

VICTORY CLASS LESSON KEY:

Black lettering: taken from booklet “Seven Steps to Joy” by Tom Ward Sr., our study guide.

Blue lettering: John Linnehan’s expanded thoughts/notes.

Red lettering: answers to questions in Tom Ward Sr.’s book “Seven Steps to Joy.”

Victory Class Lesson Four
CHURCH ATTENDANCE – Fellowship, Food and Fun. ☺

Repeat and Teach I Corinthians 15:57 VICTORY

1.) YOUR CHURCH IS YOUR RESTAURANT SPIRITUALLY!

Key (Memory) Verse: Hebrews 10:25 “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting (encourage and WARN) one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day of his coming back approaching.” “This same Jesus” I Timothy 4:13 warning against false teachers. John 17:17 “**THY WORD IS TRUTH**”

One of the most important elements in the life of a new Christian is getting to know other believers. And church is the best way to do this! It should be said that the single most important action in the life of a new Christian is church attendance leading to fellowship, service and involvement, use of your time, talent, treasure. At church you will receive instruction and encouragement on how to have victory and live the joy-filled Christian life. As you attend church, you will get to know other Christians as well as learn essential Bible truths through the preaching and teaching. This step up the Victory ladder is truly important. Your Christianity will rise or fall with church attendance. Make up your mind right now to be faithful to your local New Testament Bible Believing Church. Be in attendance at every service; Sunday morning, special services such as Sunday evening praise and worship and Wednesday night Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Every service is especially planned with you in mind. LEARN TO ESTABLISH THIS PRIORITY. Matthew 6:33. IF you are TOO BUSY for church Sunday AND also for Wednesday night, you are TOO BUSY PERIOD!

People, who attend church Sunday morning, LOVE THE CHURCH.

People, who attend church Sunday evening, LOVE THE PASTOR.

People, who attend church Wednesday night, LOVE THE LORD.

Your local church offers Sunday school classes or small groups. Find a class or group to attend every week. This is where you will establish strong relationships, ask pressing questions, and study the Bible. The Bible must always be the main “textbook” used and you will find that you will learn many Bible principles and concepts that will help you to mature in Christ. You eat regularly physically, do like wise spiritually. Your church should be the hub of your life.....PERIOD! If you really truly want to be successful..... VICTORIOUS! As David asked in Psalm 11:3, “When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?” The Answer: GET BACK TO ATTENDING BASIC BIBLE TEACHING CHURCHES!

Get Involved Quickly! DEVELOP THIS HABIT. IT’S YOUR CHOICE! YOU CAN DO IT!

Y.C.D.I. Church attendance is a must if you want to grow in Christ and become a mature, joy-filled Christian. Learn to give God your whole Sunday. (After all it is the “Lord’s Day”. God rested on the 7th day, Christ was resurrected on the 1st day of the week, Sunday) Giving God the first day of the

week is like making Him your top priority. God will bless you for your faithfulness. I Corinthians 4:2
“It is required that a steward be found faithful.” BE A STEWARD, A FAITHFUL STEWARD, OF
YOUR TIME, TALENT, TREASURE.

2.) CONFLICT RESOLUTION!

THE FINAL AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH

Expand: Not In Book – 1) A church (house) divided, cannot stand. One of the biggest problems in Christianity is not knowing how to resolve a conflict with another believer (or unbeliever for that matter ☹).

Review in detail Matthew 18:15-17

John Maxwell Leadership Bible Page 1176 Matthew 18:15-20 - Dealing with a Sinning Brother

¹⁵ “Moreover if your brother sins against you go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that “by the mouth of two or three witnesses every work may be established.” ¹⁷ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. ¹⁸ “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ¹⁹ “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.” ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Conflict Resolution: Jesus Taught How to Manage Conflict (Matthew 18:15-20)

There may be no clearer passage in the Gospels on conflict resolution than Matthew 18. While Jesus spoke about addressing sin in the church, His words suggest broader principles. According to Jesus, addressing conflict and healing offenses should be a priority for us. He even instructs us to postpone our worship if we remember an unresolved offense (Matt. 5:23,24).

Conflicts will arise in any organization. Humans disagree because they are wired differently and have different agendas. Note what Jesus taught about organizational conflict when someone has clearly done wrong:

1. Initiate the contact. (v.15).
2. Confront the person in private (v.15).
3. If no resolution comes, meet again with one or two more people (v.16).
4. Confirm the facts in the meeting and work toward a solution (v.16).
5. If no resolution comes, bring the issue before the church or organization (v.17).
6. Agree upon the truth and the appropriate options for the offender (v.17).
7. If no resolution comes, release the offender from the church or organization (v.17).

Behind this process lies the authority Jesus has given to church leaders (Matt. 18:18-20). We must act wisely, because we have God-given authority (18:18), because God will confirm and support the decisions made in harmony (18:19), and because He is present when we gather in His name (18:20).

Don't go to court! I Corinthians 6:1-8.

3.) COMPASSION

Followed immediately by the Parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:21-35; it's about being a forgiving Christian and forgiving your brothers and sisters when there is a conflict, a sin, an offence. W.W.J.D. I John 1:9

THE FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH

1. With what did Christ purchase the church (Acts 20:28)? **His Blood.** (Song about His Precious Blood!)
2. Who is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23)? **Jesus Christ.**
3. How long ago did God plan to build His church (Ephesians 1:4)? **Before the foundations of the world.**
4. **(VERY IMPORTANT)** Who deserves the head position (supreme position of importance) in the church (Colossians 1:18) **Jesus Christ.** Awesome Read Colossians 1:13-23 - Note – “in all things” in business, with my career, with my money, time. **JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO EVERYONE!**
5. **(VERY IMPORTANT V.16-18)** Who established the church (Matthew 16:13-18)? **Jesus Christ is the Rock, upon this Rock.** This ROCK v 18 “You are the CHRIST, the Son of the living God.” This FACT, this BASIC BIBLE TRUTH, etc,etc!

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

6. What does church give to new Christians (I Peter 2:2)? **The “milk of the word.”** 1) The basic truths of the Bible. 2) You also receive “the meat” the deeper spiritually truths. 3) **TO GROW PHYSICALLY (SPIRITUALLY) YOU MUST EAT PHYSICALLY (SPIRITUALLY)**
7. According to Jeremiah 3:15, God has given pastors to the church who will feed you in **knowledge** and **understanding.**
8. **(VERY IMPORTANT)** Another reason for church attendance is for connection with other believers. **(FELLOWSHIP)** Read Acts 2:41-47 and list some of the things the early church did together. Acts 2:42 is the recipe for revival or “vival”! ☺ And they continued steadfastly in...
 1. **Studied the Word of God (the apostles doctrine and teaching).**
 2. **And fellowship,**
 3. **and in the breaking of bread, (Lord’s Supper)**
 4. **and prayers.**
9. What is God’s desire for His church (I Corinthians 1:10)? **Unity of believers, harmony.** Remember Matthew 18:15-18 (19&20) “disagree agreeably”, scripturally.
10. According to Romans 10:17, how does your faith grow? **(OR SHRINK – YOU DON’T HOLD YOUR OWN!)** “Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.

THE PASTOR, ELDER, BISHOP

1. The word pastor in the New Testament means “overseer.” God has given you a pastor (or pastors) to train and nurture you in the Lord. What is the pastor to do for his flock (Acts 20-28)? **Spiritually feed and care for his flock, Shepard, lead oversee his flock.**
2. Read Ephesians 4:8-11. God gave some gifts to the church. He gave 1. Apostles and 2. Prophets. Name the others God gave to the church. **3. Evangelists, 4. Pastors/Teachers.**
3. **(VERY IMPORTANT)** What is the pastor’s job (Ephesians 4:12)? **Equip God’s people to do God’s work! Build up, edify the body of Christ, (maturing) perfecting saints for the work (service) of the ministry.**
WE ARE SAVED TO SERVE!
4. Who made your pastor the overseer of the church (Acts 20:28)? **The Holy Ghost. (Holy Spirit)**
5. Read I Peter 5:2. in what way is a pastor to oversee God’s flock, the church? **Willingly, not for money, with a ready mind.**
6. How is the pastor to lead his flock (I Peter 5:3)? **By his good example, not as a dictator/ruler.**

(VERY, VERY IMPORTANT) THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

What is the three-fold purpose of the early church as given in Matthew 28:18-20? **The great commission (Go-mission) 1) Preach the Gospel (make disciples), 2) Baptizing them, 3) Teaching them. (including.....make more disciples) 1) Win em, 2) Wet em, 3) Work em**

THEN, WHAT’S MY RESPONSIBILITY PERSONALLY? Win em, Wet em, Work em ☺.
THEN, WHAT’S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY? Win em, Wet em, Work em ☺.

OBEY.....OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S WORD IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

1. What does God warn us not to neglect (Hebrews 10:25)? **Assembling together.**
Go to “church” regularly and faithfully.
2. When should you give your tithes and offerings (I Corinthians 16:1-2)? **(Briefly define tithes and offerings) The first day of the week. Priorities.....put God first Matthew 6:33 time, talent, treasure.**
3. **(VERY IMPORTANT)** What are some of the responsibilities the early church took upon itself?
 - a. **Prayer (Intercessory) (James 5:16) without ceasing serious prayer (Acts 12:5) “When we work, we work, but when we pray, God works!”**
 - b. **Testimony, “they reported all that God had done with them.” (What is God doing in your life, He wants to do His work! (Acts 14:27)**
 - c. **Singing (Praise unto God) (Hebrews 2:12)**
 - d. **Bible study (DAILY) (Acts 17:11-12) (Searched the Scriptures DAILY**
 - e. **Preaching the Word (Acts 8:4) PREACH CHRIST, THE GOOD NEWS, THE GOSPEL (Scattered)**

(VERY IMPORTANT) The church is the people! The church is not the building! You are the church, both locally and universally. If you have asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins, asked Jesus to become your Savior, accepting God's Grace by faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures! Sometimes, it's easier to get into God's church universally than it is to get into or become a member of some local church assemblies! ☺

The church of God is often called the Family of God. God is inviting you right now to join His Forever Family. It's my pleasure as an Ambassador, a representative of Jesus, to extend this invitation to you RIGHT NOW. It's the most important decision you'll ever make.

TRIPLE A PLAN AAA
(1. **A**DMIT, 2. **A**CKNOWLEDGE, 3. **A**CEPT)

MY DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD!

Why not have a peace and joy inside like you've never had before? Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." You really need to accept Him as your Savior right now, even while you are reading these few verses from the Bible, God's Holy Word.

1. **A**DMIT YOU ARE A SINNER. (I am a sinner too!) ☺

Romans 3:23 "For ALL have sinned and come (fall) short of the glory of God;"
God Himself says in many Bible scriptures that we all have sinned.
The good news is, God can forgive our sins.

2. **A**CKNOWLEDGE THAT JESUS IS YOUR SAVIOR.

(Jesus in my Savior too!) ☺

Romans 6:23 "For the wages (the penalty, the price) of sin is death but the (free) gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." This verse is not just talking about our physical death, but most importantly, our spiritual death, our eternal punishment and our eternal separation from God forever. Our sin can keep us from going to Heaven.

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates (shows, proves) His own love toward (for) us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus Christ has paid the price of our sin. When He died on the cross, He became our substitute. When we accept His substitutionary act of dying on the cross for our sin, then we can believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Only then we can have eternal life in Heaven with Him when we die and our soul leaves this earth.

3. **A**CEPT JESUS AS YOUR LORD. (Jesus is my Lord too!) ☺

Romans 10:9, 10, 13 "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, YOU WILL BE SAVED."

"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, (becomes right with God) and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

"For whoever (anyone who) calls on the name of the Lord SHALL BE SAVED."

Friends, listen! Choice, not chance, will determine whether you spend eternity in Heaven or Hell. This is what God Himself says in His Holy Word, the Bible. It's THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION you will ever make! Right Now, pray this prayer IF you really believe it and sincerely mean it. Please allow me to help you with your prayer.

Remember, just "repeating these words" will not save you. Only your faith, only your belief in your own heart, your own soul, your own inner being, will save you. My prayer for you is that the words you are going to say with me right now will accurately represent what you believe by faith in your innermost being, in your very own soul.

YOUR SALVATION PRAYER

Now, please repeat your prayer after me, "Dear Heavenly Father, I know I'm a sinner." Now say this, "please forgive me of my sins." Now say this, "thank you for dying on the cross for my sins and saving my soul." Now say this, "right now I accept your free gift of eternal life." Now finish your prayer like this, "in Jesus' Name I pray. Amen."