Handout for Lesson on BECOMING NEW Manvel Bible Chapel Family Bible Hour – 30 December 2018

Opening thoughts

-We tend to copy those with whom we are impressed (or even worship as heroes).

-Children are especially likely to copy behavior they believe is respectable.

-Unfortunately, we have become a non-discriminating hero worshipping people.

-I fear society is following many heroes down the pathway to Hell.

My assigned Mission

-When Thampi called and scheduled me to speak, He suggested that I present a study that would encourage us as we head into the New Year.

-However, there is much afoot to cause discouragement.

--Negative roll models are advancing on all sides.

--Christians are being marginalized and persecuted throughout the world.

--We as Christians are failing our Lord every day

---Through bitterness

---Through compromise of sound doctrine

---Through apathy toward those perishing around us.

One Traditional Approach – A New Year's Resolution

--How do we figure out which resolutions to make?

---We don't know the future. Only God does. -- Isaiah 46:9-10

--We seldom keep resolutions that we do make.

---A resolution can't change our inherent nature. -- Jeremiah 13:23

---Our persistent behavior is really a spiritual issue. -- Romans 8:5-9

(Article/Tract Written While Contemplating this lesson)

WORSHIP THE LAMB – HE'LL CHANGE YOU

Has the Lamb Changed You?

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"And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:..." (Exodus 12:1-3).

The above passage established the year's beginning for God's people, Israel. God was about to deliver them from their long captivity in Egypt. Notice that the central figure is a lamb. This lamb pictured the coming Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who, through death, would free His people from sin's captivity.

Each year, many of us realize that, in many ways, we've made a mess of the past year. We focus on what we can do better. We make resolutions, but our inner characteristics don't change. They cause the same failures to occur, again, in the new year.

For Christians, there is only one solution by which our inner desires, habits and reactions can be corrected. It is to focus on the Lamb.

When Christ arrived, John the Baptist focused attention on Him saying,

"...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)

The apostle Paul tells us,

"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." (Romans 8:29)

A little later Paul tells us,

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind," (Romans 12:2)

This transformation comes only through trusting Christ and worshipping Him. This process will culminate in eternity.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2)

The more we focus on Him and worship Him, the more we will become like Him. As we become more like Him, we shall also act more like Him.

Will you trust and worship the Lamb as Savior, or rely on your new resolutions?

(END OF ARTICLE/TRACT)

Overview of Lesson

- 1. Let's Start at the Very Beginning a very good place to start
- 2. Evidences that You are God's Child
- 3. Assurances to Those Who Love God

Body of Lesson

1. Let's Start at the Very Beginning – a very good place to start

-Because of the fall of Adam & Eve in Eden, All of their descendents are born spiritually dead with bodies that quickly die. -- Romans 5:12

-After sinning, Adam & Eve hid from God proving they had died spiritually.--Genesis 3:8 -But --God quickly revealed His salvation plan -- Genesis 3:14-15

-God then demonstrated that this bruising of the seed of the woman by sacrificing animals --Genesis 3:21

-At the appointed time God sent this prophesied seed of the woman, the Messiah, --Galatians 4:4-5

-But only those that come to Christ in faith have eternal life -- John 3:36

- 2. Evidences that You are God's Child -- 2 Corinthians 13:5, 1 Corinthians 16:22, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, Romans 8:9, Matthew 25:31-46
- 3. Assurances to Those Who Love God -- 1 John 1:8-10, 1 John 3:1, Romans 8:28-39

4. What Can Help Us to Worship Him?

-Realizing the awesomeness of Who He Is will Help

--Isaiah Prophesied about who the Messiah would be approximately 700 years in advance ---Isaiah 9:6

WONDERFUL	– Psalm 78:12
COUNSELLOR	Isaiah 14:24, Ephesians 1:11
THE MIGHTY GOD	John 1:1-3

-----(Pause to consider creation)

-----Psalm 19:1 -- The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork (Psalms 19:1)

THE EVERLASTING FATHER	1 John 5:7
THE PRINCE OF PEACE	Romans 5:1, John 14:6

Summary and Conclusion

-My Dad used to say, "Nothing can cause me to die until God says so."

-Those who are the sheep that Christ knows, also know and love Him. They are eternally in His absolute care and nothing can ever change that

-As you head into the new year, will you be seeking to copy Christ and be more and more like Him every day?

-Are there any here that will seek, instead, to copy some of the false heroes of this world?

-Who will be the hero you worship this year?