

Jehovah Missionary Baptist
Church

First Quarter 2026

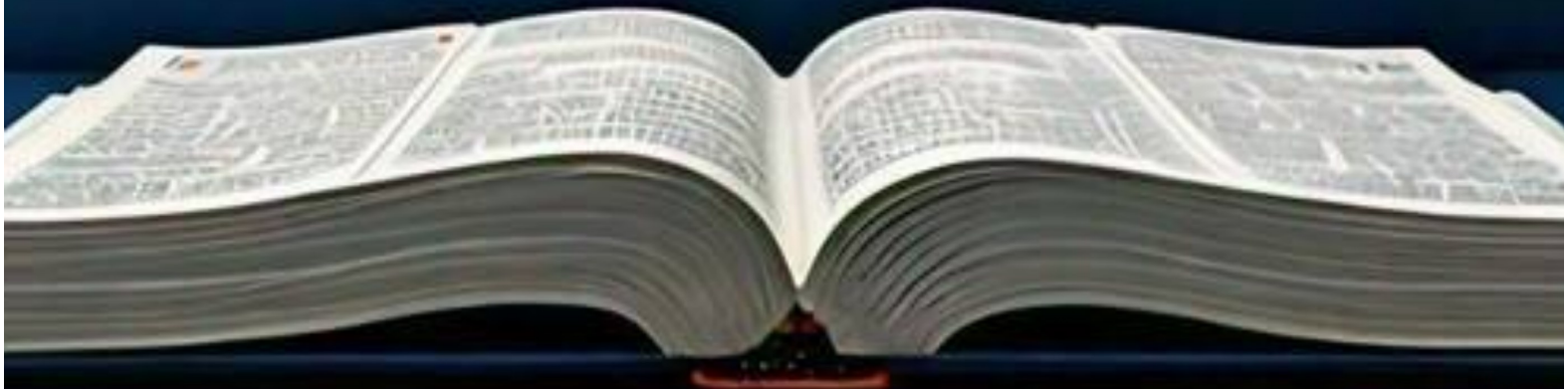
Bible Study



7:00 pm

Every
Wednesday

YouTube



2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

JANUARY EMPHASIS: ENCOURAGING GROWTH AND DEVELOPING A FOUNDATION OF ENTHUSIASM AND GRATITUDE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens should have a deep, stable and secure foundation in Christ, built on love and faith.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Rooted, Grounded, Strengthened, Growing

LESSON ONE: ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN CHRIST

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What does it mean to receive Christ, and how is this different from joining a church and being baptized?
2. What does it mean to be rooted in Christ?
3. If someone asked, what does it look like for a person to “overflow with thanksgiving”? How would you respond?

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: GROWING UP IN CHRIST

INTRODUCTION: This letter was written during one of Paul’s many imprisonments for announcing Jesus as King. Unlike his other letters, this is addressed to a group of people that he had never met and a community that he didn’t start. The church in Colossae was started by a coworker of Paul’s named Epaphras, who was from Colossae (Col. 1:7-8; 4:12-13). Epaphras had recently visited Paul in prison and updated him on how well the Colossians were doing overall. However, Epaphras had also mentioned some of the cultural pressures that were tempting them to turn away from Jesus. Paul wrote this letter to encourage the Colossians, address the issues Epaphras had raised, and challenge them to a greater devotion to Jesus. The letter’s design and flow of thought are fairly easy to follow. The opening movement focuses on Jesus as the exalted Messiah, followed by Paul’s description of his suffering in prison for the Messiah. Then, Paul addresses the pressures tempting them to turn away from Jesus. In chapters 3-4, Paul explores the new way of life that Jesus’ resurrection has opened up for them.

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS WALKING IN CHRIST; SUBMITTING TO HIS LORDSHIP (V 6A)

“As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.” Paul reminds the Colossians that the Christian life doesn’t stop at conversion. The same Jesus they received as Lord at salvation must guide their daily walk. The phrase *“As you received Christ Jesus the Lord”*, presupposes that the Colossians had already made a commitment to follow Christ. Everything that comes from this phrase is predicated on the truth contained therein. Paul continues, *“So walk in Him.”* To “walk” means a continuous, habitual lifestyle—not just an occasional step. A daily example of this is a man or woman who is a faithful worker on a job.

He or she shows up every day, prepares to work and completes each task with excellence; however, one difference is that the Christian life does not have holidays or vacation times. We must remember that it's not just receiving Christ as Savior but living under His authority as *Lord*. Therefore, self-examination questions are important.

Ask yourself daily: "Does this decision reflect Jesus' Lordship in my life? Does this decision enhance my walk as a Christian?" Examples of this include walking in Christ is honesty at work, purity in relationships, humility in service, and consistency in prayer and Bible reading.

What are some other examples you might include?

In Scripture, "walking" is primarily a metaphor for one's spiritual and moral lifestyle, referring to a person's conduct, beliefs, actions, and the path of life they are following. If you were walking on a path—if you stop, then you don't arrive at your destination; if you wander, you get lost. The Christian journey requires steady, intentional steps in the same direction. **STAY ON THE PATH!**

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ROOTED IN CHRIST. (V 7A)

To Be Rooted and Built Up refers to Deep Spiritual Stability and Growth. The text says, "*Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught...*" Paul uses two images: **Rooted**, like a tree with stability and nourishment that comes from Christ. Roots go deep into the soil of God's Word and deep into the heart of the believer. Jesus said to the Twelve, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." **John 8:31-32** To be "rooted in Christ" is to be deeply and firmly established in your faith, drawing strength from Him, like a tree's roots in the ground, enabling you to stand strong during life's trials and produce good "fruit" (positive actions and character) in your life. It involves a total surrender to Christ, a deep connection to His Word and Spirit, constant prayer, and living a life that revolves around Him.

Built up (like a building) – Christ is the foundation, and we are under construction, growing brick by brick in maturity. As we say in our Mission Statement, "Edify the Saints." "To be built up in Christ" means spiritual growth and maturation in one's relationship with Jesus, using the analogy of constructing a building on a solid foundation. This process involves becoming more Christ-like, established in faith, and equipped to withstand challenges, ultimately leading to a mature faith and a deep, abiding connection with God. "Established in the faith" means confirmed, strengthened, made unshakable. We must remember that deep roots are formed through consistent habits such as prayer, Scripture meditation, and fellowship with other believers. Physical buildings are strengthened by solid foundations and careful construction—your spiritual growth needs the same care. Remember that shallow roots topple easily and poor foundations will collapse under pressure. Think of a tree in a storm. If its roots are shallow, it topples. If its roots are deep, it stands firm. In the same way, trials test the depth of our faith. **What can we learn from this analogy?**

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS HAVE THANKFUL HEARTS. (V 7B)

Overflow with Thanksgiving equates to gratitude as the Fruit of our Faith.

Paul says, "*...abounding in thanksgiving.*" Gratitude is not an optional add-on to faith; it's the overflow of a heart rooted in Christ. Thankfulness protects against bitterness, entitlement, and pride. A grateful spirit shows trust in God's goodness—even in hardship. Applications:

Begin and end each day listing things you're thankful for.

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LESSON TWO: ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN GOD'S LOVE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What are some of the reasons we pray for others?
2. Considering this lesson, why do you think Paul places such great emphasis on LOVE?
3. How are prayer and God's glory connected?

TEXT: EPHESIANS 3:14-21

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: GOD'S LOVE IS BEYOND OUR WILDEST IMAGINATION.

INTRODUCTION: To be rooted and grounded in God's love, you should focus on developing a deep, personal relationship with God through practices like prayer, scripture reading/study, and meditation, while also fostering a sense of stability and connection through fellowship with other believers. This involves actively making space for Christ to dwell in your heart through faith, allowing His love to be your source of strength and resilience. In addition to these disciplines, consider reflecting and applying what you are learning. Attend church regularly and learn to practice receiving God's love. Make sure to spend quality time in fellowship with other believers and read some good Christian literature on a regular basis. Growing in love is no different than growing in other areas of our lives; we must be intentional and consistent. **Are there additional things Kingdom Citizens can do to grow in love?** And yes, we must be willing to forgive others, immediately and often.

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT INNER STRENGTH OFTEN COMES THROUGH PRAYER. (V 16)

Ephesians 3:14-21 can be outlined with three points focusing on the purpose of Paul's prayer for the church, which is to be strengthened in the inner person through the Spirit to know and experience the boundless, all-sufficient love of Christ, leading to the capacity to live a Spirit-filled life and give glory to God.

The Prayer for Inner Strength (V 6): **I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.** Not only are we strengthened by our own prayers, but also by the prayers of others. We have an example here as Paul kneels before the Father to pray for the Ephesians. The Goal is that God would "strengthen them with power through his Spirit in their inner being" (or "inner man"). The Agent of this strengthening is done through the power of God's Spirit, enabling the believer's inner person to grow.

All of the epistles in the New Testament are primarily didactic in nature; they focus on teaching that helps believers grow. A Christian who is not growing is an anomaly in the Scripture; we are always growing, or we are dying. **In what ways have you been strengthened through prayer, and how have the prayers of others helped you?** In our covenant relationships with others in the Body of Christ, we commit ourselves to pray regularly for one another. Prayer is just one way we are strengthened; **what are some other ways we are strengthened?**

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT IT IS THROUGH PRAYER THAT WE SOMETIMES EXPERIENCE CHRIST'S LOVE. (VV 17-19a)

In the same way as parents nurture a newborn and small children, so through prayer, we nurture young Christians. And just like the growth of a plant takes time, so does the spiritual growth of young believers. Like Paul, we must pray **“That Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith.”** He continues, **“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge. .”** This is so rich, because the scope of this love is for each of the Ephesians ‘To have the capacity to comprehend, along with all the saints, the incomprehensible breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love.’ **As a person who has been a Kingdom Citizen for a while, how well do you understand the love of God?**

Some say that God’s love can be compared to that of a mother. However, though this is a strong earthly example; it pales in comparison to the love of God. *God's love is described as unconditional, sacrificial, eternal, and compassionate. It is a love that is freely given, patient, and forgiving, and it is constant, faithful, and merciful and will endure through all circumstances.* Let’s consider two of these: 1. **Unconditional:** It is not based on performance or merit; it is freely given regardless of one's actions or "in spite of disobedience, weakness, sin and selfishness". 2. **Eternal:** God's love is everlasting and endures through all of time, available to experience not only on earth but for throughout eternity.

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST ALWAYS MAKE GOD’S GLORY THE HALLMARK OF THEIR LIVES. (VV 19b-21)

As followers of Christ, our Ultimate **Purpose is** To be “filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”. This fullness is how Paul asked God to fill these Christians *unto all the fullness of God*. The word *unto* is a better translation than the word **with**.

Adam Clarke said, Paul wanted the Christians at Ephesus to experience life in Jesus Christ. This idea of ‘the fullness of God’ also comes up in Colossians 2:9, and ‘to be filled to their capacity with Jesus.’ Even as God is filled to His own capacity with His own character and attributes; he desires that we would be filled with Him. Clarke continues, “Among all the great sayings in this prayer, this is the greatest. To be FILLED *with God* is a great thing; to be *filled with the FULLNESS of God* is still greater; but to be *filled with ALL the fullness of God* utterly bewilders the sense and confounds the understanding.”

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever! Amen. When we pray and receive answers from God, He receives glory. **This Final Doxology is** a concluding expression of praise to God for His power at work within believers, giving glory in the church and in Christ Jesus.

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LESSON THREE: ROOTED IN COMMUNICATION WITH CHRIST

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What are some suggestions you might have for a person who wants to improve his or her spiritual walk?
2. What are some things we do to please people? Are these some of the same things we do to please God? Why or why not?
3. What are attributes of God that are important to you and why?

TEXT: PSALM 19:13-14

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: HEAVEN AND EARTH CONNECTING THROUGH COMMUNICATION

INTRODUCTION: Prayer connects us to heaven by establishing a direct line of communication between the earthly and divine realms, fostering a personal relationship with God, and aligning our will with His purpose. Through prayer, we can speak about our needs, seek guidance, and express gratitude, while also receiving divine wisdom and strength in return, which is sometimes felt as a sense of peace or a prompting of the heart. Prayer is our direct communication to our Father in Heaven, allowing us to speak with Him about our deepest hopes, fears, and gratitude. Through this communication, God can impress upon us His will and provide instruction for our lives, often through Scripture, wise friends, or a quiet feeling of peace. Engaging in prayer involves humbling ourselves before God and surrendering our own will, ego, and desires, which allows us to be more receptive to His guidance. This powerful connection to heaven through prayer is greater than the W.E. Lee Natural Gas Plant in Anderson, SC or the biggest nuclear plant in Russia. Through prayer, Kingdom Citizens have access to the greatest power in the universe, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. For it is through prayer with the aid of The Spirit that we have access to all the resources of Heaven.

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT GOD IS ABLE TO PROTECT THEM FROM PRESUMPTUOUS SIN. (V 13a)

Presumptuous sins are deliberate acts of sin committed with full knowledge and intention to disobey God's commands, characterized by pride, arrogance, and a willful disregard for what is known to be right. David prays for God to actively protect him from committing presumptuous, or willful sins.

Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.” The prayer is a request for protection from sins that are committed knowingly and intentionally, as opposed to hidden or unintentional faults. The psalmist desires to be "blameless" and "innocent of great transgression" by being kept from the power and control that willful sins can have over a person's life. This prayer stands out because we are guilty, at times, of doing what we know is wrong. David knew that taking Bathsheba, having sexual relations with her, and having her husband killed were all wrong, but he did them. This is not a justification for David's sin, but it is an acknowledgement, that if this could happen to the great king of Israel, "A man after God's own heart," then you and I are not exempt. Some might say, "I would never do that." Which may be true, but your flesh has a bent towards sin. David recognizes his own vulnerability and asks God to "keep back" his servant from deliberate transgressions, acknowledging that human effort alone is insufficient to prevent these kinds of sins. See 1 Cor. 10:13.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT WE MUST PURSUE A RIGHTEOUS LIFE. **(V 13b)**

To "pursue something" means to follow and strive to achieve it, whether it's to physically chase a person or thing, seek a goal or desire, or a spiritual chase as one seeks God. As we pursue God more, we will engage in sin less.

David knew that God was able to give him restraining power to live a life of integrity, described as blamelessness and innocence. By being kept from presumptuous sins and their dominance, David declares, "**Then I will be blameless.**" This does not imply sinless perfection but rather a life free from rebellious and intentional sin. The phrase "**innocent of great transgression**" refers to being acquitted of major rebellions against God. This state of spiritual cleanness is only possible through God's intervention and forgiveness. We may not want to admit it, but we are rebels by nature. We desire our own way, and we don't want anyone telling us what we can and cannot do. As children, we got into trouble because we were told not to do something, but we did it. As teenagers, many of us lost our minds and a lot of other things because we rebelled against the advice and wisdom of parents, teachers, counselors and pastors. Like the psalmist, our prayer needs to be, "**Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.**" *As people, why do you think we rebel?*

3. GENUINE KINGDOM CITIZENS DESIRE A LIFE THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD. **(V 14)**

The final verse of Psalm 19 shifts the focus from avoiding sin to actively living a life of worship that is acceptable to God. David's final petition is a desire for both his outward expression ("the words of my mouth") and his inner life ("the meditation of my heart") to be pleasing in God's sight. **Is this your desire?**

David closed this glorious psalm with a humble surrender of his mouth and heart to God. He knew that real godliness was not only a matter of what a man did, but also of what he said and thought in his heart. This was not a proud proclamation that David *knew* he was innocent and blameless; it was a plea to be made so by the transforming power of God. The psalmist declares his ultimate trust in God. The psalm concludes by addressing God as "my Rock and my Redeemer." Strength can also be translated as *Rock*. God's strength is like a mighty rock that rescues us and gives us a firm standing place. King David looked to God Himself as his kinsman-redeemer. This identifies God as the source of security, stability, and salvation, making Him the only one capable of both purifying David from sin and receiving his worship.

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LESSON FOUR: ROOTED IN SOUND DOCTRINE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What are some of the divisive issues in the church today?
2. What are some student tools available to help us both understand and apply scripture?
Approximately how much time do you spend studying the Bible each week?
3. Who are some of the people you stay away from, avoid, or shun?

2 TIMOTHY 2:14-16

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: BECOMING A MAN OR WOMAN WHO IS APPROVED BY GOD

INTRODUCTION: Imprisoned in Rome yet again, the apostle Paul felt lonely and abandoned. Paul recognized that his earthly life was likely coming to an end soon. The Book of 2 Timothy is essentially Paul's "last words." Paul looked past his own circumstances to express concern for the churches and specifically for Timothy. Paul wanted to use his last words to encourage Timothy and all other believers to persevere in faith (2 Timothy 3:14) and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 4:2).

Paul encourages Timothy to remain passionate for Christ and to remain firm in sound doctrine (2 Timothy 1:1-2, 13-14). Paul reminds Timothy to avoid ungodly beliefs and practices and to flee from anything immoral (2 Timothy 2:14-26). In the end times, there will be both intense persecution and apostasy from the Christian faith (2 Timothy 3:1-17). Paul closes with an intense plea for believers to stand firm in the faith and to finish the race strong (2 Timothy 4:1-8). The blueprint for becoming a person approved by God is laid out for us. Many give up rather than persevere through the warfare of the Christian life. Paul encourages us to live so God will say, "Well-done good and faithful servant."

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST REJECT DIVISIVE AND USELESS ARGUMENTS. (V 14)

Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Paul begins by charging Timothy to warn believers against "striving about words".

Timothy and other church leaders must remind people to stay focused on core Christian truths rather than getting sidetracked by verbal squabbles.

"Verbal squabbles" refer to loud, childish, or petty disagreements, but the term is also closely related to the more severe form of **verbal abuse**, which is a pattern of using language to hurt, control, and manipulate another person.

While a squabble can be a brief argument over something trivial, verbal abuse is an ongoing, one-sided dynamic involving insults, yelling, criticism, threats, and manipulation to undermine a person's self-worth. **As a Kingdom Citizen, are you involved in verbal squabbles?** Arguing over minor points is a “useless” practice that only “ruins those who listen,” undermining their faith. Some of the minor disputes among Christians arise from different interpretations of scripture, denominational traditions, personal convictions, and cultural issues. While not essential to salvation, these disagreements can cause division within churches and denominations if not handled with much prayer and compassionate care. **As you think about the Christian community today, what are some of the disputes that are prevalent?**

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT GOD EXPECTS THEM TO PRESENT THEMSELVES AS APPROVED WORKERS. (V 15)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

In contrast to the harmful quarreling, Paul gives a positive command for how to engage with the truth. Timothy is to be “diligent to present yourself approved to God” through his work and teaching. The approval comes from “rightly dividing the word of truth.” This phrase refers to teaching God's Word accurately, without distortion or manipulation. Paul's final comment in 2 Timothy 2:15 is helpful because it tells us what success looks like in the study of the Word: to be “rightly dividing” the Word of truth (NKJV) is to cut it properly or correctly. This is farming imagery, as a farmer who is plowing a field would seek to cut straight furrows in order to plant rows of seed. When plowing, a farmer would look at a point on the other side of the field and focus on that point to ensure the line cut in the dirt was straight. This is what the good student of the Word is doing as well: remaining focused on the goal or outcome and being diligent to handle the Word of God properly. Ultimately, in studying the Word, we are trying to understand what the Author has said and not allow our own opinions or views to cloud the meaning of what He has written. When we are diligent to “cut straight”—to rightly divide the Word of truth—we can understand what He has communicated in His Word and be well-equipped for what He would have us to do and how He would have us to think.

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST LEARN TO SHUN WORLDLY AND UNGODLY TALK. (V 16)

Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Shun (run away from) worldly and ungodly talk. This point reiterates the negative behavior to avoid and explains why it is so dangerous. Timothy is commanded to “shun profane and idle babblings,” or “godless chatter,” which stands in opposition to the Word of truth. Engaging in this kind of useless talk has a toxic effect, causing people to “increase to more ungodliness” and drawing them further from God.

To avoid “godless chatter,” one must focus on speaking with purpose, guard their conversations against gossip and negativity, and choose to build others up with their words instead of engaging in meaningless talk. This involves being mindful of what you say and ensuring your communication is helpful and edifying to others, rather than unwholesome, frivolous, or empty.

A. How do you avoid ‘godless chatter’?

B. How do you build others up with your words?

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FEBRUARY EMPHASIS: KINGDOM CITIZENS BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN THEIR ETHNIC HISTORY AND HERITAGE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must understand and never abandon the social justice responsibilities commanded in the Word of God. We must study, learn and teach our history.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Unity, Understanding, Equality, Heritage

LESSON FIVE: DRUNK OFF THE WINE OF INJUSTICE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. In what ways can worship become an empty ritual in your life?
2. What examples of social injustice do you see in the world today?
3. How does Christ's example influence your understanding of the need to address social injustice?

TEXT: AMOS 5:21-24

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST ACCEPT THAT STRIVING FOR JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LEADS US TO CHRIST. WE MUST ALIGN OUR ACTS OF WORSHIP AND OUR EVERYDAY BEHAVIOR.

INTRODUCTION: Amos served as a prophet in Israel's northern kingdom under Jeroboam II. Although Israel appeared prosperous, with a thriving economy and lively trade, and its religious life seemed rich with frequent sacrifices and festivities, underlying problems persisted. Corruption, inequality, and oppression were widespread: the poor suffered exploitation, justice in the courts was skewed, and leaders prioritized personal gain and adoring earthly leaders over honoring God's covenant. **Does this sound familiar?** In response, God chose Amos—a humble shepherd and farmer—to proclaim a courageous message. Just as God commissioned Amos to confront social injustice then, He urges us to address social justice issues today. **What message might God be speaking to us now?**

1. GOD DESIRES JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS. (VV 21-22)

Amos 5:21-24 captures one of the strongest rebukes in Scripture: God declares that He hates their religious feasts, rejects their offerings, and refuses to hear their songs. The shocking part is that these activities were commanded in the law.

But the issue was not the acts themselves—it was the hypocrisy behind them. Rituals performed without righteousness are offensive to God. This message is not only for ancient Israel but for us today. God warns against worship that is disconnected from obedience, compassion, and justice.

The measure of our worship is not only in how passionately we sing but in how faithfully we live out His love in society.

God expresses His disgust toward Israel’s festivals, offerings, and songs. **“I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me.” (V 21)** These were not pagan rituals—they were part of Israel’s worship system. But God saw that their hearts were far from Him. Their religion had become a show, disconnected from obedience. God is not impressed by religious activity when it is void of integrity. The harshness of His words—**“I hate,” “I despise”**—shows the seriousness of hypocrisy. Worship becomes noise when the worshiper’s life contradicts the song, and God rejects it. **“Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them.”** God saw through their hypocrisy.

2. TRUE WORSHIP TRANSFORMS DAILY LIVING AND GIVES US A SPECIAL CONSCIOUSNESS. (V 23)

Today, churches may feature talented musicians, stunning buildings, and powerful sermons. Despite these outward displays, what matters most to God remains unchanged—He focuses on our inner selves rather than appearances or sounds. Genuine worship isn’t about volume, style, or what’s visible; instead, it is revealed through righteousness and justice in transformed lives. Amos urges us to reflect not only on how we worship but also on the condition of our hearts. How can we **“practice”** our religion, calling ourselves Christians, and support cutting off food for the hungry, taking healthcare from the needy and treating foreigners with contempt? Do we justify racism by surrounding our racist ideas with cute Bible verses? Where is the love? Where is the compassion that Jesus taught? Do we define our religion by what political party we support? Do we sing about God’s love but ignore our neighbor’s needs? Do we give offerings but neglect the poor? The words of Amos echo like thunder: **“Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.” (V 23)** **God does not want empty religion. He wants worship that overflows into everyday justice.** Instead of rejecting worship altogether, God clarifies what He truly wants: justice and righteousness flowing continually like rivers. Justice involves fairness, defending the vulnerable, and standing against oppression. Righteousness is right living before God. Worship without these is incomplete.

3. IF WE ARE DRUNK WITH THE WINE OF INJUSTICE, IT IS TIME TO “SOBER UP”! (V 23)

God calls His people to let virtues of righteousness overflow consistently, not in bursts but like a steady stream that nourishes all around. **“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (V 23)** Worship is not confined to a church building or service. Our daily decisions—how we work, how we treat people, how we speak—are all acts of worship. Israel missed this, thinking rituals could substitute for righteousness and so many of us have missed this today. When we worship our elective leaders and act as if they can do no wrong, we dishonor God. **Have we become drunk off the wine of injustice to the point that we no longer show the love and compassion that Christ taught?** If so, it is time to **“sober up”** and be the people God expects us to be by living the life that God expects. Israel failed, and we often fail too. Jesus embodies true worship—He lived in perfect righteousness, upheld justice, and offered Himself as the ultimate sacrifice. True worship requires sincerity. God desires alignment between heart and action. Before we sing or serve, we must examine our motives and ask: **Am I honoring God only in words, or also in deeds?**

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LESSON SIX: CALL IT WHAT IT TRULY IS!

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Where do you see examples of “calling evil good” in today’s culture?
2. How can you personally guard against being “wise in your own eyes”?
3. How does God’s coming judgment motivate you to live differently today?

TEXT: ISAIAH 5:20-24

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST DEFEND THE VULNERABLE AND REFUSE TO COMPROMISE JUSTICE FOR PERSONAL GAIN.

INTRODUCTION: Isaiah prophesied in Judah during the 8th century BC, a time of political stability but spiritual decline. In Isaiah 5, the prophet presents God’s lament over His vineyard—Israel. Despite God’s care and blessings, His people produced bad fruit: injustice, greed, drunkenness, pride, and idolatry. Verses 20–24 summarize the heart of Judah’s rebellion. The people had inverted morality: they called evil good and good evil, exchanged darkness for light, and bitter for sweet. They celebrated sin while ridiculing righteousness. Their wisdom was worldly arrogance, not reverence for God. The leaders abused their positions, accepting bribes and depriving the innocent of justice. **This passage speaks powerfully today because we live in a culture that often confuses moral categories, celebrates what God condemns, and silences what God commands.** Isaiah’s words remind us that God is not mocked; His truth stands eternal. Our task is not to redefine truth but to realign ourselves with it.

1. BEWARE OF THE DANGER OF MORAL REVERSAL. (V 20)

We live in an age of moral confusion. What was once shameful is celebrated, and what was once honored is mocked. Some are happy to restrict the love of God to a select few, and not to all. Some put a cute “godliness” sanction to the racism they preach and practice. Some restrict the godly command to love, saying that it applies for rich only and not the poor. Some have forsaken the command to stand up for the people who the Word describes as the *“least of these.”*

Isaiah’s warning is timeless: when people distort God’s truth, judgment follows. **The challenge for us as believers is to stand firm in God’s Word, even when culture shifts around us.** Verse 20 warns against calling evil good and good evil. *“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness.”* Light is still light, darkness is still darkness, and God’s standard does not change with popular opinion. This is not merely confusion; it is deliberate distortion. When society blurs moral lines, people lose their bearings, and sin becomes normalized. The danger is not only in committing sin but in redefining it as acceptable. Once truth is exchanged for lies, people celebrate rebellion and mock holiness. Think of traffic signs switched around— **“Stop”** changed to **“Go.”** The result would be chaos and destruction. Likewise, when moral signs are reversed, families and nations collapse. Do you see signs of this in today’s society?

2. THE ARROGANCE OF FALSE WISDOM AND THE CORRUPTION OF JUSTICE (VV 21-23)

Isaiah calls upon us to guard against moral compromise and to stand on God’s truth even when culture redefines it. Call sin what God calls sin, and righteousness what God calls righteousness. Verse 21 describes those who are *“wise in their own eyes.”* Pride leads people to trust their reasoning above God’s revelation. This arrogance blinds them to truth and makes them resistant to correction. Self-made wisdom is foolishness before God. *“Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.” (V 21)* Rejecting God’s wisdom is dangerous self-deception. We must be committed to depend on God’s Word, not cultural trends or human pride. Verse 23 rebukes those who acquit the guilty for bribes and deny justice to the innocent, *“Who acquit the guilty for a bribe but deny justice to the innocent.”* Corrupt leadership undermines society. When justice is bought and truth is silenced, the vulnerable suffer, and trust collapses. God, the Judge of all the earth, will not tolerate such injustice. Imagine a courtroom where money or partisan politics determines verdicts, instead of the truth. Such a system destroys hope and fuels oppression. **Is this what we saw when the January 6th insurrectionists who stormed the U.S. Capitol and were subsequently pardoned with no condemnation of their illegal actions?** Kingdom citizens must model fairness, honesty, and integrity and not turn a blind eye to injustice

3. THE CERTAINTY OF GOD’S JUDGMENT (V 24)

Isaiah portrays judgment vividly: sinners will be consumed like fire devouring stubble. Their roots will rot, and their blossoms will blow away—symbols of complete decay. *“Therefore, as tongues of fire lick up straw... so their roots will decay and their flowers blow away; for they have rejected the law of the LORD Almighty.” (V 24)* Just as ignoring warning signs of a collapsing bridge leads to disaster, ignoring God’s Word leads to ruin. Take God’s warnings seriously. Sin has consequences, but repentance leads to mercy. Choose obedience today. **This** scripture is a sobering reminder of the danger of moral corruption and the certainty of God’s judgment. The prophet’s words echo into our time: **when society redefines sin as virtue and mocks righteousness, destruction follows.** God always calls His people to stand apart, to shine as light in the midst of darkness. The world may blur moral lines, but God’s Word remains clear. **May we be a people who call good “good,” evil “evil,” and live in a way that honors the Lord.**

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

FEBRUARY EMPHASIS: KINGDOM CITIZENS BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN THEIR ETHNIC HISTORY AND HERITAGE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must understand and never abandon the social justice responsibilities commanded in the Word of God. We must study, learn and teach our history.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Unity, Understanding, Equality, Heritage

LESSON SEVEN: LOOK BACK; LIVE FORWARD

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What past examples of God's faithfulness encourage you today?
2. In what "ruin" or barren place of your life do you need to trust His restoration?
3. In what ways has God delivered your ancestors through dark times?

TEXT: ISAIAH 51:1-5

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST REMEMBER GOD'S PAST GOODNESS, TRUST HIS PRESENT POWER, LIVE IN HIS JOY, AND HOPE IN HIS SALVATION.

INTRODUCTION: Isaiah 40–55 is often called the "Book of Comfort," written to a people facing exile and despair. Israel had been crushed by Babylon, their temple destroyed, and their hope fading. Into this darkness, God speaks words of encouragement and renewal. Chapter 51 is part of a series of divine promises reminding Israel that exile is not the end; restoration is coming. Verses 1–5 highlight four themes: remembrance, transformation, hope, and salvation. God tells the people to look back to Abraham and Sarah, the unlikely beginning of the nation. From one man, childless and old, God created a people. If He could do that in the past, He could restore Israel in the present. For us today, this passage speaks powerfully. In times of difficulty or uncertainty, individuals are encouraged to reflect on previous experiences of faithfulness, rely on current assurances, and maintain an outlook oriented toward future fulfillment in Christ.

1. WE MUST REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS. (VV 1-2)

Kingdom Citizens know that life often brings seasons of discouragement. We may feel barren, like ruins without hope. Israel in exile knew this feeling deeply. Yet in Isaiah 51, God breaks

into their despair with words of comfort: ***“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness... look to the rock from which you were cut.”*** (V 1) God anchors their future in His past faithfulness. This passage reminds us that we are not defined by our circumstances but by God’s promises. Just as He brought life from Abraham and Sarah’s barrenness, He can bring renewal into our deserts. He calls us to remember, to trust, and to hope in His salvation. God tells Israel to look back to Abraham and Sarah, ***“Look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many.”*** (V 2) They were old, childless, and powerless—but God transformed their hopelessness into a nation. Israel needed this reminder: their identity rested not in Babylon’s chains but in God’s covenant promises. Remembering past faith strengthens present faith. Every race and ethnicity should find ways to remember their history and culture, understanding that God has worked through time to bring them out of darkness into a marvelous light. **How has God done this in the history of your race?** Recall your own **“Abraham moments”**—times when God turned little into much. **Remembering fuels faith for today’s challenges.**

2. WE MUST TRUST IN GOD’S TRANSFORMATIVE POWER AND EMBRACE THE JOY OF HIS PROMISES. (V 3)

Verse 3 promises that God will turn Zion’s ruins into Eden. What was barren would blossom. God specializes in restoration, transforming wastelands into gardens. This is not mere poetry—it is a declaration of God’s redemptive power. ***“The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden.”*** (V 3) Trust that no ruin is beyond God’s restoration. **As you look back over the history of your race, your family, your community, can you identify ways that God has turned our deserts into a gardens of joy and life.** God declares that joy, gladness, thanksgiving, and singing will fill His people once more. Exile is not the final word; celebration is coming. Slavery, discrimination, injustice and racism have not stopped us. Worship is not just a response but a declaration of faith in God’s promises. ***“Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.”*** Like people singing before the victory is won, believers rejoice in God’s promises before they are fulfilled. Let joy and thanksgiving mark your life now, not just later. Rejoicing is an act of trust in God’s future plans for us.

3. WE MUST ANTICIPATE GOD’S SALVATION. (VV 4-5)

In verses 4–5, God calls His people to listen, for His law and justice will go out as light to the nations. His salvation is not distant but near. **This points forward to Christ**, the Light of the World, who brings salvation to all nations. ***“My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations.”*** (V 5) Just as travelers rejoice when the dawn breaks after a long night, we look forward to God’s coming salvation with hope. We must live with anticipation and share this hope with others. To a broken and exiled people, God reminds them of Abraham and Sarah, His power to transform ruins, His promise of joy, and His coming salvation. **These truths are needed today.** Are you facing ruins in your life—brokenness, barrenness, despair? God says, ***“Look back to My faithfulness, look forward to My promises.”*** Just as He turned Abraham’s hopelessness into a nation, He can turn your situation into a testimony. God’s arm is strong, His promises are sure, and His salvation is coming. **Will you put your trust in Him today?**

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

FEBRUARY EMPHASIS: KINGDOM CITIZENS BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN THEIR ETHNIC HISTORY AND HERITAGE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must understand and never abandon the social justice responsibilities commanded in the Word of God. We must study, learn and teach our history.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Unity, Understanding, Equality, Heritage

LESSON EIGHT: ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN REMEMBERING

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What “stones of remembrance” has God given you in your life?
2. In what ways can your story witness to nonbelievers?
3. What legacy of faith are you currently building for the future?

TEXT: JOSHUA 4:21-24

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LEARN THEIR HISTORY AND HERITAGE AND TO PASS THIS KNOWLEDGE ON TO THEIR CHILDREN SO THEY CAN APPRECIATE HOW THE LORD BROUGHT THEM.

INTRODUCTION: The book of Joshua describes Israel's transition from wandering to settling in the Promised Land. After forty years, they faced the flooded Jordan River, but God stopped the river when the priests entered with the ark, allowing the people to cross on dry ground. Joshua then had twelve men take stones from the riverbed as a memorial at Gilgal. These stones served to remind future generations of God's power in enabling Israel to cross the Jordan, reinforcing faith and honoring God. Human memory is fragile. We forget God's blessings faster than we forget our burdens. That's why God told Israel to build memorials — not for decoration but for *remembrance*. The stones of Gilgal were silent witnesses with a loud message: “*God was here. God did this.*”

1. WE MUST BE ROOTED IN REMEMBERING GOD'S POWER. (V 21)

Throughout history, there have been crucial moments when divine intervention helped us persevere despite challenges. Memorials play an important role in influencing how we remember and understand our identity—they not only honor the past but also help shape what lies ahead. In Joshua 4, stones from the Jordan symbolized God's faithfulness and served as a lesson for future generations. Each stone stood for a tribe, showing that the whole nation witnessed God's power. The passage prompts reflection on our own faith legacy. **How do we ensure that our children and grandchildren know what God has done?**

How do we keep alive the memory of His faithfulness in a world quick to forget? We must tell our story!! *“For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over.”* (V 23) The stones served as a visible symbol of God’s power when Israel crossed the Jordan. While Israel wouldn’t always encounter obstacles like rivers or battles, remembering how God had helped them in the past was essential for meeting new difficulties. We are encouraged today to be inspired by how God has worked through our own history. Think of a family photo album. Flipping through pictures helps us remember our own milestones and inspires gratitude. The stones were Israel’s spiritual photo album, reminding them of God’s interventions. Joshua emphasizes that when children ask about the stones, parents must tell the story. Faith must be passed intentionally, not assumed. Each generation needs to hear about God’s power firsthand.

2. WE MUST BE ROOTED IN TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION. (VV 21-23)

Today, it’s essential for parents and leaders to intentionally share their faith stories, teach Scripture, and demonstrate commitment, so the next generation understands and continues the faith. Joshua emphasizes that when children ask about the stones, parents must tell the story. *“In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’”* (V 21) Faith must be passed intentionally, not assumed. Each generation needs to hear about God’s power firsthand. The stones opened conversations that built spiritual heritage. Likewise, the stones were conversation starters about God. Parents and leaders today must actively share testimonies, teach Scripture, and model faith so the next generation can carry it forward. The stones were not just for Israel but for all nations to know the Lord’s power. When we remember God’s works, we not only encourage ourselves but also witness to others. Just as a monument in a city tells visitors about important history, Israel’s stones declared God’s glory to outsiders. Our testimonies today are powerful evangelism tools. Sharing how God has worked in our lives throughout history invites others to know Him. **By doing so, we define our own history, not falling to the intentional misrepresentations that often occur when we allow others to tell “our” story in their way.**

3. WE MUST BE ROOTED IN PRESERVING A LEGACY OF FAITH. (V 24)

The final purpose of the stones was to inspire reverence, *Joshua 4:24 – “He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful.”* (V 24) Faith was not meant to be momentary but generational. The stones anchored identity and built legacy, *“So that you might always fear the LORD your God.”* Consider a family that passes down a Bible through generations, filled with notes and prayers. That becomes a living legacy of faith. **What spiritual legacy are you leaving?** Build habits of faith—prayer, service, generosity—that will outlast you. *Joshua 4:21–24* teaches us that God values remembrance, testimony, and legacy. The stones of Gilgal remind us to look back with gratitude, look forward with faith, and look outward with witness. Today, the Lord asks us: **What stones of remembrance are we building? How are we telling the next generation about His faithfulness? What testimony are we sharing with the world? And what legacy will remain when our voices are silent?** Just as Israel’s stones pointed to God’s power, our lives can be living memorials that point others to Christ. Let us build a faith that outlives us, leaving spiritual markers that guide future generations.

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

MARCH EMPHASIS: KINGDOM CITIZENS BEING ROOTED IN GROWING

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens should never become stagnant and complacent in growing; they should always be ready to grow.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Growing, Expanding, Seeking, Studying

LESSON NINE: GENUINE FAITH WILL BE TESTED

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What are some of the provisions God has made for your growth?
2. How do you express the precious promises of God to others?
3. How is your personal growth in Christ helpful to the Body of Christ?

TEXT: 2 PETER 1:3-8

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN THE GRACE AND CALLING OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION: The lesson this week is taken from a powerful letter written by Simon Peter. Two things that are significant about Peter as we study this week are: (1.) He claims to be an eyewitness of the transfiguration which confirms he experienced an awesome move of Jesus. (2.) He was a close companion of Paul which confirms he experienced the life changing calling on an apostle's life. It's no doubt that Peter as a pastor (shepherd) understood the calling on his life and the responsibility of growing in Christ through the grace of God. In Peter's first letter, he feeds Christ's sheep by instructing them how to deal with persecution from the outside of the church (1 Peter 4: 12); in this second letter, he teaches them how to deal with false teachers and evildoers who are in the church. Then 2 Peter is one of the apostle Peter's final letters written to believers facing internal and external pressures. False teachers were infiltrating the church, twisting the gospel and leading others into immorality (2 Peter 2). Peter, nearing the end of his earthly life (1:14), sought to strengthen the faith of his readers by reminding them of God's sufficiency and calling them to spiritual growth. Peter reminds believers that godliness is not achieved by human strength but by divine power working in us. Yet, this power requires cooperation- we must "make every effort" (**V 5**). God provides the resources, but we must actively cultivate them, ensuring our faith results in visible fruit.

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT GOD PROVIDES EVERYTHING WE NEED. (V 3)

Many Christians feel inadequate as though they lack what it takes to live faithfully in a world filled with temptation and pressure. Peter assures us: God has already provided all we need.

The issue is not sufficiency but application. We have the promises, the power, and the path- but we must choose to grow. **“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him...” (V 3)** This passage teaches us how divine provision and human responsibility work together. God’s promises supply the resources; our effort cultivates growth. Peter outlines a spiritual progression, showing that faith is not static but dynamic. Peter begins with assurances: God’s power is sufficient. Everything we need- strength, wisdom, grace- have already been provided through Christ. Too often believers act as if they lack resources, but scripture says otherwise. The source is His divine power, accessed through knowing Christ. “Knowledge” here is not mere information but relational intimacy. God’s calling by His glory and goodness draws us into this life.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT GOD’S PROMISES ENABLE TRANSFORMATION. (VV 4-5)

God’s promises are not decorative words but transformative realities. They enable us to escape worldly corruption and share in God’s nature. **(V 3)** This “Divine Nature” does not mean we become gods but that we share God’s moral qualities – holiness, purity, and love. The Promises of God- eternal life, forgiveness, and presence of the Spirit- transform our desires and direction. Medicine doesn’t just describe healing- it actively works to restore health. Likewise, God’s promises actively change us. God provides the resources, but we must cultivate growth. **“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith...” (V 5)** Growth is not automatic; it demands discipline. Each quality builds on the previous, showing that spiritual maturity is progressive. Faith is the foundation, but love is the goal. Identify one area where growth is needed- patience, self-control, or love- and ask God to help you cultivate it daily. Growth takes time but requires effort. God supplies the power, but growth requires our participation.

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT GROWTH PRODUCES FAITHFULNESS.

Growth aims at faithfulness; knowing Christ should lead to practical, productive action. Peter goes on to say, **“For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive...” (V 8)** “Increasing measure” shows growth is continuous. Spiritual maturity is not about perfection but progression. A stagnant faith becomes ineffective, but an increasing faith produces fruit. Your faith will be tested many times in many different ways. However, Spiritual growth results in fruitful, effective living. **Will you commit to diligently pursue growth? Will you add to your faith the qualities Peter describes so your life bears fruit for Christ?**

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LESSON TEN: STUDY, STUDY, AND STUDY SOME MORE!!

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Do you actively seek spiritual development, or do you approach it passively?
2. Whose approval matters most in your decisions- God's or people's?
3. How carefully do you handle and apply God's Word to your life?

TEXT: 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: A WORKMAN APPROVED BY GOD

INTRODUCTION: Second Timothy is Paul's final letter, written from a Roman prison shortly before his death (2 Timothy 4:6-8). He writes to his spiritual son, Timothy, who was leading the church of Ephesus. Timothy faced challenges: false teachers spreading errors (2: 16-18), believers straying from truth, and persecution rising against Christians. In this context, Paul emphasizes endurance, faithfulness, and sound teaching. Chapter 2 compares the Christian to a soldier, athlete, and farmer- images of discipline and perseverance. Verse 15, then, is a direct exhortation: Timothy must work diligently to present himself to God as a faithful worker, correctly handling Scripture in contrast to false teachers who distort it. This verse applies beyond preachers- it is a call for every believer to know, study, and live the Word diligently. Only then can we resist falsehood, grow in truth, and stand unashamed before God.

1. THE CALL TO DILLIGENCE IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

In a world filled with countless voices, opinions, and interpretations, truth often feels blurred. Yet, for Christians, the Word of God is the unshakable foundation. Paul's exhortation to Timothy is timeless; be diligent in studying and applying God's Word, so that your life and teaching reflect His approval. This verse shows us what it means to be a faithful worker in God's Kingdom. It highlights the seriousness of handling Scripture, the diligence required in Christian life, and the goal of living unashamed before God. Paul begins with effort- "Do your best" or "be diligent." Spiritual growth doesn't happen passively. Diligence means prioritizing time with God, studying His Word, and cultivating obedience. Paul often used discipline imagery: athletes training, soldiers enduring, and farmers laboring. The Christian life requires perseverance, not laziness.

Diligence ensures we mature and are not swept away by false teachings. A gardener must consistently water, prune, and weed. Neglect leads to overgrowth and unfruitfulness. Spiritual diligence keeps our hearts fertile for God's Word. **Examine your habits: Are you intentional with Bible study, prayer and service?** Spiritual laziness leads to weakness, but diligence leads to strength. Spiritual growth requires active diligence, not passive waiting.

2. THE APPROVAL THAT COMES FROM GOD

The verse continues, “... **to present yourself to God as one approved...**” The ultimate audience of our lives is God, not people. Approval from others may fade, but God's approval is eternal. “Approved” means tested and genuine, like metal proven by fire. Trials refine faith, proving its worth before God. Paul urges Timothy to live with an audience of One- God Himself. Galatians 1:10 puts it this way, “**Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?... If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.**” An employee who works hard only when the boss is watching is not truly diligent. The faithful worker serves well regardless of human eyes. **Are you seeking God's approval in your choices, or simply other's affirmation?** True freedom comes from living for God's approval alone. The Christian life is lived before God's eyes, not man's applause. Like a craftsman cutting straight, believers must interpret God's Word faithfully, avoiding distortion. False teachers misused Scripture for personal gain. Timothy's task- and ours- was to rightly divide truth. This requires careful study, context, and submission to the Spirit's guidance. A doctor who misreads instructions risks a patient's life. In the same way, mishandling Scripture endangers souls. The stakes are eternal. **Commit to deeper study! Dig deeply into the Scriptures!** Use trusted commentaries but test everything against God's Word. Handling Scripture correctly is both a privilege and a responsibility.

3. THE REWARD OF LIVING UNASHAMED

The verse says: “...**a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.**” This phrase emphasizes precision and accuracy in teaching and applying scripture. Shame comes from failure, negligence, or dishonor. When we live diligently, seek God's approval, and rightly handle His Word, we can stand confident and unashamed! Paul often used the word “ashamed” in relation to the gospel (Romans 1:16). Shame arises when people compromise truth for convenience. Timothy is urged to live boldly, so he can face both people and God with integrity. A student who prepared thoroughly for an exam walks into the room confidently, unashamed. So too, the faithful Christian who lives according to God's Word can stand boldly before God. **Are there areas of compromise bringing shame into your Spiritual walk?**

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LESSON ELEVEN: LET THE WORD LIVE IN YOU

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Is God's Word dwelling richly in you, or only occasionally visiting?
2. How can you share Scripture more intentionally in conversations and relationships?
3. Are the worship songs you like rooted in God's Word or only feelings?

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 3:16

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: The letter to the Colossians was written by the Apostle Paul, likely during his imprisonment in Rome. The church in Colossae was small and struggling with external pressures and internal heresies. False teachers were introducing philosophies, legalism, and mystical practices that threatened to pull believers away from the sufficiency of Christ (Col. 2:8, 16-23). In response, Paul emphasizes the supremacy of Christ: He is the image of the invisible God, the head of the church, and the fullness of God in bodily form. Since believers are united with Christ, they must live as His new creation, putting off the old self and clothing themselves with virtues that reflect Him. Thus, Colossians 3:16 shows that when the Word saturates a community, it creates both depth (richness) and breadth (expression). The Word shapes both private devotion and corporate life, making Christ central in every aspect of living.

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT THE WORD MUST DWELL RICHLY.

Every believer wants a deeper spiritual life, yet many feel spiritually dry. Paul gives us the secret - not a mystical formula or a set of rules, but simply this: Let the Word of Christ dwell richly among you. This is not a passive suggestion but an active command. The Word is to saturate our minds, our conversations, our songs, and our hearts. Verse 16 fits into this section as a practical command. After urging believers to "**clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience**" (3:12), Paul now explains how this is possible by letting Christ's Word dwell richly among them. This indwelling produces a teaching community, a worshiping church, and a thankful people. The verse highlights three dimensions of transformation: instruction, worship, and gratitude. "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly..."

The Word of Christ is the gospel- the message about Jesus and His saving work. Paul urges us not to just know it but to let it dwell. The word “dwell” means to make a home. God’s Word is not to be an occasional visitor but a permanent resident, influencing every decision. The Richness of God’s Word implies abundance, depth, and sufficiency. A life saturated in Scripture produces wisdom, stability, and joy. Without it, we become vulnerable to error and shallow living. Just as food nourishes the body daily, the Word nourishes our souls. A diet of fast spiritual “snacks” leaves us weak, but a steady feast makes us strong. Are you giving God’s Word a home in your life? Daily reading, meditation, and obedience are how we allow it to dwell richly. The depth of your spiritual life depends on the richness of God’s Word within you.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT THE WORD INSPIRES WORSHIP.

The Word is not only for personal devotion but also for communal instruction. Teaching communicates truth; admonishing corrects errors. Both are necessary for healthy spiritual growth. The verse says, “...**as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom...**” The phrase “**with all wisdom**” reminds us that teaching and correction must be Spirit-led and done with humility and grace. The church grows strong when members encourage one another in truth. Just as a family shares meals together for health, believers share God’s Word for spiritual health. A diet of mutual teaching keeps the body strong. Be intentional about sharing God’s Word in conversations, small groups, and friendships. Correction must be given in love, rooted in Scripture, not opinion. The Word makes us a teaching and correcting community that grows in wisdom. The Word inspires our worship “...**through psalms, hymns, and songs from the spirit...**” The indwelling Word naturally overflows into worship. Music becomes a vehicle of truth, carrying Scripture into hearts. A song stuck in your head influences your mood all day. Choose songs rooted in Scripture.

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT THE WORD CULTIVATES GRATITUDE.

The final fruit of a Word-saturated life is gratitude. “...**singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.**” Thanksgiving is the natural response of hearts filled with God’s truth. Gratitude is not circumstantial but rooted in Christ’s finished work. As His Word reminds us daily of salvation, forgiveness, and eternal hope, gratitude becomes the rhythm of our hearts. A grateful person turns even small blessings into songs of praise, while an ungrateful person complains even in abundance. The Word shifts our focus from lack to God’s provision. Begin each day by recalling a verse of promise and thanking God for it. Gratitude nurtures joy and strengthens faith. A Word-filled heart is a grateful heart that sings to God. **Colossian 3:16 paints a powerful vision of the Word-filled Life: Scripture dwelling in us, shaping our teaching, inspiring our worship, and filling us with gratitude.**

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LESSON TWELVE: LIFTING THE VEIL IN YOUR LIFE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What competes with your attention and distracts you from beholding Christ?
2. How have you seen gradual transformation in your spiritual journey?
3. How can you create daily habits that help you gaze on Christ's glory?

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: FROM GLORY TO GLORY: TRANSFORMATION IN CHRIST

INTRODUCTION: Second Corinthians is one of Paul's most personal letters, written to defend his ministry and encourage believers in Corinth. In Chapter 3, Paul contrasts the old covenant, written on tablets of stone with the new covenant written by the Spirit on human hearts. Under the old covenant, Moses' face shone after speaking with God, but he veiled it so the Israelites would not see the fading glory (Ex. 34: 29-35). Paul uses this imagery to show the glory of the old covenant was temporary but the glory of the new covenant in Christ is lasting and ever-increasing. Unlike Israel, who saw God's glory dimly, we in Christ have "unveiled faces"- direct access to behold His glory through the Spirit. Thus, 2 Corinthians 3:18 is both a promise and a process: the more we behold Jesus, the more we become like Him.

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT TRANSFORMATION BEGINS WITH BEHOLDING.

Paul writes that we must "...with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory..." Many people pursue transformation- through self-help, education, or personal discipline. While these can bring change, only Christ offers lasting transformation into God's image. Paul reminds us that true change doesn't come from striving harder but from beholding Him more. The key truth is transformation. As believers contemplate Christ's glory, we are progressively changed into His likeness. This is not self-improvement or external compliance, but Spirit empowered transformation moving from one degree of glory to another. The result is Christ-like character shining through us to the world. Paul contrasts the veiled faces of Israel with the unveiled faces of believers.

To “contemplate” means to gaze as in a mirror- steady, intentional, and reflective. Transformation begins by fixing our eyes on Jesus, not ourselves. The Christian life is not about staring at our failures or trying harder in our strength, but beholding Christ’s beauty, His Love, and His work on the cross. Just as a sunflower turns toward the sun and draws its life from its rays, we must turn toward Christ daily in Scripture and prayer not as a ritual but as beholding Christ. Look beyond the Words to see the Lord’s glory revealed in them. What you behold consistently, you become progressively.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT TRANSFORMATION REQUIRES UNVEILING.

The word “transformed” describes inner change, like a caterpillar becoming a butterfly. The transformation is ongoing-from one degree of glory to another. Unlike the old covenant glory that faded, the new covenant glory increases continually. Our growth in Christ is not instant perfection but progressive sanctification. Paul says we “**are being transformed into his image with ever increasing glory...**” Consider physical exercise. You don’t see immediate results after one workout, but consistent training produces visible transformation. Likewise, daily beholding Christ shapes us gradually into His Likeness. Don’t be discouraged if you don’t see instant results. Spiritual growth takes time. Celebrate small steps of progress, knowing God is working in you. Transformation is a journey of increasing glory, not a moment of instant perfection. When a curtain is pulled back on stage, the hidden becomes visible. Likewise, when Christ removes the veil, we see God’s glory clearly without distortion. We need to ask daily: “**Lord, is there a veil- sin, distraction, or tradition-keeping me from seeing You clearly?**” Surrender it to the Spirit and live unveiled before Him!

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT TRANSFORMATION IS THE SPIRIT’S WORK.

Paul closes by emphasizing that transformation is the Spirit’s doing, “**...which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.**” Human effort can change habits, but only the Spirit changes hearts. The Spirit removes the veil, reveals Christ’s glory, and works within us to produce Christlikeness. Our role is surrender; His role is empowerment. A sculptor chips away at marble to reveal the masterpiece inside. Similarly, the Spirit chisels away selfishness, pride, and sin to reveal Christ’s image within us. Trust the Spirit’s process. Instead of relying solely on will power, lean into prayer, surrender, and obedience to His leading. True transformation flows from the Spirit, not self-effort. 2 Corinthians 3:18 gives us a vision of what God desires for every believer- to be transformed into Christ’s image by beholding His glory through the Spirit. This is not merely religious activity but relational intimacy. As we look to Jesus, the Spirit works within us, changing us from inside out. The invitation today is simple. **Lift the veil, fix your eyes on Christ, and trust the Spirit’s work.** Don’t be discouraged by slow progress. From glory to glory, He is shaping you into His likeness.

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

MARCH EMPHASIS: KINGDOM CITIZENS BEING ROOTED IN GROWING

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens should never become stagnant and complacent in growing; they should always be ready to grow.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Growing, Expanding, Seeking, Studying

LESSON THIRTEEN: PALM BRANCHES OF VICTORY AND JOY (PALM SUNDAY)

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. After reading Revelation 7:9-10, how does this vision of heaven reshape the way you see people of different backgrounds today?
2. Are you living with the assurance of Christ's victory, or are you still striving in your own strength?
3. What practical steps can you take to reflect heaven's diversity in your relationships and ministry?

TEXT: REVELATION 7:9-10

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: CELEBRATING DELIVERANCE WITH PALM BRANCHES

INTRODUCTION: The book of Revelation was written by the Apostle John during his exile on the island of Patmos. It is a prophetic vision revealing both the struggle and the ultimate triumph of God's people. Chapter 7 serves as a pause between the opening of the sixth and seventh seals, offering a glimpse of God's protection and the final victory of His people. In verses 1-8, John sees 144,000 sealed from Israel- symbolizing God's preservation of His people. But in verses 9-10, the scene expands to include a countless multitude from every nation. This vision shows the inclusiveness of the gospel: salvation is not confined to one group but extends to every corner of the earth. The white robes symbolize purity, washed in the blood of the Lamb (V 14). The palm branches echo the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (John 12:13), representing victory and celebration. Their unified cry, "**Salvation belongs to our God... and to the Lamb,**" declares the central truth of eternity: God alone saves, and Christ is the victorious Redeemer.

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT GOD'S KINGDOM IS GLOBAL AND INCLUSIVE.

John sees not a single ethnicity, but a diverse, unified people. The gospel transcends cultures and languages. What unites them is not nationality but salvation in Christ. John sees "...a great multitude...from every nation, tribe, people, and language..." From the promise to Abraham that all nations would be blessed (Gen. 12:3), to Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19), God's plan has always been global.

Revelation shows the fulfillment of that promise. This conforms with Paul's writing in Galatians 3:28- **“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”** Think of an orchestra made up of different instruments. Each one is unique, but together they create harmony. In heaven, every culture contributes to the symphony of worship. We must learn to embrace diversity as part of God's design. Be intentional about sharing the gospel beyond your own circle. The church on earth should reflect the unity and diversity of heaven. God's kingdom welcomes every nation, tribe, people, and language into one family.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT PALM BRANCHES WERE USED TO CELEBRATE GOD'S VICTORY OVER SIN.

Palm branches are not random decorations- they carry deep biblical meaning. In the ancient world, they symbolized triumph. In Israel's worship, they were used in the Feast of Tabernacles to celebrate God's deliverance. In the New Testament, palm branches greeted Jesus as the coming king. In Revelation, the palms point to the ultimate victory and eternal celebration of God's redeemed people. Palm branches in scripture always point to victory and celebration. In the ancient world, victors were honored with palm branches.

(1.) Palms remind us of Christ's victory- We don't fight for victory; we live from His victory. (1Cor. 15:57)

(2.) Palms remind us of God's deliverance- Just as Israel celebrated freedom, we rejoice in salvation through the Lamb. (Rev. 21:3)

(3.) Palms remind us of Christ's Kingship- He was welcomed with palms once in Jerusalem, and now He is eternally worshiped as King of Kings. (John 12:13)

Wave your “palm branch” today by living in praise and thanksgiving. When trials come, remember: your robe is white, your branch is in hand, and your victory is secure in Christ. Revelation 7 shows the greater deliverance: God has brought His people safely into His presence forever.

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT GOD'S GLORY IS THE FOCUS OF ETERNAL WORSHIP.

The multitudes' united cry directs all glory to God and the Lamb. **“...they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God... and to the Lamb.”** Worship is heaven's central activity- loud, joyful, and Christ-centered. Their song isn't about personal achievement but about God's saving power. All of heaven acknowledges that salvation is God's work from beginning to end. When a championship team wins, fans celebrate their hero. In heaven, the eternal celebration is centered on the true champion- Jesus Christ, the Lamb who was slain. Make worship central in your life today. Don't wait for heaven to give God glory. **Live as a worshiper now, declaring with your life that salvation belongs to Him alone.** The palm branches of Revelation 7:9 are more than symbols; they are declarations of victory, deliverance, and kingship.

They remind us that eternity is a celebration of Christ's triumph!

QUARTER 1: JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH

**2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED
AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 NKJV)**

**ENCOURAGING GROWTH AND DEVELOPING A FOUNDATION OF
ENTHUSIASM AND GRATITUDE**

JANUARY 4	ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN CHRIST
JANUARY 11	ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN GOD'S LOVE
JANUARY 18	ROOTED IN COMMUNICATION WITH CHRIST
JANUARY 25	ROOTED IN SOUND DOCTRINE

**KINGDOM CITIZENS BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN THEIR
ETHNIC HISTORY AND HERITAGE**

FEBRUARY 1	DRUNK OFF THE WINE OF INJUSTICE
FEBRUARY 8	CALL IT WHAT IT TRULY IS!
FEBRUARY 15	LOOK BACK; LIVE FORWARD
FEBRUARY 22	ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN REMEMBERING

KINGDOM CITIZENS BEING ROOTED IN GROWING

MARCH 1	GENUINE FAITH WILL BE TESTED
MARCH 8	STUDY, STUDY AND STUDY SOME MORE!
MARCH 15	LET THE WORD LIVE IN YOU
MARCH 22	LIFTING THE VEIL IN YOUR LIFE
MARCH 29	PALM BRANCHES OF VICTORY AND JOY (PALM SUNDAY)