

CHURCH OF NIGERIA
(ANGLICAN COMMUNION)

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

FOR THE YEAR

2021

THEME:

COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

FOREWORD

We are grateful to the Lord for His enabling grace granted unto the Church of Nigeria committee on Liturgy and Spirituality for this sound systematic Bible Study outline for use in all our Churches. We are glad that the committee has continued to give commendable attention to this aspect of our church worship and spirituality.

The theme of the Bible Study last year was **In The Name of Jesus**. We thank God for opening our eyes and to gained an in-depth understanding of the meaning and power of the name of Jesus Christ. I believe that our study time together in our groups and Churches was rewarding and our understanding has been thoroughly deepened.

Our study this year will examine the theme: **Covenant with the Living God**. This study is intended to expound the meaning and benefits of worshipping God genuinely in contrast with other gods as God's covenant people. A very special people purchased by Christ blood, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, called to show forth the praises of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2: 9). Our prayer is that the Church of God shall rise up to her calling of revealing the living God to the world.

We shall not fail to commend the Church of Nigeria Liturgy and Spirituality Committee especially the Bible Study team of writers and consultants whose painstaking efforts has made this work possible.

To the glory of God and edification of God's people, we present this Bible Study Outline for use in all our churches and institutions for the year 2021 for our spiritual growth and overall development of godliness.

The Lord be with you.

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INTRODUCTION

This 2021 Bible Study outline has a unique and apt Theme: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD. The Text is taken from Joshua 24:14-15 *“As for me and my household, we shall serve the LORD.”* The outline has been expanded this time to cover various sub-themes: the Living God; the Living God and other gods; God’s covenant with man; Family and covenant with the living God; Principles for raising a godly family; Marriage and Covenant with the living God; the Lord God of all nations: The Church and the covenant with the living God.

In all, this Bible Study outline will expose and teach the facts of God’s supremacy in power, knowledge, time, space and over all gods. God is just and fair to His creation and covenants with mankind. There are fundamental principles that humans, especially Christians must observe in order to have and enjoy fulfilled communion in the covenants with God. These fundamental principles include marriage, family life, principles for governance and citizenship, and livelihood and sustenance of saints in the Church on earth and in all her preparation for eternal communion as saints with Jesus Christ in heaven.

The volume of contents of 2021 Bible Study has been upgraded to include brief introductions of the times and seasons of the Church with the Study Guide research backing them where applicable. The seasons include Epiphany, Septuagesima, Sexagesima, Quinquagesima, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Rogation and Advent that have been described concisely and for discussion in the outline.

We are most grateful to Venerable Charles O Fakiyesi, Dr E.TayoFaremi, Revd Canon Cephas Okarefe, and Sir Wilberforce Derikoma for their commitment in the production of this outline. May God bless them all and reward their labour of love in His vineyard.

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STUDY 2**1st Sunday after Epiphany****January 10, 2021****THEME:** COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD**SUB-THEME 1:** The Living God – Who is He? (2)**TOPIC:** The Immortal, Creator of Heaven and Earth**TEXT:** Gen. 1:1; Jer. 32:17.**AIMS:**

- i. *to teach God's almightiness in creation and His immortality, and*
- ii. *to show us how we can share in God's immortal and creative power.*

INTRODUCTION: Immortality is one of the attributes of the Triune God, and it means the state of not being liable to or subject to death. God lives forever and can never die. The scriptures affirm Him to be the Creator of heaven and earth, contrary to the claims of some scientists and atheists. How the immortal God created heaven and earth and continues to govern and sustain them is what we shall see in this study.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. What do you understand by the phrases, "Immortal God" and "Creator"?
2. How is God described in 1 Tim. 1:17; 6:16; Rev 4:11?
3. Explain the almightiness of God in Josh 10:12-13; Acts 12:21-24
4. How can man share in God's immortal and creative power? Psalm 24:1-4; John 14:12-13.

CONCLUSION: There is no sustainable argument against the affirmation in the Bible that the immortal God is the Creator of heaven and earth. Indeed, He has gone further to make man in His own image and demonstrate how we can share in this awesome power – through faith in Christ!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *God, the Immortal, invisible and the only wise.*

MEMORY VERSE: 1Tim 1:17 "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God Who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen".

STUDY 3**2nd Sunday after Epiphany****January 17, 2021****THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD****SUB-THEME 2 - The Living God and other gods (1)****TOPIC: The Creator and the created****TEXT: Psalm 135:15-18; 1 Cor.10:6-11****AIMS:**

- i. *to show that God created all things but Himself is not created,*
- ii. *to teach that idols and images are made from the materials created by God and*
- iii. *to expose the foolishness of worshipping and trusting in gods made by human hands.*

INTRODUCTION: It is a fact that many people know and declare that God is the “Maker of heaven and earth, “all that is, seen and unseen,” as the Nicene Creed rightly affirms. What is very sad and unfortunate is that many people created in God’s image have abandoned the Almighty God, the living Creator Himself, and gone over to the worship of things created.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Explain what you understand by “The Creator and created”, pointing out the identity of both with examples. Exod. 32:1-4
2. How are created things (idols) described in the following texts? Psalm 115:1-4; 135:15; Isaiah 37:18-19.
3. What are the dangers of worshipping the ‘creature’ instead of the Creator? Exod. 32:9-10; Ps. 135:18; Acts 19:13-17.
4. Are there people who confess the creeds of faith in the Church, but who still worship idols today? Discuss. 1 Cor.10:6-11; Heb. 3:12-13;

CONCLUSION: God is never pleased when we exchange His glory with what He has created, for He will never share His glory with anyone. Whoever goes into that lane of life, makes a high-risk journey and will end in destruction.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *The path of idol worship is a destructive one!*

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 135:15 “The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands”.

STUDY 4**3rd Sunday after Epiphany****January 24, 2021****THEME:** COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD**SUB- THEME 2:** The Living God and other gods**TOPIC:** The good God and wicked gods**TEXTS:** 1 Kings 18:26-39; Acts 8:9-11**AIMS:**

- i. *to make a distinction between man-made gods and the Almighty God,*
- ii. *to draw attention to the wickedness of man-made gods and*
- iii. *to warn about the dangers of seeking help from other gods (idols)and warn against patronizing them.*

INTRODUCTION: The wickedness of man-made gods can be seen in the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel in today's key text. The so-called prophets ignorantly cut themselves and wasted their blood. Satan's loyalists have never found it easy as he makes the worst demand on them; just as occult men have to make regular blood sacrifices. Unlike the idols, God is compassionate; His worshippers are blessed with peace of mind.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. With practical examples as in cultism and occult practice, discuss the wickedness of other gods and objects of worship.
2. Read 1 Sam 28:7-20; 2 Kings.1:1-4 and discuss what happened to those who sought help from other gods.
3. As a Christian, how would you describe the nature of the Almighty God? Exod 34:6-7; Psalm 103:8; Matt.11:28-30.
4. How can we persuade people to renounce the wicked gods and serve the living God? Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

CONCLUSION: Both the Bible and day-to-day events have proved how wicked other gods and objects of their worship are. As Christians, we must pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to continue to evangelize the world. Only the worship of the living God will give peace and eternal rest to the world.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *To go after other gods is to court disaster*

MEMORY VERSE: Psa.103:8 - *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*

STUDY 5**Septuagesima Sunday****January 31, 2021****THEME:** COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD**SUB-THEME 2:** The Living God and other gods (3)**TOPIC:** The omnipotent and impotent**TEXTS:** Exod. 7:8-12; 8:18-19; Acts 13:6-12**Aim:** *To show that the omnipotent God defends the oppressed and renders impotent the might of the oppressor.*

INTRODUCTION: Today is Septuagesima Sunday, meaning that we are seventy days to Easter. Our study texts reveal that the omnipotent God always rises to defend His children and all who put their trust in Him. Even when the rulers of the earth seem to hijack justice or oppress the children of God, the Lord has always risen on behalf of His children, and thereby rendered impotent (powerless) the schemes of evil people. This study encourages us to put absolute trust in God as the One who has all power in Himself.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. From the texts, (Exod. 7:8-12; 8:18-19) what do you understand by the terms, “Omnipotent” and “impotent”?
2. From the following passages, show and discuss how the omnipotent God has rendered impotent the schemes of men: Ex. 14:24-30; Esther 5:14; 6:13; 7:10; Acts 13:9-12.
3. Read Psalm 12:5, and identify God’s promise in this passage and how it applies to us Christians?
4. How do some people, and sadly, some Christians think they can “assist” God in fighting for themselves?

CONCLUSION: God is still in the business of defending His people including those oppressed. Irrespective of how injustice has thrived in our land, believers should put their trust in God. He will surely render impotent the power and schemes of wicked men.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *The Omnipotent renders impotent!!*

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 12:5 - *For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.*

STUDY 6 Sexagesima Sunday February 7, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 2 - The Living God and other gods (4)

TOPIC: The Omniscient and Ignoramus

TEXT: Dan 2:1-23, 46-47.

AIMS:

- i. *to examine God's omniscience in contrast to the ignoramus,*
- ii. *to identify ignoramuses in our day (especially with regard to matters of the faith) and examine their characteristics and*
- iii. *to discuss how the Church may maintain an uncompromising response to the attacks that are rooted in ignoramus activities against the Church*

INTRODUCTION:As we look forward to Easter in another sixty days (this is Sexagesima), let us continue to pray for true wisdom from God in our daily Christian life. God is infinite in wisdom and understanding. This study will show God's supremacy over those who claim they are wise and knowledgeable, but who are actually foolish – the 'ignoramuses', idiots, imbeciles, morons, blockheads or know-nothings.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Define the terms, "*Omniscience*" and "*Ignoramus*" in line with today's text. (Dan 2:1-23, 46-47)
2. Read Gen 41:8-16, 37-38 and explain how wisdom derived from faith in the Almighty God can give us excellent power above all worldly philosophies. John 14:26.
3. Discuss the ignoramuses in our day vis-à-vis manifestations in homosexuality, same sex marriage; secret indulgence in occult practices, magic, sorcery, etc.? How should the Church maintain her uncompromising response in the light of Titus 1:15-16 and James 3:16-18?
4. From the key texts, identify the ignoramuses in our day; and their characteristics. See also 1 Cor.2:7-8, James 3:14-15.

CONCLUSION: True wisdom comes from God. The attacks on the purity of the gospel in our day which is already having a bad impact on some segments of the Church are the works of the spiritually know-nothings – ignoramuses; but the Church must respond biblically.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:*When we operate outside God's wisdom we make ourselves ignoramuses.*

MEMORY VERSE:James 3:17 "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy".

STUDY 7**Quinquagesima Sunday****February 14, 2021****THEME:** COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD**SUB-THEME 2:** The living God and other gods (5)**TOPIC:** The Infinite God and finite gods**TEXT:** Psa.139:7-13; Jer. 23:24.**AIMS:**

- i. *to expose any object of worship apart from the Almighty God as limited in time and space and*
- ii. *to show the supremacy of the infinite God over all gods.*

INTRODUCTION:Quinquagesima Sunday is the next to the beginning of Lent and it tells that we are fifty days to Easter. As we prepare for a period of Christian chastity, let us continue to pray for all the faithful to remain upright till the Second Coming of Christ.

One factor that should move all to the worship of the Almighty God is His infinite (unlimited) power. Scriptures makes it clear that He is present everywhere, at the same time. People across the world call on Him at the same time and He hears and answers all. On the contrary, man-made gods are limited to only one place at the same time, that is, finite. How then can we prove that it is worthless to worship such gods?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. What is your understanding of “Infinite God” and “finite god”?
2. Read Acts 12:5-12 for proof that God is Infinite. Prov.15:3.
3. Apart from the finite nature of man-made gods, discuss the reasons they must not be worshipped. Ex.20:3-6.
4. In a religiously plural world, how can we convince those who are in the Church to steer clear of the worship of other gods? 2Tim 4:1-4

CONCLUSION: It is an awesome thing to know that our God is infinite. There is absolutely nothing beyond His knowledge. Put your trust in Him and you will be preserved to eternity.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:*The Infinite and finite: which will you serve?*

MEMORY VERSE: Jeremiah 23:24 - *Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.*

STUDY 8 **1st Sunday in Lent** **February 21, 2021**

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 2: God's covenant with Man

TOPIC: Covenant – What is it?

TEXTS: 1Sam 20:9-23

AIMS:

- i. *to define “Covenant” from the Biblical point of view and*
- ii. *to explain the power of covenant and implications.*

INTRODUCTION: Universally, Covenant is an agreement between two parties. It is a bond that does not allow the parties do things their own way other than that which the relationship allows. In the text today, Jonathan made a covenant with David. How far do they go in fulfilling the terms of the covenant?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. From various perspectives and cultures, what do you understand by the term, “covenant”? Use some examples like: Teachers and governments agreement; Doctors and government agreements; Contract agreement. Read 2Sam 21:1-2
2. What do the texts today (1Sam 20:9-23) say about covenant, and what is required of its parties? 2Sam 21:6-7.
3. Explain the power of covenant and implications to us as God's chosen people in Christ. Josh.23:11-16; Psa.89:34; Heb.6:13-20.
4. How do people breach the terms of covenant today in our society with reference to question one (2Sam 21:1-2) above?

CONCLUSION: As a Covenant with God should not be broken, so also man-to-man's covenant in good things are not to be broken. If we must enjoy the covenant promises of God, let us learn to be faithful in playing our part, by keeping the terms of the covenant.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *Craftiness in covenant matters leads to anarchy!*

MEMORY VERSE: Ps.89:34 - *My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.*

STUDY 9 **2nd Sunday in Lent** **February 28, 2021**

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 3: God's Covenant with man (2)

TOPIC: Biblical Concept of Covenant.

TEXT: Psalm 103:17-19

AIMS:

- i. *to teach the Biblical concept of covenant and*
- ii. *to explain the implication for us as God's people.*

INTRODUCTION: "Covenant" in the Bible means "an agreement between God and His people (for their own good)", in which He makes a promise to His people and usually in return for their faithfulness to Him as opposed to their worship of other gods. If believers maintain or disobey their part of the covenant between God and themselves, what do they stand to benefit or lose? This and other questions shall be answered in today's study.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Explain what you understand by God's covenant with His people. Gen 15:17-21
2. What do the following passages show us about God in relation to covenant? Gen. 9:13; Deut. 7:9.
3. Highlight what believers stand to benefit when they keep to the terms of God's covenant. Psa.103:17-18; Heb: 7:25; 9:15
4. What is the consequence of breaking God's covenant and how may we as believers avoid it? Jer.29:3-6,13; Isa 1:16; Jam 4:7-8.

CONCLUSION: Our failure to keep to the terms of God's covenant is the cause of most of our challenges. If we can stop playing games with God, and seek Him wholeheartedly through Christ, He will surely be pleased to help us keep His covenant.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *A Covenant does not respect its breakers.*

MEMORY VERSE: Deut. 7:9 - *Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.*

STUDY 10**3rd Sunday in Lent****March 7, 2021****THEME:** COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD**SUB-THEME 3:** God's Covenant with Man (2)**TOPIC:** Covenant with Man – *Edenic* Covenant**TEXT:** Gen. 2:15-19**AIM:** *To understand God's covenant with Adam in Eden and its implication for believers today*

INTRODUCTION: The *Edenic* covenant, is the very first covenant made by God with man. It is the covenant between God and Adam in the Garden of Eden; though it was not overtly called so. The heart of the covenant was God's command to Adam not to eat from "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Gen. 2:16-17).

How did Adam respond to that covenant? What were the consequences of his disobedience? These questions will form the basis for our study today.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Discuss God's specific covenant with Adam – Gen. 2:15-19
2. Read Gen. 3:1-7 and discuss how Adam fared in his response to the covenant,
3. What consequences did Adam and the human race suffer for breaking that covenant? Gen3:8-19; Rom 5:19; 6:23a;
4. What way has God provided for us to re-enter the covenant and recover what we had lost in Eden? 1 Cor. 15:22; Jam 4:7-8

CONCLUSION: Breaking of God's covenant by Adam's disobedience has affected all mankind; however, if we turn to Christ, we will enter a new covenant of life.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *Adam brought death, Christ brought life.*

MEMORY VERSE: James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded".

STUDY 11 **4th in Lent (Mothering Sunday)** **March 14, 2021**

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 3: God's covenant with man-(4)

TOPIC: Noahic Covenant

TEXTS: Gen. 6:6-9; 8:20-21; 9: 8-17

AIMS:

- i. to beam light on the person of Noah,*
- ii. to teach what Noahic Covenant is about and*
- iii. to appraise the principles and sign associated with Noahic Covenant*

INTRODUCTION: When God decided to destroy the whole world because of their unrighteousness, God spotted a man who received the grace of salvation, because of his godly life. (Gen 6:8-9).

The uncommon grace of Noah was extended to his family and his godly life continued after the flood and finally led God to enter into covenant with him. This covenant was symbolized by a sign as a pledge of God's goodwill never again to destroy the earth by flood. What then are the terms of this covenant?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Describe Noah in the context of the texts today. (Gen 6:5-9; 7:5). With reference to Mothering Sunday today, how will you describe Noah's wife in Gen 7:7 in contrast to Lot's wife in Gen 19:16-17,26 and discuss the manner of a good mother and wife.
2. In line with Gen. 9: 8-17, what is your understanding of the Noahic Covenant? And what motivated God to making this covenant? Gen. 8: 20-22
3. What important principles are illustrated in the Noahic Covenant and what is the purpose of this covenant? Gen. 9: 9, 11, 13, 16
4. Based on God's faithfulness to His covenant, what is the penalty for pre-flood characteristics of mankind in contemporary times? 2 Pet. 3: 5-7, 10-13; Rev. 20: 11-15.

CONCLUSION: God made an everlasting covenant with man never to destroy the earth again by flood using the rainbow as the sign for the Noahic Covenant. God being a just God will still bring man and the whole earth to judgment by fire at His appointed time.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Judgment is inevitable but not by flood.

MEMORY VERSE: Gen. 9: 16 "The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

STUDY 12**5th in Lent****March 21, 2021****THEME:** COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD**SUB-THEME 3:** God's covenant with man-(5)**TOPIC:** Abrahamic Covenant**TEXTS:** Gen. 15: 17-21; 17: 1-11**AIMS:**

- i. *to appraise the person of Abraham,*
- ii. *to know the reason behind God's love for Abraham and*
- iii. *the role of Abraham's faith and obedience in the covenant*

INTRODUCTION: "Abraham" means "father of nations" (Gen 17:5). He was initially called "Abram", "exalted father" (Gen 11:27, 17:5). Abraham was faithful to God by obeying his command to get out of his father's land to a place God would show him. Obedience and loyalty created the depth of love for the covenant of God with him. (Gen 17:1-11). The comprehensiveness of this covenant and the role of Abraham and the blessings in the covenant are what we shall study today.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Describe the man Abraham and why God chose to make a covenant with him. Gen 12:1-4a; 15:4-6.
2. How do you understand Abrahamic Covenant in the light of Gen. 12: 1-3; 15: 17-21;(17: 1-11),
3. What are its comprehensive concept and confirmation parts of the covenant? 15: 7, 8-12, 13-16, 17:11 and 21:1-4
4. As Christians, how can we be partakers of the Abrahamic covenant irrespective of nationality? Acts 15:13-20; Rom 2:25-29; 1Cor 7:18-19; Gal 5:2-6; Eph. 2: 11-14

CONCLUSION: The Abrahamic Covenant was based on Abraham's faith and obedience to God. If as Christians we are to receive the blessings of God in this world and in His eternal kingdom, our obedience and faithfulness will be very important.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Are you doubting eternal life? Remember Abraham's faith.

MEMORY VERSE: Gen. 17: 7 "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you."

STUDY 13**Palm Sunday****March 28, 2021****THEME:** COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD**SUB-THEME 3:** God's covenant with man-(6)**TOPIC:** Mosaic Covenant**TEXTS:** Exod. 31:12-18; Deut. 4: 12-15**AIMS:**

- i. *to identify the Mosaic Covenant and its biblical components*
- ii. *to learn from Jesus' humility and sacrificial love and*
- iii. *to expose why the Mosaic Covenant had to be replaced with the New covenant*

INTRODUCTION: As we celebrate Palm Sunday today marking the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, let us in humility submit to His Lordship in our covenant relationship with Him. The Mosaic Covenant is God's Covenant with Israel at Horeb-Sinai through Moses. Its establishment (Exod. 19: 5-6) constituted the formal basis for the redemptive relationship between the Lord and His chosen people until it was superseded by the new covenant (Heb. 8: 3). What then are the signs and significance of this old covenant and why is there a need for the new one?

STUDY GUIDE:

The Mosaic Covenant sign is the Sabbath (Exod. 31:13,16-17) and based on Israel's pledge to obey the Lord (Exod. 19:8;24:3,7) Moses sprinkled the "blood of the covenant" on them (Exod. 24: 8).

1. How do you understand the Mosaic Covenant and its signs? Exod. 31:12-18; Deut. 4: 12-15 (for further studies see Exod. 20: 1-17 on the 10 commandments)
2. What are the blessings attached to the Mosaic covenant? Exod. 19: 3-6; Deut. 26:18
3. What is significant about replacing the Mosaic (Old) Covenant with the new Covenant? Jer. 31: 31-34; Heb. 8: 7-13, 18.
4. As Christians, what can we learn from the humility of Moses and that of Christ being the essence of marking the Palm Sunday? Num 12:3-7; Phil. 2: 5-11; Jam. 4: 6-10

CONCLUSION: The Mosaic Covenant conferred on the Israelites the honor of being God's treasured possession, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. The replacement of the Mosaic Covenant with the New had granted all believers in Christ Jesus the priesthood of all believers and the inheritance of God's eternal kingdom. Let us therefore purge our hearts from all that will rob of the blessings of the New Covenant.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Do you know obedience is basic to enjoying God's covenant blessings.

MEMORY VERSE: Exod. 19: 5 “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.”

STUDY 14

Easter Day

April 4, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 3: God’s covenant with man-(7)

TOPIC: Priestly family

TEXTS:Exod. 28: 1-2, 40-43; Lev 4:27-35.

AIMS:

- i. *to discover the origin of the priestly family,*
- ii. *to know the basis for covenant of the old priesthood and*
- iii. *to explain the basis of the new priesthood.*

INTRODUCTION: Today, we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection from the dead which is the central doctrine of the Christian faith (1 Cor. 15: 14). The Covenant of the Old Testament priesthood was given to Aaron and his descendants “as a gift for service” (Num. 18: 7) and as “an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations” (Exod. 40: 15). This makes the priests mediators between the people and God, offering sacrifices for atonement (Lev. 4: 20, 26, 31). Christ, as high priest offered His own blood (Heb. 9: 11-12) to obtain eternal redemption for all who accept Him as their personal Lord and Savior; thereby He qualifies them as members of the priestly family. What then were the reasons for the Old and New covenant of priesthood?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. What is your understanding of the priestly family and why it came into existence? Exod. 28: 1-2; Num. 18: 1, 7, 19-20; (Lev 4:27-35)
2. What are the conditions for the Old covenant of priesthood? Exod. 28: 40-43; Num 18:1,7, 19-20.
3. As we celebrate Easter, how can you explain the Old Covenant of priesthood and the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ with reference to His death? Lev 21:16-21; Col 1:3, 19-22; Heb 4:14-16
4. In line with Nu 3:10; 18:7, what are those things we must put to death in our office as “Priesthood of all believers”? Read 1Pet 2:5, 9-12.

CONCLUSION: The Old covenant of the priestly family is limited to the family of Aaron, and by practice to the Levites’ family. However, since they were not free from sinfulness, there was the need for a New covenant High Priest, Jesus Christ; who is sinless (Heb 7:26-28) and one with God to offer himself as a perfect sacrifice through His death on the cross thereby making it easy for every believer to approach the throne of mercy. The only barrier is the unrighteousness of any believer.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Why have some continued with the blood of animals for sacrifice after Jesus Christ has finally and supremely sacrificed himself for our redemption?

MEMORY VERSE: Heb 3:1 “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.”

STUDY 15
2021

1st Sunday after Easter

April 11,

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 3: God's covenant with man-(8)

TOPIC: Davidic Covenant

TEXTS: 2 Sam. 7: 8-17; 23: 1, 5; Isaiah 55:3

AIMS:

- i. *to teach the purpose of God for the Davidic covenant*
- ii. *to know what the Davidic Covenant entails and*
- iii. *the relevance of this covenant to our generation.*

INTRODUCTION: An everlasting covenant was made between God and David in which David and his descendants were established as the royal heirs to the throne of the nation of Israel (2 Sam. 7: 15-16). The promise of an eternal throne to David's line was a major factor in developing the hope of a Messiah among the people of Israel. Israel's expectation in the covenant reached its highest fulfillment when Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of the line of David, was born in Bethlehem about a thousand years after God had made this promise to David the king (Matt. 1: 1). The question is: is the Davidic covenant still relevant to our generation? If yes, why?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Explain your understanding of the Davidic Covenant and how do the texts give credence to your understanding?
2. What motivated God to establish the Davidic Covenant? 1 Sam. 13: 13-14; 15:23,26,28; 16:1,13; Matt. 1: 1.
3. What lessons can we learn from the above (Study guide 3) with respect to our different callings as Christians?
4. What is the basis for the relevance of the Davidic Covenant to our generation? Ps. 89: 3-4; Matt 1:1; Lu 1:32-33; Rev. 22: 16.

CONCLUSION: The greatness and honor of David's name was based on the fulfillment of the Covenant through Christ Jesus (Matt 21:9). Therefore, make yourself great here on earth and in heaven by having faith in Jesus Christ, King of kings and LORD of lords.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: If David's greatness was based on the fulfillment of the Covenant through Christ Jesus, what is the basis for your faith?

MEMORY VERSES: Psalm 89: 3-4 "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: Your seed I will establish forever and build up your throne to all generations."

STUDY 16

2nd Sunday after Easter

April 18, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 3: God's covenant with man-(9)

TOPIC: Marriage covenant

TEXTS: Gen. 2: 18-25; Deut. 7: 1-4; 2 Cor. 6: 14-16

AIMS:

- i. to appraise the biblical basis for Marriage covenant,*
- ii. to discuss contemporary challenges against God's original plan and*
- iii. to discuss practical ways of having successful marriage with the kingdom mind-set*

INTRODUCTION: The Marriage covenant is the oldest relationship in the world, established by God in Eden for the union of **a man and a woman as husband and wife**. Man and woman are radically different physically, emotionally, and spiritually, yet they are designed by God to complement each other as they "become one flesh". Despite the failure of Adam and Eve, God's principles for marriage have remained the same –It is between a man and a woman; not a man and a man or a woman and a woman. It is also not about a human marrying an animal. Marriage symbolizes the greater relationship that exists between Christ and the true believer. Why then is it so difficult for some people to obey this Covenant principle?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. How do you understand the concept of the Marriage Covenant and how do the texts above agree with your understanding?
2. Why did God institute marriage with its associated responsibilities? Gen. 1: 27-28; 2: 18-20; 1 Cor. 7: 2-3, 10-16
3. What reason did Jesus give for divorce and why? Matt 5:32; 19:9; Compare Job 24:15-17; Prov 7:10-23; 6:26-27.
4. Compare and contrast contemporary marriage challenges against the original plan of God in marriage and their consequences. Lev 20:10-16; Josh. 23: 11-13; Matt 19: 3-9; Rom. 1: 26-29. What are the solutions with the mind-set of the kingdom of God? 1 Cor. 7: 2-5; Col 3:5-6.

CONCLUSION: Although marriage will be only here on earth, God's desire for His people in the Marriage Covenant is one-man-to-one-woman within the body of believers until they are separated by death. This can be difficult to Christians not heavenly-minded but Christians who are heavenly-focused will find it is not difficult.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Only Christians heavenly-minded find it easy to obey and follow the biblical principles of marriage.

MEMORY VERSE: Gen. 2: 24 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

STUDY 17
2021

3rd Sunday after Easter

April 25,

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 3: God’s covenant with man-(10)

TOPIC: Training of Children

TEXTS: Gen. 18: 17-19; Deut.11: 18-25

AIMS:

- i. *to expose the commands of God to parents to teach their children,*
- ii. *to further show on the failure of some parents in contemporary time in the God-given assignment and*
- iii. *to see the blessings connected to the covenant.*

INTRODUCTION: Children are a blessing from God as part of His covenant plan (Ps. 128: 3) Parenting involves a process of “making disciples” of one’s children by teaching obedience not just to bring them into parental authority but also to bring them into salvation and spiritual discipleship (Heb. 12: 11). Training children involves systematic instruction and drilling of their minds and character to produce self-control and acceptable level of good conduct at all times.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. How do you understand parental training as a vital covenant for the procreation of children? Gen. 17: 7-9; 18: 17-19; Deut. 11: 18-23; Ps. 127: 3-5; Prov. 22: 6
2. In what ways in contemporary times have we fallen short of training children according to God’s injunction and why? Deut. 1:17; 1Sam 2:22-25; 1Ki 22:8; Prov. 5:12; 10:17
3. How can teaching, discussion with scriptural backing, application of discipline when necessary, prayer and practice under supervision be a remedy to the current bane of our society? Prov. 22: 6, 15; Eph. 6: 4; 2Ti 3:15; Heb. 12: 9-11;
4. What are the blessings of godly parenting? Deut. 11:18-25.

CONCLUSION: Leaving a child to go the way he wants will lead him/her to destruction. Therefore, Christian parenting requires training by the parent's example with sound instruction in the faith for the spiritual growth of children and the development of the church.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Failure to train children in the godly path will produce a violent society

MEMORY VERSE: Prov. 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."

STUDY 18

4th Sunday after Easter

May 2, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 3: God's covenant with man-(11)

TOPIC: Virtues of faithfulness to God's covenant-

TEXTS: Deut. 28: 1-14

AIMS:

- i. *to identify the various Covenant Blessings and*
- ii. *to teach the condition necessary for the Covenant Blessings*

INTRODUCTION: The Covenant Blessings relate to the familiar themes of Israel as God's chosen people (Deut. 28: 1, 9-10, 13); rest from enemies (Deut. 28: 7); and prosperity (Deut. 28: 3-6, 8, 11-12). This Covenant is not only the good effect of words; it also has the power manifested in His love for them to bring them the blessings of life, riches, fruitfulness, or plenty (Gen. 1: 22, 28). It is important to know that grace prompted God to promise a new blessedness to the Israelites (Exod. 12: 25) and His faithfulness urged Him to fulfill that promise. God's blessedness and grace are eventually fulfilled in Christ (Gal. 3: 15-18). What then are the requirements for these blessings and how do we meet them as Christians?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Identify and explain the various Covenant Blessings present in: Deut. 28:1-14.
2. What is the necessary condition for the Israelites and any individual to attract these covenant blessings? Deut. 28: 1a, 14; Jer. 17:24-25; Luke 11:28.
3. Why should the covenant keepers remain committed to the end and benefit from the blessings? Dan 12:12-13; Matt 24:13; Heb 3:14; Rev 2:10.
4. What is the most blessed virtue for all believers? Rev 21:3-4. How are you keeping the conditions of this virtue?

CONCLUSION: The blessings of God which cover every area of life are not an end in themselves but the outcome of obedience for the purpose of glorifying God among the nations. It is therefore expedient for Christians to keep their faith in godliness to the end so as to inherit the eternal virtues in God's kingdom.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The Covenant Blessings depend on our obedience.

MEMORY VERSE: Deut. 28: 1 "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you above all nations of the earth."

STUDY 19 **5th Sunday after Easter (Rogation Sunday)**

May 9, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 3: God's covenant with man-(12)

TOPIC: Vices of unfaithfulness to God's covenant-

TEXTS: Deut. 28: 15-44

AIMS:

- i. *to understand the concept of biblical curses and*
- ii. *to expose what can bring Covenant Curses on a people*

INTRODUCTION: Today is Rogation Sunday, a day to bless all our work tools and implements. We should know that God did not predestine us or our work to curses. The curses recorded in the Bible are a result of the failure of men to obey God's commandments and their deviating from the covenanted principles of blessedness to human vices (Deut. 28:15). There are more curses than blessings and curses are in essence the opposite of the picture of blessedness we saw in our last study. The first group of curses (Deut. 28:15-19) is an echo of misery in the regular routines of life, subject to sudden ruin, disease and drought, no protection and deliverance from the enemy and people are reduced to the worst kind of barbarism and are also seen as figuratively returned to Egypt (v 68).

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Explain your understanding of Curses in the Bible? Gen 2:16-17; 3:17-19; Isaiah 59:1-3.
2. Identify and explain the various Curses of life pictured in: (i) vv 15-19; (ii) vv 20-26; (iii) vv 29-29; (iv) vv 30-35; and (v) vv 38-44
3. What brought the Curses upon the Israelites, as individuals or as a group? V 15; Ps. 78: 16-18; Isa. 65: 1-6; 2 Cor. 10: 6
4. How can we regain the lost virtues and God's blessings on our works and our family? Isaiah 55:6-7; 12-13; 1 John 1:9.

CONCLUSION: God’s intention for mankind has been to bless them. However, humans are always willing to run the paths of self-indulgence that lead to vices. On this path lies vices and curse which are the opposite of God’s blessings. Therefore, choose to walk in the path of godly obedience.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Tread the paths of virtues and blessedness and flee from the road of vices and Curses.

MEMORY VERSE: Deut. 28: 15 “But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.”

STUDY 20

Sunday After Ascension

May 16, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB THEME: Family and Covenant with the Living God

TOPIC: Concept of Family

TEXT: Gen. 4:1-2, 19-22

AIM: *To understand and identify the family from both global and spiritual perspectives.*

INTRODUCTION:

Family is a group that consists of Parents and their children or group of persons connected by blood or by affinity or through law within two or three generations; living together and having a shared commitment to a domestic relationship. Globally, what defines family is not solely blood relation. Family consists of the people, who support and love you, and the people you can confide and trust in, for example, Classmates, house parents, staff, political, legal, educational/academic and medical families.

STUDY GUIDE

1. How can you define a family in the context of the texts today? (Gen 4:1-2; 19-22).
2. How have the following families affected the society positively and/or negatively: Political family, Academic family, Medical family.
3. What can you say about the legal family in Nigeria? Discuss in the context of 1Kings 31:6-28.
4. Mention some of the spiritual family in your local Church and discuss their relevance with reference to 1Cor 12:12-13, 27-28.

CONCLUSION: The ultimate institution of human society is based upon a family. The family is the source from which human society originates. Therefore, it is important that in whatever

family we find ourselves, that we be vessels unto God's honor and not vessels unto demean, shame and give sorrow to society.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: You and I belong to a social family. Are we vessel unto honor or unto dishonor?

MEMORY VERSE: 1Cor 12:12-13 "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit".

STUDY 21 Pentecost Sunday May 23, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB THEME: Family and Covenant with the Living God

TOPIC: God's foundation for a Family

TEXT: Gen 1:27-30; 9:1-7

AIMS:

- i. *to teach that the foundation of any human social system is laid by the Almighty God and*
- ii. *to further expose the principles of God for the human social system.*

INTRODUCTION: As we remember the day when the Holy Spirit descended on the early Apostles, let us always ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the life of our family. When God created Adam and Eve, He did so for it to serve as the basis for human society. The foundation was based on vital social principles (Gen 9:6). However, mankind has from generation to generation abused both the foundation and the principles governing human co-existence. How has this abuse affected our human social order?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. With reference to our texts, how can you explain God's foundation for human social existence? Gen 1:28; 9:7.
2. What is God's foundational principle for human co-existence in Gen 9:6 compare Exod. 21:12-14; Rev 13:10? Is mankind following the principles of this foundation both in obedience and in fear of God's judgement?
3. What is the rating of mankind by God in Gen 1:28; Psalm 8:6; 1Co 15:27; Heb 2:8
4. How can you explain the devaluation of mankind by certain human attitudes in our generation? Gen 4:8; Rom 1:21-23, 25; Suggest solutions with reference to Exod. 20:12-17; John 14:26 (Rom 13:9)

CONCLUSION: God's foundation principles for mankind are for them to subdue, enjoy and replenish the earth. There is neither murder nor worship of other creatures in His principle of human co-existence. The more we adhere to these foundation principles, the more peaceful co-existence there will be in human social world.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Every principle of hardship is from mankind.

MEMORY VERSE: Gen 1:28- "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth"

STUDY 22

Trinity Sunday

May 30, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB THEME: Family and Covenant with the Living God

TOPIC: Concept of a godly Family

TEXT: Eph 5:21-33; 6:1-9

AIMS:

- i. to define a godly family in a plural world,*
- ii. to differentiate between family and godly family and*
- iii. to identify the duties of members in a godly family.*

INTRODUCTION:

Human society is the reflection of the family. Godly families produce a godly society where peace and tranquility reign while morally decadent families produce a corrupt and immoral society. It is clear that God's purpose for a family is such that every family member has responsibilities, duties and roles to perform so as to produce peaceful societies. Apostle Paul has stated these in today's texts (Eph 5:21-33 and 6:1-9). How can these be carried out in order to fulfill the purpose of God for humanity?

STUDY GUIDE

1. How can you explain a godly family and what is the purpose of God for every family?
2. Mention the components of a Christian family and their duties. Eph 5:22-23, 25; 6:1-4.
3. With the obvious decadence in today's world, how can a family train their children in a godly way? Prov 22:6; Eph 6:4; 2Ti 3:15
4. With reference to Elkanah's family, identify the benefits and importance of a godly home to society at large- 1Sam 2:17-20; Prov 15:20;

CONCLUSION

The purpose of God for every family is to prepare and have a most blissful world. Therefore, every member in a Christian family should continuously perform their Christian duties so as to exert Christian influence that will impact positively on society.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The whole world will become a paradise, if families will rise and embrace godliness.

MEMORY VERSE: 1Sam 2:20“And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the LORD." Then they would go to their own home”.

STUDY 23

1st Sunday after Trinity

June 6, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB THEME: Family and Covenant with the Living God

TOPIC: Essential of godly family - Love

TEXT: Rom. 12:9 - 21

AIMS:

- i. *to teach true love in the formation of a godly family and*
- ii. *to show the importance of love and how it can be practiced in an ideal family.*

INTRODUCTION: Love is a complex set of emotions, behaviours, and beliefs associated with qualities of affection, protectiveness, warmth and respect for another person. Love has gained much importance in the unity and cohesion of people of diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. The text of Romans 12: 9ff gives features which love is made of. It shows love in action and not an abstract idea. Let us go through the study guides for these features.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. In your own words, define the word "LOVE" in relation to family life?
2. What features of Love for a godly family are stated in the text (Rom. 12:9-21)and in the following passages? 1 Cor. 13:1-8; Heb. 13:1; Phil. 1:8-11
3. Despite the fact that marriages are constituted in love, there has been a collapse of many. Why? 2 Sam. 13:1,10-15; Rom. 12:9; 1John 4: 18
4. You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving. How true is this statement? John 3:16; Rom. 5:1-8; 1 John 3:16-18 ref 1Cor 13:1-4.

CONCLUSION: Christian families build the Church (family). Therefore, love in Christian families must be sincere and unfeigned. It must not be by only words or professions but should be expressed through acts of kindness and deeds of charity.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Families without Love make a wicked society.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 John 4:7“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

STUDY 24

2nd Sunday after Trinity

June 13, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB THEME:The Essential of godly family - Unity

TEXT: Psalm 133; 1 Cor. 1:10 - 17

AIMS:

- i. *to know that unity is one of the fruits of a godly family*
- ii. *to see the effect of unity in a godly family*

INTRODUCTION: The Christian family as a part of the Church should not allow division in itself. There should be no division between children and parents. In the Corinthian Church, factions became the ‘little foxes’ that destroyed the hedge around it. Apostle Paul was quick to address the situation, having great regard to the havoc factions can cause - 1 Cor. 1:13.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. What does this sentence mean "united we stand, divided we fall" with reference to family life?
2. Explain the beauty and strength of a united family according to these passages: Psalm 133; Gen. 11:1 - 6; Acts 2: 1-2, 41
3. What are the dangers of disunity in a family? Amos 3:3; Matt. 12:25.
4. Mention some causes of disunity in a godly family and in the Church of God and possible ways to tackle it. Matt. 18:15; Lk 17:3-4; Acts 6:1-4; 15:7,12

CONCLUSION: A family, church, community or nation can only achieve greatness in the atmosphere of unity. Therefore, Christians should love and respect for others’ opinions because, where God rules, every family members’ opinion is welcomed and respected.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Families, be united! A broom stick breaks more easily, whereas a bunch of broom is harder to break.

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 133:1 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

STUDY 25

3rd Sunday after Trinity

June 20, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME: Family and Covenant with the Living God (6)

TOPIC: The Essential of godly Family- Peace

TEXT: Psalm 34:11-15; Mark 9:50; Titus 1:6-9,

AIMS:

- i. *to explain the concept of peace*
- ii. *to teach those virtues expected from a peaceful Christian family and*
- iii. *to analyze how a peaceful family can transit into a peaceful society*

INTRODUCTION: Peace can be defined as a state of security or order within a community provided for by law or custom. Peace can summarily be said to be freedom from civil disturbance. It is in God’s plan that we have a godly family filled with the peace of God so much that we can pass this to other families resulting in the birth of a peaceful society (Mark 9:50). What then are the virtues that characterize a peaceful and godly family?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Simply define peace in the context of Tit 1:6-9 and identify the value placed on the father, as head of the family.
2. It is the plan of God that Christians have or raise godly and peaceful families. Why is there no peace in some families today? Gen 25:27-28; 1 Timothy 5:8
3. Explain the value placed on godly family in Mk 9:50 and how a godly family can impact peace on the society? 2Co 13:11; Eph. 4:29; Col 4:6; Heb. 12:14.

CONCLUSION: As Christians, Christ is our peace and He has reconciled us together with His blood, let us therefore pursue all that will bring peace in our individual lives so that our lives in families can transit into a tranquil society.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Peaceful families make a peaceful society.

MEMORY VERSE: Mark 9:50 "Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves and have peace with one another."

STUDY 26

4th Sundayafter Trinity

June 27, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD.

SUB-THEME: Family and Covenant with the living God (6)

TOPIC: The Essential of Godly Family- Joy

TEXT: Gen. 21:6, 24:67; John 15:11-17

AIMS:

- i. to understand the concept of Joy in a family*
- ii. to teach the conditions for a joyful and godly family*

INTRODUCTION: Joy is a feeling of great pleasure and happiness or felicity that is evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires. Spiritually, it is the inner deep gladness that one has regardless of prevailing circumstances around one's life. The texts reveal some of the sources of human joy and happiness. However, Christ has taught and shown us the basis for fullness of physical and spiritual joy. We shall study this today.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Explain the concept of Joy with regard to family life. Gen 21:6, 24:67- Compare 1sam 1:5-7
2. What is the basis for heavenly joy with reference to Zeph. 3:15-17; Luke 15:6-7?
3. What are the conditions of Joy in a godly family? Psalm 113:9; 127:3; Isaiah 8:18; Prov 31:10-11; 1Pet 3:7.
4. How can Joy be sustained in a family? Ps 16:11, 71:23.

CONCLUSION: Only the King of kings who rules over heavens where there is no sorrow but everlasting joy; can give unconditional joy. Therefore, let us continuously allow Him lead us so we may have joy both in this world and in heaven.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Heavens rejoice when they see forgiven sinners in Jesus Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 16:11 “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore”.

STUDY 27

5th Sunday after Trinity

July 4, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD.

SUB THEME: Family and covenant with the living God (8)

TOPIC: The Bane of godly family—Disunity

TEXT: Gen 37:1-11

AIMS:

- i. *to teach the dangers of disunity in a godly family,*
- ii. *to highlight some factors that cause disunity in the family and*
- iii. *to Identify biblical ways to prevent disunity.*

INTRODUCTION

There is great distress or frustration when disunity or lack of agreement among any people prevents them from working or living together effectively. Disunity is one of the major reasons for the setback of the human family. Going through the story of the children of Jacob, we observe that disunity eventually caused chaos, hatred, and bitter jealousy. God wants us to be united (1Cor. 1:10). What are the causes of disunity in a godly family?

STUDY GUIDES

1. What is disunity and mention some factors of disunity in a godly family. Gen 21:9-14; 37:3-4;
2. Mention some contemporary causes of disunity in the church of Christ. Jam 4:1;

3. Practically discuss how disunity is threatening the peace of many families (nuclear or extended) today and how this can be avoided? Genesis 13:7-12; Gal. 5:16; Ephesians 4:31-32; 1Tim 6:6.
4. What does God expect of all godly families? Gen 45:4-5; Leviticus 19:17-18; Romans 12:16.

CONCLUSION: Disunity is the bane of effective and successful social co-existence. When we have contentment, humility, forgiveness and we live by the Spirit, then we can produce both godly families and a peaceful world.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: A house divided against itself cannot stand.

MEMORY VERSE: Rom 12:16 “Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits”.

STUDY 28

6th Sunday after Trinity

July 11, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD.

SUB THEME: Family and covenant with the living God (9)

TOPIC: The Bane of godly family—Hatred

TEXT: Gen. 4:3-8

AIMS:

- i. to define hatred in the context of godly family,*
- ii. to help us understand the destructive power of hatred in a godly family and*
- iii. to suggest some ways to curb hatred in society*

INTRODUCTION: Hatred is a feeling of strong antagonism and dislike. It is the sin that led to many atrocities committed in the world, past and present. Cain, the first child in the first family displayed potent hatred that finally led him to murder his brother Abel. Seeing the potential of hatred in this text, what are the factors responsible for this and how can we as Christians overcome this powerful destroyer of mankind?

STUDY GUIDES:

1. What is hatred and what are its causes in today’s world? (Gen 4:3-8)- Reference: Est 3:5; Dan 3:19; Mark 6:18-19.
2. Carefully explain the destructive power of hatred in the following Bible passages: Est 3:5-6; Dan 3:19; Acts 23:12

3. What virtues can help us overcome hatred in the society? 1Samuel 26:8-9; Pr 17:9; 1Pe 4:8.
4. What are the Biblical injunctions for overcoming hatred? Lev 19:17; 1 John 2:9-11; 3:15;

CONCLUSION: No matter what happens in our families (nuclear or extended), we are to love unconditionally and not hate one another. The practice of humility and forgiveness should be genuine in Christian families in order to produce a society devoid of hatred.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Love builds family and society; hatred destroys them.

MEMORY VERSE: 1John 3:15 “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him”.

STUDY 29

7th Sunday after Trinity

July 18, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD.

SUB THEME: Family and covenant with the living God (10)

TOPIC: The Bane of a godly family—Anarchy

TEXT: 2 Sam 13:1-31

AIMS:

- i. *to teach the concept of anarchy from the biblical perspective,*
- ii. *to explain further the causes of anarchy in society and*
- iii. *to discuss the means to overcome it through godly families.*

INTRODUCTION: Anarchy is a state of disorder due to absence or non-recognition of authority or other control systems. Anarchy penetrates into a family when the injunction of the Bible is abandoned. The Bible contains resources for Christians to live and raise godly families. In a godly family, human feelings and reasoning are not to be raised above or substituted for the teachings of the Scripture. The text for today’s study demands our serious attention with regard to how the Christian family can enjoy the peace of God.

STUDY GUIDES:

1. How will you explain the word anarchy in line with today’s text? (1Sam 13:1-31)
2. From the text (1Sam 13:1-31) and in line with Rom 13:2 who were the agents of anarchy, how and why?

- Carefully read Esther 4:10-17 and analyze what we are expected to do in fighting for our fundamental human rights and freedom in Christ without turning to anarchy in the family and society. Romans 13:1-2; Galatians 5:13.

CONCLUSION: As Christians, our family members are to radiate the light of peaceful co-existence so as to exert a peaceful influence on society. To do this, we should always be careful to address every grievance, cheating and oppression in a godly and peaceful manner so as to have peace in the family.

FOOD FOR THOUGHTS: While fighting for your rights, let God be in charge of the situation.

MEMORY VERSE: Gal 5:13: “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another”.

STUDY 30

8th Sunday after Trinity

July 25, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 5: Principles for raising godly family (1)

TOPIC: Parents’ Mandate

TEXT: Prov 22:6; Eph 6:4; 2Tim 1:4-5; 3:13-15

AIMS:

- to show God’s desire for creating mankind,*
- to explain further God’s desire for parents*
- to state the responsibilities of parents to their children.*

INTRODUCTION: God said to the first human couple, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth...’ (Gen 1:27-28). As man was made in the image of God, His desire was that His offspring would also be reproduced in God’s image. The injunction from God has not changed and it cannot be over emphasized. However, many couples, perhaps mindlessly, consider their children to be mere appendages and irritating burdens which bring restrictions to their selfish or self-centered lives. Can these parents’ attitudes and actions be justified?

STUDY GUIDE:

- Why, in your view, was God’s desire to create man in His own image? Gen 1:27-28; Deut. 11:18-20.

2. As Children of God, how can we be effective or capable godly parents? Neh. 8:2,8-9,13; 40:8; 119:11,98.
3. Mention some of the responsibilities of parents to their children- 1Kings 1:1-4; 1Sam 2:18-19; Pr. 19:18; 29:17; Col 3:21; 2Tim 1:4-5. What is the repercussion of neglect? 1Sam 2:27,29,34-35.
4. What is the eternal reward for raising godly children? Gen 39:7-9; 41:38-40; Prov 10:1;

CONCLUSION: Raising godly children is God’s mandate and responsibility to all parents. Therefore, Christian couples must always remember that God desires them to raise a kingdom offspring, in God’s image, and as light to a dark world.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: As an Image of God, be ready to produce another Image of God in your family.

MEMORY VERSE: Prov 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it”.

STUDY 31 9th Sunday after Trinity August 1, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 5: Principles for raising godly family (2)

TOPIC: Discipline in a godly family

TEXT: Prov 13:24; 19:18; 23:13; 29:17; 2Tim 1:5; 3:15.

AIMS:

- i. *to teach the importance of discipline in a godly family,*
- ii. *to distinguish discipline from punishment and cruelty*

INTRODUCTION: Discipline is about living in obedience to God’s will and purpose. Many people find it difficult to live in obedience to God because they had never learned to obey their parents in the first place. People often equate discipline and punishment as the same thing, but they are not. A couple must be united and indeed be one together, with the disciplines they place around their family for safety and protection. Punishment only occurs when children flagrantly disobey what they have been clearly told by their parents to do, or not to do while cruelty is punishment that denies a child a second chance or devoid of mercy. If obedience is paramount in a family, there would hardly be any need for punishment.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Define discipline, punishment and cruelty in the light of Pr. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13; 29:15,17
2. What is the benefit of a disciplined child? Pr. 10:1; 17:21,25; 29:17; 2Tim 3:15

3. How can you explain the abuse of discipline? Prov 19:18b.
4. Mention some of the cruel methods applied today by either teachers in school or guardians who train or raise children.

CONCLUSION: A disciplined child develops with wisdom and fear of God. Therefore, efforts should always be made to discipline children in godly ways with love and affection, devoid of cruelty and wickedness.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Discipline your child and reap the joy of peaceful old age.

MEMORY VERSE: Prov 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame”.

STUDY 32 **10th Sunday after Trinity** **August 8, 2021**

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 5: Principles for raising godly family (3)

TOPIC: Maintaining a right attitude

TEXT: 2Chron 17:3-6; Col 3:17-21

AIMS:

- i. to define a right attitude in a godly family and*
- ii. to know how best to inculcate this to children's hearts and lifestyle*

INTRODUCTION: One important family value which parents need to raise godly children is placing everything in God's hand for divine solution and intervention. Parents shouldn't argue or carry bad attitudes to each other —children are to be taught from an early age to resolve conflicts with a right attitude. These issues should often be discussed and prayed over at the family altar so that they can be generally settled. In the text today, we see the result of training passed down to Jehoshaphat through David. Our attitude to God and to ourselves as parents is very important in raising godly children.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. What do you understand by right attitude and how best can the principle be laid in our homes? Deut. 4:9; 6:6-7; 1Kings 2:1-4.
2. How best can you describe the effect of right parental attitude in the following passages? Compare 1Sam 1:21-23; with 1Sam 2:17-18; 1Kings 2:1-4 with 1Kings 3:4-59-11; 2Chr 17:3
3. What do you think about a father and mother fighting in public and in the presence of their children? Reference to 2Chr 22:2-5; Amos 2:4-5; Matt 14:3-8.
4. What should be the goal of parents having a right attitude in a Christian family in the society? Matt 5:16; 2Cor 4:6; Col 3:17

CONCLUSION: As Christians, it is expedient for us to preach and act godly at home so as to build a home that can impact the society with godly influences.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Parents, watch your attitudes, because your children are your image.

MEMORY VERSE: 2Chr 17:3 “And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David and sought not unto Baalim”.

STUDY 33 11th Sunday after Trinity August 15, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 5: Principles for raising godly family (4)

TOPIC: Praying as a family

TEXT: Acts 12:1-16; Eph 6:17-18; Col 4:2; 1Thess 5:17.

AIM: *To teach the essence and effect of praying together as a Christian family.*

INTRODUCTION: Parents should pray together as a couple and with their children. The importance of a family altar cannot be overemphasized. The truth is that couples should already be praying together before their children arrive, as part of a healthy marriage, (1Sam 1:9-11). When children are born, they are brought into the correct environment. Children ought not to be born in an environment where family prayer is not a normal part of family life. A family’s life in God together should never be underestimated—it is the foundation for a strong family in an ungodly world.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. From the text (Acts 12:1-16) what can you say is the essence or reason for a family to pray together? 2Kings 19:17-19; Acts 12:5.
2. Give reasons why Christian families should continuously keep the bond of prayer. Luke 21:36; Eph 6:11; 1Pet 5:8-9

3. What are the conditions for effective family prayer? 2Ch 7:14; Isa 58:9; John 14:14.
4. Why does it appear some prayers in the family are not answered? Isa 59:2; Mic 3:4; Jam 4:3

CONCLUSION: As Christians, we should always remember that families who pray, pull, play together stay together, and shine out as a bright light in a dark and confused world.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The family that prays together wins together.

MEMORY VERSE: Col 4:2 “Continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving”.

STUDY 34 **12th Sunday after Trinity** **August 22, 2021**

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 6: Marriage and Covenant with the living God (1)

TOPIC: Marriage from the world’s perspective

TEXT: Gen 24:1-20; 50-67.

AIMS:

- i. *to teach the various practice of marriage in contemporary society and*
- ii. *to teach how Christians can exemplify the principle of monogamy.*

INTRODUCTION: According to Webster Dictionary, Marriage is the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife. From the global context, there are various types of marriage- Monogamy: Marriage between a man and a woman at a time; Polygamy: marriage in which a spouse of either sex may have more than one mate at the same time; Polyandry: the state or practice of having more than one husband or male mate at one time; Polygyny: the state or practice of having more than one wife or female mate at a time; Contract marriage: A marriage that is meant to last for a certain period of time with conditions. Apart from these, there are such erroneous forms of marriage that are contrary to defined human principles of marriage such as: Bestiality: sexual relations between a human being and a lower animal; Homosexuality: erotic activity or marriage with another person of the same sex; Lesbianism: homosexuality between females; Gay: homosexuality between males; Incest: sexual relationship between persons so

closely related that they are forbidden by law to marry. How have all these forms impacted on the society and the Church of God positively or negatively?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Define Marriage in the most accepted global perspective. Gen 2:22-24.
2. Mention some of the global practice of marriage and their implication or effect on the society and the Church of God. Gen 21:9-14
3. Present some of the erroneous types of marriage in the contemporary world and explain their negative impact on society and the Church of God- Lev 20:11-21
4. How can Christians demonstrate their belief and practice of monogamy in the midst of a morally decadent generation? 1Cor 6:18; 6:12-13; 1Th 4:3-5; Heb 13:4

CONCLUSION: The dictionary definition of marriage is in line with the biblical principle of Marriage as instituted by God- One man to one woman. Any variance is a principled variation to please the inordinate urge of humans. Christians beware!!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The global chaos in marriage is a result of global moral decadence.

MEMORY VERSE: Matt 19:5 “For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh”.

STUDY 35 **13th Sunday after Trinity** **August 29, 2021**

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 6: Marriage and Covenant with the living God (2)

TOPIC: Marriage from the Christian perspective

TEXT: 1Cor 7:1-16; Heb 13:4

AIMS:

- i. *to teach the biblical injunctions for a Christian marriage and*
- ii. *to further expound on the fundamental principles for peaceful marriage.*

INTRODUCTION: The difference between Christian living and secular living lies the values or virtues that guide each life. There are many attitudes that can and are permitted in a secular marital home which Christianity and godliness does not allow because of the negative impact these will have on the society. What are these attitudes and how can fundamental Christian principles create a peaceful atmosphere for a Christian marriage?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. From the text today, what is the basis for Christian marriage? 1Cor 7:2; Compare Gen 2:19, 22-24.

2. According to 1Cor 7:3-5, both husband and wife should render to themselves the affection due to each other. How do you understand this and how the failure to perform conjugal responsibilities has caused marital chaos and destabilization?
3. What are the causes of divorce in our contemporary society and how can Christians overcome these challenges? Discuss in the light of Matt 19:9; 1Cor 7:10-16.
4. Discuss some of the factors that can enhance peaceful marriage.

CONCLUSION: Our contented lives as Christians should be extended to our marital lives so that the world around us will see our chastity and follow our godly lives.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Christian marriage is based on godly principles and secular marriage is based on carnal principles.

MEMORY VERSE: Heb 13:4 “Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”

STUDY 36 **14th Sunday after Trinity** **September 5, 2021**

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 6: Marriage and Covenant with the living God (3)

TOPIC: Principle of God’s covenant on Marriage- One wife one husband

TEXT: Gen 2:18-25;

AIMS:

- i. *to teach the fundamental basis for one husband, one wife and*
- ii. *to present reasons for diverse marriages and possible challenges.*

INTRODUCTION: Adam named all the animals but there was none found compatible to him. God decided to fashion a woman of the rib taken out of Adam, to be a suitable helpmate for him. Every marriage relationship today models the first God instituted between Adam and Eve. As we go through this study, we shall see why people prefer to have more than one wife or more than one husband.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. What is the fundamental basis for marriage? How many people were involved in this fundamental principle? Gen 2:21-23 and

2. Mention some of the reasons for polygamy or polygyny and their possible challenges- Gen 16:2-3; 29:25-28; 2Sam 11:2-4.
3. From the Bible passage, why did Adam refuse to take any of the animals, for example, the beautiful Zebra to be his wife? Gen 2:20
4. In your opinion, why do you think one man, one wife is the best or ideal form of marriage?

CONCLUSION: God foresaw the aberration that would befall human marriage and so He declared it to be on the mathematical principle of $1+1=1$. God had foreseen the dangers of polygamy and other forms of marriage other than monogamy. As Christians, the more we follow God's principle of $1=1+1$, the more we will realize the conjugal bliss of God's form of marriage in human society.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The Mathematical principle of God for successful marriage is $1+1=1$ and not $1+2=1$ or $1+2,3,4,5\dots=1$

MEMORY VERSE: Gen 2:24 "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh".

STUDY 37 **15th Sunday after Trinity** **September 12, 2021**

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 6: Marriage and Covenant with the living God (4)

TOPIC: Principle of God's covenant on marriage- Male and Female-

TEXT: Gen 2:21-24; Matt 19:4-5

AIMS:

- i. *to teach the biblical concept of God's creation of gender and*
- ii. *to teach further the physical and spiritual consequences of disobeying the principle of having male and female in marriage.*

INTRODUCTION: God created mankind with gender difference and the Bible is explicitly clear about God's involvement of the principle of gender in marriage. Marriage should be between male and female and not male and male or female and female. It is a principle that has been challenged historically and this has raised different global perspectives on marriage that put to test the ideal marriage in Christianity. The study today will focus on why God created the woman in different gender and how the abuse of God's divine principle of gender distinction has led to the orthodox or fundamental stand of some Christians who will not accept any forms of marriage that contravene God's one man, one wife, male and female only marriage.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. What is the basis for gender difference in God's creation and in the establishment of the marriage principle? Matt 19:4-6. Mention the factors involved. Gen 2:22-23.
2. What are the grounds for man and man; woman and woman; man, animal; woman and animal marriages and what challenges do these pose to contemporary society? 2Ki 17:15; Rom 1:20-22; 26-28;
3. What should the Christian's stand be in the face of these ungodly marital principles as upheld among homosexuals and bestials? - Eph 4:17-18
4. What are the physical and spiritual consequences on the abusers of the godly principle of male and female marriage? Rom 1:28, 32; 2:2

CONCLUSION: If God created mankind as male and female, and procreation is always through the union of male and female genders, why then is it difficult for some people to uphold this principle but have other preferences? As Christians, we must always see every sexual aberration in marriage as an impediment to the morality of God's kingdom being upheld and practiced by Christians. Christians should not join the rebels in any these.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Whoever disobeys God's rules for human marital relationships joins those rebelling against God.

MEMORY VERSE: Matt 19:4-5 "And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh"?

STUDY 38 16th Sunday after Trinity September 19, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 6: Marriage and Covenant with the living God (5)

TOPIC: Abuse of Marriage covenant with the living God- 1- Homosexuality.

TEXT: Gen 18:20-21; 19:1-11; Lev 18:22; 20:13; Ro 1:27; 1Ti 1:10

AIMS:

- i. *to examine the act or practice of homosexuality in human life,*
- ii. *to establish the fact that God has always prohibited the act and*
- iii. *to re-emphasize the Christian stand on this issue.*

INTRODUCTION: From time immemorial, the homosexual act had been an abomination in God's eyes. The account in Gen 19:5 justifies the character given to this depraved act in the preceding chapter of Gen 18:20, and later in Gen 23:13. As it is a crime, so it is the deepest disgrace to human nature. It is too bad to be described and in its iniquitous nature, it has a name, Sodom, after the city of Sodom. Homosexual act earns the death penalty in some countries.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. How can you describe the attribute of God in Gen 18:20-21 with reference to Num 14:18 and relate this to the judgment of God on homosexuals? Col 3:6; Rev 21:8; 22.
2. Is homosexual act a recent practice among mankind? Justify with reference to Gen 19:4-5; Jug. 19:22; Rom 1:27. Why do Christians react to the issue as if it started in our generation? Pro 1:24,29; Isa 5:13; Jer. 9:6.
3. How will you describe the spiritual infirmities of homosexuals today in the context of the spiritual blindness inflicted on them in Gen 19:9-10? Matt 15:14; John 3:19
4. What should be the Christian response to the current problem of homosexuals in the church and in the world? Phill. 3:2

CONCLUSION: One of the awful attributes of God is “slow to anger”. Therefore, his patience on homosexuals is not because of impotence but because of His forbearance and readiness to forgive homosexuals, if they will repent and turn to him. Christians must know this fact and seek ways to help save homosexuals without letting their garments as Christians be stained in the process.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: If homosexuals are abominations to God, so they are to His Church!

MEMORY VERSE: 1Cor 6:9 “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites”.

STUDY 39 17th Sunday after Trinity September 26, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 6: Marriage and Covenant with the living God (6)

TOPIC: Abuse of Marriage covenant with the living God- 2 –Bestiality

TEXT: Gen 2:20; Lev 18:23; 20:15-16; Deut. 27:23

AIMS:

- i. to understand the term bestiality and the biblical perspectives on it and*
- ii. to show the justified wrath of God on the practices from the biblical context.*

INTRODUCTION: Biblically, human beings were designed by God to have sexual relations with humans, male and female, but not with animals. In the creation account, none of the animals were found “suitable” for Adam (Genesis 2:20). Bestiality is a word describing sex between a human being and an animal. When you say bestiality, you hear the echo of “beast”, which is a good clue to its meaning as unnatural and perverse. The fact that the animal involved was to be put to death (Leviticus 20:15-16), despite the fact that it was probably “innocent,” indicates how bestiality was seen as wickedly perverse. The act is an abomination to God and an abuse of God’s principle for marriage between biologically (male) man and (female) woman.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Define “bestiality” in your own understanding.
2. Read Gen 1:26, 28; Psalm 8:6. If the Bible says that God made mankind to have dominion over all animals, how then can or will mankind subject their princely humanity to mate with animals? 1Sa 2:12; Pr. 1:30-32; Rom 1:28;
3. What can you say about any human being mating with an animal? Are they human or not? Justify your answer. Rom. 1:21-22.
4. Why did God command that both the animal and human found in the act of bestiality act be put to death? Lev 22:20-25; Rom 12:1. How can we abstain from this perversion as Christians? Rom 12:1-2; 6:13.

CONCLUSION: Have you ever pondered on the fact that no animal had ever defied God’s creation principle to solicit for sexual intercourse with man? It is human beings who subject themselves to animals for sexual perversion. What do you call them? It cannot be right for human beings, especially Christians, to have passion for sexual relationship with animals. Those engaged in this perversion are on the path to destruction unless they repent and turn from this wicked way.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: God’s Word forbids men from having sexual intercourse with animals.

MEMORY VERSE: Deut. 27:23 “Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'”.

STUDY 40 **18th Sunday after Trinity** **October 3, 2021**

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 6: Marriage and Covenant with the living God (7)

TOPIC: Abuse of Marriage covenant with the living God (3) – Incest

TEXT: Lev 18:6-18;

AIMS:

- i. to teach the biblical concept of incest,*
- ii. to remind us of responsibilities in the extended family and the set limits in the context of incest and*
- iii. to teach the right attitude of preaching against incest.*

INTRODUCTION: The word ‘incest’ in the context of the Hebrew language *‘zimma’* means "vice," "wickedness," and a kind of "refined immorality" (Lev 18:17; 20:14). The crime is that of sexual relation between persons within the degrees of relationship forbidden by the Levitical law, as that of Lot's daughters with their father (Gen 19:33); the son with his father's concubines, as Reuben (Gen 35:22), and Absalom with his father’s concubine (2 Sam 16:22; cf. 1 Cor 5:1); that of the father-in-law with his daughter-in-law (Gen 38:15; cf. Ezek. 22:11); of the brother with the sister or half-sister, as Amnon with

Tamar (2 Sam 13:14); of the brother-in-law with the sister-in-law (Matt 14:3); or with both a woman and her daughter or granddaughter (Lev 20:14; 18:17). Illicit relation with the brother's widow is designated (Lev 20:21) as a disgraceful act, literally "uncleanness" (excepting in the case of levirate marriage). Such acts were forbidden on the ground that the Jews were to avoid the evil practices of the Canaanites and the Egyptians in regard to marriage within the specified limits, because this would naturally result in the breakdown of the sanctity of the bonds connecting near relatives, and in throwing open the floodgates of immorality among them. Then, too, such provisions would secure higher results in discipline and in mentally and physically healthy children.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. From the general study today, explain what you understand by incest and 'refined immorality'.
2. In the context of Lev 18:6; 20:21; 2Sam 13:14; 16:22 and Matt 14:3, explain the meaning of "near of kin" or extended family member.
3. From the introduction, why do you think God instructed the Israelites to avoid the wicked practice of incest? Ref to Lev 18:1-4. Why is God warning us today against the same sin?
4. As Christians, how best do you think we can stand against this horrible sin in the contemporary world of sexual perversion? Rom 12:1; 2Cor 3:1-4; 2Tim 4:2.

CONCLUSION: Since members of family extend into the relations of parents, in-laws, and grandparents, it is an abomination to have incest among these degrees of family membership because it will only lead to social chaos. Christians must therefore show by personal example and gospel teaching and preaching that incest is an abominable sin.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: incest breaks down God-given and treasured human family relations.

MEMORY VERSE: Lev 18:6 "None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the LORD"

STUDY 41

19th Sunday in Trinity

October 10, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 7: The Lord God of all nations (1)

TOPIC: The Concept of a Nation

TEXTS: Luke 3: 10-14; Rom. 13: 1-7;

AIMS: To understand:

- i. what comprises a nation and its responsibilities towards God;*
- ii. the responsibilities of leadership to the citizens and vice versa and*
- iii. the Christian's civic responsibilities*

INTRODUCTION: A nation is made of a people as an organized body, polity, usually associated with a particular territory and possessing a distinctive and social way of life. It usually has an earthly authority: those who rule over others in order to keep society stable and orderly. Our texts recognize that a nation is governed by people ordained by God, so Christians should obey them.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. In your own words, how would you describe a nation in line with Rom. 13: 1-7?
2. What should the people expect from their rulers and what should rulers expect from their subjects? Luke 3: 12-14; Prov. 29: 2; 1 Tim. 2: 1-2; 1 Pet. 2: 13-17
3. How should a nation relate to God as their Creator? Josh. 24: 13-14; Psalms 95:6-8; Prov. 14: 34
4. In what practical ways should Christians of every nation shine as examples for the Lord even in persecutions? Matt. 5: 13-16; 1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Pet. 2: 20-21

CONCLUSION: God, the Creator established nations and instituted governments in its many different forms to provide order and godliness. Our duty as citizens is to obey and pray for our nation and all our leaders for prosperity and good governance.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Every nation is to help her citizens maintain good conduct altogether.

MEMORY VERSE: Prov. 14: 34 “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”

STUDY 42**20th Sunday in Trinity****October 17, 2021****THEME:** COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD**SUB-THEME 7:** The Lord God of all nations (2)**TOPIC:** God: The owner of all nations**TEXTS:** Psalms 24: 1-5; 33:12**AIM:** *To understand that God is the Creator and Maintainer of the universe and will judge everybody for what they have done in their lives.*

INTRODUCTION: God is the Creator of all nations (Ps. 24: 1-2). He created the earth and all its peoples, and he maintains them all. to Him the earth belongs – the physical earth and the people are His by creation and maintenance. God is holy, moral, ethical and righteous. Therefore, people are also morally and ethically responsible and must make moral choices. Judgments are an integral part of the redemptive history as seen in the fall of man (Gen. 3: 14-

19), the Flood (6: 5-7) and others. The Bible therefore call God's judgments "righteous" and "true" (Ps. 19: 9), impartial (Rom. 2: 11), perfect (Ps. 19: 7), and complete (Rev. 15: 1).

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Explain what you understand as 'The Lord God of all nations' and compare that with Ps. 24: 1-2.
2. How did God bring the universe into existence? Gen. 1: 3-24; Ps. 33: 6; Heb. 11: 3
3. If God is for all nations, how then can God be seen as not being in favor of one nation and not of another in the Bible? Isaiah 45:20-23; 59:1-8.
4. Knowing the faithfulness of God, how can Christians help people escape the wrath of God? Ezra 8:21-23; Jer. 36:9; Acts 12:5-9.

CONCLUSION: God did not only create the universe but has dominion over the whole earth and all who dwell in it. And because He is just and faithful, He will hold everybody accountable the way they live their lives.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: By might and power God brought the universe into existence.

MEMORY VERSE- Psalms 24:1 "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein".

STUDY 43

21st Sunday in Trinity

October 24, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 7: The Lord God of all nations (3)

TOPIC: His Preference for Egypt

TEXTS: Gen. 42: 1-3; 46: 1-4; Matt. 2: 13-15

AIMS:

- i. to show how God preferred Egypt to all nations for prosperity and*
- ii. to appraise God's justice in dealing with all people*

INTRODUCTION: Egypt is a country in the North-East of Africa. While there was famine all over the world, God was gracious to Egypt and blessed her with abundance- Gen 12:10; Gen 42:1-3; and it was in Egypt God made Israel into a nation. Gen 46:2-3. Egypt was God's rescue land for Baby Jesus-Matt 2:13-23. Why then, did Egypt fall out of God's preference?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. From the texts, explain in your own words your understanding of ‘God’s preference for Egypt’.
2. Why did God prefer Egypt? Gen. 15: 12-14; 42: 1-3; Ex 19:5; Psalm 24:1.
3. How can you explain God’s preference to use Egypt for the preservation of the covenant line? Gen. 41: 29-32; 45: 3-8; Matt. 2: 13-15. How can God prefer Nigeria of our generation?
4. How did Egypt fall out of God’s preference and what was God’s judgment over her? Ex 1:8-16; Ex 3:7; 5:2; Lev 18:3; Ezek. 23: 19-21; 29: 10-16. What lesson can we learn from this?

CONCLUSION: God being no respecter of any man or nation preferred Egypt in all splendor and at the same time, judged her when she fell out of favor with Him. Nevertheless, Egypt was restored, though not again as strong as she had previously been.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: A godly nation is preferred for blessing by God and an ungodly nation is punished by God.

MEMORY VERSE- Gen. 46: 3 “So He said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.”

STUDY 44**22nd Sunday in Trinity****October 31, 2021****THEME:** COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD**SUB-THEME 7:** The Lord God of all nations (4)**TOPIC:** His Preference for Babylon**TEXT:** Jer. 27: 1-22**AIMS:**

- i. to expose what ancient Babylon symbolizes and*
- ii. to explain further the choice of Babylon by God.*

INTRODUCTION: Biblical writers often portrayed the ancient capital, Babylon of the Babylonian people as the model of paganism and idolatry (Jer. 51: 44; Dan. 4: 30). The sovereign Lord being in control of all nations and who has authority over nations, based on His

role as the Creator of all by His timing preferred Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon as His servant by subjecting other nations for punishment under his rule (Jer. 22: 5-8). The question now is: why did the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah predict the downfall of Babylon as God's punishment for them? (Isa. 14: 22; 43: 14; Jer. 59: 9).

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Explain your understanding of Babylon being God's preference over other nations.
2. Identify from the text, (Jer. 27: 2-22), Babylon as God's preference over other nations, including the period of succession and the consequence of Babylon not submitting herself to God
3. It is said that absolute power corrupts, how was that true of the kings of Babylon and God demonstration of His supremacy subsequently? Dan. 3: 1-2, 4-6, 16-18, 21-26; 5: 1-5, 25-31
4. What can we learn from the rise and fall of Babylon and its end? Isa. 47: 5-9; Jer. 50: 8-16;
Rev. 18: 1-2

CONCLUSION: Babylon was chosen by God as His tool to punish Judah and the surrounding nations. She later experienced God's judgment because she was found guilty of pride, self-sufficiency and self-glorification. She became a symbol of self-indulgence, luxury, and wealth, seducing people into complacency. She was therefore rejected by God.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The strength and weakness, rise and fall of any nation can only be determined by the Almighty God.

MEMORY VERSE- Jer. 27: 6 "And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him".

STUDY 45

23rd Sunday in Trinity

November 7, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 7: The Lord God of all nations (5)

TOPIC: His Preference for Cyrus the Persian king

TEXT: Isa. 45: 1-7

AIM: *To teach why and how God preferred Cyrus, a Persian king, to fulfill His purposes.*

INTRODUCTION: The Old Testament describes Cyrus the powerful Persian king as chosen by the Lord God of Israel to set His people free. Cyrus allowed the Jewish captives to return to their homeland in Jerusalem. This restoration, which was highlighted by the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem, had been prophesied by Jeremiah (Jer. 29: 10-14). Although, Cyrus did not know

the Lord God of Israel, yet the Lord called him “His anointed” (Isa. 45: 1). We shall see how and why God chose and called Cyrus His anointed in this study.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. What do you understand by God making a Persian king, Cyrus His preference? Isaiah 45:12
2. How do the following references support Cyrus, a Gentile king as God’s choice in the period? 2 Chron. 36: 22-23; Isa. 45: 5-7;
3. How should contemporary Christians recognize a non-Christian as anointed by God for His purposes? Ezra 1: 1-4; 6: 3-5; Prov. 29: 2
4. Just as the sovereign God chose Cyrus to fulfill His purposes, how in practical terms should contemporary Christians be good leaders? See Psalm 37:3-5; Prov. 21: 1; Matt. 5: 13-16.

CONCLUSION: The Almighty God is Lord of all nations and peoples. He can choose to use anybody who submits his or her heart to Him for control. Such He will use to achieve His wonderful purposes on earth.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: God created all things and can use any of those things for His glorious purposes.

MEMORY VERSE- Isa. 45: 1 “Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held – To subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So the gates will not be shut:”

STUDY 46 **2nd Sunday before Advent** **November 14, 2021**

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 7: The Lord God of all nations (6)

TOPIC: The Nation of Israel and Covenant with the Living God

TEXTS: Exod. 20: 1-3; Jer. 2: 4-11

AIMS:

- i. *to find out the genesis of Israel’s covenant with God and*
- ii. *to analyze the covenant’s benefit and the consequence of Israel’s breaking the covenant.*

INTRODUCTION: In the Old Testament, the nation of Israel is referred to as the people of God birthed through Abraham's lineage after God had called him out of his people (Gen. 12: 1-3). God entered into a covenant relationship to make a mighty nation of him (Gen. 15: 17-20). This was renewed with all the patriarchs and had its climax in the Ten Commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai. The covenant described in Exodus chapters 19-24 and in Deuteronomy has features of a suzerain-vassal treaty (between the powerful and his subjects), a legal instrument that the Israelites would readily have understood. There were therefore benefits for Israel's keeping the terms of this covenant and also dire consequences for her breaking them.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Give your understanding of 'the nation of Israel and covenant with the living God'? Gen. 15: 17-20
2. How did Israel get into this covenant relationship with the living God and what were the benefits? Gen 17:9-13; Deut. 7: 6-8, 11; Heb 13:20-21.
3. What was the responsibility for Israel and anyone today in covenant relationship with the living God? Exod. 20: 1-4; ; 1 Pet. 2: 9-10
4. What is the consequence of breaking the covenant relationship with God? Deut 4:23-27; 27:15; Psalm 115:4.

CONCLUSION: God fulfilled all the covenant terms with Abraham and his descendants (Israel). It is very important that Israel and the New Israel of God (Christians) keep to covenant terms so as to enjoy the benefits attached to them (eternal life) and not suffer the consequences of disobedience.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: God keeps His covenants faithfully, so we must also be faithful to Him.

MEMORY VERSE: Heb 13:20-21 "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen".

STUDY 47

Sunday before Advent

November 21, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 7: The Lord God of all nations (7)

TOPIC: His love for the World (1): Promise of the New Covenant of Redemption

TEXTS: Isa. 11: 1-2; Jer. 31: 31-34

AIMS:

- i. *to understand God's demonstration of love in His promise of the new covenant and*
- ii. *to shed light on the new covenant for the redemption of man.*

INTRODUCTION: God's faithfulness and grace have been manifested in His promises. The Old Testament concept of the new covenant anticipated that God would accomplish for His people what the Old covenant had failed to do (Jer. 31: 31-34). Redemption is deliverance by payment of a ransom which in the New Testament, refers to salvation from sin, death, and the wrath of God by Christ's sacrifice. The popular passage, John 3: 16 aptly pivots three peculiar truths: (i) the universal character of God's love; (ii) its sacrificial nature; and (iii) its eternal purpose.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. What do you understand by God's love for the world and His promise of the new covenant of redemption? (Jer. 31:31-34)
2. What biblical passages support God's love for the world and His promise of a new covenant of redemption? Gen 1:26-29; Jer. 31: 31-34; John 3: 16.
3. Why was the promise of the new covenant of redemption necessary and has it been justified? Isa. 59: 19-21; Jer. 31:31-32; Ezek. 37:26.
4. In your understanding, describe the faithfulness of some contemporary Christians to the promise of this new covenant? Heb 9:11-14.

CONCLUSION: While the Old covenant was enshrined in tablets of stone, the New Covenant is enshrined in the hearts of believers. Therefore, the new covenant is internal, eternal, universal, and unconditional as all people now have the opportunity to have an intimate personal relationship with the God.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Grace prompted God to promise a new covenant.

MEMORY VERSE: Jer. 31: 33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law in their minds; and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

STUDY 48

Advent Sunday

November 28, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 7: The Lord God of all nations (8)

TOPIC: His Love for the World (2): Fulfilling the covenant of Redemption

TEXTS: Rom. 5: 6-11; 1 John 4: 9-11; Gal. 1: 3-4

AIMS:

- i. to show the fulfilled covenant of redemption as God's great love for the world;*

- i. *to recognize the love of God for Nigeria; and*
- ii. *to educate Christians on their roles to prevent Nigeria's destruction*

INTRODUCTION: But for God's love, the issue of internal insecurities, ethnic and religious bigotry and political nepotism were capable to have torn Nigeria into shreds. God's essential nature is love (1 John 4: 1-8) for His people including Nigeria. However, His wrath is an expression of His holy love. If He is not a God of wrath, His love is no more than frail, worthless and sentimental, rendering the concept of mercy meaningless, and makes the cross a cruel and unnecessary experience for His Son. The text (Gen 18:20-33) reveals God's intention to save and deliver an unholy nation. Being a just God, He gives fair and impartial treatment to all people. Hence, He informed Abraham before He embarked on the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18: 17-21), thereby giving Abraham the opportunity to intercede. In the same way, the intercessory prayers of Christians for Nigeria, will move God in all His love and kindness to spare Nigeria from destruction.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Explain how you understand the concept of God's love for Nigeria.
2. Read Isa. 65: 1-14. Which of the sins mentioned in this passage is not found in Nigeria? Use Gen 19:29 to prove the fact that God loves Nigeria.
3. What choices are available to every Nigerian regarding God's love? Josh. 24: 14-15; Deut. 30:19; Ps. 1: 1-6
4. What should Christians do to help save Nigeria from destruction? 2Chro 7:14 (Gen 18:20-33)

CONCLUSION: God's love for Nigeria is manifested in the fact that: despite all ethnic and tribal diversity, multiple languages, wickedness and terrorism all over the land, God has kept her intact. Christians should not relent in their efforts and continue to pray until God saves Nigeria from her evil and wicked ways.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: It is God's mercy that has not allowed Nigeria's destruction

MEMORY VERSE: 2Chron 7:14 "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land".

STUDY 50

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 8: The Church and covenant with the Living God - (1)

TOPIC: The Church of Christ – What it is

TEXTS: Rom 12:1-5; Rev 7:9-15

AIMS: *To define the church of Christ and its composition.*

INTRODUCTION: The Church of Christ is the body of all true believers bound by the core beliefs of the virgin birth, suffering, death, resurrection, ascension and the coming back in glory of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of the world (Saints alive). It is the assembly of redeemed people in all the ages who confessed Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Saints Triumphant). The true body of Christ is not just a group of individuals that worship under one roof, registered as members of a particular local assembly or denomination that meet with common and sustained financial obligations. It is only God who knows those who are believers and qualified for God's eternal kingdom. (2 Tim. 2: 19).

STUDY GUIDE:

1. Using the following Biblical references give a characteristic description of what the Church of Christ is: 1Cor 12:13; Col. 1: 23-24; Rev 7:9-15.
2. How do simple folks conceive the Church of Christ in our age? 1 Cor. 1: 10-13;
3. What was Jesus' wish for His Church? John 17: 20-23; Rom 12:4-8
4. From your experience, discuss how denominationalism affects the Church of God today?

CONCLUSION: The Church of Christ is made up of saints here on earth and the saints triumphant in heaven. Let us all continue to strive to be among the saints here on earth so as to be numbered among the saints in heaven.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Physical buildings and denominationalism may divide the Church, but faith and holiness will unite her.

MEMORY VERSE- 1 Cor. 12: 13 "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."

STUDY 51 4th Sunday in Advent (Sunday before Christmas)

December 19, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 8: The Church and covenant with the Living God - (2)

TOPIC: The Church of Christ – Bought with Christ's blood

TEXTS: Acts 20: 28; Heb. 9: 11-15; 1 Pet. 1: 13-19

AIMS: *To unveil the significance of the blood of Christ to the Church*

INTRODUCTION: The mystery, power and efficacy of the Blood of Christ is one of the most important biblical concepts in regard to the spiritual significance of the Church of Christ. By His life, the Holy Communion is established (Matt. 26: 28); eternal life is guaranteed (John 6: 54-56). We are justified and saved from God's wrath and have received redemption and forgiveness from sins. Jesus bears witness on our behalf, speaking for our favour. He sanctifies and cleanses us and has made us overcomers. Looking at all these great benefits of redemption, what should be our response?

STUDY GUIDE:

1. What is the significance of the blood of Christ to His Church? Matt 20:28; 26:28; Heb 9:22
2. What is the basic qualification for being a member of Christ's Church here on earth and in heaven? John 6:54-56; Rev 7:9-10,13-14.
3. As members of the Church of Christ bought with His blood, what spiritual qualities are expected in us? 1 Cor. 6: 18-20; 1 Pet. 1: 14-19; 1 John 1: 6-9.
4. Is there any abuse of the use of "the blood of Jesus Christ" in contemporary Church? If there is, mention some of the ways this is going on.

CONCLUSION: The outstanding and unique mark of the Church of Jesus Christ that differentiates or separates it from other gatherings in the world is God's purchase of the Church with the price of the blood of Christ- the blood shed on Calvary's cross. Therefore, as members of this Church, it is required that we live sanctified lives, free from all profanity and seriously preparing to share with Christ in His eternal kingdom.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The ransom paid for God's Church, the blood of Jesus Christ is priceless!

MEMORY VERSE: Rev 7:14 "And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So, he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb".

STUDY 52 Sunday after Christmas (St Stephen's Day) December 26, 2021

THEME: COVENANT WITH THE LIVING GOD

SUB-THEME 8: The Church and covenant with the Living God - (3)

TOPIC: The Church of Christ in Heaven

TEXT: Rev. 5: 6-9; 7: 9-17; 21:1-8

AIMS:

- i. *to present the facts about the Church of Christ in heaven and*
- ii. *to see the qualifications to be members of the church triumphant.*

INTRODUCTION: Heaven is used in many ways in the Scriptures. However, in the context of this study, the Church of Christ in heaven is the sanctuary in which all true believers will enjoy eternal fellowship with God (Rev. 5: 6-9). A new heaven, the place of God's perfect presence (Isa. 66: 22, Rev 21:1-4) has been created for true believers at the end of the age. The Bible gives only a glimpse of this heavenly abode as: a place prepared for true believers; with no more sorrow, darkness, or any kind of defilement and there all true believers will be like Christ in the presence of God forever. As we are in the season of Christmas, our utmost desire and passion is to get prepared to spend eternity with the one whose birth we remember and celebrate now.

STUDY GUIDE:

1. How do the following biblical references support the concept of the Church of Christ in heaven? John 14: 1-3; Rev. 7: 9-17; 21: 1-7
2. What should we do to prepare and qualify for heaven? John 3: 3-7; Eph. 5: 1-7.
3. How will the Church of Christ enter the new heaven? 1 Cor. 15:50-57; 1 Thess. 4: 15-17; Rev. 20: 4-6
4. What is the fate of all unbelievers? 1Co 6:9-10; Re 20:14-15; 21:8; 22:15.

CONCLUSION: The Church of Christ in heaven is an assembly of all the conquerors of sins, flesh and the world—Satan's three principal baits to lure his victims to hell. All cowards who swallowed these baits while on earth will have their portion in the lake of fire. Therefore, choose to be with Christ in His eternal kingdom and say and do: **"as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: This is the last Sunday in 2021. Do not continue sinning; desire and live in righteousness.

MEMORY VERSE: Rev. 21: 7 "'He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son".