

# THE CHRISTIAN'S OBLIGATION To Fellow Christians

## Lesson #2 of 6

### **Introduction:**

- A. In our first lesson, we looked at the Christian's obligation to Jesus Christ. In this lesson we want to look at the Christian's obligation to his fellow Christian. Too often as we study the weightier matters of the Law, we lose sight of some of the "small" things the Christian is obligated to do.
- B. The Song of Solomon (2:15) gives us an example of what can happen when we let the little things go. "Catch the foxes for us, The little foxes that are ruining the vineyards, While our vineyards are in blossom."
- C. Moses told the children of Israel they must always be armed for battle. That they must not allow themselves to slip from their duty (Numbers 32:20-23).
- D. In this lesson we want to suggest some of the things that too many may be allowing to slip from their life of obedience.

### **I. Hospitality - Heb. 13:1-3**

- A. One of the basic teachings of the Lord.
  - 1. Our love of others & for the Lord is demonstrated in this
  - 2. Jn. 3:16 tells us Christ died for all, not just that one or two special people
  - 3. We must be hospitable - Rom. 12:13; 1 Pet. 4:9
- B. Hospitality is important enough to be qualification for elders - Tit 1:8; 1 Tim 3:2
  - 1. Obedience to this is beneficial to the elders as well as to others.
  - 2. Elders are to be examples to the flock - 1 Pet. 5:3
  - 3. If this attribute is absent in elders, it will be absent in all. And 2 Jn. 9 says this absence will cause an absence of God.
- C. We must follow example of elders/teachings of God.
  - 1. Our acceptability depends on it - Matt. 25:31-46
  - 2. This one thing might very well determine our eternal home.
  - 3. Visiting preachers are not the only ones who should be shown hospitality.
  - 4. It is both shameful and sinful to be cold and indifferent to strangers.

### **II. Restoration Of Weak Brethren (Personal work)**

- A. Gal. 6:1-2 says this is work for the "spiritual."
  - 1. Absence of this work indicates a lack of spirituality.
  - 2. We must be led by Spirit to be the children of God - Rom. 8:14
- B. Unfortunately many have the wrong attitude toward those in error.
  - 1. Shouldn't "step on them" or "forget them."
  - 2. Christianity demands we try to convert them - Jas. 5:16-20
- C. The subject of personal work is now treated much the same as the subject of giving.
  - 1. If you hate the thought of doing it -- then don't.
  - 2. It's a job for the spiritual!
  - 3. 1 Tim. 4:16

### **III. Ministering To The Sick - Afflicted**

- A. In the early church they called for those able to work miracles - Jas. 5:13-14
  - 1. Today it is the responsibility of all to do best we can - Acts 3:6
  - 2. You can't "hire" someone else to do "your" job.
- B. Jesus says this will have a bearing at the judgment - Matt 25:31-46
  - 1. The short version of the passage is; as we do to the brethren, we do to Christ!
  - 2. What a terrible thought to be lost eternally because we didn't visit the sick.

- C. We're to fulfill our ability on this point - Gal. 6:10
  - 1. Some visit only to reciprocate.
  - 2. Their attitude is, "I'll only visit those who visited me."
  - 3. That's the wrong attitude.

IV. *Setting A Christ-Like Example* - Matt. 5:16

- A. This is not the exclusive job of elders and preachers
- B. Paul encouraged many to do this - Phil 1:27; Eph 4:1; 1 Tim 4:12

***Conclusion:***

- A. Jesus said in Jn. 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
- B. We certainly can't expect the Lord to be pleased with us here if we don't have the proper respect and love for the brethren.
- C. For He tells us in Jas. 2:10, "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."
- D. "Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores His captive people, Jacob will rejoice, Israel will be glad" (Psa. 14:7)