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a *Grace Notes* course

# Ruth

Bible Study by Correspondence  
by Warren Doud

Lesson 7 of 10

Ruth 3:7-11

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*Grace Notes*

1705 Aggie Lane, Austin, Texas 78757

Email: [wdoud@bga.com](mailto:wdoud@bga.com)

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## Ruth

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## Instructions for Lesson 7

Begin each study session with prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who makes spiritual things discernable to Christians, so it is essential to be in fellowship with the Lord during Bible study.

Read the whole book of Ruth often. It is a short book, and reading it many times will help you understand the story much better.

### Instructions

1. Study Ruth 3:7-11 by reading the verses and studying the notes. Be sure to read any other Bible passages that are called out in the notes.
  2. Study the topics in the same manner. Take particular care to trace all of the discussion through the Bible passages which are included. The topics are called out in the text at a certain point, but you can study the topics in any order you wish.  
The topics are: **Blessing; Faith.**
  3. **Review** all of the notes in the Ruth study and the topics
  4. Go to the Quiz page and follow the instructions to complete all the questions on the quiz. The quiz is "open book". You may refer to all the notes and to the Bible when you take the test. But you should not get help from another person.
  5. When you have completed the Quiz, be sure to **SAVE** your file. If the file is lost, and that can happen at Grace Notes as well, you will want to be able to reproduce your work.
  6. To send the Quiz back to Grace Notes, follow the instructions on the Quiz page.
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### Ruth 3:7

**And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and un-covered his feet, and laid her down.**

This section of Ruth tells how Ruth carried out the instructions of Naomi, and how Boaz received her. Boaz is shown quietly handling the situation like a gentleman. He is neither an old fool nor a country bumpkin. He has dignity and restraint. He does not appear to be shocked, although he was startled to be awakened like this in the middle of the night.

At harvest time people would camp out. Boaz would have had a place to himself, with his servants sleeping at other places in the vicinity.

The word "softly" means "quietly". It was used of David when he stole in and cut a piece from Saul's robe (1 Samuel 24:4). The narrative does not say that she waited for a time before going close to Boaz, but she must have, because Boaz was asleep when she came.

### Ruth 3:8,9

**And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.**

**And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.**

Boaz was startled by something, so he turned, or bent over, and saw Ruth lying at his feet.

In reply to Boaz' question, Ruth identifies herself as a maidservant, again taking a lowly position. She acts toward Boaz in humility. And she looks for Boaz to take action because of who she is.

Ruth uses a very expressive metaphor here in asking him to spread his skirt over her. The word "skirt" here is in the plural, and in such a case it more often means "wings" than part of a garment. It may be that Ruth was saying "spread thy wings

over thy handmaid", a very beautiful and delicate way for Ruth to express her wish.

She calls Boaz GO-EL, "near kinsman". This makes her request a formal one, and she's looking to him to resolve the legal question of redemption.

Keil and Delitzsch say that the word "skirt" refers to the corner of the counterpane, or blanket, which Boaz had over him. A man and wife sleeping together would share this blanket. Therefore, in those times, the act of covering Ruth with part of the blanket would have been symbolic of a proposal of marriage.

However, Boaz did not take this action. As we see further on, there was a legal question to be resolved before Boaz could marry Ruth. But Boaz does begin the process here which eventually leads to their marriage.

### Ruth 3:10

**And he said, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: for thou hast showed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.**

Boaz reply is immediate and positive. He calls down blessing on her; he thinks that Ruth has shown more kindness now than when she first came to the fields. The earlier kindness was that shown by Ruth in not leaving Naomi and in glean-ing to provide for their needs. To this she has now added a further evidence of her regard for family relationships.

Ruth has not followed natural inclinations but has shown a responsible attitude to the family in looking to her GO-EL for marriage. Boaz was certain she could have married some other eligible young man in Bethlehem; but she did not let these types of personal inclinations rule her.

Comment: Headlong and headstrong decisions usually lead to sorrow.

Single men and women are well advised to wait for God's definite leading in matters of marriage. There are Bible principles and mechanics which, when understood and used properly, will allow God to bring about His will in marriage.

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This passage illustrates very vividly and emphatically the benefits of following God's plan and waiting for God's leading.

A thoughtful mother will tell her daughter, "Wait for the young man to call you!"

Daughter: "But he won't call; then what will I do?"

Mother: "Then you don't have a date. It's not God's will; God knows that either you're not ready for him, or he's not God's choice for you right now."

Daughter: "But, what if he doesn't call ... what if nobody calls?"

Mother: "Then, you wait..."

Daughter: "But God is too slow. I don't want to wait..."

Mother: "If you don't wait for God's leading, you will suffer the consequences."

Bill Gothard, "Institutes for Basic Youth Conflicts", says:

You are old enough to date when you have achieved the following three prerequisites:

1. When you are aware of both the benefits and the dangers of dating.
2. When you have personally worked out from Scripture a set of dating standards.
3. When you have purposed that you will not lower these standards, even if it means losing dates.

Topic: PURITY in the Christian Life

### Ruth 3:11

**And now, my daughter, fear not: I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.**

Boaz tells Ruth not to be afraid, or anxious about the future; for he will do all that she says. He gives as his reason that Ruth has an excellent reputation. She is well known to all the townspeople. The word "city" is literally "gate", the usual place of public assembly, the place for business, judgment, and receiving news.

The word "virtuous" is the same as was translated "wealth" in Ruth 2:1 where Boaz was introduced. It denotes ability, reputation, courage, attainment, as well as integrity of character, or virtue. It is a word for comprehensive excellence. This word is used for the ideal woman of Proverbs 31 (31:10), and of her who is a "crown to her husband" (Prov. 12:4).

These qualities in the Christian life are a product of a person's love for the Lord and willingness to wait for and follow God's leading.

Topic: OCCUPATION WITH CHRIST

Topic: SEPARATION

### Purity in the Christian Life

The apostle Paul told Timothy, "Keep yourself pure...". Good advice for a young man in the ministry. And when you look at all of the passages in the Bible that have something to do with personal purity, you realize that this Christian characteristic has a prominent place in God's plan for the Christian believer.

Jesus Christ exalts purity to the realm of the spirit, a type of purity that is far greater than the ritual purity of ceremonial cleansing seen in Jewish and other religions. This paper is aimed at showing you what Christian purity is (and is not) and how you can grow to have this purity.

The New Testament Greek word for purity is *kaqaroV* (katharos). It is found in several New Testament passages, notably in Titus 1:15, "Unto the pure all things are pure..." *katharos* is the usual Greek word for purity and was used for several types of purity in the Greek world:

- \* Ceremonial purity of a physical object, such as a vessel in a temple
- \* Ceremonial purity of a temple worshipper
- \* Purity in the spiritual nature of a person

In the ancient world, ceremonial cleansing would have been by some ritual. In the New Testament, there is a deeper meaning: purity refers to the result of cleansing of the soul by God. In this context, purity is a characteristic of a believer in fellowship who has experienced the "cleansing

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from all unrighteousness" promised in 1 John 1:9 to the one who confesses sin to God.

Titus 1:15, Unto the pure all things are pure...

Reading this phrase, a cynical person may draw the wrong conclusion, namely that a totally pure person can touch anything or think about anything and remain pure as the driven snow. But this thinking involves lifting this phrase out of the whole context of the Bible in order to make it meaningless and false.

This does not mean, "All things are pure in the judgment of the pure."

It's true that a pure-minded man will not usually put evil constructions or interpretations on things. But to say that something is pure because he judges it to be so, or because he cannot be defiled, is false. The context of Titus 1 makes it clear that the apostle Paul is referring to matters of Judaistic practice, ceremonial purifications, among other things, that have been misconstrued by false teachers.

Read the following passage from Luke 11:37-44.

**"And as he spoke, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat. And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner.**

**"And the Lord said unto him, Now do you Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness. You fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also? But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.**

**"But woe unto you, Pharisees! for you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought you to have done, and not to leave the other undone.**

**"Woe unto you, Pharisees! for you love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets.**

**"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are as graves which**

**appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them. "**

Christ exalts purity to the realm of the spirit, which automatically does away with ceremonial purity. A pure mind cannot be contaminated by physical contact; and the purest minds will have no relish in seeking defilement.

The following passage in 1 Timothy 1:4-7 talks about love out of a pure heart, the fruit of the Holy Spirit. This is not a ritual love, nor is it a love gained by striving for it. Here "good conscience" means "cleansed" or "in fellowship".

**"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.**

**"Now the end of the commandment is love out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;**

**"Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."**

Problems of impurity in life are attacked in the area of the mind. Timothy was commanded to "flee also youthful lusts...". But he was told in the same verse how to do this, to "follow righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Tim. 2:22).

How often only the first part of the above verse is quoted, so that the believer never learns how to have victory over areas of weakness. Lust is desire - and desire is a mental attitude. So to "flee lusts" is to nip the sin problem in the bud, while it is still only in the mind. Confess, isolate, and forget the sin. Then, enjoy one more measure of victory.

**1 Timothy 6:9-11**

**"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.**

**"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have**

erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

**"But you O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."**

1 Peter 1:18-23

**"Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;**

**"But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

**"Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,**

**"Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.**

**"Seeing you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that you love one another with a pure heart fervently:**

**"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever. "**

Salvation is not by ceremony, but by the sacrifice of Christ. Morality is not by ceremony, but by the purification of the soul through the Word of God.

What is Christ's purpose for the Church? "...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." (Eph. 5:25,26)

Purity is brought into the Christian's life and maintained through (1) Confession of sins which maintains fellowship with God and (2) edification, which is the basis for growth in all areas, including having victory over sin.

Related Topics: Confession; Sin; Godliness; Separation

## Occupation with Christ

Introduction

The Lord has made available many provisions for living according to His plan and growing in Christ. These provisions are known variously as "divine operating assets", "techniques for Christian living", "problem solving devices", and so forth.

These provisions are part of the great store of blessings which God has already made available to us in Christ.

Eph. 1:3, "And has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

These provisions include:

Confession of Sin

The Filling of the Holy Spirit

Faith-Rest

Orientation to Grace

Personal Love for God

Impersonal Love for Mankind

Joy - the happiness of God which does not depend on people, circumstances, or things

A personal destiny shared with all in God's royal family

This article deals with the subject of Occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ, under the following headings:

- \* What is Occupation with Christ
- \* Why a Christian Needs to be Occupied with Christ
- \* The Bible Commands Regarding Occupation with Christ
- \* Mechanics - How to be Occupied with Christ
- \* The Results of Occupation with Christ

### What is Occupation with Christ

Occupation with Christ is a mental attitude by which a Christian believer views all things in life with the Lord Jesus Christ in mind.

Occupation with Christ is love for the Son, the 2nd Person of the Trinity, therefore it is the expression of love for God. The Bible commands us to love God, with all our heart, soul and mind. Being occupied with Christ is a great part of our love for

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God. Therefore, this concept is one of the most important spiritual functions in the Christian life.

Love for God, and Occupation with Christ, results from learning, digesting, and applying Bible truth. The Bible describes the lifestyle of wisdom and the path to spiritual maturity through the filling of the Holy Spirit and growth in Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ is invisible to us because He is in heaven, seated at the right hand of God. He will not become visible to us until we see Him when He returns. So, loving Christ requires a system of communications which is based on thought. The system is the Word of God, God's thoughts and God's words, guarded in the Scripture. There is no other accurate record of the mind of Christ, divine viewpoint, apart from what is contained in the Bible.

Therefore, we can only come to love Jesus Christ, to be occupied with Christ, through learning the Word of God and making His thoughts our thoughts.

**1 Cor. 2:16, For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.**

This love for Jesus Christ can only come about through applied Bible truth.

**Eph. 3:19, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God.**

**1 Pet. 1:8, and though you have not seen Him, you love Him [occupation with Christ], and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,**

Joy and occupation with Christ always go together, you can't have one without the other. The glory with which you are filled is Bible truth, and this emphasizes the fact that you have come to know Christ through perception and application of the Word of God.

Difference Between Indwelling of Christ and Occupation with Christ

The Indwelling of Christ is not an experience. Every Christian, whether a novice or advanced believer, is indwelt by Christ, has been since the

point of salvation, and always will be. You find this teaching in John 14:20; Rom. 8:10; 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27; and 1 John 2:24.

Christ indwells believers for a number of reasons: (1) as a sign that a Christian is a member of God's royal family, (2) as a guarantee of the blessings which we have for time and eternity, (3) as a guarantee of eternal life and a life after death in the presence of God, (4) as a motivation for us to stay in the plan of God, especially when we experience suffering.

Occupation with Christ, though, is one of the processes leading to Christian maturity, and not all believers experience this. Occupation with Christ is the focus of all worship. When you worship God "in spirit and in truth" you are occupied with Christ.

Occupation with Christ is the main motivation in a Christian's life. And it is the prime solution to all the problems of life. Only positive believers who choose to follow the plan of God are occupied with Christ.

The following are expressions of the process of being occupied with Christ. Notice in each case how the Christian is involved in a thought and decision process leading to occupation with Christ.

"Christ being formed in you..." (Gal. 4:19)

"Christ at home in your hearts..." (Eph. 3:17)

"Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death" (Phil. 1:20).

Occupation with Christ makes an issue out of knowledge of the Word of God, setting right priorities, being involved and active in the plan of God, and glorifying God during a Christian's lifetime.

### Characteristics of Occupation with Christ

1. Jesus Christ is God; so, occupation with Christ is the greatest expression of love toward God, the objective of all Christians.

**Deut. 6:5, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..."**

2. Occupation with Christ becomes the means for making great decisions with an impact on history.

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**Heb. 11:27, "Moses gave up the crown of Egypt. He became strong under pressure, for he saw the invisible One."**

3. Occupation with Christ begins as the believer moves toward spiritual maturity, Col. 3:15-17.
4. Occupation with Christ glories Him, Eph. 3:17-21
5. Occupation with Christ means that human beings are not raised on pedestals, Phil. 3:7,8.
6. The means of continuing to be occupied with Christ is the daily learning and application of Bible teaching while under the control of the Holy Spirit, Jer. 9:23,24.
7. Occupation with Christ is a pastor's prime motivation to teach the Bible so that believers grow in Christ, Heb. 6:10.
8. Occupation with Christ is related to victory in spiritual warfare with Satan and his angels. With your mind in the right place, you are confident of victory, Col. 3:1,2.

### The Need for Occupation with Christ

Psalm 118:9 tells us, "It is better to take refuge in the Lord that to trust in princes." If you take refuge in the Lord, you stop expecting things from people. Your fellowship with God solves the problems that you have with people, and makes your relationships with people far better.

A person is seldom treated the way he wants to be treated, or loved the way he wants to be loved. Outside of God's plan, this can cause frustration and instability.

This frustration becomes a major motivation in life and leads people on a frantic search for fellowship with people, instead of fellowship with God. Until a person becomes stabilized in his thinking, by occupying himself with Christ, he will be very unstable. People select their companions, their spouses, even their churches, based on the desire to be loved and treated properly.

Most of the time, people don't find what they are looking for, so they become bitter, and indulge themselves in jealousy, envy, vindictiveness, hatred, and revenge, and are very disappointed in all categories of life.

Occupation with Christ brings about a change in priorities in a Christian's life. Proper focus on Christ takes care of the problems of friendships, romance, marriage, business, or social life, and the problems that are caused by constant friction with people in all situations. Love for God and for Christ takes the place of frustration and bitterness with people.

Impersonal love, which is the professional attitude of a mature believer toward all people, provides a capacity for wonderful relationships with people in Christian fellowship, friendship, and marriage.

The Problems of Focusing on Self, People, Things

**Jer. 17:5,6 Thus says the Lord, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the Lord. For he will be like a bush in the desert, and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant."**

Three great problems develop through failure to be occupied with Christ. The first problem is to have a focus on self. This is arrogance, or an overestimation of one's self. When you are indignant, or offended, or angered by the way you are treated, your eyes are on yourself. You are frustrated and bitter, and you become vengeful. You make bad decisions from a position of weakness.

The second problem of wrong focus is to have one's eyes on people. We tend to put our trust in people in many different relationships. We think people are causing our problems, and we look to other people to solve our problems. We try to find people who are compatible, but are always be disappointed in them.

There is nothing wrong with having relationships with people. In fact, they are unavoidable. But we will always be disappointed by people until we have a personal love for God, occupation with Christ, and an impersonal love for all people. This spiritual outlook is the source of pure joy and the enjoyment of a personal sense of eternal accomplishment.

You can't change other people, even your spouse. When you try, it only intensifies the problem.

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What you are doing is making an issue out of yourself instead of Christ's teaching. The only person you can change is yourself; and you cannot do that by executing some sort of psychological program for your life. Personal change comes only through growth in Christ and using the assets that God has provided for solving the problems of life.

The third problem caused by failure to be occupied with Christ is a focus on things. Sometimes when you're not being treated properly, you decide to sublimate in some way by buying something, going somewhere, seeking out recreation. If you can't get away, or you can't afford your dream package, you spend your life filled with fantasy or wanderlust.

Occupation with Christ provides a new focus on life, away from self, people, and things. When you have spiritual self-esteem, it doesn't matter how you are treated, whether you are loved or not loved, or whether you get what you want. It is your fellowship with Christ that counts!

God is perfect and can only treat you within the scope of His perfection. Within God's plan, you will be treated in a manner that is most beneficial to you, with the proper combination of pleasure and suffering, joy and sorrow, social life and solitude, a combination of blessing and testing to bring you to maturity.

So, how you are treated by people, or by life itself, is no longer an issue. You are living a life of love for Christ as your motivational solution. You have impersonal love for people as part of your functional integrity. The Lord gives you victory over hurt, anger, hatred, frustration, or antagonism toward people, even in the midst of some of the greatest expressions of frustration.

You have yourself been changed through the Word of God. You can pass all forms of testing without being destroyed. You are well positioned to conduct a powerful personal ministry for Christ, being free from the self-generated problems to which most people are subject.

The Bible Commands Us to be Occupied with Christ

Occupation with Christ is commanded by God; it is not an option. If you are going to live the Christian life according to God's plan, you must come to the place where you are occupied with Christ.

**Deut. 6:5 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.**

This verse shows that it is God's will that we be absorbed with Him in our whole being: heart, soul, and might. This means the Word of God must be our top priority. To love God - to love the Lord Jesus Christ - we must know Him. We learn about Christ, the Living Word, through the Bible, the written Word. The written Word and the Living Word eventually become our main focus in life. A Christian cannot enter spiritual adulthood (maturity) without this dual priority in life.

Christians who are not occupied with Christ will always be novices, spiritual immature, and dabblers in the faith.

**Heb. 12:2, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Jesus Christ is the author and perfecter of our faith (our doctrine). Furthermore, the Bible is the "mind of Christ", the actual thinking of Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 2:16)

The word "joy" in Heb. 12:2 refers to the happiness of the Lord Jesus as he endured the suffering of the Cross, when He was being judged for our sins. We don't usually think of happiness associated with Christ's suffering, but this was the pure joy, in Christ's case, of his being 100% occupied with the Father and with His plan.

**1 Pet. 3:15, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;**

This verse is a command to be occupied with Christ. The "heart" is the place in the soul where wisdom and applied Bible knowledge reside. We "sanctify" Christ in our hearts by having

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maximum understanding and application of Bible truth. By consistent learning of the Word, under conditions of spiritual fellowship (control of the Holy Spirit), a believer sanctifies Christ as Lord in the heart.

### Mechanics - How To Be Occupied with Christ

You have probably already seen that occupation with Christ is accomplished through having regular interaction with the Word of God. The #1 priority is concentration on Bible truth, and organizing one's life around that #1 priority. When you do that, you are concentrating on Christ, you are occupied with Christ.

To concentrate on the Word, you must receive consistent accurate teaching from a pastor-teacher. In Eph. 4:11-16, we see that the method God the Father has chosen to bring us to maturity as individuals, and to have a mature, productive church, is Bible teaching from men who are prepared to minister (preach) the Word of God.

You must listen and learn many things from the Bible. Some of them will seem to have no immediate application, but all Bible knowledge is important in God's plan for your life. If you stay with it, the pieces will begin to fit together and it will all make sense.

If your top priority is Bible truth, your life will begin to change almost without your knowing it. You will learn doctrine every day, and you will begin to use the problem solving techniques that the Bible offers. Your mental attitude will be determined by the divine thinking that is coming into your soul.

When the Word of God is the main focus of your life, you come to the point of personal love for God the Father. You will have spiritual self-esteem. Once you begin to have love for God, and to be occupied with Christ, you will no longer feel threatened by things in life that once disturbed you. You have a relaxed mental attitude and spiritual joy, which is happiness supplied by God that you have regardless of circumstances, things, or the people in your life. This process is demonstrated in 1 Peter 1:6-8.

**In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof (genuineness) of your faith (doctrine), being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**

**and though you have not seen Him (Jesus Christ), you love Him (occupation with Christ), and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,**

In other words, you begin to function by using the Word of God during times of testing, at the same time as you are occupied with Christ. You are actually sharing the happiness of God as you go through life.

### The Results of Occupation with Christ

Occupation with Christ is the principal solution to all problems that occur in life. God the Father has provided us with everything necessary for us to have a capacity for joy and a prosperity that is independent of people or circumstances. These provisions are known as "all blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). Note that the place of blessing is in Christ. All blessings, and all problem solutions begin with Occupation with Christ.

Occupation with Christ glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph. 3:19-21)

Occupation with Christ is required in order to have complete fellowship with God the Father. I John 1:6. Walking "in darkness" is the opposite of occupation with Christ.

In 2 Cor. 13:14, the "practice of truth" is fellowship with God the Father; and fellowship with God always leads to love for God.

I Cor. 1:9 indicates that fellowship with Christ is concurrent with, and necessary for, fellowship with God. Since you were "called into fellowship with His Son," this should be your main priority in life. But this means that you have to make the Word of God your main interest in life.

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Fellowship with God the Holy Spirit is also closely tied in with occupation with Christ. Phil. 2:1,2 "Therefore, if there be any encouragement in Christ, if there is any comfort of love, if there is any fellowship with the Spirit, if there is any affection mercies, complete my happiness by thinking the same things."

God's happiness is completed as we have fellowship with Him, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Then we can have true fellowship with people, without putting people before God. 2 Cor. 13:14 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love for God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." But without occupation with Christ, interaction with other people is often bad.

Occupation with Christ, therefore, eliminates the superficiality of human hero worship. Phil. 3:7,8 "...I count all things but loss except for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord..."

As you become occupied with Christ, you have a stronger motivation to have a relationship with the Lord, and you change gradually from dependence on people to dependence on the Lord. You cannot change people; it is God who causes people to change, to grow up. And no one is fully grown up who is not making use of occupation with Christ. The key to God's plan is that we no longer live for ourselves but for Christ.

**2 Cor. 5:14-17 For the love of Christ continues to motivate us, in that One died for all; therefore, all have died. And He died as a substitute for all, in order that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and was resurrected...**

Occupation with Christ brings spiritual self-esteem and self-confidence. You have self-esteem when you stop competing with people and undermining them. You stop slandering, gossiping, maligning, and judging other people. You have impersonal (professional) love for other people, because you are occupied with Christ. You live in grace, and you are a conduit of grace to other people, because Christ has become formed in your thinking and you love Him above

everything else. The result is 2 Cor. 5:14 "The Lord for Christ motivates..."

Occupation with Christ is the Basis for Production and Blessing

It is the means by which mature believers contribute to national blessing (blessing by association). Deut. 30:15-20.

It produces courage and victory in battle, Jer. 23:10,11.

It is the basis for strength during testing, Psalm 31:23,24.

It results in great blessings, Psalm 37:4,5.

It provides strength under pressure, Heb. 11:27.

It helps the Christian avoid fatigue in the soul, Heb. 12:3.

### Summary Remarks

Occupation with Christ is the ultimate function and outlook of the Christian way of life. It is the only answer to unrealistic expectations in life, which include not being treated the way you think you should be treated, and not being loved the way you think you should be loved.

Occupation with Christ is the main problem solving feature of Christian living, and it is the key to all other solutions which God's plan provides.

Occupation with Christ proceeds through three phases as the Christian grows in Christ. First, "Christ is formed in you", Gal. 4:19. As a result, "the love for Christ motivates us." 2 Cor. 5:14

Second, occupation with Christ is characterized as "Christ at home in your hearts", Eph. 3:17, resulting in "setting apart the Lord Christ in your hearts", 1 Pet. 3:15.

Third, in spiritual maturity, "Christ is exalted in my body, whether by life or by death," Phil. 1:20. The result "for me, living is Christ and dying is profit," Phil. 1:21.

**Phil. 3:7-10, "Whatever things were gain to me, I have concluded them loss for the sake of Christ, I conclude all things to be loss because of the surpassing greatness of the knowledge of Jesus Christ, my Lord, because I have suffered the loss of all things, and I**

now consider then dung in order that I may gain Christ. And that I may be demonstrated in Him, not having my own righteousness from the law, but that righteousness which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness of God by faith in Christ. That I may know Him, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to Christ in the fellowship of His death."

## Separation

The Christian Believer in the World System

The ability to stand alone for that which is right is one of the truest signs of maturity in the Christian life. It is the sign that one has openly identified himself with a superior way of life - with the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When a person takes a stand, he is saying to others that he has something worth standing for. This type of commitment attracts followers and is one of the primary characteristics of a good leader.

One of the strongest pressures against being true to the Word of God comes from friends who have compromised their own standards or who have rejected Christ's standards in some way. The most serious consequence of not taking a stand is that the Word of God is not upheld by the believer's testimony. The Bible has a great deal to say about the believer's obligation to separate from people who knowingly and willfully disobey the Lord.

Separate yourself from those who are doctrinally disorderly.

**I Tim. 6:3-5. "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness: He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness; from such withdraw thyself."**

**II Tim 3:1-5. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men**

**shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."**

Avoid those who cause divisions and offense.

**Romans 16:17,18. "Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."**

Separate from the world.

**John 15:19 "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."**

Separate from the works of darkness.

**Eph. 5:11,12 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret."**

Separate from Christians walking disorderly.

**II Thess. 3:6 "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."**

Those who would not repent were excommunicated.

**Matt. 18:15-17 "Moreoever if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.**

## Ruth Lesson 7

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**But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."**

**Titus 3:9-11 "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."**

Separate from false teachers.

**II John v. 10 "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:"**

**Col. 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."**

**Prov. 19:27 "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge."**

**Prov. 14:6-8 "A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth. Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge. The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit."**

**Psalms 1:1. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."**

Separate from the sinful activities of the unbeliever.

1 Cor. 5:9-11

I Kings 11:12

II Cor. 6:14

II Chron. 19:2

Heb. 13:13

Ex. 34:12

I Pet. 4:1-5

Prov. 1:10-19; 4:14; 24:1

Num. 33:55

The Christian's main goals in life should be occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ, conformity to His image, and fulfilling the Plan of God for his life. The believer must make careful decisions about his purpose in life. Then, he must compare every activity in his life with his goals to see whether the activity helps or hinders him in reaching the goals.

The following notes provide examples of the uses of the word *separation* in the Bible:

Matt. 13:49-51, the wicked are separated from the righteous at the final judgment.

Matt. 25:31-46, the sheep are separated from the goats.

Are you one of the righteous? How do you know? Can you explain to a friend how he can be one of the sheep instead of one of the goats?

Luke. 6:22, the righteous man is ostracized by the worldly.

Acts 13:2, Barnabas and Saul (Paul) were separated to the work of the ministry.

2 Cor. 6:17, "touch not the unclean thing."

Gal. 1:15, Paul separated from his mother's womb.

Gal. 2:12, Peter wrongfully separated himself from Gentiles for fear of the opinion of the Jews.

## Ruth Lesson 7

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### Ruth Lesson 7 Quiz

#### Instructions

The following questions relate to your study of this lesson, including the topical studies.

To answer a question, type your response in the space provided after the word "Answer:".

A question may be True/False, multiple choice, fill in the blank, or short answer type.

The last question requires you to write one or two paragraphs in "essay" form. Use the space provided; it will expand to accommodate your response.

You have choices about sending the quiz back to Grace Notes.

- If you received an email file containing the quiz, you can use the REPLY feature of your e-mail application to open the quiz. Enter your answers in the reply message. Then SEND the message to Grace Notes.
- You can enter your answers on these pages, then send the whole file back to Grace Notes as a file attachment. This is handy, but these lessons will average 100K to 200K in size. As an alternative,
- After you answer the questions here, copy and paste the whole list of questions into a new MS Word document; then, send the new file to Grace Notes as an attachment. The new file will, of course, be much smaller than this main file.
- Finally, you can print the Quiz pages on your printer and send your response back to Grace Notes in the regular mail. If you do this, send the mail to:

**Grace Notes**

**% Warren Doud**

**1705 Aggie Lane**

**Austin, Texas 78757 USA**

Whichever transmission method you use, when Grace Notes receives your completed Quiz, the next lesson will be sent to you, by the same means you received this one. EXCEPT: when you have sent in the FINAL QUIZ, we will send your certificate to you, by regular mail.

## Ruth Lesson 7

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### Questions on Ruth Lesson 7

1. Ruth found Boaz [ a. in the city; b. at the threshing floor; c. in Naomi's house; d. near the gate of the city ].

Answer:

2. Ruth introduced herself to Boaz as his handmaiden (or female servant). [ True / False ]

Answer:

3. The word "GO-EL" means \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer:

4. Boaz was the closest kinsman that Ruth and Naomi had in Judea. [ True / False ]

Answer:

5. Ruth had come to Boaz after she had asked other men to marry her. { True / False }

Answer:

6. The people of Bethlehem knew that Ruth was [ a. a virtuous woman; b. desperate to get married; c. an unbelieving Moabitess; d. eager to get ahead in life ].

Answer:

7. A virtuous woman is the \_\_\_\_\_ of her husband.

Answer:

8. There is no need to wait for God's leading once you have your eye on the person you'd like to marry. [ True / False ]

Answer:

### PURITY IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

9. The Apostle Paul told Timothy, "Keep yourself \_\_\_\_\_."

Answer:

10. Purity in the Christian life is obtained through ceremonial cleansing in a church service. [ True / False ]

Answer:

11. Fill in the blanks: "Now the end of the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ out of a \_\_\_\_\_, and of a good \_\_\_\_\_ ..."

Answer:

## Ruth Lesson 7

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12. Salvation is not by ceremony, but by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Answer:

### SEPARATION

13. A Christian is never to have contact with a non-Christian. [ True / False ]  
Answer:

14. Complete the phrase: "Mark them which cause \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ contrary to \_\_\_\_\_."  
Answer:

15. A Christian should listen to false teachers to find out what they're teaching. [ True / False ]  
Answer:

### OCCUPATION WITH CHRIST

16. Name three of the provisions God the Father has given to us as divine operating assets.  
Answer:

17. Write a definition of Occupation with Christ.  
Answer:

18. ESSAY: Write one or two paragraphs describing the characteristics of Occupation with Christ.  
Answer: