

"I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD"

Lesson II

"Enamored" [In Love] With Jesus

How the Law of Choice Operates

I. Christ Is Altogether Lovely

1. How is Christ described by the wise man?

"His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend." Song of Solomon 5:16.

II. We Are to Learn Christ's Way of Winning Souls

1. How successful was Christ in attracting audiences?

"There was gathered unto him a great multitude." Mark 4:1.

2. What was Christ's favorite theme?

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." Psalms 103:13.

"Christ's favorite theme was the paternal character and abundant love of God. This knowledge of God was Christ's own gift to men, and this gift He has committed to His people to be communicated by them to the world." Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 55.

3. What invitation does Jesus give to His followers?

"Come ... learn of me." Matthew 11:28, 29.

"Those who will study the manner of Christ's teaching, and educate themselves to follow His way, will attract and hold large numbers now, as Christ held the people in His day." Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 57.

4. What was the result of the early church following Christ's method?

"And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women." Acts 5:14.

"The church beheld converts flocking to her from all directions. Backsliders were reconverted. Sinners united with believers in seeking the pearl of great price. Some who had been the bitterest opponents of the gospel became its champions." Acts of the Apostles, p. 48.

III. We Must Recognize the Law of Choice

1. How does the Lord make clear to us that we are not to exert human pressure in seeking to cause people to serve the Lord?

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve." Joshua 24:15.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5.

"Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God." Romans 12:1, 2.

IV. We are Not to Use Fear, or Other Methods of Human Pressure

1. What does the Lord teach us concerning efforts to try to frighten people into making decisions for Christ?

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." 1 John 4:18.

"The young are often urged to do duty, to speak or pray in meeting; urged to die to pride. Every step they are urged. Such religion is worth nothing." Testimonies, Vol. 1, p. 162.

"Love to God is the very foundation of religion. To engage in his service merely from hope of reward or fear of punishment, would avail nothing. Open apostasy would not be more offensive to God than hypocrisy and mere formal worship." Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 523.

V. Christ's Method was to Make Truth So Attractive that People Would Choose It.

1. Whose way shall we follow in our efforts to win souls: Our's, of frightening, belittling, denouncing; or Christ's?

"I am the way." John 14:6.

"Learn of me." Matthew 11:29.

2. What does the Bible say is the Lord's way of securing the choice of the sinner?

"I will allure her, ... and speak comfortably unto her." (Margin: "to her heart, or, friendly") Hosea 2:14.

"His blessings He presents in the most alluring terms. He is not content merely to announce these blessings; He presents them in the most attractive way, to excite a desire to possess them." Desire of Ages, p. 826.

"If Christ be in us the hope of glory, we shall discover such matchless charms in him that the soul will be enamored." Testimonies, Vol. 1, p. 162.

"If we are Christ's, our sweetest thoughts will be of Him. We shall love to talk of Him; and as we speak to one another of His love, our hearts will be softened by divine influences." Desire of Ages, p. 83.

"This is the theme of conversation—the preciousness of Christ." Testimonies to Ministers, p. 81.

VI. We Must Change Our Methods of Soul -winning to Conform to Those Christ Used

1. What does the Bible say should be done with evil methods?

"Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness." Romans 13:12.

"That religion which will not exert a regenerating power upon the world, is of no value. We cannot trust it for our own salvation. The sooner we cast it away the better; for it is powerless and spurious." Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 389.

"The ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ's character. Acts of the Apostles, p. 48.

VII. The Holy Spirit Our Guide

1. How only can we win in the great struggle to allure sinners to Christ?

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me." John 15:26.

I Know Something Good!

"My brethren and sisters, plead for the Holy Spirit. God stands back of every promise He has made. With your Bibles in your hands, say: 'I have done as Thou hast said. I present Thy promise, 'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.'" Testimonies, Vol. 8, p. 23.

Reflection

Would you like to join the author in the resolve to never belittle, over-urge, or denounce people; but on the other hand, to reflect Jesus in all His beauty in such a manner as will woo others to Him?