



Antonio Ciseri "Ecce Homo" (John 19:5)



Steps To Christ

Ellen G. White

Chapter 5 Consecration

Memory Verse – John 3:16 (NKJV)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Scriptures

New King James Version

Scriptures

1. What did Joshua urge the people to do?

Joshua 24:15 (NKJV). "... choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve,"

Scriptures

2. What did Elijah urge the people to do?

1 Kings 18:21 (NKJV). “And Elijah came to all the people, and said, ‘How long will you falter between two opinions? if the LORD *is* God, follow him; but if Baal, follow him.’ But the people answered him not a word.”

Scriptures

3. What is God's part in our choices?

Philippians 2:13 (NKJV). “For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.”

Scriptures

4. What must we give up to follow Christ?

Luke 14:33 (NKJV). “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

Scriptures

5. What did Jesus say about divided loyalties?

Matthew 12:30 (NKJV). “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”

Scriptures

6. What person did Jesus say was not fit for the kingdom of God?

Luke 9:62 (NKJV). “But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.’”

Scriptures

7. What is God's promise if we seek Him?

“Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV). “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

Scriptures

8. What promise does God make to those who seek after righteousness?

“Matthew 5:6 (NKJV). “Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”

Scriptures

9. How do those who are fully on God's side feel?

Romans 1:16 (NKJV). “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

Scriptures

10. How does God evaluate us?

1 Samuel 16:7 (NKJV). “... For *the LORD* does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Scriptures

11. What should direct our actions?

Colossians 3:23, 24 (NKJV). “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

Scriptures

12. What new life do we live?

“Galatians 2:20 (NKJV). “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Scriptures

13. What is Christ's invitation?

Revelation 3:20 (NKJV). “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

Scriptures

14. What choice regarding our eternal life do we have?

Matthew 16:24-26 (NKJV). “²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Scriptures

15. How do we find or lose our life?

Matthew 10:39 (NKJV). “He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”

Scriptures

16. What happened when the disciples were fully consecrated?

Acts 4:31 (NKJV). “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”

Study Questions

Study Questions

1. What must be yielded to God before we can be restored to His likeness? (SC 5.2)

“The whole heart must be yielded to God or the change can never be wrought in us by which we are to be restored to His likeness.”

Study Questions

2. What is the greatest battle that was ever fought?
(5:3).

“The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought.”

Study Questions

3. What must take place before we are renewed in holiness? (5:3).

“... the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness.”

Study Questions

4. What choice will God not force us to make? (5:4).

“It remains for us to choose whether we will be set free from the bondage of sin, to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God.”

Study Questions

5. In giving ourselves to God, what must be given up? (5:5).

“In giving ourselves to God, we must necessarily give up all that would separate us from Him.”

Study Questions

6. List some things that can separate us from God. (5:5).

“Mammon is the idol of many. The love of money, the desire for wealth, is the golden chain that binds them to Satan. Reputation and worldly honor are worshiped by another class. The life of selfish ease and freedom from responsibility is the idol of others.”

Study Questions

7. What is the value of performing the duties of the Christian life as that which God requires in order to gain heaven? (5:6).

Nothing.

Study Questions

8. What will be your motive or spring of action? (5:6).

“Love to Christ will be the spring of action.”

Study Questions

9. What question should you ask yourself when deciding to yield all to Christ? (5:7).

“What has Christ given for me?”

Study Questions

10. What does God not require us to give up? (5:10).

“God does not require us to give up anything that it is for our best interest to retain.”

Study Questions

11. What does God require us to perform? (5:11).

“He requires us to perform only those duties that will lead our steps to heights of bliss to which the disobedient can never attain.”

Study Questions

12. Describe how those who desire to give themselves to God really are? (5:12).

“You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections.

The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; ...”

Study Questions

13. What is the will? (5:12).

“This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice.”

Study Questions

14. How much depends upon the right action of the will? (5:12).

Everything depends on the right action of the will.”

Study Questions

15. What should we do with our wills? (5:12).

“You can give Him your will;”

Study Questions

16. When will God work in us to will and do of His good pleasure? (5:12).

“ . . . He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure.”

Study Questions

17. What happens to our nature when we give God our will? (5:12).

“Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.”

Study Questions

18. Why will many be lost while hoping and desire to be Christians? (5:13).

“They do not come to the point of yeilding the will to God. They do not now *choose* to be Christians.”

Study Questions

19. What will result through the right exercise of the will? (5:14).

“Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life.”

Study Questions

20. How will a person be enabled to live a life of faith? (5:14).

“You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith.”

Thought Questions

Thought Questions

1. What do I do when I discover the old motives are still there?

Thought Questions

2. What is my part in changing my motives, and what is God's part?

Thought Questions

3. Can my will ever become strong enough to stop sinning?

Thought Questions

4. Will I feel different after I make the right choice?

Thought Questions

5. After I begin making the right choices, how long will it take before I don't feel the pull of this sin?

Thought Questions

6. How can I tell if I have the right motives?

Thought Questions

7. What do I do when I make the wrong choice over and over?

Thought Questions

8. Does the person who has a strong will have an advantage over the person whose will is not strong?

Thought Questions

9. Do I have to give away everything to be consecrated?

Thought Questions

10. How can I give 100% of my effort to the Lord when I have opposition at home?

Thought Questions

11. What do I need to make me willing to give my will to God?

Thought Questions

12. Why is doing God's will always such a struggle?

Thought Questions

13. Does understanding myself give me power to do the right?

Thought Questions

14. How does guilt affect my ability to make choices?

Thought Questions

15. How does trust affect the surrender of my will?

Thought Questions

16. Should I make myself do something I know I should do, even though I know I am not motivated by the right reason?

Thought Questions

17. Why am I able to choose to do some things and not others?

Thought Questions

18. What role does the hope of heaven have in motivating us?

Thought Questions

19. If I surrender my will to God, won't I be like a puppet or robot?

Thought Questions

20. [Add your questions]

Problem Solving

Problem Solving

This young person has repeatedly failed to overcome a powerful addictive behavior, and has finally quit trying. He is backsliding, but still attends church. He has a desire for victory, but lack of hope that it can be achieved, at least for him. Each time he starts to change, the Devil brings so many other problems into his life that he gets overwhelmed and discouraged, and goes back to the addiction.

How can the Gospel help him to change not only his desire, but the actual sin itself?

Notes: You might work with the following information: causes, option, solution, decisions, scriptures that apply.

Additional Exercises

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1. Add three more items to your “Appreciation List.”

Additional Exercises

2. Additional Reading:

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 513-516.

“Dangers of the Young.”

Education, pp. 287-297. “Discipline.”

The Ministry of Healing, pp. 76-77. “The Power of the Will.”

Additional Exercises

3. Look up the following great spiritual questions from the Scriptures.

Job 14:10; Job 14:14; Matthew 16:26; Hebrews 2:3, 4; Psalm 8:3, 4; Matthew 19:16; John 8:46; Matthew 22:41, 42; Genesis 3:1, 9, 11, 13; genesis 4:9; Romans 8:31; Psalm 116:12.

Additional Exercises

4. Describe one example of how the information learned in this chapter can help YOU in YOUR daily Christian life.

Additional Exercises

5. Find at least one opportunity to explain what you have learned to one or more persons.

E. G. White Quotes

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, p. 512

“Every act of our lives, whether excellent and praiseworthy or deserving of censure, is judged by the Searcher of hearts according to the motives which prompted it”

The Ministry of Healing, pp. 477, 478

“Not by their wealth, their education, or their position does God estimate men. He estimates them by their purity of motive and their beauty of character. He looks to see how much of His Spirit they possess and how much of His likeness their life reveals. To be great in God’s kingdom is to be as a little child in humility, in simplicity of faith, and in purity of love.”

The Great Controversy, p. 487

“No value is attached to a mere profession of faith in Christ; only the love which is shown by works is counted genuine. Yet it is love alone which in the sight of Heaven makes any act of value. Whatever is done from love, however small it may appear in the estimation of men, is accepted and rewarded of God.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 514

“It is for you to yield up your will to the will of Jesus Christ; and as you do this, God will immediately take possession and work in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. Your whole nature will then be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ, and even your thoughts will be subject to Him.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 142

“Our will is not to be forced into co-operation with divine agencies, but it must be voluntarily submitted. Were it possible to force upon you with a hundredfold greater intensity the influence of the Spirit of God, it would not make you a Christian, a fit subject for heaven. The stronghold of Satan would not be broken. The will must be placed on the side of God’s will.

You are not able, of yourself, to bring your purposes and desires and inclinations into submission to the will of God; but if you are 'willing to be made willing,' God will accomplish the work for you, even 'casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.'"

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 62

“God does not design that our will should be destroyed, for it is only through its exercise that we can accomplish what He would have us do. Our will is to be yielded to Him, that we may receive it again, purified and refined, and so linked in sympathy with the Divine that He can pour through us the tides of His love and power.”

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 331

“Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not, then you can not overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 92

“Satan does not want anyone to see the necessity of an entire surrender to God. When the soul fails to make this surrender, sin is not forsaken; the appetites and passions are striving for the mastery; temptations confuse the conscience, so that true conversion does not take place.”

Education, p. 289

“Everyone may place his will on the side of the will of God, may choose to obey Him, and by thus linking himself with divine agencies, he may stand where nothing can force him to do evil. In every youth, every child, lies the power, by the help of God, to form a character of integrity and to live a life of usefulness.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 183

“To subdue self, and bring the passions under the control of the will, is the greatest conquest that men and women can achieve.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 61

“It is through the will that sin retains its hold upon us.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 324

“When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own.

A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one. We must inevitably be under the control of the one or the other of the two great powers that are contending for the supremacy of the world. It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion.

We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not co-operate with the heavenly agencies, Satan will take possession of the heart, and will make it his abiding place. The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin.

We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.”

The Great Controversy, p. 510

“Christ will give strength to all who seek it. No man without his own consent can be overcome by Satan. The tempter has no power to control the will or to force the soul to sin. He may distress, but he cannot contaminate. He can cause agony, but not defilement. The fact that Christ has conquered should inspire His followers with courage to fight manfully the battle against sin and Satan.”

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 312

“When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life.”

Quiz

Quiz

1. T F Constant surrender to God enables us to live the new life of faith. (SC 5.14).
2. T F It is God that works in us both to will and to do of His Good pleasure. (Philippians 2:13).
3. T F God requires us to perform only those duties that give test and trial. (SC 5.11).

Quiz

4. T F Those who profess to serve God, while relying upon their own efforts to obey His law, to form a right character, and secure salvation, have a religion worth nothing (SC 1.5).
5. T F The battle with Satan is the greatest battle that we ever fight (SC 5.3).

Quiz

6. How much depends upon the right action of the will. (SC 5.12).

Everything.

Quiz

7. List one thing that can separate us from God. (SC 5.5).

Money, the love of money, reputation and worldly honor, life of selfish ease and freedom from responsibility.

Quiz

8. What should be our motive of action. (SC 5.6).
Love to Christ will be the spring of action.

Quiz

9. What is the will. (SC 5.12).

The governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision or of choice.

Quiz

10. What did Joshua urge the people to do? (Joshua 24:15 NKJV).

Choose whom you will serve.

Quiz

11. How should we feel about the Gospel of Christ?
(Romans 1:16 NKJV).
- A. Indifferent.
 - B. Not ashamed.
 - C. Stressed.
 - D. Encouraged.

Quiz

12. What question should you ask yourself when deciding to yield all to Christ? (SC 5.7).
- A. Can I make it?
 - B. Is the reward worth it?
 - C. What has Christ given for me?
 - D. What will others think?

Quiz

13. What is the proper exercise of the will? (SC 5.12).
- A. Repeating the words “I choose.”
 - B. Choosing only the right.
 - C. Attempting goals that can be achieved.
 - D. Giving your will to God.

Quiz

14. When does God work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure? (SC 5.12)
- A. After we give Him our will.
 - B. After we begin to overcome.
 - C. After we love Him enough.
 - D. After suffering the results of our sin.

Quiz

15. Complete the following:

“Through the right exercise of the WILL, an ENTIRE CHANGE may be made in your life.” (SC 5.14.)

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