



NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS RETREAT 2014

Living with

eternity

in view

col 3:1-4

Date:

Venue:



NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS RETREAT 2014

Welcome Address

Dearly beloved,

Welcome to the presence of the Lord and to the inestimable riches which Christ has in store for us on this mount.

Yearly, God has graciously brought us up the mount to unveil His plan for our lives and expose us to the dealings that would bring His purpose to bear upon our lives. From the very first edition of the NYLR 'THAT I MAY KNOW HIM' to the last concluded 'and this shall be the sign: LOOKING UNTO JESUS', God has unreservedly opened His truth to us with the hope that He might find among us instruments for revival. It brings to remembrance how the Lord opened Himself up to His disciples in the days of His flesh teaching them both with words and by Himself being an example that he might realise from their lives instruments for revival (Mark 3: 13-14). Just as Jesus succeeded with the twelve (although one chose the path of destruction), our humble and sincere prayer is that Jesus will succeed with you and would reap from your lives a harvest of instruments for revival in these last days.

As we seek the Lord for His burden concerning this year's gathering, we see that His heart is seeking not just for youth that would be useful to Him on earth while they live, but, His desire is to realise youth that would also end well. For this cause has He laid in our hearts the theme: **'Living with Eternity in View'**. In an age like ours where eternity has become an unpopular subject and messages on eternity has become deleted from our pulpits, it is pertinent to note that our Christianity is vain if our souls suffer eternal lose. *"For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?" Matt. 16: 26*

Beloved, we implore you to take every session of the meetings seriously and avoid every forms of distraction while you fix your gaze on the Lord. We pray that He would graciously give you a glimpse of eternity.

God bless you!

PROGRAMME TIME TABLE

SESSION	TIME	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Morning	5:00 - 5:45	Arrival and Registration	Alone with God	
	5:45 - 6:30		Early Morning Devotion	
	6:30 - 8:00		Clean-up & preparation	
	8:00 - 9:00		Praise & Worship	
	9:00 - 10:30		Hymn 2/ Bible Study 1	Hymn 6/ Bible Study 2
	10:30 - 11:00		Question and Answers	
	11:00 - 12:00		Hymn 3/ TALK 1	Hymn 7/ TALK 3
	12:00 - 12:30		Question and Answers	
Afternoon	12:30 - 3:00		Brunch and Rest	Brunch
				Hymn 8/ Closing Charge
	3:00 - 4:00		Hymn 4/ TALK 2	DEPARTURE
	4:00 - 5:00	Retreat Declared open	Alone with God (Meditation)	
	5:00 - 6:30	Regional Teens Executives meet	Hymn 5/ Workshop	
Evening	6:30 - 8:30	Dinner and Rest		DEPARTURE
	8:30 - 10:30	Hymn 1/ Opening Charge & Prayers	Group Interactive Session	
	10:30 - 12:00	Rest	Film Show (Apocalypse) and prayer	

Schedule of Topics

- Opening Charge: **The Wise Virgin – *the bride hath made herself ready.*** Matt. 25: 1-13, Rev. 19: 7
- Talk 1: **Living with Eternity in View.** Col. 3: 1-4
- Talk 2 **The Character of the Lord's Vessel.** Matt. 7: 17-27
- Talk 3: **Soul Winning – a must.** Ezek. 3: 17-21, Prov. 11: 30
- Bible Study 1: **Living a Victorious Christian Life**
- Bible Study 2: **Our Heavenly Home**
- Workshop: **The Final Judgment**
- Group Interactive Session: **What are the possible signs of the End time that are evident today?**
- Closing Charge: **The Millennial Reign of Christ.** Rev. 20: 1-10
- Movie: **Apocalypse**

Bible Study (Part 1)

Living a Victorious Christian Life

Text: Eph. 6: 10-18

Memory Verse: Eph. 6: 13 *"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."*

Introduction:

A life that would be worthy of eternity with God in heaven, a place of pure joy and inestimable peace; is a life lived on earth to please God. Living with eternity in view involves living a daily victorious Christian life. A life that is victorious over Sin, Satan and the World System. Such a life is heaven bound. Such a life cannot be caught unawares by rapture because it is always prepared.

Today, we shall study the conditions for living a daily victorious Christian Life that would make us a terror to the kingdom of darkness, an instrument of revival in the hand of God, and a heaven bound Christian.

STUDY OUTLINE

We shall take our study on two lesson outlines based on the instruction from our memory verse: **'Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God...'**

1. What is the Whole Armour of God?

The whole armour of God is a complete outfit that a Christian Soldier must be clothed with in order to be able to face the fierce battle of life and to win. This armour cannot be compromised as failure to have it on will amount to defeat both in life and in eternity.

- i. Belt of Truth. Eph. 6: 14
- ii. Breastplate of Righteousness. Eph. 6: 14
- iii. Shoe of Soul Winning. Eph. 6; 15
- iv. Shield of Faith. Eph. 6: 16
- v. Helmet of Salvation. Eph. 6: 17
- vi. Sword of the Spirit. Eph. 6: 17
- vii. Watching and Praying. Eph. 6: 18

2. How can a Christian put on the Whole Armour of God?

A Christian soldier can put on the whole armour of God daily by making the following a daily observation:

- i. **Belt of Truth:** Jesus in John 14: 6 says "... I am the way, **THE TRUTH** and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." It is worthy of note that Jesus did not say

- that He is 'a truth' rather 'the Truth' (definite article). This means that beside Him there isn't any other. Hence, for a Christian to live victoriously, he must make the words of Jesus Christ his daily bread, accepting what Jesus says in His word as truth deposing every other as lies. In any situation he finds himself, he must seek to know the will of God; he mustn't be moved by what moves others but only by the word of God. John 8: 31-32; Matt. 4: 1-11 (Let's learn from the example of Jesus).
- ii. **Breastplate of Righteousness:** A daily life of righteousness is a veritable tool to keep the accuser of the brethren at bay (Rev. 12: 10-11; Zech. 3: 1-3). Joseph discovered this truth and held on to living righteously amidst the temptation to live otherwise when the wife of Potiphar offered herself to him. However, he called the life of sin 'an abomination' embracing righteousness amidst the sumptuous benefit of a life of compromise and the grievous consequence of holding on to righteousness (Gen. 39: 7-12). Jesus also loved righteousness and hated iniquity and hence the Father lifted Him. Sin presents itself with sumptuous benefits that seem to be irresistible; nonetheless, the bible says that it brings reproach. Righteousness however may look unattractive and unpopular but it brings about exaltation to those who embrace it. To live righteously, we must daily say no to sin and live by the commandments of Jesus. Heb. 1: 8-9; Prov. 14: 34; Tit. 2: 11-12; John 14: 23; John 15: 10
 - iii. **Shoe of Soul Winning:** Prov. 11: 30 says *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."* Soul winning is a strategy that keeps a Christian ever hot and burning for the Lord. One who is a soul winner is a fruitful branch and attracts the favour and immeasurable blessings of God to his life. He does not have idle time for the devil to manipulate him; he is ever busy seeking out ways he could win others to Christ. A soul winner also has a greater likelihood of exhibiting all the powers available to a believer: *'cast out devils, speak with new tongues, take up serpents, drink deadly things and not get hurt, lay hands on the sick and they recover'* etc. The devil hates to see that a life is fruitful; a victorious Christian life then is a life that brings frustration to the devil and populates the kingdom of God through evangelism. Mark 16: 15-18; John 15: 8,16
 - iv. **Shield of Faith:** Eph. 6: 16 says *"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."* Although the other armour already discussed cannot be overlooked, the shield of faith seems to be expressed of greater importance than them all. Why? This is because every other armour earlier discussed depends on it. Heb. 11: 6 says *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him ..."* This implies that it takes faith to apply the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness and the shoe of soul winning. A man who lacks faith in God will not accept the word of God as truth, neither would he hold on to a life of righteousness, nor be convinced about preaching since he himself does not believe. Faith also is the

absence of fear. Two of the most potent weapons the devil uses against Christians are fear and guilt. However, faith holds on to what God says even when it appears unrealistic. For faith to be built, we must give ourselves to daily hearing the word of God. One way is by observing a daily quiet time where we have the opportunity to hear God's word spoken to our heart and live by it. Rom. 10: 17; Heb. 10: 38; Heb. 11: 1

- v. **Helmet of Salvation:** Salvation is the first step to becoming a terror to the kingdom of darkness. Without it, you are not even a Christian. You are simply a child of the devil. It is pertinent to note that salvation is not the same as church going or being part of a Pentecostal movement, neither is it doing what is right. It is to be saved by believing in the finished work of Christ on the cross, confessing and forsaking your sins and accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal saviour. Acts 4: 12; Matt. 1: 21; John 3: 14-18; Rom. 10: 9-10; Rom. 5: 8-11
- vi. **The Sword of the Spirit:** Eph. 6: 17 says *"... and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."* As physical sword is to a warrior with which he both defends and attacks, so is the word of God to a Christian. It is the instrument of both defence and attack against the onslaught of the enemy. Rev. 12: 11 says *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony ..."* When Satan attempted to tempt Jesus in the wilderness, the weapon with which Jesus defeated him was the word of God (Matt. 4: 1-11). At every point Satan threw an attack even using the scriptures, Jesus wasn't deceived into immediately believing that that was the word of God, instead, He knowing the mind of God and the word of God for the moment defended and re-attacked the wicked one using the correct and applicable word of God. John wrote by the Holy Ghost in 1 John 2: 14 to the young *"... I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one."* If we are to live a victorious Christian life daily, then we must allow the word of God to dwell richly in us. We must seek the word of God for every moment and live by its truth, we must be quick to apply God's word to every temptation the enemy confronts us with and we must give ourselves to the study of God's word. If faith would have its place in the life of a believer, the word of God that brings faith must first have its place. There can never be faith without the word of God *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"*. Rom. 10: 17
- vii. **Watching and Praying:** This is prerequisite if any believer in Christ would overcome temptation. Jesus said to His disciples in Matt. 26: 41 *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation ..."* It is expedient to note that if we are to be worthy of eternal life hereafter, we must be men that watch and pray. Luke 21: 36; Mark 13: 33-37; 1 Cor. 16: 13; 1 Pet. 4: 7

Conclusion:

A Christian who is fully girt with the whole armour of God is a Christian who fulfils the condition of living a victorious life. A life that is victorious over Sin, Satan and the World. Eternity is assured for such a believer. For him, the scripture would be fulfilled: **“WELL-DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT; ... ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THE LORD!”** Matt. 25: 23

Bible Study (Part 2)

Our Heavenly Home

(Curled from Adult Sunday School Manual August 10, 2014)

Text: *Rev. 21: 1-18; John 14: 1-4*

Memory Verse:

John 14: 2 *"in my Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."*

2 Cor. 5: 1 *"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."*

Introduction:

In our previous study, we discovered the secret of living a daily victorious Christian life: a life that overcomes Sin, Satan and the World. We also realised that that same life is what assures us of eternity with God in heaven. Today, we shall take our study on Heaven - our eternal home. A prepared place for God's prepared people.

STUDY OUTLINES

1. *What is Heaven?*
2. *How big is Heaven?*
3. *What is Heaven like?*
4. *Who are the Inhabitants of Heaven?*

What is Heaven?

Heaven is the home of the Lord God (Matt. 6: 9). The Bible speaks of three heavens (2 Cor. 12: 2). The first heaven is the area where birds fly. The second heaven is where the rockets go. The third Heaven is the home or throne of the Lord God. Heaven is a building of God and not man-made (2 Cor. 5: 1). It has been called the Kingdom of God and of Christ (Eph. 5: 5). Surely, it is the Father's House (John 14: 2). It is a place of rest (Heb. 4: 9).

How big is Heaven?

Heaven cannot be measured (Jer. 31: 37). Some people have erroneously considered the New Jerusalem mentioned in this lesson's Bible passage as Heaven (Rev. 21: 1). Nevertheless, the New Jerusalem is not Heaven. It is a part of Heaven and not Heaven itself because the New Jerusalem comes out 'from' Heaven (Rev. 21: 2, 10). Though Heaven is immeasurable, still it is

for the limited few who are holy and pure and the mansions there, though many, are limited. That is why the Lord had to go to prepare a place for us. Therefore, it is a very wise thing to reserve your mansion today. This you can do by surrendering totally to the Lord.

What is Heaven Like?

Heaven is a high place (Isa. 57: 15), a holy place (Ps. 20:6), a happy place (Rev. 7: 17), a place without death, tears, sorrow, crying or pain (Rev. 21: 4). Heaven is a place without night or darkness (Rev. 22: 3-5), a place without hunger, thirst or excessive heat or cold (Rev. 7: 16). Heaven is a place of perfect satisfaction (Rev. 22: 1-2). There is a pure river of the water of life and a tree with twelve kinds of fruits there. It is a place of perfect leisure and comfort. Heaven is a place of perfect provision, with the leaves of the trees for the healing of nations, with everything good and gloriously provided. It is also a place of perfect righteousness, with no more curses (Rev. 22: 3), a place of perfect government, ruled by God, the just one and the Lamb. It is a place of perfect communion (Rev. 22: 4), where we shall behold His face and His name shall be on our foreheads. Heaven is a place of perfect glory (Rev. 22: 5). No artificial light there. Everything is just glorious and together we shall reign forever and ever. Are you one of us?

Who are the Inhabitants of Heaven?

Let us start by listing those who can never be there.

- a. The devil will never enter there. Rev. 20: 10
- b. Thieves will never enter there. Luke 12: 33
- c. Liars, Whore mongers and the fearful will not enter. Rev. 21: 8
- d. Anyone in whose life is found the works of the flesh. Gal. 5: 19-22

The following are already there:

- a. God the Father. Matt. 6: 9; Matt. 16: 17
- b. Jesus Christ our Lord. Acts 3: 20-21
- c. The Holy Spirit. 1 John 5: 7
- d. Enoch, Moses and Elijah. Gen. 5: 24; Matt. 17: 3
- e. All those who have died trusting in Jesus. 1 Thess. 4: 14
- f. Angels. Matt. 18: 10

Conclusion:

Will you be there too? Do you want to go to Heaven? Have you prepared? An unbeliever will have no place in heaven because of its holiness. Are you holy? Are you willing to be holy? Let us pray!

Workshop

The Final Judgment

Mat 22:1-14

- Mat 22:1 And Jesus answered and spake again in parables unto them, saying,
Mat 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a certain king, who made a marriage feast for his son,
Mat 22:3 and sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the marriage feast: and they would not come.
Mat 22:4 Again he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them that are bidden, Behold, I have made ready my dinner; my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come to the marriage feast.
Mat 22:5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his merchandise;

... (Complete reading from your Bible)

Mat 25:1-46

- Mat 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.
Mat 25:2 And five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
Mat 25:3 For the foolish, when they took their lamps, took no oil with them:
Mat 25:4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.
Mat 25:5 Now while the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

... (Complete reading from your Bible)

Rev 20:11-15

- Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat upon it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne; and books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works.

... (Complete reading from your Bible)

Rev 21:6-8

- Rev 21:6 And he said unto me, They are come to pass. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.
Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit these things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.
Rev 21:8 But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part *shall be* in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death.

Gal 5:19-21

- Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*: fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
Gal 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties,
Gal 5:21 envyings, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of which I forewarn you, even as I did forewarn you, that they who practise such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

From the scriptures above, discuss what the final judgment would look like.

Discussions

1. From Matt. 22: 1-14, who do you think those who were bidden to the marriage but weren't worthy and gave excuses are?
2. Who were those that were eventually called to attend the marriage? Why were these categories of people called?
3. What do you think represents the wedding garment?
4. Do you think the judgment given to the person who wasn't dressed in wedding garment was fair since he was bidden for the marriage and he responded? Why do you think so? How does this apply to those of us that have been bidden today?
5. According to Matt. 25: 1-13, who can the wise and foolish virgins be likened to.
6. What do their lamp, oil, and light represent?
7. Why do you think the bridegroom tarried?
8. Was it their fault that they all slumbered and slept?
9. Do you agree that the five regarded as foolish were truly foolish? Why?
10. What can you observe from their conduct that you could learn from to avoid being foolish like they were?
11. Who is the bridegroom and what does His coming signify?
12. What plan of action would you take from henceforth to avoid ending up in outer darkness? (Discuss this as a group and highlight your plan of action individually and ensure you device a plan to assess yourself daily).
13. According to Matt. 25: 14-30, who can you liken the man who delivered talents to His servants to be?
14. Who can you liken His servants to be? What can you liken the talents to be?
15. Do you think that the master was fair in His distribution of the talents? Why do you think so?
16. Did the master have expectation from His servants regarding the talents? Were his expectations the same for all? How did you know?
17. How can you tell if the master's return has a relationship with the return of Jesus Christ?
18. Do you think that the initial talents the master gave to His servants was a way of rewarding them? What are the reasons for your answer? If your answer to the first question is 'NO' then what would you suppose the actual reward to be according to that passage? How does this apply to us today?
19. Do you think the servant who was given a talent was born again? Why do you think so? What can you deduce from the judgment given to the servant with a talent in this passage? Can you identify your own talent? What is your plan of action regarding making the most of the talents God has endowed upon you now before He returns? (Write it out individually and ensure you device a plan to assess yourself daily).
20. According to Matt. 25: 31-46, what majorly distinguished the sheep from the goat?
21. Taking a deep thought on this passage, are you presently exhibiting traits of a sheep or a goat?
22. What is your plan of action to avoid ending up with the reward of the goats. (Write it out individually and ensure you device a plan to assess yourself daily).

23. According to Rev. 20: 11-15, what can you imagine the judgment would look like?
24. What can you say about the books out of which all would be judged?
25. Do you have a book of records before God? What do you think is written on your account in the book? Since the judgment would be based on these records from the books, do you think you would have made heaven if Jesus had returned before now? What would you do now in order to have the bad records you may have in the books cleansed? What is your plan of action from now to ensure that your record in the book is pleasing to God and that your name would be in the book of life? (Write it out individually and ensure you device a plan to assess yourself daily).
26. Are you sure that the names of your family members are in the book of life? If no, do you know that they would be cast into hell? What would you do immediately to prevent it?
27. According to Rev. 21: 8 and Gal. 5: 19-21, who are those that would end up in the lake of fire? Do you have any of these traits? What would you do to be saved and be heaven bound?
28. Why do you think the fearful would end up in hell? How would you conquer the spirit of fear in other not to be a candidate of hell?
29. Is it possible for a man to live without these traits mentioned in the scriptures above? If yes, how? (discuss this scripture Gal. 5: 14-16,22-26)
30. What is your plan of action to ensure these traits are far from you? (Write it out individually and device a plan to assess yourself daily).

Conclusion:

All your service in the Lord's house would be vain if you eventually end up in hell. In Rev. 22: 12, the resurrected Christ said ***"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give to every man according as his work shall be."*** We solemnly admonish you to take all your plan of action seriously as the day is almost gone and the night has drawn so close. Alas, the midnight cry is what you are hearing now: **"BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH! ..."**

HYMNS

Hymn 1 – **When the roll is called up yonder**

Hymn 2 – **It Pays To Serve Jesus**

Hymn 3 – **Hold the Forth for I'm coming Jesus signals still**

Hymn 4 – **I'd Rather Have Jesus**

Hymn 5 – **The Old Rugged Cross**

Hymn 6 – **I Have Decided to Follow Jesus**

Hymn 7 – **Give us oh Lord thine unction**

Hymn 8 – **Blessed Assurance**