

LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING
COURSE/HOLE 1 - CHRISTIAN GROWTH SEMINAR
LECTURE 2 - YOUR RICH INHERITANCE AS A MEMBER OF HEAVEN'S FAMILY - PART 2

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5. ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE, HOW IS A CHRISTIAN TO CONDUCT HIMSELF?

God wants His children to live differently from the people in the world. We should **choose** to have a **reverential fear** and respect for God which will cause us to **hate sin** as God hates it and to **depart** from it.

Prov 1:29,31 (NAS) "Because they hated knowledge, and did not **choose the fear of the Lord**.

31 So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and be satiated (or filled - KJV) with their own devices."

Prov 9:10 (NAS) "The fear of the Lord is the **beginning of wisdom**, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Prov 8:13a (NAS) "The fear of the Lord is to **hate evil**."

Prov 3:7b (KJV) "Fear the Lord, and **depart from evil**."

Christians who **play with sin** will eventually be destroyed by it. If we don't **judge ourselves of the little things**, they will eventually give satan the opportunity to put his hook into our heart and reel us in.

Song of Sol 2:15 (NAS) "Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes (demons) **that are ruining the vineyards** (or Christians, because He is the vine, we are the branches - *John 15:5*)..."

It's the little foxes that destroy the vine.

6. WHAT PLACE SHOULD THE BIBLE HAVE IN EVERY CHRISTIAN'S LIFE?

The Bible is God's absolute final authority and must be **daily, diligently read and digested** so that it can change our lifestyle to conform to His image.

Job 23:12 (NAS) "I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have **treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food** (or **daily bread** - NIV)."

Stick this sign on your fridge: **NO BIBLE - NO BREAKFAST.**

Psa 119:97 (NAS) "O how I love **Thy law!** It is my **meditation** all the day."

As we prayerfully, **systematically** and thoroughly study God's word, we will find how the **devil has been stealing** what lawfully belongs to us, and be able to **claim back our rightful inheritance** in Jesus' name.

This **systematic** Bible study is easily accomplished by following your **Through the Bible in a Year** daily reading program.

We should however concentrate on **studying the New Testament**, for it is the **last will and testament of Jesus Christ to His redeemed family.**

It is **imperative** that Christians get to **know their Bibles**, and **learn how to apply it's truths** to their lives and circumstances.

Hos 4:6a (NAS) "My people are **destroyed for lack of knowledge**."

7. CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME GUIDELINES OF WHAT I SHOULD BE HABITUALLY PRACTICING IN ORDER TO LIVE A VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE?

ILLUSTRATION: Four legs on a dog. Have you noticed that dogs with four legs get by very nicely? Dogs with three legs are greatly handicapped. I once saw a dog with two legs. It's owner had to tie the front

half of the dog to a miniature skateboard for it to get by. All a dog with one leg can do is scratch itself a bit, but it's certainly going nowhere. If you want to walk the Highway of Holiness and make it to the end, then you'll need to practice all four of these things for the rest of your Christian life. If you neglect any one of these four things it will greatly hinder your Christian progress and likelihood of reaching the end of the narrow road that leads to eternal life.

i) Pray daily.

Start off each day with early morning prayer. God is now your Father and He desires to have fellowship with you.

Follow the example of Jesus.

Mark 1:35 (NAS) *"And in the **early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there.**"*

Prayer is your life line with God.

ii) Study God's Word daily.

Just as your body needs food for growth so also your spirit man needs the Word of God to feed and build you up spiritually.

Matt 4:4 (NAS) *"But He answered and said, 'It is written, '**Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.**' ' "*

E.g. The Word of God will do for your spirit what a steak does for your body - it'll feed, strengthen and sustain you spiritually.

iii) Fellowship with Christians regularly.

Join a Home Fellowship group, make some Christian friends and attend Sunday services; to **firstly worship** God and **secondly hear the Word** of God.

Acts 2:42,46 (NAS) *"And they were **continually devoting** themselves to the apostles' teaching and to **fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**"*

*46 And day by day continuing with one mind **in the temple**, and breaking bread **from house to house**, they were talking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart."*

Heb 10:25 (NAS) *"**Not forsaking your own assembling together**, as is the (bad) habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more; as you see the day (of Christ's second coming) drawing near."*

ILLUSTRATION: Remove a coal from the fire and it will soon go out. Put it back and it'll soon burn brightly again. New Christians need the fire of God from older Christians to rub off onto them, to set them ablaze and inspire their Christian walk.

Christians who keep the wrong company will soon be dragged back into the world.

1 Cor 15:33 (NAS) *"Do not be deceived: '**Bad company corrupts good morals.**'"*

iv) Confess your salvation to your friends.

Christ was not ashamed to die publicly for you; don't be ashamed to confess Him in public. It confirms your own salvation and strengthens you spiritually when you tell others what Jesus has done for you.

Matt 10:32-33 (NAS) *"Everyone therefore who shall **confess Me before men**, I will also confess Him before My Father who is in heaven."*

*33 But whoever shall **deny Me before men**, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."*

A silent Christian never lasts very long.

8. WHAT IS MY STANDING AND INHERITANCE WITH GOD AS A CHRISTIAN?

We are **children of God** and **equal heirs** with His son Jesus Christ.

John 1:12 (NAS) *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave **the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.**"*

Rom 8:17a (NIV) *"Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and **co-heirs with Christ...**"*

You are an **equal shareholder** with Jesus. There is nothing that God gave to Jesus which He will not also lavish onto us, if we ask in faith - believe and receive by faith in our heart before seeing the manifestation.

9. WITH WHAT ATTITUDE SHOULD A CHRISTIAN APPROACH THE THRONE OF GOD?

God loves us as His very own children and does not want them to feel inferior, but to **boldly** (confidently) come into His presence, and know that by His grace He will help us in our time of need.

Heb 4:16 (NAS) *"Let us therefore draw near with **confidence** (boldness) to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need."*

ILLUSTRATION: A wealthy influential businessman was **having a very important meeting**, with his very important business associates at his home. He stressed the significance of this important meeting to his four year old son, pleading not to be disturbed or embarrassed. Little Johnny promised he would not disturb his dad. All went well for a while 'till the ice cream truck came down the road, playing its tune. Johnny felt this irresistible desire overcome him and just had to have an ice cream. Ignoring the consequences he went bursting into their formal living room yelling, "Daddy, daddy, give me a penny!" Highly embarrassed in front of his very important friends, his dad gave him a penny to get rid of him. After everyone had left his dad called for him and explained how he had been humiliated in front of his very important associates. "I was trying to make a good impression, when came bursting in asking for a penny. You should have at least asked for a pound, you made me look cheap!"

Thank God we can **come boldly** into his presence, as a child does with his parents, making our requests known in our hour of need.

However, He does not want us to be proud or arrogant.

James 4:6b (NAS) *"God is **opposed to the proud**, but gives grace to the humble."*

10. WILL MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD LAST?

God is eternal and He plays for keeps. We may go through moments of weakness when we feel we have failed God, but He will always remain faithful.

2 Tim 2:13 (NAS) *"If we are faithless, **He remains faithful**; for He cannot deny Himself."*

John 10:28-29 (NAS) *"And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and **no one shall snatch them out of My hand.**"*

29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."**

There is absolutely **nothing that is able to separate us from the love of God** which is found in Christ Jesus our Lord, provided we keep living for Him and serving Him.

Rom 8:35,38-39 (NAS) *"Who shall **separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"*

38 For I am **CONVINCED that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,**

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

If we stop living for God and start serving the devil again **we can remove ourselves from His love** as described in this last verse.

2 Pet 2:22 (NAS) *"It has happened to them according to the true proverb, 'a dog returns to its own vomit,' and, 'a sow (or a pig), after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.' "*

Now why would anyone want to do that? Certainly no one in their right mind would.

HOMEWORK FOR LECTURE 2

1. Spend 10 minutes a day meditating on your notes until these truths register on your spirit man and as preparation for a **true or false** test next week at 7:00 PM sharp, before the lecture.
2. Start practicing the four steps in point 7 of this lecture from tomorrow.
3. If ever the devil tries to put condemnation onto you, just speak right out loud and resist him in the name of Jesus Christ, confessing the truth of **Rom 8:1** (See last scripture in point 5).
4. Memorize **1 Cor 15:33**. This counts for 10% toward your test results.