

"BE PATIENT, ESTABLISH YOUR HEART FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD DRAWETH NIGH (NEAR)" JAMES 5:8

"ESTABLISH OUR HEART" THROUGH THE LOVE OF THE INSTRUCTIONS AND LAWS OF GOD "FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD DRAWETH NIGH (NEAR)" JAMES 5:8

- Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head as we ask God for understanding in our study today. This is the 2nd lesson in a 6-part series from James 5:8 which says, "Be ye also patient; establish your hearts (place firmly your face toward God and His way of life, not our way or the world's way of life)".
- Say - In lesson 1 we discussed the importance of knowing God's goal or reward for us and our purpose here on earth in "establishing the heart" of a future King. We discussed the patience one must have as God's people live each day with the expectation that His coming is very near.
- Say - God reveals to us how another way to establish our lives for His coming by learning to love His instructions and laws of love, Romans 13:10.
- Say - God's laws or the first five books of the Bible are called the Torah which means instruction from God. The bible tells us, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ..." Galatians 3:24. We must "establish our hearts" with the love of God's instructions through obedience to them and build the character of a righteous king to be in the Kingdom of God. "Establish our hearts" means to "set fast", "strengthen", "firmly fix" our minds and hearts on all of God's laws. Why is this so important?
- Say - If we are not interested in following God's instructions and laws here on earth, we are saying we're not interested in being in God's Kingdom because all His laws will be enforced at that time, Isaiah 2:3, Micah 4:2.
- Say - Why did God give us instructions? God gave His creation instructions or laws so that all could have life and have it more abundantly and to protect us from sin. Here is how Paul said it, "I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet" Romans 7:7. Sin is a destroyer; it will lead to death but, in contrast, the laws of God will lead us to Christ, the "Life giver" when we are obedient to them, Galatians 3:24.

Say - God gave every follower of His instructions, just read the stories of Noah, Abraham, and Moses. God gave them His instructions for their protection and well being because He loved them as He loves you and me. He gave us His instructions for the same purpose; I hope we choose to obey God with all our heart mind and soul just as Noah, Abraham and Moses and many others chose to obey God.

Say - Christ tells us, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them (obeys them), he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest (make known) myself to him" John 14:21. He does not know us when we disobey Him and disregard His laws. It is that simple for we are saying we follow another God, Satan.

Say - Remember we are going to reign with Christ, right at His side as His bride enforcing His instructions in the Kingdom of God over the entire world, Revelation 2:26. Contrary to what the world teaches, God's laws are not a list of legalistic rules and regulations but "laws of liberty" when we live in them not contrary to them, James 2:12.

Say - The Bible tells us, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein (be patient, don't give up), he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed (here on earth and by being in God's Kingdom)" James 1:25.

Say - The Bible is the divinely inspired book through which God speaks to us. The Word of God is powerful, (Why? Because) God's word is spirit. The Bible says, "It is the spirit that quickeneth (gives life, our reward); the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and THEY ARE LIFE", John 6:63!! That is what we want, ETERNAL LIFE. God's instructions and laws will keep us on the Path of Life just as they did Christ even unto death.

Say - The Bible tells us, "And he (Christ) saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm (power) brought salvation (the result of His righteousness) unto him; and his righteousness (all God's commandments are righteousness Ps. 119:172), it sustained him (upheld Him, allowed Him to remain steadfast even unto death, Strong's 5564, GK.) How was this possible?

Say - The verse above is a prophecy about Christ; it was knowing God's laws, believing God's ways, knowing God's will and living them, which sustained Him on the stake. If this is what sustained Christ

facing death, surely it will be what will sustain us now in our daily lives and in the "Time of trouble" to come. The world's man-made instructions filled with human reasoning will not sustain us.

Say - As we can see the words of God are powerful, it is the "sword", the Bible tells us, the "spiritual armor" by which Christ overcame Satan and sin and evil in His daily life and it is the same for God's people. Satan cannot receive this "spiritual armor" and never forget it, Ephesians 6:17! When we "establish our hearts" on Christ and His teachings, it is power, it is life! This is the "spiritual armor" we must "establish our hearts" with for it is Christ's way of life which will make us spiritually well and then we can begin to become mentally well and physically well as we become like Him.

Say - When we "Put on His righteousness" and we live His way, obey and love His instructions and laws then we emit the love of His Holy and Righteous Laws. The Bible says, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God..." I John 3:1. Never lose sight of our goal to be called the "son of God"!

Say - But if we don't study to know the Word of God, how can we resist evil for we won't know what it says. We will discuss how to study the Bible in a later lesson in this series.

Say - How does God's word "establish our hearts"? The Bible says, "The word of God is truth (not lies or deception)", John 17:17. It is how we are sanctified or set apart from the world. The Bible says, "To the law ... if they speak not according to this word (as a law which should be kept), it is because there is no light in them (they have no hope, no reward, it's that simple we either choose to follow God and live within His instructions or there is no reward.)" Isaiah 8:20.

Say - To "establish the heart" of a future righteous king (the only kind God will accept), we need to know God's instructions because righteousness is defined by the laws of God. Most in our world have rejected His holy righteous laws and many have changed them.

Say - We cannot exist without a governing law in our life; it is the very foundation of our physical and spiritual life. Read the advice from Moses. "And Moses commanded them, saying...

"Gather the people together, men and women, and children, and thy stranger..., that they may hear, and that they may learn, and

fear the LORD your God, and observe to do ALL the words of this law. Set your hearts unto all the ... words of this law. (Why?)  
"... **because it is your life**" Deuteronomy 31:10-12, 32:46-47.

God speaking through Moses said, "thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

"And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes (the first and last thing we think about everyday, that's how important God's instructions are for each of us)".

"And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates" Deuteronomy 6:7-9.

Say - In Matt. the Bible tells us, "... but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" Matthew 19:17. Our reward depends on it! "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" Revelation 22:14.

Say - God is the one who teaches His followers what is holy and what is not holy and His instructions and laws are holy and His laws are what will make His people holy, Nehemiah 9:13, Deuteronomy 28:9. The law of God "...is able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" 2 Timothy 3:15. As we said, the role of the law of God; "... was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ" Galatians 3:24, our very goal to become like Him.

Say - The law of God teaches us how to love God and man for "...love is the fulfilling of the law of God" Romans 13:10. Do not think of the instructions and laws of God as a list of do's and don'ts as the world teaches and gives God's laws a negative view. View the laws of God as instructions of the goodness of God which leads us to repentance, not drag us. View the laws of God as the instructions which lift us out of the darkness of deception of false religions and brings us into the light/truth of God.

Say - In contrast, in our world, "iniquity (lawlessness) shall abound (shall be great), the love of many shall wax cold" Matthew 24:10. Is this true in our world today? It is because the instructions and laws of God are not in their hearts; most do not have a broken, repentant, willing, obedient heart but a disobedient heart to God and His laws.

Say - When we know God through His law, we will fall in love with Him but first we need to develop the love of God's law as David did. In fact in the book of Psalms is a love song about the law of God, Psalms 119. I would recommend reading it to help all "establish our hearts" in staying true to God's word no matter how bad the world becomes.

Say - If we want to know God intimately we must make it happen; He is willing. Noah did all that God commanded; the rest of the world did not. We must learn from these experiences to be in the habit of obeying; no "ifs" "ands" or "buts".

### SELF APPLICATION IN KNOWING GOD THROUGH THE LOVE OF HIS LAWS

How do we go about developing a love affair of God and His laws? How do we "establish the heart" and develop the character of a future righteous king?

1. We can start by repenting to God and saying, " For I acknowledge my transgressions (my sins): and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight (remember "... sin is the transgression/disobedience of God's laws" I John 3:4)...Psalms 51:3-4.
2. We can humble ourselves and express our emotions and feelings and tell God we desire a close relationship with Him that we want to be like Him and ask Him to lead and guide us with His instructions and remove all evilness from us.
3. We can ask God if He approves of our friends we have chosen, the clothes we wear, the hobbies we have, are they appropriate for a righteous king. Some suggestions for a healthy hobby might be archery, remote controlled cars, planes, gardening, starting a Bible book club where one book of the Bible is discussed to enhance our understanding of the scriptures and our daily lives. Also gardening or take up a musical instrument, write Godly poetry or appropriate art projects. These are hobbies which will keep God's people from the temptation of disobeying the Sabbath as many school sports are normally on Friday and Saturday, God's holy day. Remember they are unaware of the instructions and laws of God.
4. We can tell God we do not want to be attracted by the things or temptations of this world which lead us in the wrong direction. We can tell God we want to overcome sin and Satan as He did and ask for His spirit/power and protection.

5. If we "hunger and thirst" and "eat" and "drink" the knowledge of God we will become one with Him.

6. We should make the Sabbath Day the highlight of our week. Starting with the first day of the week, Sunday, we can begin planning and preparing for the coming Sabbath Day. The Sabbath day teaches us there is only one God and ALL our devotion belongs to Him. David was totally devoted to God that is why he was a great king and will be a future righteous king in the Kingdom of God, Ezekiel 37:24.

The Sabbath should be a satisfying time filled with praying (talking to God), singing hymns (music lifts our spirit) and worshiping God, giving thanks for all He has done for us. The Sabbath should not be filled with thoughts of let's just go and get it over with. That is not building a relationship with God. What is on our hearts when we celebrate the Sabbath reveals to God what we think of Him.

The Sabbath Day pictures the 1000 year Honeymoon part of the bride groom relationship. Each week, each Sabbath we are rehearsing for that wonderful time of the Kingdom of God. We must visualize what lies ahead and live it daily.

We must set the mood, the foundation not made of dead works but filled with vivaciousness as we approach the Sabbath Day. God wants our body, mind and soul to worship Him. We can plan as a family for special food on that day for it is a feast day. God wants to feast with us and dwell among us. He knows our hearts and He will not feast with us if we are not eager to be with Him on the Sabbath day.

God will give His spirit and reward of eternal life to those he calls with a teachable mind, an obedient willing attitude. A humble person, not a stinky, rebellious attitude who says I've got better things to do than keep His Sabbaths. We won't be in God's Kingdom with that kind of attitude.

We cannot have God's spirit if we despise His laws or change them. We cannot have a different religion. The Bible says,

"There is one body, and one Spirit, ...One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all", Ephesians 4:4-6.

Say - Always remember, "The LORD is near unto them that are of a broken heart (a repentant heart); and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit (humble spirit)" Psalms 34:18.

"The LORD trieth the righteous (tests us to see if we will follow Him at all cost): but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth, (it's that simple)" Psalms 11:5.

Say - Will we be popular or loved of the world because we obey God? Christ prayed to God the Father for us and said, "I have given them thy word (the ability to understand it); and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil", John 17:14-15.

Say - A repentant person is the only one God will dwell with. The only way God will know us is if we keep and love His instructions and commandments and obey Him with our whole heart and soul. How many keep His word? Will we?

### Memory Verses

"The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide" Ps. 7:31.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death (Satan), or of obedience unto righteousness (God)? Romans 6:16

Be wise now therefore, O ye (future) kings (choose today to follow God and His ways): be instructed (be willing to change and be instructed in God's way of life), ye (future) judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear (with respect), and rejoice (be glad, be thankful) with trembling. Ps. 2: 10 -11

### MEMORY VERSE FOR TOTS

Be wise...be instructed...serve the LORD...  
Psalm 2:10-11

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL STORY FOR TOTS

BIBLE STORY  
LOVE OF THY INSTRUCTIONS AND LAWS

God gave every follower of His instructions and laws just as He does today for His people. He gave them His instructions for their protection and because of His love for His people. Our story today is about Noah and how he stood firm in following God's laws throughout his life.

In the days of Noah the world had become so violently wicked that it brought God to regret He had ever created mankind. Noah, the only righteous man on the face of the earth who desired to do the will of God, was instructed by God to build an ark. He also was to announce to the rebellious world, in the midst of the desert land, that God was going to destroy all the wicked people from off the earth by a flood!

In spite of the laughter, the ridicule and the criticism, Noah paid no attention and stood firmly as a "preacher of righteousness" of all the laws of God. He did not question God's laws or change them; he honored and obeyed them. Noah continued urging the people to turn from their wicked ways and repent of their sins to avoid the calamity that was to fall upon the land.

Noah not only taught the laws of God but lived them in spite of the world around him as he continued to build the ark. Through faith Noah knew God would do as He promised. Finally, in the midst of the desert land, in the midst of the laughing and scoffing from the wicked people, the rain began to fall and the ark soon began to float, (Gen. 7:17).

Noah lived and breathed obedience to God and in the midst of the roaring waters and watching the mountains disappear as the great ark rose higher, he was not afraid because God was with him and his family. Noah was thankful he had "accepted and taken" God as his hiding place.

How unfortunate for all those who had refused the warning God had offered to them through Noah. After 150 days or five months, the ark gently came to rest but Noah did not leave the ark. He waited faithfully until he heard instructions from God. We as God's people can use Noah as our example in obeying the laws of God whether the world does or not.

PLEASE FIND AN APPROPRIATE PICTURE TO COMPLEMENT THE BIBLE STORY AND BELOW ARE THE MEMORY VERSES TO BE CUT OUT AND PLACED WITH THE PICTURE FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL NOTEBOOKS.

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