

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

III. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

V. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

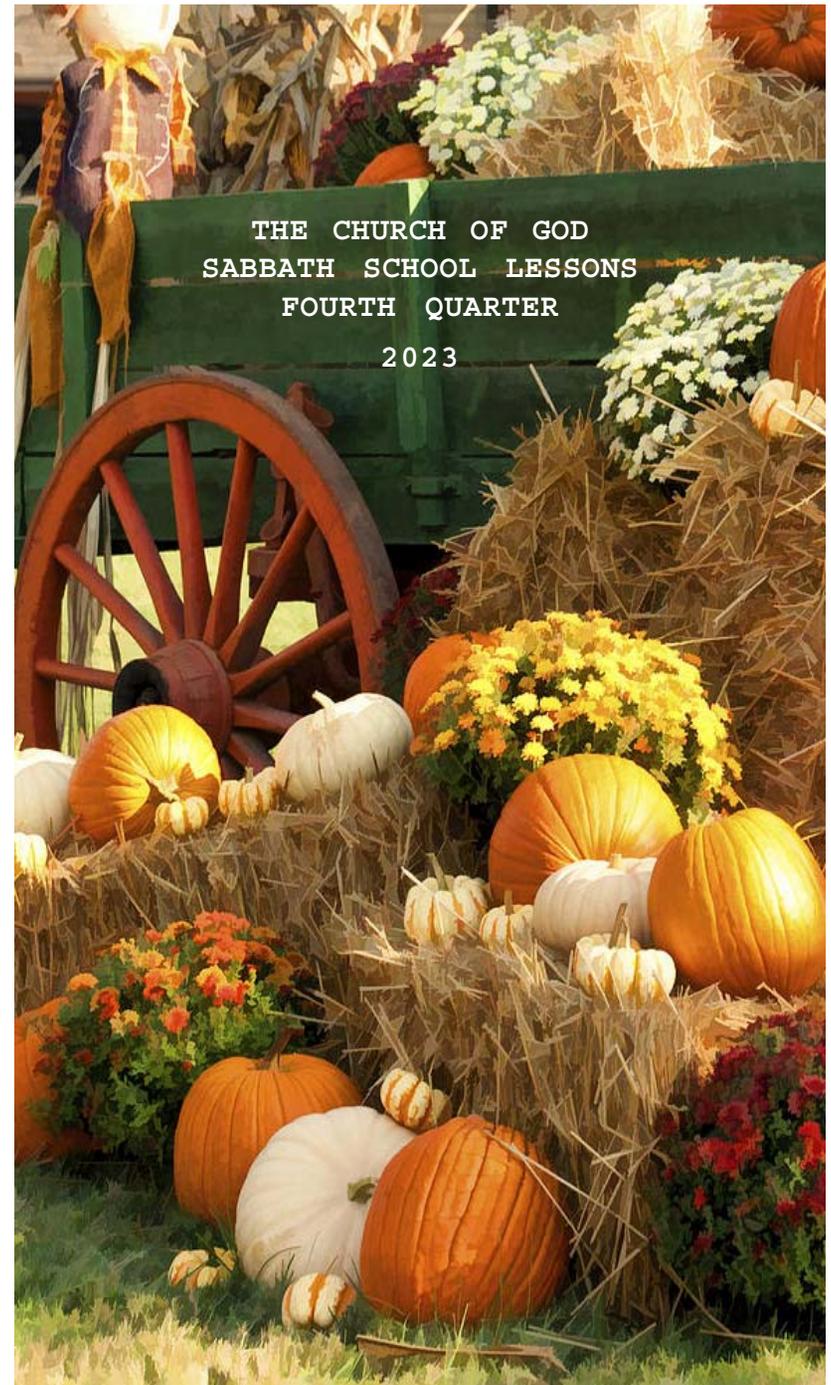
VI. Thou shalt not kill.

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal.

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.



PATIENCE AND FAITH

The Church of God Sabbath School Lessons (USPS No. 560-980) is published quarterly, one month before the beginning of each new quarter: March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1, by the Church of God Publishing House, P O Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328. Periodicals postage will be paid at Salem, WV 26426-0328.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Church of God Sabbath School Lessons, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.

Your subscription is free. If you wish to contribute an offering, your contribution will be tax deductible.

IN THIS QUARTERLY

In this quarter, we will take a deeper look into the book of James. James addresses many aspects of our walk as children of God, both individually and collectively as the Church. It provides wisdom and instruction on these topics in a practical way. In studying the book of James, we can better understand how God wants us to approach our day to day lives.

Scripture Reading: James 1:1-8.

Golden Text: James 1:6.

1. What title does James give himself at the beginning of this chapter?
James 1:1
 2. When we fall into divers temptations, how should we count it?
James 1:2
 3. Why should we look at it in this manner? James 1:3-4
 4. How does Paul describe this in the book of Romans? Romans 5:3-5
- NOTE: The testing of our faith through overcoming trials and temptations builds patience within us. This patience brings us closer to the people God wants us to be.*
5. If we lack wisdom, what are we to do? James 1:5
 6. What does Jesus compare this to? Matthew 7:7-11
 7. How is the person who wavers and lacks faith described? James 1:6
 8. Will this person who wavers receive anything from the Lord? James 1:7
 9. How is this man described? James 1:8
 10. What else does Jesus say is necessary of him who asks? John 15:7

Lesson For Sabbath, October 14, 2023

TEMPTATION

Scripture Reading: James 1:9-18.

Golden Text: James 1:12.

1. In what are the poor to rejoice? What about the rich? James 1:9-10
 2. To what is the rich man compared? James 1:11
 3. What parable did Jesus use to describe the spiritual state of the rich man? Matthew 19:23-30
- NOTE: I Timothy 6:10 tells us that the love of money is the root of all evil. It is this love that brings the rich man down.*
4. What is promised to him who endures temptation? James 1:12
 5. Does God tempt us? James 1:13
 6. Where does temptation come from? James 1:14
 7. What is the end result if we do not stand firm against that temptation? James 1:15
 8. How does John teach us to resist temptation? I John 2:15-17
 9. Where do every good and perfect gift actually come from? James 1:16-17
 10. In what manner did God beget us? And for what purpose? James 1:18

Lesson For Sabbath, October 21, 2023

DOERS OF THE WORD

Scripture Reading: James 1:19-27.

Golden Text: James 1:22.

1. What are we to be quick to do? What are we to be slow to do? James 1:19
 2. Is God's righteousness performed through our anger and wrath? James 1:20
 3. What does verse 21 tell us that God's Word can do? James 1:21
 4. What does Hebrews tell us about the Word of God? Hebrews 4:12
 5. Beyond hearing the Word of God, what else is necessary for us to do? James 1:22
 6. How is the man described that only hears the Word of God and does not put it into practice? James 1:23-25
- NOTE: It is relatively easy to read God's Word, understand it, and agree with it. However, putting it into practice in our daily lives is much more difficult. Yet putting it into practice is exactly what God calls us to do.*
7. What is the state of our religion if we do not control what we say? James 1:26
 8. How is pure and undefiled religion described? James 1:27

Lesson For Sabbath, October 28, 2023

RESPECT OF PERSONS

Scripture Reading: James 2:1-7.

Golden Text: James 2:1.

1. How are we not to have the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ? James 2:1
2. How does James describe this respect of persons that we are to avoid? James 2:2-3
3. When we do this, what have we become? James 2:4

NOTE: It is what is in a man's heart that matters to God. We often only see what is on the outside, but we must strive to look past the outer appearance. Only then can we start to see people as God sees them.

4. Does God have this sort of respect of persons? Romans 2:11; I Peter 1:17
5. Who has God chosen to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom? James 2:5
6. Why hasn't God chosen the rich to be heirs of the kingdom? Matthew 6:24

NOTE: Mammon is a word that describes wealth.

7. How do those who are wealthy in this world treat the children of God? James 2:6-7
8. As opposed to worldly wealth, how are we to be rich? Matthew 6:19-21; I Timothy 6:18-19

Lesson For Sabbath, November 4, 2023

THE WHOLE LAW

Scripture Reading: James 2:8-13.

Golden Text: James 2:10.

1. What is described as the Royal law according to the Scriptures? James 2:8
2. How does Jesus state this Royal law? Matthew 7:12
3. What does it say of the person who keeps all of God's law except for one point? James 2:9-10
4. Which of the 10 Commandments does James use to further make this point? James 2:11

NOTE: Most of us have no problem keeping 90% of God's law. However, 90%, or even 99%, doesn't cut it. The keeping of God's law is defined as keeping 100% of God's law. Anything less is sin.

5. Of what does the whole law of God comprise? Revelation 12:17; 14:12
6. How do we come to know God? I John 2:3-4
7. With this in mind, how are we to speak and act? James 2:12
8. What are we told about the one who does not show mercy? James 2:13; Matthew 6:14-15

Lesson For Sabbath, November 11, 2023

FAITH AND WORKS

Scripture Reading: James 2:14-26.

Golden Text: James 2:26.

1. What question does James pose in regards to the relationship between faith and works? James 2:14
2. What analogy is used to demonstrate this principle? James 2:15-17
3. How is faith demonstrated? James 2:18

NOTE: Faith is shown through actions. It cannot exist without the works that demonstrate it. Obedience is the key.

4. To whom is the man who believes in God but doesn't show it through his works compared? James 2:19
5. How did Abraham demonstrate his faith through his works? James 2:20-24; Hebrews 11:8-19
6. What about Rahab? James 2:25; Hebrews 11:31
7. How are our human bodies compared to faith? James 2:26
8. What does Paul tell us concerning works in his letter to Titus? Titus 3:8

NOTE: Ephesians 2:8 tells us that "by grace we are saved through faith..." And this is true, we are saved by grace through our faith in Jesus Christ. However, as this lesson shows, faith cannot exist apart from the works that demonstrate it.

Lesson For Sabbath, November 18, 2023

TAMING THE TONGUE

Scripture Reading: James 3:1-12.

Golden Text: Proverbs 15:4.

1. What does James tell us concerning those who have charge over us (i.e. those who are masters)? James 3:1
 2. If we are able to not offend anyone with our words, what are we described as? James 3:2
 3. What is used to control horses? How big is it compared to a horse? James 3:3
 4. And ships, what is used to guide them? James 3:4
 5. Which small member of our bodies guides the course of our lives? To what is it compared? James 3:5-6
- NOTE: The words we speak seem like small things, but they can have a huge impact on the people around us.*
6. What does Proverbs tell us about the tongue and the words we speak? Proverbs 15:1-2; 18:21
 7. Can men tame their own tongue? What is it said to be full of? James 3:7-8
 8. What two very different things come out of our mouths? James 3:9-12

NOTE: By ourselves, we cannot control what we say. We need to have the Holy Spirit within us to guide and control our words. Only then are we able to speak the way we ought to.

Lesson For Sabbath, November 25, 2023

TRUE WISDOM

Scripture Reading: James 3:13-18.

Golden Text: Proverbs 2:6.

1. How does a wise man show his wisdom? James 3:13
2. How are we to regard bitter envy and strife in our hearts? James 3:14
3. Where does the wisdom that prompts us to have envy and strife come from? James 3:15
4. What goes along with this envy and strife? James 3:16; Galatians 5:19-21
5. How is the wisdom that comes from God described? James 3:17; Galatians 5:22-23

NOTE: The wisdom of God is the opposite of what the world tries to teach us. It promotes peace while the world promotes strife. It is gentle while the world is harsh. It is full of mercy and good fruits while the world is full of judgment and evil. The wisdom of God is pure.

6. How is the true wisdom of God compared to the so called wisdom of men? I Corinthians 1:19-25
7. How is the wisdom of God revealed to us? I Corinthians 2:6-10
8. How is the fruit of righteousness sown? James 3:18

Lesson For Sabbath, December 2, 2023

FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD

Scripture Reading: James 4:1-10.

Golden Text: James 4:4.

1. From where does the fighting and warring among men come from? James 4:1
2. When we try this approach to get what we want, what is the outcome? James 4:2
3. What is one reason that God doesn't answer our prayers? James 4:3; Psalm 66:18
4. What are we told about friendship with the world? James 4:4-5; I John 2:15
5. Instead of conforming to the world, what are we instructed to do? Romans 12:2; I Peter 1:13-16

NOTE: Being a child of God means making a choice – a choice for God. The ways of the world are hostile to God. We have to choose, to be a friend to the world or a friend to God.

6. How does God deal with the proud? What about the humble? James 4:6
7. What will the Devil do if we resist him and submit ourselves to God? James 4:7
8. What are we promised if we draw nigh to God? James 4:8
9. How are we to present ourselves in the sight of the Lord? How does God respond to those who do? James 4:9-10

Lesson For Sabbath, December 9, 2023

FOCUS ON THE THINGS OF GOD

Scripture Reading: James 4:11-17.

Golden Text: Matthew 6:33.

1. What does James tell us about malicious gossip? James 4:11 (first part)
2. Why are we not to engage in this type of gossip? James 4:11-12
3. Who does judge the people of God? Hebrews 10:30

NOTE: God is the only one who knows the intentions of our heart. His knowledge and wisdom are complete. When we judge each other, we put ourselves in the place of God.

4. When planning for the future, what should we always keep in mind? James 4:13-14
5. How does Jesus relay this principle? Matthew 6:25-33
6. How should we think about the future? James 4:15

NOTE: Our time on this Earth is limited, we live for a season and then we are gone. But, for the children of God, the life to come is eternal. Our focus should be on what lasts forever and not on the things of this life that pass away.

7. What are we told about rejoicing in such boasting? James 4:16
8. When we know to do good and don't do it, what does James call this? James 4:17

Lesson for Sabbath, December 16, 2023

FATE OF THE WEALTHY

Scripture Reading: James 5:1-6.

Golden Text: Proverbs 28:6.

1. What does James tell us will come upon rich men? James 5:1
2. What will become of the wealth of these men? James 5:2-3
3. How have these men treated those that worked for them? James 5:4
4. How have they lived their lives? James 5:5
5. What have these men done to those who are righteous and just? James 5:6
6. How should have these men dealt with their wealth? Psalms 62:10

NOTE: Focusing on wealth will consume all of our time and energy. We are called to serve God, and a focus on wealth distracts us from this calling (see Matthew 6:24).

7. What happens to those who desire riches? I Timothy 6:9
8. What then is the root of all evil and what does this produce in man? I Timothy 6:10

NOTE: It is not money itself that is evil, but the lust in men's hearts for it. The lusting after wealth draws us away from God.

9. How then do we deal with wealth? Philippians 4:11-13

Lesson For Sabbath, December 23, 2023

WAIT ON THE LORD'S RETURN

Scripture Reading: James 5:7-12.

Golden Text: James 5:8.

1. What example are we given to pattern our patience after? James 5:7
2. What establishes our patience and gives it strength? James 5:8; Colossians 1:5
3. In what do we place our hope? Titus 1:2; 2:13-14
4. What will Jesus' return look like? I Thessalonians 4:13-18
NOTE: Our great hope is the second coming of Jesus Christ. At that time the dead will be resurrected and those who are alive and remain will be changed.
5. What are we not to hold against each other and why? James 5:9, Leviticus 19:18
6. Who are we to look to as an example of patience in suffering affliction? James 5:10; Hebrews 12:1-2
7. What do we learn about God from the story of Job? James 5:11; Job 42:12-15
NOTE: We cannot always see what God is doing, but we know that He is very good. His ways are righteous and His plans are perfect. The path we walk might not make sense now but, for His children, its end is eternity in His Kingdom.
8. What are we told about swearing oaths and how should our word be regarded? James 5:12; Matthew 5:37

Lesson For Sabbath, December 30, 2023

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Scripture Reading: James 5:13-20.

Golden Text: Proverbs 15:29.

1. What are we to do when we are afflicted? When we are merry? James 5:13
2. What about when we are sick? James 5:14; Mark 5:23; Acts 28:8
3. Is there power in this prayer? James 5:15; Matthew 21:22
4. How are we to deal with the areas in our lives where we fall short? James 5:16
NOTE: A single stick is easy to break. A bundle of sticks is not. When we stand together as the Church, pray together, lift each other up, we are much stronger than if we try and stand alone.
5. How is the example of Elijah used to demonstrate the power of prayer? James 5:17-18
6. How did God demonstrate this power in prayer when Peter was arrested? Acts 12:5-10
7. What was Jesus' prayer for the Church? John 17:20-24

