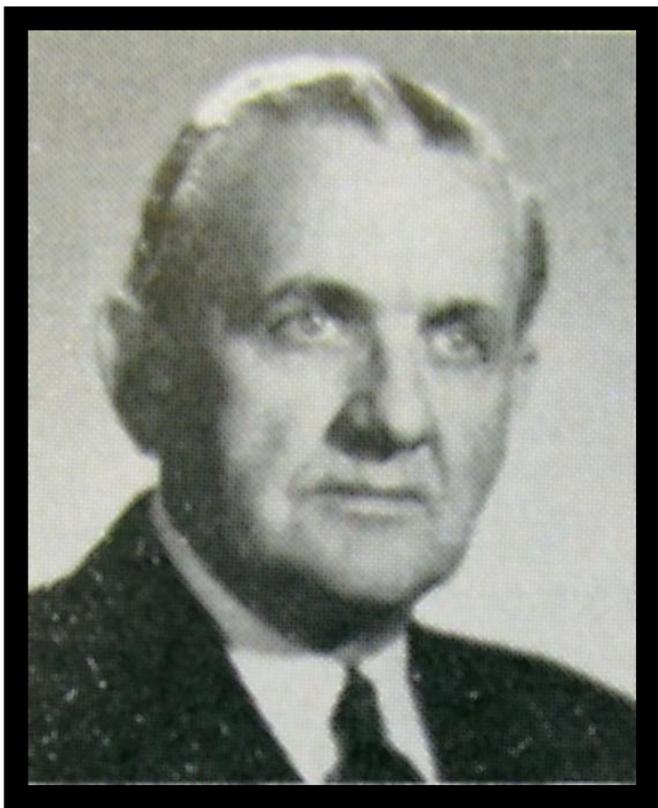


Emerson Jewel Estes

1903 - 2000



Emerson J. Estes was born June 17, 1903, in Tippah County, Mississippi. He attended the schools of his day, and later he studied at the Montgomery Bible

College (which is now Faulkner University), in Montgomery, Alabama. However, his formal training was only a part of his education. He was a manager of an insurance company, and worked in the funeral business, but most impressively he was a “giant” among the preachers and leaders of this generation.

Brother Estes became a Christian in 1923. He has now preached for sixty-four years. From the time of his first sermon until the present, he has preached “The Old Jerusalem Gospel” in a most effective manner.

He has preached the gospel to thousands and he has converted hundreds of people to Christ. He has preached in twenty-five states, Canada, and the Bahamas. The phenomenal success of his preaching can be explained only on the ground that his sermons are sound, fearless and scriptural. Through the years, he has been in great demand and seldom has one man preached to so many over such a long period of time. Brother Estes preaches “Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2). He knows that the gospel of Christ “is the power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16). Therefore, he follows the instructions of the inspired apostle Paul to “Preach the word” (2 Tim. 4:2).

His command of the English language is marvelous indeed. His preaching is simple, yet profound. He opposes with all of his being those who would seek to corrupt minds, “from the simplicity and the

purity that is toward Christ” (2 Cor. 11:3). He always preaches the truth. He both knows and believes the following Scripture: “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!” (1 Cor. 9:16). He does not pervert the gospel of Christ, for he is well aware that those who do so, will bring a curse upon themselves (1 Cor. 9:16; Gal. 1:89).

Brother Estes has served as one of the Board of Directors for Montgomery Bible College, Childhaven Orphanage, and MidSouth Christian Nursing Home. In 1983, he was made an honorary Lt. Colonel on the staff of George Wallace, then the governor of Alabama. For years, he wrote articles for newspapers, and he also published a gospel paper entitled Way of Life for a period of four years.

He did his first full time preaching in Birmingham and followed that with preaching in Montgomery, Alabama. He subsequently became the first full time evangelist of the Getwell Church of Christ in Memphis, Tennessee, in which capacity he served for eight years. While working with Getwell, he began the Truth In Love radio program on WHBQ. This program is likely the oldest continuous radio program in the area. During his years as speaker, he received and answered hundreds, perhaps even thousands of questions about the Bible and what it teaches. On more than one occasion, he invited preachers who opposed what the Bible teaches to

appear on his program. He allowed them to state their views, and then kindly, gently, but firmly, refuted their error. He conducted one of the most unique, interesting, and informative radio programs to which I ever listened and perhaps, one of the most unusual, and distinctive ever aired. Tremendous good resulted from brother Estes' radio work.

Emerson J. Estes is of the "Old School" of evangelists. He believes the Bible and preaches it. Like William Jennings Bryan, he is "a silver tongued orator," though he moves his audience to obedience, and action, through a sincere, fervent, earnest appeal to the Scriptures. He speaks "as the oracles of God" (1 Pet. 4:11). Sometimes reference is made to "a southern gentleman." Brother Estes symbolizes that description, but more importantly he epitomizes a truly great "Christian gentleman." His physical appearance is striking and commanding. He stands as erect as an arrow. His beautiful grey hair immediately attracts one's attention. He has a wonderful sense of humor, and though he was ninety years old on June 17, 1993, his mind is alert, quick and active. This remarkable man still serves as the full time evangelist for the Merton Street Church of Christ in Memphis, Tennessee, and this he had done for many years. He also serves as one of the elders of the congregation.

Emerson J. Estes has been married for sixty-five years to Mildred Sams Estes. Through the years she has stood by his side, and has truly been a great

“help meet.” Their two lovely daughters are: Mrs. Sylvia Estes Harville of Memphis, Tennessee, and Mrs. Wanda Estes Kindred of Burlington, Kentucky. Brother and sister Estes have three grandchildren.

When David was giving his final charge to Solomon he said, “Be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man” (1 Kin. 2:2). The Poet wrote: Lives of great men remind us we can make our lives sublime, And departing leave behind us footprints on the sands of time.

The life of brother Emerson J. Estes is a most excellent example of the foregoing beautiful sentiments. Men of his type and character are far too few. We are made to wonder whether those of fewer years will measure up to the high standard set by his kind. To fail to appreciate such men while they live, and to perpetuate their memory after they are gone, would be an injustice, not only to such men, but to many yet unborn who may be encouraged and motivated by reading the stories of their lives. Emerson J. Estes is one of those great men, and it is our great, and exalted privilege to give, “honor to whom honor” is due (Rom. 13:7)!

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SIMPLICITY OF THE WORD

Hebrews 4:12

INTRODUCTION

The Word of God is simple but clothed in dynamic power. Many people discount the power of God's Word. God wove a web of loveliness, of clouds, stars and birds but made not anything at all so beautiful as words. The knowledge of words is the Gate Of Scholarship.

Not an incomprehensible mystery as some say

Isa. 35:8 "A highway shall there be and a way"

Every responsible creature can understand it

Mk. 16:15

People who were not familiar with the Word heard it, believed it, obeyed it and were saved by it in a brief space of time.

Acts 2:37, 38; Acts 8:30-39

Timothy Understood the Scriptures from his childhood.

II Tim. 3:15

Is supernatural aid essential to understanding the Word of God?

Jesus opened the understanding of the Apostles by the scriptures, Lk. 24:45

God opened Lydia's heart by the preaching of Paul, Acts 16:14

DOERS OF THE WORD

James 1:22

INTRODUCTION

This verse is a “do” verse of scripture

Notice the contents of it

But be ye doers of the Word

A person must do something Mt. 7:21; Rev. 22:14;

Jas. 1:25

Must not do what we want to do. Mt. 7:21, 24, 27

The Lord will give a reward Rev. 22:14; Rev. 2:10

And not hearers only

Must hear, Rom. 10:17, Jn. 8:32

Then obey, Mk. 16:16

Faith alone cannot save, Jas. 2:14-26

Must do all commands of Christ, Mt. 28:19-20

Deceiving your own selves

Not deceiving anyone else

We are to hear and obey or take the consequences

If we hear only we will be lost

CONCLUSION

This verse is enough to prove that obedience always pays and disobedience is failure.

AN ANALYSIS OF SIN

Romans 6

What is sin?

All unrighteousness, I Jn. 5:17

Transgression of God's law, I Jn. 3:4

Failure to do good, Jas. 4:17

Whatsoever is not of faith, Rom. 14:23

What is the origin of sin?

By one man sin entered, Rom. 5:12

In Adam all die, I Cor. 5:22

David's sin is not our sin, Isa. 51:5

Child not a sinner until it yields, Rom. 6:16

The result of lust, Jas. 1:13-15

Drawn away of his own lust, Jas. 1:14

What are the results of sin?

Adam and Eve lost Eden, Gen. 2:16, 17, 24

Man's soul lost, I Cor. 15:22; Lk. 19:10

Caused Jesus to die, I Cor. 15:1-3

Wages of sin, Rom. 6:23

What is the remedy for sin?

Not remedies, just remedy.

The blood of Christ, I Jn. 1:7

Contact the blood.

Obedience, Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19

AN OPEN DOOR

I Corinthians 16:9

INTRODUCTION

Apostles worldwide task, Mk. 16:15-16

Church's task today, Eph. 3:10

Method used, Acts 8:4, 5, 20:20, 26, 27

Our challenge, II Tim. 2:2; 4:1-4

A great door opened

“Door” represents opportunity

“Great and “effectual”

“Open” for readiness

Ephesus tired of paganism

Believed the gospel, Eph. 1:13

All Asia heard, Acts 19:10

Burned their books, Acts 19:19

We have open door today

Religious world sick—some seeking

Denominationalism does not satisfy

There are many adversaries

Paul's Adversaries

Heathenism, Acts 19:35

False teachers, I Tim. 1:3

Weak brethren, Rev. 2:4-5

Our Adversaries

Denominationalism first, I Cor. 1:10

Is deceptive, II Thess. 2:10-11

Is confusing—a babble of tongues

Is damnable, Mat. 7:21; Jn. 9-11

Makes infidels, Jn. 17:20-21

Indifference—“Lukewarm”

Neither cold or hot. Rev. 3:16

Like Jabez

Laziness

Too lazy to study, II Tim. 2:15, Heb. 5:12

Poorly prepared, I Pet. 3:15

Worldliness

I Jn. 2:15-17; Gal. 5:19-21

Stinginess

Acts 20:35; I Cor. 16:1-2

What to do with adversaries

Paul removed them, Acts 19:10

God's Word is the sword, Eph. 6:17

Must fight the good fight, I Tim. 6:12

BIBLE HUSBANDS AND WIVES

The value of a good wife

A good thing, Prov. 18:22

Her price is above rubies, Prov. 31:10

The honeymoon

I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come,

Deut. 24:5; Lk. 14:20

The short honeymoon

“If ye had not ploughed with my heifer,” Judg.

14:18

He finally discovered her beauty

“I know thou art a fair woman to look upon,” said

Abraham when he compared Sarah to the women in

Egypt, Gen. 12:11

Disappointed Matrimony

“Am I in God’s stead, who hath withheld from thee
the fruit of the womb?” Jacob asked Rachel. Gen.

30:1-2

Contentious Wives

“A continual dropping,” “On a very rainy day,”

“Better to dwell in the wilderness,” Prov. 19:13,

27:15, 21:19

Foolish Talk

“Thou speakest as one of the foolish women,” said

Job to his wife. Job 2:10

The disguised wife

Disguise thyself, that thou be not known to be the wife of Jeroboam, I Kgs. 14:2

The two vessels compared

Ye husbands, give honor unto the woman, as unto the weaker vessel, I Pet. 3:7

Be careful girls

“For the woman that hath an husband is bound by the law to the husband while he liveth,” Rom. 7:2

GETTING READY FOR MARRIAGE

INTRODUCTION

What may I expect of marriage? Man without the woman was alone and incomplete.

“Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him . . . so the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up the place with flesh; and the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, ‘this at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man’ Gen. 2:18-23.

It expresses true love.

It takes three to get married, man, woman, and God.

Look before you leap

Marriage in the sight of God
To love honor and cherish
Till death you do part

Is the one you want the one you need?

How can I know that he or she is the right one?

Is it love, or infatuation?
Is this the right one for me?

SUFFERING AND GLORY

Romans 8:18

INTRODUCTION

This is not merely a supposition, but the conclusion drawn from comparing things present and things to come, that the former are of no weight or worth in comparison.

Suffering for “eternal glory,” II Cor. 4:17

Man on his throne

Prosperity measured by the quality of peace

Man poor but prosperous

Better treasure than silver or gold

Truest happiness— most solid good obtained while walking in the pathway of duty and of godliness

Paul’s suffering

“Light afflictions,” II Cor. 11:24-28

Whipped 5 times

39 stripes

195 lashes platted with 5 whips (equaled 975 stripes)

3 times with rods

Stoned once

3 times shipwrecked

*Let the eternal sunlight
scatter the thick mists of time*

GOD'S PURPOSE IN OUR SALVATION

Philippians 3:12

INTRODUCTION

Why did Paul labor so abundantly? I Cor. 15:10

“But by the grace of God I am what I am: And his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

Christ suffered and was perfect, Heb. 5:8-9

Our bodies a holy sacrifice, Rom. 12:1

The purpose of God in conversion

Rom. 8:29; Mt. 27:52-53

Conformed to Christ's image

Phil. 2:5

Consecrated to Christ

I Cor. 3:9

Co-laborers with Christ

II Tim. 4:12

Crown of life

JESUS SAVES

Matthew 1:21

From what does Jesus save?

Not from temptation. Jas. 1:2

Not from difficulties. II Tim. 3:12

Not from death. Heb. 9:27

He saves from sin. Eph. 1:7

What kind of salvation does he offer?

Complete. I Thess. 5:23

It is present. II Cor. 6:2

It is eternal. Heb. 9:12

How does Christ save?

By His life. Rom. 5:10

By His blood. I Pet. 1:19

By His Gospel. Eph. 1:13

THE LANGUAGE OF VICTORY

INTRODUCTION

Def. Of Victory: The overcoming of any; opposition, any difficulty, success, triumph.

Paul's language of victory

Phil. 4:13 Paul's contentment was not self-sufficiency. Through Christ . . . Paul could say: "I have learned of thee O God" to distinguish between the gift and the fruit. His contented mind he regarded as a gift of God.

The extent of a Christian's ability

He is able to discharge every duty.

He is able to endure every trial.

He is able to brave every suffering.

He is able to overcome every temptation.

The source of the Christian's ability.

Christ strengthens us by His teaching.

Christ strengthens us by His example

Christ strengthens us by the moral influence of His death as a sacrifice for our sin.

Christ strengthens us by uniting us to Himself, and bestowing on us, in answer to the prayer of faith the many blessings.

*CHRIST IS THE FOUNTAIN OF SPIRITUAL
STRENGTH*

Our victory through God

Neh. 4:20 “Our God shall fight for us,” the people had a mind to work.

Ps. 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”

Neh. 2:18 “Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me, as also the king’s words that he had spoken unto me. And they said let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.”

Prov. 3:6 “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Ps. 37:25 “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”

I Pet. 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers.

I Cor. 10:13 “God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able.”

I Cor. 15:57 “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

A PLEA FOR THE OLD PATHS

Jeremiah 6:16

INTRODUCTION

Condition of ancient Israel in day of Jeremiah

Prophet's plea for return to "old paths"

Israel's reply, "We will not walk therein"

Religious world in state of confusion today

Preachers plead for return to "old paths"

Religious world says, "We will not walk therein"

There is a good way and all should walk in it.

It is God's way Ps. 18:30; Isa. 55:9

It is a perfect way Ps. 18:30

It is a narrow way Mt. 7:14

It is the way of truth II Pet. 2:2

It is the unpopular way II Pet 2:2

We must plead for the "Old Paths."

The old way II Pet. 2:2

The old gospel Rom. 1:16; Gal. 1:6-9

The old church Acts 2:47; Acts 20:28

The old name Acts 11:26; I Pet. 4:16

The old worship Jn. 4:24; Acts 2:42

The old faith Jude 3; Heb. 12:1-2

*Contend earnestly for the faith which was
once delivered.*

THE DEVIL'S PREACHER

INTRODUCTION

The devil has many co-workers.

There are false preachers.

The majority of the preachers in the world are of Satan.

A person could preach error by following Satan.

If I were the Devil's preacher I would preach:

One church is as good as another.

The church does not save.

We are saved by faith only.

We are saved by grace only.

Baptism will not save.

There are three modes of baptism.

There are many beliefs.

You may worship as you please.

Man is born in sin.

Man is born to be saved or lost.

You may just live a good moral life.

The option of death bed repentance.

There are many ways to heaven .

There is nothing in a name.

EIGHT IMPOSSIBILITIES

1. It is impossible for God to lie, Heb. 6:18.
2. It is impossible to neglect salvation and be saved, Heb. 2:3.
3. It is impossible to be saved without the shedding of blood, Heb. 9:22.
4. It is impossible to be saved without faith in Christ, Heb. 11:6.
5. It is impossible to believe in Christ and obey Him and not be saved, Mk. 16:15-16.
6. It is impossible to enter into the kingdom except through Christ, Jn. 14:6.
7. It is impossible to enter heaven without a birth of water and the Spirit, Jn. 3:3, 5.
8. It is impossible to be saved after this life is over, Lk. 16:26.

PAYDAY

INTRODUCTION

There are many special days but we all look forward to *Payday!* On the ultimate *Payday* there are two paymasters, one is the Lord and the other is the Devil.

Payday came to these:

Adam and Eve (Gen 2:17)
The world was destroyed (Gen. 8)
Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 13:10)
The Egyptians (Ex. 15:3)
Moses because of disobedience
Nadab and Abihu (Num. 3:4)
David (Ps. 51:3)
Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:18)
Stephen (Acts 7:59-60)
Paul (II Tim. 4:6-8)
Everyone (Rom. 6:23)

CONCLUSION

This is one payday that will include everyone.
What will your pay be? A crown of life, (Rev. 2:10) or destruction (Mt. 25:46)?

SPIRITUAL PLANNING

INTRODUCTION

- The Lord declared that men ought to plan the building of towers, Lk. 14:28-29.
- Paul said men ought to be diligent in business, Rom. 12:11.
- Solomon said where there is no wise guidance the people falleth, Prov. 11:14.
- Jeremiah said, “Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord negligently, Jer. 48:10.

The church is too wonderful, souls too valuable and eternity too long to be left to slipshod tactics or haphazard chance. It is far better to plan something and fail than to plan nothing and succeed. If a business plans ahead because there are millions of dollars involved, we must plan even more carefully because there are millions of souls involved. Where there is no planning, Christians will be lukewarm, indifferent, confused and every vile deed.

Plans by vision and faith

Plans that will awaken the church to a gracious liberality, will take the form of a **budget**. A **budget** is an estimate of probable income and expenses for a given period, with proposals for maintaining a proper balance between two totals.

It is a means of doing the Lord’s work sensibly and in order (I Cor. 14:40).

A FALSE CONCEPT OF GOD

I Kings 20:28

INTRODUCTION

The Syrians thought of God as their idolatrous God. They had various gods for various areas of their life—one for hills, one for valleys.

ILLUSTRATION

The Japanese have two gods; one to whom they pray for blessings in this life and another for blessings after death.

The Syrians thought that God was limited to helping the Israelites only in the mountains. Therefore they sought to fight the Israelites in the valleys. The misconception of God by the Syrians led to their defeat.

What about our conception of God? Do we think of God in certain areas of our life and not in others? Do we limit God to certain circumstances and places in our life?

Is God a God of the valleys as well as the hills?

Is the God of Abraham and Isaac and Paul our God?

It is true that their God performed miracles in previous dispensations, but He is still the same God though there are no miracles today. When we think of God, do we really believe that he will do for us what he did for Abraham and others? Their

faithfulness made it possible for God to bless them.
Isa. 59:2

Is our God a God of sickness but not of health?

We realize our need for God and we expect Him to help us in time of sickness but what about when we are well? Do we think of Him then and expect his aid in health?

ILLUSTRATION

I often have people send for me when they are sick and ask that I pray God's blessing on them. Yet, I have never had anyone ask me to pray that God would bless them while they are healthy and help them use their health in the right way.

Is there not more danger of my being lost while in good health than when I am sick? Most people think of God when sick but multitudes forsake Him while in good health.

“I am the Lord and I change not”
“Same yesterday, today and forever”
Many do not fear God”

DID HE MEAN IT?

Did Jesus really mean it when He said—

Mt. 5:44 “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

Mt. 7:12 “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

How often have we prayed for our enemies?

Have we tried to love them?

Set your mind on God’s kingdom and His justice before everything else, and all the rest will come to you as well—

Mt. 6:33-34 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day [is] the evil thereof.”

Do we really believe that if we put God’s kingdom first the necessities of life will be provided for us without worry—

Mt. 18:21-22 “Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.”

Does it seem to you that to forgive someone this many times is overdoing things a bit? Makes you an easy mark? Jesus didn't think so—

Jn. 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

Do we think loving one another is simply a good suggestion from our Lord? Look again. Christ said it is a commandment—

Most of these verses are familiar to us. We have read them time and time again through the years. Without seeing what they mean . . . we think we know so we pass over them.

FOLLOW THINGS WHICH MAKE FOR PEACE

INTRODUCTION

Rom. 14:19 “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”

Mk. 4:39 “And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.”

Jn. 7:44-46 “And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him. Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.”

Rom. 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

Rom. 14:18 “For he that in these things serveth Christ [is] acceptable to God, and approved of men.”

Let us not follow after untaught questions which gender strife. But let us seek that which brings true and lasting peace and harmony by helping and benefiting all (**I Tim. 6:4; I Pet. 3:11**).

EDIFY: Build up, intellectually, morally, and spiritually

Preaching makes for peace: **Rom. 10:15** “And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is

written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Kindness in speech: **Prov. 15:1-2** “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools pours out foolishness.”

Golden Rule: **Mt. 7:12** “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

Our ways must please the Lord: **Prov. 16:7** “When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

There are many things which destroy peace

Sowing discord among brethren: **Prov. 6:16-19** “These six [things] doth the LORD hate: yea, seven [are] an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness [that] speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”

Meddling with the affairs of others: **I Pet. 4:15-16** “But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or [as] a thief, or [as] an evildoer, or as a busybody in other

men's matters. Yet if [any man suffer] as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

Human doctrines destroy peace: **Gal. 1:6-9** “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any [man] preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

False teachers: **Acts 20:29-30** “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”

Contentious persons: **I Cor. 1:10** “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

How to have perfect peace

Let your heart be stayed / fixed on God: **Isa. 26:3**
“Thou wilt keep [him] in perfect peace, [whose]

mind [is] stayed [on thee]: because he trusteth in thee.”

Unwavering faith in God: **Rom. 15:13** “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”

Assurance of pardon or justification: **Rom. 5:1** “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”

But Paul didn’t have peace until after he was baptized (Acts 9:9, 22:16).

So had the Romans obeyed (Rom. 5:1, 6:17).

The peace of God will keep or possess our hearts only on the conditions that we **Phil. 4:6-7** “Be careful (anxious) for nothing.”

“There is no peace saith the Lord, unto the wicked,” Isa. 48:22. Why? “The wicked shall be turned into hell, [and] all the nations that forget God,” Psa. 9:17.

DIGNITY AND STABILITY OF THE CHURCH

The church is stable and enduring because it rests upon and is made up of unchanging truth. The truth declares, defends and preserves it.

The church is the habitation of the living God

The church of God is the house of God

He is the builder

He is the owner

He is the inhabitant

God is the life of his own church

- The church lives by being faithful to the truth.
- No pains should be spared in acquiring efficiency in church work.
- Church work affords a special usefulness.
- Work for God demands the highest moral qualifications.
- Work one for the church helps the growth of personal godliness

A mountaineer in the Alps who had risked his life to save a sheep prayed, “O God, if such was the earnestness of this shepherd in seeking for a poor animal which had probably frozen on the glacier, how is it that I am so indifferent in seeking my own sheep?”

M. Cheyne, says, “As I walked in the fields the thought came over me, with almost overwhelming power, that every one of my flock must soon be in heaven or hell. Oh, how I wished that I had a tongue like thunder, that I might make all hear; or that I had a frame like iron, that I might visit every one and say, escape for thy life! Ah! Sinner, you little know how I fear that you will lay the blame of your damnation at my door!”

THE UNCHANGING CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

Hebrews 7:22-24

INTRODUCTION

This is a changing world, and no man dare deny the same. We must try to adjust our thinking to the changing times without changing our principles. Transportation, household tasks, farming, medicine, television, and church creeds are ever changing. Not all are for the best, never the less, they are changing.

Human beings have not changed

Same greed that characterized Lot (Gen. 13:10-11).

Same love for preeminence (3 Jn. 9).

Same love for money (I Tim. 6:9-10).

Same lusts of the flesh (I Jn. 2:15-17; Jas. 1:13-15).

Man's needs have not changed

He needs guidance (Jer. 10:23).

He needs salvation from sin (Rom. 3:23).

He needs encouragement (Gal. 6:1-2).

He needs sympathy (Rom. 12:15).

He needs hope (I Cor. 15:19).

Christ Is Unchangeable (Heb. 13:8, 7:24)

He is from everlasting to everlasting (Rev. 1:8).

He is still the Savior of man (Heb. 12:1-2).

His laws are unalterable (Mt. 24:35).

His condition for salvation (Jn. 3:5; Mk. 16:16).

Christ's Attitude Is Unchangeable

Toward sin (Jn. 8:24; Rom. 6:23).

Toward disbelief (Mk. 16:16).

Toward error (Mt. 15:9-13).

Toward man (Jn. 15:13-14).

CONCLUSION

In Christ and His labors is the only thing man can enter with full assurance of reward (I Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10).

MAN'S GREATEST QUESTION

Luke 10:25-37

INTRODUCTION

Many Questions are in the Bible.

What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

If a man dies, shall he live again?

What is man?

What must I do to be saved? Acts 16:30

The Jailer was an unbeliever.

He was told to believe.

He did repent and was baptized.

Men and brethren, what shall we do? Acts 2:37

These Jews were believers.

They were told to repent and be baptized.

About 3,000 souls did it.

What hinders me? Acts 8:36

The Eunuch was a penitent believer.

He was told to confess Christ and be baptized.

He did it right there and then.

4. What shall I do Lord? Acts 22:10

Soul was a penitent, confessing believer.

He was told to "arise and be baptized." Acts 22:16

He did it immediately.

Each was given a different answer because they were at different places along the road. All did exactly the same things, however.

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE ???

INTRODUCTION

One of the most common cries of religious people today is “It doesn’t make any difference.” Point out where someone’s doctrine is not in accord with the Bible and he will say, “Well, it doesn’t make any difference.”

To say “it doesn’t make any difference:

- Is to exalt human wisdom and human opinion to the same level as the Word of God.
- It is to say that man’s opinion is as important as the Word of our Lord, and to disregard the Word of the Lord for human opinion.
- Oh how dangerous to declare that there is no difference in the teaching of the Bible and human wisdom.

If it doesn’t make any difference, why did the Lord give us the Bible as our guide?

II Tim3:16-17

If it doesn’t make any difference, then the broad way is broad enough to include all beliefs, even that of the false prophets would leads to heaven.

Mt. 7:13-15

If it doesn’t make any difference, it is all right to preach another gospel.

Gal. 1:8-9; I Cor. 1:10; Jn. 17:20-21

If it doesn't make any difference, it is all right to add to or take from the Word.

Rev. 22:18-19

If it doesn't make any difference, it is all right to transgress (go onward) and abide not in the doctrine of Christ.

II Jn. 9-11

If it doesn't make any difference, why did the Lord declare that He has all authority as the head of the church?

Col. 1:18; Mt. 28:18

CONCLUSION

So we see beloved friends, it does make a difference and we should never disregard the Word or God and think of men above that which is written.

I Cor. 4:6

FREEDOM FROM YOUR SELF-PRISONS

Luke 4:16-18

INTRODUCTION

“Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage” (*To Althea, From Prison*, by Richard Lovelace).

All the people in prison are not behind stonewalls. There is a stronger and more unyielding prison bar than the one made of iron. Indeed we forge our own chains which enslave us.

If you have been imprisoned by anything, your lusts, hatred, temptation, resentment, grudges, sins LET CHRIST MAKE YOU FREE, Luke 4:18.

A prison of self-satisfaction

Many people do not want to change because they are self-satisfied. You cannot overcome a weakness by giving in to it.

- If one has the problem of stage fright he may overcome it by going before people.
- If one is lazy he may overcome it by working and taking on responsibilities.

We should make improvements and grow.

I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 12:1-2; Phil. 3:13-14

A prison of inferiority

This is a feeling of defeat. Many have to fight a feeling of inability. Strength to overcome should be found in Mt. 28:20; Phil. 4:13

DANGERS WE DO NOT SEE

INTRODUCTION

This implies two classes of dangers, seen and unseen. Now and again the “unseen dangers” to some are “seen.” Discuss how youth should heed the warning of older people.

The little things are sometimes the most dangerous.

So inclined to ignore them
Their effect so deceptive

Your own conduct

Little acts of discourtesy
Slight and slurs with your friends
Deception, dishonesty, and untruthfulness
Sour, grumbling disposition
Slovenly doing a task
Disobedience

Dangers in conduct of others

Bad company / evil companions (I Thess. 5:22)
Evil companionships corrupt (I Cor. 15:33)
Use of bad language
Never lie for a friend.
Never do a dishonorable action for a friend.
The dangers in courtship

Dangers in your spiritual life

Do not disturb the worship of others.
Do not neglect prayer.

THE WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT

Proverbs 14:12

There is danger in traveling the wrong way—

Wrong way may even seem to be right way (text)

Our ways not God's ways, Isa. 55:8-9

God's way is perfect, Psa. 18:30

Bible contains many warnings, Mt. 7:13-14; II Pet.

2:1-3

We must not follow the way that is—

Broad, Mt. 7:13

Popular, II Pet. 2:2

Much traveled, II Pet. 2:2

New, Jer. 6:16

In us, Jer. 10:23

Our way, Isa. 55:7-9

Some ways that seem right—

Denominational way

Mourner's bench way

Three baptisms way

Instrumental music way

Society system way

Humanly devised ways of doing Lord's work

Where is the good way?

God's way is the good way, Jer. 6:16

God's way is the safe way, Heb. 10:20

God's way is the perfect way, Psa. 18:30

Wicked must forsake his way, Isa. 55:7

A CHALLENGE TO THE ALIEN SINNER

INTRODUCTION

Definition of alien: “one who is a stranger to the Church Of Christ” Eph. 2:12.

What the alien must do to be saved

Believe in Christ, Mk. 16:16; Acts 8:37

Repent of all sins, Lk. 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30

Confess Christ, Mt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:8-10

Be buried in water baptism, Acts 10:47-48; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:4

What am I then?

Free from the bondage of sin, Rom. 6:17-18

In Christ and a new creature, Gal. 3:27, II Cor. 5:17

A member of Christ’s church, Acts 2:47

A shining light, Mt. 5:13-17; Phil. 2:15

An enemy to false doctrine, II Jn. 10, 11

A contender for the one faith, Jude 3

DOES THE WORLD NEED A NEW RELIGION?

INTRODUCTION

We are living in a rapidly changing world.
But, some things never change.

Natural laws cannot change

Water is always H₂O

Gravity

Reproduction

Black cow, green grass, white milk

Moral laws never change

Honesty is the best policy

Love thy neighbor as thy self

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

Gal. 6:10 Mt. 7:12

Christ is unchanging

He is the very heart of Christianity

Jesus is the same . . . Heb. 13:8

The scriptures are complete, II Tim. 3:16

The law of the Lord is perfect, Psa. 19:7

The Gospel of Christ never changes

- Facts to be believed: death, burial, resurrection
- Commands to be obeyed: believe, repent, confess, be baptized
- Promises to enjoy: gift of the Holy Spirit, remission of sins, hope of heaven

THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH

I Timothy 3:14-15

As the house depends upon the ground and pillar under it to hold it up and support it, so the Truth depends upon the church. The Truth does not depend upon the church for its veracity, or truthfulness, Rom. 3:3-4. II Tim. 2:13.

Truth depends upon the church for its proclamation

Church is to teach the truth.

Not human societies / not the government

Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:46-47

Great Commission carried out by the church

Acts 20:20; Acts 11:26; Acts 2:42

Church to teach publicly and house to house

Acts 8:1-4; Acts 20:20; Heb. 5:12

Truth depends upon the church for its defense.

Strange, but truth has bitter enemies.

We are the voice that defends it, Phil. 1:17; Acts 13:10; Prov. 25:9

Truth must depend upon the church for its moral support

AND BE FOUND IN HIM

Philippians 3:9

INTRODUCTION

Paul had lost everything to be “found” in Him.
Must first be in Him to be found in Him.

If we are in Christ we must:

Come into Him	Gal. 3:27
Live in Him	II Cor. 5:17
Continue in Him	I Jn. 2:24
Abide in Him	Jn. 15:6
Die in Him	Rev. 14:13
Be found in Him	Phil. 3:9

How must we be found in Him?

Not wanting	Dan. 5:27
Watching	Mk. 13:32-37
Righteous	Phil. 3:9
Peaceable	II Pet 3:14
Spotless	II Pet. 3:14; Jas. 1:27
Blameless	II Pet. 3:14; Phil. 3:15
Obedient	Rev. 22:14
Faithful	I Cor. 4:2; Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10; Jn. 14:1-6

CONCLUSION

Do you have determination?

Every Christian needs to have a zeal and determination.

A Christian determination will take us to heaven.

HOW TO KEEP SAVED

II Peter 1:5-11

INTRODUCTION

Two great questions:

What must I do to be saved?

What must I do to keep saved?

The danger of falling

“Demas hath forsaken me,” II Tim. 4:10; Phil. 2:4

“Ye are fallen from grace,” Gal. 5:4

“The last state is worse,” II Pet. 2:20

“Impossible to renew them,” Heb. 6:4-6

Power to stand

Christians do not have to fall, Mt. 6:33; Lk. 14:26

Anyone can go to heaven, but he must travel the road that leads to heaven

Four good rules

Read the Bible daily

Acts 17:11, “These were more noble”

I Pet. 2:2, “As new born babes”

Jas. 1:21, “Receive with meekness”

II Tim. 2:15, “Study to show thyself”

Jn. 12:48, “The word shall judge him”

Pray to God every day

Mt. 7:7, “Ask and it shall be given unto you”

Prayer is a checkbook on the bank of heaven

Attend all services of the church

Heb. 10:25

Do I have to do that, is a dangerous attitude.

We have the privilege is the right attitude.

We need the spiritual food.

Give liberally of time, talents, and means

I Cor. 16:2

Be interested in the growth of the church

Work for its success

CONCLUSION

I Jn. 2:3, “Hereby we know that we know him if we keep his commandments.”

We can keep saved, but it will take effort.

HOW TO PREACH THE BIBLE

Preach the whole council of God, Acts 20:27.

Keep back nothing that is profitable, Acts 20:20.

Preach to please God rather than men, Gal. 1:10.

Preach the Truth in love, Eph. 4:15.

Speak boldly, Eph 6:18-19.

Earnestly contend for the faith, Jude 3.

Use simple language, I Cor. 1:17.

Reprove, rebuke and exhort, II Tim. 4:2.

Preach to the needs of the hearers, I Cor. 3:1-2

“God only exhibits His thunder and lightning at intervals and so they always command attention. A preacher that thunders and lightning’s too much, the hearer ceases to get under the bed, by and by.”

—Mark Twain

“I don’t like those mighty fine preachers who round off their sentences so beautifully that they are sure to roll off the sinner’s conscience.”

—Rowland Hill

“A preacher without boldness is like a smooth file, a knife without an edge, a sentinel that is afraid to shoot his gun. If men will be bold in sin, ministers must be bold to reprove.”

—Unknown

HOW TO LIVE

By the Word of God

Mt. 4:4; Deut. 8:3; Mt. 6:33

Live by faith

Gal. 2:20

Faith in Christ as a sacrifice for sin

Faith in Christ as a sacrifice for me

The high plane of living

Titus 2:11

God's infinite mercy

God's greatest gift

Tasted death for every man

Live in the fear of God

Deut. 4:10

Live not to the flesh but the spirit

Rom. 8:13; II Pet. 1:5-11

At peace with God

Rom. 8:1

The Christian's state

In Christ, a vital union, a visible union

The Christian's character

Walks not after the flesh

Crucifixion / regulation

He walks after the spirit

Guidance, cooperation

Christian privilege / no condemnation

From past offences

From the corruption of nature

For his defective service

For his involuntary errors

WHY I'M A CHRISTIAN

Acts 26:28

INTRODUCTION

A Christian is one who believes in, and loves Christ with all his heart and shows it by keeping His Word.

- I am a Christian rather than a Jew, because the Jew looks for a Messiah to come. Christ fulfilled exactly the prophecies concerning the Messiah, Jn. 1:45.
- I am a Christian rather than a Mohammedan because Mohamed showed his humanity in his lust for power as well as the imperfection of what he taught.
- I am a Christian rather than a Romanist, because Romanism exalts a man to the place and authority of Christ.
- I am a Christian rather than a subscriber to humanism, because that leaves me at liberty to reject any error I may find, and to accept any truth without sacrifice of principle. All admit if a man is a Christian he is safe.
- I am a Christian because men can be united according to the Lord's Prayer, Jn. 17:20-21.
- I am a Christian because this binds me to obey all the Lord's commands and gives me all His promises, I Pet. 4:14-16.
- I am a Christian because that is the divine or family name, Acts 11:26; Eph. 3:14-15.

WHAT IS CHRIST TO ME?

INTRODUCTION

What is Christ to me?

Sing appropriate Hymn.

I am justified by His grace, Rom. 3:24

I am adopted by His power, Jn. 1:12

I am cleansed by His blood, I Jn. 1:7

Through Him I am at peace with God, Rom. 5:1

He is my wisdom and righteousness, I Cor. 1:30

I am saved by His life, Rom. 5:10

Sing appropriate Hymn.

He is the object of my faith, Jn. 20:30-31

Sing appropriate Hymn.

He is the inspiration of my hope, I Cor. 15:19

Sing appropriate Hymn.

He will be my comfort in death, Ps. 23:4

Sing appropriate Hymn.

WISE BUILDERS

I Corinthians 3:9-15

Where they build

Not on the sand, Mt. 7:26

On the rock, Mt. 7:27

On the rejected corner stone, Mt. 12:10; I Pet. 2:6-7

On Christ, I Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20

When they build

Today, II Cor. 6:2

After counting the cost, Lk. 14:21-30

With whom they build

Apprentices under Christ, I Cor. 3:10

Partners with other Christians, II Cor. 6:1

Directed by the Word of God, II Tim. 2:15

Building with indestructible material, I Cor. 3:12-14

OBEDIENCE

- The first law that ever God gave to man, was a law of **obedience**; it was a commandment pure and simple, wherein man had nothing to inquire after or to dispute, Gen. 2:16-17.
- To **obey** is the proper office of a rational soul acknowledging a heavenly superior and benefactor, Rom. 16:26.
- From **obedience** and submission spring all other virtues, as all sin does from self opinion and self will, I Cor. 14:34.
- No principle is more noble, as there is none more holy than that of true **obedience**, II Cor. 10:5.
- No man doth safely rule but he that hath learned gladly to **obey**, Rom. 5:1.
- It is a vain thought to flee from the work that God appoints us, for the sake of finding a greater blessing, instead of seeking it where alone it is to be found . . . in loving **obedience**, Rom. 6:16.
- Thirty years of our Lord's life are hidden in these words of the gospel: "He was subject unto them," Heb. 5:8.
- **Obedience** is the mother of success and is wedded to safety, Rom. 5:19.
- Let thy child's first lesson be **obedience**, and the second may be what thou wilt, II Tim. 3:15.
- **Obedience** to God is the most infallible evidence of sincere and supreme love to Him, Jn. 14:15.

CHRISTIAN POSSESSIONS

- A LIFE which can never be forfeited.
“I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand,” Jn. 10:28.
- A RELATIONSHIP which cannot be severed.
“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus,” Gal. 3:26.
- A RIGHTEOUSNESS which nothing can tarnish.
“For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him,” II Cor. 5:21.
- A PEACE which can never be disturbed.
“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us,” Eph. 2:14.
- AN ACCEPTANCE which no one can question.
“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved” Eph. 1:6.
- AN INHERITANCE which will never fade.
“To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,” I Pet. 1:4
- GOD’S PROMISES which cannot be broken.
“For all the promises of God in him [are] yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us” II Cor. 1:20.

SOWING AND REAPING

*It is gardening time. Suppose we do some planting
in our spiritual garden!*

Plant 5 Rows of Peas:

Presence

Promptness

Purpose

Persistence

Privileges

Plant 3 rows of squash:

Squash gossip

Squash indifference

Squash criticism

Plant 4 rows of turnips:

Turn up at every service

Turn up with your Bible

Turn up with a smile

Turn up with enthusiasm

Plant 4 rows of lettuce:

Let us be faithful in service, Rev. 2:10, 22:14.

Let us be true to our obligations, Mt. 6:33.

Let us be guided by truth, Jn. 4:24.

Let us love one another, Gal. 6:7-8.

SALVATION IN THE CHURCH

Ephesians 5:25-27

Acts 20:28 Ephesians 2:16, 5:23 Acts 2:47

→ Can a Christian be in connection with the one head without being a member of the ONE body?

Acts 11:26 Col. 1:18 Eph. 1:22-23
Rom. 12:4-5 Eph. 4:4 Col. 1:24

→ Can one be related to Christ (the Bridegroom) without being equally related to the Church (the Bride)? Or a child be related to his father, without being equally related to his mother? (Eph. 5:23-32).

→ Can one be subject to the King without being a citizen of his Kingdom? Col. 1:13

→ Does God have children out of His family? If so isn't adultery involved? If you are a child outside of God's family, what kind of a child does that make you? Are you a legitimate child of God? I Tim. 3:15

→ That which saves puts you into Christ; into His body and into his church.

Mk. 16:16 Gal. 3:27 I Cor. 12:13
Col. 1:24 Eph. 1:22-23

- Faith, repentance, confession and baptism save.
- Faith, repentance, confession and baptism put you into Christ's church.

- On the day of Pentecost 3,000 were saved and added to the church (Acts 2:47).
- The church does not save, but the church is made up of saved people
- All saved people are in the church, Christ's church . . . the church of Christ (Eph. 5:23).
- There is no such thing as being saved by one process and joining the church by another process
- A church you join is worthless.
- You cannot join the church of Christ
- God adds all the saved to it
- There are no saved people outside of it.

KEEPSAKES

I Timothy 6:20-21

In every home there are keepsakes: a quilt, pictures of family members long gone for even a lock of hair that you would never part with. God has many important things for us to keep:

THE HEART

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it [are] the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23)

What is the heart?

You believe with it (Romans 10:9)

You think with it (Mt. 9:4)

You Reason with it (Lk. 5:22)

Why keep it?

“Out of it are the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23)

Things come from it (Mk. 7:21-22)

It can become hardened (Mt. 13:15)

How can you keep it?

By keeping the word (Lk. 8:15)

By having clean hands (Psa. 24:3-4)

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

SEVEN UNITS OF UNITY:

One Body One Spirit One Hope One Lord

One Faith One Baptism One God

IN THE BOND OF PEACE:

Psa. 133:1 Rom. 12:18

KEEP OURSELVES

In the love of God (Jude 21)

From Idols (I Jn. 5:21)

Our bodies (I Cor. 9:27)

Unspotted (Jas. 1:27)

KEEP COMMANDMENTS

Whole duty of man (Eccles. 12:13)

Cannot enter into life without (Mt. 19:17)

Test of love (Jn. 14:15)

By this we know we know Him (I Jn. 2:3)

Love of God (I Jn. 5:3)

Eternal blessedness (Rev. 22:14)

THE EVIDENCE OF PARDON

INTRODUCTION

Isa. 55:6-7; Acts 3:19— How may we be assured that our sins are pardoned or blotted out?

Heb. 10:22— Our assurance is in the realm of faith, and not a matter of physical knowledge.

I Jn. 5:13— Our knowledge of salvation depends upon the written word.

SHOULD DEPEND UPON GOD'S PROMISES

Mk. 16:15-16; Heb. 5:9; II Pet. 1:4; I Jn. 2:3 — Those who obey these conditions can trust these promises.

Acts 2:38, 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27— Only those who know the truth can know they have come to the point of obedience where God promised to save. Suppose you have sinned against a brother of great character and he offers to forgive you upon certain conditions which you faithfully perform. What would be the evidence that you are forgiven? Your feelings, or his trusted promise?

FEELINGS ARE NO EVIDENCE OF PARDON

Lk. 17:3— A brother can not feel me forgive him. Forgiveness is not an act performed in him, but in my mind for him. Pardon takes place in heaven in God's mind for sinners and not in them, Jer. 31:31-34. Can the criminal in the penitentiary feel the governor pardoning him?

The moral changes which take place IN man are not pardon. These are brought about by the

gospel, Rom. 1:16; Ps. 19:7. Pardon takes place in heaven FOR man. Hence, we cannot feel the act of pardon or forgiveness.

FEELINGS ARE AS DECEPTIVE AS THE TESTIMONY PRODUCING THEM

Lk. 21:8— One feels like he is saved because he already believes he is saved, and the testimony that makes him believe he is saved may not be the truth. Catholics feel that the priest forgives their sins but they are deceived.

Gen. 37:23-35; 45:25-28— The testimony which made Jacob feel for above twenty years that Joseph was dead was false testimony,

Jn. 16:2, Acts 3:17— When deceived, one may feel that he is serving God when committing murder, Acts 26:9-11; Acts 23:1; I Tim. 1:13— While in ignorance and unbelief of the truth, Paul felt right in persecuting Christians. No intelligent person offers his feelings as evidence that he is married, or a Boy Scout, or that he is a Mason, a member of some Fraternity or the Lions Club. The criminal does not argue that he is pardoned because he feels pardoned. Would he feel pardoned if he were given a counterfeit pardon by some deceiver?

THE SPIRIT ITSELF BEARETH WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT

Rom. 8:16— Note, it is “with,” not “to” our spirit. There are two witnesses to establish the proposition that I am a child of God.

God’s Spirit bears witness through inspired men and his testimony is on record in the Bible.

Heb. 10:15-17

Jer. 31:31-34 Acts 20

Heb. 3:7-11

Ps. 95:7-11 Isa. 6:9-10

Acts 28:25-27

Acts 1:16

THE HOLY SPIRIT bears witness that sinners must believe, repent, confess and be baptized to be saved.

Mk. 16:16

Lk. 13:3

Rom.10:9

Acts 2:38; 22:16

Only way to learn— I Cor. 2:11

My spirit bears witness that I have done this

WHAT DO I OWE THE CHURCH?

The church of the Lord is the community of obedient believers in Christ in any locality. Through it God's manifold wisdom is to be made known unto men for the obedience of faith, Eph. 3:7-11; Rom. 16:25-26.

Through its work of preaching and teaching the church turns men from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God.

It comforts the bereaved and the broken hearted, marries the young, strengthens the aged, and affords the sweetest fellowship on earth.

In the church we become the saints and servants of God, co-workers with Him in building the divine edifice of a redeemed and spiritual Temple.

Through this divine institution we advance Mentally, spiritually, and socially.

Only eternity will reveal the worth of the church to us as individuals and its loving influence in saving lost humanity.

But if the church is of such vast importance to me, do I not, as a Christian, owe to it something in return?

WE OWE THE CHURCH MANY THINGS

I owe the church my love and respect.

➤If I love God, I must love the church of God. If I love Him that is the Father, I must also love His children, those that are in the family of Jehovah, I John 5:1-3.

I owe the church my influence for good.

➤I must never live in such a way as to cast reflection upon the body of Christ. In so doing I become an enemy of Christ who died for me, Phil. 2:12-17.

I owe Her my moral support by attending every service if at all possible.

➤I must not forsake the assembling of the saints together, under the fear of eternal judgment, Heb. 10:25-31.

➤Which comes first with you, visiting relatives or serving God? When we NEGLECT the Bible classes and worship service of the church week after week to visit friends or relatives we hurt the church and evidence misplaced affection.

➤Young people who have homes of their own need to recognize their responsibility to the local church and place it first. Let us not be babies all our lives, Matt. 10:37

I owe the church my financial support.

➤The project of advancing the kingdom must be financed. It is an expensive operation. The church of the Lord was founded upon sacrifice, Acts 20:28.

Are you bearing your portion of the financial burden of the local church? Are you a spiritual parasite? If you enjoy all the blessings provided by the church and yet do not contribute to its support liberally, you are acting the part of a religious pan-handler.

Try to think of other things you owe the church.

AM I DOING MY DUTY?

INTRODUCTION

An individual has much personal work to do.
Obligations must be met. These duties must be performed to please God.

Am I doing my duty to God?

We are to love God, Mt. 22:37

Must believe in God, Heb. 11:6

Must worship God, Jn. 4:24

Must obey the Lord, Rev. 22:14

Am I doing my duty to Christ?

I am to hear Christ, Mt. 17:5

I am to believe Christ, Jn. 14:1-3

I am to obey Christ, Heb. 5:8-9

Am I doing my duty to myself?

Not to exalt myself.

Must control myself

Must accept salvation

Am I doing my duty to my fellow man?

Not to lie to him

Must love everyone

Must be forgiving

Must teach the truth, Mk. 16:15-16

CONCLUSION

Must live up to these standards

Otherwise I am not doing my duty

HOW GREAT IS YOUR FAITH?

TOO LOW TO REGISTER

I once was a faithful member but never darken the doors now, and I live just like other people in the world.

10% FAITH

I come on Christmas and Easter Sunday only. If I should die, I want my obituary to say I was a member of the church of Christ.

30% FAITH

I am present every Lord's Day, PROVIDED it is nice weather, and I do not have something more important to do.

40% FAITH

My record shows that I attend three out of four Sunday mornings.

50% FAITH

I rarely miss a Sunday morning preaching service. I give as much as the average person.

90% FAITH

I never miss (unless I am sick). I take a leading part. I never criticize adversely, but I suggest how to help. I teach others and I give until it hurts.

100% FAITH

This is the kind none of us have yet. It is the kind that will remove mountains.

TOMORROW

The spirit of *tomorrow* caused the ruin of the foolish virgins, Mt. 25:1-12.

The Christian religion is a daily religion. Heb. 3:13, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

We must prepare and be prepared every day.

Mt. 25:13, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

Tomorrow in the life of Felix, Acts 24:24-25.

The Rich Fool had great plans for tomorrow, Lk. 12:16-21.

The young man said to Jesus, "tomorrow."

Mt. 8:21-22, ". . . suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, FOLLOW ME; and let the dead bury their dead." Mt. 6:33

The great Word in the Bible is always, "TODAY"

Heb. 3:13; 7, 8; II Cor. 6:2; Jn 9:4.

Many are waiting until tomorrow to do what should be done TODAY. They are waiting to obey the gospel, to be restored, to live the Christian life, to read the Bible, to give liberally

PAUL'S CONFIDENCE IN DEATH

SPEAK OF PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT

Never feared prison, Acts 21:11-13

Had been there before, Acts 16:24

There by choice now, Acts 28:17-20

HE WAS READY TO BE OFFERED

Not merely to die . . . to be offered.

How do you account for his readiness?

Obedience, Acts 9:6, 26:19-20

Loyalty, Acts 20:20-24

HE HAD FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT

Not just a fight, a good fight

Fought many battles, (Mars Hill, Ephesians)

Was expecting a soldiers reward

Wanted to go home, Phil. 1:23

Wanted an honorable discharge, Acts 20

Wanted a reunion with comrades, II Tim. 4:8

HE HAD FINISHED HIS COURSE

His course, not Peter's or John's

His course divinely planned, Acts 9:15-16

Had run nobly, I Cor. 9:25-27

Had not cheated, I Cor. 8:13 (no meat)

Had not faltered, Acts 20:22-24

Had his heart on the prize, Phil. 3:14

HE HAD KEPT THE FAITH

Not the faith of his parents

Not A faith but THE faith, Jude 3

Kept it under constant persecution.

Kept the faith he once destroyed, Gal. 1:23

Only death kept him from reward, Rev. 2:10

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

I Timothy 6:12

INTRODUCTION

- Examination of the text.
- Aged veterans give advice to young soldiers.
- Paul was in position to give such advice because of his own faithfulness, II Timothy 4:7-8.

WE SHOULD FIGHT A GOOD FIGHT BECAUSE . . .

Our cause is good. It is the cause of truth, righteousness and salvation.

There's no tyranny, despotism or lying propaganda connected with it, II Pet. 1:16.

Our Captain is great, Heb. 2:10. He will not ask us to do more than he has done.

Our armor is perfect, Eph. 6:13-17. No soldier was ever better equipped.

Our provisions are abundant, Phil. 4:19. Lack of provisions has caused many a lost battle.

The victory is certain, I Cor. 15:58. This victory comes through faithfulness to duty.

The reward will be glorious, II Tim. 4:6-8.

THE WONDERS OF CHRIST'S CHARACTER AND WORKS

Isaiah 9:6

CHRIST WAS WONDERFUL IN HIS PERSONALITY

Both human and divine

He was the Son of God, Mt. 16:16

He was the Son of Man, Mk. 10:45

HE HAD WONDERFUL POWER

He healed the blind, Mk. 8:22-24

Raised the dead, Mk. 5:41-42

He calmed the sea in a storm, Mk. 4:39

Turned water to wine, Jn. 2:9-11

HE SPAKE WONDERFUL WORDS

Jn. 7:46

HE HAD WONDERFUL AUTHORITY

Mt. 28:18

HE HAD WONDERFUL INFLUENCE

Multitudes followed Him, Mt. 21:8-11

HE HAS A WONDERFUL PLACE IN HEAVEN

Heb. 12:2

HE WILL HAVE A WONDERFUL PLACE AT JUDGMENT

Mt. 25:31:32

A CROWN FOR THE FAITHFUL

Revelation 2:10

FAITHFUL—

- Loyal (as a friend)
- Trustworthy (as a servant)
- True (accurate as a faithful account)

FAITH-LESS—

- False to the promise of allegiance
- False to duty or service

CHRIST'S CHARGE TO ALL HIS FOLLOWERS

- Be faithful to our soul.
- Be faithful to Christ.
- Be faithful to the gospel.

- The Gospel is the legacy of Christ to all his followers, dearer to us ought it to be than liberty or life.
- Be faithful to the world in your interest for it's conversion.
- You are the "salt" to preserve the world from putrefaction.
- You are the "cities" which for unity, beauty, and security are to be admired as patterns.
- You are "lights" to shine before men that they may glorify your Father which is in heaven.
- Be faithful unto death. Faithfulness is to continue during life...only ceases at death.

EVERLASTING COVENANT WITH CHRIST

- He has entrusted to us His Truth; His Rights, His Work in this world.

➤ A Christian has no right to Christian comfort and hope, save as he is an active, working Christian.

REQUIRES PERSONAL FAITHFULNESS

Because every Christian—

Has a personal work to accomplish

Completely furnished unto good works

Is under a personal obligation to be faithful

REQUIRES CONTINUAL FAITHFULNESS

The work is great

The time is short

FAITHFULNESS IS REWARDED

Precious CROWN

Glorious CROWN OF LIFE

Durable LIVE

Personal “I will give thee”

HOW WE SHOULD LIVE

Life is before each of us. It must be lived. It can only be lived one time, therefore, the supreme question is HOW to live.

LIVE BY THE WORD OF GOD

Mt. 4:4; Deut. 8:3

LIVE BY FAITH

Gal. 2:20

THE HIGH PLANE OF LIVING

Titus 2:11

LIVE IN THE FEAR OF GOD

Deut. 4:10; I Pet. 1:17

LIVE NOT TO THE FLESH

Gal. 5:24-25; Rom. 8:13

THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME

Heb. 11:13-16

IS NOT SUITABLE FOR AN ETERNAL HOME

Here we die, Heb. 9:27

Here we sorrow, Psa. 38:17

Here our pleasures are transient, Ecc. 11:8

IS NOT THE BLISS FOR WHICH WE SIGH

Job would not live always, Job 7:16

David would fly away, Ps. 55:6

Paul had a desire to depart, Phil. 1:23

HEAVEN IS OUR HOME

Many mansions, Jn. 14:1-3

Building of God, II Cor. 5:1

It is free from sorrow, Rev. 21:4

There will be no more death, Lk. 20:35

WHAT THE LORD OFFERS

INTRODUCTION

Turn to the Bible and learn of all the blessings the Lord offers.

The Lord will bless all that obey him.

God is love, I Jn. 4:8

WHAT THE LORD OFFERS

A way	Jn. 14:6
Perfect law of liberty	Jas. 1:25
Life	Jn. 10:10
Salvation	Jn. 3:5
Rest	Mt. 11:28-30
A place prepared	Jn. 14:1-4
Necessities	Mt. 6:33
Joy	Jn. 16:24
Peace	Lk. 2:14
Love	Jn. 15:13
Good things	Rom. 8:28
Spiritual blessings	Eph. 1:3
A crown of life	Rev. 2:10

YES, THE LORD OFFERS MUCH
BE THANKFUL FOR EVERY BLESSING

Col. 3:17

CHRIST'S YOKE

Matthew 21:29-30

The yoke of Christ's teaching	II Jn. 9
The law as a yoke	Jn. 15:14
Bearing the cross is a yoke.	Mt. 16:24
His yoke is easy.	Mt. 11:30

HE PROMISES REST

Rest from the servitude of sin	Rom. 6:16
Rest from the disquietude of soul	Rom. 5:1,
Rest in heaven	Rev. 14:13

WHAT IS THE GREAT THING IN LIFE?

Greatest loss	To lose my soul, Mt. 16:26
Greatest gain	Christ my Savior, Phil. 3:7-8
Greatest object	To glorify God, Eph. 3:21
Greatest grown	To win souls, Rom. 10:1
Greatest joy	Salvation, Rom. 5:8
Greatest inheritance	Heaven, II Pet. 1:11
Greatest victory	Over death, Rev. 14:13
Greatest neglect	So great salvation, Heb. 2:3
Greatest crime	To reject Christ, Jn. 12:48
Greatest bargain	Lose all for Christ, Phil 3:8

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, A SERVING LIFE

I Thessalonians 1:9-10

INTRODUCTION

The great example of the Thessalonians is a pattern for all sincere people to follow in obeying God.

Notice the nature of the Christian life

A CHANGED LIFE

Turned to God from idols

Present day idols

Pleasure, I Cor. 10:7

Mammon, Mt. 6:24

Manner of changing

Must be converted, Acts 3:19; Mt. 18:3

Put off the old man, Eph. 4:22-24

Repent, Lk. 13:3, Acts 2:38

Believe and be baptized, Mk. 16:15-16

Obey the form of doctrine, Rom. 6:17-18

Old things are passed away, II Cor. 5:17

A SERVING LIFE

To serve the true and living God

Work of faith

Always abounding in work of the Lord, I Cor. 15:58

Blessed in the work, Jas. 1:25

Must be servants to all, Mt. 25:35-46

The kingdom depends on service, Mt. 20:26-27

A WAITING LIFE

To wait for Christ

Jesus will come again, Jn. 14:1-3

A glorious appearing, Titus 2:13

The time of the Lord's coming uncertain, Mt. 24:36

Should wait in watchfulness, Mt. 24:42

CONCLUSION

Live the Christian life.

Enjoy this life and the life to come.

Prepare in this life for the next.

Make a change—

 Live for the Lord—

 Wait for His appearance—

IT JUST CANNOT BE.
IF ONE WERE SAVED BEFORE
BAPTISM

HE WOULD BE—

Saved before his sins are remitted, Acts 2:38

Saved before his sins are washed away, Acts 22:16

Saved before he is born again, Jn. 3:5

Saved outside of Christ, II Tim. 2:10

SALVATION IS IN CHRIST

Buried / Baptized into Christ, Rom. 6:3-4, Col. 3:1,
Gal. 3:27-29

HE WOULD BE SAVED BEFORE HE IS SAVED
I Pet. 3:21

HE WOULD BE SAVED SOONER THAN THE
LORD PROMISED

Mk. 16:16; I Pet. 3:20; I Cor. 10:1-3

CONCLUSION

Today we are saved by grace of God when we
trustingly and penitently are baptized, Tit. 3:5.

HOW DO WE GET FAITH?

DOES FAITH COME IN ANSWER TO PRAYER?

If it does—

- ? How can we ask in faith? James 1:6
- ? Would the prayer be pleasing to God when faith is absent? Heb. 11:6

GOD'S WORD IS THE STANDARD OF FAITH

It is by the testimony of Christ, Jn. 20:30-31

It is by the word of the apostles, Jn. 17:20-21

It is by the word of God, Rom. 10:16-17

It is by the gospel, Acts 15:7

It is by preaching, Rom. 10:14

Acts 8:12—

“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

THINGS WHICH KEEP PRAYER FROM BEING ANSWERED

DISBELIEF

Jas. 1:6-7, "But let him ask in faith"

Mt. 21:22, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive"

DISOBEDIENCE

I Jn. 3:22, "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments."

WORLDLINESS

Isa. 59:2; I Pet. 3:12, "The face of the Lord is against them that do evil."

SELFISHNESS

Jas. 4:3, "Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask a miss, that ye may consume it upon yourself."

AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT

Mat. 6:14-15, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

THINGS NOT IN HARMONY WITH THE FATHER'S WILL

I Jn. 3:22

GOD WITH HOLDS THE THINGS WHICH DO NOT WORK TO OUR GOOD

Rom. 8:28

THE NEED OF A GOSPEL MEETING

REVIVAL— Revived activity in religious life . . .
a religious awakening.

The act of bringing back to life.

A return to consciousness.

“O Lord, revive thy work,” Habakkuk 3:2

A MEETING

Featured by much prayer

That will revive church attendance

That will loosen our tongues for God

That will draw in the unsaved, Rom. 10:1

That will inspire the preacher

That will bring many to the Savior

NECESSITY FOR A GOSPEL MEETING

Heals breaches and restores harmony

Calls out all the strength of the church

Converts the lost

Brings out character . . . they YIELD or REBEL

GREAT PREPARATION, Acts Chapter Two

Centuries had been leading up to it

Christ had to come and die

Work of John the Baptist prepared for it

Christ taught apostles 3 years

Sent Holy Spirit to guide the apostles

GREAT OCCASION

Day of Pentecost
Holy Spirit came
Birth of the church

ADVERTISED

Noised abroad

GREAT CROWDS

The soil was as vital as the sower

GREAT EXHORTATION

GREAT RESULTS

Three thousand obeyed and were added to the church.

CONTINUED STEADFASTLY, Acts 2:42

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH

Acts 2:1-4

INTRODUCTION

“ekklesia” which means called out.

It is the body of Christ, Col. 1:18.

It is the family of God, I Tim. 3:15.

It is the kingdom of God and Christ, Eph. 5:5.

It is the pillar and ground of the truth, I Tim. 3:15.

WHO IS THE FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH?

Jesus said, “I will build my church,” Mt. 16:18.

Jesus is the builder of his church, Acts 2.

HOW MANY CHURCHES DID JESUS BUILD?

Jesus said, “I will build my church,” Mt. 16:18.

There is only one true church in the Bible.

It is called, *My Church, The Church, The Church Of The Lord, The Church Of God, The Churches Of Christ, The Body Of Christ, The Church Of The First Born*

WHEN WAS THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED?

Isaiah said the last days in Jerusalem, Isa. 2:2-4.

Daniel said in the days of these kings, Dan. 2:44.

It was at hand in John’s day, Mt. 3:1-2.

The disciples prayed for its coming, Mt. 6:9-10.

Christ said, “I will build it,” Mt. 16:18.

It was to come during the lifetime of some of the disciples, Mk. 9:1.

The disciples had not entered it, Mt. 18:3.

Christ said the Kingdom SHALL come,” Lk. 22:18.
The kingdom was to come with power, Mk. 9:1.
The power was when the Spirit came, Acts 1:8.
The Spirit came on Pentecost, Acts 2:1-4.

CONCLUSION—

All these requirements were fulfilled on the 1st Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ. Every prophecy before that day pointed to the future. Every statement about the beginning of the church after that day pointed backward.

PREACH THE WORD

II Timothy 2:2; Hebrews 4:12

PREACH THE WORD BECAUSE—

It pleased God, I Cor. 1:21.

It is the perfect law of liberty, Jas. 1:25.

It is perfect in converting the soul, Ps. 19:7.

It is God's power to save, Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 15:1-3.

It is God's means of purifying our souls, I Pet. 1:22.

It is the method of sanctification, Jn. 17:17, 8:32.

It is the only perfect rule of faith, II Tim. 3:16-17.

SIMPLICITY OF THE WORD

Not an incomprehensible mystery, Isa. 35:8.

Easily understood, Mk. 16:15.

People who were not familiar with the Word heard it, obeyed it and were saved by it in a brief space of time, Acts 2:37-38, 8:30-39.

Timothy understood the Scriptures from his childhood, II Tim. 3:15.

Is supernatural aid essential to understanding the word of God? Luke 24:45; Acts 16:14.

CHRIST'S COMFORTING WORDS

John 14:1-3

INTRODUCTION

Jesus had impressed upon the minds of the disciples that he was soon to leave them, and Judas had gone to get band of soldiers to arrest him. Peter the boldest of the disciples would deny that he knew the Christ.

Discouragement took possession of the hearts and minds of the disciples. Jesus understood the circumstances. Silence like death had seized upon the little company. They needed comforting words spoken by Jesus.

BELIEVE IN GOD—

Confidence

BELIEVE ALSO IN ME—

Unison

IN MY FATHERS HOUSE ARE MANY
MANSIONS—

Many mansions, abiding places, homes . . .
besides this one we call earth. Another
place to go that is radiant with beauty.

IF IT WERE NOT SO I WOULD HAVE TOLD
YOU—

I would not have allowed you to give

up the things of this earth if I didn't have better things to offer you. I would have told you frankly that it was all sacrifice and no reward.

FOR I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU—

This separation that makes you so sad is only a step toward providing you with a better home than earth can furnish.

I COME AGAIN. Acts 1:11, 3:21; I Thess. 4:13-17

UNITY AMONG BRETHREN

INTRODUCTION

Unity: State of being one. Uniformity, harmony . . .
. manifest its strength, or exert its influence as on.

The church in every place exerts its integrity through unity. There is not enough teaching from our pulpits on unity.

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY

Psa. 133:1, How great art thou.

Responsibility every Christian.

If we go out yonder into error we will wish we'd never been born.

A FORCEFUL PLEA FOR UNITY

Cannot be made to the denominational world when division exists among the New Testament Christians!

FOR EFFECTIVE WORK

The church must be united, Jn. 17:20-21.

FOR STRENGTH

The church must have perfect unity, Phil. 3:16; I Cor. 1:10.

FOR ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

We must have unity, Mt. 5:23-24; I Cor. 11:17-22.

FOR CHRIST TO BE IN OUR HEARTS BY
FAITH

We must have unity, Gal. 5:15

In Galatians 5:15 the people had pride, anger, ill will, unkindness, they lacked charity, and tempers took possession of their souls.

LIVE IN PEACE

II Cor. 13:11; Rom. 12:19

BE AT PEACE

I Thess. 5:13

FOLLOW PEACE

Heb. 12:14

DILIGENT IN PEACE

II Pet. 3:14

“I am going to a city where the streets with gold are laid, where the tree of life is blooming and the roses never fade. Here they bloom but for a season, soon their beauty is decayed, I am going to a city where the roses never fade.”

THE BREVITY OF LIFE

SOWING AND REAPING

Galatians 6:7-9

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

This life is seed time, Psa.126:6.

Eternity will be the reaping time, Jn. 4:36.

We cannot sow one thing and reap another, Gal.6:7.

ONLY TWO OPTIONS FOR SOWING

To the flesh, Gal. 6:8

To the spirit, Rom. 8:13

ONLY TWO KINGDOMS

Col. 1:13

ONLY TWO WAYS THROUGH LIFE

Mt. 7:13-14

ONLY TWO KINDS OF HARVEST

Of Corruption

Of Everlasting Life, Gal. 6:8

ONLY TWO SIDES TO THE THRONE

Mt. 25:33

ONLY TWO DESTINIES

Mt. 25:46

BUILDING UP THE CHURCH

The foundation	Eph. 2:19-20
As lively stones	I Pet. 2:5
Fitly framed together	Eph. 2:21
Habitation of God	Eph. 2:22
Individuals grow	I Pet. 2:2-3
Workmanship	Eph. 2:10
Faith that works	Gal. 5:6, Jas. 2:24
Preach the Word	II Tim. 4:2
Word saves	Jas. 1:21-24
Sound out the Word	I Thess. 1:8

Cannot build up the church without doctrine—

Jn. 7:17 Acts 2:42 Rom. 16:17
I Tim. 1:10

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

Romans 6:1-11; Galatians 3:27

INTRODUCTION

Christian belongs to an individual not nations, no
Christian nations, Acts 11:26, 26:28; I Pet. 4:16

WHO ARE NOT CHRISTIANS?

Not all *good people*

- ◆ Morality an obligation of a Christian but does not make one a Christian.
- ◆ Nicodemus, a good man, but had to be born again, Jn. 3:5.
- ◆ Cornelius, a good man but still had to hear words to be saved, Acts 11:14.

Not just *religious persons*

- ◆ Some heathens are religious, Acts 17:22
- ◆ Different kinds of religion, Jas. 1:26

Not Old Testament characters

- ◆ Abraham not a Christian
- ◆ Moses not a Christian

Not all church members

- ◆ Joining a church does not make one a Christian

Sitting in a church does not make one a Christian.

BEING RICH TOWARD GOD

INTRODUCTION

Our Duty, Lk. 12:21; Mt. 6:24-34

Rich Toward God means to love Him, Mt. 22:37.

Obey Him, Acts 5:29.

DUTY TO CHRIST

Honor Him, Jn. 5:23.

Serve Him, Rom. 14:17-18.

DUTY TO SELF

Not to think too highly of ourselves, Rom. 12:3; Lk.

14:11; I Jn. 1:8; Gal. 6:3.

BE MEN

Quit you like men, I Cor. 16:13.

In understanding, I Cor 14:20

HOW TO LIVE

Life is before each one; it must be lived; it can only be lived one time. Therefore, the supreme question is How To Live.

BY THE WORD OF GOD

Mt. 4:4; Deut. 8:3

LIVE BY FAITH

Gal. 2:20

THE HIGH PLANE OF LIVING

Tit. 2:11

LIVE IN THE FEAR OF GOD

Deut. 4:10

LIVE NOT TO THE FLESH

Gal. 5:24-25; Rom. 8:13

IN HIS STEPS

INTRODUCTION

Christ is an authority on going to heaven because he has been over the road, I Peter 2:21.

LIVED A PERFECT LIFE

I Pet. 2:22; Heb. 4:15; Mt. 4:1-11

HE IS THE WAY

Jn. 14:6

ABOUT THE FATHERS BUSINESS

Lk. 2:42-49

BAPTIZED

Mt. 3:13-17

ATTENDED WORSHIP

Lk. 4:16

PRAYERFUL

Lk. 6:12

FORGIVING

Lk. 23:34

OBEDIENT

Heb. 5:8-9

PEACEFUL

Lk. 2:14

THINGS THAT WILL CAUSE US TO LIVE BETTER

INTRODUCTION

Every person should desire to live better. We are each busy writing a history of our lives. Each moment perhaps closes a paragraph, each day a page, each year a chapter, and at life's end the book is concluded. We should strive to make each chapter of the book the best, for it might be the last. There are few things that will help us to write this book better, to which we desire to call to your attention.

A GREATER DEGREE OF FAITH, Mt. 14:28 ff.

We need faith Jesus spoke of, Mt. 6:31-33

Realization of value of the soul, Mt. 16:26

Consciousness of judgment, Heb. 9:27; Rom. 14:12

Everyman judged, II Cor. 5:10

Two destinies, Mt. 25:46, Jn. 14:1-3

CONCLUSION

Where you spend eternity is in your hands, Phil. 2:12. You can reject Christ and His way and send eternity in the pit of fire and brimstone. You can accept Christ and His way and spend eternity in heaven, Rev. 22:14.

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

Matthew 22:42

REGARDING THE FLESH

Ps. 89:35; Acts 2:30; Rom. 1:3

REGARDING HIS DIVINITY

Mt. 22:43-45

REASONS FOR BELIEVING CHRIST DIVINE

The Life He Lived

The Words He Spoke

The Works He Did

His Divine Influence

His Resurrection

The Prophecies Fulfilled in Him

REGARDING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

He is our redeemer, I Pet. 1:18-19; I Tim. 2:6.

He is our Savior.

He is our Lord, Rom. 10:9.

He is our friend and brother, Jn. 15:14; Mt. 12:50.

THREE ESTIMATES OF CHRIST

Of Judas

Of the Devil

Paul's Estimate, Phil. 3:8

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LOST

John 5:28-29

INTRODUCTION

No one who believes in hell means to be lost.
All should “prepare to meet God,” Amos 4:12.
“Destroyed for lack of knowledge”, Hos. 4:6.
All should realize what it means to be lost.

INFLUENCE ON OTHERS

Every person has some influence, good or bad.
Eve influenced Adam.
Parents influence children and each other.
Many will be lost, Mt. 7:13-14.

LOST ETERNALLY, Mt. 25:46

Hell is a place of everlasting fire, Mt. 18:8.
No chance after death, Lk. 16:19-31.
Pleasures of sin will last only a season, Heb. 11:25.
Eternity will never end.

DOUBLE LOSS

Joys of heaven missed, saved of the ages are there.
Eternity spent with the wicked of all ages.

LOST THROUGH OWN FAULT

God wants us to be saved, Jn. 3:16
Christ pleads for us, Mt. 11:28, 22:37, 20:28
Joy among angels when sinners repent, Lk. 15:10
Christians want you to be saved, Acts 26:28-29
The lost do not want you to be lost, Lk. 16:19-31.
It will only be your fault if you are lost.

GETWELL CHURCH OF CHRIST'S TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

As today we look back through the 25 years that have so quickly passed by it is with mixed emotions as we look down memory's lane.

Many that had a part in the beginning of this great church are not here today. Some have moved away. Others have crossed over the silent stream of death that divides the known from the unknown.

This great church is here today because great men and women who have kept on untiringly fighting the battle for the cause of our Lord.

I think this is one of the soundest, strongest churches in our Brotherhood.

You have dedicated men as your elders and deacons. Fortunate you are to have brother Elkins and brother Carpenter. They are men who stand uncompromisingly and firmly upon the Word of God. I feel sure standing behind these men you have a group of men, women, boys, and girls that are dedicated to Christ.

This being the 25th Anniversary, let us for a moment look back to the birth, or beginning of this work.

I have with me two pictures, one of the old building in which we met at the beginning, and the new building when it was finished.

There were two tent meetings in 1950 and 1951. I began work with the brethren here in 1952. A tent meeting in Oakville had 31 baptisms. In a meeting west of this building on Dunn Street we had 21 baptisms and 17 baptisms in a meeting just over on Perkins Avenue. The small building we came to meet in soon was filled to overflowing with large crowds standing outside before the new building was finished.

HOMECOMING

HOMECOMING . . . what sweet words!
Words cannot express to you my appreciation.

I look down memory lane with mixed emotions. I feel honored in heaven's sight coming before this great audience and to have a part on this great day of HOMECOMING . . . to know God is real and we are here to worship Him.

Many people try to tell us that God is not real. Looking upon God's handy work is all-sufficient evidence that GOD IS REAL.

In the early morning we see the great King of day streaming it's golden rays across this beautiful world. **In the late evening** at the closing of the day we see the same sun throwing its rays from the golden isles of the west. Millions of stars in God's bending blue shine as a million chandeliers.

I feel so very keenly the great responsibility resting upon me, as a dying man speaking to dying men and women. We may never meet again amid the sunshine and shadows of this life, but God has prepared a HOMECOMING in heaven in the sweet after while if we will make preparation for it.

God gave us Christ and the church for you and me to make it possible to be present at this great gathering in heaven. I wish I could impress

everyone that is not a Christian to become one this day. Also, I wish to persuade every unfaithful child of God to repent and return to Him this day. Christ provides for all who want to go.

Mt. 11:28-30

Mk. 16:15-16

Acts 2:38

Rom. 6:3-4

II Pet. 1:5-11.

Unfaithful child of God—

I Jn. 1:9

Faithful child of God—

Mt. 7:21; Rev. 2:10, 22:14

Security is in Christ—

Rom. 8:1; II Tim. 1:12; I Jn. 1:7

Will you be in the roll call for heaven?

Heaven will be wonderful, I Cor. 2:9

BREVITY OF LIFE.

HEAVEN'S HOMECOMING

INTRODUCTION

Homecoming— a coming home or homeward return after a prolonged absence.

Families have homecomings. Fathers and mothers anxiously wait their coming; finally, they see their children coming in the distance. There are tears of joy that trickle across their furrowed faces, the fulfillment of their anticipation. Oh, what joy in their hearts . . . our love ones coming home!

But in this homecoming there is the shadow of sadness. They must soon separate again. The time comes that each goes their separate ways.

Fathers and mothers stand with sad and lonely heart knowing it is possible they may never meet again on this earth.

AS IT WILL NO DOUBT BE WITH MAN PRESENT HERE TODAY—

We may never meet again here amid the sunshine and shadows of this life. But, we look forward to heaven's homecoming where there will be no separation or sad good bys.

GOD PREPARED HEAVEN'S HOMECOMING 6,000 YEARS AGO—

God through Christ has invited the whole world to heaven's homecoming. We can be a guest there,

only, by complying with conditions as Christ has made them, II Pet. 3:9. Christ provides conveyance for all who want to go, Mt. 11:28-30; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:4, II Pet. 2:5-11.

THE FAITHFUL CHILD OF GOD HAS
ASSURANCE OF SECURITY—

Mt. 7:21; Rev. 22:14, 2:10

WILL YOU BE IN THE NUMBER OF
HEAVEN'S HOMECOMING?

Jn. 5:28-29; Rev. 21:4

Don't you want to be in that land
of which John tells us?

BREVITY OF LIFE

IF

IF the Lord will save us without baptism why did He command it?

Act 10:47-48

IF the Lord promises us salvation without baptism why did Peter say it saves?

I Peter 3:21

IF sprinkling and pouring are scriptural baptism why did Paul say there is ONE baptism?

Ephesians 4:4-6; Colossians 2:11-12;

Romans 6:1-6 (What is a burial?)

IF we get INTO Christ without baptism why did Paul say we are baptized INTO Christ?

Galatians 3:27

IF we get into the body of Christ without baptism why did Paul say we are baptized INTO one body?

I Cor. 12:13

Col. 1:18

IS MAN CONSCIOUS BETWEEN DEATH AND THE RESURRECTION?

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS WERE.

The saved leave all **sorrow** behind when they leave the earth. The lost leave all **joy** behind when they leave the earth, Luke 16:25.

MOSES AND ELIAS WERE.

Conversation took place, Mt. 17:3; Lk. 9:30-31

PAUL DID NOT DESIRE UNCONSCIOUSNESS.

Philippians 1:23-24

THE DEAD ARE BLESSED.

Works follow to eternity to speak for them, Rev. 14:13; I Cor. 15:19; Heb. 9:27; Jn. 5:28-29.

IS TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD TO BE
UNCONSCIOUS?

Death means absent from body, present with the Lord, II Cor. 5:8

Death means putting aside the body and being clothed in “new garment.” The body is not essential to conscious existence. To Paul death meant present at once with Christ, leaving body behind Matthew 25:31-33; Revelation 20:12.

TRUTH

If a thousand old beliefs were ruined on our march
to truth we must still march on.
We must go up stream past the waters that have
been muddied by denominations.

Let us study prominent denominations and organizations of people whom I appreciate as citizens and against whom I have nothing unkind to say—

PRESBYTERIAN

John Calvin. Was Christ speaking about the Presbyterian Church he would build 1500 years later?

CATHOLIC

Great Papacy. The Church Of Rome. The Council of Rome. There is no council, back of that, no Pope, back of that no Cardinal, back of that, no Ecclesiastical dignitaries.

METHODIST

Is the Methodist church what Christ had in mind in Matthew 16:18? Paul never heard of Methodism. Peter was not a member of the Methodist church.

MORMAN

Can you trace the Mormon Church back in history and identify it with the institution built by Christ? It existed 25 years ago, 50 years ago but go up the line until the year 1830 and there you find the origin, the

beginning of Mormonism . . . founder, Joseph Smith
. . . 1830 years after Christ said Mt. 16:18.

BAPTIST

When Christ said Mt. 16:18 was it to be a Baptist Church? Time has been when Baptists tried to establish a line of succession back to John the Baptist, but most have abandoned that effort long ago. Baptist historians show that the first Baptist Church originated in Holland 1608. Back of 1608 such a church was unknown.

MEMORY OR REMEMBRANCE

MEMORY is the sheath of all knowledge.

MEMORY is the daughter of attention.

MEMORY is the mother of wisdom.

LITTLE CHILD'S DEFINITION—
My memory is the thing I forget with.

REMEMBRANCE—

REMEMBRANCE is the only paradise out of which we cannot be driven away.

The world does not require so much to be informed as reminded.

The sweetest REMEMBRANCE of the just shall flourish when he sleeps in the dust.

Pleasure is the flower that fades; REMEMBRANCE is the lasting perfume.

GOD

God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

We should give God the same place in our hearts that he holds in the universe.

If we have God in all things while they are ours, we shall have all things in God when they are taken away.

Let the chain of second causes be ever so long, the first link is always in God's hand.

Every thing we see in an item of the wisdom, power, or goodness of God.

INFLUENCE OF LOVE

Love is the divine essence of our being, it flows from God into our souls, and is our life.

As the sun of the natural world warms the flower into life and beauty, so does the spirit of man receive the warmth of will, which animates it into life and action, from the great fountain of Divine Love.

The greatest pleasure of life is love.

We are shaped and fashioned by what we love.

Love is never lost. If not reciprocated it will flow back and soften and purify the heart.

Love is love's reward

Hymn—

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

These FUNERAL outlines were obviously used over and over. On the original outlines the titles were individual's names which were pencil marked through several times with other names showing he'd adapted the outline for several individuals.

FUNERAL LESSON I

For A Faithful Christian

Our hearts are made sad. Another soul has gone into eternity. I Sam. 20:3; Psa. 90:12; Prov. 27:1

A TRUE SOLDIER HAS FALLEN

Job 14:14 If a man die shall he live again?

Job 19:25 I know that my Redeemer liveth

II Cor. 5:1 “. . . a house not made with hands.”

Phil. 1:21 To die is gain

Phil. 1:23

II Tim. 4:7-8; Rev. 14:13

Jas. 4:14 Life is a vapor

Heb. 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

EULEGIZE

Rev. 2:10; Jn. 14:1-3

ONES LEFT BEHIND

Acts 20:32

FUNERAL LESSON II

For A Faithful Christian Lady

From our midst a great and good woman has silently slipped away. There is a host of friends and flowers showing your love for her. We sit here in the shadow of greatest sorrow, yet we sit here in the light of the greatest hope. One who was lately here has now passed on into the life of God. Absent in body, she is at home with the Lord. The spirit that has ceased on earth has begun its activities under fairer skies. We look down memory's lane with fondest memories of this beautiful life.

IN HEAVEN A REST

There will be no sleepless nights, no wearisome days, no secret sighs, no bitter groans, no scalding tears, no unrequited love, no sundering of tender ties, no parting with those we love, no fear of disease, no suffering from pain, no dread of death, no dark and gloomy grave . . . but all will be sweet and undisturbed repose. All will be peace, happiness and love. Like the leaves of the forest, we come forth in beauty, pass on with the summer, then sink to the earth. A few days only and the rose fades from the cheek, the limbs are palsied, and our forms mingle with the dust. Brevity.

GOD'S LOVE

God's love for man has been manifested in many ways. The deepest source of comfort in the time of sorrow is the assurance that God loves us and is interested in us. I Jn. 4:8; I Pet. 5:7; Isa.

40:11. As the strong shepherd gathers weak and helpless lambs in his arms to keep them from harm, so the great Shepherd of our souls promises to help us, in our weak and helpless state, to endure and overcome the grief and temptations of life.

I Thess. 4:13

We feel confident that this Sister can say in the language of Apostle Paul, "I know in whom I have believed." Phil. 1:21; II Tim. 4:7-8

TO THE FAMILY

I Thess 4:13; Acts 20:32; Jn. 14. To the sons and daughters . . . Imitate the life of your Mother in following the Lord.

NESTLE ON HER BOSOM

Servant of God, well done!
Thy glorious warfare's past,
The battle's fought, the race is won,
And thou art crowned at last.
Let faith exalt her joyful voice,
And now in triumph sing:
O grave, where is thy victory?
And where, O Death, thy sting?
The stars shall shine for a thousand years,
A thousand years and a day;
But God and I will live and live
When the stars are passed away.

FUNERAL LESSON III

For A Faithful Christian

From our midst a great and good Christian silently slipped away. We sit here in sorrow but in light of great hope. One who was lately here has passed on into the City Of God. Absent from the body, home with the Lord. The spirit that has ceased on earth has begun its activities under fairer skies.

Faith and hope as Paul's II Tim. 1:12

He has stacked his armor on the glad plains of a never-ending eternity. He has laid aside his battle scarred armor and hung his sword on the jasper walls of that eternal city with palms of victory and with a crown of glory. He joins in the hymning of His praises while eternity rolls its endless ages on.

I Thess. 4:13.

FUNERAL LESSON IV

Young person passed . . .

WORDS OF COMFORT

I Thess. 4:18

As brethren and friends we are here to join you in the hour of sorrow. But it is far more helpful to point you to God's help.

DEATH KNOWS NO SEASON

Her stay on earth was brief, Heb. 9:27. "Leaves have their time to fall, and flowers to wither at the north wind's breath, and the stars to set, but all thou hast all seasons for thine own, DEATH!

Is death the last sleep? No, it is the last and final awakening.

Death is the golden key that opens the palace of eternity.

WORDS OF COMFORT

Jn. 14:1-4; II Cor. 5:1

"What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and grief to bear."

"Sweet hour of prayer,
that calls me from a world of care.
In seasons of distress and grief."

LOVE ONES

Acts 20:32

Time is a great healer.

One step at a time.

FUNERAL LESSON V

When Death Is Precious

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints,” Psa. 116:15

INTRODUCTION

God does not see things as they appear to us. To us death never seems, under any circumstance, a precious thing. We need to get God’s viewpoint.

“Like the leaves of the forest, we come forth in beauty, pass on with the summer, and then sink to the earth. A few days only and the rose fades from the cheeks and the limbs are palsied, and our forms mingled with the dust.”

THE DEATH OF GOD’S SAINTS CALLS ATTENTION TO THE LIFE WHICH THEY HAVE LIVED.

It is the simple life, the blameless life, the deeper life. We often pass such lives unnoticed. What God has written in the quiet lives of His people, He underscores in their death.

THE DEATH OF GOD’S SAINTS IS THEIR RELEASE FROM TOIL

This life is a life of toil.

This life of toil is a schooling for the life beyond.

THE DEATH OF GOD'S SAINTS IS AN
ENTRANCE UPON HIGHER AND ETERNAL
FELLOWSHIPS.

Fellowship is the highest earthly employment and
joy. Fullest satisfaction is found in heaven.

Phil 1:21; II Tim. 4:7-8

COURAGE TO LIVE AND FAITH TO DIE.

I Thess. 4:13; Acts 20:32

FUNERAL LESSON VI

Non-Christian

We are brought together by death to pay our tribute of respect to this one that has launched out into the great beyond, I Sam 20:3. His cold hands have fallen softly upon his weary heart that has ceased to beat. To rest from his long and toilsome efforts. We are reminded that death is decay, a passing away written upon the wings of time and timely things. We too are soon to be handed to our graves out in the silent city of the dead. There is but a breath of air and a beat of the heart betwixt this world and the next. The last faint pulsation here is but the prelude of endless life hereafter.

TROUBLED HEARTS

James 4:14

The fact is troubled hearts are universal, among rich and poor, educated and uneducated. Much sorrow is unseen, buried beneath the surface of human life. Known only to God.

Job 14:14

A good husband and a good father, he will be missed in the home and the community.

EULEGIZE

Can't add to or take away from.

Leave him at the feet of a loving Christ, and the hands of an honest, merciful, and just God.

APPOINTED UNTO MAN TO DIE

Heb. 9:27; II Tim. 4:7-8; I Cor. 15:19; Jn. 14:1-4

I commend you to God's Word.

Acts 20:32

Here God's word, believe it, repent, be baptized and then live faithful to life's end.

II Pet. 1:5-11

LOVED ONES LEFT BEHIND

Companion, sons and daughters did all they could. With hearts filled with genuine love and tenderness, and gentle hands that administered to his every need.

FUNERAL LESSON VII

Comfort One Another With These Words
I Thess. 4:13-18

The Saints at Thessalonica had been grieving over the dead as though they were forever gone. The purpose of Paul's language was to enlighten them concerning the state of the righteous dead. Thereby giving consolation to the bereaved.

What words of comfort do we find
in Paul's language?

THAT DEATH IS SLEEP, v. 13-14. They sleep in Jesus. The saints rest in their sleep. They are safe in their sleep.

THAT GOD WILL BRING THE RIGHTEOUS DEAD WITH HIM, v. 14. This implies that the righteous dead is with God . . . in His keeping. No harm can befall them. He will bring them.

THAT THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL DECEND. He will not come by proxy. The same Lord who was made flesh will come in his glorified nature. The friend and brother of man.

THAT THERE WILL BE AREUNION OF THE RIGHTEOUS DEAD, v. 17. There will be a meeting of the Saints. Ties of friendship and fellowship, broken in death, shall be reunited.

THAT THEY SHALL MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR. Not only shall the Saints meet each other, but also their Master, IN THE AIR. Up away from sin cursed earth, safe from the destruction that will befall the earth.

THAT WE SHALL EVER BE WITH THE LORD. No more separation from our lived ones and the Lord of all. We shall have new bodies that will live for ever with the Lord.

COMFORT ONE ANOTHER WITH
THESE WORDS.

WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

IN HOME

It is kindness, always ready to do good to others,
Gal. 6:10

IN BUSINESS

It is honesty, Rom. 12:17.

IN SOCIETY

It is courtesy, Rom. 12:10.

IN WORK

It is fairness.

TOWARD THE UNFORTUNATE

It is pity.

TOWARD THE STRONG

It is trust.

TOWARD THE PENITENT

It is forgiveness

TOWARD THE FORTUNATE

It is appreciation.

TOWARD GOD

It is reverence and love.

TAKE HEED WHAT YE HEAR

Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18; Mt. 7:24

Many things we hear may sound right, but they are not. Turn a deaf ear to evil counsel. Hear attentively, earnestly, and devotedly to God's Word.

WE SHOULD HEAR TO BE BENEFITED.

Isa. 55:3

WE SHOULD HEAR ALL GOD SAYS.

Deut. 5:27

HEARING GIVES US UNDERSTANDING.

Psa. 119:105

WE MUST STUDY GOD'S WORD.

II Tim. 2:15

STUDYING GOD'S WORD MAKES US WISE
TO SALVATION.

II Tim. 3:15

THE LIVING WORD OF GOD.

Heb. 4:12

GIVE HEED, MAN LIVES BY WORD OF GOD.

Mt. 4:4; I Pet. 1:22

WON'T YOU GIVE HEED?

Jas. 1:21; Jn. 12:48

THE GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

What Shall I Do?

GOD'S PART

He loved us, Jn. 3:16.

He gave Christ as the Savior, Lk. 19:10.

He sent the Holy Spirit as a guide, Jn. 16:13.

He provided "the power" unto salvation, Rom. 1:16.

He offers atonement, Rom. 5:9, Col. 1:14.

MAN'S PART

Hear the gospel, Rom 10:17; Jn. 8:32.

Believe the gospel, Heb. 11:6; Jn. 20:31.

Repent of past sins, Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30.

Confess faith in Christ, Rom 10:10; Mt. 10:32.

Be baptized, Gal. 3:27; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38.

WILL YOU DO YOUR PART?

Be obedient, Mt. 28:18-20.

Be baptized and be saved, Mk. 16:16.

See remission, Acts 2:38.

Be placed into Christ, Rom. 6:3; Col. 2:12.

Put on Christ, Gal. 3:27.

Die to sin, Rom. 6:4.

Wash away your sins, Acts 22:16.

Prove your faith, Gal. 3:26-27.

Be saved, I Pet. 3:21.

OBEY THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

I Peter 4:17

WHERE ARE THE NINE?

Luke 17:17

INTRODUCTION

Among all the Christian graces that adorn human character, the beautiful grace of gratitude is among the most prominent. On the other hand, one of the more repulsive traits is ingratitude. Now the healing of these ten lepers with the results is given by Jesus to illustrate these two things and to show the great danger of ingratitude. Let us ask in which class does our Savior's language locate us this morning. *Are we among "the nine," or with the "one?"*

THE TEN LEPERS HEALED

The disease was corrosive, repulsive and incurable. Ten of them met Jesus and cry to him for mercy.

THE HEALING

Lev. 14:1-7

THE RESULT

One showed gratitude. Nine were indifferent. The searching statement and question of Jesus, "Were not the ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"

THE HEALED LEPERS REPRESENT SAVED SINNERS

With the lepers the grateful and the ungrateful were as one to nine. It is a sad situation. With the saved

sinner, members of the church, proportion of grateful and ungrateful is substantially the same.

SEE TWO FACTS

Many members continually slight some of the meetings and work of the church, taking no part in them at all. Jesus is thundering into their ears, “where are the nine?”

Only a part of the church engages actively in all its work. Jesus continues to question, “Where are the nine?”

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH

PROPHESY

—Dan. 2:44, “And in the days of these kings”

Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, Roman

—Isa. 9:6-7, “For unto us a child is born”

—Isa. 2:2-3, “And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established”

LAST DAYS

—Heb. 1:1-2, “God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake”

—Acts 2:17, “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh”

—Mark 9:1, “. . . there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power”

—Luke 24:46, “. . . Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day”

—Luke 24:49, “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high”

HOW LONG WILL IT STAND?

—Dan. 2:44, It will stand forever.

—Dan. 7:13-14, “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven . . . his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away . . . shall not be destroyed.”

—Mt. 16:18, “Gates of hell shall not prevail”

NOT ESTABLISHED BEFORE JESUS DIED.

—Mt. 3:2, At Hand.

—Mt. 4:17, Christ preached at hand.

—Mt. 10:7, Apostles preached at hand.

—Mt. 6:10, Apostles prayed for it.

—Lk. 12:32, “Fear not little flock, for it is fathers good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

—Lk. 22:29, “And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my father hath appointed unto me.”

—Lk. 23:42, Thief said, “Remember me.”

FUTURE AT THE CROSS

—Lk. 23:50, Joseph of Arimathea also waited for the kingdom.

THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH

THE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY— GOD SPEAKS THROUGH CHRIST

We are to be governed today by the authority of Christ, not by Moses and the Prophets.

Heb. 1:1-2; Jn. 1:17; Mt. 28:18

COMPLETENESS OF THE LAW THUS DELIVERED

The Church is to carry this saving message to the world.

—Rom. 1:16-17, the Gospel of Christ contains the righteousness of God from FAITH to FAITH.

—II Pet. 1:3, through a knowledge of Christ.

—II Tim. 3:14-17, we are furnished completely.

—Jude 3, faith once and for all delivered to the Saints.

—Rev. 22:18-19, must not add to or take from.

A CHRISTIAN

A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST

Jn. 3:3, one born anew

Col. 3:1-9, living the new life

A CHRISTIAN IS A “DEAD MAN”

Gal. 2:20, crucified with Christ

Rom. 6:3, baptized into his death

Rom. 6:4, died to live a new life

A CHRISTIAN IS A “LIVING MAN”

Dead to sin but alive to God

Col. 2:12, buried and raised in Christ

A CITIZEN OF THE KINGDOM

Has the responsibility of a citizen

A taxpayer in the kingdom

A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

I Cor. 12:20

Rom. 12:5, members of one another

Has no denominational allegiance or loyalty

CHRISTIANS ABIDE IN CHRIST

Rom. 14:8; I Cor. 6:19, he belongs to Christ

He must “stay at home”

A CHRISTIAN IS A BRANCH

Jn. 15:5

WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE

II Timothy 3:16

INTRODUCTION

I want to believe it.

I accept it by faith.

It teaches that I will live after death.

I want to see loved ones that have passed on.

Great men of the past believed it.

I BELIEVE IN GOD

Atheism cannot be proven.

It is reasonable to believe in God.

The universe exhibits marks of intelligent causation.

I BELIEVE THE BIBLE

It is our guide, Ps. 119:105

It can never be destroyed, Mt. 24:35

It has stood the test of time [Voltaire, Ingersoll, Paine].

The Bible has influenced the world.

It reveals the gospel plan of salvation, I Cor. 15:1-4.

It will be used as a standard of judgment, Rev.

20:12.

SOME FAMOUS QUOTATIONS WILL HELP

“I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to men. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book.”

—Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

“Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand.”

—Mark Twain

“It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”

—George Washington

“There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history.”

—Sir Isaac Newton

CONCLUSION

The Bible came from God, Heb. 1:1-2

Believe and obey it and be saved; reject it and be damned eternally.

IT PAYS TO SERVE GOD

I Timothy 4:8

GODLINESS PAYS IN THIS LIFE

In prestige and influence

“Bind the sweet influence,” Job 38:31

In physical health

“Health and cure,” Jer. 33:6 (also, III Jn. 2)

In personal satisfaction

“And the Lord shall . . . satisfy thy soul,”

Prov. 14:14

In education and culture

II Tim. 2:15; II Pet. 1:3

In friendships formed

Prov. 18:24

In dollars and cents

Mt. 6:33

GODLINESS PAYS IN THE LIFE TO COME

Treasures in heaven, Mt. 6:19-20

Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord, Mt. 25:21

The gift of God is eternal life, Rom. 6:23

THE GOOD OLD WAY

Jeremiah 6:16

INTRODUCTION

Judah and Israel's apostasy
Punishment threatened

STAND IN THE WAYS AND SEE—

That means deliberation, calm, careful
consideration.

ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS, WHAT IS THE RIGHT WAY—

That means guidance.

AND WALK THEREIN—

That means action.

THE APPLICATION OF THE LESSON TO US

We are travelers to eternity. The journey
ends in joy and happiness, or sorrow and misery
according to the road we travel. Life is crossed and
re-crossed by various ways.

SOME OF THE WAYS TRAVELED BY MEN

The way sensually, controlled by appetites
The way of greed or covetousness.
The way of worldly ambition, desire for power.
The way of social distinction.
The way which seems right, i.e. denominationalism.

WE ARE TO ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS

There's only two "Old Paths"

The Broad Way and the Straight and Narrow
Way, Mt. 7:13

WHAT IS THE GOOD WAY?

It is the old way, not something new.

It starts back at Jerusalem and Pentecost.

Dan. 2:44; Isa. 2:2-3; Dan. 7:13-14

It is older than Catholicism

It is the way of Truth and life, Jn. 14:6.

It is the way of faith, Heb. 11:6.

It is the way of repentance, Lk. 13:3.

It is the way of confession, Rom. 10:9-10.

It is the way of putting on Christ, Gal. 3:27.

It is the way of obedience, Mt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9.

It is the way of love, trust, humility, etc.

CAN THE GOOD OLD WAY BE FOUND?

The prophet said, "Ask," this implies guidance.

Jesus said, "Seek and ye shall find," Mt. 7:7

Again Jesus said, "If any man willeth to do his will
he shall know of the doctrine," Jn. 7:17.

HOW CAN WE TELL WE ARE FOLLOWING THE GOOD OLD WAY?

By following the directions of the waybill. The
New Testament not the Old. It directs full and
complete, II Tim. 3:16-17.

THE END OF THE WAY

Rest for the soul / Eternal Life / An inheritance
incorruptible

GLORIOUS MISSION OF THE CHURCH

- The mission is evangelism.
- The Pillar and ground of the truth, I Tim. 3:14-15.
- Sending Agency, Rom. 10:11-15.
- Living, active, working faith, Mt. 7:21; Mk. 16:15.
- Wisdom made known by it, Eph. 3:10, 21.
- The Church was created by God's love.
- The Church must reflect God's love with a religion that will feed the hungry, clothe the naked, wipe away the tears of sorrow, and soothe the aching heart.

ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS ARE IN CHRIST

- Filleth all in all, Eph. 1:23.
- All spiritual blessings in Christ, Eph. 1:3
- Body and church same, Eph. 2:11-22
- His bride, Eph. 5:28-32
- Reconciled to God in one body, Eph. 2:16;
Mt. 16:18; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:20-23

WE GET INTO CHRIST AND THE CHURCH UPON THE SAME CONDITONS AND BY THE SAME PROCESS.

- Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38, 41, 47
- Hear, Acts 7:47
- Believe, Acts 16:31; Heb. 11:6
- Repent, Lk. 13:3
- Be Baptized, Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; I Pet. 3:21; Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-4

THE NEED FOR REVERENCE TOWARD GOD

Psalms 89:7

INTRODUCTION

In our assembly deepest reverence for God should rest upon people. Where this does not prevail, there is no true worship.

REVERENCE

— Profound respect mingled with love and awe. The world and the church need lessons on reverence to God. Worship should be orderly, yet not formal and ritualistic. God has always demanded reverence and respect. People usually are respectful at funerals and weddings.

WHY REVERE GOD?

He is infinitely good, Mt. 19:17

He is all powerful, and creator of all.

He is worthy, Ex. 3:1-6.

Holy and reverend is His name, Ps. 111:9

He is a consuming fire, Heb. 11:28-29

SHOWING DISRESPECT TOWARD GOD—

Failure to here and heed God's Word.

Failure to keep His commandments, Ecc. 1:12-13

Rebellion against God, Lk. 6:46; Ex. 5:1-2

Refusal to be baptized, Mk. 16:16

THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD

Romans 11:22

INTRODUCTION

The Bible teaches of the goodness of God, I Jn. 4:8.

The Bible also teaches of the severity of God.

God will punish the disobedient.

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Created in His own image, Gen. 1:27.

Gave man dominion, Gen. 1:26.

Promised the Savior, Gen. 3:15.

Gave His only begotten Son, Jn. 3:16.

Gave the Gospel to everyone, Mk. 16:15-16.

Gave the Bible, II Tim. 3:16-17.

Has prepared a home for the faithful, Jn. 14:1-6.

THE SEVERITY OF GOD

Drove Adam and Eve from the garden, Gen. 3.

Sent flood to destroy the wicked, Gen. 6.

Destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, Gen. 19.

Moses was not permitted to enter Promised Land.

Nadab & Abihu were devoured, Lev. 10.

Ananias & Sapphira were stricken, Acts 5.

Judgment, Mt. 25:46; Rev. 20.

CONCLUSION

God has given commands and conditions to be met.

A failure to obey God means punishment.

The Lord is coming to punish the wicked, II Thess.

1:7-9

WHAT A LOST SOUL DISCOVERED

Luke 16:19-31

INTRODUCTION

There is not enough preaching on hell.

LEARNED HELL WAS A REALITY

In this flame, Lk. 16:24

Everlasting destruction, II Thess. 1:9

Everlasting fire, Mt. 18:8-9

LEARNED IT WAS TOO LATE TO PRAY

What did he need to pray for on earth?

As Cornelius prayed, Acts 10

Might have laughed at prayer.

Now he believes in prayer, Prov. 1:20-24

All better pray while it will do good.

HE LEARNED NO SECOND CHANCE

Once to die then the judgment, Heb. 9:27

There is no Purgatory or second chance.

We are accountable for sins we never confessed.

Hell is not temporary.

LEARNED GOD MEANT WHAT HE SAID

Everlasting punishment, Mt. 25:46; Psa. 9:17

Pharisees rejected John's baptism, Lk. 7:30

Do you believe God meant what He said?

All spiritual blessings are in Christ, Eph. 1:3

Repent and be baptized, Acts 2:38

If you won't believe it here you will learn it in Hell.

**HE LEARNED THAT ALL WARNINGS COME
FROM GOD'S BOOK**

They have Moses and the prophets, Lk. 16:29.
If you will not hear God's book this night you
cannot be taught.

No one from Hell could teach you.

He learned too late and wanted to tell others but it
was **TOO LATE**.

ETERNAL CITY

Psalms 87:3

INTRODUCTION

We have so much to look forward to, and to be happy all our days.

A PLACE OF SUPREME HAPPINESS

Ps. 16:11, Rev. 7:17 Fullness of joy

A PLACE OF SURPASSING BEAUTY

I Cor. 2:9, “Eyes have not seen nor ears heard”
The half has not been told

A PLACE OF REVELATION

I Cor. 13:12, “For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face”

A PLACE OF FREEDOM FROM PAIN

Rev. 21:4 “There shall be no more pain”

A PLACE OF REUNION

I Cor. 13:12 “Then face to face”
Many shall come from the East and West.
The gathering place

DESCRIPTION OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE

The salt of the earth, Mt. 5:13

The light of the world, Mt. 5:14

My disciples, Jn. 8:31

The branches, Jn. 15:5

My friends, Jn. 15:14

Christians, Acts 11:26

Rich in faith, Jas. 2:5

Rejoice because your name is written in heaven,
Lk. 10:20

THE UNCHANGING CHRIST

Hebrews 13:8

Yesterday, back through all eternity

Today, our little day of life.

Forever, out into all and never ending eternity.

JESUS IS THE SAME

In His love for mankind, Jn. 15:13

In His hatred for sin

In His compassion for suffering and sorrowing

COMPASSION—

Literally suffering with another; having pity or sympathy for another.

Mt. 9:36, 14:14; Mk. 6:34

In His tender fondness for little children, Mt. 18:1-4, 19:13-14

In His burning hatred of sham and hypocrisy, Mt. 23:13

In His compassion of the impenitent, Lk. 13:3; Mt. 12:41

HIS UNCHANGING LOVE IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL, Jn. 3:16, 15:13

We live in a changing world

All about us is change and decay.

MAN'S DUTY TO PRAY

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is not only man's duty, but a great privilege.

PRAYER AIDS IN TEMPTATION

Mk. 26:41, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

IN THE ANXIETIES OF LIFE

Phil. 4:6, "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

PRAY HABITUALLY

I Thess. 5:17, "Pray without ceasing."

Lk. 18:1, "Always to pray, and not to faint."

PRAY EVERYWHERE

I Tim. 2:8, "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting."

PROVIDENCE AND PRAYER

Mt. 7:7-11, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find . . . how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRAY

Col. 4:2, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same thanksgiving."

I Pet. 4:7, "But the end of all things is at hand; be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."

WHOSE PRAYER WILL GOD HEAR?

He will hear those who worship him, Jn. 9:31.

He will hear the humble, Ps. 9:112.

He will hear the righteous, I Pet 3:12.

He will hear the obedient, I Jn. 3:33

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

Regularly, always

In the spirit of forgiveness, Mk. 9:25

In faith, Jas. 1:6

In harmony with God's will, I Jn. 5:14

In the name of Christ, Col. 3:17

In the spirit of sincerity, Mt. 6:5

THE LOVE OF GOD

John 3:16

GOD'S LOVE IS ALL INCLUSIVE

He is no respecter of persons, Acts 10:34.

GOD'S LOVE IS UNCHANGEABLE

“For I am the Lord, I change not,” Mal. 3:6.

GOD'S LOVE IS UNFAILING

“There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother,” Prov. 18:24.

GOD'S LOVE IS EVERLASTING

“I have loved thee with an everlasting love,” Jer. 31:3.

THE WORLD'S NEED OF THIS LOVE

“For ye were as sheep going astray,” I Pet. 2:25.

HOW THIS LOVE WAS EXHIBITED

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,” Rom. 5:8.

WHAT GOD'S LOVE HAS WROUGHT

“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” Jn. 3:16.

BE YE STEADFAST, UNMOVABLE

I Corinthians 15:58

I John 2:1 “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.”

I John 2:28 “And now, little children abide in him; that when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”

III John 4 “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

II Corinthians 6:13 “I speak as unto my children, be ye also enlarged.”

I Corinthians 14:20 “Brethren, be not children in understanding: how be it in malice be you children but in understanding be man.”

I John 3:1 “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God.”

Ephesians 4:7-14 “But to every one of us is given grace . . . for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry . . . till we all come in the unity of the faith . . . no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness”

THE FOUNDATION OF TRUTH

John 14:6

INTRODUCTION

Truth is a most valuable thing.

The Lord is a God of Truth, Deut. 32:4

We must learn of truth and its origin.

DEFINITION OF TRUTH

Quality or state of being true. That which is true; that which conforms to facts or reality; in accord with what is, has been, or must be; as, to seek the truth.

FALSE FOUNDATIONS OF TRUTH

Doctrine of men, Rom. 16:17-18; Mt. 15:9

Worldly organizations, Mk. 7:7; Rom. 1:18

Manual and Creeds of men, II Jn. 9

Thoughts of man, Jer. 10:23

A preacher, I Pet. 4:11

THE TRUE FOUNDATION OF TRUTH

The Bible

Perfect law of liberty, Jas. 1:25

Oracles of God, I Pet 4:11

The will of the Father, Mt. 7:21

The commandments, Rev. 22:14

The Word, Jas. 1:22

Scripture, II Tim. 3:16-17

Jesus Christ, Jn. 14:6

THINGS THAT THE TRUTH WILL DO

Truth will make you free, Jn. 8:32
Furnish unto every good work, II Tim. 3:16, 17
Save, Rev. 22:14
Bless, Jas. 1:25
Protect, Ps. 91:4

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE TRUTH

Buy the truth, Prov. 23:23
Speak the truth to neighbor, Zech. 8:16
Speak the truth in love, Eph. 4:15
Rightly divide the truth, II Tim. 2:15

CONCLUSION

The truth shall stand forever, Mt. 24:35
Build on this rock, Mt. 7:24:29

HUMILITY AND LOVE

Matthew 18:1-4

INTRODUCTION

Christ exemplified humility in every phase of his life on earth. **God** resists the proud and gives grace to the humble, I Pet. 5:5. **The kingdom of heaven** is composed of the meek of the earth. **The greatest** in the sight of God are those who are the most humble and obedient; those who are most like Christ in service to God and to man.

HERE IS A NEW STANDARD OF GREATNESS

It is God's standard of greatness. The way up is down! Down in humility and up in the greatness of God. The child of God who thus humbles himself like the little child to think the Father knows best, and he knows it is best because the Father says so, will be crowned with the highest honors in the kingdom of heaven, Psa. 9:12.

He who thinks he is wise enough to improve on the Father's ways is a fool, and will not find a home in heaven, Prov. 12:15.

Christ was an example of humility by washing the disciples feet, Jn. 13.

HUMILITY COINCIDES WITH LOVE

“With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love,”
Ephesians 4:2

BROTHERLY LOVE

Hebrews 13:1

Love could not continue unless it had been once manifested.

THESE JEWISH BRETHREN HAD LOVED EACH OTHER

In former days, Heb. 10:32-36

Had distributed to necessity of saints, Acts 2:44-45

Had become companions of persecuted, Heb. 10:32

Their first love had been pure indeed

HOW SHOULD WE LOVE OUR BRETHREN?

With a pure heart fervently, I Pet. 1:22

In deed and in truth, I Jn. 3:17-18

Without hypocrisy, Rom. 12:9; I Pet. 1:22

With an earnest care, II Cor. 8:16

WHY SHOULD WE LOVE OUR BROTHER?

Christ died for him, I Cor. 8:11

We are of God, I Jn. 4:7

Because God loved us, I Jn. 4:11

To save him, Mt. 18:15-17; Jn. 5:19-20

To save ourselves, I Jn. 3:14-15

WHAT DOES LOVE DO?

Covers multitude of sins, I Pet. 4:8

Binds brethren together, Col. 3:14, 2:2

BROTHERLY LOVE DEMANDS THAT WE BE

Forbearing, Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:2

Forgiving, Col. 3:13

Tenderhearted, Eph. 4:32

THE CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS

Acts 10

WHO WAS CORNELIUS?

He was a captain of a company of soldiers. He had learned of the true God evidently from the Jews.

His Character—

He was devout

He feared God

He taught his family to fear God

He gave much alms to the people

He prayed to God always

He fasted

He was just and of good report among the Jews

False concepts of his character: Some think he was already saved but he had not become a Christian, he was conforming his life to the old covenant and ignorant of the new.

STEPS TO HIS CONVERSION

The vision and its purpose, Acts 10:3-6

Why send for Peter? Mt. 16:18; Jn. 20:21-23; II

Cor. 5:20; Acts 11:14

Peter was directed to go to Cornelius, Acts 10:9-22.

Peter's vision on the house top to convince him to go to the Gentiles.

The meeting of Peter and Cornelius . . . Cornelius invites his kindred, Acts 10:23-24.

Peter states the conviction that he was called to go to the Gentiles, Acts 10:25, 29.

Cornelius rehearses the vision, Acts 10:30-33.

Peter's sermon, Acts 10:34-43.

God is no respecter of persons, v. 34-35.

Christ is Lord of all, v. 36.

He's anointed with the Holy Spirit, v. 38.

They were witnesses of his works.

His resurrection, v. 40-41.

Christ, judge of the living and of the dead.

Remission of sins through faith, v. 43.

A faith which obeyed in baptism, v. 47, 48.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit, v. 44.

The purpose of the Holy Spirit baptism.

Apostles, Samaritans, Ephesians, and
Corinthians all received remission of sins before
they received the miraculous gift of the Spirit.

But to give them faith, Acts 15:7

Not to purify their hearts, Acts 15:9

Not to give them repentance, Lk. 24:47

Not for the remission of sins, Acts 2:39

But what was the purpose?

To the apostles

To the Gentiles for a witness, Acts 15:8

To convince the Jews, Acts 11:1-18

THE VOICES THAT CALL

GOSPEL CALL

Called by the gospel, II Thess. 2:14

God's power to save, Rom. 1:16, I Cor. 15:1-4

Commands of the gospel, I Jn. 3:23, Acts 17:30,
Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 10:48

Called to be saints, I Cor. 1:2

The call of Jesus to aliens, Mt. 11:28-30

Some do not answer, Is. 65:12

CALLED TO CHRISTIAN FAITHFULNESS

Make calling sure, II Pet. 1:10

Not all the called will be chosen, Mt. 22:14

Only the faithful, Rev. 2:10

Preserving, Mt. 10:22

Fruit bearing, Jn. 15:2-6

CALL OF THE WORLD

Lust of the flesh, I Jn. 2:15-17; Mt. 13:22

Demas answered this call, II Tim. 4:10

Moses did not answer this call, Heb. 11:24-25

All should refuse this call, Prov. 1:10

CALL OF CONSCIENCE

Conscience condemns or approves, I Jn. 3:20-21

Conscience / Bible knowledge, Acts 23:1, 26:9

The call of conscience affected Jacob, Gen. 32

The call of conscience affected Saul, I Sam. 24:17

The call of conscience affected Herod, Mt. 14:1-12

The call of conscience affected Felix, Acts 24:25

MOVING FORWARD

Exodus 14:15

INTRODUCTION

The children of Israel had been in bondage for 400 years. God sent plagues on Egypt to convince Pharaoh to let the people go. They were finally released after the tenth plague and Moses led them to the Red Sea.

Ex. 14:10 The Israelites were afraid, sure the Egyptians would kill them.

Ex. 14:13 Moses had no fear. He was convinced God would save them.

Ex. 14:15 God demanded confidence from Moses, then gave him instructions.

The children of Israel were commanded in their perplexing circumstances to *move forward* into the waters of the Red Sea. A soul anxious to go forward will find paths where least expected and in most unlikely places.

IT WAS A TIME OF INACTIVITY

They expected God to work a miracle.

Moses had said, “God will fight for you,”

The people do something—GO, Ex. 14:15 ff.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ACTION IS MORE NEEDFUL THAN PRAYER

Moses had been praying and God told said,

“Wherefore criest thou unto me?”

Prayer without action will not remove physical disease, will not improve social position, will not broaden education, will not strengthen character. Men must go forward as well as pray.

IT WAS A TESTING TIME

How unusual was God's command to Moses?

It is the job of every preacher to encourage God's people to GO FORWARD.

GO FORWARD

with the elders wishes regarding service times.

GO FORWARD

with the work of the church.

GO FORWARD

with your obligations as an individual Christian.

GO FORWARD

with your responsibilities in your family.

IT WAS A TIME OF CRISIS

Defeat or victory lay in their hands.

God had a purpose for His people and He baptized them in the sea.

IT WAS A TIME OF VICTORY

This message is needed in our day.

We must GO FORWARD.

PAUL'S INDEBTEDNESS

Romans 1:14

To whom was Paul in debt?

The Greeks. They were considered Barbarians. A Barbarian was a foreigner whose language another didn't understand. The whole class to whom he was in debt is divided into the wise and unwise, the ignorant and the learned.

WHAT WAS THE GROUND OF HIS INDEBTEDNESS?

Not what he had received from the Gentiles. See him at Rome and Philippi, also II Cor. 11:24-28. But rather what he had received from God.

His being

His physical powers

His intellectual powers

His Moral or spiritual power, Acts 17:25-28

His deliverance from sin, Col. 1:13

His call to the ministry, Acts 26:16

The gospel, Gal. 1:12

Paul received these things for others and not for himself alone, I Tim. 1:11-12. Paul felt an obligation because of this indebtedness, Acts 17:16; I Cor. 9:16. He owed the gospel to them, Rom. 1:16.

WE ARE IN DEBT FOR THE SAME PURPOSE

Powers, capacities, and opportunities God has given us place us in debt. As members of the church we are the receptacle of the truth for others,

I Tim. 3:15; Eph. 3:10. How much are we in debt?
As much as you are able, Rom. 1:15

Accountability is measured by ability. Ability consists of all those powers, capacities, and opportunities, whether physical, intellectual, or moral, with which God has blessed us.

The means and opportunities for spreading the gospel are truly wonderful. These only increase debt. This obligation must be discharged in this life or never.

THE VOICE OF GOD

Hebrews 3:7

INSTANCES

Spoke to Adam, Gen. 3:9

Spoke to Abraham, Gen. 12:1

Spoke to Moses, Heb. 12:19-21

HOW DOES HIS VOICE SPEAK TO US?

Through Christ, Heb. 1:1

Through the Word, Isa. 55:10

WE SHOULD GIVE HEED TO HIS VOICE

Because it is the voice of mercy, Lk. 4:18

It is a sovereign voice, Mt. 17:5

It is the voice of invitation, Mt. 11:28-30

OUR DUTY TO IT

Hear it, Isa. 1:2

Believe it, Mk. 16:15

Obey it, Jas. 1:22

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

Acts 22

WHAT KIND OF A MAN WAS HE?

He was the chief of sinners, I Tim. 1:15

His ancestry was good, Phil. 3:5

His education was the best, Acts 22:3

SAUL'S GREAT SIN

Persecuting Christians, Acts 22:4

He did it ignorantly, I Tim. 1:13

His mistake was with regard to religion

He thought he was right, Acts 26:9

He was zealous, Gal. 1:14

He had a good conscience, Acts 24:16

SAUL BECOMES AN APOSTLE AND A CHRISTIAN

We should carefully distinguish between the things that made him an apostle and the things that made him a Christian.

He saw a light from heaven, Acts 22:6

He heard the voice of Christ, Acts 22:8

These were to make him an apostle, Acts 22:14-15

HOW HE BECAME A CHRISTIAN

He asked the Lord what to do, Acts 9:6

Why did the Lord tell him to go to Ananias?

Because that work had been committed into the hands of men.

THE VALUE OF A SOUL

Matthew 16:26

INTRODUCTION

Man is a triune being body, soul, and spirit, I Thess. 5:23. The Soul or Spirit has an endless existence. Why spend so much time on your body? Gen. 3:19; Ecc. 12:7.

THE SAVIOR ASKED THESE QUESTIONS 2000 YEARS AGO AND THEY WERE NEVER ANSWERED—

Mt. 16:26

THIS SHOWS THE ESTIMATE CHRIST PUT UPON THE SOUL—

Jas. 5:1-6; Lk. 12:16-21

ITS IMMORALITY SHOWS ITS GREATNESS—

Never die.

Can't we afford to labor for our souls and others?

Why not?

THE VALUE OF THE SOUL IS SEEN IN THE COST OF ITS SALVATION

Wondrous price.

Soul's redemption reveals its destiny.

Cost of preparing a home for the soul shows the value of it, Jn. 14:1-3.

A lost soul the greatest wreck; saved soul the greatest accomplishment.

RICH YOUNG RULER

Matthew 19:16-26 Mark 10:17-27
Luke 18:18-30

FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

He was young.

He was rich.

He was a ruler.

He had a pleasing personality, Mk. 10:21.

FAVORABLE CHARACTERISTICS

He was eager for he ran.

He was reverent for he knelt.

He was moral for he kept the commandments.

Yet, he was not fit for heaven.

HIS QUESTION

Jesus' reply— Why callest me good?

Keep the commandments. Which? Last six.

WHAT LACK I YET?

“Sell that thou hast.” “Follow me.”

THE YOUNG MAN'S TROUBLE.

Love of money.

JESUS' TERMS

Christ demands unconditional surrender

One must give up all, Lk. 14:26

CONCLUSION

Surrender all

PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD

Amos 4:12

MUST WE MEET GOD?

Rev. 20:12; II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10

WHEN AND WHERE MUST WE MEET GOD

Heb. 9:27; Mt. 25:31-32

In death, Heb. 9:27

In the judgment, II Cor. 5:10

PREPARATION FOR DEATH AND THE JUDGMENT IS NECESSARY

No chance after death, Jn. 9:4, 5:28-29

Necessity of being in Christ, Rev. 14:13

How to get in Christ, Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-5

Faith and repentance precede baptism

HEAVEN IS A PREPARED PLACE FOR A PREPARED PEOPLE

Jn. 14:1-3; Mt. 25:34

Everything must be prepared for its dwelling.

Illustration— Birds in the air, fish in the water

IN WHAT DOES PREPARATION CONSIST?

Preparation of heart, Mt. 5:8; Ps. 15:1-2

Preparation of life, II Pet. 1:5-11

Standing on the promises of God

WHAT SHOULD I PREACH?

INTRODUCTION

This is an important question.

Various answers are given by the world.

The Bible gives the correct answer.

THE WORLD ANSWERS

Preach on the life story of some great person.

Preach a sermon on your own life story.

Preach on the death of some loved one.

Preach on the world and its problems.

Preach on a good moral life

Preach on love and the power of it.

Preach Christ.

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Preach the Word, II Tim. 4:1-2, 2:2; Heb. 4:12;

Rom. 1:16, 10:17; I Cor. 1:21, 15:1-3

Do not add to it, Rev. 22:18

Do not subtract from it, Rev. 22:19

Do not substitute, Gal. 1:7-9

Preach the Gospel, Mk. 16:15-16

Preach the Scripture, II Tim. 3:16-17

Preach the Truth, Jn. 8:32; Rom. 1:16

CONCLUSION

The Word of God is above that of the world.

The world destroys . . . the Word gives life.

THE WELLS OF SALVATION

Isaiah 12:3

CHRIST PROVIDES THE WATER OF LIFE

Jn. 7:37 “. . . come unto me and drink.”

Jn. 4:10 Living water

BLESSINGS OF THE GOSPEL ARE LIKE WATER

Water revives vegetation

Gospel revives us spiritually, Rom. 1:16

Water is used to purify

Gospel purifies the soul, I Pet. 1:22

Water is a necessity for life

Gospel is a necessity for life, Mk. 16:15-16

THE WELLS OF WATER

The commandments of God, Rev. 22:14

Ordinances, Lk. 1:6

We can't get living water by other means, Jer. 2:13

WHO DRAWS THE WATER?

Each man must draw for himself, Isa. 12:3.

We draw it with joy because it is free, Isa. 55:1.

We draw it with joy because it satisfies, Jn. 4:14.

We draw it with joy because it gives life, Jn. 4:14.

VITAL RELATIONSHIPS TO TRUTH

Rightly Divide It	II Tim. 2:15
Know It	Jn. 8:32
Love It	II Thess. 2:10
Believe It	II Thess. 2:12
Obey It	I Pet. 1:22
Help It	III Jn 8

WRONG RELATIONSHIPS TO TRUTH

Holding the Truth in unrighteousness, Rom. 1:18

Change the Truth into a lie, Rom. 1:25

Resist the Truth, II Tim. 3:8

Turn away their ears from the Truth, II Tim. 4:4

Speak evil of the Truth, II Pet. 2:2

Hinder others that they obey not the Truth, Gal. 5:7

A RETROSPECTIVE VIEW

Looking back on things past, pertaining to the past.

ARE WE HAPPY RETROSPECTFULLY?

I'm sure we are happy for what God has done on His part. Are we really happy over our individual accomplishments of the past year? This congregation has accomplished almost the unbelievable. God has accomplished these things through us.

WHAT HAVE I ACCOMPLISHED FOR SELF AND GOD?

Have I been regular in assembling with the children of God? Heb. 10:25

Did I find Christ at the place of worship? Mt. 18:20

Have I studied to be approved? II Tim. 2:15

Have I adorned the doctrine of Christ? Titus 2:10

Have I done as Paul told the Philippians? Phil. 2:14

Have I given as I should have? I Cor. 16:1-2

Did I purpose aright? II Cor. 9:7

Have I given of Self, Rom. 12:1; II Cor. 8:5

God is able to make all grace abound, II Cor. 9:8

I AM'S OF CHRIST

I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA

Rev. 1:11; Jn. 8:58

I AM THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR

Rev. 22:16

I AM HE THAT SEARCH THE REINS / HEART

Rev. 2:23

I AM THE WAY, TRUTH AND THE LIFE

Jn. 14:6

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jn. 6:35

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Jn. 8:12

I AM THE TRUE VINE

Jn. 15:1-5

I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP

Jn. 10:7

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jn. 10:11

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Jn. 11:25

It is through Christ that all shall rise.

He will call them forth from the grave.

He is the power that will open the grave.

That will give life to every sleeper.

That they may have won the victory over death.

DEACONS

THE MEANING OF THE TERM DEACON

Deacon means waiter, attendant, servant, minister. It is derived from the word “DIAKO” which means to run or hasten. The fundamental idea of the word DEACON is active service.

In this general sense the meaning of DEACON includes—

Evangelist or Minister, Eph. 6:21; Col. 1:7; I Tim. 4:6; Jn. 12:26

In a special sense the word DEACON—

The word DEACON can be used in an official sense to indicate the office of a deacon, Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:8-13.

The position and work of a DEACON—

The DEACON is a helper, servant or minister of the church. This contrasts with the BISHOP which is an OVERSEER. The DEACON works under the oversight of Elders (Bishops).

Acts 6:1-6 From this passage we observe—

These men were selected to relieve the apostles of secular duties and responsibilities in order that they might give more fully to spiritual matters. These men were selected by the congregation and then appointed by the apostles.

The performance of the work for which they were selected constituted the full measure of special responsibility.

Their qualifications, I Timothy 3:8-13 —

Grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the faith in a pure conscience, proved, husband of one wife, and ruling their children and homes well, Acts 6:1-6; Gal. 5:22-24.

FUTURE CONFIDENCE

Proverbs 3:1-18

INTRODUCTION

We are traveling onward, not backward. The year that has so rapidly sped by should remind us most vividly of the brevity of life. Many of you are making New Years Resolutions . . . make them carefully.

STEWARD RESOLVED

“I am resolved what to do,” Lk. 16:4.

PAUL’S RESOLUTION

“Forgetting the past,” Phil. 3:13

Paul realized he could not change the past,
but fully realized he could change the future.

Don’t look back, Lk. 9:62.

Onward and upward, Ex. 14:15.

OUR FUTURE CONFIDENCE

This is a new road, Josh. 3:4

If you had but one year to live, Jer. 28:16.

Our companion for this New Year, Ex. 33:14.

New Year confidence, Psa. 23:1.

All things through Christ, Phil 4:13.

Happy person, Psa. 144:15.

Look forward, Hab. 1:9.

MAKE THE CHOICE

Choose this day who you will serve, Josh. 25:15.

WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE?

Ex. 32:26

WE CAN ASK THE SAME QUESTION TODAY

The world is in a chaotic condition. Our own nation is disturbed and uncertain about many things. Most disturbing of all, as we look upon the lives of many people claiming to be children of God (as Israel claimed) and today we find them just about as idolatrous as Israel was.

Filled with worldliness, carelessness, indifference, self-centered, and so much lethargy toward the church. People are interested in everything but the church. We want to ask them, "WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE?"

HOW CAN WE BE ON THE LORD'S SIDE?

Renounce sin, Gal. 5:24, 3:26-29

Obey all God's commands, Jas. 2:10; Lk. 1:6.

Hold fast the profession of our faith, Heb. 10:23.

Service for Christ, Mt. 25:14-24.

WHY WE SHOULD BE ON THE LORD'S SIDE

It is the happy side of life, Prov. 3:17.

It is the honorable side of life, Jn. 12:26.

It is the safe side of life, I Pet. 3:13.

When Alexander the Great was asked how he
conquered the world replied,
"By not delaying."

THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

II Corinthians 12:9

ABUNDANT PARDON

Isa. 55:9, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord . . . for he will abundantly pardon."

Heb. 7:25, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercessions for them."

I Pet. 3:18, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God."

ABUNDANT LIFE

Jn. 10:10; II Pet. 1:4.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises," I Jn. 3:1-3.

ABUNDANT BLESSING

Eph. 3:20, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

Jn. 16:24, "Ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

ABUNDANT PEACE

Jer. 33:6, "I will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth."

Isa. 26:3, "Thou will keep him in perfect peace,"

Phil. 4:6-7.

ABUNDANT JOY

Phil. 1:26, "That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ."

II Cor. 8:2, "How that in great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality."

ABUNDANT GRACE

II Cor. 4:15, "For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God."

ABUNDANT ENTRANCE

II Pet. 1:11, "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

GRATITUDE

Leviticus 14:1-7

If I only have the will to be grateful, I am so.

A grateful thought toward heaven is of itself a prayer.

Gratitude to God makes even a temporal blessing a taste of heaven.

O Lord, who lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.

From David learn to give thanks for everything.

Every furrow in the book of Psalms is sown with the seed of thanksgiving.

If gratitude is due from children to their earthly parents, how much more is the gratitude of the great family of men due to our Father in heaven?

HAPPINESS AND BEING THANKFUL

Mt. 11:29-30 Col. 3:15 Col. 4:2
I Thess. 5:18 1 Cor. 15:57 I Cor. 1:4
II Cor. 2:14 II Cor. 9:15

It is not the place or the condition,
but the mind alone that can make you
happy or miserable.

Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the
praise of men, but from doing something
worthwhile.

We deem those happy who, from the experience of
life, have learned to bear its ills without being
overcome by them.

Gratitude is not only the memory but the homage of
the heart—rendered to God for his goodness

Gratitude to God makes even a temporal blessing a
taste of heaven.

CONCLUSION

Learn from King David to give thanks for
everything. Every furrow in the book of Psalms is
sown with the seed of THANKSGIVING.

PERISHING IN A LAND OF PLENTY

INTRODUCTION

We are not thinking of perishing from a physical standpoint. There has never been an age when the world had more to supply every physical need or want, than we now have. I feel confident that we are blessed with too many temporal blessings for our spiritual good. These things have so captured our hearts until we are forgetting the Divine.

WE ARE PERISHING THOUGH WE HAVE PLENTY OF SPIRITUAL FOOD.

We are failing to put first things first, Mt. 6:33.

We are turning from spiritual to temporal.

We are losing our feeling of dependence upon God.

We are depending on self.

WE ARE FAST BECOMING LIKE THE LAODICEANS, Rev. 3:14.

They went down to degradation and shame.

They thought they had plenty without God.

Their riches had become their god.

CHRISTIANS TODAY HAVE SO MUCH WEALTH.

We have heated/air conditioned homes, a car for every family member, food fit for a king, and really everything we could possibly want materially. It tests our honesty and love for Him.

HAD ALL THINGS COMMON

The early church had all things common. They didn't have social organizations to take care of widows and poor brethren. When a Jew became a Christian they often lost all ties with their family. They were no longer helped financially from the Synagogue. The church had to step in and help, Acts 2:44-45.

As blessed as Christians are today it becomes a moral question when a widow is neglected. It becomes a moral question when an evangelistic work has to stop from lack of funds.

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD WEALTH

“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own: but they had all things common,” Acts 4:32

“Neither was there any among them that lacked”
Acts 4:34

EXCUSES

Luke 14:16 ff.

If wise men differ on understanding the Bible how am I to decide which is right?

My friends were not baptized and I know they were saved.

I am better now than many who are in the church.

I am a moral person.

I am not good enough.

I don't know enough yet.

I am afraid I can't remain faithful.

I have not made money enough yet.

I am waiting for others.

I don't know what church to join.

This church is unpopular.

I don't have time.

There is time enough yet.

DON'T WAIT TOO LONG

To acknowledge God, Heb. 11:6

To accept Christ as the Son of God, Jn. 3:16

To repent of your sins, Lk. 13:3

To be buried with the Lord in baptism, Col. 2:12

To become a member of the church, Eph. 5:27

To call on the name of the Lord, Jas. 5:16

To give as you have been prospered, I Cor. 16:2

To carry the gospel to your neighbor, I Tim. 4:16

To begin training your children, Prov. 22:6

To express your humility, Mt. 5:5

To show your love, Mt. 22:37-39

To save your soul, Heb. 9:27

A SAFE POSITION

THE NAME WE WEAR IS A SAFE NAME

Acts 20:28 I Cor. 1:2 Rom. 16:16

Mt. 16:18 Acts 4:12 I Tim. 3:15

Acts 11:26 I Pet. 4:16 Acts 26:28

If other names are right, we are also right.

If others are wrong we still are right.

THE DOCTRINE WE TEACH IS A SAFE
DOCTRINE

II Tim. 3:16-17

Acts 2:42

II Jn. 9

Rom. 1:16

Gal. 1:8-9

Rev. 22:18-19

I Tim. 4:16

II Tim. 4:1

If other doctrines are right, we are also right.

If others are wrong we still are right.

THE WORSHIP WE OBSERVE IS A SAFE
WORSHIP

Acts 2:42

Jn. 4:23-24

Heb. 10:25

Acts 20:7

I Cor. 16:1-2

II Cor. 9:7

If other systems of worship are safe, we too are safe.

If other systems are wrong, we are still safe.

THE PLAN OF SALVATION WE TEACH IS
SAFE

Mk. 16:15-16

Rom. 6:4

Mt. 28:18-20

Gal. 3:27

I Pet. 3:21

Acts 8:34-39

If other plans are right so is this one.

If other plans are wrong, this one is still right.

“YE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM”

Colossians 2:10

INTRODUCTION

Danger of being “spoiled” by other doctrines
If complete in Christ, we need no other authority.
If we need other authority we are not complete.

NO OTHER AUTHORITY IS NEEDED.

Moses not our authority, Mt. 17:5; Col. 2:14
To whom shall we go? Jn. 6:68
Jesus has all authority, Mt. 28:18

COMPLETE EXAMPLE TO US IN ALL THINGS.

In sacrifice, Eph. 5:25; I Cor. 5:7; Rom. 12:1
In duty to Caesar, Mt. 22:21; Mt. 17:24; Rom. 13
In forgiveness, Lk. 22:34; Acts 7:60; Eph. 4:32
In prayer, Mt. 6:8-13; Lk. 9:28, 22:40-46
In singing, Mt. 26:30; col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19
In baptism, Mt. 3:16; Rom. 6:1-4

LEFT US COMPLETELY FURNISHED

Unto all good works, II Tim. 3:16-17
Unto life and godliness, II Pet. 1:3-4
Gospel will save preacher and hearer, I Tim. 4:16.

GIVES US COMPLETE HOPE

He is Author and Finisher of our faith, Heb. 12:1-2.
In Him dwelleth all fullness, Col. 2:9; Eph. 1:22-23.

PROVERBS 18:24

*“A man that hath friends must show himself friendly
and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a
brother.”*

A COMMENTATOR has explained the verse
thus—

The man that has many friends is ready to be
ruined, but there is a friend that sticketh closer than
a brother.

LOVE BEGETS LOVE

Friendship improves happiness, and abates misery
by doubling our joy and dividing our grief.

It is best to live as friends to those with whom we
will, in time, spend all eternity.

By friendship you mean the greatest love, the
greatest usefulness, the most open communication,
the noblest suffering, the severest truth, the most
heart felt counsel, and the greatest union of minds
of which brave men and women are capable.

Life has no blessing like a prudent friend.

Two persons cannot long be friends if they cannot
forgive each other's little failings.

AND THEY WOULD NOT COME

Matthew 22:3

INTRODUCTION

Brief explanation of the parable.

Jews were first bidden but would not come.

They **COULD** have come but **WOULD** not.

Gentiles were later included in the invitation.

Today people reject the invitation of Christ for the same reasons.

WHY WAS THE INVITATION REJECTED?

Religious prejudice, Acts 28:23-28

They thought the Old Testament taught the way of salvation, Jn. 5:39-40.

They were ignorant of God's righteousness, Rom. 10:1-4.

They went about to establish their own righteousness, Rom. 10:1-4.

They were too interested in things of this world, Mt. 22:5.

They lacked respect for authority of the King.

WHO MAY COME?

All that labor and are heaven laden, Mt. 11:28:30.

Whosoever will, Rev. 22:17.

CHRIST THE FRIEND OF SINNERS

CHRIST CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Mt. 1:21 Lk. 19:10 Jn. 3:16

CHRIST DIED FOR SINNERS

Rom. 5:8 Heb. 2:9

CHRIST GAVE THE GOSPEL TO SINNERS

Gal. 1:11 Mk. 16:15-16 I Pet. 4:17

CHRIST INVITES SINNERS

Mt. 11:28-30 Mt. 23:37

CHRIST THE FRIEND OF SINNERS

The adulterous woman, Jn. 8:3-11.

The woman who washed His feet, Lk. 7:36-50.

He prayed for the sinners who crucified Him, Lk. 23:34.

FAITH FOR TODAY

WHAT IS FAITH?

Heb. 11:1, 11:6

Are you of fearful unbelieving heart?

The one talent man was afraid, Mt. 25:25.

Must have FAITH in self, Phil. 4:13.

Must have FAITH in others.

THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH DOUBT TURMOIL AND FEAR

This is one reason our FAITH must be strong.

If our FAITH is strong the church will be strong.

Is there hope for the fear that grips men's hearts?

You can have faith that dispels fear.

You can find a pathway to peace.

The Bible has a prescription for peace, Rom. 10:17.

FAITH IN GOD AND IN HIS WORD

Faith in His commands

Repent, Acts 17:30

Be Baptized, Acts 2:38

Worship, Heb. 10:25, Phil. 2:12

FAITH in God's promises

Forgiveness of sins, Acts 2:38

Word will not return unto Him void

Physical needs will be supplied, Mt. 6:33

All things work together for good

We will be resurrected.

SOWING DISCORD

Proverbs 6:14

God's plan is for His people to live in peace. This can only be possible if we follow "after the same rule" and endeavor to keep unity "in the bonds of peace."

David gives us a great truth in Psalm 133—
"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for
brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Many brethren are not satisfied unless they are stirring up strife. The government term for this type of secretive activity is "Fifth Column."

A "Fifth Column" is a group of people which clandestinely undermines a larger group to which it is expected to be loyal, such as a nation. The term originated with a 1936 radio address by Emilio Mola, a Nationalist general during the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War. As four of his army columns moved on Madrid, the general referred to his militant supporters within the capital as his "fifth column," intent on undermining the Republican government from within. The term is also used in reference to a population who are assumed to have loyalties to countries other than the one in which they reside, or who support some other nation in war efforts against the country they live in.

THE SOWER

A Malignant person

Delights in sowing discord. He is a true child of Satan. Remember how Satan maligned God in the Garden Of Eden? “Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” Also, remember how he maligned Job when he said, “Doth Job fear God for nothing? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?. . . but put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.”

An Egotistic Person

A prideful person puts himself before God, Psa. 10:4. He seeks preeminence above all else, III Jn. 1:9. He is just one person but he is like a pebble thrown into a peaceful lake that causes a disturbing wave to every shore. This kind of person has no regard for the rights of others. He will lead an entire congregation into confusion.

An Ignorant Person

An Ignorant person is not known for well doing but rather for their foolishness, I Pet. 2:15. They enjoy the vanity of blind ignorance, Eph. 4:17-18. Their ignorance is their most precious possession for they use it as an excuse, Acts 17:30. By ignorance their pride is increased, they always usurp who know least. Self-conceit sets their pedestal too high. They mind other people’s business because they are too lazy to mind their own.

A Heedless Person

A heedless person is easy to deceive, Lk. 21:8. They are into sin before they are aware of it, Lk. 21:34. And worst of all they use their liberty in Christ as maliciousness or as a stumbling block to them that are weak, I Cor. 8:9; I Pet. 2:16.

THE SEED

A Misrepresentation

A lie. If we are only pretending to be faithful then we are misrepresenting, lying, and hypocritical, I Jn. 1:6. Just a little misrepresentation, just a little lie, is not of the truth and therefore not of God, I Jn. 2:21.

A HOT Word

If we approach a troublesome question calmly we might see a way of avoiding a quarrel. When this isn't done opposition is magnified, Col. 3:12.

An Unkind Word

Guard your attitude for it will affect your speech. Whether an unkind word is deliberate or just slipped out it will cause problems, II Pet. 1:7.

THE SOIL

Weedy Soil

The good seed is growing in a Christian's heart but he must keep the weeds down! He must keep his "inward part" free of wickedness, Psalms 5:9. He must weed out cursing, deceit and fraud, Psalms 10:7; James 1:26.

A Fruitful Soil

He must not have soil that produces corrupt fruit, Mt. 12:33.

THE HARVEST

Is Painful

Pride may conceal the wound but the sore is not slight. No misery is greater than that of family disturbances.

Is Injurious

It raises evil passions, hinders harmonious actions, and wastes resources.

Is Un-Christian

It is the opposite of how a Christian should behave, Gal. 5:22; Psa. 133; Mt. 5:9, Eph. 4

CONCLUSION

What Should The Church Do?

Know God hates this, Prov. 6:16

Admonish, Titus 3:10

Mark them, Rom. 16:17

SOUND BRETHREN

TALK TOO MUCH

Tattlers, I Tim. 5:13

Boasters, II Tim. 3:2

Sayers and Not Doers, Mt. 23:3

Swearers, Jas. 3:9-12

Liars, Acts 5:1-10

SOUND ASLEEP

Rom. 13:11

I Cor. 11:30

I Thess. 5:6

SOUNDING BRASS

I Cor. 13:1

SOUND IN THE FAITH

Titus 1:13

SOUND IN PRACTICE

Jas. 1:22

SOUND OUT THE WORD

Rom. 10:18

SOUND DOCTRINE

II Tim. 4:3

SOUND WORDS

II Tim. 1:13

MUST

MUST— To be obligated / must submit to the laws / necessary or essential to the end proposed.

MUST BELIEVE, Heb. 11:6

MUST BE BORN AGAIN, Jn. 3:7

MUST DO SOMETHING, Acts 16:30-34

MUST BE IN NAME OF CHRIST, Acts 4:12

MUST WORSHIP IN SPIRIT & TRUTH, Jn. 4:24

MUST SUFFER, Acts 14:22

MUST DIE, Deut. 31:14

MUST APPEAR BEFORE CHRIST, II Cor. 5:10

SURRENDERED LIFE

The surrendered life is devoted first of all to the service of God, Mt. 6:33; II Cor. 8:5.

The surrendered life gives up everything to gain the kingdom, Mt. 13:45-46.

The surrendered life prays, Lk. 22:42.

Paul's life is one of the greatest examples of a surrendered life, Phil. 3:5-8; Acts 20:24.

We know of many who would not at first surrender, but after considering the matter did surrender, Jonah and Moses

First in Importance
First in our affections

PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

Preach The Preaching That I Bid You

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH COMPOSED

Jew and Gentile, all Nations, I Cor. 12:13; Rom.

1:5-6; Eph. 2:11-17; Gal. 3:26-29

Bond servants and free men, Gal. 3:28

Both men and women, Gal. 3:28; Acts 5:14

Rich and poor, Jas. 2:2-3; Acts 4:32-37

Servants and masters, Eph. 6:5-10; Tit. 2:9-10

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH ARE CLOSELY RELATED

They are members of God's family, Eph. 3:19

They are members of the body of Christ, Rom.

12:4-5; I Cor. 12:12-13; Col. 1:18

They are members of one another, Rom. 12:4-5

They are living stones in the spiritual house, the church, I Pet. 2:5

THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH WERE CALLED CHRISTIANS

Christians have duties to perform, Jn. 14:15

Christians have responsibilities, Phil. 2:12

Christians have all spiritual blessings, Eph. 1:3

Christians have precious promises, II Pet. 1:4

Christians have rewards, Rev. 11:12

TOMORROW

INTRODUCTION

There is no more dangerous word in human speech than this one, tomorrow. The tragedy of it is that its real danger lies hidden and unrealized. It has robbed multitudes of success. It has slammed the gate of heaven in the face of millions.

Boasting about “Tomorrow”—

Prov. 27:1; I Tim. 4:2

Tomorrow you may lose your desire to do your duty; your conscience may become seared,

Tomorrow may see man incapable of doing his duties because of sickness and other reasons.

Tomorrow may bring death, Jas. 4:13-14.

Tomorrow metaphors—

The shadow that fleeth
A flower that is cut down
The weavers shuttle
Water spilt on the ground
The swift ship
A vapor

Shakespeare—

“Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow, creeps in this petty pace from day to day, to the last

syllable of recorded time; and all our yesterdays have lighted fools the way to dusty death.”

Absalom—

Who repelled against his father, was defeated because he waited until tomorrow, II Sam. 15.

The same tomorrow kept Hitler from conquering Europe in World War II. He had his chance following Dunkirk, but he waited until tomorrow.

Parable of the great supper—

Great lesson on “Tomorrow” in this passage, Lk. 14:16-24.

BIBLE CONVERSIONS

Acts 3:19

INTRODUCTION

To be converted means to be saved, to change or turn. The Revised Version says, "turn again." There is only one way of conversion, Jn. 14:6; Mt. 7:13-14.

THOSE IN NEED OF CONVERSION

Not infants, Mt. 18:3; Mt. 19:14.

Good, moral people outside of Christ

The Eunuch, Acts 8

Cornelius, Acts 10

All such today.

The wicked and ungodly

Christ died for the ungodly, Rom. 5:6-8.

Joy in heaven when sinners turn, Lk. 15.

The erring church member

Jas. 5:19

Strive to convert the erring brother.

All men

Acts 10:34-35, 17:30-31

TO WHOM SHOULD ONE BE CONVERTED?

Not to man

Not to man made religion, Mt. 15:9

Not to some church of one's choice

To the Lord!

Follow and obey Him, Lk. 9:23

Saved added to the church, Acts 2:47

FALSE CONCEPTIONS OF TRUE CONVERSION

Some look for dreams and visions.

Some seek to “pray through.”

Some rely upon feelings.

BIBLE CONVERSIONS

Hear and obey Jesus, Mt. 7:21-27.

Study cases of conversion in Acts

How one is converted

Sees, hears, understands, Mt. 13:15; Jn. 6:44

Believes, Jn. 3:16

Repents, Acts 2:38; 3:19

Confesses Christ, Rom. 10:9-10

Baptized, Acts 2:38, I Pet. 3:21

WHAT FOLLOWS CONVERSION?

Sins are blotted out, Acts 3:19

Lord adds to the church, Acts 2:47; Col. 1:13

Become new creatures, II Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:4

Joy in heaven, Lk. 15:7, 10

Joy on part of others, Acts 15:3, 11:18

CONCLUSION

Conversion begins with faith and is completed in full obedience to Christ. Conversion is a turning and we must do the turning.

HOW DO YOU LIVE EVERY DAY?

Paul tells how, Tit. 2:12.

Practice Golden Rule, Mt. 7:112.

Let your light shine, Mt. 5:16.

Let no one hinder you, I Cor. 9:12.

Set your mind on heavenly things, Col. 3:2.

Be careful about your words, Mt. 12:36.

Keep good company, I Cor. 15:33

Trust not in uncertain riches, I Tim. 6:17.

POWER FOR A GOSPEL MEETING

INTRODUCTION

We are not here by our own power but by the power of God.

POWER IS NEEDED TO

Turn men from darkness, Acts 26:18

Return the wanderers to the fold, Lk. 15:18

Prodigal Son

He acknowledged his burden of sin, saw his life was worthless, was willing to repent and take the humblest place in his father's home.

Account Of Paul's Conversion

Finish the course, II Tim. 4:7. After his conversion in spite of opposition he remained true.

POWER SUPPLIED

Through the gospel, Rom 1:16

By preaching the gospel, Rom. 1:15

By living the gospel, II Cor. 3:2-3

POWER EMPHAZISED

No other God its designer, Eph. 3:1-12

No other Christ its author, Heb. 12:2

No other ambassadors its Apostles, Eve. 2:2

No other church its pillar, I Tim.; 3:15

No other message to save, Gal. 1:8

RELIGIOUS AWAKENING

One featured by much prayer

One that will revive the church
One that will loosen our tongues for God
One that will draw in the unsaved
One that will inspire the preacher
One that will bring MANY to the Savior.

SINNER'S PERIL

HIS STATUS BEFORE GOD

He is dead, Eph. 2:1

He is lost, Lk. 15:24

He is condemned, Jn. 3:36

He is without hope, Eph. 2:12

He is God's enemy, Rom. 5:10

HIS PROSPECTIVE DESTINY

He shall not see life, Jn. 3:36

He shall not enter into rest, Rev. 14:11

Eternally banished, II Thess. 1:7-10

Cast into Hell, Psa. 19:7

FROM PARADISE TO PARADISE

I Corinthians 15:21, 45, 47

INTRODUCTION

This is the greatest story ever told. This is the greatest message ever heard.

Paradise was lost in Adam
Paradise was found in Christ

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Story of Creation

Man given work to do

Forbidden to eat of the Tree Of Knowledge

Heard, believed, and obeyed a lie.

Terrible consequences

THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION

Life of Christ

The Great Commission

First Pentecost and results

Heard, believed, obeyed the truth.

Now back on a plane of justification

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE—TOWARD HEAVEN

Acts 2:42 I Cor. 15:58 II Pet. 1:5 ff.

CONCLUSION

It is a great journey from justification down to condemnation back to justification in Christ to heaven at last but it is easy to do nothing about it.

RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD, SELF, AND MAN

INTRODUCTION

Responsibility means, “that for which one is accountable.”

RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD

We owe all to God, Mt. 22:37.

OUR DUTY TOWARD GOD

Our love must be supreme, abiding, and operative.

WHY THAT DUTY IS CALLED THE FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT

It is the noblest exercise of our faculties.

It is the foundation of all other duties.

DUTY TO SELF

Mt. 16:24, 18:4, Jas. 1:27

DUTY TO ONE ANOTHER

Golden Rule, Mt. 7:12

Not to speak evil, Jas. 4:11

Love, I Jn. 4:7

Prefer, Rom. 12:10

Be kind, Eph. 4:32

Bear burdens, Gal. 6:2

Confess our faults, Jas. 5:16

Be hospitable, I Pet 4:9

Care, I Cor. 12:25

GOD'S CARE FOR HIS CHILDREN

- Rom. 8:17 Christians are sons of God.
I Jn. 3:1-3 We are his children by love.
Rom. 8:1-3 No condemnation if we obey him
Rom. 8:16-18 Divine evidence that we are His
Phil. 4:19 He promised to protect us.
Rom. 8:33-36 The greatness of God
I Pet. 3:10 We should love the life He gave us.
Rom. 8:31 He is dependable.
II Cor. 9:8 God is able

PLAIN PREACHING

I Corinthians 2:1-5

WHAT IT IS NOT

Not preaching self
Not preaching opinions and suppositions
Not scientific lectures
Not book reviews

WHAT IS IT?

Example of Jonah
Preaching the Word, II Tim. 4:2
Preaching Christ, Acts 8:35
Declaring the whole counsel of God, Acts 20:27
Powerful preaching, Rom. 1:16
Simple preaching, II Cor. 11:3
Consistent preaching, I Cor. 4:17

WHAT IS ITS EFFECT?

On The Alien

Some were pricked in their hearts, Acts 2:37
Some get mad, Acts 18:6, 5:33
Some are perplexed. (Felix, Agrippa)

On The Church

Builds a strong church, Eph. 6:10
Makes some members mad, Gal. 4:16
Saves the church, I Cor. 2:1-5

On The Preacher

Makes some members mad
Preachers should avoid sarcasm to be plain.
Clears him from the blood of all men, Acts 20:26
Prepares him for death, II Tim. 4:7-8

DO YOU DESIRE TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD?

Ezra 7:10

We should have some purpose in life. Notice the determination Ezra had in life. What is your determination? Are you just drifting?

DESIRE TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD.

Every person should have a desire to learn God's word. No excuse can be made for not knowing the truth, II Tim. 3:16-17.

Should study, II Tim. 2:15

Faith comes by hearing, Rom. 10:17

Lay aside everything that would hinder and learn the truth, Jn. 8:32; Mt. 16:24. Accept not what men say but turn to the Bible and let it be your guide, Ps. 119:105.

DESIRE TO OBEY THE WILL OF GOD

Should not neglect our salvation, Heb. 2:3

After learning the truth obey it, Jas. 1:22.

The Ethiopian eunuch obeyed the gospel Acts 8

Cornelius obeyed the truth, Acts 10

It is sinful to know the truth and fail to obey it, Jas 4:17.

DESIRE TO TEACH THE TRUTH

Christ said, "Go and preach," Mk. 16:15-16.

THE BREVITY OF LIFE

It is like the flashing of a sunbeam
 O'er the rosy break of day,
Like the fading of a sunset from the dead
 Isles of the West.
Like the shooting of a meteor downward
 Across the Milky Way
So man passes to his everlasting rest.

Just a little day of laughter, just a
 Little night of tears,
Just a gleam of joy or sorrow from the
 Mirrored face of time,
Just a pathway through the darkness
 Bordered by life's hopes and fears
Till it leads us to the swinging
 Gates of eternity sublime.

NESTLE ON HER BOSOM

Servant of god, well done!
 Thy glorious warfare's past,
The battle's fought, the race is won,
 And thou art crowned at last.

Let faith exalt her joyful voice,
 And now in triumph sing:
O grave, where is thy victory?
 And where, O Death, thy sting?

The stars shall shine for a thousand years,
 A thousand years and a day;

But God and I will live and live
When the stars are passed away.

THE BIBLE

The Bible picks open the petals of every heart
And entwines the tendrils about the throne
of God.

It picks the frozen locks of frosty streams
And sends them flowing to the sea

It kisses bud and bloom into life
And lifts the ocean of sorrow to the clouds.

QUOTATIONS

JESUS

Jesus grew up subjected at the tie to the yoke of a
foreign oppressor, in the darkest district of
Palestine; in a little country town, in poverty and
manual labor; in the obscurity of a carpenter's shop.
Far away from universities, academics, libraries,

and literary or polished society. He was without help as far as we know, except parental care. Daily wonders of nature, Old Testament Scriptures, weekly Sabbath service of the synagogue at Nazareth. Secret intercourse of his soul with God His heavenly Father.

