

Sound Doctrine

In a previous lesson we have stated that the most important thing in a Christian's life is his fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a true statement and we will stand by it. However, if you are saved and not practicing sound doctrine there can be no "fellowship" because you are disobedient and out of the "will of God." So, in such a case the most important thing is to get the doctrine correct and restore fellowship. Of course, if you are unsaved, then false doctrine can keep you from being saved. Therefore, sound doctrine is not only important, it is critical.

As we have explained in earlier lessons, sound doctrine as it relates to the Christian, means the correct teaching on fundamentals of the faith. Hence, the phrase, "Christian doctrine." Important doctrines of the Christian faith would include subjects such as: the way to salvation, the Trinity of God, the Deity of Christ, eternal security of the believer, teachings on Heaven and Hell, how we should live as Christians, separation from unbelievers, prayer, and forgiveness, to name a few.

Why Sound Doctrine Is Important

Christian doctrine is important because it came from God Himself. "*Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.*" (John 7:16) God counts it important because He wants us all to be saved (II Peter 3:9). If you don't have the proper doctrinal teaching on salvation, you may believe you are saved, but in reality you are lost and on your way to hell! Just because you believe with all your heart something is right does not make it right. The Bible warns us about trusting our feelings. "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*" (Proverbs 14:12)

The Gospel is the plan of salvation, that is why it is so important. The One True Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (I Cor. 15:1-4) He died for the sins of the world, He was buried and rose from the dead, defeating death and Hell for you and me. The only way you can get to Heaven is to trust His sacrifice and resurrection as full and complete payment for your sins. (Rom. 10:9-10) **It is not the Gospel plus something your Church added from tradition, or**

something else they said you had to do in addition to believe. It is the Gospel plus nothing. It comes down to this. If you want to go to Heaven, trust Jesus Christ. If you want to go to Hell, trust something else, someone else, or Jesus plus something more! That's not trying to be mean, or criticize someone else's religion, it's just the Word of God.

Of course there are many other false teachings and heresies around that do not involve salvation, but are still deadly to the Christian's Spiritual growth and fellowship with God. Later in the lesson we will show the student how to sort these doctrines out and determine which ones are directed to the child of God in the Church Age we live in.

The Apostle Paul, whom God sent to bring us the New Testament Covenant, (Acts 9:15) warned Timothy about false doctrine in 1 Tim. 4:1. ***“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”***

He also had some very plain and emphatic words in his letter to the Galatians who were apparently straying from sound doctrine and the true Gospel. ***“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: [7] Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. [8] But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. [9] As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”*** (Galatians 1:6-9) There it is, plain and simple!

Notice that Paul considered it so important that he repeated himself in the next verse so they wouldn't miss the gravity of what he said. Notice also, that anyone teaching a false Gospel (false doctrine) is under a curse!! Notice again, that the Word of God is not concerned about being politically correct or being tolerant! God is a very intolerant being and couldn't care less about good intentions, or if people get their feelings hurt. He is interested in them getting the truth about His Son Jesus Christ so they can escape a burning Hell!

That is why Paul's statement (given by God) is one of the most intolerant statements in the Bible. And incidently, there are many. God is not interested in

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— what any God denying, Bible rejecting non-believer thinks about what is right or wrong, good or bad, politically correct or incorrect. Their wisdom is foolishness to Him (I Cor. 1:19, 2:5, 3:19) and He will laugh when their destruction comes! (Prov. 1:25-28) So, “study” and get it right while there is time!

— There are many other Scripture references concerning this subject the student should study: a few of those are:

— * We are admonished to speak with sound doctrine in Titus 2:1. ***“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:”***

— * Not stealing, (purloining) but showing good fidelity. ***“Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.”*** (Titus 2:10)

— * Paul also warned that people will not always endure sound doctrine. ***“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. [3] For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;”*** (2 Tim. 4:2-3)

— * Elders are counted worthy of double honor if they labor in the Word and doctrine in I Tim 5:17.

— * Christians should not chase every new or different doctrine that comes along, but rather learn to rightly divide the Word. ***“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”*** (Eph. 4:14)

What Is The Cause Of False Doctrine?

— Sound doctrine is “rightly dividing the Word of God.” Nothing more, nothing less. We are commanded to study so we can do just that! ***“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*** (2 Tim. 2:15)

— It is worth noting that the word **study** is not in the new Bibles. Who do you think doesn't want you to study your Bible? God or the Devil? Think about it and then

review the lesson on Bible Versions in the Doctrinal Series. Anyway, as for false doctrine, the problem is, most people don't study on their own, and are not taught how to rightly divide the Word in their Church, often because their pastor himself was never taught how. This is the reason we have so many different denominations, and why people are teaching a false Gospel and other false doctrines. The cause of this and the result of not "rightly dividing" the Word is twofold:

1) False doctrines are always based on a few verses that are taken out of context, while there are many more verses in the proper context that prove the false teaching wrong. Verses are taken out of context to make the Bible teach what people want it to, while they ignore what it said in the context it was written. This is done largely through ignorance and lack of serious Bible study. You can make the Bible "teach" almost anything with this approach.

2) People take verses that apply to Saints in another Age, such as the Old Testament times, the Tribulation, or the Millennium, and try to place them in this present Church Age. This creates confusion because it makes the Bible appear to contradict itself, which we know it doesn't.

Remember! Let the Bible be your "final authority," not people! The Bible means what it says, and says what it means in the context it is written. So, what it says, is important, not what someone can make it teach by wresting the Scriptures.

It is really amazing how some will argue all day long about some Bible teaching they have never really studied themselves! They rely on what some religious friend or preacher says simply because they like the person and want to believe them. This is the "blind leading the blind" and could get both in the Lake of Fire.

Actually, the reason we have false doctrine is simple. The heresies taught in this Church Age are proper doctrine in another Age such as the Old Testament Age (under the Law), the Tribulation, or Millennium. So, if you understand that the false doctrine taught today was a truth in another time, you can put many confusing verses in their proper context. The key is to learn how to find the proper context so you can rightly divide.

Some examples of wrong context would be: 1) Teaching "Sabbath Day" worship

for the Church Age when it belongs in the Old Testament times under the Law. Or **2)** Teaching water baptism as being necessary for salvation in the Church Age when it is “works” and belongs back in the O.T. and possibly Tribulation. Or **3)** That you can lose your salvation in the Church Age when that too belongs in the O.T. or Tribulation or Millennium. Or **4)** That there are any kind of “works” necessary in the Church Age for salvation. All these examples are explained in detail and backed up with Scripture in previous lessons in the Doctrinal Series on those subjects. There is no need to repeat them here, however, the student should restudy the respective lessons.

Rightly Dividing

All Scripture has three (3) applications and it is important to determine if a verse actually has “doctrinal” application to you in the “Church Age” dispensation we now live in. It would help the student to review the lesson on “Dispensations” in the Doctrinal Series of studies. The three applications of Scripture are as follows:

1) Historical: Meaning either past, present or future. **2) Spiritual:** Spiritual or practical in everyday life. **3) Doctrinal:** God’s instruction to those in a particular age or dispensation . The teaching on things like salvation, eternal security of the believer and how people of a particular age should live to please God. Doctrines change in different Ages under different covenants.

Naturally, all Scripture applies to us historically and spiritually but not all Scripture applies to us now in the Church Age **doctrinally** since God changes some doctrinal things from one Age to another. The next approach in helping you rightly divide the Word is to ask the following questions when you analyze a particular portion of Scripture.

1) Who is this particular book, chapter, or verse talking to? A nation, an individual, or a certain group of people? Old Testament Jew under the Law, Church Age Saint, Tribulation or Millennium Saint?

2) When is this period of time; before or after the Resurrection of Christ, during the Tribulation, or Millennium? If it is before the resurrection or after the Rapture it is not a Church Age application and would not apply to the Christian doctrinally.

3) What is the context (main subject) of the chapter or verse, and what

Dispensation does that place it in? A good example is Matthew 24. Some try to put verse 13 in the Church Age, but the whole chapter is a Tribulation context and does not apply doctrinally to Christian Saints.

Asking these questions will help you determine if a verse applies to you doctrinally in the Church Age, or if it belongs in some other dispensation. For example, other people in the past, or people in the future after the Church Age. A helpful rule to remember is that all the Pauline epistles (Romans to Philemon) apply to the Church Age Christian doctrinally.

Although, some doctrines addressed in other New Testament books also apply doctrinally, many don't and have to be examined as we described above. The books of the Bible that most modern heresies come from are Acts, Matthew, James, and Hebrews. The reason for this is explained in other lessons mentioned earlier. You really need to be careful trying to apply doctrines from these books to the Church Age. Just remember, all the Bible applies to us Spiritually and historically, but not doctrinally. By rightly dividing the Word, the Bible will not contradict itself.

You have been given the tools to rightly divide the Word. Put them to good use and be sure the doctrine on which you stand is sound and pleasing to God.

Bread of Life Quiz

Name: _____

Christian Growth

SOUND DOCTRINE

Lesson 7

This is a true or false quiz, in the space provided place T for True or F for False.

1. Sound doctrine is rightly dividing the Word of God. _____
2. Paul said people will always endure sound doctrine. _____
3. Not rightly dividing the Word is a major cause of false doctrine. _____
4. Heresies taught today were a truth in another age. _____
5. All Scripture has 2 applications. _____
6. Paul said "my doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me." _____
7. Paul said let anyone teaching another Gospel be accursed. _____
8. You can be in fellowship with God and not necessarily practice sound doctrine. _____
9. False doctrines are based on verses taken out of context. _____
10. We should speak things which become sound doctrine. _____
11. Not all Scripture applies to the Christian in the Church Age doctrinally. _____
12. The word "study" is not in II Timothy 2:15 in the new version Bibles. _____
13. The Bible says that in the last days some will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. _____
14. Most heresies are taken out of context from Matthew, Acts, Hebrews or James. _____
15. Elders are counted worthy of double honor if they labor in the Word and doctrine. _____
16. When it comes to doctrine, God is a very tolerant God.. _____
17. The Pauline epistles do not always apply to Christians. _____
18. Paul was the Apostle who brought the Gospel to the Gentiles.. _____
19. Salvation is gained by trusting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and either water baptism or sacraments. _____
20. It is normally OK to trust what a preacher or religious person says about Scripture.. _____

Gossip and Slander

People like to talk. Some can keep rumors and gossip to themselves and resist saying anything that may hurt or slander someone else. Then again, others cannot keep their mouths shut and are determined to tell everything they know, everything they have heard, and often everything they suspect, or can make up. This type of “loose tongue” conduct is definitely not something a Christian should be involved in. What does the Bible have to say about this? **“Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.”** (Psalm 34:13) And here is another good one! **“Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people:...”** (Leviticus 19:16) Now that you have an idea of how God feels about the subject, let’s look a little further. Hopefully, this lesson will make you more aware of your tongue and the damage it can do if used in gossip and slander.

Gossip

The word gossip means *“one who chatters and repeats idle talk and rumors, a talebearer; especially talking about another’s private affairs.”* Are you guilty? Most people are, and at one time or another have passed on some “juicy gossip” about someone that may or may not be true and would have been better left unsaid. Most often the gossip is spread by “loose tongued” people without any thought as to whether it is true or not. They are quick to pass on something that will hurt or make another look bad. The Bible says there is more hope for a fool than this type of people. **“Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.”** (Proverbs 29:20) This is not the opinion we want God to have of us so we need to be especially careful of what we say about others. Doing so will keep you out of trouble not only with the Lord, but in the flesh as well. **“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.”** (Proverbs 21:23)

All of us have known someone who fits the description above and most of us have been the subject of some sort of gossip and slander at one time or another. Sometimes, it turns out to be a friend or even a relative that does the damage. David had this problem. **“Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”** (Psalm 41:9) It

has always amazed me how quick people who were once close and good friends could turn on each other and be so vicious.

Why would any Christian want to pass on gossip that may or may not be true, knowing that it could do some harm to the reputation of the person they were talking about? The answer is that a real “Christian” would not do such a thing, because the word Christian means “Christ like” and “gossip” and “tale bearing” are not traits of Christ! Of course there are many “saved” people who are guilty of this sin, they just are not being “Christian” when they do it! We’ll deal with why they do it later. ***“A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.”*** (Proverbs 11:13) Notice that in the verse before this one God considers a gossip ***“worse than a fool,”*** while in this verse He commends one who keeps the matter to himself and even refers to that person as a ***“faithful spirit!”*** Which one of those two individuals would you rather be?

Now, assuming that you have your own tongue under control, what should you (as a Christian) do when someone starts to gossip about another? Simple! Refuse to listen. Tell them you don’t want to hear it! It won’t take but one or two times of this before they get the message and refrain from trying to involve you in this sinful practice anymore. It will also serve as a testimony to your own character and serve notice that you are really trying to live the Christian life. Hopefully, it will put them under conviction so they will be more careful of what they say about others. It may just be a case of someone not realizing that gossiping is a sin. You bringing it to their attention may help solve this problem. If not, you can assume that they are just wicked, or lost, or both, and you need to stay away from that person. ***“He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.”*** (Proverbs 20:19)

Slander

Slander is the uttering of a falsehood that is damaging to another person’s character or reputation. Gossip invariably leads to slander as the two are very similar. People who are prone to gossip and slander don’t realize how much harm they are doing to others and even themselves. It all reflects directly back on them. ***“Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother’s son.”*** (Psalm 50:20)

It is hard to say what makes some people so prone to gossip. We have all known

people who seem to constantly be talking about someone else and seldom have anything good to say about others. This is likely a lack of self-esteem on the “talkers” part and they feel they must belittle someone else to make themselves look better. Naturally, this doesn’t work and in fact often has just the opposite effect and makes them a fool in God’s eyes. **“He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.”** (Proverbs 10:18) Others just have so much hate or envy in their heart for another person that they want to hurt them any way they can. It is hard to believe, but even professing Christians get caught up in these sins. Saved or not, the simple truth is that slander comes from an evil heart! **“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”** (Luke 6:45)

Moreover, the person who gossips and slanders others does great harm to himself. These are deadly sins. **“A fool’s mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.”** (Proverbs 18:7) Everyone will have to give account of every idle word at The Judgment and there will be much regret for things that should have never been said. **“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. [37] For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”** (Mat. 12:36-37)

Don’t be caught up in this spiritual trap. The Christian is to have a forgiving heart and not only love your enemies, but pray for them. (Mk. 11:24, Matt. 5:44) When a Christian engages in these sins of the tongue they are destroying their fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Any form of gossip or slander coming from the lips of a Christian is deadly to that person’s testimony and can create enemies among the brethren as well as among the lost people. Your tongue used in such a way could well cause some lost person to go to Hell, or do untold harm to a brother or sister in Christ. **“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:..”** (1 Peter 3:10) You want to have a good and happy life? Keep a “check” on the tongue!

Christians (both young and old in the Lord) had best get their tongue under control. **“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.”** (James 1:26)

Also, gossip and slander are usually associated with lies, and that is something God hates! *“These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: [17] A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, [18] An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, [19] A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”* (Proverbs 6:16-19) (Underline emphasis ours)

So learn to keep your mouth shut if you can't say something good about someone!

Refuse to listen to
is slandering another.
discuss bad things
i s c o m m o n

only adds fuel to a fire that needs to die down so the person can have another chance. It is all too easy to be judgmental when we ourselves are often guilty of the same or similar sin. Where do you stand with the Lord on this issue?

gossip or anyone who
You should not even
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knowledge as this

Bread of Life Quiz

Name: _____

Christian Growth

GOSSIP AND SLANDER

Lesson 8

This is a true or false quiz, in the space provided place T for True or F for False.

1. Gossip means repeating idle talk and rumors. _____
2. Slander is uttering a falsehood that is damaging to another's character. _____
3. Gossip and slander hurts the other person but not you when you do it. _____
4. It is better to keep your mouth shut if you can't say something good about someone. _____
5. If you don't bridle your own tongue you are deceiving your own heart. _____
6. It is alright to gossip so long as what you say is the truth. _____
7. A fool's mouth is his destruction and his lips are a snare to his soul. _____
8. Lack of self-esteem can cause some people to gossip. _____
9. A real Christian will not be guilty of gossip or slander. _____
10. Gossip and slander are both sin and not pleasing to God. _____
11. The Bible says there is more hope for a fool than a man who is hasty with his words. _____
12. Hate and envy can make someone slander another. _____
13. Slander comes from an evil heart _____
14. Some hide their hatred with lying lips _____
15. We will have to account for every idle word spoken at the Judgment. _____
16. It is OK for a Christian to listen to gossip as long as they do not contribute to it themselves. _____
17. A Christian can put someone under conviction about their gossip by how they react to it. _____
18. Gossip is not associated with lies. _____
19. God hates a lying tongue. _____
20. You should not discuss bad things about someone even if it is true. _____

Section V

Chapter 10

Two Creations? Fact Or Fiction?

There are several theological differences that serve as points of division, and confusion in the Body of Christ. Of course, the Devil loves to confuse and divide Christians so they will argue and fight, while failing to grow Spiritually. He uses the first rule of combat, and that is to divide and conquer. This is foolish and unnecessary, and will accomplish nothing for the cause of Christ. The subject of this study, the “so called” gap theory, is one of those differences that some strongly disagree on. It is also is one of those issues not worth arguing about. Of course it is important, it is just not as important to the Christians’ daily Spiritual walk and growth as are many other doctrines.

Never-the-less, it is every Christian’s responsibility to study and learn all they can about the Word of God. (II Tim. 2:15) So, as always, study the Scriptures on a subject and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding. Don’t just blindly believe what some preacher or other Christians tell you about anything in the Bible without checking out both sides of the issue. With that in mind, let’s look into the “Gap Theory” controversy and you decide if it is theory or fact as near as we can tell from our Bible. As you will soon see, there is Scriptural evidence to support the Gap Theory and the two creations, there is just not a lot of it.

The debate on this issue has to do with the first two verses in the Bible. (Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.) The gap theory is a belief that a period of time elapsed between the two (2) verses, thereby making our Adamic creation the second creation rather than the first. This period of time between Genesis 1 and 2 could be thousands or even millions of years. If this was true, it would certainly bring science and the Bible a little closer. Science says the earth is millions of years old while the Bible contends our present creation is only some 6,000 years old at this time. Let’s look.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” The belief among many Bible believers is that the earth was created a complete and perfect creation and that after some great period of time passed, this first creation, (that very likely had an advanced civilization) was destroyed. Verse 2 simply describes the earth after that great catastrophic event rendered it without form and void. [2] ***“And the***

earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” After this destruction we have our present creation described from Genesis 1:3-20.

The other alternative, of course, is that by putting both verses together with no gap, is that God created it “*without form, and void...*” Which doesn’t make any sense at all and ignores several verses to the contrary. When God creates something He creates it complete and perfect. He gave us a detailed description of the Adamic creation that we are now living in because that is the one we are concerned with! Some say “well it’s all in how you read it.”

This is true, but there is more information to back up the fact that there were two creations than there is to refute it! For example. “*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. [28] And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*” (Gen. 1:27-28)

There is that worrisome word **replenish**! That one word bothered some scholars so much they made sure it was taken out of all the corrupt new Bible versions, and rewrote the Word of God, replacing it with the word, “fill.” They could handle that with their limited understanding, and it better fit the way they thought things really happened. But, this attitude caused them to miss the references that went with the original verse. (Which is what always happens when you change the Word of God around to suit yourself!)

However, the main point is, according to the Word of God, **the earth was inhabited previously**, or God would not have used the word replenish which is instruction to fill it up again! If you asked me to replenish your glass of tea, you have already disposed of one glassful and want another! Why, if you are any kind of a Bible believer at all you have to believe that it means what it says and says what it means. If you don’t believe it, fine! That is your choice, but don’t call yourself a Bible believer when you deny the plain and pure Word of God and then change the word to suit you own belief! On the other hand, if you are a Bible believer, you could almost conclude the study on that one word alone. Your Bible is pure isn’t it? (Ps. 12:7) But, that won’t be necessary, there is more.

Let's look further. *"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: [6] Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:"* (II Peter 3:5)

God says some people in our creation are ignorant of the fact that at the time when the heavens were of **old**, that the earth stood out of the water and in the water! It (this creation) certainly does not now, and never has, stood partially in the water and partially out of the water like a cork! At least as far as we can determine from the Bible which is the only authority we have (or trust). That was the earth's position in Genesis (in and out of the water) when God began our Adamic creation. God moved on those waters in Genesis 1:2 and divided them in verse 6. Leaving a great body over (Ps. 148:4) and one under (Ex. 20:4) His new creation.

The common mistake is to call this description in Peter "Noah's flood," which it isn't, because no one is "willingly ignorant" of that event! If you are willingly ignorant of something you are willingly ignoring it to believe something else you want to believe! **This old earth is in the past. The present earth is now.**

[7] But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (2 Peter 3:5-7) **"are now".... This is the present earth as we know it.** So, the indication is that this earth has been destroyed twice by water. Once in II Peter 3:6, and once by Noah's flood. It will never flood again, because God promised He would never use a flood again to destroy the earth. (Gen. 9:11) The next time God destroys the earth it will be by fire!

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. [11] Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, [12] Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (2 Peter 3:10-13)

After this final destruction of earth and the heavens, there will be a new and final

creation by the hand of God. *[13] Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*” This is the **future creation**. The Scripture has now given us **past, present, and future** creations.

There is another interesting verse in Psalms that seems to fit in the “original creation.” *“They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course. [6] I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.”* (Psalm 82:5-6) God is apparently addressing the “Sons of God” (angels) here and he is again talking about those who refuse to understand. At some time in the past “all the foundations of the earth were out of course.” Since there is no description of any such catastrophic event in the Bible during our present creation, it obviously could, and probably does, fit in the first creations’ destruction of Genesis 1:2.


Some believe the following verses in Isaiah 14 refer to the destruction of the first creation, however it may not be. *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! [13] For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. [15] Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. [16] They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; [17] That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?” (emphasis ours)*

Notice that these verses go back and forth between past and future tense. Verses 12-14 are all in the past. Verses 15 and 16 are future, but is verse 17 future also looking back to the Tribulation? Or is it looking all the way back to Genesis 1:2? Most scholars believe it to be future and a Tribulation context, which I believe is most likely the case. Although I can’t think of any other verses that indicate the antichrist destroyed all the cities of the world. If that verse is past then it is talking about a previous destruction of the earth, and would fit Genesis 1:2. Otherwise, it is a Tribulation context unless there is dual application, in which case it covers both. This may seem like “grasping at straws” so to speak, however it is something to consider.

Another few verses to study are Jeremiah 4:23-27. *“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. [24] I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. [25] I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.” [26] I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger. [27] For thus hath the Lord said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.”*

Here the Lord is talking about destruction of all of the cities with no man and fowl. **Notice the same wording in verse 23 as Genesis 1:2 which also was a destruction of earth!** This could be a reference to II Peter 3:10, which is the future destruction of earth. But again, the context is probably talking about the Tribulation since the whole chapter is dealing with Israel. Irregardless, the point is that this exact term is connected with destruction of the earth and man the same as it is in Genesis 1:2. If *“...without form, and void”* was destruction in one case, it was destruction in the other case by the “rule of first mention.” Savvy?

Another factor supporting two creations is the fact that the earth does appear to be older than the 6,000 years the Bible allows for “our creation.” Obviously, if there had been an earlier creation that would explain the difference in the age dispute between the Bible and science. Also, it would explain many of the mysteries of our present world such as dinosaurs, cave men, and the ancient cities we can’t explain. There have been maps of North America found that were made long before it was ever discovered by Columbus, and evidence of advanced civilizations that existed before our own recorded civilization. We also have evidence that knowledge of astronomy and mathematics (exceeding our present knowledge) existed in the past. Study this comparison of the past, present, and future forms of the earth.

Past	Calvary	Future
1. God created the earth (Gen. 1) 2. Earth w/out form and void (destroyed) Gen. 1:2 3. Adamic earth created (Gen. 1:3-26)		3. New Heavens and earth (II Pet. 3) 2. Adamic earth destroyed (II Pet 3) 1. Adamic earth restored in the millennium (Rev.20, Isa. 11)

Did you notice that the future of the earth is the past in reverse? Did you notice what divided the two? What is ahead for the world after Christ died on the cross is the reverse order of what happened before the cross. As a preacher friend of mine says: “The only thing we learn from history is that we never learn anything from history.” Thus the saying; “History always repeats itself.”

It is generally accepted by Bible Believers that God created the original earth and that the fall of Lucifer had something to do with it’s destruction in Genesis 1:2. Then God created the Adamic earth and Lucifer (Satan) again messed things up, this time through Adam and Eve. The result was a curse placed on the earth that won’t be removed until the Millennium. The Adamic earth will then be destroyed again to make way “...*for new Heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*” (II Pet. 3:13) This is the past, present, and future.

These are some of the Scriptures and reasoning submitted to support the fact that there was a creation before ours. Obviously, God did not consider it important for us to know all the facts surrounding this subject, so as mentioned earlier, don’t waste time arguing about it. Concentrate on a daily walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, studying His Word, and taking the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world!

Bread of Life Quiz

Name _____

Christian Growth

TWO CREATIONS

Lesson 10

This is a true or false quiz, so In the space provided place T for True or F for False.

1. The Devil wants you to grow spiritually. _____
2. The devil does not want Christians to argue and fight.. _____
3. II Peter says that some are willingly ignorant of the earth standing out of the water and in the water. _____
4. The words "replenish the earth" indicates that it had been inhabited previously. _____
5. The Bible is not the pure and perfect word of God. _____
6. The Bible mentions a past earth, a present earth, and a future earth. _____
7. God said He may flood the earth again. _____
8. It appears that the future of the earth is the past in reverse. _____
9. The flood in II Peter 3 was Noah's flood. _____
10. Many people today like to change the Bible when what it says does not agree with their beliefs. _____
11. Most new Bibles change the word "replenish" in Genesis 1:28 to "fill". _____
12. Replenish and fill mean the same thing. _____
13. The main point in the two creation controversy is whether the earth was inhabited previously. _____
14. The earth will be destroyed by fire the next time. _____
15. "The earth being out of course" in Psalms 82 is not mentioned as happening in our creation. _____
16. Righteousness will dwell in the new heavens and new earth. _____
17. Science says the present earth is older than the 6,000 years indicated in the Bible. _____
18. In the Adamic (our) creation man was given dominion over every creature on earth. _____
19. Genesis 1:1 says God created the Heavens and the earth. _____
20. Dinosaurs are not on this present earth and are not mentioned in the Bible. _____

Section V

Chapter 11

Defeating Your Goliath

Everyone has a “Goliath” in their life sooner or later. Some kind of a giant problem, besetting sin, thorn in the flesh, ministry problem, or some momentous obstacle to their spiritual growth. It may come in the form of an addiction, family problems, enemies, problems with the Brethren, ongoing sinful thoughts or actions, secrets of the heart, sins involving sex, money etc. The list is endless. There are also the “Goliaths” that plague modern day Christianity as a whole and apply to all of us who are “born again.” This is an endless spiritual battle with the powers of darkness in these last days. Whether yours is a personal “Goliath” or one you are fighting with the rest of us, you will never be able to overcome it in the energy of the flesh. If, and when you ever gain the victory, it will be done in the energy of the Spirit. It will come with total surrender of your life to Jesus Christ with a purging and cleansing, and then the direction of the Holy Spirit. It will come this way, or it will not come.

At this point in the BOL Lessons you should have had lessons on *Walking In The Spirit, the Armor of God, Faith, Prayer, and Forgiveness*, all of which should have you well prepared to deal with any problems in your Christian life. If you apply the principles of those lessons you can deal with your “Goliath”. However, this lesson hopefully will serve to augment the others and give you some “tactical” direction to the Christian battle against the world, flesh, the devil, and sin in general. The reason this lesson is titled “Defeating Your Goliath” is because there are some excellent principles of Christian warfare in the story of David and Goliath that have application to the battles Christians face today. This originally was a sermon designed to urge Christians into battle, but the lessons to be learned in this story are too valuable to leave out of this lesson series.

To begin with, read I Samuel 17:1-51. You will not understand the full impact of this lesson unless you read the story. The story of David defeating Goliath is one of the most amazing and inspirational stories in the Bible. After reading the story in your Bible, I believe you will agree that David was either a very stupid young man or that he had great courage and faith in God!! At first glance David did not seem to have much going for him. He was a sheep herder, and being a Jew was

very likely a small man of maybe five and a half feet tall, and 145-150 pounds. Goliath on the other hand, was about nine feet nine inches tall and likely weighed several hundred pounds. He wore body armor that weighed around 156 pounds, and his spear head alone weighed 18 pounds. In addition, he also had a shield bearer, another man that carried a shield to deflect any spears, arrows, or weapons hurled at him. What an awesome and frightening sight that must have been! Goliath was such a frightening spectacle he terrified the whole army of Israel for 40 days and nights. All the armies of Israel wanted NOTHING to do with Goliath, but little David was willing to fight him! He had defeated the lion and the bear and declared he would also slay this “uncircumcised Philistine.” Given his size and lack of training in the fighting skills how could he possibly succeed?

Now, I love this story and believe there are some great lessons to be learned from this battle and the principles David used in achieving victory. Also, I find many parallels between David’s battle and the Christian’s battle today. I will point out four reasons why David was victorious and how we can apply these same tactics to defeat the “Goliaths” in our life today. In fact, this author has used these tactics to build a ministry that God has blessed in spite of my shortcomings. I only hope and pray that they will serve you as well as they have me in the effort to do God’s work.

First, look At verse 29... *“is there not a cause?”* David is saying, don’t we have a good reason and purpose to fight?? Here is this unsaved man who has defiled our God and challenged His army! Somebody has to do something! Someone needs to take a stand for what is right! Now that same question applies to Christians today. Is there not a cause? Whatever your Goliath is, is it not a worthy cause to fight for? If you don’t have a personal “Goliath” at present, there is still plenty of “cause” to fight for our Christian principles.

Not knowing what your personal Goliath is, if any, I can’t address it specifically. However, I can address one giant of a problem we all have as Christians today and the same principles of warfare will apply to your own personal “Goliath.” For example, Christians are in the same situation as David and the armies of Israel were. The devil and the powers of darkness have defiled our God and our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ! They have turned our country and our communities into dens of iniquity. Christian, YOU have been challenged to battle!! It would be a blessing if more Christians realized that!! This is a major Goliath we all have! As

you read about this problem, determine how to apply the principles given here to your own Goliath.

We are now living in the most ungodly times this country has ever known. Fornication, adultery, and perversion that are common place now, were unheard of just a few years ago. Our society has become like a frog in hot water that slowly comes to a boil and cooks him. It happens so slowly that when he realizes it is too hot and that he is being cooked, it is also too late to jump out! Our country is slowly disintegrating from within and there is very little time left. America is in the midst of spiritual and moral collapse while God's people slumber and sleep in their churches. Most Christians have not realized "*there is a cause,*" or else they are too lazy to get out of their comfort zone and fight! Christians, even with God's power at their disposal, are simply not taking a stand and fighting for our Lord and His righteousness.

We, the "Church," have allowed this to happen. We have allowed a small group of ungodly people to change our society for the worse. Their wicked ways are now accepted by most people. For example: The liberals and secular humanists think it's okay to suck a baby's brain out of his head as the head emerges from the birth canal, but they want to save the manatee and the spotted owls! They condone "same sex marriage" while God calls that lifestyle an abomination! Our society condones "shacking up" rather than marriage although God condemns fornication. Of those that do get married sixty percent are divorced within three years. They have taken prayer and the Bible out of our schools and God's Commandments out of public places. (Thank God we can still get the Bible into most jails and prisons to help those who are hungry for God's Word.) And these are just a few of a multitude of paths this country has taken away from God. It's time for Christians to take a stand for God!

The problem is that God's people are intimidated like the armies of Israel were by Goliath. You will not defeat your Goliath if you are afraid to fight. For the problems in America we need a few good Christians who recognize the "cause" and are willing to lead God's Army. We need some David's because today's Christians as a whole are too intimidated to fight for the cause of Christ! John Wesley said: "*Give me a hundred men who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I will shake the world. I care not a straw whether they be clergy or laymen; and such alone can overthrow the kingdom of Satan and build up the Kingdom of God*"

on this earth.”

David had a cause and took up the fight. What about you? Are you willing to answer the call to battle? Will you fight your personal Goliath or join in on one we all have? There is a cause worth fighting for in this country like never before. We can win and take America back. But we can't do it if we are intimidated by the world, and sit back while others destroy the moral backbone of our country. Take the attitude David had.

Next, if you are ready to fight, read verse 45. Did you notice what David's weapon was for fighting this evil? First, David knew what his "cause" was and when he went to battle he went in "**God's name!**" Notice this. **David was not ashamed of God.** He was not ashamed for people to know he had no power without God. David made it clear whom he trusted, whom he represented, and whom he was going out to kill Goliath for. You would be surprised how many people are ashamed to mention God in public. Ashamed to let people know they are trusting Him, and then attack their problems in His name! "Closet Christians" never win. If you expect to win any battle you MUST have the power of God! "**Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.**" (Zech. 4:6) So, confront your Goliath in God's name and by His standards.

The battle is Spiritual and we must fight it in the power of the Spirit of God. Would you rather try to push a 50 ton tank into battle or let the power of the engine do it for you? Of course you would use the engine! **Then why do so many Christians try to solve their problems themselves in the energy of the flesh when the power of God is available?** Hello! Of course when you do, you just make it worse! The problem today is that folks are more worried about what people think than what God thinks about them! The whole world is geared to please or impress other people.....their boss, coach, teacher, preacher, constituents, etc. As a Christian, you should never be ashamed or afraid to take a stand for Jesus and what is right. Go in His name and in His will!

Now look at verse 47 for the third point. The Bible says: "**The battle is the Lord's.**" David knew this was not his battle. David didn't say he would deliver. David did say, "**This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand.**" God wants to fight through you! Hello! And guess what? God always wins. When you finally realize the **battle is God's**, you can use His power in your daily life to battle

the “Goliaths” that confront you personally or those you fight as part of God’s army.

Last of all, in verse 48 we see that “...*David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.*” How about that? **David ran to meet the enemy!** David didn’t care how many laughed at the idea of him daring to fight against the giant Goliath! People were telling him not to go. They were saying he was a fool. Likewise they will try to discourage you! David didn’t have a sword or any armor or a shield bearer as Goliath did, not to mention the training and size difference. Some may have thought that David was trying to gain attention or be a martyr. Many probably thought he was just some religious fanatic! But, guess what? David was God’s man. Are you God’s man? Or God’s woman? **If God be for you, who can stand against you?**

You see? DAVID KNEW IN HIS HEART THAT THE BATTLE HAD ALREADY BEEN WON IN THE WILL OF GOD. David saw the enemy and ran forward to finish the job God had set before him. David cut off Goliath’s head and then the armies of Israel cheered! The little Shepard boy had done the job for them. (The job they couldn’t do because of their lack of understanding and faith in God.) You must face your Goliath head on and move forward. Are you willing to run and meet your Goliath with the faith and power of God?

So, the principles behind David’s victory were: *He had a cause, he went to battle in God’s name, he knew the battle was the Lord’s, and therefore had faith to run to meet the enemy.* Get the idea? By having the faith David had and using these tactics in your own battles you too can be victorious! **Goliath doesn’t seem so big anymore, does he?** David started with the lion and the bear. With these victories God prepared him for this major battle to come. The lesson here is to let God give you the victory in the smaller things now and you will likely do mighty things for God later. But you have to fight. Fight sin with your prayers, your pen, your voice, your hands, feet, and arms, using what you learned from David. And remember:

*Christ has no hands but ours to do His work today.
He has no feet but our feet to lead men in the ways.
He has no tongue but our tongue to tell men how He died.
He has no help but our help to bring them to His side.
We are the only Bible the careless world will read.*

*We are the sinner's Gospel; we are the scoffer's creed.
We are the Lord's last message, given in word and deed;
but, What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?
What if our hands are busy with other work than His?
And what if our feet are walking where sins' allurements is?
What if our tongue is speaking of things His lips would spurn?
How can we hope to help Him, or welcome His return?*

I don't know about you, but when the Lord comes I hope he finds me in the battle, running to meet the enemy in God's name! I want to be like David: of great courage, faithful, true, and willing to fight for my Lord. One day I hope to hear my Savior say, "***Well done thy good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of thy Lord.***" What about you?

THINK ABOUT THIS!!

*If God can hang the stars on high,
Can paint the clouds that drift on by;
Can send the sun across the sky,
What could He do through you?
If he can send a storm through space
And dot with trees the mountains' face,
What could He do through you?
If God can do such little things
As count our hairs, or birds that sing,
Control the universe that swings,
What could He do through you?*

Only you can answer that last question. Will you defeat that Goliath in your life? Will you join with God's Army to defeat the "Goliaths" the world has challenged us with? If you are willing to fight you will be victorious and God will surely use you!

This has been a study for Christians. If you are not saved, you have been living in the wrong camp and you are in the wrong army. You are in Satan's camp and an enemy of God. You can't serve two masters so you need desperately to repent and

join the Living Army of the Living God. Understand that sin can separate you from God forever, but a prayer from your heart can erase the sins of a lifetime. Today is the day of salvation. We are not promised tomorrow. Come now and trust Jesus as David trusted God and He will save you!

Notes

Bread of Life Quiz

Name: _____

Christian Growth

Defeating Your Goliath

Lesson 11

This is a true or false quiz, so In the space provided place T for True or F for False.

1. David was a mighty soldier in the army of Israel. _____
2. The whole army of Israel was afraid of Goliath. _____
3. Goliath was seven (7) feet tall. _____
4. Goliath had another man who held his shield to help him fight David. _____
5. David was almost as big as Goliath. _____
6. David was a man of great faith. _____
7. Goliath was trained to fight since his childhood. _____
8. David was a sheep herder, not a soldier. _____
9. David did not really have cause to fight Goliath. He just wanted to fight to impress his brothers. _____
10. David approached Goliath very slowly and cautiously because he was a great warrior. _____
11. Goliath was insulted that young David thought he was able to fight him. _____
12. Goliath's bow weighed eighteen (18) pounds. _____
13. Goliath's armor weighed about 156 pounds _____
14. David's armor only weighed half that of Goliath's armor. _____
15. Goliath ran to meet David because he was eager to slay him. _____
16. David knew this was his battle and the chance of a lifetime to defeat Goliath and please God. _____
17. David went to battle in God's name. _____
18. Goliath was a Philistine. _____
19. David cut off the giant's head with the giant's own sword. _____
20. David was not afraid because he knew this was God's battle and that he would win. _____

Imaginations And Fantasies

It has been said many times that “**you are what you eat.**” This, I believe, is not the case. Although, what you eat can surely affect your physical body, and even your health, it can never constitute the real you. This phrase is coined by a secular, humanistic world concerned with life in the flesh, while little thought is given by modern man to his spiritual condition. Modern man is consumed with his physical appearance, abilities, wealth and achievement and therein lies the primary focus of the thoughts and intents of his heart.

A more accurate statement is that “**you are what you think.**” The real you is your soul, your mind, will, and emotions. Consequently, it is your imaginations, fantasies, thoughts and intents of the heart that determine who you are, what you are, and ultimately controls your life! What do you dwell on the most in your own thought process? Now, if you are honest you will admit that there are many corrupt fantasies and wicked imaginations that you entertain at least in thought from time to time.

After many years of counseling on these matters, I am convinced this subject is one of the biggest hindrances to spiritual growth among God’s people today. **Some of you, though born again, are letting your imaginations and fantasies affect your spiritual condition and your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.** Hopefully, this lesson will be of some help in correcting that problem.

At this point in the Bread Of Life lessons the reader should have digested ample material to understand the dangers of entertaining worldly thoughts and standards. Once saved you become a new creature in Christ, but if you are not careful with what occupies your heart and mind, your spiritual condition will rocket right back into the worldly cesspool. There is no need for that to happen if you understand the many snares and pitfalls associated with this problem and how to deal with them.

In this lesson we will peruse some history of man’s departure from God brought about by his sinful, self-serving imaginations. We will also attempt to make you more aware of how your own thoughts can affect your spiritual condition and how

to avoid the problems that can result.

Now, not all imaginations are bad. In fact, imaginations can be good, healthy, and fruitful to the individual and mankind in general if channeled in the right direction. If not for imaginations there would be no preachers, evangelists, or missionaries. Also, we would still be living in the Dark Ages with respect to all the modern inventions and conveniences we enjoy every day. And most important of all, we would not have a Bible in English if some had not heeded God's call and imagined in their heart to complete the work.

So, if your imaginations are centered around loving and serving the Lord Jesus Christ and bringing others to a saving knowledge of Him, and good things in general, you are in good shape. However, from the beginning, the tendency of man has been to pursue the evil rather than the good and that is the focus of this lesson.

What History Reveals

From the beginning man has been in trouble with God because of his imaginations and the intents of his heart. *"..... for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth;"*

(Genesis 8:21) Eve ignored what God said and allowed Satan to corrupt her thought process and make her think it would be OK, even good, to eat the forbidden fruit. Cain was so jealous of Abel that he allowed his thoughts to lead him to murder his own brother. Obviously, Satan has been at work from the beginning using our thoughts, imaginations, and fantasies to derail our fellowship with God and ruin our lives! Welcome to the cesspool of earth after the fall of Adam and Eve!

**Your thoughts today
are the road map to
your actions tomorrow,
so be careful!**

Things got even worse as time went by. *"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. [6] And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. [7] And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.* (Genesis 6:5)

Here we see the full ramification of evil imaginations and how the end result is death. It would be a terrible thing to know that your own thoughts and imaginations caused God to be sorry He even made you, and wanted to destroy you! Man is forever making the mistake of depending on his own thoughts, intelligence and wisdom to guide him and the result is always the same! Disaster! ***“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.”*** (1 Cor. 3:19) It always has been and always will be!! So if we are to learn anything from the history of man and his relationship with God, and how to avoid the pitfalls of our own thoughts, we will glean it from the Bible and through fervent prayer.

Modern Man

Some things never change! **Man’s course was set against, and away from God early on and will remain that way until it all winds up at the Great White Throne Judgment!**

Meanwhile, sinful and wicked imaginations are more prevalent today than ever before. With all the focus on sex and violence in the media: movies, TV, books, and pornography, it is increasingly hard for the child of God to avoid exposure. When subjected to so much of this on such a regular basis, it is hard for the Christian not to give in to temptation. Therefore, the ungodly things one sees and hears every day in the secular world, can only signal trouble for the unprepared Christian.

As we all know, the spirit is often willing, but the flesh is weak.

On the list of seven things the Bible says God hates is **“wicked imaginations!”** ***“These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: [17] A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, [18] An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, [19] A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”*** (Proverbs 6:16-19)

Are your own thoughts and imaginations a potential problem in your present spiritual life? If so, you need to get control of your thinking process before it escalates to the point that you have serious problems. And it will! I’ve been told: ***“I know my thoughts and imaginations are probably sinful, but I enjoy my fantasies and no one knows about them but me, so how can it hurt?”*** It can and

will!!

HOW YOU GET HOOKED: As we have said in previous lessons, the eyes and ears are the doorway to the soul. What we see, hear, and imagine are seeds for thoughts easily planted in the mind! **So first of all, be very careful with your eyes!** Sometimes it is necessary to look away rather than record something with your eyes that will cause you to sin. **Ditto, what you hear!** Refuse to listen to any garbage that will get you thinking along lines you should avoid. The Bible addresses the eye problem! *“Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls:”* (2 Peter 2:14) *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* (1 John 2:16) Your own imaginations can also be part of the problem.

Although, you can't always control what pops into your mind, given what we are all exposed to daily in this rotten world, we can control whether or not we allow our mind to dwell on a sinful thought. If you dwell on it, your imagination will build around that thought until you find yourself in a fantasy of sin.

Consider also, that along with the natural tendencies of the flesh and the “old man” to sin, there are spiritual powers at work twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, trying to destroy your Christian life. If the powers of darkness and the ever present unclean spirits can manipulate your thinking, your Christian life will soon be in shambles. You will not only lose the fruits of the Spirit, and be a miserable child of God, but your usefulness for Him will also be neutralized. (Review lessons on the World, Flesh, and Devil in this Section)

You don't have to be actually possessed by the Devil to be under his control!

Don't be deceived! Although some say that a Christian cannot be controlled by the Devil, that is a false teaching! You can be saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit but not be filled with the Spirit! If you are not filled with the Spirit there is room for something else! Whether or not you can actually be possessed by an unclean spirit is irrelevant!

If the devil is active in your thought process or planting thoughts for you to

entertain, and you go along for the enjoyment, your spiritual downfall has been set in motion. You may not realize it but you are being led, and to some degree controlled. Although, it may take several years to develop, it can eventually get to the point where you lose control along with the will to repent and return to fellowship with God.

WHERE IT CAN LEAD: If sinful imaginations and fantasies go unchecked, they become addictions. An addiction is simply when someone gives in to a strong desire or habit on a regular basis until they lose control. **Addictions can become so strong and compelling that a person actually becomes a slave in bondage to their particular addiction therefore beguiling the soul.** (II Peter 2:14)

Understand that addictions come in various forms such as drugs, alcohol, sex, pornography, stealing, gambling, work or hobbies, or anything that controls, and is an overpowering focus in your life. Eventually, the addiction controls the mind, will, and emotions of a person. The person's very being, their soul, is in bondage.

Naturally, the more advanced the sinful condition is, the harder it is to get rid of it and return to that sweet fellowship with God that we all need. So, the key for the Christian is to not let sinful thoughts, imaginations, and fantasies get a foothold to begin with. How can you do this?

AVOIDING THE PROBLEM: As mentioned earlier, our thoughts are formed by things we see, hear, and imagine. The mind deals with hundreds if not thousands of thoughts a day, some just a passing flash in the mind and some we dwell on. The unclean, or sinful ones can come from any source. However, the ones that cause us the most trouble are often the same ones that gave us problems when we were lost.

Just about the time you think you have the victory over your old sins one or more will pop up again in your Christian life looking for fertile ground in which to take root.

Be careful not to give any ground to the sinful thoughts that flash into your mind occasionally. And they will! Although we cannot always control what does pop up in the mind, if we don't entertain the thought and dwell on it, then that thought cannot take root! **Every problem with**

imaginations the Christian has began somewhere, back down the line as a sinful thought that was dwelled on and magnified by feeding it!

So, when the bad thought pops up, immediately put them out of your mind. Isolate it and starve it to death! If you catch yourself unwittingly entertaining and feeding the thought, stop immediately and ask the Lord for forgiveness. Ask Him to take over your subconscious mind and help you to quickly recognize and shut down the sinful thought. The Apostle Paul gave us some good advice along these lines. **"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"** (2 Cor. 10:5) Cast the bad ones out and bring all your thoughts under control in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ!

Feed the mind with Spiritual thoughts and, **"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."** (James 4:7-8)

Where do you personally stand on this subject? Remember: **"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."** (James 4:17)

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philip. 4:8) May all your thoughts and imaginations glorify God!

Name: _____

Bread of Life Quiz

Christian Growth Series

Imaginations And Fantasies

Lesson 12

This is a true or false quiz. in the space provided place T for True or F for False.

1. The Bible says you are what you eat. _____
2. What you see can sometimes cause you to sin if you dwell on it. _____
3. Sins you got victory over when you were saved will never bother you again. _____
4. If you will resist the devil, he will flee from you. _____
5. The "real you" is your soul. _____
6. Your imaginations & fantasies can be a great hindrance to your spiritual growth. _____
7. All imaginations and fantasies are evil. _____
8. The Bible says "*...the imaginations of man's heart is evil from his youth...*" _____
9. The wisdom of this world is foolish to God. _____
10. God was grieved in His heart because of the wickedness of man early on in history. _____
11. You don't have to worry about what you "hear," only what you "see" is dangerous to you. _____
12. The lust of the flesh and the pride of life are of the flesh, and not of the Father. _____
13. If you look at garbage and listen to garbage you can get hooked on a life of sin. _____
14. You don't have to be actually possessed by the devil to be under his control. _____
15. Sinful thoughts can cause you to loose the fruits of the Spirit and your usefulness to God. _____
16. You cannot be in bondage to your thoughts and imaginations. _____
17. An addiction controls the mind, will, and emotions of a person. _____
18. Your excessive work is dedication and cannot be an addiction. _____
19. Unclean thoughts that "flash" through your mind can be put away before they become sin. _____
20. Imaginations are good sometimes and can be used for the glory of God! _____

Bread of Life Quiz

Name: _____ ID# _____
 Facility: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Master Answer Sheet # 7

Christian Growth

Sound Doctrine	Gossip & Slander	Homosexuals	Two Creations?	Defeating Your Goliath	Imaginations & Fantasies
Chapter 7	Chapter 8	Chapter 9	Chapter 10	Chapter 11	Chapter 12
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____
9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____
10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____
11. _____	11. _____	11. _____	11. _____	11. _____	11. _____
12. _____	12. _____	12. _____	12. _____	12. _____	12. _____
13. _____	13. _____	13. _____	13. _____	13. _____	13. _____
14. _____	14. _____	14. _____	14. _____	14. _____	14. _____
15. _____	15. _____	15. _____	15. _____	15. _____	15. _____
16. _____	16. _____	16. _____	16. _____	16. _____	16. _____
17. _____	17. _____	17. _____	17. _____	17. _____	17. _____
18. _____	18. _____	18. _____	18. _____	18. _____	18. _____
19. _____	19. _____	19. _____	19. _____	19. _____	19. _____
20. _____	20. _____	20. _____	20. _____	20. _____	20. _____