

Lesson 161 - Be ye doers

When we come to Jesus and are justified, He does not send us back out into our old life. He puts us to work. This lesson will examine being a doer and not a lump on a couch.

1. What are we expected to be doers of? **James 1:22 [Answer at the beginning of the verse]**

EGW: Practical Christianity we must have, or we cannot enter heaven. Hearing and preaching the gospel is not enough. We must wear the yoke of Christ. We must learn of Him to be meek and lowly. We must be doers of the Word. "If ye know these things," Christ declares, "happy are ye if ye do them." "Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." {AUCR, April 15, 1905 par. 9}

2. If we just rely upon being told that we are saved and cannot be lost, what are we doing to ourselves? **James 1:22 [Answer at the end of the verse]**

EGW: You have heard the word of God in reproofs, in counsels, in warnings, as well as in the entreaties of love. But hearing is not enough. "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." It is easy to be borne along by the current, and to cry Hosannah with the multitude; but in the calm of everyday life, when there is no special excitement or exaltation, then comes the test of true Christianity. It is then that your heart becomes cold, and your zeal abates, and religious exercises become distasteful to you. {4T 187.4}

3. What are we expected to also be doers of without criticism, making excuses, etc.? **James 4:11 [It is worded in the opposite direction but is the expectation of a Christian.]**

EGW: (no comment)

4. If we do make excuses and try to explain why complete obedience is not really required, what do we become? **James 4:11 [Answer at the very end of the verse]**

EGW: It should not be regarded as a light thing to speak evil of others or to make ourselves judges of their motives or actions. "He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge." James 4:11. There is but one judge--He "who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts." 1 Corinthians 4:5. And whoever takes it upon himself to judge and condemn his fellow men is usurping the prerogative of the Creator. {PP 385.2}

5. Those that continue in the law of liberty, doing the expected work that is to be done, what are they in the eyes of God? **James 1:25**

EGW: Hear the only correct way for each human being to do if he would have a safe, all-round experience. "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, [for there is a work to be done, that is neglected at the peril of the soul], this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." Carry this out, as a test of pure and undefiled religion, and the blessing of God will surely follow. {FE 461.1}

6. What do hearers of the Word actually do regarding their manner of who they truly are? **James 1:23-24**

EGW: When Nicodemus came to Jesus, Christ laid before him the conditions of divine life, teaching him the very alphabet of conversion. Nicodemus asked, "How can these things be? Art thou a master in Israel?" Christ answered, 'And knowest not these things?' This question might be addressed to many who are holding positions of responsibility as teachers, but who have neglected the work essential for them to do, before they are qualified to be teachers. If Christ's words were received into the soul, there would be a much higher intelligence, and much deeper spiritual knowledge of what constitutes one a disciple and a sincere follower of Christ. When the test and trial comes to every soul, there will be apostasies, traitors, heady, highminded, and self-sufficient men, who will turn away from the truth, making shipwreck of the faith. Why? - because they did not dig deep and make their foundation sure. They were not riveted to the eternal book. When the words of the Lord, through His chosen messengers, are brought to them, they murmur, and think that the way is made

too strait. Like those who were thought to be the disciples of Christ, but who were displeased with His words, and walked no more with Him, they will turn away from Christ. "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." What is the drawing? - "It is written in the prophets, and they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." There are men that hear, and not learn the lessons as diligent students. They have a form of godliness, but are not believers. They know not the truth by practice. They receive not the engrafted word. "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." He did not perceive the impression made upon his mind when comparing his course of action with the great moral looking-glass. He did not see his defects of character. He did not reform, and forgetting all about the impression made, he went not God's way, but, "His way," continuing to be unreformed. {KC 65.3}

7. What may we be considered when we are simply teaching others the gospel? **2 Timothy 2:9**

EGW: A more hearty, persevering, energetic disciple of Jesus Christ than was Paul, has never been upon the earth. He counted all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. He had one aim before him, and that was, that from his lips should go forth the tidings of redemption to perishing souls, that they might be brought into acquaintance with the Redeemer of the world. His whole soul was wrapped up in Jesus, and in the light of truth received from the Source of all light. This light must be carefully cherished. As he gave his last commission to Timothy to teach others also, that nothing of the divine instruction should be lost, he left him his example in faith. The apostle had carefully guarded himself, that he should not betray any murmuring, or make any appeal to his own sympathies. But, for the benefit of those who should follow Christ, he was determined to leave an example worthy of imitation. He was continually "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." This knowledge in his experience he committed to Timothy, that it might be committed by him to others. He desired that Timothy should heartily believe, and carefully meditate upon the sufferings, the crucifixion, and the resurrection, of Christ, and find in the mission of Jesus sufficient support under all trials in the Christian life, that he might be able to endure all for Christ's sake. For if the Master of the house had to suffer trial and persecution, shall not they of his household? Is the servant above his Lord? When Timothy should suffer trouble as an evil-doer because he testified of the mission, the sufferings, the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the ascension of Christ, he was to remember that Paul, his father in the gospel, had been a partaker with Christ in his sufferings, because he was a believer in him, and a doer of his

words. Timothy was not to be surprised if he received the same treatment as had his father in the gospel. {RH, September 11, 1888 par. 3}

8. What does God do towards the doers of the law? **Romans 2:13 [Answer at the very end of the verse]**

EGW: Those who had accepted the light concerning the mediation of Christ and the perpetuity of the law of God, found that these were the truths presented in Revelation 14. The messages of this chapter constitute a threefold warning, which is to prepare the inhabitants of the earth for the Lord's second coming. The announcement, "The hour of his Judgment is come," points to the closing work of Christ's ministration for the salvation of men. It heralds a truth which must be proclaimed until the Saviour's intercession shall cease, and he shall return to the earth to take his people to himself. The work of judgment which began in 1844, must continue until the cases of all are decided, both of the living and the dead; hence it will extend to the close of human probation. That men may be prepared to stand in the Judgment, the message commands them to "fear God, and give glory to him," "and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." The result of an acceptance of these messages is given in the words, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." In order to be prepared for the Judgment, it is necessary that men should keep the law of God. That law will be the standard of character in the Judgment. The apostle Paul declares, "As many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; ... in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ." And he says that "the doers of the law shall be justified." [Romans 2:12-16.] Faith is essential in order to the keeping of the law of God; for "without faith it is impossible to please him." And "whatsoever is not of faith is sin." [Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:23.] {GC88 435.2}

9. Who does not receive that status from God? **Romans 2:13 [Answer at the beginning of the verse]**

EGW: The message God sends through His servants will be scorned and derided by unfaithful shepherds, who tread down with their feet the feed of the pastures, giving the flock as food that which they have defiled. "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord." No outward nearness to God will screen from divine wrath those who trample under their feet the law of Jehovah. God will render to every man according to his deeds; "to them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life: but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath.... As many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have

sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; for not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified." {RH, June 25, 1901 par. 15}

10. What type of person takes heed or listens to lies? **Proverbs 17:4**

EGW: (no comment)

11. What happens to such people that do listen to lies? **Psalms 101:8**

EGW: (no comment)

12. What shall such people not enter? **End of Psalms 101:8**

EGW: (no comment)

13. What do the proud doers receive? **Psalms 31:23** [Keep in mind, taking pride in doing that which is right is not the same as having pride in one's ego.]

EGW: (no comment)

14. What type of congregation does God hate? **Psalms 26:5**

EGW: (no comment)

15. What will God not do towards evil doers? **Job 8:20**

EGW: (no comment)

16. How shall an evil doer be punished? **2 Samuel 3:39**

EGW: (no comment)

17. What type of doing should we suffer from the world? **1 Peter 3:17**

EGW: "He that sayeth he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." He who professes to be a follower of Christ should set a Christ-like example. Let him not be as those who have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof. When in company with those who are light and trifling, with the scorner and unbeliever, "let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: ... let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." The following words are to instruct you as to what you shall do and say: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you [mark the manner], with meekness and fear: having a good conscience; that whereas they speak evil of you, as of evil doers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing." You are to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; but what kind of fear are you to feel?--It is a holy fear, lest self shall appear, lest feelings of self-esteem and superiority shall mingle with your testimony; for if you would rightly represent Christ, self must be hid in Jesus. {YI, November 10, 1892 par. 3}

18. What should not happen to our well doing? **2 Thessalonians 3:13**

EGW: "Let none who dedicate themselves to the work of God be discouraged at the outlook, but let them strive to be faithful in the work committed to them. Live wholly for God; put your life, your energies, your soul into the work, not knowing which shall prosper, this or that. Go forth to your

canvassing work, or other lines of labor, knowing that there is a witness, an angel by your side. If you are careless and inattentive, reckless of your words, reckless in spirit, your character is thus portrayed by the recording angel. As the polished plate of the artist produces your features, so will the books of records reflect your words, your works, your character. If you cease to do evil, if you learn to do well, through the grace given for you, the golden harvest of infinite blessedness is growing, and as a laborer together with God you are preparing to be a reaper. Yield not to indolence, give not up to discouragement, be not weary in well doing, for you will reap if you faint not. {SpTB16 17.2}

19. How shall we be doing God's will? **Ephesians 6:6**

EGW: It was not the apostle's work to overturn arbitrarily or suddenly the established order of society. To attempt this would be to prevent the success of the gospel. But he taught principles which struck at the very foundation of slavery, and which, if carried into effect, would surely undermine the whole system. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty," he declared. When converted, the slave became a member of the body of Christ, and as such was to be loved and treated as a brother, a fellow heir with his master to the blessings of God and the privileges of the gospel. On the other hand, servants were to perform their duties, "not with eye-service, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart." {RH, December 14, 1911 par. 20}

20. In what condition ought a servant of the Lord be caught in? **Luke 12:43 (Answer found at the end of the verse.)**

EGW: The Lord is giving me the most precious presentations of what He desires to do for those who will to do the will of God. "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" [Matthew 24:45-51]. We have a most sacred commission. {18MR 162.2}

Those who are in any way connected with the church of God must be humble, revealing the

meekness of Christ. All are invited to come to Christ in their great need, and to take His yoke upon them. "Learn of Me," says the divine Teacher, Christ, "for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." If [only] all would heed the invitation! {18MR 162.3}