

=THE CHRISTIAN'S BEHAVIOR=

Lesson 6 Toward God

AIM: to teach my pupils to be aware of God's presence constantly and to live to please Him.

POINT OF CONTACT: In a recent lesson we showed some of the relationships of a Christian as they radiated out from him. The most important one, however, is his relationship to God. Immediately surrounding the Christian is the love of God. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. See Romans 8:38, 39. The circle of life's relationships could be drawn again, reserving space this time immediately around the Christian for a surrounding circle—this is God's presence around and within him.

INTRODUCTION: Out of all the sons that God gave to David, He chose Solomon to succeed David to the throne of Israel. David gave Solomon some excellent words of advice and important warnings as he turned the kingdom over to him and instructed him in planning for the construction of the temple. David said in I Chronicles 28:9a, "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind." He also told Solomon, "...keep and seek for all the commandments of the LORD your God." I Chronicles 28:8. It seems that the guide for a Christian's behavior toward God is comprehended in these instructions to Solomon. Our lesson for this week has to center around Jesus. Jesus said that whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. He said that He was in the Father, and the Father in Him. In John 14:9, Jesus said, "...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father." John 10:30, "I and my Father are one." John 5:23b, "He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him."

I. KNOW JESUS.

1. Know Who He is.

- 1) Know that He is the Son of God. Luke 1:35; Romans 1:3, 4; 8:3; Galatians 4:4. Know that He is God, one with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1, 10; I John 5:7.
- 2) Reaffirm your personal knowledge of Him as your Saviour. Know that He died on the cross to save you from your sins; He arose from the dead and ascended into Heaven; He now lives to make intercession for you. Romans 5:8; 10:9; Hebrews 7:25.
- 3) Be certain about the fact that He is the best Friend that you have. John 15:13-15.

2. Know What He is.

- 1) He is the Creator. John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16.
- 2) He is the Overseer of the world. Colossians 1:17.
- 3) He is the all-loving One. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:4; 5:2. No one and no thing can come between us and Jesus' love for us. Romans 8:35-39.
- 4) He is as a Father to us—He will chasten; He will give us our desires. Matthew 7:7-11; Hebrews 12:5-11.
- 5) He is all-powerful. Ephesians 3:20.
- 6) He is the Head of the church. Colossians 1:18. He is the Head of our church and any local church that follows His leading. Jesus is our Good Shepherd; the pastor is our "under-shepherd."

3. Know Him. Know what it is to have Him near. Draw near to God through Jesus. James 4:8. He has promised never to leave us nor to forsake us. Hebrews 13:5.

- 1) When you are sad, know His comfort. Philippians 2:1.
- 2) When you need to be corrected, accept His chastisement. Job 5:17; Hebrews 12:5.
- 3) When you need guidance, follow His leading. Psalm 40:8; 143:8; Ephesians 5:17.
- 4) When you are happy, understand that joy comes from Him. Rejoice in Him. Proverbs 16:20; Philippians 4:4.
- 5) When you are blessed with good things, know that every good gift comes from Him. Notice James 1:17.
- 6) When you want to live the best kind of life that you can, realize that this desire comes from Him. Philippians 2:13.

- II. LOVE JESUS. We are commanded to love God. We are to love Him with our entire being. See Matthew 22:37.
1. He has commanded us to obey Him. John 14:23. This is proof of our love for Him.
 2. We are commanded to be fruitful for Him. We are to get more fruit growing on the Vine by telling other people how to get saved and by getting them to ask Jesus to be their Saviour. John 15:1-5.
 3. We are commanded to surrender our bodies and our minds to Him. Study John 12:25, 26; Romans 12:1, 2. We must live according to His will.
 4. We are commanded to trust Him.
 - 1) “...without faith it is impossible to please Him,” Hebrews 11:6a.
 - 2) Without knowledge of His ability we will not include Him in everything pertaining to our lives. Know that He is able to perform every task that is entrusted to Him. He will love us, keep us safe and take us to Heaven when the day comes for us to go to Heaven. See II Corinthians 1:9, 10; II Timothy 1:12.
 5. We are admonished to spend time with Him.
 - 1) We are to hear Him speak to us. We should love the Bible and take time every day to read it. This is the way God communicates with us. We are to listen to Him and to remember His words to us. Psalm 119:9-11, 97-105; Colossians 3:16, 17.
 - 2) We are to talk to Him. We should tell Him everything. Matthew 7:7-11; Philippians 4:6; I John 1:9. We should be sure to thank and praise Him.
- III. HONOR JESUS. Remember that He is near. Practice His presence. He said, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Hebrews 13:5c.
1. Be content. Hebrews 13:5b.
 2. Do not murmur nor complain. Philippians 2:14.
 3. Be clean in body and in conscience. We are to have bodies that are kept clean for fellowship with Him. Hebrews 10:22. We should get initial and continuous cleansing by claiming the power of the blood of Jesus to keep on cleansing our hearts from sin. Ephesians 5:26.
 4. Give Him praise. “Rejoice in the Lord always,” Philippians 4:4a. Through Jesus we have the ability to do what we need to do and to speak what we should speak. Jesus deserves praise. Philippians 4:13; I Peter 4:11.
 5. Give Him at least one-tenth of your income. Read Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23; II Corinthians 9:7.
 6. Do all things as if they were done for Him alone. Colossians 3:17-22.
 - 1) Our work is to be done to satisfy God.
 - 2) Our language is to please Him.
 - 3) Our behavior toward others is to be proper, according to His pleasure.
 - 4) Our care of property is to express gratitude to God.
 - 5) Our submission to authority is in obedience to Him.
 - 6) Our physical fitness is in honor of God. He is to be our God; our physical appetites are not to be the god of our lives.
 - 7) Our appearance is to draw attention to God’s regulations.
 - 8) Our regular church attendance is for fellowship with Him and His people.

CONCLUSION: David told Solomon in I Chronicles 28:9b, “...serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind.” This one line of admonition really wraps up the Christian’s behavior toward God.