

Living Lessons

***for
Lambs***

***Learning to Lean
on***



Jesus



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Living Lessons for Lambs Learning to Lean on Jesus.

"CHRISTIAN GREETINGS and A HAPPY NEW LIFE TO YOU!"



This truly is a *special occasion* in your experience, indeed the most wonderful day of all. A miracle has just occurred on earth, for you have been ...

Born Again, of the Spirit of the living God!

(John 3:5-6)

Believe it or not, *there is rejoicing in Heaven*, in the very presence of the Angels just now - *over you!*

(Luke 15:10)

Even our Lord Jesus Christ is saying, **(as He Himself is rejoicing)**



***"Rejoice with me;
for I have found my sheep which was lost."***
(Luke 15:6)

You are not *'lost'* any more, and you will never be *'lost'* again.
(John 10:27-29; Hebrews 10:14; Jude verse 24)

Do not be afraid of the unknown future for *the Good Shepherd Himself* has a strong grip of you on His *'shoulders'*, **(not just one shoulder)** **(Luke 15:5)** and you cannot fall off.

He has promised to *“gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”* (Isaiah 40:11)



**“COULD ANYTHING SO SPIRITUAL,
SOUND MORE NATURAL?”**

The *Great Shepherd of the sheep*, views you at this moment, as one of His newborn lambs, you are *safe in the arms of Jesus*, under his care and protection from now on.

Our Precious Saviour says, *“Ye belong to Christ,”* in Mark 9:41, isn't that a wonderful comfort?

The *Compassionate Creator*, (John 1:3) has provided parents to wean their young in every family of Creation, whether it is a human family, or a nest of birds or a herd of cattle, pack of monkeys or whatever. So He has also ordained in the Church that *“those that are with young”,* (in the Faith), should feed and care for them in the very important early days of their lives, for, *“He careth for you!”* (1st Peter 5:7)

This is exactly why our Lord Jesus Christ gave Peter such explicit instructions to feed *“my Lambs”* as well as *“my sheep”*. (John 21:15-17)

Peter never forgot those instructions and he says in 1st Peter 2:2

*“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk
of the word, that ye may grow thereby;”*



We always give milk to babies, because a big steak would choke them!

This is important! Have nothing to do with ***complicated Christianity***. Keep it simple in these days of Eternal babyhood, and seek the weaning ***‘milk of the word’*** of God every day and you will become a spiritually strong and healthy growing Christian! **(Hebrews 13:9)**

"You might find it easier to read the Gospel records first."
(i.e. Matthew, Mark, Luke & John)



Remember who it is that gets all the attention in the family ... ***the baby!***

Enjoy seeing yourself as God sees you, as a newborn babe in Christ. Bask in His tender love for you, as you ***Praise*** and ***Pray***, ***Worship*** and ***Thank Him for all that He is,*** and for all that He has done for you at Calvary. **(Psalm 50:23 / Matthew 21:16b)**

Let His loving assurances “sink down into your ears” or in other words, meditate upon them until they have an opportunity of penetrating into your subconscious mind. Whenever we sow the seed of God’s word into our hearts, it will take root and grow into a harvest that fills our souls with a sense of wellbeing. **(Philippians 4:8-9)**



“I will never leave thee nor forsake thee”

(Hebrews 13:5)

“Nothing shall by any means hurt you” **(Luke 10:19b)**

“Rejoice because your names are written in Heaven” **(Luke 10:20b)**

“And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more” **(Hebrews 10:17)**

Isn't it great to spiritually lie at peace in ***the everlasting arms?***
To know that you are ***eternally secure?***

You were once born into a human family and you could never fall out of it, could you?

Your Mother and Father will never cease to be your Mother and Father.

So it is, now that you have been ***'born again'*** into ***God's family***, and nothing can ever separate you or sever your ***relationship with God***. **(Romans 8:38 & 39)**

I am sure that you have heard Christ's parable of ***the Prodigal Son***, and how he wilfully left the Father's house and went his own rebellious way, wasting his substance with riotous living.

No matter how far away he drifted from the will of his Father, ***he never ceased to be a Son at any time***, and his Father never ceased to be his Father even in his darkest hour.

The relationship of Father and Son could not be broken, yet while he lived in wantonness and debauchery his fellowship with his Father was severed.

If he was going to know again the experience of the ***favourable fellowship***, and blessing, and provision of his Father, he would have to repent and confess his sins and disobedience to him.

It is the same in a sense with us. We are never going to be ***'sinless'*** until we see Jesus. That is why Christ taught His disciples to pray ***every day***, not only for their daily bread but for ***forgiveness of their trespasses***.

(Luke 11:3-4 / 1st John 1:8&9)

Of course we should endeavour with all our might not to sin, for ***"How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"*** **(Romans 6:2)**... but whenever we fail miserably and do a belly flopper, just remember that we have ***an advocate*** with the Father, pleading His Finished Work and Precious Redeeming Blood on our behalf. **(1st John 2:1)**

Believe me, I am not making light of sin, because it is too serious a matter for that, but in the early days of my new-found walk with Christ, I remember thinking that whenever my children took ***their very first baby steps*** and then stumbled on the floor crying, their Mum and Dad didn't knock them about the room shouting, "Walk right stupid!"

Rather we were overjoyed with delight and said, "There, there, sweetheart, don't cry, for you did very well and we are proud of you. Now come on and get up to your feet and try again."

If we then, being evil, behave in this fashion with our children, how much more will our Heavenly Father encourage His babes ***'in Christ'***, through faith in Christ?

Some poor lost sinners who are convicted of their guilt and repent in prayer and seek God's forgiveness make the terrible mistake of saying, "I'll wait and see if it works first before I tell anyone."



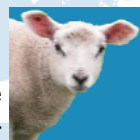
"THIS IS A SATANIC TRICK!"

You are not saved unless you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord to others with your mouth! **(Romans 10:9)**

Also, you have a totally wrong concept if you think you have just passed from being Clarke Kent into Superman, by saying some magic words.

"YOU HAVE TWO NATURE'S NOW."

An old one (Psalm 51:5) and **a new one**, which is the real you! **(2 Corinthians 5:17)** They are not co-existing peaceably within your being, but they are struggling for dominance and battling within your breast constantly until Jesus comes or calls.



Read **Romans 7:15-25.**

"I ONLY KNOW FOR SURE THAT I AM SAVED BECAUSE:"



- God's word has revealed to me that I am a sinner.
- God's word states that because I am a sinner, I am facing Death and Hell forever. (**Psalm 9:17; Romans 6:23; Mark 9:43-48; Matthew 23:33**)
- God's word has declared that my sins cannot be remitted or pardoned or forgiven, apart from *the cleansing power of the sacrificially shed blood of Jesus Christ* the Son of God atoning for them. (**Hebrews 9:22b; Leviticus 17:11; Exodus 12:13**)



"SO WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD INSTRUCT ME TO DO?"

- Repent! Seek God's forgiveness! About turn! Go God's way! (**Jeremiah 3:13**)
- Come in an act of simple Faith to Jesus Christ our Wonderful Beckoning Saviour. (**Matthew 11:28**)
- Take Him at His Word and believe and embrace and rely upon the unbreakable rock solid promises of His sinless lips, for *He cannot lie*. (**John 6:37, John 10:9**)

Remember that *it is the Lord our God that you want to be reconciled to*, and to be right with and He personally guarantees that if you come to Him in repentance and embrace the Son of God by faith as your own and personal Saviour, then *you are in*. (**John 6:37**)

If you are in, *then you are saved*. (**John 10:9**)

So I am sure that I am saved, in the same way that the dying thief knew that he was saved,

not because,

- “I feel different”
- “my circumstances have changed”
- “I look different” or “I think different”

but because the Lord Jesus Christ said it!



“WE ARE TRUSTING WHOLLY IN THE SURENESS OF THE SAVIOUR'S SAYINGS ALONE.” (Matthew 7:24-27)

“OBEY THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST”



The whole basis of our fellowship with God is one of ***Faith in His Word***, if God said it then I believe it!

When the Bible speaks, ***God*** speaks.

So read God's word, **(2 Timothy 2:15)** believe God's word, **(Hebrews 4:2)** act on your beliefs. **(James 1:22-25)** Settle it in your mind from the beginning, ***God's word can be fully trusted!***

It is the sure foundation of our faith!

From the earliest years our minds have been blitzed by the intellectual theories of the agents of Satan into asking, “Hath God said?” **(Genesis 3:1)**

So much so that Adam and Eve, Heaven and Hell, seem like childish fables, and God's word is presented to us as a book of legends, myths, platitudes and ideas!

Be clear from the start, this is the Devils lie!

Now have no doubts, God's word is God's truth!

Dependable, unmoveable, impregnable, don't pretend that it's real,

it is real and God doesn't need any excuses!

"They that trust Him wholly, find Him wholly true!"



In 1968 I came to Christ, straight from a life of sin and scoffing and scepticism. I remember praying to God,

"Lord all else has failed me, after you there is nothing left. If you are not for real, I'm finished and without hope! My mind is telling me I'm a fool, I can't believe in fairies, it is just the way I'm made! So Lord I'm going to believe Thy Word to be the Truth the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth, even though everything else is screaming the reverse. What have I got to lose Lord? But the things that I want to lose! My sin and shame, and failure and regrets, and bondage of heart and mind! But if the Word of God fails me, then I have no choice but to throw my Bible into the bin forever. It has got to be all Lord, or nothing at all."

That was 36 years ago and I can assure you the Bible is still my most valued possession, and it has never once been in the bin, and yet believe me, I have relied absolutely and completely in all my need upon those promises.

Whenever my wife and I were led through God's Word to sell our home and give the proceeds to the poor, nobody but The Lord Himself, and my wife and I, knew that we had a couple of weeks to get out of the house we had sold and we had nowhere else to go!

What will my family say? **"He is going stark raving mad!"**
What will my friends say? **"He went too far!"**

But we knew that God was guiding us directly through His Word, and within a few hours, God sent a true man of God to our home called David Ravey, to tell us that The Lord had told him to give us his house, 25 miles away, and he would receive a larger one for his ministry among the afflicted!

He did!

The great mansion that he received, with a swimming pool and magnificent chandelier included, has been used of God for 26 years to be a blessing to many hundreds of afflicted folk. Only God Himself provided all their need at Wayside, Donaghadee!

Andy Irwin, David's son in law, waited before him with Claire his wife and Mrs. Ravey her Mother, Dorothy her sister, and the rest of the family.

We moved, and now in what used to be a vegetable plot in a back garden, stands a Meeting House where a new testament assembly of the church of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Saviour gather, and it is used morning and evening by those who know and love the Lord!

I've gone forward "by faith" with those same promises leading me to leave my job and look to God and God alone for my own necessities and the needs of my wife and three sons.

Try to understand I wasn't a preacher or teacher! No! Just a poor worthless, miserable wretch of a trembling soul. Listening to God's Word and daring to believe it! Against the contradictory advice of my own reasoning and the awful feelings in the pit of my own stomach! (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)

Did God fail? Of course not! For the past thirty years He has supernaturally met all our needs continually and without a break from that day to this, in a million wonderful ways, Praise Him! For great is His faithfulness!

I only say this to help you to understand that I'm not just talking off the top of my head but from God's Word, my personal experiences and from my heart (**John 3:11**).



"God's book, (the Bible) is not like any other book on earth it is alive!"

It is a living book! **(1st Peter 1:23)**

I have spent time on this point because the Word of God, and only the Word of God is our rule, guide, instruction and daily communication, between us and our Wonderful Heavenly Father.

Beware of lesser foundations, i.e. the word of men and their committees, concoctions and imaginations. The word of sects, parties, divisions and anything other than the pure undiluted, uncontaminated word of God!



"This is important!"

The greatest living authority on God's Word next to God himself is Satan. He hates it! Attacks it! Misquotes it!

So remember it's **the Sword of the Spirit** that Christ reached for in the Wilderness and don't seek to use a lesser weapon against the foe!

Pray relying on the promises of God's Word.

Fellowship only according to your own convictions based upon God's Word. **(Acts 2:37-47)**

Beware of the unequal yoke. **(2 Corinthians 6:14-18)**

It is vital that you realise that two completely opposed and contrary natures, are now at war within your breast, and will be, until Jesus takes you to your Heavenly home.

Otherwise the enemy will get an advantage over you whenever he whispers in your ear.

"There you are, you are no different than ever you were, you haven't changed a bit, you're not saved at all, for if you were, then you wouldn't have thought that! Or you wouldn't have said that! Or you wouldn't have done that!"

Remember the Devil's a liar, and he will play on your lack of understanding of God's word.

(John 8:44; II Corinthians 11:3; II Corinthians 2:11)

You have an old nature which hasn't changed, and never can. **(Ephesians 2:1-3; John 3:6)**

It is called in God's word, **"the old man," "the flesh,"** and its manifestations are seen in **Galatians 5:19-21.**

From God's perspective, this enemy was crucified, ... judged, ... executed and destroyed on the cross at Calvary, as the Saviour substitutionally took your place and died, for you and as you.

You also have a new nature, which is the real you. **(II Corinthians 5:17).**

The manifestations of the fruit of the spirit **("who indwells you")** are recorded in **Galatians 5:22-25.**

"Read carefully the personal experience of Paul the Apostle in this particular area of truth."



- He definitely is saved. **(Romans 1:1)**
- He has peace with God, **("notice how he got it") (Romans 5:1)**
- He knows that he has an old nature **(Romans 7:18)**
- He also knows that he has a new one **(Romans 7:22)**
- Now watch the war within, as these two completely opposed natures conflict **(Romans 7:23)**
- He has exactly the same dilemma as you, for the things that he knows he should do, he cannot do, and the man keeps doing the things that he does not want to do! **(Romans 7:15; 7:19)**

"Is his heart and cry similar to yours?" (Romans 7:24)

Then notice that his Heavenly help and deliverance comes from the same place as his peace did. **(Romans 7:25) ("through Jesus Christ our Lord")**



"Learn to do what Paul did."

1. Feed the new nature ("on the Word of God, prayer and things of the Spirit.")
2. Starve the old nature of the satisfaction of his evil desires and all that is of the world, the flesh and the devil.
3. In just the same way that you came to Jesus your Saviour who died on the cross to save you, now go continually to Jesus your Deliverer, who rose again from the dead to deliver you!

Remember He knows that you are "Saved by grace" but he also knows that you are not sinless. (Luke 11:4)

You must read and reread **1 John 1:8-9** on this point.

Keep short accounts with God, and keep fellowship and communion with Him clear, by confessing sin as soon as it raises his ugly head in your life immediately.

The scope of this little booklet would not permit a comprehensive study of the subject but I just want to mention the fact that like the believers in **1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**, we have "turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God and to wait for His Son from Heaven."

You are Saved to serve, not just to sit and talk, or daydream. It's a joy to serve God!

Remember, creation began with God and ended with man.

Man's chief end, is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.



Isaiah 43:7, "I have created him for my glory!"



"The Bible teaches, THE PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER"

I Peter 2:4-5 and you are now a priest unto God, with the wonderful privilege of being able to draw near unto God, and to offer Spiritual Sacrifices.

To function as God intends you to be, separated unto Christ (**Hebrews 13:13**)

1. **"Be ye Holy" (I Peter 1:16; II Corinthians 6:17; Acts 5:13; ii Timothy 2:19-21).** A life indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, will express itself in Holiness of character, otherwise there is no evidence of true profession.
2. Ponder carefully, the 5 baby steps for every born again soul, preached by Peter and practised by the 3,000 young believers in **Acts 2:37-42**, and put them into action in your life.
3. Offer "Spiritual Sacrifices" to God. (**"Not to be Saved, but because you are saved"**)

A/ Your temple (**Romans 12:1-2; Proverbs 23:26; II Corinthians 8:5; I Corinthians 6:19-20**)

B/ Your trust (**Proverbs 3:5-6; II Timothy 1:12; I Peter 2:19-20**)

C/ Your tongue (**Ephesians 4:29; 5:4**)

D/ Your thanksgivings (**Ephesians 5:19-20**)

E/ Your testimony (**Philippians 2:14-17**)

F/ Your tithes and offerings (**I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:7; II Corinthians 8:2; Malachi 3:8-12; Leviticus 27:30**)

G/ Your triumph praise (**Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 50:23**)

May the triune God bless you and encourage you, as you head out into the future with,

**"A friend that sticketh closer than a brother"
(Proverbs 18:24) who "will never leave thee nor
forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5)**



What follows is an article written concerning the author of “Living Lessons for Lambs Learning to Lean on Jesus.” If you would like to read a fuller account of this testimony you will find it in a book called,

**‘THIS IS FOR REAL’ by Noel Davidson of
Ambassador Productions Ltd.
on web site www.thebiblezone.com**

THIS POOR MAN CRIED AND THE LORD HEARD HIM

Early in his life George Bates professed to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as his saviour, but later was personally disillusioned by the rampant hypocrisy of professed Christianity as he met it.

Beginning simply by fiddling and deception at school and at home, George embarked on a course of life which was to snowball until it became consistently filled with crime and booze and innumerable other follies.

Contrary to the words of a scripture verse stating that men will “**reap**” what they “**sow**”, George never seemed to reap what he had sown.

In his early teens those words jolted him regularly for a while but before long George reckoned he had disproved them thoroughly.

He became cynically amused at the Scriptures and the idea that God even existed. Eventually, almost as an advocate of the Devil, George often made Christianity and the Bible the target of vicious attack.

In his vain imagination, he reckoned he knew all the answers.

Only once, years later, via a third person was someone able to hand out anything to convince him otherwise though George never actually met the man then. The time of reaping came nonetheless, after years of apparent freedom to do whatever his mind desired without having to contend with consequences.

Gradually, at about twenty two years of age, everything turned sour.

It seemed that he was clutched by a thick black morass which insidiously threatened to drag him physically and mentally under.

He struggled for help in many directions but the struggle only emphasised and aggravated his plight. For six long years this harsh despair wrecked him.

His marriage slowly disintegrated. Only cowardice drew him back from suicide. Then a Spiritual awakening commenced one starry night, as he smoked quietly, looking up into the sky. The vastness of the stellar Heavens gripped him. Lightning bolt questions penetrated his mind.

‘Could such infinite order just happen?’

“No there must have been a Creator!”

Then: **“Do you die like a dog, George?”**

Not too pleased at this turn of his thoughts, he slowly conceded that he had always claimed that was so but, no, he didn’t really believe that.

Then: **“Do you reap what you sow, George?”**

His face paled, increasing in vexation as his memory jerked.

So that’s what has been happening these past six years!

He couldn't wrench his thoughts away till the admission was out and then with that admission, a chilling horror of Hell dawned upon him till he sweated in the cool night air.

He could not cope with his own Hell on earth.

Ultimately, completely at the end of himself, he was driven to cry out to God, if he existed, for mercy and relief.

He did not want to go to Hell, of that he was certain!

Especially if it were worse than his present state.

Shifting the ball into God's court, he asked God to bring him into contact with a book, or a person, or something which would direct him into a relationship with God, so that he might escape Hell.

Two weeks later George was made redundant.

Till then, his job had seemed secure enough and the surprise caused him to reflect on the two weeks just gone into eternity.

Could God be cutting him adrift from his old life, so that he might lead him to someone or something which could show him how to escape Hell.

He had not been able to quit booze, foul language or vile thoughts though he had tried these weeks, but why had he stopped lying?

He was puzzled for he had been a habitual liar.

With the realisation he determined to hand over the controls of his life to God from then on, not making any decisions of his own about a job till shown by God.

At last the Lord had him where he wanted him, and the Divine hand reached into this young man's life, instigating a whole chain of events which culminated in George's being asked to learn the working of a certain machine in a new factory job.

Incredibly, the only man who, years previously, had been able via a third person to topple all George's questions, and so called proofs that the bible was a load of fables, was to train him on this new machine!

Jim Moore was a man who knew God.

George discovered authentic Christianity in this workmate.

Even though they had never met, Jim had been praying for him for years because of his renown for vigorously attempting to refute the inspiration of the Scriptures.

While Jim prayed, the Spirit of God continued his work till he brought George to a place of repentance, and he returned to the Saviour he had spurned for so many years.

There he found forgiveness and peace!

Such a relief to a mind which had been tormented!

Such joy came! How amazed and excited he was too, to discover that his wife **Liz also had only days before come to the same place but had been too scared to mention it to him.**

God changed the Bates' household. It became a haven for numerous other wrecks of humanity who, beneath it all, were searching for peace.

George had been forgiven much and consequently he loved the Saviour much.

Jesus Christ was the honoured and permanent guest of the home.

The largest bedroom of the house was given to God in a particular way as a place where people gathered to pray and worship him.

By Claire Erwin (N'ee Ravey)

"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." (John 10:9)

"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37)

