

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

The Security of the Believer
John 10:27-29; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a Unit of sessions needs to have access to the "Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study". That information is often provided at the beginning of that Unit of sessions. The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

Prepare copies of the words to "I Know Whom I Have Believed" and ask five different people to participate in the reading of the hymn. (A copy of the words is given at the end of the Worship Time materials).

Bible Study Leader:

For Youth Application – Have paper and pencils for individual rewriting of Romans 8:35-39 or a white board or black board for a group rewriting.

Worship Time Leader:

Music Sources:

“I Know Whom I Have Believed”, *Baptist Hymnal*, 1991, #337.

1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

The Security of the Believer

Focal Text

John 10:27-29; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Background Text

John 5:24; 10:27-30; 17:6,12,17-18; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:19; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 13; 2:4-10; 1 John 3:2

Main Idea

“One who is truly regenerated will continue in faith and will be finally delivered from sin.”

Question to Explore

Can a person be lost again after being saved?

Teaching Aim

To lead the class to summarize the New Testament teachings on Christian perseverance and its implications for their lives

Gathering together:

Involve a number of readers in the sharing of the words of the hymn “**I Know Whom I Have Believed**”.

Share this with the congregation: We will sing the hymn in the Sharing Time, but for the Gathering Time, focus on the words and their meaning.

(Copy the words from the final page of this session if hymnals are not available).

Verse 1

I know not why God's wondrous grace
To me He has made known,
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
Redeemed me for His own.

Verse 2

I know not how this saving faith
To me He did impart,
Nor how believing in His Word
Wrought peace within my heart.

Verse 3

I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus through the Word,
Creating faith in Him.

Verse 4

I know not when my Lord may come,
At night or noonday fair,
Nor if I'll walk the vale with Him,
Or meet Him in the air.

Refrain:

But "I know whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I've committed
Unto Him against that day."

Daniel W. Whittle, Public Domain

Ask for comments from those who have read and from others about the meaning of the words. What emotions or thoughts do these words evoke?

Closing the Gathering Time:

Today we are examining Biblical teachings about a doctrine which is called "the security of the believer". We might frame the question more clearly as "Can a Christian lose his/her salvation?" Sometimes, we glibly answer, "Not if he/she is a real Christian – not if they have really asked Jesus into his/her heart, repented of sin and believed in Him as Saviour." In our inner selves, however, we may be thinking, "By their fruits you shall know them" and doubt if someone has made a "true" commitment. The scriptures we will examine today are clear about our salvation and about God's part in keeping us safe from spiritual harm. May they bring comfort and joy to us as we study today.

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

The Security of the Believer

Focal Text

John 10:27-29; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Background Text

John 5:24; 10:27-30; 17:6,12,17-18; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:19; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 13; 2:4-10; 1 John 3:2

Main Idea

“One who is truly regenerated will continue in faith and will be finally delivered from sin.”

Question to Explore

Can a person be lost again after being saved?

Teaching Aim

To lead the class to summarize the New Testament teachings on Christian perseverance and its implications for their lives

Introduction to your personal study:

As we view this passage I am encouraged that our relationship to Jesus is often referred to in the New Testament as an adoption. In the Roman Empire a man could disown his birth son but he could never disown the son that was adopted. Similar laws prevail in certain nations today. Scripture tells us that we are adopted sons and daughters of the King. We can never lose our salvation inheritance in Jesus.

In our family, we have three beautiful children – all ‘chosen’, or adopted. When our children were growing up, they experienced many trials and difficulties, just as so many other children do. I would often remind them that they were our sons and daughter no

matter what they did. As our children, they were loved unconditionally, no matter what kinds of trouble they found themselves in. This is not unlike our relationship with God. Our children may have, at times, seemed to wish that they were not related to us as their parents. None the less, if they were to change their names, leave home, or even try to change their looks, they would still be our children. If a human parent would have that kind of relationship with their earthly child, how much better is the relationship that we have with our heavenly Father? Similarly we are God's children, as we confess our sins and ask Jesus to come into our lives, as Lord, Saviour and Master. No matter what happens after we have been adopted as his children, we will remain his children.

As earthly parents deal with their children, they do it primarily with love. There are penalties for doing wrong, consequences for transgressions, but they remain our children. As children choose to follow their Christian parents in a right relationship to Jesus Christ, they will remove themselves from the bondage of sin and its influence on their lives.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study**”, found at the beginning of this Unit. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you as well.

In the short passages that follow, the reader will understand that as one professes Jesus as Lord and Saviour he receives the Holy Spirit. That is our insurance that God will never slip away from us. He will love us forever, even though His love may not be returned or appreciated. It is important to remember that as we desire to faithfully follow God's teaching, we will automatically be drawn closer to Him. We will want to constantly evaluate our thoughts and actions to determine if we are indeed living in a closer relationship with Him each day.

Focusing on the Meaning:

Saved and Secure! John 10:27-29

John 10:27 Jesus uses the picture of sheep, to show that obedience would flow out of a true relationship between the master and the flock. Following the shepherd is always in the best interest of the sheep. As we consider whether or not a person can lose his salvation, we need to evaluate whether a person has a genuine relationship with Christ in the first place. Is he truly a part of Jesus' flock, or just an observer? We will never know that answer for anyone other than ourselves until eternity. The comparison to adoption here again fits. If a child is adopted into a family and then in later years disgraces the family or deserts them, he nevertheless is still adopted. He may say he is not part of the family and he may even hurt the family, but he is still adopted into the family. The legal bond remains the same regardless of the circumstances.

This verse also puts qualifications on you and me. If we who claim to be Christians, hear Jesus' voice and decide not to follow, are we still His?

The answer is definitely yes! Sheep, which have been in a flock for awhile, most often follow the master's voice because they trust the shepherd to do what is best for them. Once in a while a sheep may stray. Immature sheep who haven't yet learned how to follow the master's directions may wander. They may be lured aside by something that attracts the eye for a moment. That straying sheep still belongs to the master. He will go to great lengths to recover that wandering one to his fold.

John 10:28 This is a great verse for Christians. Don't we stray at times? YES! This verse is our assurance that we can never lose our eternal life (salvation). We are safe in God's hands. No one or no thing is strong enough to wrench us free of God's grasp. The question may then come up, "If I am saved once for ever, why don't I go about enjoying the sinful pleasures the world has to offer?" The answer is clear. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we will not choose to sin. A very young lamb may choose to behave in a manner not pleasing to the master. He needs to be trained to listen for the master's voice, and trust his direction as best for him. As Christians we cannot lead a person to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and then expect him to live a devout Christian life, unless we are prepared to walk with and teach him. All sheep must have a teachable spirit in order to live a life close to the shepherd.

John 10:29 We are secure in our salvation in the Lord Jesus, because God Himself has guaranteed it. It is His gift to us through Jesus. It is important to remember that even though God protects our salvation, we may choose to live differently than what God would wish for us. We are his, but we are sometimes a disappointment to Him. Just as our earthly children are sometimes a disappointment to us, and live lives that are less than we hoped for them, we continue to nurture the relationship and want the best for them.

Legal Matters Romans 8:31-34

Romans 8:31-32 These verses paint a beautiful picture of our value and our salvation. Think about it! God allowed His one and only Son to die for us on the cross. Following this he gave us a guarantee, the Holy Spirit, to show us that we have value to God. If he appreciated us so much, what chance is there that he would allow us to be lost? God did not stop with simply investing his Son's life. He invested the Holy Spirit in us, as the 'earnest money'. Therefore, if we were ever lost, God himself would be lost. What an investment God has made in our life. Our security is guaranteed because God can not lose himself.

Romans 8:33 As a Justice of the Peace, I often have people stand before me as the charges are read against them. I often wonder how terrifying it would be if we stood before someone who could truly bring charges against us. As you and I have accepted Jesus as our Lord, Saviour, and Master, we have been chosen by God. Because we

have been chosen by God, we are free from condemnation as we walk with Jesus. No charges will be laid against us because we belong to Christ.

Romans 8:34 This verse emphasizes that while Christ's death is very important, it is his resurrection that gives us hope for the future. His resurrection allows Christ to claim us as his.

The passage reminds me of an example I have often seen used. The scene is the following: A young man is standing before God at the judgement seat. He is able to see that his page in the Book of Life is covered in black ink listing his many sins. The next scene shows the young man about to be judged for his sins. At that moment Jesus stepped forward and claimed this man as his own because he had claimed Jesus on earth. In a flash the ink-stained page is washed with Christ's blood - the black ink is gone leaving only a crisp, clean sheet. Hallelujah!

God's Love is Forever Romans 8:35-39

Romans 8:36-39 Our love for God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord is secure. Nothing will separate us from God's love. Although sin exercises a very strong influence in our world, and evil is all around us destroying lives, it cannot separate us from the love God has for us. The passage states clearly that we are not just overcoming the problems, we have victory assured to us. This victory is two fold: victory now, in the present circumstance, and victory in eternity. We know for sure that God will not give up on us, but are we ever tempted to give up on God? Salvation consists of a covenant between two parties - our commitment to trust God for salvation, and God's commitment to redeem us through faith in Christ. We can be sure that God will never come up short on His part of the agreement. This scripture declares that there is absolutely nothing that can keep God from fulfilling his promises to us.

The adoption story near the beginning of the study explains this point clearly. Even though the adopted child may disappoint and hurt the adoptive parents there is still love for the child from the parent. The question really is, "Is there love from the child?" Is there anything that will cause you to stop loving God? Remember the story of Job in the Old Testament. Trials came into his life in many ways, but he stayed on course and remained devoted to God. When trials come to your life does your faith ever waver? Our faith in God must continue to grow each and every day so that when the hard times come (and they will come), we will be able to say, "I know in whom I believe and I am persuaded that he is able." (2 Timothy 1:12)

Hope leads to Faith 1 Peter 1:3-5

1 Peter 1:3-5 These verses amaze me! Why would anyone, let alone God, allow his son to die on the cross for me? Hallelujah, he did! But the greatest Hallelujah came three days later when Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus' resurrection gives us not only hope that our past sins are forgiven, but also the hope of eternity in the future. These verses are very clear. The believer's hope is secure because God himself gave us this

new birth and a living hope of the future. Our hope is centered on the resurrection of Jesus. Faith is the driving force that guides our lives and directs us to our inheritance of eternity. God's power, not human works, guarantees the believer's eternal security.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

One evening, as I checked the patient registry at the local hospital where I volunteer, I recognized one name in particular. Marjorie Brooks. Was it possible that it was the same Marjorie Brooks who delivered farm fresh eggs to my parent's home when I was a child? I set out to find her room and make a visit. The moment I stepped through the door of room 604 I recognized the frail elderly woman sitting in a wheelchair, a hand knit afghan around her shoulders. But more amazingly, she recognized me! "Aren't you Amelia Cranston's daughter? I used to deliver eggs to your place years ago."

I had grown to adulthood, become educated, married, had children and grandchildren, turned grey and gained weight – and yet she recognized me as my mother's daughter! How much more, then, are we forever stamped with our Heavenly Father's likeness when we become His children through faith in Christ? Any person who has been adopted into God's kingdom will never lose the gift of salvation. Though problems may enter our lives, though we may knowingly lose contact with Him from time to time, nothing will draw God away from us. As we learn to believe and follow Jesus in every aspect of our lives, we will be drawn into a closer relationship with him daily. Your task as the leader of this study is to convey, as best you can, the truth of this, our security in God's amazing grace.

For Personal Reflection:

What have I learned from this study?

What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?

What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

The Security of the Believer

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

John 10:27-29; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Background Text

John 5:24; 10:27-30; 17:6,12,17-18; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:19; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 13; 2:4-10; 1 John 3:2

Main Idea

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Connect with Life:

Invite group members to brainstorm the number of ways each has changed since their childhood (age, weight, hair color, marital status, spirituality, likes, dislikes, location, etc.). Once a thorough list of changes has been compiled, ask, “Have any of these changes altered your biological relationship with your parents? Help members understand that just as our biological relationship with earthly parents remains intact, so does our spiritual relationship with God through Christ remain intact, regardless of change.

Guide the Study:

Have someone read John 10:27-29.

Remind members of the relationship a shepherd has to his sheep. Consider some reasons why a sheep might wander off from the safety of the shepherd. Consider reasons why a Christian might wander away from His Lord.

Ask, “What will the Great Shepherd do if one of his own strays off?” Emphasize that there is security in following the Lord in obedience.

Read Romans 8: 31-34.

Call for an answer: “How can we know that God will never condemn us?”

Share this thought: How incredible and liberating it is to know that Christ himself is praying for us.

Pose the question, “Is there anything that can completely destroy our relationship with God?”

Have someone read the remainder of Romans 8.

Invite members to list ways they are experiencing victory in their daily lives.

Invite another person to read aloud 1 Peter 1:3-5.

Now look for ideas for these important concepts:

“What is the basis for our hope?”

“How can we be sure of our heavenly inheritance?”

Encourage group members to share times in their lives when they have felt separated from God.

Create brief opinions or discussion on these thoughts:

“What if we disappoint God immensely?”

“Are there some sins that God will not forgive, that would exclude us from heaven?”

Important for those worried about having sinned after their salvation experience:
Review the concept that teaches that God is willing to forgive any repentant heart that comes to him in sincerity.

Comfort members with the knowledge that our salvation through Christ is eternally secure.

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to go away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Invite members to join in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's incredible gift of eternal life, which is secure for all time. Pray for a teachable spirit that would draw us into a closer relationship with our Shepherd each day.

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

The Security of the Believer

John 10:27-29; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

How Secure Do I Feel? How Secure in God Am I, Really?

Part of the task of growing up involves owning one's faith experience. Many teens who grew up in a Christian family and church may question their salvation experience. They may have doubts about the rationality of the Christian faith. They may question how to live out their faith without missing out on all of the fun of the teen years. Teens may make a "rededication" or even express their need to accept Christ as a thinking, more mature individual. All of these issues are really the process of owning one's faith – that is, understanding for oneself and committing for oneself rather than leaning on the faith experience of parents. This is a healthy, though sometimes scary, exercise.

Today's scripture lesson helps us remember that even when we doubt and question, Christ does not turn us loose. We are not on our own.

Rewrite Romans 8: 35-39 in contemporary language. Use the issues which you might have seen other teens experience or that you might be experiencing in place of some of the words which Paul uses. Whatever words you use, be sure to keep the meaning of the scripture that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

(You may have individual pieces of paper and have each person write the verse or you may join in a group effort and write the finished verse on the whiteboard).

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***The Security of the Believer***

John 10:27-29; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Beginning the Service:

Sing “**Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine**”, *Baptist Hymnal*, 1991, #334 and/or “**Amazing Grace**”, available from a variety of sources.

Read: (This is a good opportunity to include someone who has not yet participated in leadership. If possible, give them the Scripture to practice reading ahead of time. It would be effective to have the Scripture read three times—first by a young child, then by a midlife adult and by an older adult to conclude).

***The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
I will strengthen thee;
yea, I will help thee;
yea, I will uphold thee with the
right hand of my righteousness.***

Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 41:10 KJV

Offering:**Praying for the World:**

The Asheninkas (pronounced a-SHEH–nihn–kuhs) are an unevangelized people group in the jungles of Peru. They speak five different dialects and live in tiny communities along river routes coursing several regions of Peru. Their lives are simple and very hard. Carving out of the jungle a place to call home, they build thatched huts, and survive day-to-day on fish caught from the river and meagre crops harvested from the surprisingly hostile jungle soil. Without money or the ability to read, few Asheninkas hope to rise above their current circumstances. A missionary family is attempting to not only evangelize, but to train leadership within the community to continue the work of

evangelization and discipleship. Pray for health, strength, and wisdom for the missionaries and for the Asheninka leadership.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

More Than Conquerors **Romans 8:31-39**

Two Godly elderly people became friends in the nursing home where they both lived. The gentleman, a widower, had been a church leader and had fulfilled many of the tasks of the church – music director, Bible teacher, builder of the new auditorium, visitor of the sick and discouraged, janitor, and even treasurer. There hadn't been much that he had not done in the little church in the town where he lived and raised his family. Now he was at a distance from that church and town, but was still a faithful presence in a local church.

The lady in the friendship was delicately beautiful. She, too, was widowed some years previously. She had spent her life as a pastor's wife and the years of unselfish caring and dedicated service had etched lines of character and love onto her face.

These two shared friendship and love. They brightened the day for one another at the end of their long and fruitful lives. They both loved the Lord and loved to talk about him. But on one issue, they did not see eye to eye. The gentleman believed strongly in his sure salvation based on passages such as 1 Peter 1:3-5 and Romans 8: 28-37.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Leader: Read Romans 8:28-37 from your Bible.

The surest thing in all of this Christian man's life was his belief that nothing could take his salvation away from him.

His friend, however, believed more in good deeds than in Christ's atoning work on the cross. She might have quoted words from James 2: 18-20.

“But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?’”

As the two lived out the remaining years of their lives, the gentleman became increasingly more sure of his eternal destiny. The lady was at times fearful, but summed up her feelings with the words, “I’ve done the best that I could do”. Her friend longed for her to have the assurance of her salvation—he longed for her to know in her deepest being that the answer to the question, ***“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”*** is ***“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord”*** (Romans 8: 35-39).

Older people are not the only ones who question whether a commitment made to Christ earlier in one's life is sufficient to sustain one all along life's journey and comfort one as death draws near.

Let us examine the truths found in the Romans 8 passage.

1. Our salvation comes from God and our good works come from our changed heart and empowered life.

Romans 8:21, ***“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believed.”***

Had the elderly man wanted to list his service to God, it would have been an impressive list. But he was not depending on his service, but on his faith for salvation. Righteousness from God resulted in a faithful, consistent, holy, and sacrificial life. The faithful, consistent, holy, and sacrificial life was not his ticket to heaven; it was his gift to his Saviour.

2. God is for us.

Perhaps one of the key understandings that needs to be nailed down in a Christian's life and returned to over and over is the belief that “God is for us”. The issue of God's sovereignty is difficult to learn in the difficulties of life. It needs to be learned in the everyday, ongoing issues of life in order to be believable in times of tragedy.

A young woman shared a powerful testimony at a woman's retreat. She told of her family's faithfulness to God. Her father had taught the same Sunday School class for

many, many years. Her mother had lived through an automobile accident which left her paraplegic. Her attitude and faith made this difficulty more bearable for her family. The young woman had prayed as a teen about finding a life mate and eventually God led her to the person she married and they had several children. They were quite poor, but their home was filled with love and peace. One day the young woman made a quick trip to the store and as she returned home, her 15 month old daughter ran in front of her vehicle and was killed. The young woman said in her testimony, "Nothing could have prepared me for the events of that June day or maybe everything in my life was preparing me for that day."

Those were profound words. Indeed, all the days of depending on God's faithfulness and seeing it modeled in her parents and extended family made it easier to know on that tragic day that "**God is for us**".

This passage in Romans 8 reminds us that neither death nor life, angels nor demons, present nor the future, any power, height or depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Therefore, we are more than conquerors.

The Christian life is not one of merely getting by. It is not one of existing in spite of the difficulties. It is living victoriously in the midst of the tragedies and pain of life.

The wonderful Christian man whose story was told early in this lesson had certainly had more than his share of difficulties in his long life. His young wife died in childbirth, leaving him with two sons to raise, one newly born. He did that with the help of his parents-in-law and then remarried when the boys were almost grown. He had been a veteran of World War I; his oldest son was off to World War II. He had children in his second marriage. For a year the youngest son in this new family was desperately ill from rheumatic fever until he was made part of a medical experiment testing the use of penicillin. The new "miracle drug" did its job and the boy was cured. However, before long, the wonderful, Christian mother began a ten year battle with breast cancer which eventually took her life. In the latter years of his life, two grandsons died in unrelated accidents.

Yet, he was more than a survivor, more than a conqueror. He lived his life in a deep understanding of what Paul meant in the difficult verse Romans 8:28, "**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.**"

Call to Commitment:

As we examine the Christian life, we look for elements and promise that apply to this life on earth and to other elements and promises that apply to eternity.

The scriptures that we have examined today fulfill those criteria.

The promise of being more than conquerors refers to the strength God will give to live life with integrity, dignity and courage. It also refers to the eternal victory that is ours—life after death. ***“I know whom I have believed, And am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I’ve committed unto Him against that day.”*** (2 Timothy 1:12)

Concluding the Service:

Sing **“I Know Whom I Have Believed”**, *Baptist Hymnal*, 1991, #337, as a closing affirmation of today’s study of Biblical truth.

Copy as needed for the congregation:

I Know Whom I Have Believed

Verse 1

**I know not why God's wondrous grace
To me He hath made known,
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
Redeemed me for His own.**

Verse 2

**I know not how this saving faith
To me He did impart,
Nor how believing in His Word
Wrought peace within my heart.**

Verse 3

**I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus thro' through the Word,
Creating faith in Him.**

Verse 4

**I know not when my Lord may come,
At night or noonday fair,
Nor if I'll walk the vale with Him,
Or meet Him in the air.**

Refrain:

**But "I know whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I've committed
Unto Him against that day."**

Daniel W. Whittle, Public Domain

For selected participants to read during the opening of the “Worship Time” experience.

***The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
I will strengthen thee;
yea, I will help thee;
yea, I will uphold thee with the
right hand of my righteousness.***

Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 41:10 KJV

Note: See the Worship Time Guide.

Give to a participant beforehand to read aloud at the appropriate time during the “Worship Time” experience.

Ministry Moment:

The Asheninkas (pronounced a-SHEH–nihn-kuhs) are an unevangelized people group in the jungles of Peru. They speak five different dialects and live in tiny communities along river routes coursing several regions of Peru. Their lives are simple and very hard. Carving out of the jungle a place to call home, they build thatched huts, and survive day-to-day on fish caught from the river and meagre crops harvested from the surprisingly hostile jungle soil. Without money or the ability to read, few Asheninkas hope to rise above their current circumstances. A missionary family is attempting to not only evangelize, but to train leadership within the community to continue the work of evangelization and discipleship. Pray for health, strength, and wisdom for the missionaries and for the Asheninka leadership.