

September 2015

The phrase “word of truth” is in James 1:18, where it is found to be the means of the new birth, and in John 17:17, where it is said to be the means of sanctification. This is our mission—the teaching of God’s truth, providing a window on the word.

Words of the Faith _____

μιμητής (mim a TAS)

This colorful noun occurs six times in the New Testament. Translated, it means *imitator*; transliterated, it is our English word *mimic*.

In the six places where it occurs, it is something we are exhorted to become. In other words, it is not something innate but refers to something that we are to develop as a matter of obedience. We are not born *imitators* of good; we are called upon to develop this quality. What or who are we to imitate?

• We are to imitate Paul

(I Corinthians 4:16-17, 11:1)

In what sense are we to imitate Paul? As usual, context provides the answer. Paul tells the Corinthians that he is sending Timothy to them to show them how they are to imitate him. Timothy will “remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere and in every church.” They are to imitate Pauline teaching. I Corinthians 11:1 qualifies this imitation by saying “just as I am (an imitator) of Christ.”

• We are to imitate God (Ephesians 5:1)

This is found in the midst of a section of personal exhortation concerning kindness to one another and walking in love. There is mention of immorality, bitterness, wrath, and slander—all

Continued on page 2

Suggested Studies _____

Psalm 2

Psalm 2 is a kingly or royal psalm, one that deals with the King of Israel. It is the first of the Messianic psalms and can be outlined as follows:

The Theme of Psalm 2:

The King is rejected but coming to reign; therefore, we should “do homage to the Son.”

The Basic Structure:

The Rebellion against God’s King 2:1-3

The Response to the Rebellion 2:4-6

The Reign of God the Son 2:7-8

The Commands of God the Holy Spirit 2:10-12

The text for this exposition of Psalm 2 was written many years ago by Chester but not published until five years after his death. This little booklet measures only 4 x 5 inches and has 25 pages, making it the same dimensions as our Psalm 1 and Psalm 23 publications. The book has a deep purple cover with the title in gold foil.

Chester’s study in Psalm 2 (PS 3-6) is available on CD, Mp3, and cassette tape. Please be sure to specify which format you prefer. Use the enclosed order form, email us at wtruth@kc.rr.com, or call us at 1-800-326-4414 to place your order. □

Basics of the Christian Life

This is not a detailed study of the Christian life but is an outline of the most basic issues taught to a new believer. It matters not how long you’ve been a Christian, there is much to be gained from this study.

This series (Bas 1-4) covers the five following topics:

- The first lesson the new Christian must learn is that all information about living the Christian life must come from God’s Word.
- Next is a look at three types of individuals—the natural man, the carnal man, and the spiritual man.
- The third part focuses on the two facets of the Christian life—the spiritual Christian and the mature Christian—and the distinction between them.
- The fourth topic is the importance of our position in Christ.
- Last, there is provision in the Christian life—it is called grace.

Place your order for this series in Mp3, CD or audio cassette just as above. □

Metaphors

While the Bible conveys literal meaning, it often does so by means of figures of speech. Christ is literally the only way by which man may approach God. This is conveyed by a figure of speech which calls Him the *door*.

These figures of speech were taken from the day in which the words of the Bible were written. It is always important to understand the historical context of each one. This is why one criteria of a good commentary is its ability to explain these figures in their historical setting.

Song of Solomon gives some good examples. In the Song, a young lady is said to be "My mare among the chariots of Pharaoh (Song of Solomon 1:9)". Is this a compliment or an insult? Certainly in its modern context, it would be considered an insult; but in the times of Solomon it was a compliment. In Song of Solomon 4:1, she is said to have "hair like a flock of goats." No comment need be made concerning how this would be taken today! Scripture abounds with such figures. The meaning of the word is missed when they are ignored, and without explanation there is no sound interpretation. When purchasing a commentary always examine it for explanation of such figures of speech. □

characteristics of ungodliness forming an antithesis to imitation of God.

I Thessalonians 1:6 speaks of imitation of Paul by welcoming the word of God in the midst of much opposition. Pressures should never cause us to neglect the word but rather to embrace the word.

- **We are to imitate other churches (I Thessalonians 2:14)**

While this doubtless sounds a bit strange, it is true that the church at Thessalonica was commended for their imitation of the churches of Judea. The churches of Judea had suffered greatly at the hands of the Jews and remained faithful. The church at Thessalonica had the same experience and responded the same way.

- **We are to imitate the faith of other believers (Hebrews 6:12)**

The Hebrew believers were not to be sluggish, "but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." He then points to the promise made to Abraham and how he patiently waited and obtained the promise. We should imitate Abraham. □

*The time to begin is now.
The method to use is God's.
The one to change is me.*