

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why is it important to be a good example?
2. Are we also an example of testimony to God?
3. How difficult is it to be a good example during trying times?
4. What are the effects of our witness when we patiently endure a difficult situation?

SUMMARY:

Being a Christian is more than just having a one-time experience with Christ; it is a continual experience of growing and dedication of our lives to the cause of Jesus Christ and His purpose, and to holiness.

The Bible is clear in setting guidelines for our Christian walk. Can we view ourselves in the mirror of this text and not see areas in our lives that need cleansing? May Jesus sanctify us and cleanse us by the washing of the Word. [\[SoF:8\]](#)

NOTES:

[\[SoF:6\]](#) We believe that all are sinners and lost, awaiting the judgment of God, but God is not willing that any should be lost. [\[SoF:7\]](#) We believe that sinners may have salvation by repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ. [\[SoF:8\]](#) We believe that a saving faith results in regeneration by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, without which there is no salvation. [\[SoF:9\]](#) We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by Whose indwelling the believer is empowered to live a Godly life in spiritual unity with Christ.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

December 17, 2023

Fourth Quarter

THE CHRISTIAN'S EXAMPLE

LESSON TEXT: *1 Peter 2:9-25*

LESSON SETTING: A letter written by Peter probably from Rome to the Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor.

TIME: Approximately 65 A.D.

- I. CALLED OUT OF DARKNESS.** [\[SoF:6\]](#) 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - A. Blind - 2 Corinthians 3:14; 4:4; 1 John 2:11
 - B. From Death to Life - John 5:24; 1 John 3:14
- II. CALLED UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS.** [\[SoF:7\]](#) 1 Peter 2:11-20
 - A. By Faith - Romans 4:13; 9:30; 10:6; 3:22
 - B. In Christ - Jeremiah 23:6; Daniel 9:24; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21
- III. CALLED TO FOLLOW CHRIST.** [\[SoF:9\]](#) 1 Peter 2:21-25
 - A. In Suffering - 1 Timothy 4:10; 2 Timothy 1:12; 3:12; 1 Peter 3:17
 - B. In Joy - Acts 16:34; John 16:33; Philippians 3:3

GOLDEN TEXT: ... CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS:

1 Peter 2:21

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Luke 1:26-38

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Judges 13:1-25; 1 Samuel 1:1-28

QUARTERLY THEME: The Early Church

TOPIC: THE BIRTH OF JESUS ANNOUNCED

INTRODUCTION:

Can we imagine placing ourselves in Mary's position and seeing Gabriel, the angel of God standing before us? What an awesome joy that must have been to her to see him and to hear the amazing message he brought to her. How her heart must have thrilled to the stupendous words, "and behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son and shall call His name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David." (vs. 31, 32)

For years God's people had been looking for the promised King and now Mary receives this message. Having been chosen of God for this great fulfilling of His prophecy certainly must have been very humbling to her.

CENTRAL TRUTH: The virgin birth proves that there is nothing too hard for God.

GOLDEN TEXT: *FOR WITH GOD NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE.* Luke 1:37

The angel had told Mary of two coming events which in the eyes of men were impossible. Mary was a virgin and her cousin Elizabeth had been barren through her youth and was now past the age of child bearing. Yet, according to Gabriel's message from God, Mary was to give birth to the Son of God, while Elizabeth was to bring forth His messenger. Even today, those who are most wise in human understanding find it hard or impossible to believe this announcement of the Gospel.

Those of us who have received God's grace to believe His Word know that all things are possible with God, the Creator of all things.

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14)

"Ah Lord God! behold thou has made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." (Jeremiah 32:17)

Have faith in God, what can there be,
For Him too hard to do for thee?
He gave His Son, now all is free;
Have faith, have faith in God!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 18 – 24

Mon. Christ's Kingdom Foretold. Isaiah 11:1-10

Tue. *Jesus' Birth Announced to Mary. Luke 1:26-38

Wed. Mary's Song. Luke 1:46-56

Thu. Jesus' Birth Announced to Joseph. Matthew 1:18-25

Fri. The Birth of Jesus. Luke 2:1-7

Sat. Jesus' Birth Announced to the Shepherds. Luke 2:8-20

Sun. The Child Jesus Protected. Matthew 2:13-23

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