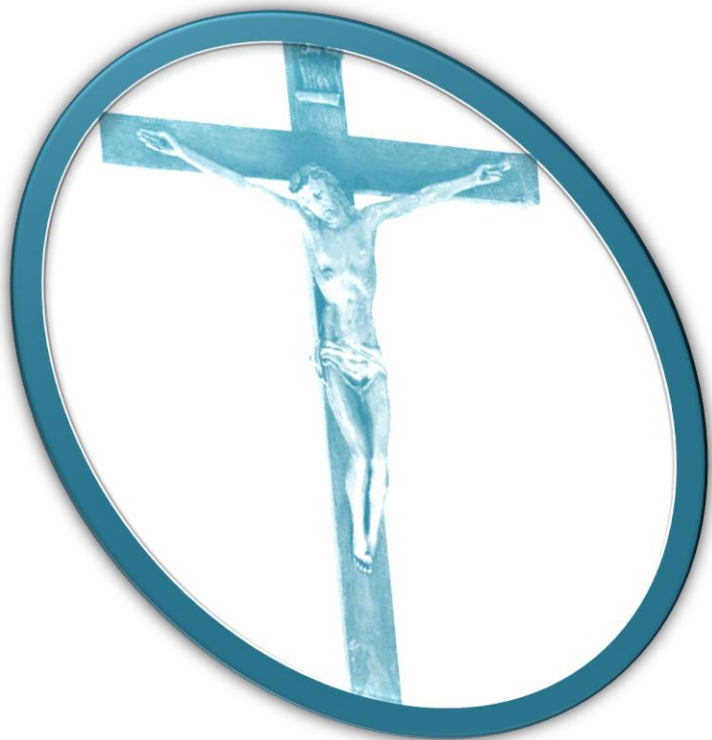


*Great  
Commission*  
Baptist Church



*Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher*



**Encouragement  
to  
Stand in the Faith**

**January 2016**







**Great Commission Baptist Church**  
Adult Sunday School Lesson  
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Lesson V**

**Date:** January 31, 2016

**Lesson:**

**The State of the Sunday School**  
**Facilitator: Rev. Terrence Howard**

**All Adult Classes will meet in the Chapel for this presentation**



## Lesson I

**Date:** January 3, 2016

### Lesson Scriptures:

Mark 16:9-14

### Lesson Outline

**A.** He Appeared to the Woman

(Mark 16 vs. 9-11)

**B.** He Appeared to the Weary

(Mark 16 vs. 12-13)

**C.** He Appeared to the Wounded

(Mark 16 vs. 14)

## Great Commission Baptist Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

### The Appearance of Christ

The Spirit of God testifies to and confirms the simple, but almighty, security of the life that “is hidden with Christ in God.” Paul continually brought this out in his New Testament letters. We talk as if living a sanctified life were the most uncertain and insecure thing we could do. Yet it is the most secure thing possible, because it has Almighty God in and behind it. The most dangerous and unsure thing is to try to live without God. For one who is born again, it is easier to live in a right-standing relationship with God than it is to go wrong, provided we heed God’s warnings and “walk in the light” (1 John 1:7).

When we think of being delivered from sin, being “filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18), and “walk[ing] in the light,” we picture the peak of a great mountain. We see it as very high and wonderful, but we say, “Oh, I could never live up there!” However, when we do get there through God’s grace, we find it is not a mountain peak at all, but a plateau with plenty of room to live and to grow. “You enlarged my path under me, so my feet did not slip” (Psalm 18:36).

When you really experience Jesus, I defy you to doubt Him. If you experience Him when He says, “Let not your heart be troubled...” (John 14:27), I defy you to worry. It is virtually impossible to doubt when He is there. Every time you are in personal contact with Jesus, His words are real to you. “My peace I give to you...” (John 14:27)—a peace which brings an unconstrained confidence and covers you completely, from the top of your head to the soles of your feet. “...your life is hidden with Christ in God,” and the peace of Jesus Christ that cannot be disturbed has been imparted to you.<sup>1</sup>

1. Explain one of your experiences that revealed the reality of Jesus to you.

<sup>1</sup>Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



**Lesson I**

**Date:** January 3, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

Mark 16: 9 - 14

**Lesson Aim:** To know that Jesus wants to reveal himself to mankind, so that they can recognize Him as the one and only living God, and He wants believers to tell others that He lives.

<sup>1-2</sup>Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.  
All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>3</sup>Earline Franklin

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

All editing by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Mark 16:9-10 (KJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Now when *Jesus* was risen early the first *day* of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. <sup>10</sup> *And* she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

**Mark 16:9-10 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. <sup>10</sup> She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping.

**The Appearance of Christ**

**A. He Appeared to the Woman**

(*Verse 9*) We see Mark is ending this chapter and the book of Mark with proof of those who were eyewitnesses of the resurrection. This word “appeared”, means to come into view, begin to exist, or to be seen. We see that the text says, “when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene”. As we follow this account with the other Gospels, It was Mary Magdalene, who went to the tomb with the other women and they found that the tomb where Jesus had laid was empty. It was Mary and the other women, who went and told Peter and John that the tomb was empty. She came back to the tomb with Peter and John and they witnessed just as Mary had said, that the tomb was empty. We know from the Gospels that Mary was devoted to Jesus’ ministry and committed to serve him, because when she first met Jesus, he evicted seven devils out of her (Luke 8:2). So as Peter and John leave the tomb to tell the other disciples that the tomb was definitely empty, Jesus appears to Mary as she stays and weeps (John 20:14-18).<sup>1</sup>

What an unexpected reunion that Mary experiences with her Lord. We do not know what form Jesus was in because we know that he had a resurrected body. Mary did not recognize the Master because she thought it might have been the gardener, who was there to tend to the tombs. When he spoke to her, she recognized the voice and realized that it was Jesus, who she was now looking at. She had seen him visibly after the resurrection. Can you imagine the excitement? She thought he was dead, but to now hear His voice and see him was a joy that stopped her from weeping.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson I**  
**Date:** January 3, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 Mark 16: 9 - 14

**Resurrection:** The denial of this great fact has always come from the enemies of Christianity. This is but natural, as Christianity must stand or fall with the resurrection. That Christ “rose from the dead” has always been a cardinal article of faith in the Christian church. The historic proofs of this fact are most weighty when the relation of the fact to the whole body of saving truth is duly considered.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1-2</sup>Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M. All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>3</sup> New Unger's Bible Dictionary

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Mark 16:10-11 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. <sup>11</sup> And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

**Mark 16:10-11 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping.  
<sup>11</sup> When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

**The Appearance of Christ**

**A. He Appeared to the Woman**

*(Verse 10)* We see from the Gospel of John that Jesus told her not to touch her, but to go and tell the others that he had risen. We see in this verse that she went and gave the report, just as Jesus told her to do. We see that she was obedient to the commands of the Lord, to go and tell others that he has risen. This is the same message we are commanded today, to go and give the report and tell others about the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. We also see in this verse that the disciples were also mourning and weeping over the death of Christ. By her witnessing that Christ was alive was the purpose that Christ had set out when he began his public ministry (Mark 2:17). He came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.<sup>1</sup>

*(Verse 11)* In this verse, we see a little skepticism. When they heard that he was alive, they did not believe. Look at the attitude of doubt and disbelief. You would think that they may have been happy and excited about the news of the one, whom they were mourning was alive. These disciples after all of Christ’s teachings and walking with him for 3 years, they still did not remember the teachings that Christ had taught. He told them, that after his death that he would rise up again, he told them that he would be crucified. It seems as if they were looking at the now. They knew that he was crucified, and from their experience, no one had come back to life, after the Roman soldiers had crucified them. We cannot be too hard on these disciples, because there have been times that we have studied and heard what the Lord has said in his word. As you look at the things around you and begin to have a manifold of trials that build upon one another. We too will allow doubt and disbelief enter our minds, because we cannot see any relief in sight. We know what the Lord has said in His word, but our situations try to overtake us. We finally see deliverance out of one trial and then begin to say to ourselves, because we now visibly see that one storm is over, that the Lord is with us and we see the victory.<sup>2</sup>





**Lesson I**  
**Date:** January 3, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 Mark 16: 9 - 14

**Justification:** Our justification was secured by his obedience to the death, and therefore he was raised from the dead (Rom. 4:25). His resurrection is a proof that he made a full atonement for our sins, that his sacrifice was accepted as a satisfaction to divine justice, and his blood a ransom for sinners.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1-2</sup>Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M. All editing and copying by permission only

<sup>3</sup> Easton's Illustrated Dictionary

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Mark 16:12-13 (KJV)**

<sup>12</sup> After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. <sup>13</sup> And they went and told *it* unto the residue: neither believed they them.

**Mark 16:12-13 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. <sup>13</sup> These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

**The Appearance of Christ**

**B. He Appeared to the Weary**

*(Verse 12)* This word “weary” means, tired, exhausted, or fatigued. We see that after he appeared to Mary Magdalene, he then appears to two men. The text says that Christ appeared in another form. This word, “another form” means a form of a different kind. To Mary He had appeared as a gardener. Now He seemed like a fellow traveler, but it was the same Jesus in His glorified body. When we compare this verse with Luke’s account, these men were leaving Jerusalem, the place where the crime was committed and going to Emmaus. Emmaus means a place of warm baths. They were leaving a place of peace and traveling to a place of refreshing because of being fatigued, by the events that happened in Jerusalem. These disciples knew that the tomb was empty, but didn’t understand that Jesus had risen. To compound the problem, they were walking in the wrong direction—away from the fellowship of believers in Jerusalem. They didn’t recognize Jesus when he appeared beside them because he had changed his appearance. Can you imagine the disappointment that they were experiencing? The lesson we can learn from this verse is that even in our disappointments of life, when our circumstances seem to weaken us, Christ will show up on time to give us the hope and confidence that we need. He is able to refresh us, because even when we get weak, he will give us strength (Luke 24: 13-31).<sup>1</sup>

*(Verse 13)* After talking with these two disciples along the road and reprimanding them about their lack of knowledge of the Scriptures that described all that happened, Jesus revealed himself and then vanished (Luke 24:31). When they realized who he was, they immediately returned to Jerusalem and reported that they too had seen Jesus. Still, no one believed them.<sup>2</sup>





**Lesson I**

**Date:** January 3, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

Mark 16: 9 - 14

**Questions:**

1. How do you know that Jesus is living within you?
2. Who are you telling or who do you need to tell that Jesus lives?

<sup>1</sup>Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M. All editing and copying by permission only

<sup>2</sup>Earline Franklin

Questions by Earline Franklin

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Mark 16:14 (KJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

**Mark 16:14 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

**The Appearance of Christ**

**C. He Appeared to the Wounded**

*(Verse 14)* This word “wounded”, means injury to the body or emotional injury. We see that these disciples could not get pass their emotional hurt to hear and believe the reports of the eyewitnesses. Jesus finally appeared to the eleven disciples together (Judas Iscariot, the betrayer, had killed himself). Jesus rebuked them for their unbelief. Jesus had foretold his own resurrection. Every time he had told them he would die, he had also told them that he would rise again.<sup>1</sup>

**Summary:** When Mary went to the tomb and found it empty and later saw Jesus, she immediately desired to tell others that he was risen from the dead. She had no doubt in her mind that Jesus lived. However, those who should have believed (the disciples) did not. However, when He appeared to them, they knew that He was indeed a living God. God made Himself known to the woman, the weary and the students (disciples) so they would know without a doubt that He is a living God. HE still makes Himself known to those who are His own. Jesus wants you to know as well that He lives and He wants you to “go and tell” it to others.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson II**

**Date:** January 10, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

Mark 16:15-20

**Lesson Outline**

**A. The Proclamation**  
(Mark 16 vs. 15)

**B. The Promise**  
(Mark 16 vs. 16)

**C. The Power**  
(Mark 16 vs. 17-18)

**D. The High Priest's Position**  
(Mark 16 vs 19-20)

**Great Commission Baptist Church**  
Adult Sunday School Lesson  
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**The Great Commission**

It is a trap to presume that God wants to make us perfect specimens of what He can do— God's purpose is to make us one with Himself. The emphasis of holiness movements tends to be that God is producing specimens of holiness to put in His museum. If you accept this concept of personal holiness, your life's determined purpose will not be for God, but for what you call the evidence of God in your life. How can we say, "It could never be God's will for me to be sick"? If it was God's will to bruise His own Son (Isaiah 53:10), why shouldn't He bruise you? What shines forth and reveals God in your life is not your relative consistency to an idea of what a saint should be, but your genuine, living relationship with Jesus Christ, and your unrestrained devotion to Him whether you are well or sick.

Christian perfection is not, and never can be, human perfection. Christian perfection is the perfection of a relationship with God that shows itself to be true even amid the seemingly unimportant aspects of human life. When you obey the call of Jesus Christ, the first thing that hits you is the pointlessness of the things you have to do. The next thought that strikes you is that other people seem to be living perfectly consistent lives. Such lives may leave you with the idea that God is unnecessary— that through your own human effort and devotion you can attain God's standard for your life. In a fallen world this can never be done. I am called to live in such a perfect relationship with God that my life produces a yearning for God in the lives of others, not admiration for myself. Thoughts about myself hinder my usefulness to God. God's purpose is not to perfect me to make me a trophy in His showcase; He is getting me to the place where He can use me. Let Him do what He wants.<sup>1</sup>

1. Do you have a desire to be obedient to the commission of God?

<sup>1</sup>Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



**Lesson II**

**Date:** January 10, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

Mark 16: 15 - 20

**Lesson Aim:** To be committed to telling others about Christ and His promise to save those who believe in Him.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1-2</sup>Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M. All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>3</sup>Earline Franklin

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Mark 16:15-16 (KJV)**

<sup>15</sup> And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

**Mark 16:15-16 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. <sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

**The Great Commission**

**A. The Proclamation**

*(Verse 15)* In this verse, picture the disciples behind closed doors, their knees knocking, not knowing what to do and which way to go. Jesus shows up and He gives them direction. He gives them an assignment. This word "proclamation" means to make a public announcement. Jesus commissions them to go into all the world, and proclaim the good news to every creature. What an assignment, to assign to eleven unimportant people like the job of shaking the world with the good news. Jesus uses ordinary people to accomplish the extraordinary. He could have used Kings and Emperors, but he uses those that will be available for His use. They may thought that this task was too great for them, but church historians report that an estimation of the population at that time in Jerusalem was 200,000 people and over 100,000 were won to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ because they obeyed the commands of the Lord. Just like these disciples, you and I are ambassadors and we have a message, an announcement to make from the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords (Psalm 22:27).<sup>1</sup>

**B. The Promise**

*(Verse 16)* In this verse, we see that Jesus gives his disciples a promise. This word "promise" means a guarantee, or assurance. He says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved". We cannot get out of context with this verse. Jesus is not saying that baptism is the key in saving us. The key word in this verse is "believe". This word "believe" in the Greek means to have faith, or to commit to trust. Once we believe, once we commit to trust in the gospel message. Once we give credit to Jesus as being the Son of God and not just another disciple or a good person, but acknowledging that he is the Son of God. Instantaneously, we are saved; we are rescued and delivered from spending eternity in hell. The truth is that there is a heaven and there is a hell. There is a school of thought that some believe the gospel of inclusion. This is a belief that there is no hell and everyone (nxt pg)<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson II**

**Date:** January 10, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

Mark 16: 15 - 20

**Sign:** The rendering of several Heb. and Gk. words, which usually denote a miraculous or, at least, divine or extraordinary token of some generally future event. Thus the rainbow was given to Noah as a sign of his covenant (Gen. 9:12-13), and for the same purpose circumcision was appointed to Abraham (Gen. 17:11).<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1-2</sup>Commentary originated by by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M. All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>3</sup>Commentary compiled by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

<sup>4</sup> New Unger's Bible Dictionary

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

All editing by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Mark 16:16-17 (KJV)**

<sup>16</sup> He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

**Mark 16:16-17 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

**The Great Commission**

**B. The Promise**

*(Verse 16)* will go to heaven, because God is a God of compassion and he loves everybody. This passage puts their ideology to rest. Once we believe it is a decision that demonstrates an intellectual matter, an emotional matter and a matter of our will. God gives us the opportunity to believe in him on our own, once we hear the gospel. If we deny or refuse to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, then we are damned. This word “damned” in the Greek means to judge or carry out a sentence. We will be sentenced by God and will not experience eternal life with the Father, but apart from the Father (Hebrews 10:38-39).<sup>1</sup>

**C. The Power**

*(Verse 17)* These next two verses we will see the power that Christ is giving to the disciples. The text says “And these signs shall follow them that believe”. This word “sign” means a wonder, supernatural, or a miracle”. He was telling them that these wonders and miracles would accompany them as they proclaimed the gospel. The promise is, not that these signs shall follow for any specified time, nor that they should follow each individual believer; but merely that they shall follow, and follow "the believers" taken as a body. <sup>2</sup>

They did follow the believers during the apostolic age—not every individual believer, but all, or nearly all, the organized bodies of the believers. This was a complete fulfillment of what was promised. Signs were intended to convince the unbelievers, and they were always wrought openly in the presence of the unbelievers: let us see them, and then we will believe (Acts 19:6).<sup>3</sup>



**Lesson II**

**Date:** January 10, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

Mark 16: 15 - 20

**Snake:** The venom of poisonous species is a clear, thin secretion, transmitted to the victim's bloodstream by means of fangs. Two types of venom are known: that of the vipers, which affects respiration and disintegrates red blood cells, and that of the cobras, which paralyzes the nervous system.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1-2</sup>Commentary compiled by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M. All editing and copying by permission only

<sup>3</sup> Tyndale Bible Dictionary

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Mark 16:18-19 (KJV)**

<sup>18</sup> They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. <sup>19</sup> So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

**Mark 16:18-19 (NIV)**

<sup>18</sup> they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." <sup>19</sup> After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

**The Great Commission**

**C. The Power**

*(Verse 18)* This verse we see that Christ is giving them another promise with miracles that will accompany them. This verse reads, "And if they be compelled to pick up snakes with their hands and if they should be compelled to drink deadly poison, it shall by no means (an emphatic negative) harm them". This promise of immunity by divine protection in either situation refers to occasions when persecutors would force believers to do these things. At times, God would miraculously intervene on behalf of his followers. While some people have misinterpreted the notion of "picking up snakes" as thinking that one's faith is demonstrated by handling rattlesnakes, the writer seems to have in mind incidents like the one described in (Acts 28:1-6), where Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake without being harmed. The same could happen for someone who accidentally drank deadly poison. This does not mean, however, that we should test God by putting ourselves in dangerous situations.<sup>1</sup>

**D. The High Priest's Position**

*(Verse 19)* These final verses end where the book of Acts begins. Luke wrote in Acts that Jesus appeared to various people over a period of forty days before he ascended (Acts 1:9). As the disciples stood and watched, Jesus was taken up into heaven. Jesus' physical presence left the disciples, but the Holy Spirit soon came to comfort them and empower them to spread the gospel (Acts 2: 1-4). Jesus' work of salvation was completed and he sat down (nxt pg)<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson II**  
**Date:** January 10, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 Mark 16: 15 - 20

**Questions:**

1. How do you plan daily to share Jesus with an unbeliever?
2. Where do you go to tell others about Jesus?
3. If you are not telling others about Jesus, how can you begin to do so?

<sup>1-2</sup>Commentary compiled by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.  
 All editing and copying by permission only

<sup>3</sup>Earline Franklin

Questions by Emma Stevens

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

All editing by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Mark 16:20 (KJV)**

<sup>20</sup> And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

**Mark 16:20 (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

**The Great Commission**

**D. The High Priest's Position**

(*Verse 19*) in the place of honor at God's right hand where he has authority over heaven and earth (Romans 8:34).<sup>1</sup>

(*Verse 20*) While Jesus' work on earth was completed, the disciples' work was just beginning. This verse compacts the book of Acts. These doubting, stubborn disciples turned into powerful preachers who went everywhere and preached. God worked with them—giving them peace, strength through persecutions, and confirmation of their message with miraculous signs (Heb. 2:4).<sup>2</sup>

**Summary:** Jesus first rebuked the Disciples for their unbelief after hearing of his return by Mary who was an eyewitness. He then gives the command to His disciples to go into the entire world, and preach the gospel. He promises that all who believe through faith, shall be saved, but those who do not receive the gospel will be condemned. His disciples were given the responsibility to preach everywhere, and to everyone and Jesus promised to be with them. We are Jesus' disciples here on earth and have the responsibility to also share the gospel and tell people that Jesus is alive and He will save those who believe by faith in Him. How are you fulfilling the Great Commission in your home, workplace, and community?<sup>3</sup>





### **Lesson III**

**Date:** January 17, 2016

#### **Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1:1-5

#### **Lesson Outline**

**A. Peter's Call**  
(1 Peter 1 vs. 1)

**B. God's Chosen**  
(1 Peter 1 vs. 2)

**C. God's Cleansing**  
(1 Peter 1 vs. 3-4)

**D. God's Care**  
(1 Peter 1 vs. 5)

**Great Commission Baptist Church**  
Adult Sunday School Lesson  
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

### **This is not Our Home**

The vision Paul had on the road to Damascus was not a passing emotional experience, but a vision that had very clear and emphatic directions for him. And Paul stated, "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19). Our Lord said to Paul, in effect, "Your whole life is to be overpowered or subdued by Me; you are to have no end, no aim, and no purpose but Mine." And the Lord also says to us, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go..." (John 15:16).

When we are born again, if we are spiritual at all, we have visions of what Jesus wants us to be. It is important that I learn not to be "disobedient to the heavenly vision" — not to doubt that it can be attained. It is not enough to give mental assent to the fact that God has redeemed the world, nor even to know that the Holy Spirit can make all that Jesus did a reality in my life. I must have the foundation of a personal relationship with Him. Paul was not given a message or a doctrine to proclaim. He was brought into a vivid, personal, overpowering relationship with Jesus Christ. Acts 26:16 is tremendously compelling "...to make you a minister and a witness...." There would be nothing there without a personal relationship. Paul was devoted to a Person, not to a cause. He was absolutely Jesus Christ's. He saw nothing else and he lived for nothing else. "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).<sup>1</sup>

1. Do you understand the heavenly intent of God?

<sup>1</sup>Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.





**Lesson III**

**Date:** January 17, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

I Peter 1: 1-5

**Lesson Aim:** Believers will rejoice in knowing this world is definitely not our home, we are simply passing through. Christ has reserved for us an inheritance not on earth, but an inheritance in heaven that weighs far more than anything this earth could ever offer.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Commentary originated by Bobby J. Williams Sr., Diploma(SBI) All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>2</sup>Emma Stevens

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

All editing by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**1 Peter 1:1 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

**1 Peter 1:1 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God’s elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,

**This is not Our Home**

**I. Peter’s Call**

*(Verse 1)* Peter has been called the ignorant fisherman, **(Acts 4:13)** but no man who had spent three years in the school of Jesus could be called ignorant. Christ called him a rock. You will be built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ who is the Rock. Peter made it very clear that the Lord Jesus is the Rock on which the church is built. Therefore all believers are little rock also. “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house” {1Peter. 2:5} Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. As he opens his epistle, he calls himself **an** apostle—he is just one of them. Although whenever the names of the apostles were enumerated, his was always first on the list. In this epistle, he did not feel that he was exalted above the other Apostles. As an Apostle, Peter received a special commission from the Lord to act with official authority as God’s representative among believers, in order to carry God’s message to them. It is not surprising that those who have been **chosen** by God are seen as **strangers in the world** (from the one word *parepidēmois*, that emphasizes both foreign nationality and temporary residence; cf. 2:11). Christians, whose citizenship is in heaven (cf. Phil. 3:20), live in the midst of a pagan society as aliens and sojourners, displaced persons whose thoughts should often turn toward their true home. The readers were **scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia**, sprinkled like salt throughout five of Asia Minor’s Roman provinces. The letter was evidently meant to circulate among the churches in this area. “Scattered” (*diasporas*) had a special meaning to the Jewish Christians in these churches. The “diaspora” referred to Jews who were separated from their homeland. Peter adapted this word, which previously described Israel, to emphasize the condition of the early church.<sup>1</sup>



**Lesson II**

**Date:** January 17, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

I Peter 1: 1-5

**Election:** the word "election" are not confined to it alone. An important class of words, such as "calling," "predestination" "foreknowledge," "purpose," "gift," bears this same character; asserting or connoting, in appropriate contexts, the element of the inscrutable and sovereign in the action of the Divine will upon man, and particularly upon man's will and affection toward God.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Commentary compiled by Bobby J. Williams Sr., Diploma(SBI)

<sup>2</sup>Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M. All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>3</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

All editing by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**I Peter 1: 2 (KJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

**I Peter 1: 2 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

**This is not Our Home**

**B. God's Chosen**

*(Verse 2)* The word "Elect", in this verse means, We are chosen by the Father, set apart unto faith by the Spirit, and cleansed by the blood of Jesus. He chose you in Christ before the foundation of the world. (Eph.1:4); as the Son is concerned, He saved you when He died for you; but it took your surrendering to the Spirit to seal the transaction. This letter is addressed to "God's chosen people who are living as foreigners" in various parts of the world—the Jewish Christians scattered throughout the world as a result of persecution against believers in and around Jerusalem. The first believers and leaders of the early church were Jews. When they became Christians, they didn't give up their Jewish heritage, just as you didn't give up your nationality when you became a follower of Christ. Because of persecution, these believers had been scattered throughout the Roman world (this scattering is described in Acts 8:1-4). Persecution didn't stop the spread of the Good News; instead, persecution served as a way to introduce the Good News to the whole empire. Thus, the churches to which Peter wrote also included Gentile Christians. Today, when Christians are scattered throughout an unbelieving world, they diffuse the knowledge of Christ in preparation for his second coming.<sup>1</sup>

We must keep in mind that God's election cannot be divorced from His foreknowledge. The foreknowledge of God is the basis for His election. God is timeless. Based upon anything except God's foreknowledge, election would be fatalistic, depriving man of his free choice which the Bible commands him to exercise. If we are going to understand how God elects man we are going to have to accept what the Bible says about God's foreknowledge. Please notice the Holy Spirit-inspired order of foreknowledge and election.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson III**

**Date:** January 17, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

I Peter 1: 1-5

**Inheritance:** The word is used in its widest application in the Old Testament Scriptures, referring not only to an estate received by a child from its parents, but also to the land received by the children of Israel as a gift from *Yahweh*.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1&3</sup>Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M. All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>2&4</sup> Commentary originated by Bobby J. Williams Sr., Diploma(SBI) All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>5</sup>International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

All editing by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**I Peter 1: 3-4 (KJV)** <sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

**I Peter 1: 3-4 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade —kept in heaven for you,

**This is not Our Home**

**B. God’s Chosen**

**(Verse 2)** Foreknowledge is the act whereby God, based upon His omniscience, looked down through the ages and seeing who would come to Christ and be saved. He elected us and predestined us to be conformed to the image of Christ. Predestined means that he has predetermined where those who accept the Gospel and believe that Jesus is His son, will spend eternity with Him in heaven (Col.3:12).<sup>1</sup>

**C. God’s Cleansing**

**(Verse 3)** Peter now describes the kind of lives believers ought to live in the hostile world. The theme in this section is “Live in Hope.” The unsaved person is “without hope” (Eph.2:12); yet the believer has a living hope, because he has a living Saviour. Christ is our Hope (I Tim.1:1); we look for His soon return. The Christian does not work for this hope; it is a part of his spiritual birthright. We are born again (John 3:5) unto this living hope. It is not only a living hope; it is also a lasting hope.<sup>2</sup>

This is why we can be confident in the substance of our Hope. Our exit from the grave is guaranteed by his exit. In other words, we will not just die and stay in the ground and that is it. If that were it, there would be no need for us to be here. If that was it, then we need to close down all the churches, but our hope has substance.<sup>3</sup>

**(Verse 4)** This verse tells us that we have an inheritance, It is reserved in heaven, where it cannot decay (incorruptible), be defiled, or lose its beauty and pleasure. But not only is the hope reserved; the believer, too, is kept (guarded as by a soldier) by the Lord.<sup>4</sup>



**Lesson III**

**Date:** January 17, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

I Peter 1: 1-5

**Questions:**

1. Do you have confidence in knowing God can still keep you in times like these?
  
2. Is life here on earth sufficient for you?

<sup>1</sup>Commentary compiled by Bobby J. Williams Sr., Diploma(SBI) All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>2</sup>Emma Stevens

Questions by Emma Stevens

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

All editing by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**I Peter 1:5 (KJV)**

<sup>5</sup> Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**I Peter 1:5 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

**This is not Our Home**

**D. God’s Care**

**(Verse 5)** As the inheritance is “kept” (1 Pe 1:4) safely for the far distant “heirs,” so must they be “guarded” in their persons so as to be sure of reaching it. Neither shall it be wanting to them, nor they to it. “We are *guarded in the world* as our inheritance is *kept in heaven.*” This defines the “you” of 1 Pe 1:4. The inheritance, remember, belongs only to those who “endure unto the end,” being “guarded” by, or IN “the power of God, through *faith*. Not only is the inheritance guarded, but heirs who have been born into that inheritance **are shielded by God’s power**. “Shielded” (*phrouroumenous*) is a military term, used to refer to a garrison within a city (Phil. 4:7 uses the same Gr. word). What greater hope could be given to those undergoing persecution than the knowledge that God’s power guards them from within, to preserve them for an inheritance of salvation that will be completely **revealed** to them in God’s presence. Believers possess salvation now (pres. tense) but will sense its full significance at the return of Christ **in the last time.**<sup>1</sup>

**Summary:** The only way in this world that you can live the Christian life is by the power of the Holy Spirit, and by the fact that you are kept by the power of God – right on through until the day when you will be delivered to Him for your home in heaven. Unfortunately, in our day, our attention has been taken away from that which is future because so much emphasis is placed on the present. The things on this earth currently at our fingertips which we consider so valuable (our home, our jobs, our earthly possessions, etc.) are not really of value. They are simply temporal things when measured in the perspective of eternity. All these things are destructible. They are corruptible, and they are defiled. The things of this world do fade away. The things we cannot see are the eternal things. They are of real value. Do not get comfortable and complacent enjoying the things of this world, because this world is not the home for believers to relax.<sup>2</sup>



#### **Lesson IV**

**Date:** January 24, 2016

#### **Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1:6-9

#### **Lesson Outline**

**A.** Peace through the Temptations

(1 Peter 1 vs. 6)

**B.** Purpose for the Trials

(1 Peter 1 vs. 7)

**C.** The Person of My Thanksgiving

(1 Peter 1 vs. 8-9)

### **Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

#### **Rejoice when Faced with Persecution**

There is no such thing as a private life — “a world within the world” — for a man or woman who is brought into fellowship with Jesus Christ’s sufferings. God breaks up the private life of His saints, and makes it a thoroughfare for the world on the one hand and for Himself on the other. No human being can stand that unless he is identified with Jesus Christ. We are not sanctified for ourselves, we are called into the fellowship of the Gospel, and things happen which have nothing to do with us, God is getting us into fellowship with Himself. Let Him have His way, if you do not, instead of being of the slightest use to God in His Redemptive work in the world, you will be a hindrance and a clog.

The first thing God does with us is to get us based on rugged Reality until we do not care what becomes of us individually as long as He gets His way for the purpose of His Redemption. Why shouldn’t we go through heartbreaks? Through those doorways God is opening up ways of fellowship with His Son. Most of us fall and collapse at the first grip of pain; we sit down on the threshold of God’s purpose and die away of self-pity, and all so-called Christian sympathy will aid us to our death bed. But God will not. He comes with the grip of the pierced hand of His Son, and says — “Enter into fellowship with Me; arise and shine.” If through a broken heart God can bring His purposes to pass in the world, then thank Him for breaking your heart.<sup>1</sup>

1. Share the last time God used a situation in order to be glorified in your life?

<sup>1</sup>Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.





**Lesson IV**

**Date:** January 24, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

I Peter 1: 6 - 9

**Lesson Aim:** Students will grip the fact that suffering and security of the believer produce – of all things – joy!

<sup>1</sup>Commentary originated by Bobby J. Williams Sr. , Diploma(SBI) All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>2-3</sup>Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M. All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>4</sup>Emma Stevens

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

All editing by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**I Peter 1: 6 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup>Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

**I Peter 1:6 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

**Rejoice When Faced With Persecution**

**A. Peace through the Temptations**

*(Verse 6)* Peter mentions suffering several times in this letter, but when he speaks of trials, he is not talking about natural disasters or the experience of God’s punishments, but the response of an unbelieving world to people of faith. We use to only hear about attacks on the Christians in other parts of our world like the European countries like Asia, Africa but now in the (USA,) so all believers face such trials when they let their light shine into the darkness. We must accept trials as part of the refining process that burns away impurities and prepares us to meet Christ. Trials teach us patience (Romans 5:3-4; James 1:2-3) and help us grow to be the kind of people God wants.<sup>1</sup>

In this verse, Peter comes back down to earth to remind the saints that regardless of present circumstances, we can soar above them. Nero was on the throne, and the world had become a very dark and dangerous place for the child of God. Still, knowledge that God was in heaven and still on the throne was to help bring joy to their hearts, even going through their circumstances. Here is a list of trials and circumstances that a child of God may experience today, sickness, disease, sorrows, loneliness, ridicule, abuse, and disappointment. Now there is another list of temptations that Peter is encouraging us not to partake in, greed selfishness, drunkenness, deceit, drugs, anger, gluttony, immorality, sorcery, backbiting, envy and the list goes on and on. He reminds us that our struggles and circumstances are only for a season. This word “season” means a short or brief period. We have to remember that our time is not like God’s time, 30 days to us may be an hour to the Lord and vice-versa (2 Cor. 4:17).<sup>2</sup>

Peter then says in this verse, “ye are in heaviness”. This word “heaviness” means to render grief or sorrow. The apostle does not pretend that we actually enjoy being persecuted or that we do not have a deep feeling over the loss of a loved one. He knows that the weight sometimes gets too hard, so he reminds us that we can (nxt pg)<sup>3</sup>



**Lesson IV**

**Date:** January 24, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

I Peter 1: 6 - 9

**Gold:** The old workings in the gold-bearing veins of the Egyptian desert and the ruins of the buildings connected with the mining and refining of the precious metal still remain. This region is being reopened with the prospect of its becoming a source of part of the world's supply.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1-2</sup>Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M. All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>3</sup>Commentary originated by Bobby J. Williams Sr., Diploma(SBI) All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>4</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**I Peter 1:6-7 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup>Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: <sup>7</sup>That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

**I Peter 1:6-7 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

**Rejoice When Faced With Persecution**

**A. Peace through the Temptations**

*(Verse 6)* rejoice, because we are going through and not going to set up camp or build a house in the dark location that we are encountering. Peter knew that the practices of Nero had the believers anxious and fearful. He knew that some had many temptations that was causing them to feel like God was not there. Peter encourages them and us today, that we can still have peace (John 16:33).<sup>1</sup>

**B. Purpose for the Trials**

*(Verse 7)* The word “purpose” means, an object or result aimed at; intention. Our trials are intentional, Peter says, that it is intended to build our faith, our convictions. The question is, when we get saved, why doesn’t God just take us on to heaven? Well, the purpose is to put us on display, that while we are going through our on trials, others will see how we handle or deal with them in a Godly or righteous way.<sup>2</sup>

As gold is heated, impurities float to the top and can be skimmed off. Steel is tempered or strengthened by heating it in fire. Likewise, our trials, struggles, and persecutions refine and strengthen our faith, making us useful to God. Peter views trials of faith as essentially productive. Trials and difficulties may assail the life of a believer, but they also have the ability to identify and banish those impurities which might impair growth and service. This is the first of several passages in the epistle which view suffering as essentially fruitful and necessary. However, until Christ returns, the believer must go through testing. A faith that cannot be tested, cannot be trusted.<sup>3</sup>





**Lesson IV**

**Date:** January 24, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

I Peter 1: 6 - 9

**Joy:** The element of joy in religion is still more prominent in the New Testament. It is the appropriate response of the believer to the "good tidings of great joy" which constitute the gospel (Luke 2:10).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M. All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>2</sup>Commentary compiled by Bobby J. Williams Sr., Diploma(SBI) All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>3</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

All editing by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**1 Peter 1:7-8 (KJV)**

<sup>7</sup> That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

<sup>8</sup> Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

**1 Peter 1:7-8 (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

**Rejoice When Faced With Persecution**

**B. Purpose for the Trials**

(*Verse 7*) Peter then says, "might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ". He lets us know that we will continue to have trials, until Christ comes back. This is to prepare us more for the honor and glory of heaven. The more we suffer here on earth, the more we ache for heaven. There is also the idea of vindication, of proving that the claims of Christ and of our faith in His claims are true. In that glorious day when Christ returns, the world of unbelievers—all of them—will see once for all that Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God and that our faith in Him is real.<sup>1</sup>

**C. The Person of my Thanksgiving**

(*Verse 8*) We do not see Christ with the physical eye, but we love Him. Think about it: we have transgressed God's law. We have ignored, neglected, and disobeyed God. We were guilty, but Jesus Christ has taken our guilt upon Himself. He has died for us; He has borne our judgment, condemnation, and punishment. whom having not seen, ye love—Usually it is firsthand knowledge of people that produces love for them, yet Jesus said that those who have not seen him and yet have believed are all the more blessed (John 20:29). Joy unspeakable—We have this joy now in our present state, in contrast to our future state when we shall see him face-to-face.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson IV**  
**Date:** January 24, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 I Peter 1: 6 - 9

**Questions:**

1. Are you a rejoicing Christian?
2. Do you believe if you sincerely love the Lord it will solve a lot of your problems?

<sup>1-2</sup>Commentary compiled by Bobby J. Williams Sr. , Diploma(SBI)  
 All editing and copying by permission only.

<sup>3</sup>Emma Stevens

Questions by Emma Stevens

All lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

All editing by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**I Peter 1: 8-9 (KJV)** <sup>8</sup> Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: <sup>9</sup> Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.

**I Peter 1: 8-9 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**Rejoice When Faced With Persecution**

**C. The Person of my Thanksgiving**

**(Verse 8)** Full of glory—We have part of that glory now because of Christ’s presence in our lives; we also have part of that heavenly glory in our anticipation (Eph. 1: 13-14).<sup>1</sup>

**(Verse 9)** Receiving the **end** of your faith, even the salvation of your souls—We are guaranteed that we will receive the crowning fulfillment of our faith: full and complete salvation. At present we have received only the title to it and its down payment. In 1:10 Peter speaks of salvation being already present, although it was not present for the prophets. This verse, therefore, must refer to our present deliverance from God’s wrath of your souls—The immortal soul was lost in the fall, so salvation primarily concerns the soul. At the coming of Christ, the body too will share in redemption, but the soul is saved at the present (Romans 6:22).<sup>2</sup>

**Summary:** Peter speaks of the trial of our faith being much more precious than of gold. After gold is mined, it is put into a smelter, a red-hot furnace. The purpose is not to destroy the gold; it is to purify the gold. When the gold is melted, the dross is drawn off to get the pure gold. When God tests us today, He puts us into the furnace. He does not do that to destroy us or to hurt or harm us. God wants pure gold. He is developing Christian character. At the time of our testing, the dross is drawn off and the precious gold appears. There are no shortcuts to maturity. All the gimmickry and new methods that this world offers, will lead to a dead-end. The only thing that will bring us into a true maturation is the trial of our faith, which God sends to us.<sup>3</sup>

Butler, Trent C., and Holman Bible Publishers (Nashville Tenn.). *Holman Bible Dictionary : With Summary Definitions and Explanatory Articles on Every Bible Subject, Introductions and Teaching Outlines for Each Bible Book, in-Depth Theological Articles, Plus Internal Maps, Charts, Illustrations, Scale Reconstruction Drawings, Archaeological Photos, and Atlas*. Nashville, Tenn.: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991.

Easton, M. G. *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. N.Y.,, 1893.

Brown, Colin. *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. 3 vols. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Pub. House, 1975.

Hodge, Charles, and Edward N. Gross. *Systematic Theology*. Abridged ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1988.

Tenney, Merrill Chapin. *The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*. Grand Rapids,: Zondervan Pub. House, 1963.

Analytical Bible Expositor - Mark

Life Application Concise New Testament Commentary

New Testament: Based on the Classic Commentary of Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown.

*Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard TH.M., and Bobby J. Williams Sr., Diploma(SBI) 2015, All editing and copying by permission only, 2016.*

*All editing and lesson outlines by Rev. Terrence Howard TH.M., 2016*

*Lesson Aims, Summaries and Questions by Earline Franklin and Emma Stevens, 2016.*

*Cover Graphic Designed by Dr. Dale Allen DCS, BBA, TH.M., D. Min, 2016*