

Strengthen Thy Brethern Lesson 6 – Be Strong In Understanding

Key Verses

Introduction

Psalm 119:33-34 ³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. ³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

Proverbs 3:5-6 ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 13:15 ¹⁵ Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

Acts 17:1-12 ¹ Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: ² And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, ³ Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. ⁴ And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few. ⁵ But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. ⁶ And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; ⁷ Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus. ⁸ And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things. ⁹ And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

¹⁰ And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

A Salvation worthy to be Sought for by man and angels

1 Peter 1:8-9 ⁸ Whom (Jesus) having not seen, ye love; in whom (Jesus), though now ye see *him* (Jesus) not, **yet believing**, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹ Receiving the end of **your faith**, *even* the **salvation of your souls**.

1 Peter 1:10-12 ¹⁰ **Of which salvation** the prophets have **enquired** and **searched diligently**, who **prophesied of the grace that should come unto you**:

¹¹ **Searching** what, or **what manner of time the Spirit of Christ** which **was in them did signify**, when **it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ**, and **the glory that should follow**. ¹² Unto **whom it was revealed**, that **not unto themselves**, but **unto us** they **did minister the things**, which **are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you** with **the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven**; which **things the angels desire to look into**.

Angels are real, but they are not to be worshipped.

Exodus 20:2-3 ² **I am the LORD** thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ Thou shalt **have no other gods** before me.

Exodus 34:14 ¹⁴ **For thou shalt worship no other god**: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, **is a jealous God**:

Revelation 22:8-9 ⁸ And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, **I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel** which shewed me these things. ⁹ Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for **I am thy fellowservant**, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: **worship God**.

Hebrews 1:5-10 ⁵ **For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?** And again, **I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?** ⁶ And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, **And let all the angels of God worship him**. ⁷ And of the angels he saith, **Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire**. ⁸ **But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom**. ⁹ **Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows**. ¹⁰ And, **Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands**:

Angels are interested in God's work on earth with man

Gabriel appeared to Zacharias in Luke 1:13-20

Luke 1:13 ¹³ But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Luke 1:19 ¹⁹ And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

Gabriel appeared to Mary in Luke 1:26-38

Luke 1:26-28 ²⁶ And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, ²⁷ To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

The angels pronounced the coming Messiah to the shepherds Luke 2

Luke 2:8-11 ⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

The angels rejoice at the occurrence of a person's salvation

Luke 15:1-10 ¹ Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. ³ And he spake this parable unto them, saying, ⁴ What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if **he lose one of them**, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? ⁵ And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. ⁷ I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over **one sinner that repenteth**, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. ⁸ Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? ⁹ And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. ¹⁰ Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one **sinner that repenteth**.

The Sinner that Repents and Places Faith in the Lord for Salvation Shall be glorified and shine as the angels. (Jesus explaining his parable of the wheat and the tares.

The Parable of the Sower – Angels shall separate the saved and unsaved

Matthew 13:24-30 ²⁴ Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, *The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:* ²⁵ *But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.* ²⁶ *But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.* ²⁷ *So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?* ²⁸ *He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?* ²⁹ *But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.* ³⁰ *Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

Matthew 13:36-43 ³⁶ Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. ³⁷ *He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;* ³⁸ *The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;* ³⁹ *The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.* ⁴⁰ *As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.* ⁴¹ *The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;* ⁴² *And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.* ⁴³ *Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

Romans 8:29-30 ²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

But this only happens to man when they personally experience salvation in Christ. A person can examine facts about the gospel and learn about the gospel, but until they personally accept the message of the gospel, they are not saved.

The Rich Young Ruler – Inquired but did not accept the gospel message

Luke 18:18-27 ¹⁸ And a certain ruler asked him, saying, **Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?** ¹⁹ And Jesus said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.** ²⁰ Thou knowest the commandments, **Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.** ²¹ And he said, **All these have I kept from my youth up.** ²² Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, **Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.** ²³ And when he heard this, **he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.** ²⁴ And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, **How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!** ²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. ²⁶ And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? ²⁷ And he said, **The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.** **Mark 10:22** ²² And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Philippian Jailor – Inquired and accepted Jesus and his house

Acts 16:25-34 ²⁵ And at midnight **Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God:** and the prisoners heard them. ²⁶ And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. ²⁷ And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. ²⁹ Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ And brought them out, and said, **Sirs, what must I do to be saved?** ³¹ And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.** ³² And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. ³⁴ And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

Examples: Paul Pharisee (experienced salvation) vs King Agrippa Jewish king (inquired but not appropriated salvation) vs Festus Jewish procurator of Judea (rejecting salvation)

Acts 26:12-29 ¹² Whereupon as I (Paul) went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, ¹³ At midday, O king, **I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun**, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, **Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.** ¹⁵ And I said, **Who art thou, Lord?** And he said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.** ¹⁶ But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; ¹⁷ Delivering thee from the people, and *from* the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, ¹⁸ To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. ¹⁹ Whereupon, **O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:** ²⁰ But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that **they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.** ²¹ For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill *me*. ²² Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, **witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: ²³ That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.**

²⁴ And as he thus spake for himself, **Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.** ²⁵ But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness. ²⁶ For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.

²⁷ King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. ²⁸ **Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.** ²⁹ And Paul said, **I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am,** except these bonds.

The History of the World Centers at the Cross

The history of the world meets at the cross of Jesus Christ. The Christian faith is not something for only certain parts of the world. Sometimes viewed as a western religion. It is for all people. However, there are countries, whose governments have made the preaching of the cross forbidden. Therefore there are untold millions who know nothing of the cross.

John 3:16 ¹⁶ For God so **loved the world**, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 10:9-13 ⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. ¹² For **there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek**: for the **same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him**. ¹³ For **whosoever** shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Woe unto me if I preach not the gospel

1 Corinthians 9:16-18 ¹⁶ For **though I preach the gospel**, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, **woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!** ¹⁷ For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation *of the gospel* is committed unto me. ¹⁸ What is my reward then? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

The power of the gospel is what changes lives for it is the center of the entire world. The gospel is the only means for man to come to a true relationship with God. The gospel saves but it also condemns.

1 John 5:10-12 ¹⁰ He that **believeth on the Son of God** hath the witness in himself: **he that believeth not God hath made him a liar**; because **he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son**. ¹¹ And **this is the record**, that **God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son**. ¹² **He that hath the Son hath life**; *and* he that **hath not the Son of God hath not life**.

The Message of Jesus Christ is the Message of the Bible

Jesus is the message of the Bible. Concerning Christ, there are two lines that run through the Bible. 1) the sufferings of Christ, 2) the glory that should follow.

The angels know who Christ is.

Preincarnate vision of Christ on the Throne

Isaiah 6:1-3 ¹ *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.* ² *Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.* ³ *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

The Prophecy of the Suffering Christ for sin

Isaiah 53:3-6, 10-12 ³ **He is despised and rejected of men;** a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: **yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.** ⁵ But he *was* **wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:** the **chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.** ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the **LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

¹⁰ Yet **it pleased the LORD to bruise him;** he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ **He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied:** by **his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many;** for he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

The Future Glory of Christ

Philippians 2:5-11 ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and **took upon him the form of a servant,** and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.** ⁹ **Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:** ¹⁰ That **at the name of Jesus every** knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; ¹¹ And that **every tongue** should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord,** to the **glory of God the Father.**

The Witness of Jesus regarding the prophecies of the suffering Messiah

Luke 24:13-32 ¹³ And, behold, **two** of them went that same day to a village called **Emmaus**, which was from Jerusalem *about* threescore furlongs. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ And it came to pass, that, while they communed *together* and reasoned, **Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.** ¹⁶ **But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.** ¹⁷ And he said unto them, What manner of communications *are* these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? ¹⁸ And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? ¹⁹ And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, **Concerning Jesus of Nazareth,** which was **a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:** ²⁰ And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. ²¹ But **we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel:** and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. ²² Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; ²³ And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they **had also seen a vision of angels,** which said that **he was alive.** ²⁴ And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found *it* even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. ²⁵ Then he said unto them, **O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:** ²⁶ **Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?** ²⁷ And **beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.** ²⁸ And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. ²⁹ But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. ³⁰ And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, **he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.** ³¹ And **their eyes were opened,** and they knew him; and **he vanished out of their sight.** ³² And they said one to another, **Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?**

The Theme of our Lives should always be the Lord Jesus Christ

The OT prophets messages were revealed unto the people during the time of Jesus ministry on this earth. That the Messiah would pay the sin debt for the entire world and that He would then enter into His glory, seated at the right hand of the Father.

When we share the message of Christ, we need to do so through the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:7-11, 13-14 ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the **Comforter will not come unto you**; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. ⁸ And when he is come, **he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment**: ⁹ Of sin, because they believe not on me; ¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; ¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

John 16:13-14 ¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. ¹⁴ **He shall glorify me**: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

Romans 12:1-2 ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And **be not conformed to this world**: but be ye **transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God**.

Our lives in Christ when we truly experience His salvation

Philippians 4:4-9 ⁴ **Rejoice in the Lord alway**: *and* again I say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand. ⁶ **Be careful for nothing**; but in **every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God**. ⁷ And **the peace of God, which passeth all understanding**, shall **keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus**. ⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are **true**, whatsoever things are **honest**, whatsoever things are **just**, whatsoever things are **pure**, whatsoever things are **lovely**, whatsoever things are of **good report**; if *there be* any **virtue**, and if *there be* **any praise**, **think on these things**. ⁹ Those things, **which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do**: and the God of peace shall be with you.