

24 STUDIES IN CHRISTIAN MORALITY

1. The Christian's feelings.
2. Should a Christian ever get angry?
3. Christian bosses.
4. The Christian and chastity.
5. Christian compassion.
6. The conscience of a Christian.
7. The Christian and decision-making.
8. Discipline in the Christian Church.
9. The Christian approach to drunkenness.
10. The forgiveness of wrongs done to a Christian.
11. The heart of a Christian.
12. Idleness and industry: a Christian view.
13. Lies, lying and the Christian: (1) Deceit.
14. Lies, lying and the Christian: (2) Lying.

15. Lies, lying and the Christian: (3) Slander.
16. A Christian attitude to the orphaned.
17. Christian praise and worship.
18. The Christian and procrastination.
19. Reproof and Christians.
20. The Christian and the Sabbath.
21. The self-delusion of Christians.
22. The Christian and society.
23. The Christian and swearing.
24. The Christian and vanity.

STUDY 1. THE CHRISTIAN'S FEELINGS

“There is nothing so strong in this life as feelings.”

1. FEELINGS IN THE BIBLE.

Deuteronomy 10:14-15	God's love for Israel
2 Corinthians 6:12	No criticism
2 Corinthians 7:14-15	Titus is encouraged
Philippians 1:7-8	Paul's desire to visit
1 Thessalonians 2:8	What Paul said about them

2. WHAT ARE THE CHRISTIAN'S FEELINGS?

The Greek word used refers to the inner parts; the seat of the deepest feelings. Often

linked with compassion.

3. WHAT HELPS TO DEVELOP THE CHRISTIAN'S FEELINGS?

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| (1) God | (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) |
| (2) The commands of God | (Psalm 19:8) |
| (3) Worship in the house of God | (Palm 26:8) |
| (4) Love for God's people | (Psalm 16:3) |
| (5) Heavenly things | (Colossians 3:1-2) |

4. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CHRISTIAN FEELINGS?

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|--|--------------------|
| (1) They dedicate us to God | (Acts 24:14) |
| (2) They are sensitive to the claims of Christ | (Matthew 10:37-39) |
| (3) They indicate the near presence of Christ | (Luke 24:32) |
| (4) They bring joy into worship | (Psalm 9:14) |

5. FROM WHAT SHOULD FEELINGS BE PROTECTED?

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| (1) Spiritual coldness | (Revelation 2:4-5) |
| (2) Hypocrisy | (Isaiah 58:1-2) |

- (3) Worldliness (Romans 8:12-13)
- (4) False teachers (2 Timothy 3:5-7)

STUDY 2. SHOULD A CHRISTIAN EVER GET ANGRY?

"Anger is a disease that is difficult to cure." (JOHN CALVIN)

"Anger is a sin that is its own punishment." (MATTHEW HENRY)

"Anger is a natural passion. There are cases where it is right and praiseworthy; but it is sinful when we are angry

without cause." (MATTHEW HENRY)

"It is a great duty of all Christians to put away anger. No one can wrestle with God and wrangle with his neighbour

at the same time." (PHILIP HENRY)

"He that is angry, and not sin, must not be angry except at sin." (JOHN TRAPP)

"Better to be angry with yourself than with others!" (THOMAS FULLER)

"Anger should not be destroyed but sanctified." (WILLIAM JENKYN)

1. THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF ANGER

- (1) It is foolish (Ecclesiastes 7:9)
- (2) It is forbidden (Matthew 5:22)
- (3) It is a fruit of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-20)

2. THE RESULTS OF ANGER

- (1) Bad company (Proverbs 22:24-25)
- (2) Jealousy (Proverbs 27:4)
- (3) Hot temper (Proverbs 29:22)
- (4) Malice (Ephesians 4:31-32)
- (5) Inconsiderate fathers (Ephesians 6:4)
- (6) Abusive speech (Colossians 3:8)

3. REMEDIES FOR/ ANGER

- (1) A controlled and quiet spirit (Proverbs 15:1)
- (2) The possession of a slow fuse (Proverbs 15:18)
- (3) It leads to bad results (Proverbs 19:19)
- (4) The gaining of wisdom (Proverbs 29:8)
- (5) The thought of sin (Psalm 37:8)
- (6) Prayer (1 Timothy 2:8)

4. EXAMPLES OF SINFUL ANGER

- (1) Cain (Genesis 4:5-8)
- (2) Moses (Numbers 20:10-12)
- (3) Naaman (2 Kings 5:10-14)
- (4) Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3:13-14)
- (5) Herod (Matthew 2:16)

5. EXAMPLES OF JUSTIFIABLE ANGER

See Ephesians 4:26 (Psalm 4:4-5)

- (1) Jacob (Genesis 31:33-42)
- (2) Moses (Exodus 32:19-20)
- (3) Jesus Christ (Mark 3:1-5)

STUDY 3. CHRISTIAN BOSSES

"We cannot all be master." (WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, Othello)

"He that is a master must serve another." (GEORGE HERBERT)

"Masters should be sometimes blind, and sometimes deaf." (THOMAS FULLER)

1. TWO INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

- (1) They have authority from God (Colossians 3:22-23;
(1 Peter 2:18-19)

(2) They have a fine example in Jesus Christ (John 13:12-17)

2. THE BOSS'S FAMILY LIFE

- (1) Is devoted to God (Acts 10:1-2)
- (2) Will serve God with all the family (Joshua 24:14-15)
- (3) Will observe the Sabbath (Exodus 10:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:14)
- (4) Will have servants with morals (Psalm 101:7)
- (5) Wise servants will become a blessing (2 Kings 5:1-4)

3. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOSSES TO THEIR EMPLOYEES

- (1) Should act fairly (Job 31:13-14; Colossians 4:1)
- (2) Should be benevolent (Deuteronomy 15:18)
- (3) Should praise their good points to others (Philemon 15-16)
- (4) Should care for them in their illnesses (Luke 7:2-7)
- (5) Should not cheat them (Genesis 31:2-7)
- (6) Should not hold back their wages (Deuteronomy 24:14-15)
- (7) Should not be abusive (Ephesians 6:8-9)
- (8) Should not over-discipline them (Leviticus 25:43)

4. THREE EXAMPLES OF BAD BOSSES

- (1) The Egyptians (Exodus 1:11-14)
- (2) Nabal the wife of Abigail (1 Samuel 25:14-17, 23-25, 28-30, 32-33)
- (3) An Amalekite (1 Samuel 30:11-13)

5. TWO EXAMPLES OF GOOD BOSSES

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| (1) | Abraham | (Genesis 17:17-19) |
| (2) | Jacob | (Genesis 35:2-5) |

STUDY 4. THE CHRISTIAN AND CHASTITY

1. WHAT GOD REQUIRES OF US

(1) In our behaviour

- no adultery (Exodus 20:14)
- no fornication (Proverbs 31:3)
- no promiscuity (Romans 13:13)
- no immorality (Colossians 3:5)

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|-----|----------------|-----------------------------|
| (2) | In our looking | (Job 31:1-2) |
| (3) | In our wisdom | (Proverbs 2:10-12a, 16-17) |
| (4) | In our hearts | (Proverbs 6:23-29) |
| (5) | In our speech | (Ephesians 5:3-5) |
| (6) | In our bodies | (1 Corinthians 6:13, 15-20) |

2. WHAT PEOPLE DO OR ARE

- (1) Become drunk and have sex (Proverbs 23:27-28, 31-33)
- (2) Are easily tempted (2 Samuel 11:2-5)
- (3) Become greedy and lustful (Ephesians 4:18-19)
- (4) Become perverted (Romans 1:26-29)
- (5) Forfeit all hope of heaven (Revelation 22:14-15)

3. THE ADVANTAGES OF CHASTITY

- (1) We escape from temptation (Ecclesiastes 7:26)
- (2) We avoid immoral company (Proverbs 5:1-10)
- (3) We pursue sanctification not sex (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- (4) We enjoy good and interesting marriages (Hebrews 13:4)

4. THREE EXAMPLES OF CHASTITY

- (1) King Abimelech (Genesis 20:2-7)
- (2) Joseph (Genesis 39:7-12)
- (3) Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 3:8-9, 13-14)

STUDY 5. CHRISTIAN COMPASSION

1. THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

- (1) How God acts (Luke 15:20)
- (2) Christ as High Priest (Hebrews 5:2, 7)
- (3) How Christ showed compassion:
 - to the lost (Matthew 9:36-38)
 - to the weary (Matthew 11:28-30)
 - to the weak in faith (Matthew 12:20 = Isaiah 42:3)
 - to the sick (Matthew 14:14)
 - to the hungry (Mark 8:1-3)
 - to the sorrowing (Luke 7:11-15)
 - to the perishing (Luke 19:41-44)

2. TWO DUTIES OF COMPASSION

- (1) Prayer (Hebrews 4:15-16)
- (2) Following Christ's example (1 Peter 3:8-9)

3. THOSE WHO WE SHOULD SHOW COMPASSION TO

- (1) Our enemies (Psalm 35:11-14)
- (2) The poor (Proverbs 19:17)
- (3) Other Church members (1 Corinthians 12:25-26)
- (4) The spiritually weak (2 Corinthians 11:29; Galatians 6:1-2)
- (5) Fellow believers in prison (Hebrews 13:3)

4. THREE REASONS FOR CHRISTIAN COMPASSION

- (1) Because God is compassionate (Psalm 103:13-14)
- (2) Because God is open-hearted (1 John 3:17)
- (3) Because we are commanded (Romans 12:15)

5. FOUR EXAMPLES OF COMPASSION

- (1) Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2:5-6)
- (2) Shobi, Malchi and Barzillai (2 Samuel 17:27-29)
- (3) Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:3-4)
- (4) Paul (1 Corinthians 9:20-22)

STUDY 6. THE CONSCIENCE OF A CHRISTIAN

"Conscience is God's spy and man's overseer." (**JOHN TRAPP**)

"No slander can hurt a good conscience." (**THOMAS WATSON**)

"The reflections and reproaches of the sinner's own conscience are the 'worm that does not die' which

will cleave to the damned soul." (**MATTHEW HENRY**)

"God has taken the consciences of the godly under the government of his Word, and claims this as his

right." (**JOHN CALVIN**)

"Conscience is like a thousand witnesses." (**JOHN CALVIN**)

"Our consciences will never enjoy peace till they rest on the forgiveness of sins." (**JOHN CALVIN**)

1. EVERYONE HAS A CONSCIENCE

- (1) It is a part of man's spirit (Proverbs 20:27)
- (2) It makes moral judgements (Romans 2:14-15)
- (3) It troubles is when we do wrong (1 Samuel 24:4-7)
- (4) It makes us feel guilty (Matthew 27:3-4)

2. THE CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE

- (1) We seek its approval (Job 27:6)
- (2) It makes us tell the truth (Romans 9:1-3)
- (3) It regulates our behaviour (Romans 14:21-22)
- (4) Cleansed by the blood of Christ (Hebrews 9:14)
- (5) It keeps us in the faith (1 Timothy 1:19)
- (6) It tells us what to do (Hebrews 13:18)

3. THE RESULTS OF A CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE

- (1) It makes us good citizens (Romans 13:3-5)
- (2) It can lead to suffering (1 Peter 2:19-20)
- (3) It brings confidence (1 John 3:21)

"A good conscience and a good confidence go together." (**Thomas Brooks**)

4. THE CONSCIENCE OF AN UNBELIEVER

- (1) A false guide without spiritual light (Acts 26:9-11)
- (2) It becomes defiled (Titus 1:15-16)
- (3) It is seared (1 Timothy 4:1-2)

STUDY 7. THE CHRISTIAN AND DECISION-MAKING

1. TWO OPPOSITE THINGS

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|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| (1) | Going back on correct decisions | (Luke 9:61-62) |
| (2) | Making good decisions | (Joshua 24:14-15) |

2. CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS IN SOUND DECISIONS

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|-----|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| (1) | Putting the Lord first | (Exodus 32:26) |
| (2) | Loving God completely | (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) |
| (3) | Following the Lord fully | (Numbers 14:24) |
| (4) | Seeking God's will | (2 Chronicles 15:12) |
| (5) | Walking according to God's Law | (Nehemiah 10:28-29) |
| (6) | Serving God in worship | (Isaiah 56:6-7) |

3. HINDRANCES TO SOUND DECISION-MAKING

- (1) Motivated by money (Matthew 6:24)
- (2) Having doubts (James 1:6-8)
- (3) Hesitating between two opinions (1 Kings 18:21)
- (4) Deviating from that is known to be right (Deuteronomy 5:32-33)
- (5) Unfaithfulness (Psalm 78:7-8, 37)

4. **SOME EXAMPLES OF GOOD DECISION-MAKING**

- (1) Abraham (Hebrews 11:8)
- (2) Ruth (Ruth 1:16-17)
- (3) Peter (John 6:67-69)
- (4) Paul (Acts 21:10-14)

STUDY 8. DISCIPLINE IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

JOHN CALVIN

"The Body of the Church, to cohere well, must be bound together by discipline as with sinews."

"The punishments inflicted by God on his servants are only temporary and limited, and are intended as medicine."

"We must avoid violent remedies which surpass the evil we desire to correct."

"The nature and object of judgement must be corrective, not vindictive; for healing, not destruction." (**JOHN OWEN**)

"You had better let forty tares stand, than to pluck up one wheat." (**JEREMIAH BURROUGHS**)

"We should deal humbly even when we deal sharply." (**RICHARD BAXTER**)

1. ADMINISTERING DISCIPLINE

- (1) By God himself (Hebrews 12:5-11 = Proverbs 3:11)
- (2) The Church's procedure (Matthew 18:15-17. "*Your*" = singular)
- (3) The Church's declaration (Matthew 16:19; 18:18. "*You*" = plural)

2. WHAT CHURCH DISCIPLINE CONSISTS OF

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|-----|-----------------------------------|--|
| (1) | Keeping doctrine pure | (1 Timothy 1:3-4) |
| (2) | Silencing the disorderly | (Titus 1:10-14) |
| (3) | Behaving appropriately | (1 Corinthians 11:32-34) |
| (4) | Listening carefully to the Elders | (Titus 1:5) |
| (5) | Rebuking offenders in public | (1 Timothy 5:20-21) |
| (6) | In excommunication | (1 Timothy 1:20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 5, 13) |

3. OUR ATTITUDE TO CHURCH DISCIPLINE

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|-----|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) | Submit to those who administer it | (Hebrews 13:17) |
| (2) | Be built up through it | (2 Corinthians 10:8; 13:10) |
| (3) | Accept it leads to good order | (1 Corinthians 14:40) |
| (4) | Give and receive it in love | (2 Corinthians 2:6-8) |

STUDY 9. A CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO DRUNKENNESS

"While the wine is in your hand, you are a man; when it is in your head, you become a beast."

(THOMAS ADAMS)

"I had rather be a sober heathen than a drunk Christian." **(WILLIAM GURNALL)**

"Drunk porters keep open gates." **(HENRY SMITH)**

1. THE SHAME OF DRUNKENNESS

- (1) It is forbidden for a Christian (Ephesians 5:18-19)
- (2) It is often associated with stress (Luke 21:34)
- (3) It is a deed of the flesh (Galatians 5:19, 21)
- (4) It is personally debasing (Isaiah 28:7-8)
- (5) It is often associated with immorality (Hosea 4:11)

2. THE TRAGIC RESULTS OF DRUNKENNESS

- (1) Poverty (Proverbs 21:17; 23:20-21)
- (2) The after-effects (Proverbs 23:29-35)
- (3) Spiritual backsliding (Isaiah 5:12)
- (4) Illness (Hosea 7:5)
- (5) Improper behaviour (Romans 13:13-14)
- (6) Stupid actions (Daniel 5:1-4)
- (7) Corruption of spiritual leaders (Isaiah 56:10-12)
- (8) Strife (Proverbs 20:1)

3. ADVICE CONCERNING DRUNKENNESS

- (1) Avoid drunkards in the Church (1 Corinthians 5:11)
- (2) Denounce it as God did (Isaiah 28:1-3)
- (3) Discourage others from drinking (Habakkuk 2:15-16)
- (4) Remember those excluded from heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- (5) Think how God's Law treated it (Deuteronomy 21:18-21)

4. SOME EXAMPLES OF DRUNKENNESS IN THE BIBLE

- (1) Noah (Genesis 9:20-25)
- (2) Lot (Genesis 19:30-36)
- (3) Elah (1 Kings 16:8-10)
- (4) The Corinthian Church (1 Corinthians 11:20-22)

STUDY 10. THE FORGIVENESS OF WRONGS DONE TO A CHRISTIAN

"When God forgives, he forgets, and whom he forgives, he gives a new heart and a new spirit to."

(Matthew Henry)

"A man may as well go to hell for not forgiving as for not believing." **(Thomas Watson)**

"By taking revenge, you can only satisfy a lust, but by forgiveness, you can conquer that lust."

(John Flavel)

"We need to climb up into heaven to see whether our sins are forgiven. Let us look into our hearts,

and see if we can forgive others. If we can, we do not doubt that God has forgiven us."

(Thomas Watson)

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus Christ set the pattern	(Luke 23:34)
Christians are commanded to forgive	(Mark 11:25)
Forgiveness must be unlimited	(Matthew 18:21-22)

1. WHY FORGIVE?

God is merciful to us	(Luke 6:35-36)
Christ forgave us	(Ephesians 4:31-32)
Consider the character of Christ	(Colossians 3:12-14)
It is the best thing to do	(Proverbs 19:11)

2. WHAT COMES WITH FORGIVENESS?

Kindness	(Romans 12:19-20)
Compassion	(Matthew 18:23-27)
Prayer	(Matthew 5:44-45a)
A special blessing	(Matthew 6:14-15)

3. SOME EXAMPLES OF FORGIVENESS IN THE BIBLE

Joseph	(Genesis 50:19-21)
David	(2 Samuel 18:5)
Stephen	(Acts 7:59-60)

STUDY 11. THE HEART OF A CHRISTIAN

"When a worldly heart makes a great ado against sin by complaining of it, or praying against it,

follow him off the stage of duty, and you will see them sitting in a corner as friendly as ever."

(William Gurnall)

"The heart is the main thing God looks at, and requires. But it is deceitful, and will jump away

unless a great deal of care and pains is not taken to engage with it, and bind this sacrifice with

ords." **(Matthew Henry)**

TWENTY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHRISTIAN HEART

1. It rejoices in the Lord (1 Samuel 2:1)
2. It is devoted to God's Word (1 Kings 8:61)
3. It is tender (2 Kings 22:19-20)
4. It seeks after God (2 Chronicles 11:16)
5. It is faithful to God (Nehemiah 9:7-8)
6. It meditates (Psalm 4:4)
7. It conquers fear (Psalm 27:3)
8. It is often prayerful (Psalm 27:7-8)
9. It is contrite over sin (Psalm 51:17)
10. It remains steadfast (Psalm 57:7)
11. It is pure (Psalm 73:1; Matthew 5:8)
12. It produces song (Psalm 84:2; Ephesians 5:18-20)
13. It is full of the Word of God (Psalm 119:11)
14. It is enlarged (Psalm 119:32)

15. It reveres God's Word (Psalm 119:161)
16. It is upright before God (Psalm 125:4-5)
17. It becomes wise (Proverbs 14:33a)
18. It is full of godly fear (Jeremiah 32:40)
19. It contains great treasure (Matthew 12:35)
20. It remains obedient (Romans 6:17-18)

STUDY 12. IDLENESS & INDUSTRY: A CHRISTIAN VIEW

"The great God never signed any warrants for idleness." (**THOMAS WATSON**)

"A lazy spirit is always a losing spirit." (**THOMAS BROOKS**)

"...the promise of assurance is made over not to lazy but to laborious Christians; not to idle but to active Christians; not to negligent but to diligent Christians. The lazy Christians has his mouth full of complaints, when the active Christian has his heart full of comforts."
(**THOMAS BROOKS**)

"Spend your time as you would hear of it in the Judgement!" (**RICHARD BAXTER**)

"Idleness is the devil's pincushion." (**THOMAS ADAMS**)

1. IDLENESS

(1) The verdict of God's Word.

The Christian combats idleness with service (Romans 12:11)

Idleness leads to apathy in life (Proverbs 26:15)

Idleness leads to conceit and self-justification (Proverbs 26:16)

(2) Idleness leads to:

Poverty (Proverbs 10:4; 6:6-11)

Over-sleeping (Proverbs 20:13; 24:30-34)

Disappointment (Proverbs 13:3)

Ruination by neglect (Ecclesiastes 10:18)

Mischief-making (1 Timothy 5:13)

Lost opportunities (Matthew 25:18, 24-27)

2. INDUSTRY

- (1) Industry is commanded (Ephesians 4:27-28; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)
- (2) A busy man (Genesis 2:15)
- (3) A busy woman (Proverbs 31:13-27)
- (4) The meeting of needs: Paul's example (Acts 20:34-35)
- (5) The effects of industry:

Personal wealth (Proverbs 13:11)

Blessing to others (Proverbs 31:27-28)

13. LIES, LYING, AND THE CHRISTIAN

(1) DECEIT

John Calvin

"Everything is a deceit which has not God himself as its author."

"We are by nature prone to what is false and vain."

"The heart has so many vain recesses, so many false retreats, and is so full of fraudulent hypocrisy, that it frequently even deceives itself."

Sir Walter Scott

"O, what a tangled web we weave,
When first we practise to deceive!"

INTRODUCTION

Deceit is not in keeping with God's Law (Psalm 119:119)
Deceit is speaking lies (Psalm 5:6a)
Deceit is slander (Proverbs 24:28)
Deceit comes from the heart (Mark 7:21-23)
Deceit is absent from the life of the Messiah (Isaiah 53:9b)

1. **DECEIT IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF THE WORLD**

- (1) It is a sign of God's judgement (Romans 1:28-29)
- (2) It was used against God's people (Psalm 35:19-21)
- (3) It has replaced true wisdom (Psalm 36:1-3)
- (4) It is increasing in the world (2 Timothy 3:13)

2. **DECEIT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF FALSE TEACHERS**

- (1) Deceiving is their work (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
- (2) Deceit is found in their "prophecies" (Jeremiah 14:14)
- (3) Deceit is aimed at believers (Romans 16:17-18)
- (4) False teachers enjoy their deceptions (2 Peter 2:13-14)
- (5) Deceit characteristic of antichrists (2 John 7)
- (6) Deceit ultimately comes from the devil (2 Thessalonians 2:8-10)

3. **THE ATTITUDE OF BELIEVERS TO DECEPTION**

- (1) They are freed from it (Revelation 14:4-5)
- (2) They avoid it (Proverbs 31:5-6)
- (3) They avoid the company of deceivers (Psalm 101:7)
- (4) They pray to be delivered from deceit (Psalm 43:1)
- (5) They keep away from false teachers (Ephesians 5:6-7)
- (6) They seek the truth of God's Word (1 Peter 2:1-2)

(7) Pastors should always speak the truth (2 Corinthians 4:1-2)

4. THE RESULTS OF DECEPTION

(1) Deceit keeps the unsaved from repentance (Jeremiah 8:5-6)

(2) Deceit always leads to folly (Proverbs 14:7-8)

(3) Deceit brings punishment (Psalm 55:23)

STUDY 14. LIES, LYING, AND THE CHRISTIAN

(2) LYING

“A lie stands on one leg, and truth on two.” (FULLER, 1732)

“She will lie, as fast as a dog will lick a dish.” (HEYWOOD'S Proverbs, 1539)

“Lord, Lord, how this world is given to lying!” (SHAKESPEARE, Henry V)

“Father, I cannot tell a lie. I did it with my little hatchet.” (GEORGE WASHINGTON)

1. INTRODUCTION

(1) Lying was forbidden in the Law of Moses (Leviticus 19:11-12)

(2) God hates lies (Proverbs 6:16-19)

(3) Lying is a barrier to prayer (Isaiah 59:2-3)

- (4) All lies are traced back to the devil (John 8:44)

2. UNBELIEVERS AND LYING

- (1) Lying starts in childhood (Psalm 58:3)
(2) Lying can be an enjoyable experience (Psalm 62:4)
(3) Lying leads to evil consequences (Psalm 7:12-14)
(4) Lying leads to breakdown of society (Jeremiah 9:3-6)
(5) Lying is characteristic of the last days (1 Timothy 4:1-2)

3. DESCRIPTIONS OF LIARS

- (1) Corrupt rulers (Proverbs 29:12)
(2) False prophets (Ezekiel 22:27-28)
(3) False witnesses (Matthew 26:59-60a)
(4) False Christians (1 John 1:6; 2:4)

4. SOME RESULTS OF LYING

- (1) The ruination of the innocent (Proverbs 26:28)
(2) Other crimes (Hosea 4:1-2)
(3) Personal wealth that does not last (Proverbs 21:6)
(4) Ignominious detection (Acts 5:3-5, 7-10)
(5) Exclusion from heaven (Revelation 21:27; 22:15)

5. CHRISTIANS AND LYING

- (1) They hate lying (Proverbs 13:5)

- (2) They avoid the company of liars (Psalm 40:4)
- (3) They pray that they should not tell lies (Psalm 119:29)

STUDY 15. LIES, LYING, AND THE CHRISTIAN

(3) SLANDER

“Slander leaves a scar behind”. (**DRAXE**, 1633)

“The most dangerous of wild beasts is a slanderer; of tame ones, a flatterer.” (**BOHN**, 1855)

“[A Knight's function is]...to ride abroad redressing human wrongs; to speak no slander, no, nor listen to it; to honour his own word as of his God's.” (**TENNYSON**, The coming of Arthur)

“In the removal of it [personal slander], it is best to deal with God about it; for God is the great witness of our sincerity, who knows all things; and so to be appealed to in the case. Again, God is the most powerful asserter of our innocence; he has the hearts and tongues of men in his own hands, and can either prevent the slanderer from uttering reproach, or the hearer from the entertainment of the reproach. He who has such power over the consciences of men can clear up our innocence; therefore it is best to deal with God about it; and prayer many times proves a better vindication than a defence.” (**THOMAS MANTON**)

1. DEFINITIONS OF SLANDER

- (1) False witness (Exodus 20:16)
- (2) Starting false rumours (Exodus 23:1)
- (3) Speaking evil (Psalm 41:5-6)

- (4) Repeating unsubstantiated reports (Proverbs 17:9)
- (5) Whispering (Proverbs 18:6-8; 26:18-22)
- (6) Backbiting (Ecclesiastes 10:11-13)
- (7) Tittle-tattling (1 Timothy 5:13)
- (8) Speaking against another (James 4:11)

2. GENERAL COMMENTS

- (1) Slander is often motivated by hatred (Psalm 41:7-8)
- (2) Slander is linked with deceit (Psalm 52:2-4)
- (3) Slander comes from a depraved heart (Luke 7:45)

3. SOME RESULTS OF SLANDER

- (1) Breaking down of family relationships (Proverbs 6:19)
- (2) Separation of friends (Proverbs 16:28)
- (3) Condemnation by God (Matthew 12:36)

4. CHRISTIANS AND SLANDER

- (1) They should meet slander with a good character (1 Corinthians 4:12-13)
- (2) They should give no room for slander (Ephesians 4: 31-32)
- (3) They should deliberately refrain from slander (1 Peter 3:10-11a)

STUDY 16. A CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE TO ORPHANS

"I'm an orphan, both sides", he would explain, with the air of one who had seen trouble.
(**HERBERT GEORGE WELLS**, in Kipps)

On the importance of having good parents:

"Well has David called children "arrows"; for if they are well-bred, they will shoot at their parents'

enemies; but if they are evil-bred, they will shoot at their parents." (**HENRY SMITH**, a Puritan preacher)

1. INTRODUCTION

- (1) Judah's punishment was likened to being orphans (Lamentations 5:1-3)
- (2) Orphans find a champion in God (Hosea 14:1-3)
- (3) God takes care of the orphans (Jeremiah 49:11)
- (4) A curse on those who mistreat orphans (Deuteronomy 27:19)

2. HOW A WICKED WORLD TREATS ORPHANS

- (1) Orphans often lose their inheritance (Isaiah 10:1-2)
- (2) Orphans are often wronged (Ezekiel 22:6-7)
- (5) Orphans are often deprived of justice (Isaiah 1:23; Jeremiah 5:26-28)

- (3) Orphans can easily be robbed (Job 24:1-4)
- (4) Orphans are sometimes murdered (Psalm 94:3-6)

3. WHAT GOD DOES FOR ORPHANS

- (1) He is a father to them (Psalm 68:5-6)
- (2) He helps them (Psalm 10:14b)
- (3) He hears them in their distress (Exodus 22:22-24)
- (4) He executes justice on their behalf (Deuteronomy 10:17-18)
- (5) He sends them help (James 1:27)
- (6) He blesses them (Deuteronomy 14:28-29)
- (7) He vindicates them (Psalm 82:3-4)

4. SOME EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE

- (1) The daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 27:1-9)
- (2) Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:3-13)
- (3) Esther (Esther 2:5-10)

STUDY 17. CHRISTIAN PRAISE

John Calvin

“The whole world is a theatre for the display of Divine goodness, wisdom, justice and power; but the Church is like

an orchestra - the most conspicuous part of it.”

“Praise is the best of all sacrifices, and the true evidence of godliness.”

“[In praise] the heart goes before the tongue.”

The Puritans

“Praise is a soul in flower.” (**Thomas Watson**)

“The servants of the Lord are to sing his praises in this life to the world's end; and in the next life, world without end.”

(**Joseph Boys**)

“Even sorrow for sin must not put us out of tune for praising God. By faith we must rejoice in Jesus Christ as

our righteousness.” (**Matthew Henry**)

“It is heaven on earth to be praising God; and the pleasure of that should quite put our mouths out of taste for the pleasures of sin.” (**Matthew Henry**)

INTRODUCTION

God is worthy of all praise (2 Samuel 22:1-4a)

God receives glory through praise (Psalm 22:22-23)

Praise is acceptable through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 13:12-15)

1. WHO PRAISES GOD?

Angels (Psalm 103:20)

The saints (Psalm 30:4)
Nations (Psalm 117:1-2)
The children (Matthew 21:15-16)
All creation (Psalm 148:1-6)
The redeemed (Revelation 4:10-11; 5:8-10)

2. WHY SHOULD WE PRAISE GOD?

For his excellence (Psalm 148:13)
For his holiness (Isaiah 6:2-5)
For his salvation (Jude 25)
For his lovingkindness (Psalm 107:8)
For his help (Psalm 42:5)
For the promises he has kept (1 Kings 8:56)
For his forgiveness (Psalm 103:1-4)
For bearing burdens (Psalm 68:19)

And many, many more!

3. HOW SHOULD WE PRAISE GOD?

With all the soul (Psalm 104:1a)
With the whole heart (Psalm 9:1-2)
With joyful lips (Psalm 63:3-5)
With thanksgiving (Psalm 147:7)
Daily (Psalm 35:28)
In song (Colossians 3:16)
Together with the Church (Hebrews 2:12)

4. FOUR EXAMPLES OF PRAISE

Concerning Jesus Christ (Luke 2:28-32)

When God has been at work (Luke 19:37-38)

When conversion occur (Acts 2:46-47)

When suffering for Christ (Acts 16:25)

STUDY 18. THE CHRISTIAN AND PROCRASTINATION

“Why not today rather than tomorrow, if delays are dangerous?” (**Robert Louis Stevenson**)

“Procrastination is the thief of time.” (**Edward Young**. Night Thoughts)

“With regard to those who put off doing a great work till the last, it is a thousand to one that they will not have the time.” (**Matthew Henry**)

INTRODUCTION

God requires instant obedience. (Psalm 119:59-60)

Jesus condemns delay for the state of the Kingdom (Luke 9:57-62)

1. WHEN PROCRASTINATION OCCURS

When God speaks (Hebrews 3:7-11)

When salvation is offered (2 Corinthians 6:2)

When God is near	(Isaiah 55:6-7)
When God should have the glory	(Jeremiah 13:15-17)
When making offerings to the Lord	(Exodus 22:29-30)
When making vows to God	(Deuteronomy 23:21)

2. SOME RESULTS OF PROCRASTINATION

Forgetfulness	(Ecclesiastes 12:1)
A false sense of security	(Proverbs 27:1)
Evil consequences	(Matthew 5:25)

3. THREE EXAMPLES OF PROCRASTINATION

In following the Lord	(1 Kings 18:21))
In putting off becoming a Christian	(Acts 26:28-29)
In resisting the Gospel appeal	(Acts 24:24-26)

STUDY 19. CHRISTIANS AND REPROOF

“Severity breeds fear, but roughness breeds hate. Even reproofs from authority should be grave, and not taunting.”

(**Francis Bacon**)

The Puritans

“He is the most faithful friend, and worthy of most esteem and affection, who deals with us most plainly in pointing

out our sin.” (**David Clarkson**)

“A foolish physician he is who will let a sick man die for fear of troubling him.” (**Richard Baxter**)

“An open reproof of our superiors is little better than a libel.” (**Thomas Fuller**)

“A bold reprover must speak softly for fear of waking his own guilty conscience.” (**William Gurnall**)

“It is not for every fool to use snuffers for the candles, lest, perhaps, instead of improving the light, he puts the

candle out.” (**John Bunyan**)

“The reprover should have a lion's stout heart, or he will not be faithful, and a lady's soft hand, or he will not be

successful.” (**George Swinnock**)

Wise men are not so perfectly wise that there is nothing in them that needs reproof.
(**Matthew Henry**)

1. WHO DOES THE REPROVING?

God himself	(Psalm 50:17-21)
The Holy Spirit	(John 16:7-11)
Jesus Christ	(Revelation 3:19)

2. WHAT DESERVES REPROOF?

Lack of repentance	(Matthew 11:20-21)
Not believing the Bible	(Luke 24:25-27)
Hardness of heart	(Mark 16:14)
Fear	(Mark 4:37-40)
Hypocrisy	(Matthew 23:13-15)
Mockery	(Luke 23:39-41)
Indiscipline	(1 Thessalonians 5:14)
Sin	(Luke 3:18-20)

3. SOME GOOD RESULTS FROM GOD'S REPROOF

An assurance of his love	(Hebrews 12:5-7)
Healing of a sick soul	(Psalm 141:5)
It is better than a flogging	(Proverbs 17:10)
It gives authority to God's messengers	(Micah 3:8)

4. FOUR EXAMPLES OF REPROOF

From Nathan	(2 Samuel 12:1-7, 13)
From Zechariah	(2 Chronicles 24:20-21)
From John the Baptist	(Matthew 3:7-10)
From Paul	(Galatians 1:6-9)

STUDY 20. THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SABBATH

"The Sabbath was not prescribed as a day of idleness, but a reason when we should collect our whole

energies for meditation upon the works of God." (**JOHN CALVIN**)

"The Christian Sabbath celebrated the honour of Christ and the Holy Spirit, in remembrance of the

resurrection of Christ, and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, both on the first day of the week."

(**MATTHEW HENRY**)

INTRODUCTION

1. It was instituted by God as a day of rest (Genesis 2:1-3)
2. It was incorporated into the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11)
3. It was designed for the benefit of mankind (Mark 2:23-27)

1. GOD AND THE SABBATH

1. He grants a blessing in its observance (Exodus 20:3)
2. He makes the day holy (Exodus 20:11)

3. He commands its observance (Leviticus 19:30)
4. He make the day to remember of his goodness (Deuteronomy 5:15)
5. He makes it a sign of the Covenant (Exodus 31:13)
6. He makes it a type of heaven (Hebrews 4:4, 9)

2. JESUS CHRIST AND THE SABBATH

1. He is Lord over it (Mark 2:28)
2. He observed it himself (Luke 4:16)
3. He used the day for teaching (Luke 6:6a)
4. He healed on the Sabbath (Luke 6:6b-10)

3. GENERAL COMMENTS

1. The Sabbath became the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10)
2. It was changed to the first day of the week (Acts 20:7)
3. It became connected with the Resurrection of Christ (Matthew 28:1-2)

STUDY 21 THE SELF DELUSION OF CHRISTIANS

"Whom God deludes is well deluded." (Arthur Hugh Clough, Poet, 1819-1861)

Matthew Henry

"God will make their sin their punishment; they will be beaten with their own rod and hurried into ruin by their own delusions."

"Strong delusions are a punishment on men for their unbelief, and for their dislike of the truth and love of sin and wickedness. He gives them over to Satan, or leaves them to be deluded by his instruments."

1. THE SELF-DELUSION OF THE WORLD

1. The rich think it will go on for ever (Psalm 49:16-19a)
2. The prosperous think it will last (Psalm 30:6)
3. The rich think they can do no wrong (Hosea 12:8)
4. The prosperous never consider death (Luke 12:16-21)
5. God gives up persistent sinners to delusion (Psalm 81:11-12)
6. Idolaters are deluded by idols (Hos 4:17; Jer 44:17-18)
7. Sinners are deluded by wicked spirits (2 Thessalonians 2:8-11)
8. Sinners delude themselves into thinking

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| they can do no wrong | (Proverbs 14:12) |
| 9. Sinners think that their sin does not matter
29:19) | (Deuteronomy |
| 10. Sinners think adversity will not touch them | (Psalm 10:4,6) |

2. THE SELF-DELUSION OF PROFESSED CHRISTIANS

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| 1. That they are sinless | (Proverbs 30:12) |
| 2. That they are better than others | (Luke 18:10-12) |
| 3. That prosperity comes from a good spiritual life
3:17-19) | (Revelation |
| 4. That the exercise of spiritual gifts makes them spiritual
23) | (Matthew 7:22- |
| 5. That a Christian upbringing makes them right with God | (Matthew 3:9-10) |
| 6. That they will escape the judgement
3:12-15) | (1 Corinthians |
| 7. That they can do just what they like
51) | (Matthew 24:48- |

STUDY 22. THE CHRISTIAN AND SOCIETY

“Man was formed for society.” (**SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE**, 1723-1780)

“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the main. Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee.” (**JOHN DONNE**, 1571-1637)

1. ANY ALLIANCE WITH KNOWN EVIL:

1. Is forbidden by God (Exodus 23:31-33)
2. Lead to idolatry (Exodus 34:12-17)
3. Brings child-abuse, even murder (Psalm 106:35-39)
4. Causes God’s abandonment (Isaiah 2:6; Romans 1:24-26a)
5. Brings in a deception (Numbers 25:16-18)

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| 6. | Enslaves | (2 Peter
2:18-19) |
| 7. | Corrupts morals | (1
Corinthians 15:33) |
| 8. | Makes worldly children a shame to their godly parents | (Proverbs
28:7) |

2. CHRISTIAN PRECAUTIONS

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| 1. | Be separate | (2 Corinthians 6:14-17a) |
| 2. | Disapprove at a distance | (Ephesians 5:11-12) |
| 3. | Be on guard | (2 Peter 3:17) |
| 4. | Strive to be blameless | (Philippians 2:14-15) |
| 5. | Avoid the company of hypocrites | (2 Timothy 3:5) |
| 6. | Acts carefully | (Matthew 10:16) |

STUDY 23. THE CHRISTIAN AND SWEARING

“‘What a surly devil that is,’ said Eric. ‘A surly ____? Oh, Eric, that’s the first time I ever heard you swear.’” (**FREDERICK WILLIAM FARRAR**, 1931-1903; Dean of Canterbury)

“...while others early learn to swear, and curse and lie and steal.” (**ISAAC WATTS**, 1674-1748)

“Cursing and swearing suffice to prove a man no disciple of Christ; for it is the answer

of his enemies thus to take (God’s) name in vain.” (**MATTHEW HENRY**, 1662-1714)

1. PROFANITY

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| (1) The worst sort is desecrating God’s name | Exodus 20:7 |
| (2) Paying to be free from profanity | Proverbs 30:7-9 |
| (3) The behaviour of the wicked | Psalms 10:7 |
| (4) The love of swearing | Psalms 109:17-18 |
| (5) Prayer for the punishment of the profane | Psalms 59:12-13a |

2. THE WICKED AND SWEARING

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| (1) The hardened swearers | Jeremiah 5:2-3 |
| (2) The punishment of swearers | Deuteronomy 5:11 |
| (3) The curse on cursing | Zechariah 5:3 |
| (4) A shocking example | Matthew 26:69-74 |

3. THREE MORE EXAMPLES

- (1) Acts 23:20-21
- (2) 2 Kings 5:20-22
- (3) 2 Kings 6:31

STUDY 24. THE CHRISTIAN AND VANITY



“Thou makest his beauty to consume away, like as it were a moth fretting a garment: every man

therefore is but vanity.” (**BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER**)

“It bears the name of Vanity Fair because the town where ‘tis kept is lighter than vanity.”

(**JOHN BUNYAN**, 1628-1688, *Pilgrim’s Progress*)

1. THE ORIGIN AND RESULTS OF VANITY

(1)	All created things	Romans 8:19-22
(2)	Mankind	Psalm 62:9
(3)	Man’s thinking	Psalm 94:11; Romans 1:21-22
(4)	Human lifetimes	Ecclesiastes 6:11-12; Psalm 39:11
(5)	Beauty	Proverbs 31:30
(6)	Self-righteousness	Isaiah 57:11-12
(7)	Worldly wisdom	1 Corinthians 3:19-20
(8)	Fleeting pleasure	Ecclesiastes 2:1-2
(9)	Possessions	Ecclesiastes 2:4-11
(10)	Physical exercise	1 Timothy 4:8
(11)	Faith without works	James 2:14-18

2. THE ATTITUDE OF BELIEVERS TO VANITY

(1)	They hate prevarication	Psalm 119:113
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| (2) | They see right through idolatry | Psalm 115:4-8 |
| (3) | Avoidance of vanity | Psalm 24:3-4 |
| (4) | Shunning vanity | Psalm 26:4-5 |

3. SINNERS AND VANITY

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| (1) | They take no account of futility | Job 11:11 |
| (2) | They love things of no worth | Psalm 4:2 |
| (3) | They speak futile things | Psalm 10:7 |
| (4) | Their way of life is futile | Ephesians 4:17-19 |
| (5) | They end up with nothing | Proverbs 12:11 |