrative of grace, love, and forgiveness. Through the repeated question, “Do you love Me?” Jesus not only heals Peter’s brokenness but also reestablishes his mission. Peter is called to feed Christ’s lambs, tending to the flock with love, humility, and diligence. **Ellen G. White** and **SRod writings** both stress the importance of genuine commitment to Christ, the responsibility of Christian leadership, and the willingness to sacrifice all for the sake of the gospel. As we reflect on Peter’s restoration, may we also reaffirm our love for Christ and embrace the call to serve Him faithfully in our lives.

Monday-December 23, 2024

Keeping your Eyes on Jesus-The Right Approach (John 21:20-27)

[John 21:18, 19, 20-22, 23-25.](#)

*“When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him [John]?”
(John 21:21)*



Key Themes and EGW Insights:

Individual Accountability to Christ

Peter's question, "What about him?" reflects a natural human tendency to compare ourselves with others. Jesus' response redirects Peter's focus: "What is that to you? You must follow me." Ellen G. White emphasizes that Christ calls each person to a unique path of discipleship:

"Each has a different work. One is called to do a work in one line, another in another line, yet all are workers together with God. No one is to place himself as a criterion for another." (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 296).

This teaches us that our walk with Jesus is personal and tailored. God's plans for others should not distract us from His purpose for our lives.

Trusting God's Sovereignty in Others' Lives

Jesus' words, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?" underline the importance of trusting God's sovereignty. Ellen White writes:

"The Lord has different ways of working. He has given to every man his work. Let not one question the plans of God concerning another." (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 314).

This reminds us to avoid jealousy or undue curiosity about how God works in someone else's life. Our focus should remain on our own faithfulness.



The Call to Follow Jesus

Jesus' command to Peter, "You must follow me," is central to this passage. Following Jesus involves:

Obedience: Walking in the path He sets before us without distraction.

Focus: Fixing our eyes on Jesus as our example and leader.

Ellen White highlights the significance of following Christ wholeheartedly:

"The steps of Christ are marked out plainly. The work of every follower of Christ is to study these steps and follow them." (***Steps to Christ*, p. 75**).

Avoiding Misunderstandings in Spiritual Matters

John 21:23 addresses a misunderstanding among the disciples about John's destiny. Ellen White counsels us to avoid speculation:

"The Spirit of God is ever working to teach the truth, but men are prone to misunderstand it and give a wrong interpretation to the words of life." (***Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 707**).

This highlights the need for careful study of Scripture and reliance on the Holy Spirit to avoid misinterpretations.

John's Testimony of Christ

In **verses 24-25**, John affirms the authenticity of his testimony. Ellen White connects this to the broader purpose of Scripture:

"The Bible has been given to us for the purpose of guiding our feet into the way of peace and holiness. Let us receive its precious teachings with faith." (***The Great Controversy*, p. 598**).

John's writings aim to direct readers to believe in Christ and follow Him. As we keep our eyes on Jesus, we are reminded of the vastness of His works and the sufficiency of His revealed Word.

Practical Lessons

Avoid Comparisons: Focus on your unique calling without being distracted by others' journeys.

Trust God's Plan for Others: Surrender concerns about others' lives to God's perfect wisdom.

Follow Christ with Purpose: Let Jesus' example guide your every step.

Stay Grounded in Truth: Avoid misinterpretations by relying on Scripture and the Spirit.

Share the Gospel: Like John, testify to what you know of Christ's love and power.

By keeping our eyes on Jesus, we align ourselves with His will and purpose, growing in faith and obedience. As Ellen White reminds us:

"Looking unto Jesus, we obtain brighter and more distinct views of God, and by beholding we become changed." (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 324).

Inspirational Insights

EGW: "It is the love of self that brings unrest. When we are born from above, the same mind will be in us that was in Jesus—the mind that led Him to humble Himself that we might be saved." (**MB 15**)

SRod: "Fixing the eyes on Christ leads to spiritual progress; looking to others invites discouragement and deviation from the divine path." (**SRod Vol. 1, p. 63**)

Consider the Following

❖ The Right Approach (Jn. 21:20-22)

—As they walked along the beach, Jesus told Peter that when he grew old he would die on a cross. And he added, "Follow me" (**Jn. 21:18-19**).

—The last part seemed to go unnoticed by Peter. Upon seeing John, the question was, "I am going to be crucified, but what about John?" (**Jn. 21:20-21**).

—Jesus' response was clear: "You do not have to worry about what others do. You, follow me" (**Jn. 21:22**).

—The important thing is to follow Jesus personally, regardless of what others do. The idea is to focus on Jesus rather than on other people, who may disappoint us or even hurt us.

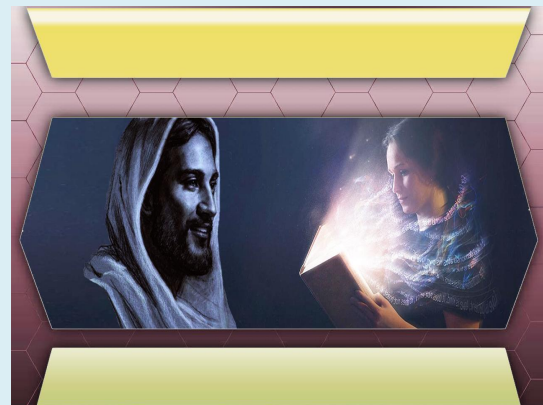
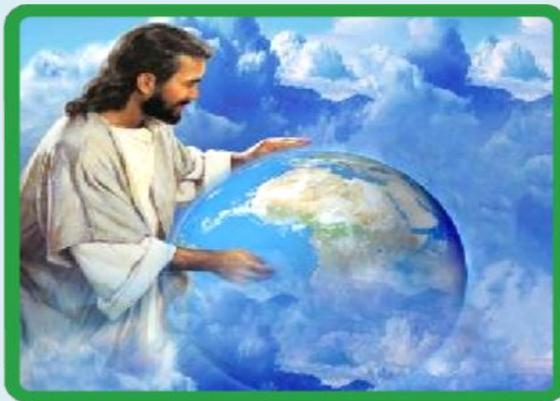
Knowing Jesus and His Word

Tuesday-December 24, 2024

Light and Darkness-Light and Darkness

[John 1:4-10, 18](#); [3:19-21](#); [5:35](#); [8:12, 42-44](#); [9:5](#); [11:9-10](#); [12:35](#).

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5)



Key Themes and EGW Insights:

Jesus as the Light of the World

John 1:4-5 introduces Jesus as the source of life and light, a theme reiterated throughout the Gospel. This light, representing truth, holiness, and divine life, dispels the darkness of sin and ignorance.

Ellen G. White emphasizes this truth:

"In the matchless gift of His Son, God has encircled the whole world with an atmosphere of grace as real as the air which circulates around the globe." (*Steps to Christ*, p. 68).

The light of Christ is universal, illuminating every soul willing to receive Him.

The Conflict Between Light and Darkness

John 1:5 and **John 3:19-21** highlight the cosmic struggle between light and darkness. Darkness, representing sin and rebellion, cannot overcome the light. However, individuals often reject the light because they prefer the deeds of darkness.

Ellen White writes:

"The darkness of the unrenewed heart cannot comprehend the light that comes from God. Many close their eyes to the light and turn away from it because they fear to see their sins revealed." (***The Desire of Ages***, p. 464).

Walking in the Light

John 8:12 and **John 12:35** call believers to follow Jesus and walk in His light. Walking in the light means embracing truth and righteousness and staying in fellowship with God.

Ellen White encourages this walk:

"It is not enough to perceive the loving-kindness of God or to see the benevolence, the fatherly tenderness, of His character. It is not enough to discern the wisdom and justice of His law or to see that it is founded upon the eternal principle of love. The apostle John said, 'He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.'" (***Steps to Christ***, p. 68).

The Danger of Spiritual Blindness

In **John 9:5** and **John 11:9-10**, Jesus contrasts spiritual sight with blindness. Those who reject the light remain in darkness, unable to discern truth or their need for a Savior.

Ellen White warns of this blindness:

"Satan blinds men's eyes and darkens their understanding, and they do not discern the light of the truth of Christ's gospel." (***The Great Controversy***, p. 601).

Light Overcomes Darkness

John 1:5 and **John 12:35** affirm the triumph of light over darkness. Despite opposition, Christ's mission to illuminate the world cannot be thwarted.

Ellen White confirms this victory:

"Though Satan has appeared to prevail, Christ is yet to conquer. The light of truth will shine forth to dispel the shadows of error and unbelief." (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 601).

Practical Lessons:

Embrace the Light: Seek a personal relationship with Jesus, the true Light, to overcome spiritual darkness.

Shine the Light: As Christ's followers, reflect His light to others through acts of love, truth, and service.

Reject Darkness: Guard against sin and spiritual blindness by walking daily in the light of God's Word.

Trust in the Light's Victory: No matter how overwhelming the darkness may seem, Christ's light will prevail.

The message of light and darkness in John's Gospel calls us to examine our spiritual walk. Are we embracing the light of Christ and reflecting it in our lives, or are we retreating into the darkness?

As Ellen White beautifully summarizes:

"By receiving His life, we are brought into union with Him. 'I am the vine, ye are the branches,' Jesus said to His disciples; 'and he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without Me ye can do nothing.'" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 677).

Let us choose to walk in the light and overcome the darkness through the power of Christ.

Inspirational Insights

EGW: "Christ is the light of the world; and those who follow Him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (**DA 464**)

SRod: “The light of Christ dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Those who reject the light do so to their own peril.” (SRod Vol. 2, p. 45)

Consider the following

❖ Light and darkness

—Spiritually speaking, where does light come from? Where does darkness come from?

—In **Acts 26:18** we can see it clearly: Darkness = Satan; Light = God.

—Because of sin, this world came under the dominion of Satan and, therefore, became a world of darkness.

—Jesus is the light and, therefore, whoever follows Jesus will not be in darkness (**Jn. 1:4-5**).

—If we apply this principle to the study of the Bible, we will see that being united to the light leads us to the truth, and being in darkness leads us to error and lies (**Jn. 8:42-45**).

Wednesdays-December 25, 2024

Theology from "Above" or from "Below" - How to Interpret the Word

[John 4:46-54](#); [6:14-15](#); [7:17](#); [8:31](#); [12:48-49](#); [14:23](#); [2 Timothy 3:16](#).

"For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken" (John 12:49)



Key Themes and EGW Insights:

The Origin of True Theology

Theology "from above" represents divine revelation—truths that come directly from God's will and character, as opposed to human speculation or reasoning "from below." Jesus emphasizes in **John 12:49** that His teachings are not His own but are commanded by the Father.

Ellen G. White underscores this divine origin:

"The Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe would we open God's Word, and with what earnestness would we search its precepts." (*My Life Today*, p. 283).

Faith and Obedience as Keys to Understanding

John 7:17 teaches that willingness to do God's will is essential for understanding His Word. Those who approach Scripture with humility and faith will discern divine truths.

Ellen White writes:

"Only those who are willing to follow the divine guidance will be able to understand the holy scriptures. Truth must be received into the soul. It claims the homage of the will." (*Steps to Christ*, p. 110).

The Transforming Power of Scripture

John 8:31 highlights the need to abide in Christ's Word to be true disciples. True theology transforms the heart and mind, aligning believers with God's purposes.

Ellen White emphasizes the importance of this transformation:

"The scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character. Christ prayed, 'Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.' If studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute." (*The Great Controversy*, p. 599).

Scripture's Divine Authority

2 Timothy 3:16 asserts that all Scripture is God-breathed and authoritative for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. **John 12:48** warns that rejection of Christ's Word results in judgment.

Ellen White reiterates:

"The Bible was not written for the scholar alone; on the contrary, it was designed for the common people. The great truths necessary for salvation are made as clear as noonday." (*Steps to Christ*, p. 89).

Obedience as Evidence of Love

John 14:23 connects love for Christ with obedience to His Word. Theology "from above" calls for submission and a response of love that manifests in faithful action.

Ellen White comments:

"The test of discipleship is not brought to bear upon the outburst of feeling, but upon the performance of daily duties, upon fidelity to the little trusts committed to us." (*Steps to Christ*, p. 57).

Practical Lessons:

Seek Divine Guidance: Approach Scripture prayerfully, acknowledging its divine origin and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Cultivate Obedience: Be willing to align your life with God's will as revealed in His Word.

Value the Word's Authority: Trust in the Bible as the ultimate standard for truth and life.

Allow Transformation: Let Scripture change your heart, fostering growth in holiness and love.

Teach and Share Truth: Share the light of divine truth with others, pointing them to the love and commands of Christ.

Jesus' statement in **John 12:49** reminds us that His words carry divine authority, calling us to faithful interpretation and application of Scripture.

As Ellen White aptly states:

"It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light and encourage others to follow His example." (*The Great Controversy*, p. 598).

May we approach God's Word with humility and allow its truths to shape our theology and our lives.

Inspirational Insights:

EGW: “The Scriptures were not given to us in a grand system of theology to satisfy the curiosity or pride of man. They were given in plain and simple language, to be understood by the common people.” (TM 30)

SRod: “Human reasoning alone is insufficient for divine truth. Faith and obedience unlock the treasures of Scripture.” (SRod Vol. 1, p. 90)

Consider the following

❖ How to interpret the Word

—Jesus did not interpret the Scriptures himself, nor did he teach anything of his own invention. He always let himself be led by the Heavenly Father (John 12:49-50).

—When approaching the Bible, we must follow the same method, that is, let ourselves be guided by God (Jn. 14:26; 6:45).

—By studying the Bible based on our own opinion – trying to fit it to our concepts – we rob it of its transforming and life-giving power (Heb. 4:12).

—Our attitude must be to listen and obey. That is, to practice what God teaches us through His Word. This dynamic of hearing and putting into practice the Word of God expresses love towards Him (Jn. 14:23).

Thursday-December 26, 2024

Abiding in Jesus - Remain in Jesus

[John 12:32](#); [John 15:1-11](#); [Revelation 14:1-12](#)

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing”

(John 15:5)





Key Themes and EGW Insights:

Union with Christ as the Source of Life

John 15:1-5 illustrates the intimate connection between Christ and His followers, comparing it to the relationship between a vine and its branches. Just as a branch depends entirely on the vine for sustenance and fruit-bearing, believers must abide in Jesus to bear spiritual fruit.



Ellen G. White writes:

"The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Saviour, the union is formed." (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 675).

Bearing Fruit as Evidence of Abiding

Remaining in Christ results in the production of spiritual fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, and other qualities reflecting the character of Jesus (John 15:5, 8). Fruitfulness glorifies the Father and demonstrates true discipleship.

Ellen White emphasizes this fruit-bearing:

"A union with Christ by living faith is enduring; every other union must perish. Christ first chose us, paying an infinite price for our redemption; and the true believer chooses Christ as first and last and best in everything." (*Steps to Christ*, p. 72).

Abiding Through Love and Obedience

John 15:9-11 connects abiding in Christ with keeping His commandments. Love for Jesus leads to joyful obedience, sustaining the relationship and keeping the believer within God's love.

Ellen White explains:

"The love of Christ must be an abiding principle in the heart. Those who love Him will show their love by their obedience. All true obedience comes from the heart." (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 97).

The Call to Endurance in Revelation 14

Revelation 14:1-12 highlights the endurance of the saints who abide in Christ amidst trials. These individuals keep God's commandments and hold firmly to their faith in Jesus. Their steadfastness is a testimony to their abiding relationship with Him.

Ellen White describes their faith:

"Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. This is the patience of the saints. This faith must be ours if we are to endure the trials before us." (*The Great Controversy*, p. 593).

The Power of Abiding in Christ

John 12:32 assures believers of Christ's drawing power when lifted up. This invitation to abide in Him leads to a transformative relationship that empowers believers to overcome sin and live victorious lives.

Ellen White affirms:

"When we see Jesus, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, working to save the lost; slighted, scorned, derided, driven from city to city till His mission was accomplished—it is the sight of Him as our Saviour that binds our hearts to Him in confidence and love." (*Steps to Christ*, p. 65).

Practical Lessons

Stay Connected to Christ: Spend time daily in prayer and the Word to maintain a vital connection with Jesus.

Bear Spiritual Fruit: Allow the Holy Spirit to cultivate Christ-like qualities in your life.

Walk in Obedience: Show your love for Christ by keeping His commandments.

Persevere in Faith: Hold fast to Jesus during trials, trusting in His sustaining power.

Glorify God: Live a life that reflects the character of Christ, drawing others to Him.

Jesus' declaration in **John 15:5** reminds us of our absolute dependence on Him. Abiding in Jesus is not a passive act but an intentional, daily choice to remain connected to the Source of life and strength.

Ellen White encapsulates this truth:

"It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly—by abiding in Him—that we are to grow in grace. He is not only the Author but the Finisher of our faith. It is Christ first and last and always." (***Steps to Christ*, p. 69**).

May we remain in Him, bearing fruit that glorifies the Father and leads others to the light of His love.

Inspirational Insights

EGW: "Christ's abiding presence is our power for victory over sin. Without Him, we can do nothing." (**DA 676**)

SRod: "The call to abide in Christ is a call to unwavering faith and steadfast obedience, especially in the context of the final message to the world." (**SRod Vol. 2, p. 78**)

Consider the following

❖ Remain in Jesus

—Jesus is like a magnet. He has the ability to attract the sinner (**Jn. 12:32**). As we draw near to Him, we are clothed in His light (**Jn. 12:46**).

—But Jesus went further. He said that it is not enough to be drawn and accepted by Him. We must abide in Him (**Jn. 15:1-7**).

—And how can we remain in Him? By keeping His commandments (**Jn. 15:10**). This is an expression of love (**Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:3; 2 Jn. 1:6**).

—When Jesus appeared to her, she was filled with joy. But Jesus asked her to go urgently and spread the good news of the resurrection (**Jn. 20:17**.) Mary immediately fulfilled the mission that Jesus gave her (**Jn. 20:18**.) Now it is our turn to fulfill our mission...

Friday-December 27, 2024

Insights and Further Study

1. Union with Christ as the Source of Life

"The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Saviour, the union is formed." (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 675).

The Shepherd's Rod adds depth to this analogy, emphasizing that the vine's life flows through each branch equally:

"The connection with the true vine is what ensures the steady growth and fruitfulness of each believer. Without this connection, no branch can fulfill its purpose." (*SRod, Vol. 2, p. 42*).

2. Bearing Fruit as Evidence of Abiding

"A union with Christ by living faith is enduring; every other union must perish. Christ first chose us, paying an infinite price for our redemption; and the true believer chooses Christ as first and last and best in everything." (*Steps to Christ*, p. 72).

The Shepherd's Rod adds a prophetic perspective:

"The first fruits of righteousness are shown in the faithful's victory over sin. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes, standing with Him on Mount Zion as the redeemed of the Lord." (*SRod, Vol. 1, p. 97*).

3. Abiding Through Love and Obedience

"The love of Christ must be an abiding principle in the heart. Those who love Him will show their love by their obedience. All true obedience comes from the heart." (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 97).

SRod commentary reinforces this:

"The commandments are not burdens but blessings. The faithful keep them, not through compulsion but through a love-driven desire to honor their Redeemer." (*SRod, Vol. 2, p. 113*).

4. The Call to Endurance in Revelation 14

"Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. This is the patience of the saints. This faith must be ours if we are to endure the trials before us." (*The Great Controversy*, p. 593).

The Shepherd's Rod underscores their distinct role:

"The 144,000, standing on Mount Zion, represent the harvest of the first fruits. Their endurance is a beacon to the great multitude who follow." (*SRod, Vol. 1, p. 164*).

5. The Power of Abiding in Christ

"When we see Jesus, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, working to save the lost; slighted, scorned, derided, driven from city to city till His mission was accomplished—it is the sight of Him as our Saviour that binds our hearts to Him in confidence and love." (*Steps to Christ*, p. 65).

The SRod broadens this call:

"Christ's sacrifice and victory call us to the same dedication. By abiding in Him, we, too, can overcome and reflect His glory." (*SRod, Vol. 2, p. 186*).

Practical Lessons:

Stay Connected to Christ: Spend time daily in prayer and the Word to maintain a vital connection with Jesus.

Bear Spiritual Fruit: Allow the Holy Spirit to cultivate Christ-like qualities in your life.

Walk in Obedience: Show your love for Christ by keeping His commandments.

Persevere in Faith: Hold fast to Jesus during trials, trusting in His sustaining power.

Glorify God: Live a life that reflects the character of Christ, drawing others to Him.

Claim the Promises: Through abiding in Jesus, claim the victory promised to the faithful remnant.

Jesus' declaration in **John 15:5** reminds us of our absolute dependence on Him. Abiding in Jesus is not a passive act but an intentional, daily choice to remain connected to the Source of life and strength.

Ellen White encapsulates this truth:

"It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly—by abiding in Him—that we are to grow in grace. He is not only the Author but the Finisher of our faith. It is Christ first and last and always." (***Steps to Christ*, p. 69**).

The Shepherd's Rod emphasizes that this abiding results in a unique role for God's people in the final work:

"The sealing of the saints prepares them to stand as living witnesses, reflecting the fullness of Christ's character and His glory to a perishing world." (***SRod, Vol. 1, p. 214***).

May we remain in Him, bearing fruit that glorifies the Father and leads others to the light of His love.

From the Pen of Inspiration

"A bright light shines upon our pathway today, and it leads to increased faith in Jesus. We must receive every ray of light, and walk in it, that it may not be our condemnation in the judgment. Our duties and obligations become more important as we obtain more distinct views of truth. Light makes manifest and reproveth the errors that were concealed in darkness; and as light comes, the life and character of men must change correspondingly, to be in harmony with it... As increased light is given, men must be reformed, elevated, and refined by it." **EGW (*Gospel Workers*, pg. 162)**

Questions to Ponder upon

1. How does Peter's restoration inspire you to trust in Christ's forgiveness and love?
2. What does "feeding His sheep" mean in your personal context?
3. Are there areas in your life where comparisons hinder your spiritual growth?

4. How can you focus more intentionally on Jesus in your daily walk?
5. How has Christ been a light in your life during challenging times?
6. What steps can you take to shine His light in your community?
7. How do you approach Scripture—through human reasoning or by seeking divine guidance?
8. What practices can help you better align with God's will in understanding His Word?
9. What does it mean to you personally to abide in Christ?
10. How can you apply the principles of **Revelation 14** in your life?

Disclaimer

This Sabbath School Lesson, Meat in Due Season Advanced Commentary is not to replace, discredit, disapprove, or discriminate against what had been made by the Sabbath School Department of General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist but to uphold, advance, sustain, facilitate, clarify, and protect the essence of the truth taught in the Bible {**Isa. 8:20**} and the inspiration (through the Prophetic Ministration of Ellen G. White and another prophet she predicted in **TM 475**).

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Glory be to the Lord Jesus Christ, Our Coming King of kings!