

THE HOLY (?) INQUISITION

Lesson 84

Memory Text: "Whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service."
John 16:2

Pope Innocent III began to worry because many were leaving his Catholic Church to become Protestants. He decided he would punish these heretics. He forgot the words of Jesus:

"Love your enemies,
do good to them which hate you,
Bless them that curse you, and
pray for them which despitefully use you."
Luke 6:27,28

Dominic was appointed by the pope to exercise great cruelty against anyone who would say or do anything against the Catholic Church. How truly it was said of the followers of Jesus:

"Ye shall be hated of all men
for my name's sake:
but he that shall endure unto the end,
the same shall be saved."
Mark 13:13

Courts of Inquisition were erected in several countries. They were terrible in their power, and innocent Protestants dreaded punishments. Were these Catholics the followers of Jesus, who preached of love and forgiveness?

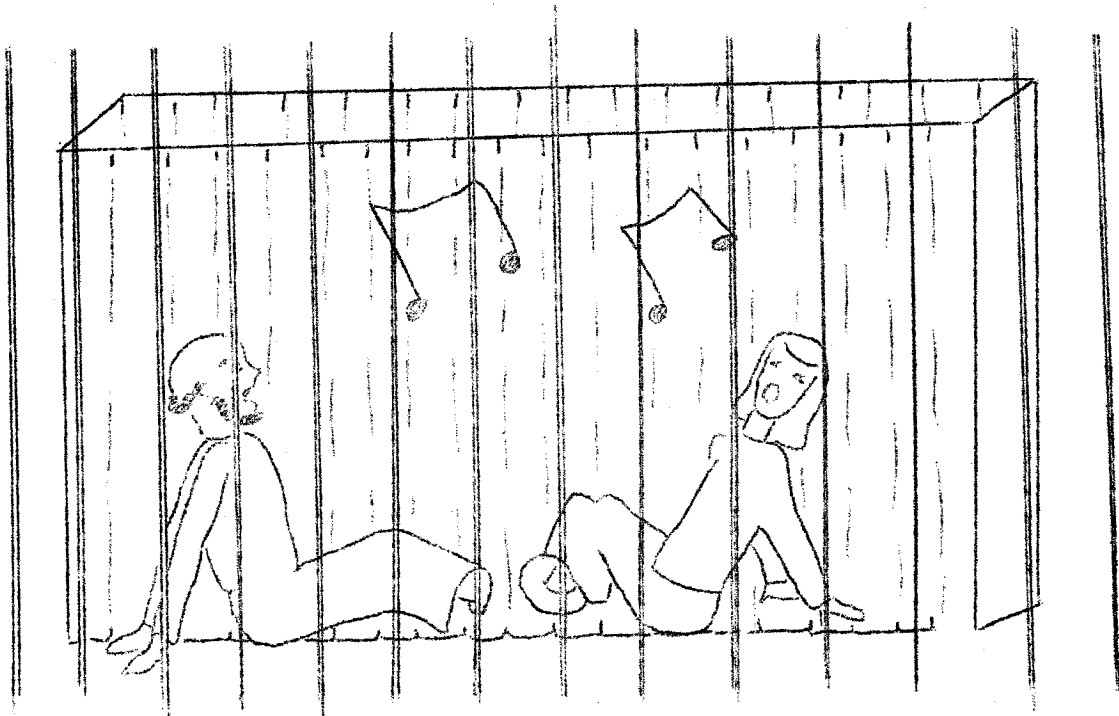
"Love your enemies,
pray for them which despitefully use you
and persecute you."
Matthew 5:44

Even kings were afraid of the pope. Any one who did not desire cruel torture was very careful to keep silent if he disagreed with the Catholic Church. The law of Leviticus 19:18 was ignored:

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Among the punishments inflicted by the Catholic Church were: excommunication from the Church, death, burning, imprisonment, taking everything owned by the victim, whipping, torture,

THE HOLY (?) INQUISITION
Lesson 84



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Name some of God's people who have been persecuted for righteousness.
2. How could you persecute someone?
3. What is the reward of the true Christian who is persecuted? Matthew 5:10; Romans 8:17
4. If you were imprisoned, what would you do? Acts 16:22-34
5. Why do Christians live differently from other people? Acts 5:29
6. If you were beaten for being a faithful Christian what would you do? Acts 5:40-42
7. If you were stoned to death, what would you do? Acts 7:60
8. Was Peter worried and excited when he was in prison waiting to be killed? Acts 12:6
9. If people refuse to listen to the good news of the Kingdom what should we do? Acts 13:51
10. Should we fear what may happen to us in the future? Acts 20:22-24

CALVIN AND SERVETUS
Lesson 85

Memory Text: "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer."
1 John 3:15

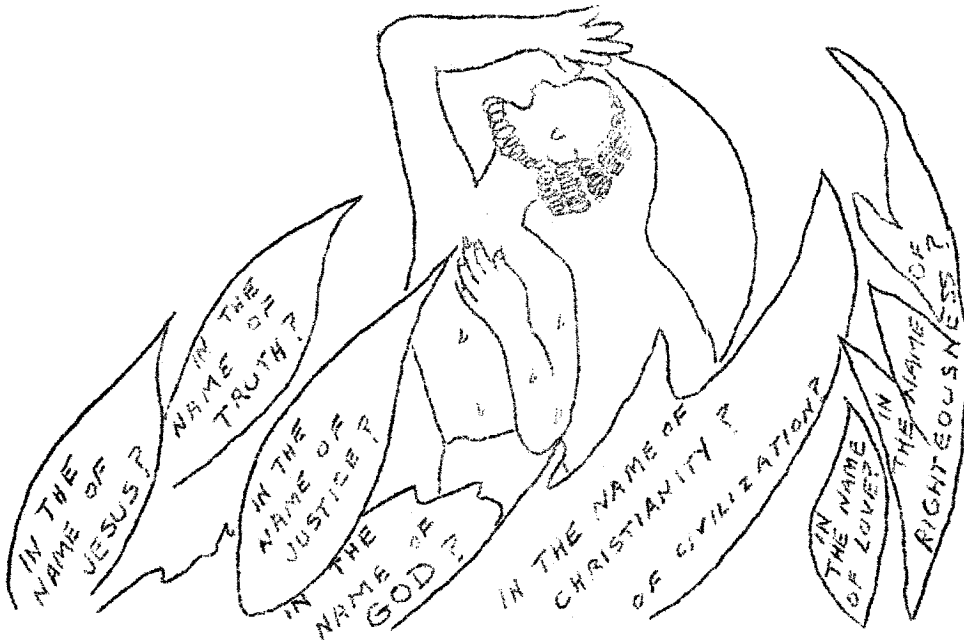
The best way we can learn God's will for us is to study the Bible. We should especially notice the life and teachings of Jesus and try hard to be like him. Then we should consider the holy people he approved -- Abraham, Paul, and other men and women of the Bible. We can also learn from men who have called themselves Christians. Some of their lives are examples of what we should do; some of their lives are examples of what we should not do.

John Calvin lived at a time when the Catholic Church taught that everyone went to fiery torment unless baptized by the Catholic Church. Calvin was a strict man, scolding others when he thought they did wrong, and carefully living his own life according to what he thought was right. But he was sure that God would not eternally burn everyone who had not been baptized Catholic. And so he taught that God used His Holy Spirit (power, influence) to save others, too. He said that, if God so elected (decided), people who had not heard the message of Christianity, and also babies, could go to heaven even if they had not been baptized in the Church.

In contrast to the Catholic Church, Calvin taught that each saved person was important to God, and no priest or church was needed to bring God and His people into a close relationship. He also taught that God had complete power to do what He wanted without the help of the church; and that His wisdom was so great that He knew from the beginning who was worthy to be saved; and that Jesus saved us from our sins.

But Calvin still believed that most people would suffer

CALVIN AND SERVETUS
Lesson 85



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. This is what Servetus believed. Was he right?
God is not Jesus and they are not the Holy Ghost.
Jesus was not immortal.
The devil is not an individual.
Man is not a fallen, imperfect sinner.
Jesus did not save man from sin or death.
There is no eternal hell-fire.
Jesus did not live before he was born in Bethlehem.
Adam's sin did not affect the children's characters.
We are pleasing to God because we are so good.
Anyone can understand the Bible without God's help.
Some of the Bible cannot be explained literally.
2. Would you have burned him at the stake?
3. Calvin was ordered to leave Geneva because he would not obey the pope. Was he right or wrong in not obeying the pope?
4. Some people say Calvin was responsible for Servetus being roasted alive for five hours, and other people say that Calvin tried to help Servetus. Did Jesus foresee persecution? Matthew 10:17
5. How should we act if persecuted? Matthew 5:44
6. Is KILLING the only act which is displeasing to God? Matthew 5:22

THE WESLEYS MOBBED
Lesson 86

Memory Text: "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
11 Timothy 3:12

John Wesley was the son of an Episcopalian preacher and his deeply religious wife. There were nineteen children in the family, and Bible stories and Scripture reading were a vital part of their life.

Although Wesley was a happy and friendly young man, he started a "Holy Club" and was greatly influenced by the writings of Martin Luther.

John and his brother Charles were sent from England to America to do some religious work. On the sea, there was a dangerous tempest. The English people on board became terribly excited, but some German Moravian brethren stayed calm and submissive to the will of the Lord. Wesley even noticed their sweet humility when they were shamefully treated.

As John Wesley looked at the churchmen around him, he thought of the simplicity of the early Christians and of Jesus himself. Preached Wesley: "Everything about thee which costs more than Christian duty required thee to lay out, is the blood of the poor."

In the same sermon, Wesley said, "The costly and delicate food you eat, you are snatching from the mouth of the hungry."

(Paul wrote, "They are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ... whose god is their belly ... who mind earthly things."
Philippians 3:18,19.)

"The mission of Methodism was to promote holiness, holiness being the condition in which God is loved with all the heart and served with all the power."

THE WESLEYS MOBBED
Lesson 86



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. The Wesleys preached in their friends' homes or on the village green. The Episcopalian bishops conducted their services in costly church buildings, extravagant cathedrals. Which was more like Jesus' way?
2. Cattle were driven amongst the worshippers when John Wesley preached. Is this "persecution"?
3. John and Charles Wesley and their followers were stoned and threatened with great dangers and death. John Wesley's name received much slander, but he refused to defend himself. What were Jesus' words in his Sermon on the Mount? Matthew 5:11
4. What was John Wesley's chief characteristic? 2 Peter 3:11
5. John Wesley believed that only an Episcopalian minister could baptize and serve the Lord's Supper. Did he also believe that only a minister should study the Bible and decide what it is meant to teach? 2 Timothy 2:15
6. What good things did Wesley teach?
7. Why did he also teach that all people who weren't baptized would go to fiery torment?
8. Wesley believed that anyone who wanted could get to heaven. Calvin believed that anyone whom God wanted could get to heaven. Which was right?

OUR MODERN TEMPLES

Lesson 87

Memory Text: "That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15

Great temples or cathedrals have been erected throughout the civilized world. It would be a shame for Christians to meet for Divine worship in a cheap shack because they have spent all their money and energy on their expensive and splendid homes.

However, when we remember the lies Tetzal told in order to collect the money to build St. Peter's Cathedral at Rome, we do not advise the building of costly churches.

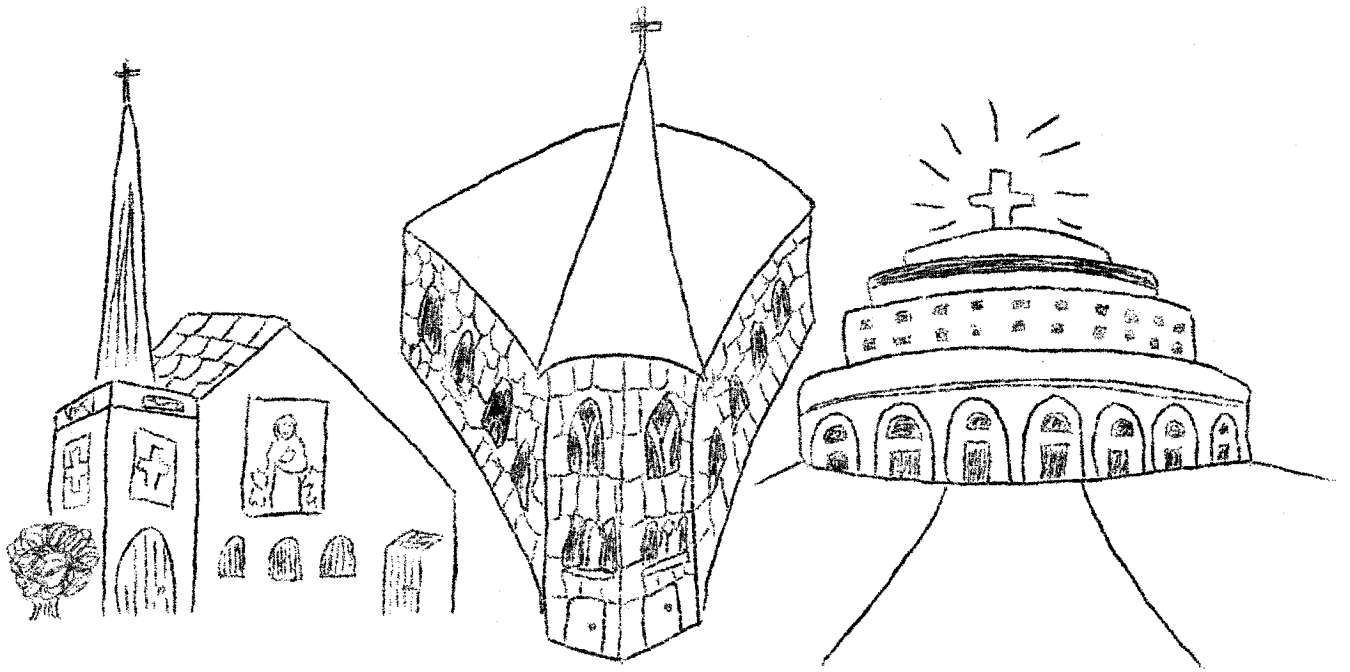
Jesus and the Apostles never asked for money to build a place of worship. Wherever they were in the field or at the seaside, they talked about the LORD GOD and about the Kingdom. They did not have to wait until Sunday morning at church.

One of the most unusual things about Truth people is that we do not pass a collection plate at our church services. We spend the money which people do contribute to pay the rent on our neat meeting-halls and to tell others about the Good News of the Kingdom -- by tracts, or radio, or television, or books. If we do not have money, we do not go into debt as we would if we had to pay an expensive church mortgage.

The most important work we do is to encourage and help the brethren in their walk with God. We study together, we visit the sick, we testify to the goodness of the Lord, we write to the isolated so that they may have Christian fellowship.

"True worship is the simple, glad expression of a loving, loyal heart." This could occur in a quiet forest or on a peaceful hillside, where we can be very close to the Creator of the

OUR MODERN TEMPLES
Lesson 87



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. When and where were the Israelites supposed to instruct their children in the ways of the Lord? Deuteronomy 6:7
2. When and where should we acknowledge the Lord? Proverbs 3:6
3. Can the Lord be worshipped by people who do not know His plans? John 4:24
4. Explain Ecclesiastes 5:1.
5. What topic should be uppermost in the mind of a true Christian? Matthew 6:33
6. What is "sanctification"? Read the first part of I Thesalonians 4:3.
7. What is a "nominal" Christian?
8. Where might we find "nominal Christians"?
9. Could you be a nominal Christian?
10. How can you avoid being a nominal Christian?
11. Do you have the right to judge others?
12. Would a true Christian attend a nominal church?

REJECTED AND DESPISED

Lesson 88

Memory Text: "He that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me." Luke 10:16

Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20.

These are some of the experiences that many people share --

WE ARE BORN. Most of us are born healthy, but some are not. Can you walk through a hospital and hear children crying with pain, can you see newspaper pictures of sad-faced boys and girls dying of starvation, can you read of fatal fires where little tots roasted to death -- and not long for the Kingdom where all sorrow will have passed away? If you were not walking with Jesus, you would not have the hope of the Kingdom; the best you could do would be to try to ignore sorrow. Revelation 21:4.

WE GROW UP. Most of us have a happy childhood, but we all notice things and begin to ask questions. Why can some students cheat in school and not get caught? Why do some youngsters have too much money and too many toys and are selfish, and others don't have decent clothes to wear because their father can't find a job and their mother is too sick to work? If you were not walking with Jesus, you would not know that Satan is the prince of this world, but Jesus' Kingdom will be a Kingdom of righteousness, and it is coming very soon. John 12:31, 11 Peter 3:13, Matthew 24.

DYING, WE DIE. Most of our lives are full of blessings. God is the Giver of every good and perfect gift. We laugh and sing and find joy and love. We should look for blessings and thank our Heavenly Father for each one. But with the hope of

REJECTED AND DESPISED
Lesson 88



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Is your life happier if you are
able or unable to know the love of Christ? Ephesians 3:19
brave or cowardly? Proverbs 28:1
trusting in the Lord or in money? Psalm 52:6,7
forgiving or if you hold a grudge? Colossians 3:13
righteous or evil? Proverbs 11:19
merciful or cruel? Proverbs 11:17
peace-loving or quarrelsome? Hebrews 12:14
tender-hearted or hard-hearted? 2 Kings 22:19
2. What is "consecration"?
3. How would you "count the cost"? Luke 14:28
4. Is the Christian life a sad or happy one?