



**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NIGERIA
MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION**

G.A. Theme:

**LIVING WITH
ETERNITY
IN VIEW**

(Rev. 22:12)

MCA SUB-THEME:

**MEN, LIVE WITH
ETERNITY IN VIEW**

(REV. 22:12)

Published by **The Men's Desk** & Produced by the
CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

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**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NIGERIA
MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE**

RESERVED DATES FOR 2021

S/N	PROGRAM	HOST/VENUE	DATE	REMARK
1	Presbytery / Synod MCA Meeting	Presbytery	February / March 2021	Delegates
2	MCA Central Working Committee (CWC) Meeting	Synod of the North	26-28 March 2021	Delegates
3	Father's Week	All Parishes	14-20 June 2021	All Men
4	MCA Central Working Committee (CWC) Meeting	South Central Synod	23-25 July 2021	Delegates
5	Presbytery / Synod	Presbytery	July / August 2021	Delegates
6	MCA Central Working Committee (CWC) Meeting	Akwa Synod	14-17 October 2021	Biennial International Conference
7	Presbytery / Synod MCA Meeting	Presbytery	November 2021	Delegates

NOTES:

Delegates to these meetings are please asked to prepare ahead of time and avoid absenteeism.

Host Synods should make adequate arrangements for venue and communicate same to CWC on time for adequate preparations and attendance.

Clashes of venues and dates with other events should be avoided as much as possible.

Adequate preparations should be made, at all levels, well ahead of time for the Father's Week.



MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION ANTHEM (RCH 344)

1. Rise up, O men of God
Have done with lesser things
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of Kings.
2. Rise up, O men of God
His kingdom tarries long
Bring in the day of brother-hood
And end the night of wrong.
3. Rise up, O men of God
The Church for you doth wait
Her strength unequal to her task
Rise up and make her great.
4. Lift high the cross of Christ
Tread where his feet have trod
As brothers of the sons of men
Rise up, O men of God!

THE MCA PLEDGE

I promise by the help of God that
I will refrain from committing any known sin
I will live in obedience to God's will
I will spend time each day in private prayers
I will be a diligent student of God's word
I will confess Christ publicly
I will give liberally as God prospers me
I will do something definite for the Lord Jesus Christ
So help me God – Amen.



FUNCTIONS OF THE MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

1. To promote and co-ordinate men's work in the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria
2. To encourage opportunities for Christian fellowship
3. To organize such activities as will promote social and Christian progress within the Church
4. To publish an annual Men's Bible Study Guide

OBJECTIVES OF THE MCA

1. To promote fellowship and Bible study
2. To promote and foster Christian principles with their membership
3. To encourage MCA members to give spiritual, moral and financial support to the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria
4. To promote co-operation with other organization with the Presbyterian Churches
5. To promote co-operation with Men's Association of other Christian Churches
6. To promote such activities as will aid the spiritual progress of MCA and The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria

MCA'S SLOGAN: O Men of God, Arise and Shine .



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INTRODUCTION

The sub-theme of the MCA in the year 2021 is “MEN” live with eternity in view. “This is drawn from the church's theme for 2021 “living with eternity in view” (Rev. 22:12). This theme is coming on the background of a thorough survey of men's character and struggle for materialism amidst the prevailing challenges of our time.

Many Christians today are living their lives as if there is no eternity. We kill, maim, destroy, castigate and fight for mundane things as if the power to make wealth is solely on our hands. God is the sole giver of power and grace to make wealth hence; we should work, eat, celebrate, worship and serve God with eternity in view.

The book of Revelation 22:12 reminds us that God will definitely reward all the labours of our hands at the consummation of time. For some it will be joy all through whereas, for others it maybe life in perpetual sorrow. So, wherever our eternity will be spent is solely dependent on us whether in heaven or hell.

The choice is ours. For life is all about sowing and reaping. Gal 6:8-9.

Don't forget to note that men like Abraham, Daniel, Stephen, Paul and the Apostles of Jesus Christ understood the concept of eternity hence, they refused to be stopped as they attempt to do the biddings of their master Jesus Christ. They were looking for a city that was not built by men but by Jesus himself, Heb. 11:10. Hence, they never considered anything greater than their goals of



making heaven at last. Their names were written in gold in the God's book of life.

In this study guide, we shall consider what it means to live a life with eternity in view, draw some strength from the lives of the above patriarchs and also consider the blessings and challenges of living with eternity in view as well as conclude with a call for all PCN men to arise and live with eternity in view.

Rt. Rev. S. E. Ole, JP
Men's Desk Coordinator



SECTION ONE

A LIFE OF ETERNITY



Study One

TOPIC: THE NEW BIRTH OR REGENERATION

TEXT: John 3:1 – 21

MEMORY VERSE: In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again (NIV)” John 3:3

INTRODUCTION

Conversion, Regeneration, Born again or Repentance are synonymous words which are inseparable and interchangeably used for new birth. Conversion is the act of turning from a life of sinfulness to a life of righteousness. In regeneration one is made a new creature by the spirit of God whereas, Repentance is belief and a change of mind and conduct which is propelled by the Holy Spirit. Born again is a second birth in accordance to the will of God John 1:13. For repentance i.e “New birth” is a major prerequisite for eternity which is the only way one can become a child of God and a member of God's family with eternity in view and heaven at last.

The purpose of this study is aimed at reminding us that the new birth is the door of salvation and consequently the pathway to the kingdom of Heaven.



STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What is regeneration?
2. Why is it necessary for one to be born again? John 3:3, Jer 17:9, Heb 12:14
3. Enumerate the agents involved in new birth. James 1:18, 1 Peter 1:23, Rom 10:17, John 3:3-5
4. What are the proofs or evidences of a regenerated life? Luke 10:27, 1 John 4:7, 1 John 3:9, 1 John 5:4

CONCLUSION:

New Birth is absolutely the work of the Holy Spirit. The heart is renewed and sin is hated. Christ is loved and life is changed completely. New and holy desires spring up like a well of living waters Jn 4:14. The new life is over flowed in joy, peace, love and good works to God and others.

Note: Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save the world. Accept Jesus Christ now and be saved. He loves us and will not want us to perish in iniquity.

HYMN OF PRAYER

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all



All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me, Jesus, take me now,

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

All to Jesus I surrender
Make me Savior wholly thine
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me
May I know Thy power divine

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

PRAYER POINTS:

- * Help me Lord not to return to my old life
- * Lord deliver me from the power of sin
- * Give me the grace to love and fulfill your command.



Study Two

TOPIC: SANCTIFICATION/ HOLINESS

TEXT: Lev 27: 14 – 16, 1 Chro. 29: 5, 15 – 18

**MEMORY VERSE: John 17:17 sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth:
(NIV)**

INTRODUCTION:

This is a very important subject for a believer who lives with eternity in view. In Heb 12:14 the Bible says “Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord”. In regeneration a man's old nature is changed, in justification our standing with God is reformed, in adoption our position is changed while in sanctification our character is repackaged.

Sanctification showcases the fruit of a repented and justified Christian life. We need sanctification because Jesus our saviour was also sanctified. John 10:36, John 17:19 1 Peter 3:15. Sanctification is to be set apart by God, for God, from sin, unto a holy life. II Tim2:21, Lev. 27:16, II Chro 29:5, 15-18. Sanctification is the will of God for every believer I Thess 4:3 “ for this is



the will of God, even your sanctification. This study is a call for men to live a daily sanctified life in our private and public places.

STUDY QUESTION

1. What is the meaning of sanctification/holiness? Psalm 4:3, ii Tim 2:21
2. Mention the means by which a believer is sanctified? John 17:17, Heb 13:12, Heb 12: 10-11, Rom 6:19, ii Cor 7:1
The word
By Blood
By chastisement
By yielding to God
By ourselves
3. When does sanctification begins in the life of a believer I Chron 6:11, James 1:22 – 25, I Thess 5:23
(a) Instantaneous with conversion
(b) progressively
(c) complete and final
4. In what ways can a believer retain his sanctification? Deut 28:1, II Chro 7:14, Prov 28:13 James 4:7, Joshua 1:8, Eph 6:18, Acts 1:8
5. Who is the author of our sanctification? I Thess 5:23 – 24, Eph 5:26, II Thess 2:13

CONCLUSION:

Sanctification guarantees us an inheritance beyond the grave. Do not look within and be discouraged. I Thess 5:24. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.



HYMN: RCH 500

1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day his sweet voice
soundeth,
Saying "Christian, follow me."

2. As of old, Saint Andrew heard it
By the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and
kindred,
Leaving all for his dear sake.

3. Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying "Christian, love me more."

4. In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and
pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than
these."

5. Jesus calls us; by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
Give our hearts to thine obedience,
Serve and love thee best of all.

PRAYER POINTS:

- * Sanctify me by your word daily oh Lord
- * Give me the grace to always obey your word and commandments.
- * Deliver me from every known and unknown sin
- * Grant me an inheritance into your kingdom o Lord.



Study Three

TOPIC: FORGIVENESS

TEXT: *Matt 18: 21 – 35*

MEMORY VERSE: *“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your father will not forgive your sins”. Matt 6: 14-15*

INTRODUCTION:

Unforgiveness is one of the major things that will hinder many Christians from entering the kingdom of God. Heaven is a holy place and nothing impure shall enter there. One of the ways of getting to Heaven is by forgiving one another. If God forgives us our sins we must also forgive others their sins but failure to forgive will prevent us from entering heaven. Many Christians find it very difficult to let go and this has hindered their blessings and severed their relationship with God. This study is a reminder to us all about the imperativeness of forgiveness in the life of Christians who wants to make Heaven at last.



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In your own understanding what is forgiveness?
2. Why is forgiveness necessary? Matt 6:14-15 Luke 11:4,
Col 3:13, Eph 4:32, Mk3:6, Like 6:37
3. What are the conditions for reconciliation? Matt 18:15-17,
Matt 5:23-26, Matt 18:22
4. What are the benefits of forgiveness Matt 6:12, Matt6:15, 37
5. Discuss the consequences of unforgiveness Rev 21:8

CONCLUSION

When Jesus forgives He pardons without reserve. In the same way we need to forgive without reservation. If one sin remained unforgiven, you will not locate your eternity in heaven, but you will be forced to spend eternity in Hell. Rev 21:27 “All these shall in no way enter into the kingdom of God i.e anything that defileth.

HYMN: RCH 411

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!</p> | <p>3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt;
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!</p> |
| <p>2. Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot;
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each
spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!</p> | <p>4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind;
Yes, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!</p> |



5. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

7. Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth, and height
to prove,
He for a season, then above
O lamb of God, I come

6. Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

PRAYER POINTS:

- * Oh Lord I confess all my sins unto you and ask for your forgiveness.
- * Father give me the grace to forgive those who have offended me.
- * Make me a peace maker and a reconciliatory agent oh Lord.



Study Four

TOPIC: DOING THE WILL OF GOD

TEXT: JOHN 4: 31-38

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 4 :34 *“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work”.*

INTRODUCTION:

The Christian is one who has renounced his will and submits to the will of God for his life and all that he does. The problem that many Christians face today is how to ascertain the will of God. Jesus' life on earth was a perfect demonstration of absolute conformity to the will of his father (God). No wonder He finished the work his father gave him. John 17:4 Note: Christians are assigned a specific task to perform while on earth. We must finish the work of He who called us into his vineyard.

This study is aimed at discovering our personalities, talents and potentialities for effectiveness in the master's vineyard.



STUDY QUESTION:

1. In your own word define or explain the concept “doing the will of God”

2. Explain the purpose of man's creation? Eph 2:10, John 15:16, John9:4, I Peter 2:5,9

3. From the following passages identify the will of God for a believer? I Thes 4:3, Eccl 12:5, Prov 1:8
 - a) To be sanctified
 - b) To pray always
 - c) To give thanks always
 - d) To give us the kingdom
 - e) To showcase his praise, glory, worship
 - f) To do his work
 - g) To remember him as our creator
 - h) To fear and reverence him
 - i) To serve with humility and sincerity

4. What are the conditions that will guide a believer to do God's will? Psalm 37:3,4,5,7, Prov 3:5, Rom 12:1-2
 - a) Trust in the Lord
 - b) Delight yourself in His word
 - c) Committing thy ways unto him
 - d) Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him
 - e) A pleasing sacrifice, non conformity to the pattern of the world and renewal of the mind.



CONCLUSION

Knowing and doing the will of God is a combination of several factors. We need the light of God for our daily living. Obey the light that God has given you so as to receive another light to prevail in your daily engagement. Wait patiently on him and he will reveal his will to you day by day.

HYMN: RCH 553

1. Thy way, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be;
Lead me by Thine own hand,
Choose out the path for me.

2. Smooth let it be or rough,
It will be still the best;
Winding or straight, it leads
Right onward to Thy rest.

3. I dare not choose my lot;
I would not, if I might;
Choose Thou for me, my God,
So I shall walk aright.

4. The kingdom that I seek
Is Thine: so let the way
That leads to it be Thine,
Else I must surely stray.

5. Take Thou my cup, and it
With joy or sorrow fill,
As best to Thee may seem;
Choose Thou my good and ill.

6. Choose Thou for me my friends,
My sickness or my health;
Choose Thou my cares for me,
My poverty or wealth.

7. Not mine, not mine the choice
In things or great or small;
Be Thou my guide, my strength
My wisdom, and my all.

PRAYER POINTS:

- * Oh God guide me to do your will
- * Give me the grace to fulfill the purpose of my creation
- * Oh God let my steps be ordered by you.



Study Five

TOPIC: LIVING A VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE

TEXT: I JOHN 4:1-5, I JOHN 5:1-5

MEMORY VERSE: I John 5:4 “For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith”. (NIV)

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible teaches victory over sin for every believer. I John 5:4 “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith.

John was not speaking about victory in heaven but on earth.

If this statement is not true about a believer's life, it means there is something wrong with him or her. The devil does not border a religious person or a powerless Christian, but is interested in heavenly minded Christians. This study is aimed at reminding the Christian that it is possible to live a victorious life if one has been regenerated, sanctified and belongs to God's family.



STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. (a) What does it mean to live a victorious life? I John 5:4, Rom. 6:18, Rom. 7:4, Col. 3:5,
(b) What is the prerequisite for a victorious life? Rom 6:13, John 16:33, I John 3:3

2. Mention the promises of a victorious life? John 10:10, I Cor 10:13, Rom 8:37, Gal 5:16

3. (a) What is the Christian practically expected to do in overcoming sin?

(b) If Christian Victory is possible, why do so many Christians miss it?

4. If a Christian tries to get victory and fails does that necessarily indicate a life long defeat? Explain

CONCLUSION

Don't remain on the ground if you have fallen. I John 1:9 is still true, God has not failed. He will forgive you and use your fall to strengthen you against any similar failure. Do not rely on the past victories for present successes. Always rely on Christ alone. Victory can be ours if we constantly obey all the commands of the spirit to us personally. To him who overcomes will become a pillar in the temple of God and he will never have to leave it. Rev. 3:12, 2:11,17; "Christian seek not yet repose hear thy guardian angel say, thou art in the midst of forces watch and pray. Let us meditate, pray and sing the Hymn RCH 523.



HYMN: RCH 523

1. Christian, seek not yet repose,
Hear thy gracious Savior say;
Thou art in the midst of foes:
Watch and pray.

2. Principalities and powers,
Mustering their unseen array,
Wait for thy unguarded hours:
Watch and pray.

3. Gird thy heavenly armor on,
Wear it ever night and day;
Ambushed lies the evil one:
Watch and pray.

4. Hear the victors who o'ercame,
Still they mark each warrior's way;
All with one sweet voice exclaim,
Watch and pray.

5. Hear, above all, hear thy Lord,
Him thou lovest to obey;
Hide within thy heart His word:
Watch and pray.

6. Watch, as if on that alone
Hung the issue of the day;
Pray, that help may be sent down:
Watch and pray.

PRAYER POINTS:

- * Give me your grace to follow you oh Lord
- * Give me power to live a victorious life daily
- * I don't want to end my journey half way O' Lord



Study SIX

TOPIC: SOUL WINNING

TEXT: PSALM 126:1-6

MEMORY VERSE: PROV. 11:30 *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise”*

INTRODUCTION:

A few are called to be pastors, but every born again Christian is called to be a soul winner. Soul winning is a definite effort to lead a definite person to accept a definite saviour at a definite time according to Billy Sunday. We need not to be selfish about it. For it is the heart beat of Christ. We have dwelt at ease for long in Zion i.e for a long time. It is time for action. We need not wait for the sinner to come to us but we have to open the conversation. God's order is that we go to the sinner and maneuver the conversation to salvation. Jesus wept over Jerusalem, Jeremiah wept day and night for Israel Jer,9:1 Paul wept for souls Acts 20:31. We are called to approach sinners with the word of God, bring them to Christ through repentance. The scripture says there is rejoicing in heaven over a sinner that repents Luke 15:7-10. The souls we win guarantees the quality of our



reward in eternity. This study is meant to motivate men to go out there (the world) and harvest dying souls for the kingdom or eternity.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. (a) Who should be a soul winner?
(b) Mention the qualities of a soul winner? John 3:3, Ps 15:2, I Thes 5:17, Matt 9:36 Matt 14:14, Luke 6:36
He must have a full knowledge of the word
Have compassion for lost souls
Must be prayerful
Must be filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. Why should a believer engage in soul winning? Mk 8:35-38, Rev 21:8, Mark 16:15, Luke 6:38, 15:7-10
3. Can you practically say as a church or organization, whether we have done well in soul winning or not? Justify your answer with practical examples.

CONCLUSION:

Soul winning is an obligation for every believer. Let us as men of God wake up from our slumber and make maximum contributions to support our mission department and missionaries who are out there winning soul for Christ. If you can't go, your money, resources, prayer can go. You can as well start from your Jerusalem. You can never regret. A liberal soul shall be made fat, Prov. 11:25.



HYMN: RCH 388

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His Kingdom stretch from shore to
shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no
more.

2. For Him shall endless prayer be
made.
And praises throng to crown His head,
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

3. People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

4. Blessings abound where'er He
reigns:
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

5. Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen.

PRAYER POINTS:

- * Oh God give me the grace to witness Christ to Sinner
- * Stir my spirit up for evangelism
- * Bless me oh Lord that I may be a blessing to missionaries out there.

SECTION TWO

MEN WHO LIVED FOR ETERNITY

INTRODUCTION

The commandment of God is not grievous. For every prescribed assignment, there is already an adequate and available grace to execute it.

God who called us is faithful to keep and perfect everything that concerns us. The scriptures are written for our knowledge, to enhance our relationship with God and to make positive impacts on our generations. We cannot afford to fail or disappoint God. We will appraise some characters (men) who laboured for the kingdom amidst trials, temptations, persecutions yet endured for the hope of eternity. Their labours of love were not in vain, God rewarded them beyond expectation. The same reward awaits us if we follow their examples.



Study Seven

TOPIC: OBEDIENCE (ABRAHAM)

TEXT: *Gen. 12:1-9, Gen 22:1-9*

MEMORY VERSE: *“But I gave them this command, obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in all the way I command you, it may go well with you” Jer 7:23 (NIV)*

INTRODUCTION

Obedience they say is the first law in Heaven. It is an act of compliance to a given order. God requires absolute obedience from his children. It is one of the core values in our Christian Ethics.

Partial obedience is completely unacceptable to God. I Sam 15:22-23. By faith Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land God would give him as inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going, Heb. 11:8. Abraham obeyed because he was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God. Every act of obedience must adequately be compensated. For every promise of God to be actualized in a believer's life, there must be a condition demonstrated through obedience. This study



will help us understand that we owe it as an obligation to obey God if we must reap the benefits.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In your own understanding define the concept “obedience”
2. (a) In what ways did Abraham demonstrate his obedience to God? Genesis 21:4, 22:1-4
(b) In what ways were his obedience rewarded? Gen 21:1-2, 22:11-13, Heb 11:11
3. In what ways did the following characters (men) demonstrate their obedience to God?
 - i. Noah - Gen 6:14 – 22
 - ii. Joseph - Gen 39:7 – 9
 - iii. Jeremiah - Jer. 1:10
 - iv. Paul - Acts 10:20, 26:19
 - v. Peter and John - Act 5:29
 - vi. Joshua - Joshua 11:15
4. In what aspect should a believer demonstrate his/her obedience to God?
In service – Rev. 2:19, II Tim 2:20-21
In Tithes and Offerings Math 3:10
In Evangelism – Mark 16:15
In giving Luke 6:38, II Cor 7:7 – 8
5. (a) Enumerate the blessings of obedience. Deut 28:1-13, Mtth 7:21, Josh 1:8
(b) Mention the dangers of disobedience. Deut. 28:14, 11:28, Eph 5:6, I Tim 1:9, Heb 2:2-3



CONCLUSION

Obedience is the imperative duty of man. We should obey whole heartedly. Obedience is the price of success, and by it we secure entrance into the kingdom of God. Let us learn and follow the examples of our patriarchs. The Lord will surely compensate us.

METHODIST HYMN BOOK 223

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word
What a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

*“Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.”*

2. Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But his smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh nor a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

3. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil he doth richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

4. But we never can prove the delights of his love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor he shows, and the joy he bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

5. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,
Or we will walk by his side in the way;
What he says we will do, where he sends we will go,
Never fear, only trust and obey.

PRAYER POINTS

- * Give me the spirit of obedience oh Lord.
- * God help me to obey you completely
- * Forgive me in any area I have failed to obey you.



Study Eight

TOPIC: CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH (ELIJAH)

TEXT: I KINGS 18:22-40

MEMORY VERSE: *Jude 3b “Dear friends, although I was very eager to write you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints”(NIV)*

INTRODUCTION

We are in a world where the infiltration of false prophets, false teachers, false doctrines, science and technology have posed a serious threat to the word of God. In the days of Elijah, Baalism was enthroned in the land. The alter was desecrated, God's glory was lost and people were no longer at liberty to worship God for fear of loosing their lives. Idolatry had overtaken the land, Drought, famine, dryness have become the lot of the people. The King (Ahab) was not perturbed because he was the brain behind these incidents. Prov. 29:2 when the Godly are in authority the people rejoice but when the wicked are in power they groan. It was in this type of scenario that Elijah surfaced to contend for the faith.

God cannot allow a generation to go without a witness for himself. He



must always look for a man Ezek 22:30. May you be that man God will depend upon to defend the gospel.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to contend for the faith?
2. Why do we need to contend for the faith in a perverse generation? Jude 4, I John 4:1-2, II Peter 2:1-3, Gen 6:5, I king 16:32, 18:19
3. What are the various ways we can contend for the faith? Gal 2:11, Phil 1:27, 40 Dan. 3:18, 6;10
4. Discuss practical ways we can contend for the faith amidst persecution, false doctrines, science and technology?

CONCLUSION

We are to fight the good fight of faith. Defend the faith whenever you have opportunity. God will help you.

HYMN: RCH 532

1. Stand up! stand up for Jesus!
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss:
From vict'ry unto vict'ry
His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished
And Christ is Lord indeed.

2. Stand up! stand up for Jesus!
The trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict
In this His glorious day.
Ye that are men, now serve Him
Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger.
And strength to strength oppose



3. Stand up! stand up for Jesus!
Stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you;
Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor,
Each piece put on with prayer,
Where duty calls, or danger,
Be never wanting there.

4. Stand up! stand up for Jesus!
The strife will not be long:
This day the noise of battle,
The next the victor's song;
To him that overcometh
A crown of life shall be;
He, with the King of glory,
Shall reign eternally.

PRAYER POINTS

- * Make me a defender of the gospel oh Lord
- * Father help me not to disappoint you and my generation
- * Help me make use of every available opportunity that comes my way oh Lord



Study Nine

TOPIC: STEADFASTNESS (STEPHEN)

TEXT: ACT 7:51 – 59, Heb 11:32 – 40

MEMORY VERSE: I Cor 15:58: “Dear brothers, stand firm, let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labour in the lord is not in vain.”

INTRODUCTION:

Steadfastness is an attribute every Christian should possess. It is a state of being stable, firm, unchanging in one's decisions or principles. It is an act of keeping faith and trust in God, His word, abiding to save and deliver amidst challenges, afflictions, opposition, trials and tribulations of life.

So many issues are posing serious threat to our Christian faith e.g. economic hardship, financial lack, attack from other religion, science and technology plus the recent Covid-19 pandemic episode, hence the call to be steadfast. Stephen and all the heroes of faith mentioned earlier faced similar situations (Acts 7:51 – 59, Heb 11:32 – 40) and held on to their faith. They trusted God, tortured yet preferred to die for the hope of a better life rather than turn from God and be freed. Daniel, his brothers (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego), all the apostles and even Jesus manifested this



virtue when their lives were in danger. This study is aimed at encouraging us to cleave unto the Lord despite the troubles we go through because eye has not seen, no ear heard, and no mind has imagined what God prepared for those who love him, I Cor 2:9.

STUDY QUESTION

1. In your own word define the word “steadfastness”.
2. From these passages identify how these men manifested their steadfastness? Job 17:9, Dan. 3:18, 6:10, Heb 11:32-40
3. From these passages, identify the instruments that will enhance our steadfastness amidst troubles of life? Deut 6:6-7, Josh 1:8, Tim 2:15, Psalm 119:11, Acts 16:25, Matt 4:1-7
4. How can a Christian man be steadfast in the face of afflictions? Discuss.

CONCLUSION:

We need to be steadfast in our walk with God. Endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ. Persevere in your faith, knowing that your labours of love is not in vain.

HYMN: RCH 529

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Courage, brother, do not stumble,
Though thy path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble:
Trust in God and do the right. | 2. Let the road be rough and dreary,
And its end far out of sight,
Foot it bravely; strong or weary,
Trust in God and do the right. |
|--|--|



3. Perish policy and cunning,
Perish all that fears the light!
Whether losing, whether winning,
Trust in God and do the right.

4. Some will hate thee, some will
love thee,
Some will flatter, some will slight;
Cease from man, and look above thee:
Trust in God and do the right.

5. Simple rule, and safest guiding,
Inward peace and inward might,
Star upon our path abiding
Trust in God and do the right

6. Courage brother do not stumble
Though thy path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble;
Trust in God, and do the right.

PRAYER POINTS

- * God help me to hold fast till the end.
- * Make a way of escape for me in times of affliction
- * Help me not to loose sight of eternity oh! Lord



Study Ten

TOPIC: SUFFERING FOR CHRIST SAKE (PAUL)

TEXT: II COR 11:16 – 31

MEMORY VERSE: “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweigh them all” (NIV). II Cor 4:17

INTRODUCTION:

Christians often have severe fiery trials. Some are bodily affected, some mentally, some financially, some spiritually either direct or indirect attack from Satan. Many even ask God question, why do I have to suffer like this? In Phil 1:29 it says “for it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him” (NIV). As we have the privilege to believe in Christ so also we have the privilege to suffer for his sake. In Phil 3:10 Paul desires to know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering. He was misunderstood, mocked, smitten, lashed, and crucified. The prophets and the apostles suffered. As we suffer for Christ, we should realized that God has a purpose for us since we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose, Rom 8:28.



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. From II Cor 11: 16-31, outline the afflictions of Paul as a soldier of Christ.
2. How does suffering come to a Christian? Ref. Gal. 6:7, I Cor 10:13, Joshua 7:1, 5, Job 1:9-12 Isa 6:5.

Note:

- * Through our own mistake or sin
 - * The mistakes and sins of others
 - * Through sickness, affliction-barrenness
 - * Through trials and temptation
 - * Through God's permission
3. What are the purposes of Christian suffering; Heb 12:8, 10, 11, Gal 5:22 – 23, James 1:3, Heb 11:34b
 4. What should be the Christian attitude or response to suffering? Job 1:21 -22, James 1:2, I Peter 3:13 -15, Matt 26:39, I thess 5:17 – 18

CONCLUSION:

As we sincerely believe in Jesus Christ for our salvation, healing, forgiveness, love, blessings etc. We should also be aware that these things come with the privilege to suffer for Christ. God has promised a way of escape for us. If we endure till the end, he will usher us into his kingdom. Hold on and do not give up.

HYMN: RCH 697

1. My hope is built on nothing less *“On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;*
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness; *All other ground is sinking sand,*
I dare not trust my sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.



2. When darkness seems to veils his
face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

3. His oath, His covenant and blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

PRAYER POINTS

- * Thank God for reminding you about suffering for Christ sake
- * Ask God for grace to overcome and not to be a victim amidst crisis
- * Ask God for wisdom and knowledge to remain resolute in times of trouble.



Study Eleven

**TOPIC: KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD
(AQUILA AND PRISCILLA)**

TEXT: *Joshua 1:8, Acts 18: 24 – 28*

MEMORY VERSE: *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in Psalm, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”. (Col. 3:16) WEB*

INTRODUCTION

The importance of the word of God in the life of a Christian cannot be over-emphasized. The knowledge and the amount of the word of God in us enables us stand the test of time. This word of God cannot be replaced or equated with anything: the word of God is God himself. The scripture affirms that his word is forever settled in Heaven, Psalm 119:52. One who has eternity in view must be well versed and rooted with the word. He must have the ability to defend, teach and guide others aright. This is evident in the life and attitude of this couple (Aquila and Priscilla). Apollos was an eloquent preacher who knew the gospel in part. This couple guided him properly by supplying his needs and equipping him for the gospel. With



the understanding of the word they also partnered with Paul in the kingdom work. This study is aimed at teaching us why we need to explore the word, apply the word and the benefits we will receive from it.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. (a) Give a vivid description of Aquila and Priscilla?
(b) Discuss their roles in the ministries of Paul and Apollos
Acts 18:1-2, 26, Rom 16:3

- 2). Why do we need to be acquainted with the knowledge of the word of God? Joshua 1:8, Dent 4:6, Psalm 119:5, 105, 133.
Dent 8:3, 2Tim 3:16, Eph 4:14, Eph 6:17

- 3). Explain the word of Peter in 1Peter 2:2 “As new born babies, desire the sincere Milk of the word of God that you may grow thereby”

- 4). Mention the consequences of not being rooted in the word of God? Mt 22:29, 2Chron 36:16, Isa 5:24 Josh 4:6

CONCLUSION:

God's word is real, true, eternal and powerful. It is suitable for every life situation. In him there is life, healing, peace, joy, success, victory, wisdom and anything good you can imagine. Value it at all times and let the word be sufficient unto you. Don't live in ignorance of the word to avoid being deceived. If you live and do the word, you are preparing for eternity. May eternity never elude you in Jesus name. Amen.



HYMN: RCH 8

1. There is a book, who runs may read,
Which heavenly truth imparts,
And all the lore its scholars need,
Pure eyes and Christian hearts.

2. The works of God above, below,
Within us and around,
Are pages in that book, to show
How God himself is found.

3. The glorious sky embracing all
is like the Maker's love,
Wherewith encompassed, great and small
In peace and order move.

4. The dew of heaven is like thy grace,
It steals in silence down;
But where it lights, the favored place
By richest fruits is known.

5. One Name above all glorious names
With its ten thousand tongues
The everlasting sea proclaims,
Echoing angelic songs.

6. Two worlds are ours: 'tis only sin
forbids us to descry
The mystic heaven and earth within,
Plain as the sea and sky.

7. Thou, who hast given me eyes to see
And love this sight so fair,
Give me a heart to find out thee,
And read thee everywhere

PRAYER POINTS

- * Help me Lord to hide your word in my heart always that I may not sin against thee
- * Give me the grace to crave for your word every day of my life.
- * May I be the doer and hearer of your word in Jesus Name.



**TOPIC: BLESSINGS/DANGERS OF LIVING WITH ETERNITY
IN VIEW (HEAVEN OR HELL)**

TEXT: *Rev 21:1-8*

MEMORY VERSE: *(Rev. 21:7) "he that over cometh shall inherit all things, I will be his God and he shall be my son"*

INTRODUCTION

All the deeds of men will be rewarded according to the scripture, whether good or bad, Matt 16:27. Eternity itself is of two kinds, heaven/hell. So what matters most is where one spends eternity. This is however a matter of choice.

The life lived here on earth guarantees one's entrance to either heaven or hell. We need to surrender our lives to Jesus Christ, live a life of righteousness, peace and holiness for without which no one can see God, Heb 12:14.

There is no repentance in grave so delay no more. The Angels are waiting to welcome you home, so save your soul from impending dangers. In this



study we will explore vividly the benefits of living for eternity (Heaven) and the consequence of living in sin (Hell).

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What should be the lifestyle of a Christian with eternity in view? Luke 18:28–29, John 3:16, John 4:35–36, Gal 6:8, Heb 12:14

2. Give a vivid description of heaven from the following passages Mat 6:9, II Cor 5:1, Heb 11:10, Eph 5:5, John 14:2.

Notes:

- * It is the home of the Lord God Matt 6:9
- * Heaven is God's building not made by man. Heb 11:10
- * Heaven is God's Kingdom and Christ's Eph 5:5
- * It is the father's house. John 14:2
- * It is called paradise. II Cor 12:4

3. What are the benefits of living for eternity? Phil 3:10, Rom 6:22, John 10:28, Luke 10:20, Psalm 13:15, Rev 21:7, Dan 12:13

4. From these passages what is “HELL”? II Thess 1:9, Isa 14:9, Num 16:30-33, Luke 14:23

Note:

- * hell is banishment from God's present
- * Hell is beneath Isa 14:9, Num 16:30-33
- * Hell is prepared for the devil and his wicked angel's Mt 25:4

5. Give a description of hell from these passages Mt 25:46, Luke 6:23, Rev 14, 10, 20:15, Isa 33:14.

CONCLUSION:

The Bible repeatedly says that heaven and hell are eternal and everlasting. One goes to hell by neglecting the great salvation, Heb 2:3 or goes to heaven by



embracing Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, Prov. 18:24. Run for your dear life to avoid shouts of regret. God's desire is to find us in the kingdom; to be with him and inherit the kingdom of heaven at last. How prepared are you?

HYMN: RCH 578

1. Whither, pilgrims, are you going,
Going each with staff in hand?
We are going on a journey,
Going at our king's command.
Over hills and plains and valleys,
We are going to His palace,
Going to the better land.

2. Fear ye not the way so lonely
You, a little, feeble band?
No, for friends unseen are near us;
Holy angels round us stand.
Christ, our leader, walks beside us;
He will guard, and He will guide us;
Guide us to the better land.

3. Tell us pilgrims, what you hope for
In that far off, better land.
Spotless robes and crowns of glory
From a Savior's loving hand.
We shall drink of life's clear river,
We shall dwell with God forever,
In that bright and better land.

4. Pilgrims, may we travel with you
To that bright, that better land?
Come and welcome, come and welcome,
Welcome to our pilgrim band.
Come, O come, and do not leave us,
Christ is waiting to receive us,
In that bright and better land.

PRAYER POINTS:

- * God help me to live for eternity
- * Help me Lord not to make my journey half way
- * I will never be a candidate of hell in Jesus name
- * Lord give me a place in your kingdom

