

SABBATH

SCHOOL LESSONS

Second Half 2024



Divine Wisdom



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IMS
PUBLISHING

Second Half 2024

Divine Wisdom

Author: Anonymous

Review: General Conference Ministerial Research Institute

Translation, Editing, and Design: General Conference
Publishing Department

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FOR THE SECOND HALF 2024

General Conference
International Missionary Society
Seventh-day Adventist Church,
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INTRODUCTION

"Paul wrote to the Corinthians, 'And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.' He declares, 'For Christ sent me ... to preach the gospel; not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.'

"The great and essential knowledge is the knowledge of God and His word. Peter exhorted his brethren to 'grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.' There should be a daily increasing of spiritual understanding; and the Christian will grow in grace, just in proportion as he depends upon and appreciates the teaching of the word of God, and habituates himself to meditate upon divine things.

"All pride of opinion and dependence upon the wisdom of this world is unprofitable and vain. When men, instead of humbly receiving the truth of God in whatever way it may be sent to them, begin to criticize the words and manners of the messenger, they are manifesting their lack of spiritual perception, and their want of appreciation for the truth of God, which is of vastly more importance than the most cultured and pleasing discourse. One critical speech, disparaging the messenger of God, may start a train of unbelief in some mind that will result in making of none effect the word of truth. Those who have a constant struggle to cherish humility and faith, are far from being benefited by this course. Anything like pride in learning, and dependence upon scientific knowledge, which you place between your soul and the word of the Bible, will most effectually close the door of your heart to the sweet, humble religion of the meek and lowly Jesus....

"It is the Spirit of God that quickens the lifeless faculties of the soul to appreciate heavenly things, and attracts the affections toward God and the truth. Without the presence of Jesus in the heart, religious service is only dead,

cold formalism. The longing desire for communion with God soon ceases when the Spirit of God is grieved from us; but when Christ is in us the hope of glory, we are constantly directed to think and act in reference to the glory of God. The questions will arise, 'Will this do honor to Jesus? Will this be approved of by Him? Shall I be able to maintain my integrity if I enter into this agreement?' God will be made the counselor of the soul, and we shall be led into safe paths, and the will of God will be made the supreme guide of our lives. This is heavenly wisdom, imparted to the soul by the Father of light, and it makes the Christian, however humble, the light of the world."

—Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, August 17, 1888

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LESSON 1

Sabbath, July 6, 2024

Manifold Wisdom



"O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! in wisdom hast Thou made them all: the earth is full of Thy riches." Psalm 104:24.

"Divine wisdom has appointed, in the plan of salvation, the law of action and reaction, making the work of beneficence, in all its branches, twice blessed. He who gives to the needy blesses others and is blessed himself in a still greater degree." –Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 253.

SUNDAY

1. In whom do all wisdom and knowledge exist?

 **Colossians 2:2, 3.** *That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; ³ In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

"The knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ expressed in character is the very highest education. It is the key that opens the portals of the heavenly city. This knowledge it is God's purpose that all who put on Christ shall possess." –Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 37.

MONDAY

2. Can anyone on earth grasp the height and depth of heavenly knowledge?

 **Isaiah 40:28.** *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

"The love of Christ is a golden chain that binds finite, human beings who believe in Jesus Christ to the Infinite God. The love that the Lord has for His children passeth knowledge. No science can define or explain it. No human wisdom can fathom it." –*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1141.

TUESDAY

3. What is the extent of divine understanding?

 **Psalms 147:5.** *Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*

"Infinite Wisdom sets before us the great lessons of life—lessons of duty and happiness. These are often hard to learn, but without them we can make no real progress. They may cost us effort and tears, and even agony, but we must not falter or grow weary. We shall at last hear the Master's call, 'Child, come up higher.'" –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 51.

WEDNESDAY

4. How unchangeable is divine wisdom?

 **Ephesians 3:10.** *To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.*

"When the truth is received into the heart, the habits and customs are conformed to Christ. The learner feels bound to uplift the Saviour. The truth works by love and purifies his soul, and he regards God's commands,

not as being abrogated, but as unchangeable truth, given to the world from the beginning. He presents the treasures of God's word in a fresh and agreeable way, because the truth has taken possession of his mind, his heart, his entire being." —*Signs of the Times*, March 1, 1899.

THURSDAY

5. How did the apostle Paul describe God's wisdom and knowledge?

 **Romans 11:33.** O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!.

"The science of salvation is the most important science to be learned in the preparatory school of earth." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 19.

FRIDAY

6. Who alone can impart divine knowledge?

 **Proverbs 2:6.** For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

"Since God is the source of all true knowledge, it is, as we have seen, the first object of education to direct our minds to His own revelation of Himself." —*Education*, p. 16.

SABBATH

7. Who is the beginning and end of true wisdom?

 **Proverbs 9:10.** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

"A knowledge of God will constitute a kind of knowledge that will be as enduring as eternity. To learn and to do the works of Christ, is to obtain a true education." –*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 392.



Meditation

"Our prayers are daily ascending to God for strength and divine wisdom that I may move in the order of God, walk in the clear light and make no false steps." –*Letter 70*, 1889.

LESSON 2

Sabbath, July 13, 2024

The Almighty's Science

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9.

"From the solemn roll of the deep-toned thunder and old ocean's ceaseless roar, to the glad songs that make the forests vocal with melody, nature's ten thousand voices speak His praise. In earth and sea and sky, with their marvelous tint and color, varying in gorgeous contrast or blended in harmony, we behold His glory. The everlasting hills tell of His power. The trees that wave their green banners in the sunlight and the flowers in their delicate beauty point to their Creator. The living green that carpets the brown earth tells of God's care for the humblest of His creatures. The caves of the sea and the depths of the earth reveal His treasures. He who placed the pearls in the ocean and the amethyst and chrysolite among the rocks is a lover of the beautiful. The sun rising in the heavens is a representative of Him who is the life and light of all that He has made. All the brightness and beauty that adorn the earth and light up the heavens speak of God." —Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 54.



SUNDAY

1 .In the Old Testament, how is the manifestation of heavenly wisdom described?

 **Numbers 24:16.** *He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open.*

“From God, the fountain of wisdom, proceeds all the knowledge that is of value to man, all that the intellect can grasp or retain. The fruit of the tree representing good and evil is not to be eagerly plucked because it is recommended by one who was once a bright angel in glory. He has said that if men eat thereof, they shall know good and evil; but let it alone. The true knowledge comes not from infidels or wicked men. The word of God is light and truth. The true light shines from Jesus Christ, who ‘lighteth every man that cometh into the world.’ John 1:9. From the Holy Spirit proceeds divine knowledge. He knows what humanity needs to promote peace, happiness, and restfulness here in this world, and to secure eternal rest in the kingdom of God.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 360.

MONDAY

2. In whom are the treasures of heavenly wisdom encompassed?

 **Colossians 2:2, 3.** *That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; ³ In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

“Christ’s teachings were not impressed upon His hearers by any outward gestures, but by the words and acts of His daily life, by the spirit He revealed. In the higher life that He led as He worked the works of God, He gave to men an example of the outworking of the true higher education. So in the lives of His followers, when a hasty spirit is overcome, when the heart is melted to tenderness for others, when the life is devoted to working the works of Christ, the fruit of the higher education is seen.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 399.

TUESDAY

3. Why can no human being reach God’s level of wisdom?

 **Isaiah 40:12-14.** *Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his*

hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? ¹³ Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him? ¹⁴ With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and

taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?.

"Man is finite; there is no light in his wisdom. His unaided reason can explain nothing in the deep things of God, nor can he understand the spiritual lessons that God has placed in the material world. But reason is a gift of God, and His Spirit will aid those who are willing to be taught." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 423.

WEDNESDAY

4. Who maintains the symmetry of wisdom and power?

 **Job 12:13.** *With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.*

"Knowledge is power, but it is a power for good only when united with true piety. It must be vitalized by the Spirit of God in order to serve the noblest purposes. The closer our connection with God, the more fully can we comprehend the value of true science; for the attributes of God, as seen in His created works, can be best appreciated by him who has a knowledge of the Creator of all things, the Author of all truth." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 38.

THURSDAY

5. Why is God the only One who can evaluate actions?

 **1 Samuel 2:3.** *Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogance come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.*

"God has told us what to do in our lifework and how to form characters for the future, immortal life. If we pay heed to the instructions given, we shall be doers of the Word. His words are not permits, not suggestions, but the decisions of an infallible Judge. They are divine maxims, the very specified laws, which will judge us in the last days. No man is excusable for acting as though he were at liberty to cancel the decisions of God, to disregard His directions and injunctions, to review them, criticize them, reverse them, as he sees fit." –*Letter 24*, 1890.

FRIDAY

6. With what is the divine method of instruction compared?

 **Deuteronomy 32:2.** *My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass.*

“Only under the direction of the Omniscient One shall we, in the study of His works, be enabled to think His thoughts after Him.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 530.

SABBATH

7. What does God’s word teach?

 **2 Peter 3:18.** *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

“Remember that in your life, religion is not merely one influence among others; it is to be an influence dominating all others. Be strictly temperate. Resist every temptation. Make no concessions to the wily foe. Listen not to the suggestions that he puts into the mouths of men and women. You have a victory to win. You have nobility of character to gain.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 489.



Meditation

“Unless the divine influence is recognized and respected, human wisdom will become exalted in preference to the divine wisdom, and the work will surely be swayed in wrong lines. The result for good is certain when God is exalted as the divine Counsellor.” –*Letter 136, 1900.*

LECCIÓN 3

Sabbath, July 20, 2024

Divine and Human Wisdom

"But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil". Genesis 3:3-5.

"Such has been Satan's work from the days of Adam to the present, and he has pursued it with great success. He tempts men to distrust God's love and to doubt His wisdom. He is constantly seeking to excite a spirit of irreverent curiosity, a restless, inquisitive desire to penetrate the secrets of divine wisdom and power. In their efforts to search out what God has been pleased to withhold, multitudes overlook the truths which He has revealed, and which are essential to salvation. Satan tempts men to disobedience by leading them to believe they are entering a wonderful field of knowledge. But this is all a deception. Elated with their ideas of progression, they are, by trampling on God's requirements, setting their feet in the path that leads to degradation and death." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 54.



SUNDAY

1. What two types of wisdom does the Bible show?

1 Corinthians 2:6, 7. *Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: ⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.*

"It was distrust of God's goodness, disbelief of His word, and rejection of His authority, that made our first parents transgressors, and that brought into the world a knowledge of evil.... By the mingling of evil with good, his mind had become confused, his mental and spiritual powers benumbed." –*Education*, p. 25.

MONDAY

2. How does God consider the world's wisdom?

 **1 Corinthians 3:19.** *For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.*

"Man's words, if of any value, echo the words of God." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 423.

TUESDAY

3. How accurately can the human being understand the reality of God?

 **Job 36:26.** *Behold, God is great, and we know him not, neither can the number of his years be searched out.*

"When man is reconciled to God, the things of nature speak to him in words of heavenly wisdom, bearing testimony to the eternal truth of God's word. As Christ tells us the meaning of the things in nature, the science of true religion flashes forth, explaining the relation of the law of God to the natural and the spiritual world." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 189.

WEDNESDAY

4. How do divinity and fallen humanity relate to each other?

 **Job 9:1-4.** *Then Job answered and said, ² I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God? ³ If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand. ⁴ He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?*

"The Saviour's entire life was characterized by disinterested benevolence and the beauty of holiness. He is our pattern of goodness. From the beginning of His ministry, men began to comprehend more clearly the character of God. He carried out His teachings in His own life. He showed consistency without obstinacy, benevolence without weakness, tenderness and sympathy without sentimentalism. He was highly social, yet He possessed a reserve that discouraged any familiarity. His temperance never led to bigotry or austerity." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 262.

THURSDAY

5. What spirituality permeates divine wisdom?

 **1 Corinthians 2:6, 7.** *Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: ⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.*

"... Christ knew that He must strengthen His humanity by prayer. In order to be a blessing to men, He must commune with God, pleading for energy, perseverance, and steadfastness. Thus He showed His disciples where His strength lay. Without this daily communion with God, no human being can gain power for service. Christ alone can direct the thoughts aright. He alone can give noble aspirations and fashion the character after the divine similitude. If we draw near to Him in earnest prayer, He will fill our hearts with high and holy purposes, and with deep longings for purity and righteousness." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 324.

FRIDAY

6. How does the church learn about divine wisdom?

 **Ephesians 3:10.** *To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.*

"It is through the sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth that we become laborers together with God. Christ waits for the cooperation of His church.... The blood of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the divine word, are ours. The object of all this provision of heaven is before us—the salvation of the souls for whom Christ died; and it depends upon us to lay hold

on the promises God has given, and become laborers together with Him. Divine and human agencies must cooperate in the work." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 22.

SABBATH

7. What is the most important goal for a human being?

 **Philippians 3:8.** *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.*

"By obtaining a knowledge of God's word and giving heed thereto, men may rise from the lowest depths of degradation to become the sons of God, the associates of sinless angels." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 53.



Meditation

"God's mercy is for all who repent. To them He sends His messages of pardon, and if they receive these into the heart, their lives are regenerated. The Lord employs a variety of ways to enable men to be co-workers with Him. He manifests divine wisdom in the means He uses to lead His people onward. If they do His will, they will reach the standard of perfection." –*Manuscript 140*, 1902.

LESSON 4

Sabbath, July 27, 2024

Heavenly Gems



"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!"
Romans 11:33.

"The Bible unfolds truth with a simplicity and a perfect adaptation to the needs and longings of the human heart, that has astonished and charmed the most highly cultivated minds, while it enables the humble and uncultured to discern the way of salvation. And yet these simply stated truths lay hold upon subjects so elevated, so far-reaching, so infinitely beyond the power of human comprehension, that we can accept them only because God has declared them. Thus the plan of redemption is laid open to us so that every soul may see the steps he is to take in repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, in order to be saved in God's appointed way; yet beneath these truths, so easily understood, lie mysteries which are the hiding of His glory—mysteries which overpower the mind in its research, yet inspire the sincere seeker for truth with reverence and faith. The more he searches the Bible, the deeper is his conviction that it is the word of the living God, and human reason bows before the majesty of divine revelation." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 700.

SUNDAY

1. What do instruction and teaching accomplish in the Christian?

 **Proverbs 6:23.** *For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.*

"The human faculties, when under the special direction of the grace of God, are capable of being used to the best purpose on earth. Ignorance does not increase the humility or spirituality of any professed follower of Christ. The truths of the divine word can be best appreciated by an intellectual Christian. Christ can be best glorified by those who serve Him intelligently." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 361.

MONDAY

2. How is God's instruction defined?

"Piety and religious experience lie at the very foundation of true education." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 505.

TUESDAY

3. What is heavenly instruction compared with?

 **Proverbs 4:2.** *For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.*

 **Proverbs 8:10, 11.** *Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. ¹¹ For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.*

"It is not safe to be occasional Christians. We must be Christlike in our actions all the time. Then, through grace, we are safe for time and for eternity. The experimental knowledge of the power of grace received in times of trial is of more value than gold or silver. It confirms the faith of the trusting, believing one. The assurance that Jesus is to him an ever-present helper gives him a boldness that enables him to take God at His word and trust Him with unwavering faith under the most trying circumstances." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 487.

WEDNESDAY

4. How will the Christian respond to divine wisdom?

 **Proverbs 23:12.** *Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.*

"God's purpose for us is that we shall ever move upward. Even in the smaller duties of common life we are to make continual growth in grace, supplied with high and holy motives, powerful because they proceed from

One who gave His life to furnish us with the incentive to be wholly successful in the formation of Christian character." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 490.

THURSDAY

5. How do some people react to the most sublime knowledge?

 **Acts 17:18, 19.** Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?.

"He who does not perceive the binding claims of God's law, who neglects to keep its every requirement, violates the whole law. He who is content to meet only partially the standard of righteousness, and who does not triumph over every spiritual foe, will not fulfill the purpose of Christ. He cheapens the whole plan of his religious life and weakens his character. Under the force of temptation his defects of character gain the supremacy, and evil triumphs." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 504.

FRIDAY

6. For what purpose was the Bible written?

 **Romans 15:4.** For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

"As an educator, the Holy Scriptures are without a rival. The Bible is the most ancient and the most comprehensive history that men possess. It came fresh from the Fountain of eternal truth, and throughout the ages a divine hand has preserved its purity." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 52.

SABBATH

7. If accepted, what effect will the Holy Scriptures have in people's hearts?

 **Proverbs 3:1, 2.** My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: ² For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

"We are to regard the Bible as God's disclosure to us of eternal things—the things of most consequence for us to know. By the world it is thrown aside as if the perusal of it were finished, but a thousand years of research would not exhaust the hidden treasure it contains. Eternity alone will disclose the wisdom of this Book, for it is the wisdom of an infinite mind." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 443.



Meditation

"Christ became one with the human family—bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. He came to this world and dwelt among men. He came in human form, yet possessing all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, to proclaim the principles of heaven, and to enable men and women to walk in divine wisdom. He came to reveal to the universe the infinite love of God for fallen human beings." —*Manuscript 102*, 1903.

LESSON 5

Sabbath, August 3, 2024

The Faithful Word



"... All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" Colossians 2:3.

"We shall advance in true spiritual knowledge only as we realize our own littleness and our entire dependence upon God; but all who come to the Bible with a teachable and prayerful spirit, to study its utterances as the word of God, will receive divine enlightenment. There are many things apparently difficult or obscure which God will make plain and simple to those who thus seek an understanding of them." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 704.

SUNDAY

1. What three things in God's written word must receive man's full attention?

 **1 Timothy 4:13.** *Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*

"The truths of God's word are not mere sentiments, but the utterances of the Most High. He who makes these truths a part of his life becomes in every sense a new creature. He is not given new mental powers, but the darkness that through ignorance and sin has clouded the understanding is removed." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 452.

MONDAY

2. What basic concepts will be shared by one who receives heavenly instruction?

 **Titus 1:9.** *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

"The lifework given us is that of preparation for the life eternal. If we accomplish this work as God designs we shall, every temptation may work for our advancement; for as we resist its allurements we make progress in the divine life." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 237.

TUESDAY

3. What does divine knowledge transform its recipient into?

 **Tito 2:7 first part.** *In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: ...*

"To gain the higher education means to become a partaker of the divine nature. It means to copy the life and character of Christ so that we shall stand on vantage ground as we fight the battles of life. It means to gain daily victories over sin. As we seek for this education, angels of God are our companions; when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord lifts up a standard for us against him." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 388.

WEDNESDAY

4. What should be one's attitude toward the instruction he receives from above?

 **Titus 2:7, last part.** *... In doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity.*

"Education is a grand lifework; but to obtain true education it is necessary to possess that wisdom which comes from God alone." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 413.

THURSDAY

5. How is God's wise message to His followers a guide to others?

 **Exodus 18:20.** *And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.*

"Right actions are the unmistakable fruit of true godliness, and those who bear no fruit of this kind reveal that they have no experience in the things of God." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 329.

FRIDAY

6. What responsibility does man carry for the knowledge that God gives him?

 **Deuteronomy 4:9.** *Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons.*

"It is God's purpose to manifest through His people the principles of His kingdom. That in life and character they may reveal these principles.... By beholding the goodness, the mercy, the justice, and the love of God revealed in the church, the world is to have a representation of His character. And when the law of God is thus exemplified in the life, even the world will recognize the superiority of those who love and fear and serve God above every other people on the earth." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 9, 11.

SABBATH

7. What parts of one's life must be filled with divine wisdom?

 **Deuteronomy 11:18, 19.** *Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. ¹⁹ And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

"The Lord accepts no divided heart. He wants the whole man. He made all there is of man. He offered a complete sacrifice to redeem the body and soul of man. That which He requires of those whom He has created and redeemed is summed up in these words: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.... Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Matthew 22:37-39. God will accept nothing less than this." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 345.



Meditation

"The word of God is a great simplifier of life's complicated pursuits. To every earnest seeker it imparts a divine wisdom. We should never forget that we have been redeemed by suffering. It is the precious blood of Christ that makes atonement for us. By toil and sacrifice and peril, by losses of worldly goods, and in agony of soul the gospel has been borne to the world. God calls young men in the vigor and strength of their youth to share with Him self-denial, sacrifice, and suffering. If they accept the call, He will make them His instruments to save souls for whom He died. But He would have them count the cost and enter upon their work with a full knowledge of the conditions upon which they serve a crucified Redeemer." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 86.

LESSON 6

Sabbath, August 10, 2024

Saving Knowledge

"If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself" John 7:17.

"Whenever men are not seeking, in word and deed, to be in harmony with God, then, however learned they may be, they are liable to err in their understanding of Scripture, and it is not safe to trust to their explanations. When we are truly seeking to do God's will, the Holy Spirit takes the precepts of His word and makes them the principles of the life, writing them on the tablets of the soul. And it is only those who are following the light already given that can hope to receive the further illumination of the Spirit. This is plainly stated in the words of Christ: 'If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.'" –Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p.705.



SUNDAY

1. What conditions must be met before one can receive inspired instruction?

1 Kings 8:35, 36. *When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them: ³⁶ Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.*

"In every generation and in every land the true foundation and pattern for character building have been the same. The divine law, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart;... and thy neighbor as thyself' (Luke 10:27), the great principle made manifest in the character and life of our Saviour, is the only secure foundation and the only sure guide." –*Education*, p. 228.

MONDAY

2. What does knowledge from God do for those who do not accept it?

 **2 Kings 17:27, 28.** *Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land. ²⁸ Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the Lord.*

"God calls upon men to see Him in the wonders of the heavens. 'Lift up your eyes on high,' He says, 'and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might.' Isaiah 40:26. God would have us study the works of infinity, and from this study learn to love and reverence and obey Him. The heavens and the earth with their treasures are to teach the lessons of God's love and care and power." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 456.

TUESDAY

3. What must one do with the knowledge that God gives to His people?

 **2 Chronicles 17:7, 9.** *Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, even to Benhail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.... ⁹ And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the Lord with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.*

"In our life here, earthly, sin-restricted though it is, the greatest joy and the highest education are in service." –*Education*, p. 309.

WEDNESDAY

4. Who imparts instruction to man?

 **Nehemiah 9:20.** Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

"God works all unseen upon the human heart; for without the divine power operating upon the understanding, the mind of man cannot grasp the sentiments of elevating, ennobling truth." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 376.

THURSDAY

5. Up to what point should one be ready to be taught by the Lord?

 **Job 34:32.** That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.

"To bring man back into harmony with God, so to elevate and ennoble his moral nature that he may again reflect the image of the Creator, is the great purpose of all the education and discipline of life." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 49.

FRIDAY

6. What vital knowledge does one's relationship with God give him?

 **Psalms 16:7.** I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.

"To show what every human being might become; what, through the indwelling of humanity by divinity, all who received Him would become—for this, Christ came to the world. He came to show how men are to be trained as befits the sons of God; how on earth they are to practice the principles and to live the life of heaven." —*Education*, p. 73.

SABBATH

7. How eagerly and with what conviction should a person receive heavenly wisdom?

 **Psalm 25:4, 5.** *Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. ⁵ Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.*

"To obtain a knowledge of this divinely ordained plan should be our first study; to comply with its requirements, our first effort." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 50.



Meditation

"O, if the human mind were to comprehend—in such a measure as the plan of redemption can be comprehended by human minds—the work of Jesus in taking upon Himself our nature, and what is to be accomplished for us by this marvelous condescension, the hearts of men and women would be melted with gratitude at the thought of God's great love, and in humility they would adore the divine wisdom that devised the mystery of grace." —*Signs of the Times*, December 13, 1905.

LESSON 7

Sabbath, August 17, 2024

A Wise Heart



"Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment" Ecclesiastes 8:5.

"Whatever may be man's intellectual advancement, let him not for a moment think that there is no need of thorough and continuous searching of the Scriptures for greater light. As a people we are called individually to be students of prophecy. We must watch with earnestness that we may discern any ray of light which God shall present to us. We are to catch the first gleamings of truth; and through prayerful study clearer light may be obtained, which can be brought before others." –Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 708.

SUNDAY

1. What wonderful assurance may every Christian have?

 **Psalm 94:10.** *He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know?.*

"... True knowledge leads to holiness of life through sanctification of the truth." –Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 412.

MONDAY

2. What must happen in a person before he can be an instrument of good for others?

 **Psalm 51:12, 13.** *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. ¹³ Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

"To meet the highest standard possible, we need to be persevering and determined. In many cases established habits and ideas must be overcome before we can make advancement in the religious life.... The essential work is to conform the tastes, the appetites, the passions, the motives, the desires, to the great standard of righteousness. The work must begin in the heart. Unless the heart is wholly conformed to Christ's will, some master passion, or some habit or defect, will become a power to destroy." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 505.

TUESDAY

3. At what early age can even a child learn from God?

 **Psalm 71:17.** *O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.*

"Younger than Joseph or Daniel was Moses when removed from the sheltering care of his childhood home; yet already the same agencies that shaped their lives had molded his. Only twelve years did he spend with his Hebrew kindred; but during these years was laid the foundation of his greatness; it was laid by the hand of one little known to fame." —*Education*, p. 61.

WEDNESDAY

4. What should be one's main desire as the years pass?

 **Psalm 90:12.** *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

"As he uses his knowledge he will receive more. Some who have but one talent feel that they can do nothing. They hide their talent in the earth, as it were; and because they receive no increase they murmur against God. But if they would use the ability given them, their talent would double. It is by a faithful use of talents that they are multiplied. As we use aright the advantages God gives us, He increases our capabilities for service." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 234.

THURSDAY

5. For how long may one learn from the omniscient God?

 **Psalm 119:33.** *Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.*

"In the school of Christ, students are never graduated. Among the pupils are both old and young. Those who give heed to the instructions of the divine Teacher constantly advance in wisdom, refinement, and nobility of soul, and thus they are prepared to enter that higher school where advancement will continue throughout eternity." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 51.

FRIDAY

6. What relationship is there between a person's desire to learn and his belief?

 **Psalm 119:66.** *Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.*

"Let everyone seek to do his best. Let those who have enlisted under the banner of Prince Immanuel grow daily in grace and efficiency." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 246.

SABBATH

7. What assertion and petition should one make?

 **Psalm 143:10.** *Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.*

"There is nothing that the world needs so much as a knowledge of the gospel's saving power revealed in Christlike lives." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 491.



Meditation

"The truth is to be set forth in the power of the Holy Spirit. This alone can make our words effective. Only through the Spirit's power will victory be gained and held. The human agent must be worked by the Spirit of God. The workers must be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. They must have divine wisdom, that nothing may be uttered which would stir up men to close our way. Through the inculcation of spiritual truth we are to prepare a people who shall be able, in meekness and fear, to give a reason for their faith before the highest authorities in our world." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 396.

LESSON 8

Sabbath, August 24, 2024

The Divine Teacher



"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined" Isaiah 9:2.

"Men of the highest education and accomplishments have learned the most precious lessons from the precept and example of the humble follower of Christ, who is designated as 'unlearned' by the world. But could men look with deeper insight, they would see that these humble men had obtained an education in the highest of all schools, even in the school of the divine Teacher, who spake as never man spake." —Christian Education, p. 199.

SUNDAY

1. What declaration of the heavenly Father's love should move our hearts to follow His leading?

 **Isaiah 48:17.** *Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.*

"The highest class of education is that which will give such knowledge and discipline as will lead to the best development of character, and will fit the soul for that life which measures with the life of God. Eternity is not to be

lost out of our reckoning. The highest education is that which will teach our children and youth the science of Christianity, which will give them an experimental knowledge of God's ways, and will impart to them the lessons that Christ gave to His disciples, of the paternal character of God." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 45.

MONDAY

2. What does the Lord want His children to do? What will He then do?

 **Jeremiah 33:3.** *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*

"The Lord does not choose or accept laborers according to the advantages they have enjoyed, or according to the superior education they have received. The value of the human agent is estimated according to the capacity of the heart to know and understand God.... The highest possible good is obtained through a knowledge of God. 'This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.' John 17:3. This knowledge is the secret spring from which flows all power" –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 406.

TUESDAY

3. What does heavenly knowledge give God's people the ability to do?

 **Ezekiel 44:23.** *And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.*

"Gather to your soul the light of the word of God. Remember that day by day you are building character for time and for eternity. The teaching of the Bible in regard to character building is very explicit. 'Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.' Colossians 3:17. Place yourself under His control, and then ask for His protecting power. He gave His life for you. Do not cause Him sorrow. Be guarded in all that you say and do." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 489.

WEDNESDAY

4. What beautiful illustration depicts those who are instructed by Him?

 **Daniel 12:3.** *And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*

"He who appreciates probationary time as the preparatory school of life will use it to secure to himself a title to the heavenly mansions, a membership in the higher school." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 21.

THURSDAY

5. What do the Lord's faithful followers teach?

 **Matthew 28:20.** *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

"The Bible is of the highest value because it is the word of the living God. Of all the books in the world it is the most deserving of study and attention, for it is eternal wisdom." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 421.

FRIDAY

6. Who was going to teach them after the Saviour returned to His Father?

 **Luke 12:12.** *For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.*

"The agency of the Spirit of God does not remove from us the necessity of exercising our faculties and talents, but teaches us how to use every power to the glory of God." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 361.

7. How and like whom will God's people teach others?

 **Matthew 7:29.** *For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

"The most desirable education is a knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. He who serves the world sees not the great things of eternal interest prepared for the one who opens his heart to the light of heaven. But he who enters this path of knowledge and perseveres in his search after the hidden wisdom, to him heavenly agencies teach the great lessons which through faith in Christ enable him to be an overcomer. Through this knowledge spiritual perfection is reached; the life becomes holy and Christlike." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 399.



Meditation

"When Jesus spoke, it was not with hesitating uncertainty; His words came with an earnestness and assurance appropriate to their importance and the momentous consequences involved in their reception or rejection. When His doctrines were opposed, He defended them with so great zeal and certainty as to impress His hearers that he would die, if need be, to sustain the authority of His teachings." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 260.

Please read the Missionary Report
of the Tanzanian Union on page 43

LESSON 9

Sabbath, August 31, 2024

Spiritual Comprehension



"The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" Psalm 119:130.

"The opening of God's word is followed by remarkable strengthening of man's faculties; for the entrance of God's word is the application of divine truth to the heart, purifying and refining the soul through the agency of the Holy Spirit." –Christian Education, p. 199.

SUNDAY

1. What is God's purpose in the dissemination of His wisdom?

 **Isaiah 2:3.** *"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem".*

"The word of God, like the character of its Author, presents mysteries that can never be fully comprehended by finite beings. But God has given in the Scriptures sufficient evidence of their divine authority. His own existence,

His character, the truthfulness of His word, are established by testimony that appeals to our reason; and this testimony is abundant. True, He has not removed the possibility of doubt; faith must rest upon evidence, not demonstration; those who wish to doubt have opportunity; but those who desire to know the truth find ample ground for faith." –*Education*, p. 169.

MONDAY

2. What principles characterize all divine instruction?

 **Matthew 22:16.** *And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.*

"Christ was the greatest teacher the world ever saw. He brought to man knowledge direct from heaven. The lessons which He has given us are what we need for both the present and the future state. He sets before us the true aims of life, and how we may secure them." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 50.

TUESDAY

3. What effects are produced by the instruction that comes from above?

 **John 6:45.** *It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*

"What is worth doing at all is worth doing well.... While growing in grace and in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, they will seek constantly to put to the stretch their powers of mind, that they may become intelligent Christians." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 504.

WEDNESDAY

4. What actions accompany the reception of divine knowledge?

 **John 8:28.** *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*

"God's word should be received as the foundation and the finisher of our faith. It is to be received with the understanding and with the whole heart; it is life and is to be incorporated into our very existence. Thus received, the word of God will humble man at the footstool of mercy and separate him from every corrupting influence." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 374.

THURSDAY

5. What identifying characteristic does heavenly instruction have?

 **1 Corinthians 2:13.** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

"Christian education means the acceptance, in sentiment and principle, of the teachings of the Saviour. It includes a daily, conscientious walking in the footsteps of Christ, who consented to come to the world in the form of humanity, that He might give to the human race a power that they could gain by no other means." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 36.

FRIDAY

6. What should be the center of all knowledge?

 **Acts 1:1.** The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.

"Christ crucified for our sins; Christ risen from the dead; Christ ascended on high as our intercessor—this is the science of salvation that we need to learn and to teach. This is to be the burden of our work." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 22.

SABBATH

7. What changes take place in one who is taught by God?

 **Ephesians 4:21-24.** If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the

deceitful lusts; ²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

"To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life.

"Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education." —*Education*, pp. 15, 16.



Meditation

"We are indebted to Him who gave us existence for all the talents which have been intrusted to us; and it is a duty we owe to our Creator to cultivate and improve upon the talents He has committed to our trust. Education will discipline the mind, develop its powers, and understandingly direct them, that we may be useful in advancing the glory of God." —*Christian Education*, p. 203.



MISSIONARY REPORT OF THE TANZANIAN UNION

To be read on Sabbath, August 31, 2024

*The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered on Sabbath, September 7, 2024*

Tanzania is a sovereign country covering the largest territory of the three countries in East Africa—Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. It is located on the east coast of Africa, with an area of 945,087 square kilometers (364,900 square miles). It shares borders with Kenya and Uganda on the north; Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo on the west; Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique on the south; and the Indian Ocean on the east. The population of Tanzania as of September 13, 2023, is 67,833,957, equivalent to 0.84 percent of the total world population.

Tanzania gained its independence from England in December 1961. Before British rule, the country was colonized by Germany and was known as German East Africa until 1918, after World War I. Under British rule, the name was changed to Tanganyika. In 1964, Zanzibar, the island that was colonized by Oman Arabs, became free and chose with Tanganyika to form what is today the United Republic of Tanzania. The country is composed of 60 percent Christians and 36 percent Muslims, with the remainder practicing other traditional religions. The government grants its citizens freedom of worship.

The Adventist message came to Tanzania in 1903, and the message of the Reform Movement was first introduced in Tanzania in December 1974 by Pastor Simon Schmidt, who was then the secretary of the General Conference. Thanks to God, the message spread throughout the country. According to the report dated December 2022, the church has more than 1,500 members. We expect the membership to grow toward the end of 2023, for we have already baptized more new souls as of December 2022.

The Tanzanian Union was organized for the first time in 1996 under the supervision of Pastor Larry Watts, whom the General Conference sent for this purpose. Although the Union was organized, it owned no buildings, so some members offered their dwellings as temporary houses of worship, which were also used for meeting on the Sabbath. Later, the Lord blessed His work in this country when, with the help of the General Conference, we managed to purchase a piece of land on the outskirts of the city of Dar es Salaam to start a nursery school, which later grew and was registered

under the name of Bethel Mission English Medium School. Two rooms in the school building have been used as the temporary Union office since that time.

Several times the school inspectors from the Ministry of Education explained that it is not allowed to combine school buildings with other institutions or administration, according to the school regulations. But since last year we have received forms issued by the government that must be filled out by all registered churches and denominations around the country to show evidence and proof of their legal existence. In those forms, we need to show the church's administrative structure, membership growth by numbers, institutions owned by the church, if we have any, administrators or leaders, including the IDs especially of the Union leaders, and the physical address of the headquarters. Failure to fulfill the requirements may disqualify some churches from maintaining their registration before the government or even cause them to lose their registration.

The Tanzanian Union does not own a Union headquarters building of office that can be presented as the required proof to the authorities. For that reason, the IMS Tanzanian Union leaders are taking every measure and precaution to keep the church safe under the country's rules. "That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:27. Therefore, dear brethren around the world, we wish to invite you to give generously for the offering for building the Tanzanian Union headquarters office, which will help the church of God not only to meet the requirements of the authorities but also to put things in order. Your freewill offering for that purpose will be a great help to sustain and encourage God's work. We invite you to respond to Jesus' counsel, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matthew 6:19-21.

"The sympathies of God's people should be aroused in every church throughout our land, and there should be unselfish action to meet the necessities of different mission fields. Men should testify to their interest in the cause of God by giving of their substance. If such an interest were manifested, the bond of Christian brotherhood would exist and increase in strength between all the members of Christ's family....

"Our people are not to wait for more appeals, but are to lay right hold of the work, making those things which appear impossibilities, possibili-

ties. Let each one ask himself, Has not the Lord entrusted me with means for the advancement of His cause?...

"Let us be honest with the Lord. All the blessings that we enjoy come from Him; and if He has entrusted us with the talent of means, that we may help to do His work, shall we hold back? Shall we say, No, Lord; my children would not be pleased, and therefore I shall venture to disobey God, burying His talent in the earth?

"There should be no delay. The cause of God demands your assistance. We ask you, as the Lord's stewards, to put His means into circulation, to provide facilities by which many will have the opportunity of learning what is truth." –Counsels on Stewardship, pp. 38, 44.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the current administration of the General Conference for taking this matter seriously and coming up with a solution by granting us the means that will be gathered for the upcoming Special Sabbath School Offering. May the Lord bless them and continue to inspire them with His Spirit so they may continue to watch over the flock that has been entrusted to them, and let His work prosper to the maximum.

May the Lord bless you abundantly, and may His Spirit inspire your hearts to make your offering a living sacrifice for its intended purpose! "Cast thy bread upon waters: for thou shall find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight: for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth." Ecclesiastes 11:1, 2.

Thank you in advance for taking this appeal to heart!

Your brother in Jesus Christ our Lord,

–Hildon Mbogela
President of the Tanzanian Union

Special Sabbath School Offering
FOR THE TANZANIAN UNION
Let your offering reflect God's blessings in your life!

LESSON 10

Sabbath, September 7, 2024

Divine Communication—Human Reception

"And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for Thy servant heareth" 1 Samuel 3:10.

"Let us live in close communion with God. The joy of the Christian arises from a sense of God's love and care for His children, and the assurance that He will not leave them alone in their weakness. The Lord never withholds His wisdom from those who are truly consecrated. Those who fear Him and seek Him daily, walk in security. It is the men who humble themselves even as a little child who are taught by God. The man who does not exalt himself can fill a place in God's plan that no self-sufficient man, however learned and well-prepared he may think himself, can fill. It makes every difference whether a man walks with God, or whether he is satisfied to walk with himself, trusting in his own abilities." —*Review and Herald*, March 24, 1904



SUNDAY

1. Only when does a person have something to teach?

 **1 Corinthians 11:23.** *For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread.*

"In His resistance of evil and His labor for others, Christ gave to men an example of the highest education." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 36.

MONDAY

2. With whom will the process of truly learning from God begin?

 **Romans 2:21.** *Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?*

"To know oneself is a great knowledge.... Self-knowledge leads to humility and to trust in God, but it does not take the place of efforts for self-improvement. He who realizes his own deficiencies will spare no pains to reach the highest possible standard of physical, mental, and moral excellence." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 67.

TUESDAY

3. How and what will God's messengers then be able to teach?

 **Acts 8:30, 31, 35.** *And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? ³¹And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.... ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.*

"... Christ presented the principles of truth in the gospel. In His teaching we may drink of the pure streams that flow from the throne of God. Christ could have imparted to men knowledge that would have surpassed any previous disclosures, and put in the background every other discovery. He could have unlocked mystery after mystery and could have concentrated around these wonderful revelations the active, earnest thought of successive generations till the close of time. But He would not spare a moment from teaching the science of salvation." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 385.

WEDNESDAY

4. What occurs in the process of divine education?

 **Galatians 6:6.** *Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.*

"The Christian aims to reach the highest attainments for the purpose of doing others good. Knowledge harmoniously blended with a Christlike character will make a man a light in the world. God works with human efforts." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 505.

THURSDAY

5. What alone makes it possible for a doctrine to be true?

 **1 Timothy 6:3, 4.** *If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; ⁴He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings.*

"Not only intellectual but spiritual power, a perception of right, a desire for goodness, exists in every heart. But against these principles there is struggling an antagonistic power. The result of the eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is manifest in every man's experience. There is in his nature a bent to evil, a force which, unaided, he cannot resist. To withstand this force, to attain that ideal which in his inmost soul he accepts as alone worthy, he can find help in but one power. That power is Christ. Cooperation with that power is man's greatest need." —*Education*, p. 29.

FRIDAY

6. What exhortation is given concerning growth in the knowledge that comes from above?

 **Hebrews 5:11-14.** *Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of*

hearing. ¹²For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

"Man becomes efficient only by becoming partaker of the divine nature." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 410.

SABBATH

7. Why is the admonition found in the previous question necessary?

 **Titus 1:9.** *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

"While he possessed high intellectual endowments, the life of Paul revealed the power of a rarer wisdom. Principles of deepest import, principles concerning which the greatest minds of this time were ignorant, are unfolded in his teachings and exemplified in his life. He had that greatest of all wisdom, which gives quickness of insight and sympathy of heart, which brings man in touch with men, and enables him to arouse their better nature and inspire them to a higher life." —*Education*, p. 66.



Meditation

"Open the door of the heart to the knock of Christ. Welcome the heavenly Guest. Then if you are placed in a position of responsibility, you will not lift yourself up unto vanity. There are truths in the word of God the meaning of which you do not comprehend, but these will open to you in their beauty and loveliness; for Christ is your teacher. If you have improved the past, it is still yours, because you have garnered the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. You have a treasure of knowledge to which you are constantly adding, and thus you are being raised to a higher plane of service. Impart that which you receive, and keep imparting, that you may continue to receive." —*Review and Herald*, March 24, 1904.

LESSON 11

Sabbath, September 14, 2024

Understanding from Above



"I have glorified Thee on the earth; I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do." "I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest Me out of the world." John 17:4, 6.

"In heavenly wisdom He asserted His true majesty by bending all things to the present and future happiness of human beings. He came to teach men and women how to live here below the life of which He gave them an example—the life that will make them fit to enter the abodes of bliss." —Letter 281, 1904.

SUNDAY

1. What is the primary purpose of the wisdom that comes from God?

 **Colossians 1:28.** *Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom." 'The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright.' Proverbs 4:7; 15:2. True education imparts this wisdom. It teaches the best use not only of one but of all our powers

and acquirements. Thus it covers the whole circle of obligation—to ourselves, to the world, and to God.” –*Education*, p. 225.

MONDAY

2. What double effect does the word of the Lord produce?

 **Colossians 3:16.** *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

“The Bible is our rule of faith and doctrine. There is nothing more calculated to energize the mind and strengthen the intellect than the study of the word of God. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts or give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 249.

TUESDAY

3. What hope does heavenly knowledge impart?

 **1 Timothy 4:10, 11.** *For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. ¹¹These things command and teach.*

“He did not deal in abstract theories, but in that which is essential to the development of character; that which will enlarge man’s capacity for knowing God, and increase his power to do good. He spoke of those truths that relate to the conduct of life and that unite man with eternity.” –*Education*, p. 81.

WEDNESDAY

4. What tangible gift must be our textbook? Why?

 **2 Timothy 3:16.** *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

“The great motive powers of the soul are faith, hope, and love; and it is to these that Bible study, rightly pursued, appeals.” –*Education*, p. 192.

THURSDAY

5. What principles are necessary to obtain knowledge from the Holy Scriptures?

 **Luke 11:1.** *And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples*

said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

 **Nehemiah 8:7, 8.** *Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Peliaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. ⁸So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.*

"In studying the Scriptures we become acquainted with God and are led to understand our relation to Christ, the Sin Bearer, the surety for the fallen race. No one is left in darkness as to that which God approves or disapproves." –Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 429.

FRIDAY

6. Who makes man understand divine truth, and what does the Lord teach?

 **Psalm 32:8.** *I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.*

"Upon every page of the great volume of His created works may still be traced His handwriting. Nature still speaks of her Creator.... The Holy Scriptures are the perfect standard of truth, and as such should be given the highest place in education. To obtain an education worthy of the name, we must receive a knowledge of God, the Creator, and of Christ, the Redeemer, as they are revealed in the sacred word." –Education, pp. 16, 17.

SABBATH

7. When is it possible for one to understand what is going on around him?

 **Psalm 73:17.** *Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.*

"... To learn of God and Christ is to learn the science of heaven." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 447.



Meditation

"I have a most earnest desire that you shall stand free in the Lord. I pray that you may have the moral courage to stand firm for the truth and to hold fast the beginning of your confidence unto the end. Do not allow yourself to be led away from the truth to receive fables. It is of no avail to bring to the foundation material represented by wood, hay, and stubble. Such material will be utterly consumed. Let us remember that we have been bought at an infinite price by the Son of God." –*Letter 281*, 1904.

LESSON 12

Sabbath, September 21, 2024

Infinite and Finite Knowledge

"Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite" Psalm 147:5.

"If we rely upon the promises God has given in His Word, we may with assurance go forward in spite of discouraging appearances. The Lord will raise us up helpers in men whom He will move upon by His Spirit to impart to us in our necessity.... We are to see and acknowledge the working of God's special providence. The Lord authorizes us to pray, declaring that He will hear the prayers of those who trust, not in their finite wisdom, but in His infinite power. He will be honored by those who draw nigh to Him, who faithfully do His service. 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusted in Thee.' Isaiah 26:3." *—Letter 83, 1899.*



SUNDAY

1. What deep, sacred words does God address to His children?

 **Psalm 107:43.** *Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the Lord.*

"If the mind is set to the task of studying the Bible, the understanding will strengthen and the reasoning faculties will improve." *—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 452.*

MONDAY

2. What moves a person to admire God's wonders?

 **Psalm 119:27.** *Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.*

"The love of truth, and a sense of the responsibility to glorify God, are the most powerful of all incentives to the improvement of the intellect."
—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 226.

TUESDAY

3. To what level of knowledge does divine wisdom lead, and why?

 **Psalm 119:99, 100.** *I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.
¹⁰⁰I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.*

"Make it your first interest to gather up right, noble, uplifting principles. God desires you to witness for Him. He does not want you to stand still; He wants you to run in the way of His commandments." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 554.

WEDNESDAY

4. What double effect does divine instruction produce in the human being?

 **Psalm 119:130.** *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

"Truth in the heart cannot fail of having a correcting influence upon the life." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 223.

THURSDAY

5. According to the Holy Scriptures, when is one considered prudent?

 **Proverbs 14:8.** *The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.*

"The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. There is opened before us a path of continual advancement. We have an object to reach, a standard to gain, which includes everything good and pure and noble and el-

evated. There should be continual striving and constant progress onward and upward toward perfection of character." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 365.

FRIDAY

6. When is it possible to be sage, or prudent?

 **Proverbs 28:5.** *Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the Lord understand all things.*

"Before men can be truly wise, they must realize their dependence upon God, and be filled with His wisdom. God is the source of intellectual as well as spiritual power.... It is when intellectual and spiritual power are combined that the highest standard of manhood is attained. Those who do this, God will accept as workers together with Him in the training of minds." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 66.

SABBATH

7. Nevertheless, how limited is human understanding?

 **Ecclesiastes 3:11.** *He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.*

"The words, 'A new heart also will I give you' (Ezekiel 36:26), mean, A new mind will I give you. This change of heart is always attended by a clear conception of Christian duty, an understanding of truth. The clearness of our view of truth will be proportionate to our understanding of the word of God. He who gives the Scriptures close, prayerful attention will gain clear comprehension and sound judgment, as if in turning to God he had reached a higher plane of intelligence." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 452.



Meditation

"The golden links of the chain of heaven connected the finite with the infinite. They were partakers of the divine nature. They were very careful to keep themselves in touch with God. They prayed and studied and brought into their practical life strictly conscientious, humble minds. They walked with God as did Enoch. The word of the Lord was their meat and their drink. 'And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.'" —*Special Testimonies*, Series A9, p. 60.

LESSON 13

Sabbath, September 28, 2024

Heavenly Guidance



"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God" Ephesians 3:10.

"True education is that which will endure unto eternal life. True education is the preparation of the mental, moral, and physical powers for the performance of every duty, pleasant or otherwise, the training of every habit and practice, of heart, mind, and soul for divine service. Then of you it can be said in the heavenly courts, 'Ye are laborers together with God.' 1 Corinthians 3:9." —Letter 189, 1899

SUNDAY

1. What is unique about what God produces in a person?

 **Ecclesiastes 3:14.** *I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.*

"The great object of education is to enable us to use the power which God has given us in such a manner as to represent the religion of the Bible and promote the glory of God." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 361.

MONDAY

2. What steps must one take in order to receive divine wisdom, and what does God then do?

 **Daniel 9:20-22.** *And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confess-*

ing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God; ²¹Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. ²²And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

"The highest education will be found in studying the mystery of godliness. The great truths of God's word, if believed and received and carried into the life practice, will result in education of the highest order." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 398.

TUESDAY

3. What questions and answers should be an inspiration in life?

 **Hosea 14:9.** *Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.*

"God has given us intellectual and moral power, but to a great extent everyone is the architect of his own character. Every day the structure more nearly approaches completion.... The time is coming when our work will stand revealed just as it is. Now is the time for all to cultivate the powers that God has given them, that they may form characters for usefulness here and for a higher life hereafter." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 222.

WEDNESDAY

4. Why does a human being lack true wisdom?

 **Romans 3:11.** *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

"The love of the truth as it is in Jesus means the love of all that is comprised in the truth Christ taught." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 362.

THURSDAY

5. How do the Holy Scriptures describe this terrible situation?

 **Psalm 14:2, 3.** *The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. ³They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

"Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education. This is made plain in the law that God has given as the guide of life. The first and great commandment is, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.' Mark 12:30. To love Him, the Infinite, the Omniscient One, with the whole strength and mind and heart, means the highest development of every power. It means that in the whole being—the body, the mind, as well as the soul—the image of God is to be restored.

"Like the first is the second commandment, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Mark 12:31. The law of love calls for the devotion of body, mind, and soul to the service of God and our fellow men. And this service, while making us a blessing to others, brings the greatest blessing to ourselves."
—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 32.

FRIDAY

6. Into what two groups is the world divided?

 **Daniel 12:10.** *Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.*

"Practical godliness must be learned. Those who study and practice the teachings of Christ will gain an essential education in Bible knowledge."
—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 362.

SABBATH

7. So, what should be the Christian's sincere plea?

 **1 Kings 3:9.** *Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?*

"Let none leave the love of Christ out of their labors, but let each ask himself the questions, Is my life a consistent life? Am I guided by the Holy Spirit?" –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 362.



Meditation

"The church militant is not the church triumphant. Unless the people of God wage a valiant warfare against every species of sin, they will never pass through the portals of the holy city. And we shall have no second trial. Now is the accepted time, the time in which we are to obtain the education that will enable us to live in the heavenly courts. The whole heavenly universe is watching with the deepest interest to see who in this primary school is practicing the lessons of Christ." –*Review and Herald*, December 31, 1901.

LESSON 14

Sabbath, October 5, 2024

"... Passeth Knowledge"

"May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God"
Ephesians 3:18, 19.

"In the Isle of Patmos John saw the things which God desired him to give to the people. Here is a theme worthy of our contemplation. Here are large and comprehensive lessons, which all the angelic hosts are now seeking to communicate. Infinite wisdom, infinite love, infinite justice, infinite mercy—depths, heights, lengths, breadths! Numberless pens have been employed to represent the life and character and mediatorial work of Christ, and yet to every mind through whom the Holy Spirit works, these themes are presented fresh and new, just in accordance with the mind and spirit of the human agent. The Lord Jesus promised that the Spirit He would send would recall His words to the minds of those prepared to receive them. After His resurrection He opened their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures." —*Manuscript 153*, 1898



SUNDAY

1. What understanding does everyone need to have?

 **Ephesians 5:17.** *Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*

"In this conflict of righteousness against unrighteousness we can be successful only by divine aid. Our finite will must be brought into submission to the will of the Infinite; the human will must be blended with the divine."
—*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 692.

MONDAY

2. What makes it possible to receive such understanding?

 **Hebrews 11:3.** *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

"Faith, saving faith, is to be taught. The definition of this faith in Jesus Christ may be described in few words: It is the act of the soul by which the whole man is given over to the guardianship and control of Jesus Christ."
—*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 531.

TUESDAY

3. What dimension is opened up to human understanding?

 **1 Corinthians 2:14.** *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

"The kingdom of God comes not with outward show. The gospel of the grace of God, with its spirit of self-abnegation, can never be in harmony with the spirit of the world. The two principles are antagonistic." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 509.

WEDNESDAY

4. How does a wise man conduct himself, in accordance with divine understanding?

 **James 3:13.** *Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.*

"When you look to Calvary it is not to quiet your soul in the non-performance of duty, not to compose yourself to sleep, but to create faith in Jesus, faith that will work, purifying the soul from the slime of selfishness. When we lay hold of Christ by faith, our work has just begun. Every man has corrupt and sinful habits that must be overcome by vigorous warfare. Every soul is required to fight the fight of faith. If one is a follower of Christ, he cannot be sharp in deal, he cannot be hardhearted, devoid of sympathy.

thy. He cannot be coarse in his speech. He cannot be full of pomposity and self-esteem. He cannot be overbearing, nor can he use harsh words, and censure and condemn." *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1111.

THURSDAY

5. How is "good understanding" obtained and retained?

"If the children of men would, to the best of their ability, obey this law, they would gain strength of intellect and power of discernment to comprehend still more of God's purposes and plans. And this advancement may not only be continued during the present life, but it may go forward during the eternal ages." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 562.

FRIDAY

6. How are knowledge and understanding measured?

"The laws of God have their foundation in the most immutable rectitude and are so framed that they will promote the happiness of those who keep them." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 565.

SABBATH

7. What characterizes God's understanding?

 **Psalm 111:10.** *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*

 **Psalm 119:169.** *Let my cry come near before thee, O Lord: give me understanding according to thy word.*

 **Psalm 147:5.** *Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*

"Upon all created things is seen the impress of the Deity. Nature testifies of God. The susceptible mind, brought in contact with the miracle and mystery of the universe, cannot but recognize the working of infinite power....

The same great laws that guide alike the star and the atom control human life. The laws that govern the heart's action, regulating the flow of the current of life to the body, are the laws of the mighty Intelligence that has the jurisdiction of the soul. From Him all life proceeds." —*Education*, p. 99.



Meditation

"Yet God's purpose cannot be thwarted. In regard to the way and means or the men by whom His purposes are to be carried out, His understanding is infinite. He cannot err, nor be in perplexity. He will not alter the word that He has spoken. His goodness and truth are eternal, and He will honor those who will walk humbly with Him.

"Those who will study the life and the lessons of Christ will walk in humility before Him. O, that men would feel the importance of seeking the Lord most earnestly, that they may be free from every selfish purpose. The Lord who knows the hearts of all will bless abundantly those who faithfully represent His life and character." —*Special Testimonies*, Series B5, p. 52.

LESSON 15

Sabbath, October 12, 2024

Enlightened Understanding

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints" Ephesians 1:18.

"By the help of God you must bridle your tongue; talk less, and pray more. Never question the motives of your brethren, for as you judge them, God has declared that you will be judged. Open your hearts to kindness, to the dictates of the Spirit of God, to the cheering rays of the Sun of Righteousness. You need an enlightened understanding. Encourage kindly thoughts and holy affections. Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Let neither pride nor self-righteousness prevent you from making frank and full confession of your wrongdoings if you desire the forgiveness of God." —*Manuscript 11*, 1888



SUNDAY

1. What is a symbol of heavenly understanding?

 **Proverbs 16:22.** *Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.*

"'The excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it' 'The words that I speak unto you,' said Jesus, 'they are spirit, and they are life.'... The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in

the word of God. This word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature and re-creates the soul in the image of God. The life thus imparted is in like manner sustained. 'By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God' (Matthew 4:4) shall man live." –*Education*, p. 126.

MONDAY

2. What two divine principles are combined in true understanding?

"Religion means the making of a daily consecration of yourself to God; it means meekness and lowliness of heart; it means to take everything that comes to you as a blessing, to let praise flow back to God. The Lord says, 'Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me.' As we praise God, the soul becomes strong in spiritual power." –*Signs of the Times*, January 16, 1893.

TUESDAY

3. Therefore, what does the Lord instruct His children to do?

 **Proverbs 19:8.** *He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.*

 **Mark 12:32, 33.** *And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: ³³And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.*

"The first and great commandment is, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind.' Luke 10:27. To love Him, the infinite, the omniscient One, with the whole strength, and mind, and heart, means the highest development of every power. It means that in the whole being—the body, the mind, as well as the soul—the image of God is to be restored.

"Like the first is the second commandment—'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Matthew 22:39. The law of love calls for the devotion of body, mind, and soul to the service of God and our fellow men.... More and

more fully do we become partakers of the divine nature. We are fitted for heaven, for we receive heaven into our hearts.” –*Education*, p. 16.

WEDNESDAY

4. What transformation takes place in every follower of God?

 **Romanos 12:2.** *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

“It is not through one act that the character is formed, but by a repetition of acts that habits are established and character confirmed. To have a Christlike character it is necessary to act in a Christlike way. Christians will exhibit a holy temper, and their actions and impulses will be prompted by the Holy Spirit.” –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 552.

THURSDAY

5. What attitude is evidence of divine understanding?

 **Proverbs 11:12.** *He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.*

“Deal gently with human beings. With hearts full of spiritual tenderness, melt your way into convicted hearts. Let your words be dipped in the heavenly oil from the two olive branches. We need the golden oil emptied into prepared vessels, that it may be communicated to those who are seeking for the truth.” –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 440.

FRIDAY

6. What influence causes a person to reject the understanding that comes from above?

 **2 Corinthians 4:4.** *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

“Through sin the divine likeness was marred, and well-nigh obliterated. Man’s physical powers were weakened, his mental capacity was lessened,

his spiritual vision dimmed. He had become subject to death. Yet the race was not left without hope. By infinite love and mercy the plan of salvation had been devised, and a life of probation was granted." —*Education*, p. 15.

SABBATH

7. What triple effect will be seen in the spiritual life of one who accepts divine wisdom?

 **Ephesians 1:17, 18.** *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.*

"Moral, intellectual, and physical culture should be combined in order to have well-developed, well-balanced men and women." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 290.



Meditation

"You have a consecration to make to God; an entire surrender, a yielding up of everything unreservedly, and thus to seek for that peace which passes understanding. You cannot draw nourishment from Christ unless you are in Him. If not in Him, you are a branch that is withered. You do not feel your want of purity and true holiness. You should feel an earnest desire for, and come to God in earnest for, his Holy Spirit. You cannot expect the blessing of God without seeking for it. If you used the means within your reach, you would experience a growth in grace, a rise to a higher life." —*Testimony for the Church*, No. 17, p. 85.

LESSON 16

Sabbath, October 19, 2024

Abundance of Truth



"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" ." John 1:14.

"We desire to lead the people to understand what Christ is to them and what are the responsibilities they are called upon to accept in Him. As His representatives and witnesses, we ourselves need to come to a full understanding of the saving truths gained by an experimental knowledge."
—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, p. 59.

SUNDAY

1. How should divine understanding affect one's daily life?

 **Ephesians 4:17, 18.** *"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, ¹⁸Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart".*

"His time, His faculties, and His life were appreciated and used only as a means for working out the salvation of the souls of men. He had come to seek and to save that which was lost, and He would not be turned from His purpose. He allowed nothing to divert Him. Christ imparted only that knowledge which could be utilized." —Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, pp. 385, 386.

MONDAY

2. What double action does God exert upon His children, surpassing all understanding?

 **Philippians 4:7.** *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

"True, we have no power to free ourselves from Satan's control; but when we desire to be set free from sin, and in our great need cry out for a power out of and above ourselves, the powers of the soul are imbued with the divine energy of the Holy Spirit, and they obey the dictates of the will in fulfilling the will of God." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 466.

TUESDAY

3. In whom alone is complete understanding found?

 **Colossians 2:2, 3.** *That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; ³In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

"Christ came to demonstrate the value of the divine principles by revealing their power for the regeneration of humanity. He came to teach how these principles are to be developed and applied." —*Education*, p. 77.

WEDNESDAY

4. What important counsel did the apostle Peter give in the Scriptures?

 **1 Peter 1:13.** *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

"He who with sincere and teachable spirit studies God's word, seeking to comprehend its truths, will be brought in touch with its Author; and, except by his own choice, there is no limit to the possibilities of his development." —*Education*, p. 124.

THURSDAY

5. What did he want to accomplish in writing to the believers?

 **2 Peter 3:1.** *This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.*

"The mind, the soul, is built up by that upon which it feeds; and it rests with us to determine upon what it shall be fed. It is within the power of everyone to choose the topics that shall occupy the thoughts and shape the character." –*Education*, p. 126.

FRIDAY

6. What knowledge is essential for every soul?

 **2 Peter 3:2.** *That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour.*

"Sacred history presents many illustrations of the results of true education. It presents many noble examples of men whose characters were formed under divine direction, men whose lives were a blessing to their fellow men and who stood in the world as representatives of God. Among these are Joseph and Daniel, Moses, Elisha, and Paul—the greatest statesmen, the wisest legislator, one of the most faithful of reformers, and, except Him who spoke as never man spake, the most illustrious teacher that this world has known." –*Education*, p. 51.

SABBATH

7. What is the supreme goal that divine understanding pursues when it is imparted to the human mind?

 **1 John 5:20.** *And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*

"The life on earth is the beginning of the life in heaven; education on earth is an initiation into the principles of heaven; the lifework here is a training for the lifework there. What we now are, in character and holy service, is the sure foreshadowing of what we shall be." —*Education*, p. 307.



Meditation

"Our clearest conceptions cannot reach to a full understanding of the things of God. But I know that there is much more knowledge for us if we will only seek for it by faith, believing the promises. We are too easily satisfied with a little. If we overcome in the battle with the powers of darkness, we must daily receive light and grace from on high. Before we can fulfill the requirements of God, we must receive power from the Source of all power." —*Letter 47*, 1903.

Please read the Missionary Report
of the Dominican Republic Field on page 77

LESSON 17

Sabbath, October 26, 2024

"... All Things That Pertain unto Life"



"According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue" .” 2 Peter 1:3.

"We must have a knowledge of God. We must read the word. We must appropriate the word to our own characters. We must talk like Christ. By beholding we become changed into His image. By beholding Christ Jesus. 'Through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.'" –(Manuscript 192, 1907).

SUNDAY

1. What does everyone need to know, and what will be the consequences of this?

 **1 Kings 8:43.** Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

"The true 'higher education' is that imparted by Him with whom 'is wisdom and strength' (Job 12:13), out of whose mouth 'cometh knowledge and understanding.' Proverbs 2:6.

"In a knowledge of God all true knowledge and real development have their source." –*Education*, p. 14.

MONDAY

2. What is the only reason for praising a human being?

 **1 Corinthians 11:1.** *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

"To honor Christ, to become like Him, to work for Him, is the life's highest ambition and its greatest joy." —*Education*, p. 296.

TUESDAY

3. Whom is it critically important to know?

 **John 1:18.** *No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

"Christ is a perfect revelation of God.... Only by knowing Christ can we know God. And as we behold Him, we shall be changed into His image, prepared to meet Him at His coming." —*Review and Herald*, February 3, 1903.

WEDNESDAY

4. What principle is inextricably connected to divine understanding?

 **John 7:17.** *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*

"It is not enough to know what others have thought or learned about the Bible. Everyone must in the judgment give account of himself to God, and each should now learn for himself what is truth." —*Education*, p. 188.

THURSDAY

5. What other divine principle is connected to true knowledge?

"A true knowledge of the Bible can be gained only through the aid of that Spirit by whom the word was given. And in order to gain this knowledge we must live by it. All that God's word commands, we are to obey. All that it promises, we may claim. The life which it enjoins is the life that, through its power, we are to live." –*Education*, p. 189.

 **John 8:32.** *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

FRIDAY

6. What heavenly principle shows that one has received divine knowledge?

"It is the purpose of God that His children shall blend in unity. Do they not expect to live together in the same heaven?..."

"Many of those who profess to love the Saviour neglect to love those who are united with them in Christian fellowship. We are of the same faith, members of one family, all children of the same heavenly Father, with the same blessed hope of immortality." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 240, 242.

 **John 13:35.** *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

SABBATH

7. What is the only way to inherit eternal life?

"God is a spirit; yet He is a personal being, for man was made in His image. As a personal being, God has revealed Himself in His Son. Jesus, the outshining of the Father's glory, 'and the express image of His person' (Hebrews 1:3), was on earth found in fashion as a man. As a personal Saviour He came to the world. As a personal Saviour He ascended on high. As a

 **John 17:3.** *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

personal Saviour He intercedes in the heavenly courts. Before the throne of God in our behalf ministers 'One like the Son of man.' Daniel 7:13." –*Education*, p. 131.



Meditation

"The centuries that have passed since Christ was among men have not lessened the confidence of our testimony that Christ is all that He claimed to be. Today the question may be repeated, 'What think ye of Christ?' and without a moment's hesitation the answer may be given, 'He is the Light of the world, the greatest religious Thinker and Teacher the world has ever known.' All who hear His voice today, all who study the principles set forth in His teaching, must say, in truthfulness, as did the Jews of His day, 'Never man spake like this man.' 'Is not this the Christ?'" –*The Youth's Instructor*, September 16, 1897.



MISSIONARY REPORT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FIELD

To be read on Sabbath, October 26, 2024

*The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered on Sabbath, November 2, 2024*

To all the believers scattered throughout the world:

We greet you cordially with the words of 1 Peter 3:15: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...."

We are pleased to address our brothers and sisters in the world with the noble feelings that unite us in the love of Christ, wishing the best for each of you as you work in the Lord's vineyard.

The Dominican Republic is located in the central Caribbean archipelago of the Greater Antilles on the American continent. By area and population, the Dominican Republic is the second largest country in the Caribbean region, after Cuba. Its territorial area is 48,442 square kilometers (18,704 square miles), and its population is approximately 14,000,000. It is limited on the north by the Atlantic Ocean, on the south by the Caribbean Sea or Sea of the Antilles, and to the east by the Mona Channel, which separates it from Puerto Rico. On the west is the Republic of Haiti.

The Dominican Republic is a country with much historical wealth. Therefore, it receives millions of tourists from all around the world every year, making tourism the largest source of the country's income. To provide efficient tourist services, the government sees that all of the necessary services are provided, including hotels, ground transportation, eight international airports, and others.

By the grace of the Eternal One, the message came to this beautiful country in 1977, as Pastor Uldarico Alejos and his wife, Sister Vilma Alejos, began working very hard and continued for three years (leaving in 1980), thus placing the work that is established today on solid footing. The message of the Reform Movement spread to different parts of the country.

We currently have 104 members and many believers and supporters, some of whom are preparing for baptism.

The headquarters of the mission is in the capital city of Santo Domingo, from which we send the message out to the entire country. There are five churches in the capital city, and another four in the provinces. The message has been carried to other cities as well. Nevertheless, we still receive calls

to take the message to new areas, so there is a need for more financial resources for new church buildings—about \$60,000 to advance God’s work and continue to preach the truth.

To face our challenges, we need additional financial resources, so we turn to your generosity to finish the projects that require appropriate means.

In each area where the work is raised up, a chapel for worship is needed, which will bring about an awakening in the believers’ hearts along with their spiritual commitment.

With great respect and humility, we express our willingness to work. Your collaboration will be very well used, and the Lord will bless your generosity with abundant grace. We are very grateful in advance for everything you can do for us.

We apologize for expressing our need, but we do so with the confidence that you will receive our request and help us to share the riches of divine grace. We remain united in prayer and in the same faith and hope.

The believers in the Dominican Republic Field pray that you will receive the richest blessings from the Eternal One.

Pastor Antonio de la Rosa
President of the Dominican Republic Field

Special Sabbath School Offering
FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
God bless you and your generous gift for His cause!

LESSON 18

Sabbath, November 2, 2024

Growth in Knowledge



"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen" 2 Peter 3:18.

"The only way to remain steadfast is to progress daily in divine life. Faith will increase if, when brought in conflict with doubts and obstacles, it overcomes them. True sanctification is progressive. If you are growing in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ, you will improve every privilege and opportunity to gain more knowledge of the life and character of Christ." –The Youth's Instructor, September 1, 1886.

SUNDAY

1. What triple connection of divine love did Jesus present to His disciples?

 **John 17:26.** *And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.*

"The most complete illustration of Christ's methods as a teacher is found in His training of the twelve first disciples...."

“Only by such communion—the communion of mind with mind and heart with heart, of the human with the divine—can be communicated that vitalizing energy which it is the work of true education to impart. It is only life that begets life.” —*Education*, p. 84.

MONDAY

2. Whom do Christ’s followers present to the world?

 **Acts 17:23.** *For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.*

“Then, in the results of His work, Christ will behold its recompense. In that great multitude which no man could number, presented ‘faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy’ (Jude 24), He whose blood has redeemed and whose life has taught us, ‘shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied.’ Isaiah 53:11.” —*Education*, p. 309.

TUESDAY

3. What happens when the knowledge received from God is not cherished?

 **Romans 1:21, 25.** *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened ²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

“If you neglect or treat with indifference the warnings that God has given, if you cherish or excuse sin, you are sealing your soul’s destiny. You will be weighed in the balance and found wanting. Grace, peace, and pardon will be forever withdrawn.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 405.

TUESDAY

4. What is the foundation of genuine knowledge?

 **Romans 7:7-9.** *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay,*

I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. ⁸But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. ⁹For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

“The law of God, as presented in the Scriptures, is broad in its requirements. Every principle is holy, just, and good. The law lays men under obligation to God; it reaches to the thoughts and feelings; and it will produce conviction of sin in everyone who is sensible of having transgressed its requirements. If the law extended to the outward conduct only, men would not be guilty in their wrong thoughts, desires, and designs. But the law requires that the soul itself be pure and the mind holy, that the thoughts and feelings may be in accordance with the standard of love and righteousness.” —*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 564.

WEDNESDAY

5 • What makes a person
ashamed?

 **1 Corinthians 15:34.** *Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.*

“Through the measure of His grace furnished to the human agent, not one need miss heaven. Perfection of character is attainable by every one who strives for it. This is made the very foundation of the new covenant of the gospel. The law of Jehovah is the tree; the gospel is the fragrant blossoms and fruit which it bears.” —*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 571.

FRIDAY

6 • What should one never do?

 **Galatians 4:8, 9.** *Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. ⁹But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*

“Why, as professing Christians, are we so mixed and mingled with the world till we lose sight of eternity, till we lose sight of Jesus Christ, and till we lose sight of the Father? Why, I ask you, are there so many families destitute of the Spirit of God? Why are there so many families that have so little of the life and love and likeness of Jesus Christ? It is because they do not know God. If they knew God, and if they would behold Him by faith in Jesus Christ, who came to our world to die for man, they would see

such matchless charms in the Son that they by beholding would become changed to the same image. Now you see the wrong of conforming to the world." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 560.

SABBATH

7. What is the Christian's greatest desire?

 **Hosea 6:3.** *Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*

"It will not be long till we shall see Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 287.



Meditation

"The love of Christ is progressive. By constant effort you will grow in the knowledge of God. It costs something to be pure, holy, and undefiled. But remember that he that offendeth not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Put your hand in the hand of Christ, saying, Lead me, keep me, bless me." –*Letter 54*, 1901.

LESSON 19

Sabbath, November 9, 2024

Saving Discernment



"... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself" Luke 10:27.

"Eternal life is the reward that will be given to all who obey the two great principles of God's law—love to God and love to man. The first four commandments define and enjoin love to God; the last six, love to our fellow men. Obedience to these commands is the only evidence man can give that he possesses a genuine, saving knowledge of God. Love for God is demonstrated by love for those for whom Christ has died." —The Youth's Instructor, March 22, 1900.

SUNDAY

1. What is the greatest evidence of a person's lack of knowledge of the Divine One?

 **Titus 1:16.** *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

"The living bread must not only be admired, but eaten. That bread which cometh down from heaven will give life to the soul. It is the leaven which absorbs all the elements of the character into a oneness with the character

of Christ and molds the objectionable hereditary and cultivated tendencies after the divine similitude." —*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 557.

MONDAY

2. How solemn is it to know the way of righteousness?

 **2 Peter 2:21.** *For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.*

"In a divided, halfhearted life, you will find doubt and darkness. You cannot enjoy the consolations of religion, neither the peace which the world gives. Do not sit down in Satan's easy chair of do-little, but arise, and aim at the elevated standard which it is your privilege to attain. It is a blessed privilege to give up all for Christ. Look not at the lives of others and imitate them and rise no higher. You have only one true, unerring Pattern. It is safe to follow Jesus only." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 241.

TUESDAY

3. What is the evidence that one knows God?

 **1 John 2:3.** *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

"He came to demonstrate the fact that humanity, allied by living faith to divinity, can keep all the commandments of God. He came to make plain the immutable character of the law, to declare that disobedience and transgression can never be rewarded with eternal life. He came as a man to humanity, that humanity might touch humanity, while divinity laid hold upon the throne of God." —*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 564.

WEDNESDAY

4. How can we know that "we are of the truth"?

 **1 John 3:18, 19.** *"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him".*

"Harmony and union existing among men of varied dispositions is the strongest witness that can be borne that God has sent His Son into the world to save sinners. It is our privilege to bear this witness. But, in order to do this, we must place ourselves under Christ's command. Our characters must be molded in harmony with His character, our wills must be surrendered to His will." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 242.

THURSDAY

5. What firm knowledge and belief do God's people have?

 **1 John 4:16.** And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

"If we would give more expression to our faith, rejoice more in the blessings that we know we have—the great mercy, forbearance, and love of God—we would daily have greater strength." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 536.

FRIDAY

6. What knowledge is imperative to obtain eternal life?

 **Luke 1:17.** And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

"The Lord has made every provision whereby man may have full and free salvation and be complete in Him. God designs that His children shall have the bright beams of the Sun of righteousness, that all may have the light of truth. God has provided salvation for the world at infinite cost, even through the gift of His only-begotten Son." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 457.

SABBATH

7. What precious longing does God fulfill?

 **Philippians 3:10.** That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.

"Every one of us needs to have a deep insight into the teachings of the word of God.... We must know why we believe as we do, why we are on the Lord's side. The truth must keep watch in our hearts...." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, p. 67.



Meditation

"Love for God and for one another unites them to Christ by golden links. Their life is bound up with His life in sanctified, elevated union. True sanctification unites believers to Christ and to one another in bonds of tender sympathy. This union causes rich currents of Christ's love to flow continually into the heart, and then flow forth again in love for others." –*The Youth's Instructor*, March 22, 1900.

LESSON 20

Sabbath, November 16, 2024

Sublime Proficiency

"But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" 1 Corinthians 1:30.

"The gospel message is far from being opposed to true knowledge and intellectual attainments. It is itself true science, true intellectual knowledge. True wisdom is infinitely above the comprehension of the worldly wise. The hidden wisdom, which is Christ formed within, the hope of glory, is a wisdom high as heaven. The deep principles of godliness are sublime and eternal. A Christian experience alone can help us to understand this problem, and obtain the treasures of knowledge which have been hidden in the counsels of God, but are now made known to all who have a vital connection with Christ. All who will may know of the doctrine." *—Review and Herald, July 18, 1899*



SUNDAY

1. What does the Bible call those who do evil?

 **Psalm 53:4.** *Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread: they have not called upon God.*

"The gospel of His grace alone can cure the evils that curse society. The injustice of the rich toward the poor, the hatred of the poor toward the rich, alike have their root in selfishness, and this can be eradicated only through submission to Christ. He alone, for the selfish heart of sin, gives the new heart of love." *—Christ's Object Lessons, p. 254.*

MONDAY

2. What will keep a person from entering the heavenly kingdom?

 **Hosea 4:6.** *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

“But none will enter heaven without making a sacrifice. A spirit of self-denial and sacrifice should be cherished. Some have not sacrificed themselves, their own bodies, on the altar of God. They indulge in hasty, fitful temper, gratify their appetites, and attend to their own self-interest, regardless of the cause of God. Those who are willing to make any sacrifice for eternal life, will have it; and it will be worth suffering for, worth crucifying self for, and sacrificing every idol for.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 126.

TUESDAY

3. What cause-and-effect relationship surpasses all knowledge?

 **Ephesians 3:19.** *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

“What great and wonderful effects have resulted from the crucifixion! What a view of the character of God, Christ’s sacrifice has opened to the universe! His love for man, far surpassing all human love, has lifted the law of God to its own eternal dignity. The attributes of God have been revealed, and the holy requirements of His law have been vindicated. The effects of the sacrifice on the cross are still felt; but all who would be saved must themselves have an interest in the crucified One.” —*Signs of the Times*, April 14, 1898.

WEDNESDAY

4. What is God’s deep desire to bring about in every soul, and what two elements are necessary for this?

 **Ephesians 4:13.** *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*

"Faith works by love and purifies the soul from all selfishness. Thus the soul is perfected in love. And having found grace and mercy through Christ's precious blood, how can we fail to be tender and merciful?

"To have faith in the promises of God, to walk forward by faith, pressing on without being governed by circumstances, is a lesson hard to learn. Yet it is a positive necessity that every child of God learn this lesson. The grace of God through Christ is to be ever cherished; for it is given to us as the only way of approaching God." —*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 533.

THURSDAY

5. What does the Lord expect and wish for all of His children?

 **Philippians 1:9, 10.** *And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; ¹⁰That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.*

"It was the Maker of all things who ordained the wonderful adaptation of means to end, of supply to need. It was He who in the material world provided that every desire implanted should be met. It was He who created the human soul, with its capacity for knowing and for loving.... We need to know of an almighty arm that will hold us up, of an infinite Friend that pities us. We need to clasp a hand that is warm, to trust in a heart full of tenderness. And even so God has in His word revealed Himself." —*Education*, p. 133.

FRIDAY

6. What will characterize every true follower of God?

 **Colossians 1:9, 10.** *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

"In this conflict of righteousness against unrighteousness we can be successful only by divine aid. Our finite will must be brought into submission to the will of the Infinite; the human will must be blended with the divine. This will bring the Holy Spirit to our aid, and every conquest will tend to the recovery of God's purchased possession, to the restoration of His image in the soul." —*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 692.

SABBATH

7. What is the goal to be reached?

 **Colossians 3:10, 11.** *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: ¹¹Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

“The Spirit of God does not create new faculties in the converted man but works a decided change in the employment of those faculties. When mind and heart and soul are changed, man is not given a new conscience, but his will is submitted to a conscience renewed, a conscience whose dormant sensibilities are aroused by the working of the Holy Spirit.” —*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 692.



Meditation

“God is our Leader, and if we look to Him, He will guide us to success. Let us not follow our own wisdom; for it is foolishness. The wisdom of God alone is unerring. Christ declares, ‘I am the light of the world. He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.’ John 8:12. ‘Thine ear shall hear a voice behind thee, saying, This is the way; walk ye in it; when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.’ Isaiah 30:21. ‘I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with Mine eye.’ ‘The meek will He guide in judgment, and the meek will He teach His way.’ ‘The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant.’ Psalm 32:8; 25:9, 14.” —*Letter 183*, 1902.

LESSON 21

Sabbath, November 23, 2024

Vital Mastery



"... The excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it" Ecclesiastes 7:12.

"Jesus, the loving Saviour, entreats the woe-stricken inhabitants of earth to come to him. He says: 'Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.' Oh, have you found this rest? Have you been to the fountain of living water to drink? The knowledge of God is the most vital to you. Have you found it? Jesus says: 'As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him.' 'And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.' The evidence of our knowledge of God and of His Son is seen in the fact that we reveal Him in life and character, that we make Him known unto others." —*Signs of the Times*, June 19, 1893.

SUNDAY

1. In whom alone is one to believe?

 **2 Timothy 1:12.** *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

"We should know for ourselves what constitutes Christianity, what is truth, what is the faith that we have received, what are the Bible rules—the rules given us from the highest authority." —*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 535.

MONDAY

2. What shows that a person knows God?

"Hand yourself over to Jesus, to be molded and fashioned by Him, that you may be made vessels unto honor. Your temptations, your ideas, your feelings, must all be laid at the foot of the cross. Then the soul is ready to listen to words of divine instruction." —*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 541.

 **1 John 2:3.** And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

TUESDAY

3. What assurance must one have?

"Every good impulse or aspiration is the gift of God; faith receives from God the life that alone can produce true growth and efficiency." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 259.

 **1 John 2:5.** But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

WEDNESDAY

4. What is the evidence of this?

 **John 15:4.** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

"To the heart that has become purified, all is changed. Transformation of character is the testimony to the world of an indwelling Christ. The Spirit of God produces a new life in the soul, bringing the thoughts and desires into obedience to the will of Christ; and the inward man is renewed in the image of God. Weak and erring men and women show to the world that the redeeming power of grace can cause the faulty character to develop into symmetry and abundant fruitfulness." —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 233.

THURSDAY

5. What knowledge regarding God directly influences the soul?

 **1 John 2:29.** If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

"Those who are indeed purifying their souls by obeying the truth will have a most humble opinion of themselves. The more closely they view the spotless character of Christ, the stronger will be their desire to be conformed to His image, and the less will they see of purity or holiness in themselves. But while we should realize our sinful condition, we are to rely upon Christ as our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 471.

FRIDAY

6. What effect does this have on every child of God?

 **John 3:5, 6.** Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

"When hearts are purified from selfishness and egotism, they are in harmony with the message God sends them. The perceptions are quickened, the sensibilities refined. Like appreciates like. 'He that is of God heareth God's words.'" –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 695.

SABBATH

7. What powerful thought is a great motivator to the believers?

 **1 John 3:2.** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

"Looking unto Jesus we obtain brighter and more distinct views of God, and by beholding we become changed. Goodness, love for our fellow men, becomes our natural instinct. We develop a character which is the

counterpart of the divine character. Growing into His likeness, we enlarge our capacity for knowing God. More and more we enter into fellowship with the heavenly world, and we have continually increasing power to receive the riches of the knowledge and wisdom of eternity." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 355.



Meditation

"'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.' Proverbs 1:7. One sentence of Scripture is of more value than ten thousand of man's ideas or arguments. Those who refuse to follow God's way will finally receive the sentence, 'Depart from Me.' But when we submit to God's way, the Lord Jesus guides our minds and fills our lips with assurance. We may be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Receiving Christ, we are clothed with power. An indwelling Saviour makes His power our property. The truth becomes our stock in trade. No unrighteousness is seen in the life. We are able to speak words in season to those who know not the truth. Christ's presence in the heart is a vitalizing power, strengthening the entire being." –*Counsels on Health*, p. 253.

LESSON 22

Sabbath, November 30, 2024

Transforming Accomplishment



"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself" Philippians 3:21.

"The knowledge of God that works transformation of character is our great need. If we fulfill His purpose, there must be in our lives a revelation of God that shall correspond to the teaching of His word." –Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, p. 329.

SUNDAY

1. What knowledge will lead man to deep reflection?

 **1 John 3:5.** *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

"Those who would have clear minds to discern Satan's devices must have their physical appetites under the control of reason and conscience. The moral and vigorous action of the higher powers of the mind are essential

to the perfection of Christian character. And the strength or the weakness of the mind has very much to do with our usefulness in this world, and with our final salvation." –*Messages to Young People*, pp. 236, 237.

MONDAY

2. To whom does that knowledge lead?

 **Matthew 1:21.** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

"Now Jesus says, Lay it all on Me; I will take your sin, I will give you peace. Destroy no longer your self-respect, for I have bought you with the price of My own blood. You are Mine; your weakened will I will strengthen...." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 451.

TUESDAY

3. What inward change then takes place?

 **1 John 3:14.** We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

"I am constantly presenting the need of every man's doing his best as a Christian, of training himself to realize the growth, the expansion of mind, the nobility of character, which it is possible for each to have. In all that we do we are to sustain a Christlike relation to one another.... Our relations to one another are not to be governed by human standards, but by divine love, the love expressed in the gift of God to our world." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 256.

WEDNESDAY

4. How does this transformation come about?

 **2 Corinthians 4:16.** For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

"As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins here. We respond to His invitation, Come, learn of Me, and in thus coming we begin the life

eternal. Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ. The longer we are in the heaven of bliss, the more and still more of glory will be opened to us; and the more we know of God, the more intense will be our happiness. As we walk with Jesus in this life, we may be filled with His love, satisfied with His presence." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 331.

THURSDAY

5. What knowledge gives a person a sense of security?

 **1 John 3:19.** *And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.*

"The disorders and imperfections of human words and human characters can be restored only by the Lord Jesus Christ. He, then, should be the object of your contemplation, the theme of your conversation. You must have an altogether higher exercise of thought and action if you would understand the great plan of redemption." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 663.

FRIDAY

6. How can he know that God abides in him?

 **1 John 3:24.** *And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.*

"By the first angel, men are called upon to 'fear God, and give glory to Him,' and to worship Him as the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In order to do this, they must obey His law. Says the wise man, 'Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.' Ecclesiastes 12:13. Without obedience to His commandments, no worship can be pleasing to God. 'This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.' 'He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.' 1 John 5:3; Proverbs 28:9." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 436.

SABBATH

7. What infinite gifts does he receive?

 **Romans 5:5.** *And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

"He gives the Holy Spirit to help in every strait, to strengthen our hope and assurance, to illuminate our minds and purify our hearts." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 414.



Meditation

"God wants us to be planted in Christ. Then we shall be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. Then at last we shall see the King in His beauty, and behold His matchless charms.

"We are preparing to enter the holy city. Keep this thought in mind all the time. There is a heaven of bliss before us. Keep thinking of this. And there is a joy that we may have in Christ, even in this world. To those who keep His commandments He says, 'My joy shall be in you, and your joy shall be full.' 'Keep His commandments and live, and His law as the apple of thine eye.'" –*The Huntsville School*, p. 13.

LESSON 23

Sabbath, December 7, 2024

True Science



"No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies" Job 28:18.

"This is the treasure that is found in the Scriptures. The Bible is God's great lesson book, His great educator. The foundation of all true science is contained in the Bible. Every branch of knowledge may be found by searching the word of God. And above all else it contains the science of all sciences, the science of salvation. The Bible is the mine of the unsearchable riches of Christ." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 107

SUNDAY

1. What amazing things does true science reveal?

 **1 John 5:13.** *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

"When clouds come between your soul and God, when all around you is dark and forbidding, when the enemy stands ready to rob the soul of its integrity to God and the truth, and when error stands out plausible and attractive, then it is time to pray and exercise faith in God.... Cherishing faith,

the soul is enabled to rise beyond itself and penetrate the hellish shadow which the enemy casts athwart the pathway of every soul that is striving for an immortal crown." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 535.

MONDAY

2. What hope is produced as a consequence?

 **Colossians 1:5.** *For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.*

"I find that I have to fight the good fight of faith every day. I have to exercise all my faith and not rely upon feeling; I have to act as though I knew the Lord heard me and would answer me and bless me. Faith is not a happy flight of feeling; it is simply taking God at His word—believing that He will fulfill His promises because He said He would." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 539.

TUESDAY

3. What trust and assurance are available to every person on earth?

 **1 John 5:14, 15.** *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

"True faith and true prayer—how strong they are! They are as two arms by which the human suppliant lays hold upon the power of Infinite Love. Faith is trusting in God—believing that He loves us, and knows what is for our best good. Thus, instead of our own way, it leads us to choose His way." –*Gospel Workers*, p. 259.

TUESDAY

4. What is required for God's promises to be fulfilled?

 **John 9:31.** *Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.*

"There are many souls who wrestle for special victories and special blessings that they may do some great thing. To this end they are always feeling that they must make an agonizing struggle in prayer and tears. When these persons search the Scriptures with prayer to know the expressed will of God, and then do His will from the heart without one reservation or self-indulgence, they will find rest.... Self must be entirely surrendered. They must do the work that presents itself, appropriating the abundance of the grace of God which is promised to all who ask in faith." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 165.

THURSDAY

5. Who does not sin, and what makes that possible?

 **1 John 5:18.** *We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*

"Let us follow the Saviour in His simplicity and self-denial. Let us lift up the Man of Calvary by word and by holy living. The Saviour comes very near to those who consecrate themselves to God. If ever there was a time when we needed the working of the Spirit of God upon our hearts and lives, it is now. Let us lay hold of this divine power for strength to live a life of holiness and self-surrender." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 165.

FRIDAY

6. What do the Holy Scriptures tell about this?

 **James 1:18.** *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

"He gives to all who receive Him, power to become the sons of God. Regeneration is the only path by which we can enter the city of God. It is narrow, and the gate by which we enter is strait; but along it we are to lead men and women and children, teaching them that, in order to be saved, they must have a new heart and a new spirit. The old, hereditary traits of character must be overcome. The natural desires of the soul must be changed. All deception, all falsifying, all evilspeaking, must be put away. The new life, which makes men and women Christlike, is to be lived." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 23.

7. What wonderful, sublime knowledge shows the true perspective on life?

 **1 John 5:19.** *And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.*

"The first four precepts of the Decalogue allow no separation of affections from God. Nor must anything share our supreme delight in Him. We cannot advance in Christian experience until we put away everything that separates us from God." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 329.



Meditation

"Knowledge is power, but it is a power for good only when united with true piety. It must be vitalized by the Spirit of God in order to serve the noblest purposes. The closer our connection with God, the more fully can we comprehend the value of true science; for the attributes of God, as seen in His created works, can be best appreciated by him who has a knowledge of the Creator of all things, the Author of all truth. Such can make the highest use of knowledge; for when brought under the full control of the Spirit of God, their talents are rendered useful to the fullest extent." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 38.

LESSON 24

Sabbath, December 14, 2024

Work of Redemption

"And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent" John 17:3.

"The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan, the restoration in the human soul of the image of God. From the first intimation of hope in the sentence pronounced in Eden to that last glorious promise of the Revelation, 'They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads' (Revelation 22:4), the burden of every book and every passage of the Bible is the unfolding of this wondrous theme—man's uplifting—the power of God, 'which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.' 1 Corinthians 15:57.

"He who grasps this thought has before him an infinite field for study. He has the key that will unlock to him the whole treasure house of God's word." —*Education*, pp. 125, 126



SUNDAY

1. In what state of ignorance is the natural human being?

 **Proverbs 30:3.** *I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.*

"In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, 'other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.'" —*Education*, p. 30.

"To bring man back into harmony with God, so to elevate and ennoble his moral nature that he may again reflect the image of the Creator, is the great purpose of all the education and discipline of life." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 49.

MONDAY

2. What spiritual change is Heaven ready to bring about in man's heart?

 **Proverbs 18:15.** *The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.*

"Before men can be truly wise, they must realize their dependence upon God, and be filled with His wisdom. God is the source of intellectual as well as spiritual power." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 66.

TUESDAY

3. What delight does God want to give to the children of men?

 **Proverbs 2:10.** *When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul.*

"The life of God in the soul is man's only hope." –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 115.

WEDNESDAY

4. Between what two representative trees does every person exist?

 **Genesis 2:9.** *And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

"Where once was written only the character of God, the knowledge of good, was now written also the character of Satan, the knowledge of evil." –*Education*, p. 26.

THURSDAY

5. Where is true knowledge found?

 **Romans 2:20.** *An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.*

"How wonderful in its simplicity, its comprehensiveness and perfection, is the law of Jehovah! In the purposes and dealings of God there are mysteries which the finite mind is unable to comprehend. And it is because we cannot fathom the secrets of infinite wisdom and power that we are filled with reverence for the Most High." —*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 563.

FRIDAY

6. What does "science falsely so called" produce?

 **1 Timothy 6:20, 21.** *O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: ²¹Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.*

"Satan works with his crooked, deceiving power, and through strong delusions he catches all who do not abide in the truth, who have turned away their ears from the truth and have turned unto fables. Satan himself abode not in the truth; he is the mystery of iniquity. Through his subtlety he gives to his soul-destroying errors the appearance of truth. Herein is their power to deceive. It is because they are a counterfeit of the truth that spiritualism, theosophy, and the like deceptions gain such power over the minds of men. Herein is the masterly working of Satan. He pretends to be the saviour of man, the benefactor of the human race, and thus he more readily lures his victims to destruction." —*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 365.

SABBATH

7. In whom alone is true knowledge found, and why?

 **Isaiah 40:12-14.** *Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? ¹³Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord,*

or being his counsellor hath taught him? ¹⁴With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught

him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?.

"Let us go to the word of God for guidance. Let us seek for a "Thus saith the Lord." We have had enough of human methods. A mind trained only in worldly science will fail to understand the things of God; but the same mind, converted and sanctified, will see the divine power in the Word. Only the mind and heart cleansed by the sanctification of the Spirit can discern heavenly things." –*Gospel Workers*, p. 310.



Meditation

"The theme of redemption is one that the angels desire to look into; it will be the science and the song of the redeemed throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Is it not worthy of careful thought and study now? The infinite mercy and love of Jesus, the sacrifice made in our behalf, calls for the most serious and solemn reflection. We should dwell upon the character of our dear Redeemer and Intercessor. We should meditate upon the mission of Him who came to save His people from their sins. As we thus contemplate heavenly themes, our faith and love will grow stronger, and our prayers will be more and more acceptable to God, because they will be more and more mixed with faith and love. They will be intelligent and fervent. There will be more constant confidence in Jesus, and a daily, living experience in His power to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 88.

LESSON 25

Sabbath, December 21, 2024

Imparted Awareness

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" Romans 10:14.

"Christ came to our world to assume human nature, and to come in connection with man that He could use His faculty of speech in making God known as He is. He says, 'It is not My words which I speak, but the words which the Father has to give Me.' [See John 14:24.] Jesus was the greatest teacher our world ever knew. He imparted knowledge. How simple, clear, and plain, was His speech. How He longed to communicate many things to His disciples, but He fully understood that they could not comprehend them; and He said, 'I have many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.' John 16:12." —Letter 59a, 1895.



SUNDAY

1. How does God impart knowledge to His human creation?

 **Isaiah 28:9, 10.** *Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. ¹⁰For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.*

"In His teaching were embraced the things of time and the things of eternity—things seen, in their relation to things unseen, the passing incidents of common life and the solemn issues of the life to come.

"The things of this life He placed in their true relation, as subordinate to those of eternal interest; but He did not ignore their importance. He taught that Heaven and earth are linked together, and that a knowledge of divine truth prepares man better to perform the duties of daily life...." —*Education*, p. 82.

MONDAY

2. How important is this knowledge for every person?

 **Proverbs 19:2.** *Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.*

"In Christ their hearts acknowledged Him who opened to them the science of eternity—"Immanuel,... God with us." —*Education*, pp. 82, 83.

TUESDAY

3. In whom is the greatest knowledge found?

 **Isaiah 40:13-15.** *Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him? ¹⁴With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding? ¹⁵Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.*

"Thus in His life, Christ's words had perfect illustration and support. And more than this; what He taught, He was. His words were the expression, not only of His own life experience, but of His own character. Not only did He teach the truth, but He was the truth. It was this that gave His teaching, power." —*Education*, p. 78.

WEDNESDAY

4. How does the Lord reward His faithful children?

 **Daniel 5:12.** *Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.*

"Throughout the reign of successive monarchs, the downfall of the nation, and the establishment of a rival kingdom, such were his wisdom and statesmanship, so perfect his tact, his courtesy, and his genuine goodness of heart, combined with fidelity to principle, that even his enemies were forced to the confession that 'they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful.' Daniel 6:4.

"While Daniel clung to God with unwavering trust, the spirit of prophetic power came upon him." –*Education*, pp. 55, 56.

THURSDAY

5. How does Heaven enrich those who love God supremely?

 **1 Corinthians 1:4, 5.** *I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; ⁵That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge.*

"Through faith in Christ, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed." –*Education*, p. 257.

FRIDAY

6. For what purpose?

 **1 Corinthians 1:7, 8.** *So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁸Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

"The Saviour's instructions to His disciples were given for the benefit of His followers in every age. He had those in view who were living near the close of time, when He said: 'Take heed to yourselves.' It is our work, each for himself, to cherish in the heart the precious graces of the Holy Spirit." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 102.

SABBATH

7. What privilege will His children enjoy?

 **Numbers 24:16.** *He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open.*

"My brother, my sister, I urge you to prepare for the coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven. Day by day cast the love of the world out of your hearts. Understand by experience what it means to have fellowship with Christ. Prepare for the judgment, that when Christ shall come, to be admired in all them that believe, you may be among those who will meet Him in peace."
—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 285.



Meditation

"The great storehouse of truth is the word of God—the written word, the book of nature, and the book of experience in God's dealing with human life. Here are the treasures from which Christ's workers are to draw. In the search after truth they are to depend upon God, not upon human intelligences, the great men whose wisdom is foolishness with God. Through His own appointed channels the Lord will impart a knowledge of Himself to every seeker.

"If the follower of Christ will believe His word and practice it, there is no science in the natural world that he will not be able to grasp and appreciate. There is nothing but that will furnish him means for imparting the truth to others." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 125, 126.

Please read the Missionary Report
of the Bolivian Field on page 115

LESSON 26

Sabbath, December 28, 2024

Eternal Wisdom



"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is" 1 John 3:1, 2. "To see Christ as He is, is one of the greatest blessings that can ever come to fallen humanity; and to know Him is to know the Father also. But how few today know the precious Saviour as He is! How few know Him and the Father! Many acknowledge Jesus as the world's Redeemer, but they know Him not as a personal Saviour; this is essential—the knowledge of God in Jesus Christ. 'Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him.' 'And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.' The knowledge of God is eternal life, and this knowledge is received only through Christ." —The Bible Echo, November 12, 1894.

SUNDAY

1. How does the Lord impart divine knowledge?

 **1 Corinthians 12:7-11.** *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. ⁸For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; ⁹To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; ¹⁰To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to*

another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

¹¹But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

"A holy influence is to go forth to the world from those who are sanctified through the truth. The earth is to be encircled with an atmosphere of grace. The Holy Spirit is to work on human hearts, taking the things of God and showing them to men." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 40.

MONDAY

2. How might a person act, even though he does not have the knowledge from above?

 **Romans 10:2-4.** For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. ⁴For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

"We can do nothing, absolutely nothing, to commend ourselves to divine favor. We must not trust at all to ourselves nor to our good works; but when as erring, sinful beings we come to Christ, we may find rest in His love. God will accept every one that comes to Him trusting wholly in the merits of a crucified Saviour." –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 353.

TUESDAY

3. What is connected to divine knowledge?

 **Philemon 1:6, 5.** That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.... ⁵Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints.

"Those who serve God in sincerity and truth will be a peculiar people, unlike the world, separate from the world.... The more elevated and refined the powers, the more pure and unalloyed the happiness." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 378.

WEDNESDAY

4. What effect does divine knowledge produce in God's faithful followers?

 **Proverbs 2:10-12.** When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; ¹¹Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: ¹²To deliver

thee from the way of the evil man,
from the man that speaketh froward
things.

"Each soul has an individuality. Each soul must live in hourly communion with Christ; for He says, 'Without Me ye can do nothing.' John 15:5. His principles are to be our principles; for these principles are the everlasting truth, proclaimed in righteousness, goodness, mercy, and love." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 430.

THURSDAY

5. What is God's primary goal in His relationship with man?

 **1 Timothy 2:4.** *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

"The gospel deals with individuals. Every human being has a soul to save or to lose. Each has an individuality separate and distinct from all others.... He must receive the truth, repent, believe, and obey for himself. He must exercise his will for himself. No one can do this work by proxy.... Each must surrender to God by his own act and the mystery of godliness." –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 423.

FRIDAY

6. How is the wisdom from above described in Scripture?

 **James 3:13, 17, 18.** *Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge*

among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.... ¹⁷But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

"Perfect conformity to the will of God is the high aim to be constantly before the Christian.... The contemplation of these themes, when the soul feasts upon the blessed assurances of God, the apostle represents as tasting 'the powers of the world to come.'" –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 745.

7. What question should constantly occupy one's mind?

 **Matthew 19:16.** *And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?*

"The knowledge of God comes from the doing of the things required in God's law. The experience thus gained will be proportionate to the development of the life, proportionate to the capacity to receive, and to the faithfulness with which the capabilities are used to the glory of God. There is no half-way work about this.... Our knowledge will surely be proportionate to our Christlikeness of character. The gaining of this knowledge will be to the receiver eternal life. No other knowledge can take the place of this. We may have all the knowledge on secular subjects that is within mental reach, but this knowledge does not communicate the mysteries of the higher life. The heavenly calling demands larger, broader, higher capacities. Words can never impart this knowledge. It comes from God. Having gained it, we have passed from spiritual death to spiritual life, knowing Him who is our life, our sanctification, our righteousness." —Letter 97, 1902.



Meditation

"In eternity we shall learn that which, had we received the enlightenment it was possible to obtain here, would have opened our understanding. The themes of redemption will employ the hearts and minds and tongues of the redeemed through the everlasting ages. They will understand the truths which Christ longed to open to His disciples, but which they did not have faith to grasp. Forever and forever new views of the perfection and glory of Christ will appear. Through endless ages will the faithful Householder bring forth from His treasure things new and old." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 133, 134.



MISSIONARY REPORT OF THE BOLIVIAN FIELD

To be read on Sabbath, December 28, 2024

*The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered on Sabbath, January 4, 2025*

Cordial greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all of the brothers and sisters in the faith. We greet you with Micah 4:2: "Many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths; for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

The Plurinational State of Bolivia is located in the western-central region of South America. It is divided into nine departments and one hundred twelve provinces spanning an area of 1,098,581 square kilometers (424,164 square miles). It shares a border to the north and east with Brazil, to the south with Paraguay and Argentina, and to the west with Chile and Peru. Pre-Hispanic civilizations developed in this area, including the Tiahuanaco culture, the hydraulic culture of the Lomas, the Moxeña culture, and others that survive to this day, such as the Aymaras, Quechuas, Urus, Chiquitanos, Guaraníes, and others. Spanish is the predominant language. However, thirty-six indigenous languages also have official status; those most often spoken are Quechua, Aymara, and Guaraní. The country has a population of 12,079,472 and an average altitude of 3,869 meters (12,694 feet) above sea level.

The message of the Reform Movement was first brought to Bolivia in 1962 by Brother Heraclio Begazo, who presented it to Brothers Francisco Carrillo, Ángel Tintaya, Jorge Ticona, and others. The church was first organized in the city of La Paz on December 5 of that same year, with Pastor Manuel Miranda serving as leader. It was recognized by the government as holding Legal Status on December 23, 1963, under the name Bolivian Field of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission, Reform Movement, International Missionary Society.

At present, the headquarters of the Bolivian Field is located in Cochabamba. There are 290 active members and 706 Sabbath School members

and interested souls. The church is organized into four missions—Western Mission, Central Mission, Southern Mission, and Eastern Mission.

The Bolivian Field has always desired to have a headquarters building. We are thankful to God that a lot was acquired in Pucara Grande, the first entrance to Singani Calle Innominada s/n. The headquarters construction began in 2011-2012, when the construction plan was completed; in 2013-2014, the structural work (concrete) was done; in 2015-2016, the fine work was carried out; and in 2017-2018, the façade was completed. This left the construction unfinished for lack of funds. Now there is the need to complete the top floor, including the roof and the front wall. For this reason, we ask the Lord to touch the hearts of our generous brothers and sisters in Christ so that we can complete the work.

In advance, we thank you for all of your donations and offerings. May God shower you with His rich blessings in the work that you carry out. The brothers and sisters of the Bolivian Field say goodbye in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—Pastor Demetrio Janco Castro,
President of the Bolivian Field

NOTES

[illegible]

"The great and essential knowledge is the knowledge of God and His word. Peter exhorted his brethren to 'grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.' There should be a daily increasing of spiritual understanding; and the Christian will grow in grace, just in proportion as he depends upon and appreciates the teaching of the word of God, and habituates himself to meditate upon divine things."

—Review and Herald, August 17, 1888.



SABBATH

SCHOOL LESSONS

Second Half 2024

Divine Wisdom

