

ETS 4/13

Date _____

Assignment Sheet

Name _____ Topic _____ A Survey of the Bible

Lesson _____ The Promise of a New Covenant _____ Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "The Promise of a New Covenant"		
Bible Study		
Philippians 3		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Bible Reading Chart		
Pursuit of Holiness--Chapter 13		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for 1 person to win to Christ.		
Pray for your disciple.		
Meet with your disciple.		
Scripture Memory		
Write in 2 verses you memorized.		
Review previous verses.		

THE PROMISE OF A NEW COVENANT

Introduction

The writer of Genesis states:

...in thee shall all the nations of the earth
be blessed.

Genesis 12:3

This new covenant deals with the blessing part of Abraham's promise. Up to this point only Abraham's seed was being blessed. It was God's plan that the whole world would be blessed.

In one of Judah's darkest hours prior to the Babylonian captivity, God told Jeremiah, the last of the pre-exile prophets, that He was going to make a new covenant.

New Covenant

Law written in their hearts

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto

the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

NOTES

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Important promises to observe from this passage:

- I am going to make a new covenant with the house of Judah and Israel (David's seed).
- I will put my Law in their inward parts and write it in their hearts.

Up to this time the Law of God was external and written on tables of stone. Now God was going to change that. He was going to write it internally on their hearts.

- I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- They shall all know me from the least to the greatest.
- I will forgive their iniquity and will remember their sin no more.

The Jews needed this new covenant because of their inability to live up to the conditions of the Mosaic Law. God's blessing and their possession of the land was conditional to their total obedience to the Mosaic Law. The northern ten tribes of Israel had already lost all their land and were in captivity. Judah was about to lose all the land which she had. The Mosaic Law could only convict them of sin and act as a school master to lead them to repentance. They needed a pure heart towards God and the indwelling of God's Spirit to help them live up to God's Law.

A New Heart

And I will give them one heart and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Ezekiel 11:19-20

Important aspects of this promise:

- I will put a new spirit within you.
- I will take the stony heart out of their flesh.

- I will give them a heart of flesh.
- That they may walk in my statutes and keep mine ordinances....

Because of man's fallen nature, the heart tended toward sin and not toward the Law of God. Therefore, people realized that they could never measure up to God's perfect standard and were forever falling short of God's expectations. But in this passage, God promised to send "a new Spirit" to indwell the believer and to assist him to really walk with God and serve Him.

All Flesh

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Joel 2:28-29

Important things to note in this passage:

- This event was to happen at a future date.
- I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh. "I will pour out" means to indwell them with His Spirit. This was to be available to all people, not just Abraham's seed.

The Difference Between the Covenants

The Bible is divided into two parts--the Old and the new covenants ("Testament" means "Covenant").

In the old covenant since the days of Moses the Laws of God were written on tablets of stone and were designed for a people already righteous as a way of life. However, for those who were not redeemed, the Law served notice that man could not attain righteousness, for in the flesh they were impossible to keep perfectly. The tablets of stone were a constant reminder that man could not keep the Law by himself.

The new covenant was instituted by Jesus Christ when He died on the cross for our sins, and under it man now had direct access to God. The Law was now written on

hearts of flesh, not on tablets of stone. Man could now be counted righteous because of Jesus' death for him, and did not have to depend on his own righteousness through the keeping of the Law.

Salvation has always been by grace through faith, for Abram believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness (see Genesis 15:6 and Galatians 3:6). He and others looked forward to what God was going to do, while we look backward to what God has done at Calvary.

Jesus--The Mediator of the New Covenant

But now hath he (Jesus) obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Hebrews 8:6

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 9:11-14

Important things to note in this passage:

- The old covenant had been established with a sacrifice. The shedding of blood was the means of forgiveness and salvation under the Mosaic Law. The new covenant was also established with a sacrifice--the blood of Jesus Christ shed upon the cross. The Israelites looked ahead 2,000 years by faith to the blood of Christ. Today we look back by faith some two thousand years to the blood of Christ.

For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Matthew 26:28

- The old covenant required repeated sacrifice of countless animals. Christ's sacrifice was once for all.

- The old covenant required a priest to mediate between God and the people. Christ now has become the Mediator of the new covenant forever interceding with God in man's behalf.

While on earth Jesus tried to explain to His disciples that He must depart if the new covenant was ever to come. This was necessary because:

- His blood had to be shed for the remission of sin.
- The promised Spirit could not come until Christ departed.

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth, It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter (Spirit) will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John 16:7

New Covenant Confirmed at Pentecost

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

In explaining the Pentecost event Peter said:

For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken of by the Prophet Joel....(Peter went on to quote Joel 2:28-29 mentioned earlier.)

Acts 2:15-16

Things to note from Acts 2

- Pentecost ushered in the promised new covenant which Jesus had told His followers about. The Holy Spirit was now given to indwell each believer permanently and to give assistance to the Christian in his personal obedience to God. The Holy Spirit was no longer the external influence that He had been under the old covenant, but now an internal Power--the very person of God within the Christian's heart.
- Some theologians question if Joel's prophecy which Peter quoted was totally fulfilled.
 --Only some of the Jews at Pentecost were filled with the Spirit--those who believed in Christ.
 So as yet the Spirit had not been poured upon "all flesh."
- Israel is to this day cut off from the Messiah as they were in the days of Jesus due to unbelief.
 However, the day is coming when Israel will re-turn to God.
- For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

Roman 11:25-26

So we can see that the blindness of Israel to Christ's reality is for a season only--until the full number of Gentiles should be saved.

- These theologians believe that at some point in the future the universal aspect of the Joel prophecy will be fulfilled. The Gentiles are being won and brought into the Kingdom in great number. And when the full number is complete, God will again turn His attention to Israel to pour His Spirit upon them.

Jesus fulfills the covenant

Jesus is the fulfilling of the promise to Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David. Because of His death upon the cross for our sins we are now made righteous

in the sight of God. His shed blood has washed our sins away, and we are now capable of fellowshiping with God. Because of the new covenant we now have the Spirit of God living in our hearts, who is ever at work indwelling us, giving power to live by the law of God which is written in our hearts.

Every time we take communion we commemorate the new covenant God made. It means that God's promise to Adam is now a reality. Men and women are now restored to fellowship with God. The Spirit of God is living in us to help us walk with Him.

Galatians says:

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:14

Jesus was the seed of Adam and Abraham, and through His finished work on the cross the whole world can be blessed. Through Jesus Christ God has provided a way for us to be reconciled to Him. All we need to do is be willing to receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

New Birth and New Covenant

In John 3:1-10 Jesus expected Nicodemus to understand better than he did, about the new covenant He had come to establish. He explained how a man must have a new birth by the Spirit of God, if he was to be a part of this new covenant, which God was about to initiate.

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not

NOTES

tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

John 3:1-10

Verse 3--Must be born again or you can't enter the Kingdom of God

4--How can a man be born?

5--Water and the Spirit

10--Are you a master of Israel and know not these things?

To be a partaker of the new covenant you must be born again and have the Spirit of God dwelling in you. Once the new covenant is enacted you can not come to God under the provisions of the old covenant.

PHILIPPIANS 3

PRELIMINARY STUDY

Can you recall from memory the main content of chapters 1 and 2? What did they cover?

Review these chapters from your studies before launching into Philippians 3.

Read Chapter 3 several times to get an overall view. Then proceed to the "What does it say?" part of your study.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

In Philippians 3 and 4 you have a choice. You can continue to summarize and title the contents by paragraphs, as you have been doing in summary outline fashion. Or you can outline the chapter.

Whether you choose to do summary outlines or straight outlines, your goal is to dig in and find out what the chapter says, then record it.

The first step for either method (summary outlining or straight outlines) is to decide on the major divisions of the chapter. Then give each division a brief title or heading.

If you are making a summary outline, proceed to summarize the portion of the chapter included in each division. This time try to condense your summary to an average of 4 to 8 words per verse--that is, about 85 to 170 words for the chapter. Making your summary more compact will give you a clearer grasp of the chapter.

If you outline, consider each main division and, if possible, separate it into smaller subdivisions. These in turn can sometimes be further divided into subpoints.

Look over the sample outline of the first 14 verses of Chapter 3. Then try making your own outline of the whole chapter on scratch paper. Your outline may be different from the sample shown, or it may incorporate parts of it. After completing your outline, write it into your book.

Sample outline of Philippians 3:1-14

A. False and true religion (1-3)

1. False stresses fleshly works (1,2)

- 2. True rests in faith (3)
- B. Paul's testimony and experience (4-14)
 - 1. Paul's self-righteousness (4-6)
 - a. Pride in Jewish tradition (4,5)
 - b. Zeal in righteous works (6)
 - 2. Present confidence in Christ (7-14)
 - a. Forsook all for Christ (7-9)
 - (1) Christ superior to former possessions (7-14)
 - (2) Christ's righteousness superior to self-righteousness (9)
 - b. New goal in Christ (10-14)
 - (1) To know and be identified with Christ (10,11)
 - (2) To carry out God's calling (12-14)

SUMMARY OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS 3

[illegible]

CROSS REFERENCES

Meditate through the chapter verse by verse and find cross references for several important verses.

Verse	Cross Reference	Key Thought
-------	-----------------	-------------

10	I Chron. 28:9	
----	---------------	--

PROBLEMS

List below the problems you have found in Philippians 3.

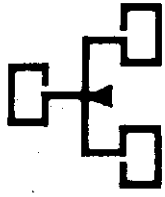
Verse	Questions
-------	-----------

APPLICATION

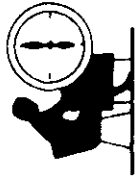
Review the instructions in Studies 2 and 3 on writing the application. If you do not already have a verse in mind for your application, go through the chapter and choose the one you need most. Write your application in three parts: What does the passage teach? How does my life compare to this? What can be done about it? Be specific, and personal--with I, me, my.

[illegible]

10



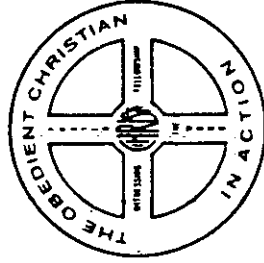
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE _____

APPLICATION



BASICS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY	CURRENT REVIEW BACK REVIEW NEW VERSES	CHECK	DESCRIPTION
BIBLE READING			
BIBLE STUDY			
PRAYER			
WITNESSING			
FOLLOW UP			
EXERCISE			
SLEEP	WAKE UP		

MANAGEMENT

6 AM

Do List

Priorities

8

10

12 PM

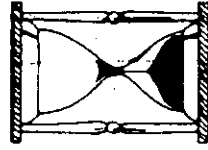
2

4

6

8

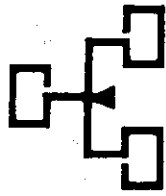
10



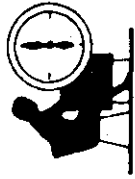
WRITE

PHONE

SEE



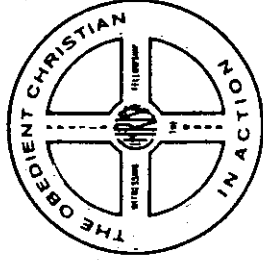
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE

APPLICATION



BASICS

DESCRIPTION

CHECK

SCRIPTURE
MEMORY

CURRENT REVIEW
BACK REVIEW
NEW VERSES

BIBLE READING

BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER

WITNESSING

FOLLOW UP

EXERCISE

SLEEP

WAKE UP

MANAGEMENT

6 AM

Do List

Priorities

8

10

12 PM

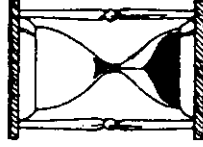
2

4

6

8

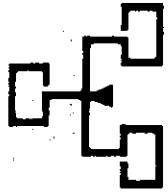
10



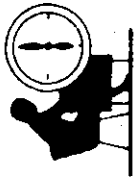
WRITE

PHONE

SEE



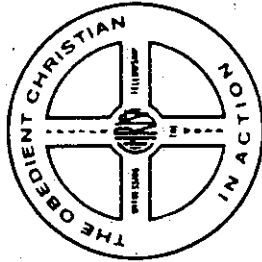
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE _____

APPLICATION



BASICS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY	CURRENT REVIEW BACK REVIEW NEW VERSES	CHECK	DESCRIPTION
BIBLE READING			
BIBLE STUDY			
PRAYER			
WITNESSING			
FOLLOW UP			
EXERCISE			
SLEEP	WAKE UP		

MANAGEMENT

6 AM

Do List

Priorities

8

10

12 PM

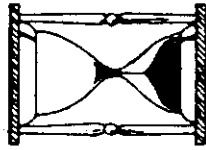
2

4

6

8

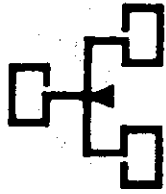
10



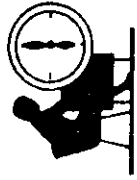
WRITE

PHONE

SEE



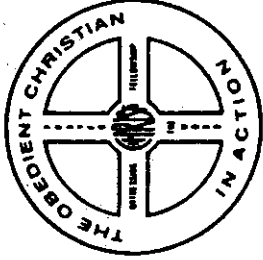
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE

APPLICATION



BASICS

DESCRIPTION

CHECK

SCRIPTURE
MEMORY

CURRENT REVIEW
BACK REVIEW
NEW VERSES

BIBLE READING

BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER

WITNESSING

FOLLOW UP

EXERCISE

SLEEP

WAKE UP

MANAGEMENT

6 AM

Do List

Priorities

8

10

12 PM

2

4

6

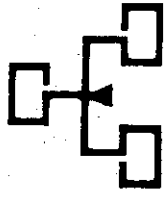
8

10

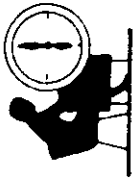
WRITE

PHONE

SEE



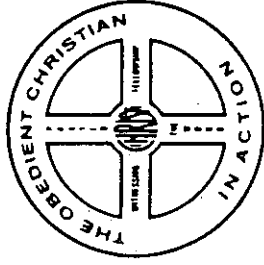
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE _____

APPLICATION



BASICS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY	CURRENT REVIEW BACK REVIEW NEW VERSES	CHECK	DESCRIPTION
BIBLE READING			
BIBLE STUDY			
PRAYER			
WITNESSING			
FOLLOW UP			
EXERCISE			
SLEEP	WAKE UP		

MANAGEMENT

6 AM

Do List

Priorities

8

10

12 PM

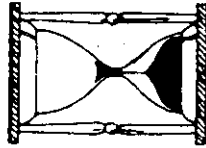
2

4

6

8

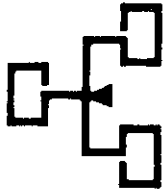
10



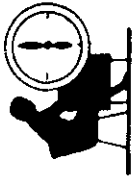
WRITE

PHONE

SEE



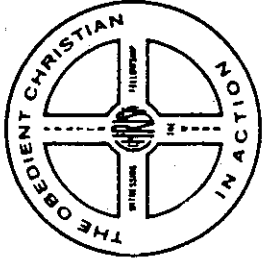
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE _____

APPLICATION



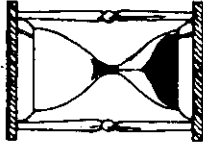
BASICS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY	CURRENT REVIEW		CHECK	DESCRIPTION
	BACK REVIEW	NEW VERSES		
BIBLE READING				
BIBLE STUDY				
PRAYER				
WITNESSING				
FOLLOW UP				
EXERCISE				
SLEEP				
WAKE UP				

MANAGEMENT

Do List

Priorities



WRITE

PHONE

SEE

6 AM

8

10

12 PM

2

4

6

8

10

Holiness and Our Wills

For it is God who works in
You to will and to act
According to His good
Purpose.

Philippians 2:13

In all that has been said so far about our responsibility for holiness--the necessity of conviction and commitment, perseverance and discipline, and of holiness in body and in spirit--the activity of our will is always implied. It is the will that ultimately makes each individual choice of whether we will sin or obey. It is the will that chooses to yield to temptation, or to say no. Our wills, then, ultimately determine our moral destiny, whether we will be holy or unholy in our character and conduct.

This being true, it is critically important that we understand how our wills function--what causes them to turn one direction or the other, why they take the choices they do. Above all else, we must learn how to bring our wills into submission and obedience to the will of God, on a practical, daily, hour-by-hour basis.

To help us understand how our wills function, let us review the definition of the heart presented earlier in Chapter 6. In that definition Owen said the heart as used in the Bible generally denotes all the faculties of the soul as they work together in doing good or evil--the mind, the emotions, the conscience, and the will.

These faculties were all implanted in man's soul by God, but were all corrupted through man's fall in the Garden of Eden. Our reason (or understanding) was darkened (Ephesians 4:18), and our wills perverted (John 5:40). With new birth our reason is again enlightened, our affections and desires redirected, and our wills subdued. But though this is true, it is not true all at once. In actual experience it is a growing process. We are told to renew our minds (Romans 12:2), to set our affections on things above (Colossians 3:1)¹, and to submit our wills to God (James 4:7).

Moreover, when God originally created man, the reason, the emotions, and the will all worked in perfect harmony. Reason led the way in understanding the will of God, the will consented to God's will, and the emotions delighted in doing it. But with the entrance of sin into man's soul, these three faculties began to work at cross purposes to one another and to God. The will has become stubborn and rebellious and will not consent to that which reason knows to be the will of God. Or, more commonly, the emotions get the upper hand and draw away both reason and will from obedience to God.

The point of all of this is to emphasize and enable us to understand the interrelation of the mind, emotions, and will. While the will is the ultimate determiner of all choices, it is influenced in its choices by the strongest forces brought to bear upon it.

These compelling forces come from a variety of sources. It may be the subtle suggestions of Satan and his world system (Ephesians 2:2) or the evil enticements of our own sinful nature (James 1:14). It may be the urgent voice of conscience, the earnest reasoning of a loving friend, or the quiet prompting of the Holy Spirit. But from whatever sources these compelling forces come, they reach our wills through either our reason or our emotions.

Therefore we must guard what enters our minds and what influences our emotions. Solomon said, "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life" (Proverbs 4:23). If we diligently guard our minds and emotions, we will see the Holy Spirit working in us to conform our wills to His own (Philippians 2:12-13). How then do we guard our minds and emotions?

David said, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy Word" (Psalm 119:9). David guarded his way with the Word of God. The Bible speaks to us primarily through our reason, and this is why it is so vitally important for our minds to be constantly brought under its influence. There is absolutely no shortcut to holiness that bypasses or gives little priority to a consistent intake of the Bible.

Solomon told us that wisdom, understanding, and discretion will guard us from the evil way (Proverbs 2:10-12). These are qualities of our minds. How do we acquire these qualities? "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6). But to whom does the Lord give these qualities? He gives them to the one who receives His sayings, who inwardly treasures His commandments, who makes his ear alert to wisdom and his heart ready for understanding, who prays for discernment and understanding, and who seeks understanding as if it were hidden treasure (Proverbs 6:1-5).

It is obvious from even a casual reading of Proverbs 2:1-12 that the protective influence of the Word of God comes as a result of diligent, prayerful, and purposeful intake of Scripture. To guard our minds, we must give priority to the Bible in our lives--not just for the spiritual information it gives, but also for the daily application of it in our workaday lives.

Not only must we guard our minds, we must also guard our emotions. To do this, it is helpful first, to realize that while God most often appeals to our wills through our reason, sin and Satan usually appeal to us through our desires. It is true Satan will attack our reason to confuse and cloud the issues, but that is only to enable him to conquer us through our desires. This is the strategy he employed with Eve (Genesis 3:1-6). He attacked her reason by questioning God's integrity, but his primary temptation was to her desire. We

read that Eve saw that the tree was good for food, it was a delight to the eyes, and desirable for making one wise (Genesis 3:6).

Knowing that Satan attacks primarily through our desires, we should watch over them diligently and bring the Word of God to bear on them constantly. This is not asceticism; it is spiritual prudence. Each of us should seek to be aware of how sin attacks us through our desires, and take preventive actions. This is what Paul urged Timothy to do when he instructed him to "flee the evil desires of youth" (II Timothy 2:22).

But the guarding of our desires is more than fighting a rear-guard defensive action against temptations from the world, the flesh, and the devil. We must take the offensive. Paul directs us to set our hearts on things above, that is, on spiritual values (Colossians 3:1). The psalmist encourages us to delight ourselves in the law of God (Psalm 1:2), and it was said prophetically of Jesus, "I delight to do Thy will, O my God" (Psalm 40:8). So we see that we are to set our desires on spiritual things, and delight ourselves in the law and will of God.

So we have come full circle to discipline--to a structured plan. Normally our reason, wills, and emotions should work in that order, but since we so often reverse the order, giving attention to our desires, we must work at directing those desires toward God's will.

When I first began jogging as an exercise, I was unmotivated, and therefore inconsistent in doing it. I knew I should jog, that my body needed the physical conditioning, and that I would probably be more healthy as a result. But I was out of condition and it required time I didn't think I had and above all, it was painful. So I started, stopped, started, and stopped, never making consistent progress. Then I read Dr. Kenneth Cooper's book Aerobics, which documents the importance of strenuous activities such as jogging, that exercise the heart. Dr. Cooper explained why jogging was important, gave a few simple guidelines for doing it, and sprinkled his facts and instructions with many illustrations of people whose physical lives were changed dramatically as a result of jogging.

I found myself reading through that book perhaps a half dozen times. I didn't need to be convinced of the importance of jogging; I was already convinced. And I didn't need to reread the few simple rules; they were clear the first time through the book. What I needed was motivation. And those "success" stories--what I call "before and after stories"--motivated me to go out and jog. Reading and rereading them finally succeeded in making me consistent. I influenced my will through my emotions (by motivation) when I could not through my reason (by understanding the importance of jogging).

Now in addition to giving us instructions and guidelines for living, the Bible is filled with "success" stories of real people who trusted God and obeyed Him and whose lives were changed dramatically or who significantly influenced the course of history. The 11th chapter of

Hebrews gives us a brief and partial index of some of these stories. But there are many more not mentioned (as the writer of Hebrews himself acknowledges in Hebrews 11:32). The exploits of men such as Daniel, Nehemiah, and Elijah as well as Abraham, Noah, and David can motivate us to go and do likewise. So we should do well to constantly include the accounts of some of these men in our Bible reading to motivate us in areas of holiness.

In addition to the Scriptures, we can be alert for the few classic books that really motivate us to a holy and godly life. The number will probably not exceed half a dozen that uniquely meet our needs.² These books should be reread frequently just as I reread Aerobics. The basic idea is to have a plan--a disciplined approach--that will enable us to stay motivated to holiness.

In the final analysis it is God who works in us to will and to act according to His good purpose. But we are expressly told by Paul to work at this ourselves (Philippians 2:12). Our responsibility regarding our wills is to guard our minds and emotions, being aware of what influences our minds and stimulates our desires. As we do our part, we will see the Spirit of God do his part in making us more holy.

Footnotes

¹In the New International Version the phrase from this verse reads, "Set your heart on things above." However, Paul evidently used heart here in its more limited meaning of affections and emotions, since in verse 2 he told us to set our minds--that is, our intellect--on things above. Thus he exhorted us to set both our affections and our reason on spiritual values.

²The list of books which uniquely meet each person's needs will of course, vary. My own list will not necessarily motivate the reader, but, for whatever it is worth, it includes: Romans: An Exposition of Chapter 6--The New Man by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, and Temptation and Sin by John Owen (both previously cited in this book); and two other short, readable books, Power Through Prayer by E. M. Bounds (Zondervan), and The Life of Robert Murray McChesney by Andrew Bonar (Banner of Truth Trusts). I must say, however, that day-in and day-out the Scriptures themselves motivate me more to holiness than all the books in my library.

ETS 4/14

Date _____

Assignment Sheet

Name _____

Topic A Survey of the Bible

Lesson _____

The Promise Through Prophecy

Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "The Promise Through Prophecy"		
Bible Study		
Philippians 4		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Bible Reading Chart		
Pursuit of Holiness -- Chapter 14		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Share "Bridge" with non-Christian.		
Meet with your disciple.		
Pray for your disciple.		
Scripture Memory		
Write in 2 verses you memorized.		
Review all verses.		



THE PROMISE THROUGH PROPHECY

Eschatology

To complete our survey of the Bible we are now going to turn to what the Bible says about the future.

Among Bible-believing Christians there is a tremendous amount of agreement about the crucial issues of the faith - agreement on such matters as the existence of the Trinity, the authority of Scripture, the deity of Jesus Christ, the atonement of His death for our sin, His resurrection, and more.

But there are less crucial issues over which Bible-believing theologians are divided. And, such is the case in the field of ESCHATOLOGY. Eschatology is the study of the end times and the consummation of all things.

Even in this field, there is great agreement on central issues, agreement of belief that:

- History will go on to a certain point, then God will intervene.
- There will be a tribulation.
- There will be a rapture in which God's people will meet the Lord Jesus in the air.
- At Jesus' return in power the Antichrist will be destroyed.
- There will be a final crushing of all opposition to Christ.
- There is a judgment that results in each person spending eternity in Heaven or hell.
- There will be the eternal states of Heaven and hell.

However, opinions vary on other issues. How one sees the details of the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham depends on his views as to:

Whether the yet-unfulfilled Old Testament promises are to be fulfilled for the physical descendants of Abraham (the Jews), or the spiritual descendants of Abraham (the Church, made up of Jews and Gentiles).

Whether the 1,000 year reign of Christ (the millennium) mentioned in Revelation 22, is to be taken as a literal 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth, or understood as a symbol of the complete rule Christ now exercises over Heaven and earth, and will exercise until He returns to destroy all opposition.

Bible-believing scholars disagree on the answers to these questions, and others - such as, whether or not the Church will go through the tribulation, and, in what sequence the events of the end times will occur.

The names for the various positions taken by scholars in answer to these questions are derived from the way the positions say the return of Christ is related to the millennium.

Premillennialism

- Pre-millennialism says that Christ arrives before the millennium to set up a 1,000 year reign on the earth. This position is taken by many scholars. Premillennialism is further divided into two major groups, the Historical and Dispensational.

Amillennialism

- A-millennialism says that the 1,000 year reign is symbolic of Christ's current rule of Heaven and earth, begun at His ascension. He will return without a literal 1,000 year earthly reign. This, also, is the position of many scholars.

Postmillennialism

- Post-millennialism says the spread of the Gospel will lead to a Golden Age (the millennium) after which Christ will return. A few scholars hold this view.

Consider the following chart. It will help you identify the names of various positions with the major beliefs associated with them. The discussion following the chart will give more detail on each position.

FOUR MAJOR ESCHATOLOGICAL POSITIONS

ISSUES / VIEWS	Abraham's Descendants*	The Rapture	The Tribulation	The Millennium
	Abraham's Descendants*	The Rapture	The Tribulation	The Millennium
DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIALISM	The Jews	Pretribulation	The Church will be removed to Heaven before it	A future 1,000 year reign of Christ over a Jewish kingdom on earth
HISTORICAL PREMILLENNIALISM	In the O.T. the Jews and now in the N.T. the Church both Jew & Gentile	Posttribulation	The Church will be present on earth during it	A future 1,000 year reign of Christ over all mankind on earth
AMILLENNIALISM	In the O.T. the Jews and now in the N.T. the Church both Jew & Gentile	Posttribulation	The Church will be present on earth during it	A present indef- inite span with Christ reigning over Heaven and earth
POSTMILLENNIALISM	In the O.T. the Jews and now in the N.T. the Church both Jew & Gentile	Postmillennial	The Church will be present on earth during it	A future Golden Age when the Gos- pel dominates the earth

*Was the promise made to Abraham and his physical descendants the Jews or to his spiritual seed the Church?

Premillennialism

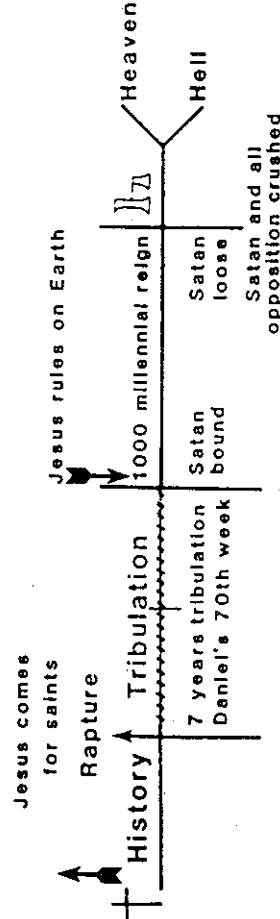
Dispensational Premillennialism

Adherents of this position believe that the promises God gave to Abraham were made to him and his physical seed, the nation of Israel. Those promises which are yet unfulfilled will one day be fulfilled to Israel during a future thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth. During this reign, Israel as a nation will have a special status in the world. The Jews will return to Christ and be saved.

This belief holds that the end-time events will occur as follows:

- The Church will be raptured out of the world to meet the Lord in the air prior to the period of tribulation.
- There will be a seven-year period of tribulation on the earth which is the "Seventieth Week" of Daniel's vision. It is described for us in Daniel 9 - especially verse 27.
- At the end of the tribulation, Jesus will return to earth in His Second Coming. The saints will return with Him and will reign with Christ for a thousand years on the earth. During this millennial reign, Satan will be bound, and Christ will rule from David's throne. Israel will be saved, and all the Old Testament prophecies which were not fulfilled during Christ's first coming will be accomplished.
- At the close of the millennium, Satan will be loosed for a short time to deceive the nations, but then will be crushed forever by God.
- The Great White Throne Judgment will occur in which all souls will be judged with the result being either Heaven or hell depending on each person's relationship to Jesus Christ.

These events can be visually demonstrated in the following chart.

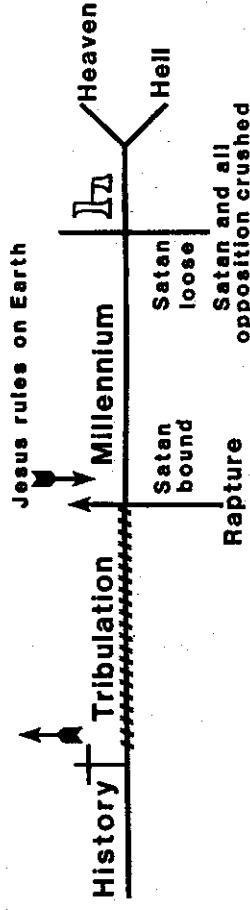


Historical Premillennialism

This view holds many of the same views as Dispensational Premillennialism. Historical Premillennialists hold that we are now in the tribulation, and it takes place over a long period of time. Unlike the Dispensationalists they believe that the saints will go through the tribulation, but will be shielded from its most severe aspects. At the end of the tribulation the Church will be raptured out to meet Christ in the air and will at once return with Him to establish the millennial reign of Christ. Satan will be bound, and Christ will possess absolute rule. The standard of the Sermon on the Mount will prevail.

The Historical Premillennialist places considerably less emphasis on the nation of Israel and sees many of the promises of God being fulfilled in spiritual Israel - the Church. However, he does believe that the nation of Israel will one day be saved.

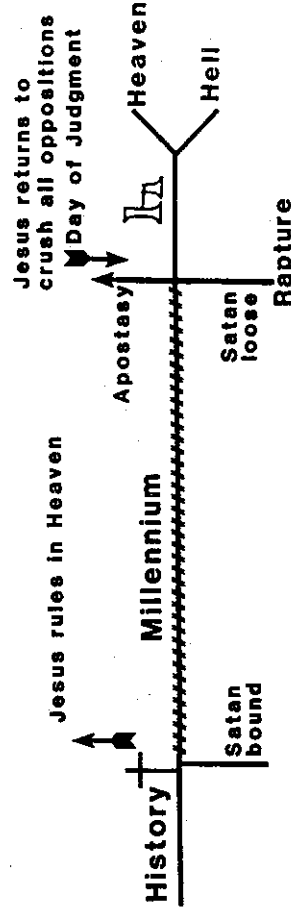
Compare the Historical position as diagrammed below with the Dispensational view diagrammed.



Amillennialism

Students of this position believe that the promises God gave to Abraham were made with him and his spiritual seed rather than his physical seed. In the New Testament Abraham's spiritual seed is the Church. Any unfilled promises left over from the Old Testament are now being fulfilled to Abraham's spiritual seed--the Church. Amillennialists do not see the thousand-year (millennial) reign of Christ as a literal period of time, but rather as an indeterminate and very lone epoch. They also believe that this reign takes place with Jesus in Heaven and in the lives of believers here upon earth.

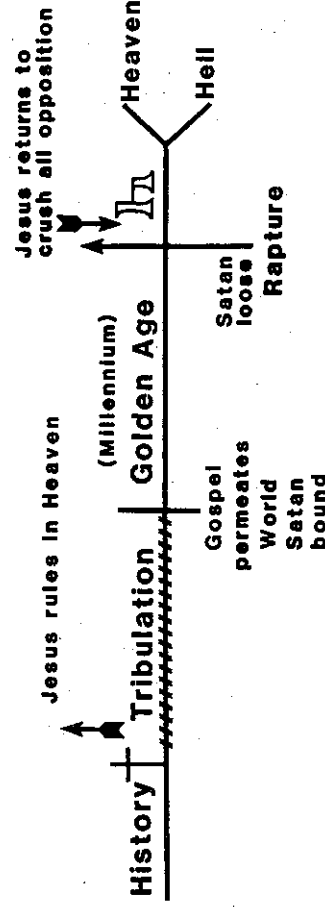
The Amillennialist believes that an intensity of tribulation and apostasy will culminate in the final emergence of an Antichrist just prior to Christ's return. When Jesus comes, He will at once rapture the saints and crush the Antichrist and all opposition. This will be followed by the Day of Judgment resulting in either Heaven or hell for each person.



Postmillennialism

NOTES

This position holds that the Kingdom of God is here and now, and is being extended to the whole world thru the preaching of the Gospel. It affirms that the tribulation takes place throughout a non-specific span of history. Because Satan is now "bound", the Gospel is able to permeate the lives of individuals, institutions and nations. Although Satan still has some power, Christianity is overcoming his opposition and is steadily growing and picking up speed in its world influence. Eventually the victorious domination of Christianity will usher in the millennial reign of peace--the Golden Age of Righteousness. Not everyone will turn to Christ, nor will sin be totally eradicated, but the principles of Christ will be the prevailing authority. Jesus will return for His Church at the end of this Golden Age during a flare-up of apostasy and opposition as Satan is loosed. The Antichrist will be crushed as will all opposition to God. The Great White Throne Judgment will result in Heaven or hell for each soul.



Conclusion

I have spent days researching the different positions on the subject of eschatology in an effort to clarify in a few paragraphs what men have spent years determining and thousands of pages communicating. My one hope is to help laymen understand the basic issues in their simplest form. May I underscore that this simplified survey was meant to be taught in eight, 30 min. sessions presenting a skeletal picture of the central message of the Bible.

My prayer is, that regardless of your personal position or beliefs, you may be able to take this simple tool and trace the Old Testament promises God gave to mankind to show how they were fulfilled in Christ. Hopefully you will find the room necessary to more clearly present and clarify your own position as well as to help people understand the other positions.

For a better understanding of these positions and their Biblical apologetic let me recommend three books which are within the grasp of any serious layman who wants to research this topic further.

1. The Meaning Of The Millennium, edited by Robert G. Clouse. Inter Varsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois
2. Contemporary Options In Eschatology, Millard J. Erickson. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan
3. The Prophecy of Daniel, E. J. Young. Eerdmans Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Review: Promises and History

Daniel's Prophecy

By the year 586 B.C. God's promise to Abraham and David had only been partially fulfilled. Abraham's seed, the Israelites, had been given the land God had promised and were in possession of part of it, but the promise to David that his seed would one day rule Israel was still only a dream. The ten tribes of Israel had long before been taken captive by the Assyrians. Then in 586 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon marched the remaining southern tribes into captivity.

In this dark hour, nearly half a century later, when the promise seemed hopelessly far from completion, the Angel Gabriel visited Daniel, a Jewish captive in Babylon, and revealed to him God's plan.

And while I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God; Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the

evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Daniel 9:20-27

Daniel's Seventy Weeks

Verse 24--Daniel was told that there were 70 "weeks"* left till God had finished with Israel's sin and the most Holy anointed.

25--God wanted Daniel to understand that from the time of the commandment to restore Jerusalem until the coming of the Messiah, the Prince, would be 7 weeks, plus three score and 2 weeks (3x20=60, 60+2+62, 7+62=69). This means 69 of the 70 "weeks".

26--At the end of the 69th week, the Messiah would be put to death or cut off, and the city with the sanctuary would be destroyed. From that time onwards there would be desolation.

*A period of 70 sevens has been decreed. The seven was translated as "weeks".

Verse 27--This is a key verse because it deals with the 70th week or the 70th seven. Daniel was told that "He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week, and in the midst of the week, will cause the sacrifice to cease."

At this point a student must decide who the "He" is referring to in the verse and when the 70th week will occur. Does it follow immediately after the 69th week or is there a space of time before the events of the 70th week? Both these have far-reaching implications and ramifications in your understanding of eschatology. This passage has divided theologians into two major interpretations.

He Refers to Jesus

One group of scholars say that "He" is the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the one who was cut off. He is the one who causes the covenant to prevail and will cause the sacrifice to cease in the middle of the week. Since we are not told what the covenant that prevails is, we must be guided by the advocates of this interpretation. These theologians say it is referring to the Covenant of Grace. When the Lord fulfilled the terms of the Covenant of Grace, He caused the covenant to prevail. Under the Covenant of Grace, God freely offers to sinners salvation and eternal life by placing faith in the redeeming work of Jesus Christ upon the cross. Jesus' death and sacrifice has made every other sacrifice an abomination unto the Lord. That system of sacrifices which was acceptable under the old covenant was now an abomination. This along with the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. by Titus, has caused the sacrifice to cease once and for all. Many of these scholars say this finishes the 70th week and covers the entire period of Jesus' humiliation on earth.

He Refers to the Antichrist

The other interpretation of this passage is held by the Dispensational Premillennialist. They believe that the "He" referred to is the prince of darkness who was responsible for the death of the Messiah and the destruction of the Temple. They believe that there is a time gap between the 69th and 70th weeks which is now almost 2000 years old. According to this theory the time clock was stop-

ped after Christ's death and resurrection so that God could bless all the nations of the world through Abraham's seed - Jesus. Up to the time of Christ, God's focus of blessing had only been upon the Jews. The Dispensational Premillennialists teach that Romans 11:25-27 provides the key answer as to why there is a gap between the 69th and 70th weeks.

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Romans 11:25-27

Verse 25--Blindness has come to Israel because of their sin and rebellion, but it is a part of God's plan to draw the Gentiles to Himself during this period. This will go on till the time of the Gentiles reaches its fulness. For many years God's dealings were just with the Jews. Now He is concentrating on the Gentiles. Paul reminds us that we need to remember that God still loves the Jews and will turn back to fulfill His promise to them.

26--God will return to Israel, and they will be saved. The day is coming when the Jews will receive Jesus as their Messiah. He will then deliver them and turn their hearts to God.

27--This verse again reminds us of God's covenant with His people.

When the 70th week finally does arrive, according to this view, the prince of darkness - or Antichrist - will come and make a covenant with the nation of Israel. Midway through the week, he will break that covenant and cause the Jewish sacrifice to cease. This view presupposes that the Jews must be in their land, that the Temple must have been rebuilt and that the sacrificial system must be in operation when the Antichrist comes.

Jesus' Prophecy

At the end of Jesus' life, just prior to His crucifixion, Jesus responded to a question with a discussion of the occurrences of the end times. This is actually a prophecy which further sheds light on how the promises of God will be fulfilled.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 23:37-39

Though the Jews rejected Jesus at His first coming, Jesus said that when He came the second time, they would know Him and say, "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

The disciples were curious as to when these things would happen. So in Matthew 24 Jesus described the general events which would take place prior to His Second Coming. To summarize this long passage, I have listed the main points as follows:

Verse 4--Many will be deceived.

5--Men will come saying, "I am Christ."

6--There will be wars and rumors of wars.

7--There will be famines, pestilence, and earthquakes.

9--Jesus' followers will be delivered up--afflicted and killed.

10--There will be betrayal and hatred of one another.

12--Iniquity will abound; love of many shall wax cold.

14--The Gospel shall be preached in all the world; then the end shall come.

15--It will be when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel, standing in the holy place.

Remaining Events

The sequence of the events remaining until the end of time depends upon which theologians you are talking to. The various theologians for the four positions each have different views. Let us review the view of each position.

Amillennial Position

The Great Tribulation

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Matthew:24:21-22

The Amillennialist believes that we are now undergoing the tribulation and that the tribulation will get worse prior to the rapture.

The Millennium

The word "millennium" literally means a thousand-year span of time. It is described for us in Revelation 20 (see verses 1-7). During this period Satan is bound and cast into a sealed pit which prevents him from deceiving the nations.

The Amillennialist position does not view the millennium as a literal period of time, but holds that it is a figurative period beginning with Jesus' ascension and continuing even now. Amillennialists believe that God's rule is now taking place from Heaven in the hearts of believers who are on earth.

The Rapture

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

I Thessalonians 4:16-17

The Amillennialist interprets this passage to mean that the rapture of believers out of the world and the Second Coming of Christ to judge the world are simultaneous events. According to this view believers will be caught up to meet Christ in the air and immediately go with Him to the Great White Throne Judgment.

Great White Throne Judgment

At the end of the millennium Satan will be unchained and set free for a short time. He will try to deceive the saints into following him. After that, Jesus will cause unbelievers to stand in judgment for their works.

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11,15

Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be with Him forever.

New Heaven and Earth

Revelation 21, 22 deals with the new heaven and earth that God will establish for His people. Throughout all eternity we will be with Him.

Postmillennial Position

The Great Tribulation

The Postmillennialist like the Amillennialist believes that we are now undergoing the tribulation. However, the Postmillennialist thinks that things will get better as the Gospel makes an impact on the world and ushers in the millennium.

The Millennium

The Postmillennialist like the Amillennialist does not view the millennium as a literal period of time, but holds that it is a figurative period. Some Postmillennialists have the millennium cover the entire period of the Church. Others see the millennium being ushered in as the Gospel permeates the nations of the world.

The Rapture

The Postmillennialist believes the rapture of believers out of the world and the Second Coming of Christ to judge the world are simultaneous events. The believer will be caught up to meet Christ in the air and immediately return with Him to the Great White Throne Judgment. This event will occur at the end of the millennium.

Great White Throne Judgment

At the end of the millennium Satan will be unchained and set free for a short time. He will try to deceive the saints into following him. After that, Jesus will cause unbelievers to stand in judgment for their works.

Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be with Him forever.

New Heaven and Earth

Revelation 21, 22 deals with the new heaven and earth that God will establish for His people. Throughout all eternity we will be with Him.

Historical Premillennial Position

The Great Tribulation

The Historical Premillennialist says we are now in the tribulation, and it takes place over a long and indefinite span of time. They believe the tribulation will get worse as the millennium draws nearer, but the Church is shielded from its more severe aspects.

The Rapture

They see this as the next prophetic event. The rapture will be inaugurated by the Second Coming of Christ to the earth. The saints will go up to meet Him in the air and return at once to establish the millennium. This is a posttribulation view of the rapture.

The Millennium

John in his revelation describes a time when Satan will be bound and cast into a bottomless pit for 1,000

years. At that time, Jesus will come with His saints and reign for 1,000 years on earth. This period of righteous rule will see Christ reign with justice and peace over His subjects. The standards of life envisioned in the Sermon on the Mount will become a reality. There will also be harmony within creation, and hostility among the creatures will cease. The destructive forces of nature will be stilled. Israel will have a special status during this time.

Great White Throne Judgment

At the end of the millennium Satan will be unchained and set free for a short time. He will try to deceive the saints into following him. After that, Jesus will cause unbelievers to stand in judgment for their works.

Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be with Him forever.

New Heaven and Earth

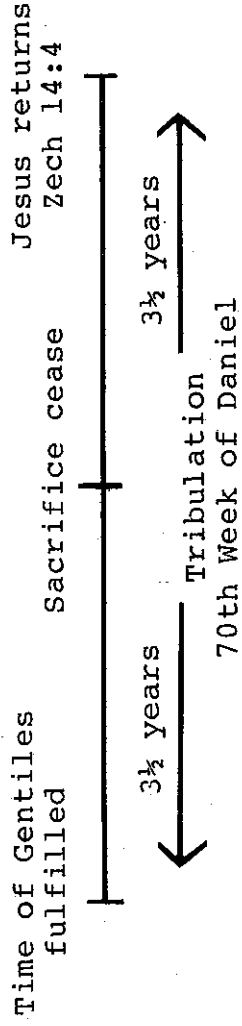
Revelation 21, 22 deals with the new heaven and earth that God will establish for His people. Throughout all eternity we will be with Him.

Dispensational Premillennial Position

The Dispensational Premillennialist sees the beginning of the 70th week as the key to the start of the various prophetic events. This 70th week will begin with the rapture of the saints ushering in the seven years of great tribulation. Of the events which Jesus discussed in Matthew 24-25 only two are not a reality from their point of view.

1. The Gospel has not been preached in all nations.
2. The abomination of desolation prophesied by Daniel has not occurred.

The angel told Daniel that in the 70th week the prince would make a covenant with Israel, and would cause the sacrifice to cease. This is when the abomination will take place. You remember from Daniel that this will take place half-way through the week. Luke 21:24 says that Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled.



The Rapture

Both Premillennial positions see the rapture as the next event. The Dispensationalist who holds a pre-tribulation view says that the Church will be taken out before the tribulation occurs.

The Great Tribulation

The Dispensationalist sees the great tribulation as a future event which will last for seven years. The events of the seven years are described in Revelation chapters 6-19.

Second Coming

At the end of the 70th week Jesus will return the second time and reign for 1,000 years. Zechariah prophesied that His feet would touch the mountain, and that it would split in two.

And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Zechariah 14:4

This event will usher in the millennial reign of Christ on the earth.

The Millennium

John in his revelation describes a time when Satan will be bound and cast into a bottomless pit for 1,000 years. At that time, Jesus will come with His saints and reign for 1,000 years on earth, and the elements of Abraham's promise will completely come

to life. Land, Seed, Blessings and the Great Nation will become a reality. Jesus, David's seed, will rule in the land that God gave to Abraham. He will sit on David's throne and there will be peace on earth. The Jews will be in the land God gave to them.

Great White Throne Judgment

At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be unchained and set free for a short time. He will try to deceive the saints into following him. After that Jesus will cause unbelievers to stand in judgment for their work.

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11,15

Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be with Him forever.

New Heaven and Earth

Revelation 21, 22 deals with the new heaven and earth that God will establish for His people. Throughout all eternity we will be with Him.

PHILIPPIANS 4

PRELIMINARY STUDY

Can you recall the contents and main points of Chapters 1-3 without looking back? Try it; then review them from your studies before Chapter 4. Notice that each chapter is somewhat independent of the others. Yet notice how Jesus Christ is the focal point in each chapter of this warm personal letter.

Read this chapter straight through several times, then again slowly with meditation. Use scratch paper to jot down any application possibilities or problems as you notice them.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Again analyze the chapter by summary outline or by making a regular outline.

For a summary outline, follow the pattern of the three preceding studies. Divide the chapter into sections, write a title and a summary for each section...or summarize the chapter first (average 4-8 words per verse) and then add titles for the sections.

If you choose to outline Philippians 4, try making your own outline, then compare it with the parts of the chapter outlined on the next page.

Sample outline of Philippians 4:1-7

- A. Be steady and unified (1-3)
 - 1. Stand firm in the Lord
 - 2. Help others
- B. Be prayerful and virtuous (4-7)
 - 1. Rejoice and be forbearing
 - 2. Pray about everything

SUMMARY OUTLINE OR OUTLINE

CROSS REFERENCES

Choose several outstanding verses in Chapter 4. Find cross references for them which contain a parallel truth or example of the thought you are cross referencing.

Verse	Reference	Key Thought
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

APPLICATION

Again choose a verse for application from a list you have made, or from a review of the chapter. Write your application in three parts as you have been doing--the truth to apply, the way it presently relates to you, and your plan of action.

Make the third step practical and definite. How you do this will depend on what your need is and what the Lord impresses on your heart to do about it. But be honest. Don't write an application to please or impress someone else.

Always pray about your application--before you write it, and afterwards as you seek to apply it in practice. Self-effort is powerless to change your life--it is God who works the transformation in you (Philippians 2:13).

In developing the action step of your application, there are different kinds of projects you can record.

1. Action to be taken right away--not a long-term application but one attainable within a few days--or at least a specific part of it to be accomplished soon (see sample applications). Sometimes it helps to make a memo and check up on yourself later to see if you have taken the action you felt the Lord wanted you to.
2. A new attitude about God or one of His principles (example below). Here it's good to be specific about what your new attitude should be, and to put it on your prayer list for extra prayer.

Sometimes a practical reminder is to memorize the application verse. Reviewing the verse both recalls God's will and prompts you to pray.

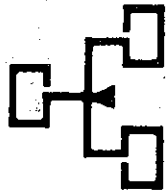
Verse 4 is an emphatic command to Christians to rejoice always in the Lord, even in adverse circumstances--the words were even written from a prison!

However, both my attitude and actions show how far I am from this standard of rejoicing always, and from the contentment mentioned in verse 11. Twice in the last 24 hours I have been irritated and impatient about minor circumstances that I should have been able to take in stride, and even joyfully.

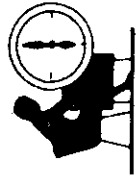
Since this is something God wants, I must depend on him to accomplish it in me. I plan to make it a particular matter of prayer this week that the Holy Spirit will produce this fruit of joy in my life. As a reminder, I have put verse 4 on a card to memorize and review.

Application verse and application for Philippians 4:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.



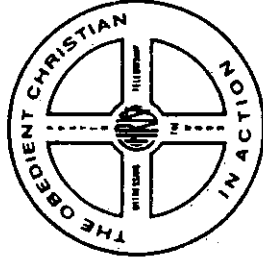
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE _____

APPLICATION



BASICS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY	CURRENT REVIEW	CHECK	DESCRIPTION
	BACK REVIEW		
	NEW VERSES		
BIBLE READING			
BIBLE STUDY			
PRAYER			
WITNESSING			
FOLLOW UP			
EXERCISE			
SLEEP	WAKE UP		

MANAGEMENT

6 AM

Do List

Priorities

8

10

12 PM

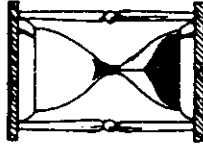
2

4

6

8

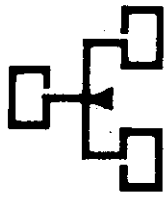
10



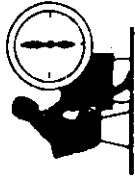
WRITE

PHONE

SEE



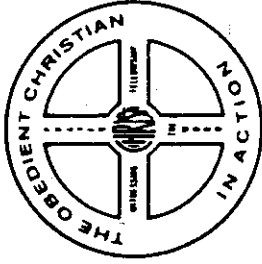
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE

APPLICATION

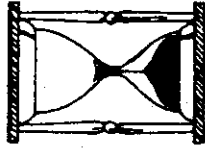


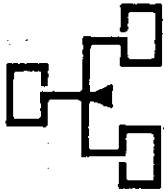
BASICS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY	CURRENT REVIEW BACK REVIEW NEW VERSES	CHECK	DESCRIPTION
BIBLE READING			
BIBLE STUDY			
PRAYER			
WITNESSING			
FOLLOW UP			
EXERCISE			
SLEEP	WAKE UP		

MANAGEMENT

Do List	Priorities	
		6 AM
		8
		10
		12 PM
		2
		4
		6
		8
		10
WRITE		
PHONE		
SEE		





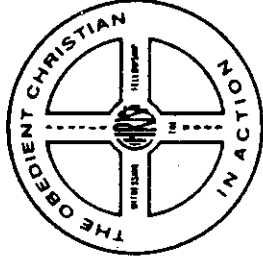
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE

APPLICATION



BASICS

		CHECK	DESCRIPTION
SCRIPTURE MEMORY	CURRENT REVIEW		
	BACK REVIEW		
	NEW VERSES		
BIBLE READING			
BIBLE STUDY			
PRAYER			
WITNESSING			
FOLLOW UP			
EXERCISE			
SLEEP	WAKE UP		

MANAGEMENT

6 AM

Do List

Priorities

8

10

12 PM

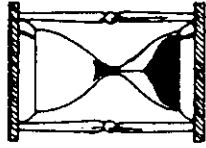
2

4

6

8

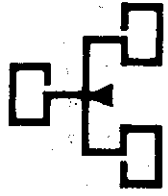
10



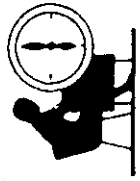
WRITE

PHONE

SEE



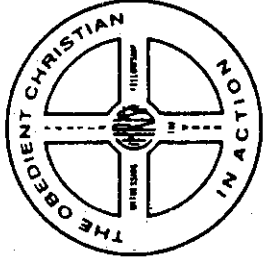
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE

APPLICATION



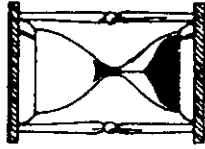
BASICS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY	CURRENT REVIEW BACK REVIEW NEW VERSES	CHECK	DESCRIPTION
BIBLE READING			
BIBLE STUDY			
PRAYER			
WITNESSING			
FOLLOW UP			
EXERCISE			
SLEEP	WAKE UP		

MANAGEMENT

Do List

Priorities



WRITE

PHONE

SEE

6 AM

8

10

12 PM

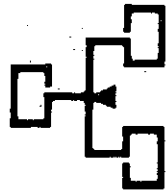
2

4

6

8

10



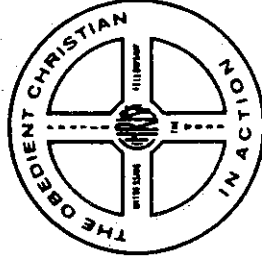
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE _____

APPLICATION



BASICS

DESCRIPTION

CHECK

SCRIPTURE
MEMORY

CURRENT REVIEW

BACK REVIEW

NEW VERSES

BIBLE READING

BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER

WITNESSING

FOLLOW UP

EXERCISE

SLEEP

WAKE UP

MANAGEMENT

6 AM

Do List

Priorities

8

10

12 PM

2

4

6

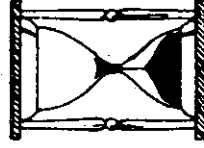
8

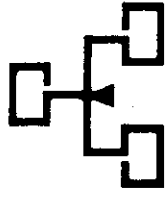
10

WRITE

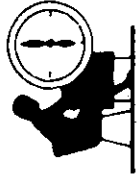
PHONE

SEE





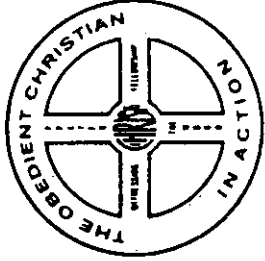
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE

APPLICATION



BASICS

DESCRIPTION

CHECK

CURRENT REVIEW

BACK REVIEW

NEW VERSES

SCRIPTURE
MEMORY

BIBLE READING

BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER

WITNESSING

FOLLOW UP

EXERCISE

SLEEP

WAKE UP

MANAGEMENT

6 AM

Do List

Priorities

8

10

12 PM

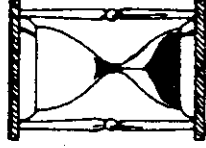
2

4

6

8

10



WRITE

PHONE

SEE

Habits of Holiness

Just as you used to offer
The parts of your body in
Slavery to impurity and
To ever-increasing
Wickedness, so now offer
Them in slavery to
Righteousness and
Holiness.

Romans 6:19

The more we sin, the more we are inclined to sin. John Owen expressed it this way, in his quaint 17th-century style: "Repeated acts of the consent of the will unto sin may beget a disposition and inclineableness of the will unto a proneness and readiness to consent unto sin upon easy solicitation."¹

Every sin we commit reinforces the habit of sinning and makes it easier to sin. In the previous chapter we discussed the importance of guarding our minds and emotions, since these faculties are the channels through which the various compelling forces reach our wills. But it is also important that we understand how our habits influence our wills.

Habit is defined as the "prevailing disposition or character of a person's thoughts and feelings."² Habits are the thought and emotional patterns engraved on our minds. These internal habit patterns play just as forceful a role as external influences on our actions--in fact, perhaps more so. Owen said, "Every lust is a depraved habit or disposition continually inclining our hearts to do evil."³

As unbelievers, we formerly gave ourselves to developing habits of unholiness--what Paul called "ever-increasing wickedness" (Romans 6:19). Every time we sinned--every time we lusted, coveted, hated, cheated, or lied--we were developing habits of ever-increasing wickedness. These repeated acts of unrighteousness became habits that made us, in fact, slaves to sin.

But now, Paul declared, just as we formerly gave ourselves to these wicked habits, so we are to give ourselves to developing habits of holiness (Romans 6:19). We are to put off our old self--our sinful disposition and its habits--and put on the new self--with its character and habits of holiness. To train ourselves in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7) is to discipline and structure our lives so that we develop godly habits. Putting off these sinful habits is what Paul calls mortifying or putting to death the deeds of the body (Romans 8:13).

Though we are to deal with these habits of unholiness, we must not try to do it in our own strength. Breaking sinful habits must be done in cooperation with the Holy Spirit and in dependence upon Him. The determination that "I'll not do that anymore," based upon sheer human resolve, has never once broken the shackles of sin. But there are practical principles which we can follow to train ourselves in godliness.

The first principle is that habits are developed and reinforced by frequent repetition. Another definition of habit is "a behavior pattern acquired by frequent repetition."⁴ This is the principle underlying the fact that the more we sin, the more we are inclined to sin. But the converse is also true. The more we say no to sin, the more we are inclined to say no.

Therefore, in dependence on the Holy Spirit, we must systematically work at acquiring the habit of saying no to the sins that so easily entangle us. We all know what these sins are; the sins to which we are particularly vulnerable. We begin by concentrating on saying no to these. Then God will lead us on to work on other sins which we may not even be aware of at this time. The more we succeed in saying no to our sinful desires, the easier it becomes to say no.

In the same manner we can develop positive habits of holiness. We can develop the habit of thinking thoughts that are pure, true, and good. We can develop the habits of prayer and meditating on the Scriptures. But these habits will only be developed through frequent repetition.

The second principle in breaking sinful habits and acquiring new ones is to never let an exception occur. When we allow exceptions we are reinforcing old habits, or else failing to reinforce the new one. At this point we must watch the "just this once" type of thinking, which is a subtle, dangerous trap. Because we are unwilling to pay the price of saying no to our desires, we tell ourselves we will indulge only once more, and tomorrow will be different. Deep inside we know that tomorrow it will be even more difficult to say no, but we don't dwell on this fact.

The third principle is that diligence in all areas is required to insure success in one area. Owen said, "Without a sincere and diligent effort in every area of obedience, there will be no successful mortification of any one besetting sin."⁵ We may feel that a particular habit "isn't too bad," but continually giving in to that habit weakens our wills against the onslaughts of temptation from other directions. This is the reason, for example, that is so important for us to develop habits of self-control over our physical appetites. We may think indulging these appetites isn't so bad, but such indulgences weaken our wills in every other respect of our lives.

Last, don't be discouraged by failure. There is a vast difference between failing and becoming a failure. We become a failure when we give up--when we stop trying. But as long as we are working on those

sinful habits, regardless of how often we fail, we have not become a failure, and we can expect to see progress.

It is vain to guard our minds and emotions against that which comes from without if we do not at the same time deal with habits of sin which are within. The battle for holiness must be fought on two fronts--without and within. Only then will we see progress toward holiness.

Footnotes

¹John Owen, Temptation and Sin, page 253.

²Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, page 514.

³Owen, Temptation and Sin, page 28.

⁴Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, page 514.

⁵Owen, Temptation and Sin, page 40, author's paraphrase.

