

*Partakers
of the
Benefit*

by

Loren N. Raines

PREFACE



Solomon said, "Of the making of many books there is no end____" (Ecc. 12:12). This is especially true of books of sermon outlines. Circulation of such books is naturally limited because their appeal is largely to preachers, although many may find them helpful in their study of the Bible.

Because many friends have insisted that I attempt such a publication I have prepared this book with the hope that it might be helpful to some preachers, especially to those who are limited in their time for preparation. You will find no sensational subjects, but they are Bible based, mostly textual in nature, and simple in organization.

No documentation is given because the sources are many, and no thought was entertained of ever publishing them, at the time of their preparation. No claim is made to originality, except in organization. The chief source of information is the Bible, and books others have written about the Bible.

The index is complete, but not alphabetically arranged. Sermons on related subjects are listed in groups, some in series, which may or may not be used in series, but as desired by the speaker. Others are listed according to the book from which the texts are taken. The last group of ten consists of funeral sermons.

In the Appendix we have included a short number of poems. In some cases the author of the poem is unknown. They can be used effectively in some sermons, and on various occasions, not only to inform the mind, but to touch the heart and move the will.

The title is taken from 1 Timothy 6:2. While this passage deals with the relationship of servants to masters, it does teach that all Christians should be "partakers of the benefits" of Christianity. It is hoped that all may receive some benefit from the lessons included in this volume.

— The Author.

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THE GOD WE WORSHIP

Rev. 22:9

INTRODUCTION: Review Paul's sermon Acts 17:22-31. Millions today do not know the true nature of God. To them He is "The Unknown God".
Mote that He is:

I. OMNIPOTENT — ALL POWERFUL.

A. As Evidenced by:

1. Creation of the universe Gen. 1.
 - a. Five fundamental facts of science Gen. 1:1 — Time, "in the beginning;" force, "God;" action, "created;" space, "the heavens;" matter, "the earth." How did Moses know these facts?
 - b. The magnitude of the universe.
 - (1) Measured in light years. Scientists estimate:
 - (a) That there are 500 thousand "island universes."
 - (b) Each island universe has some one billion stars.
 - (c) Universe is some 6 billion light years in diameter.
2. Creation of man Ps. 139:14.
 - a. Most delicate and intricate piece of "machinery" on earth.
 - b. Made in God's image — moral and spiritual likeness.
 - c. He has subdued the earth. The task given Gen. 1:28.
3. Creation of the "new man." 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - a. By the power of the gospel Rom. 1:16, 1 Pet. 1:23, Jno. 3:3-5.
 - b. This power must be released Mk. 16:15-16.

II. OMNISCIENT — ALL WISE Rom. 11:55.

A. Power to create — power to use what He had created.

1. Adaptations. Adapted: "light to the eye, the eye to light; sound to the ear, the ear to sound; odor to nostrils, nostrils to odor; air to the wings of the bird, wings to air; water to fins of fish, fins to water."
2. Adapted gospel to man Jno. 2:25.
 - a. Pacts appeal to the intellect 1 Cor. 15:1-4.
 - b. Promises 2 Pet. 1:4, Threats 2 Thess. 1:7-9, appeal to the emotions of both love and fear.
 - c. Commands Mt. 7:21, Acts 16:31, 2:38, 16:36-37, 22:16. Appeal to the will.

III. OMNIPRESENT Ps. 159:7-12. Pr. 15:5.

IV. EVER-LOVING — DEMONSTRATED:

- A. Made man in His own image Gen. 1:26. Superior to animals.
- B. Provided for man's happiness.
 1. Gave him a companion, a home and employment.
- C. A beautiful world in which to live.
- D. Supplies all our needs Phil. 4:19.
- E. Gave His Son to die in our stead Jno. 3:16, Isa. 53:4-6.
 1. The great Physician to diagnose, prescribe and heal.
 2. To redeem us Eph. 1:7, 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
- P. Is preparing for us a home Jno. 14:1-3; Rev. 21:1-4.

V. A GOD OF WRATH — EVIDENCED IN:

- X. Old Testament Gen. 6:5, Lev. 10:1-2, Num. 20:12, 2 Chro. 26:16, Heb. 3:17-18.
- B. New Testament Heb. 10:28-31, 2 Thess. 1:7-9, Rev. 20:12-15.

CONCLUSION — WE SHOULD:

- A. Respect His power, appreciate His wisdom, accept His love, fear His wrath.

THE CHRIST WE FOLLOW

Mt. 16:24

INTRODUCTION: Most men can be divided into two classes: leaders, or followers. Some, like Peter, follow afar off Mt. 26:58. Others, like Caleb, wholly follow the Lord Josh. 14:8—9. Let us note that:

I. CHRIST IS WORTHY TO BE FOLLOWED — Mt. 16:24.

- A. He has existed from all eternity.
 - 1. Helped create all things Jno. 1:1-5, Col. 1:15.
 - 2. Is a member of the Godhead 1 Jno. 5:7.
- B. He is a subject of prophecy Isa. 7:14, 9:6, 28:16, Mic. 5:2, Ezek. 21:25-27, Dan. 7:13-14.
- C. He was manifested in the flesh Jno. 1:14, 1 Tim. 5:16.
 - 1. Son of God Gal. 4:4-5, Jno. 1:41.
 - 2. Son of man Mt. 1:20, Lk. 19:10.
- D. He set a perfect example:
 - 1. In humility Jno. 15:1-15, Phil. 2:5-8.
 - 2. In suffering service 1 Pet. 2:21-25.

II. HE WAS GIVEN ALL AUTHORITY — Mt. 28:18.

- A. Primary authority belonged to God.
- B. God delegated authority to Christ Mt. 28:18-19.
 - 1. Christ to the apostles Mt. 16:18-19, Jno. 14:26, 16:15
 - 2. Apostles wrote the Word 2 Tim. 5:16-17. Inspired 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - 3. We must obey Him Mt. 7:21, Heb. 5:8-9, Rom. 6:17-18, Rev. 22:14.
 - 4. Dangerous to transgress 2 Jno. 2:9.

III. HE IS OUR ALL IN ALL — Col. 5:11.

- A. He was:
 - 1. Our mediator 1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 8:6.
 - a. Effected reconciliation 2 Cor. 5:18-19.
 - b. He was both God and man, hence perfectly qualified.
- B. He is:
 - 1. The door Jno. 10:9.
 - 2. The foundation 1 Cor. 3:11.
 - 3. The head of the church Col. 1:18.
 - 4. Our Captain Heb. 2:10.
 - 5. The way, the truth and the life Jno. 14:6.
 - 6. The living bread Jno. 6:48-51.
 - 7. Our passover 1 Cor. 5:7.
 - 8. Our high priest Heb. 5:1, 4:14-15
 - 9. Our intercessor Heb. 7:25.
 - 10. Our advocate 1 Jno. 2:1-2.
 - 11. Our King Jno. 18:36-37.
 - a. Given dominion Dan. 7:13-14.
 - b. Now reigns Acts 2:30-36.
 - c. Will reign until the end 1 Cor. 15:24-26.
- C. He will be:
 - 1. Our judge Mt. 25:31-46, Acts 17:31, 2 Tim. 4:1-2.
 - a. All must give an account to Him 2 Cor. 5:10, Rom. 14:10-12.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The world's greatest leader.
- B. All are invited to follow Mt. 11:28-30, Mt. 16:24.
- C. He wants to come into your heart Rev. 3:20.

THE TRUTH WE PREACH

Jno. 8:31-32

INTRODUCTION: Pilate asked, "What is truth? Jno. 18:38. Christ said, "I am the truth" Jno. 14:6. Some one has said "The truth was not born, and it cannot die." "Truth may be crushed to earth but it will rise again." Text Jno. 17:17.

I. IMPLICATIONS OF TEXT:

- A. Knowledge of the truth brings freedom Jno. 8:31-32.
 - 1. Men desire freedom, love freedom, and are willing to fight for it.
 - 2. Truth brings freedom from self, fear, other people, superstition, sin Rom. 6:17-18.
- B. That the truth exists, and may be found.
 - 1. God has two kinds of law or truth.
 - a. Natural.
 - (1) Law of gravity, inertia, atmospheric pressure, relativity.
 - (2) God left it to man to discover natural law. This required:
 - (a) Experimentation, laboratories, test tubes.
 - (b) Much time, great effort, lots of money.
 - b. Spiritual.
 - (1) Man could never discover it unaided.
 - (2) Souls are too precious. Hence:
 - (a) God revealed spiritual truth 1 Cor. 2:9-13, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:21, Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
- C. Nature of revealed truth
 - 1. It resides in God's word Heb. 4:12, Jno. 17:17, 1 Pet. 4:11, Heb. 12:25, Isa. 8:20.
 - 2. It is authoritative Mt. 28:18, We must establish authority by:
 - a. Specific command 1 Cor. 11:23.
 - b. Apostolic example Acts 20:7.
 - c. Necessary inference Ex. 2:4, Acts 20:7.
 - 3. It is inexorable,
 - a. Immutable. Impossible for God to lie Heb. 6:17-18.
 - b. More so than law of Medes and Persians Dan. 6:15.
 - c. Jesus never changes Heb. 13:8.
 - 4. It is infallible. Ps. 19:7, Heb. 7:19, 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 - 5. Spiritually profitable. 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Heb. 7:25, 4:12.
 - 6. Complete. Jno. 16:13, Col. 2:9-10, Jas. 1:25, 2 Pet. 1:3.
 - 7. Of unparalleled importance Jno. 8:31-32, Rom. 1:16, 6:17-18, Jno. 12:47-48.
- D. Existence of error Mt. 7:15, 1 Tim. 4:1, 1 Jno. 4:1, 2 Pet. 2:1-3.

CONCLUSION - WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- A. Knowledge Jno. 8:31-32, Hos. 4:6, Acts 17:11, Heb. 5:12-14, Eph. 5:17.
- B. Submission Heb. 5:8-9, Rev. 22:14, Rom. 6:17-18.
- C. Sharing 2 Tim. 2:2, Gal. 6:6.

THE CHURCH WE BUILD
Mt. 16:18

INTRODUCTION: Many people think of the church as being purely human in origin. They look upon it as they would some fraternal order. You are at liberty to choose the one that suits you best. They may even feel that you can change it to suit your desires. Nothing could be farther from the truth as revealed in the Bible. Let us consider:

I. THE DIVINE NATURE OF THE CHURCH.

- A. It originated in the divine mind.
1. A part of God's eternal purpose Eph. 5:10-11.
 - a. It was a subject of prophecy Isa. 2:2-5, Dan. 2:44, 7:15-14.
 - b. Prefigured by:
 - (1) Israel —
 - (a) Bondage of Israel in Egypt.
 - (b) Deliverance by Moses.
 - (c) Wandering in wilderness.
 - (d) Guidance by pillar of cloud by day, fire by night.
 - (e) Sustenance by manna.
 - (2) Tabernacle and temple.
 - (a) A place where God recorded His name.
 - (b) A place where God met with His people Eph. 2:20-22.
 - (c) To get from the court, a type of the world, to the Holy of Holies, a type of heaven, one must go through the holy place which was a type of the church.
- B. Planned by a divine architect.
1. All-wise. Fore-knew the kind needed to meet the spiritual needs of man for all time to come. Always up-to-date.
 - a. No change needed nor allowed Rev. 22:18-19.
 - b. Perfect Col. 2:9-10, Heb. 8:5, Gal. 1:6-9. Beware of additions to what God has planned Deut. 4:2, 12:52.
- C. Built by divine guidance.
1. Apostles were selected to build it. They constituted the construction crew.
 - a. They were given a divine blueprint Jno. 14:26, 16:15, 1 Cor. 2:9-10, 2 Tim. 5:16-17, Heb. 8:5.
- D. It was built upon a divine foundation Isa. 28:16.
1. Man can lay no other 1 Cor. 5:10-11.
 2. No building is more secure than its foundation 2 Tim. 2:19.
 5. This foundation is indestructible Heb. 15:8.
 - a. The more man seeks to destroy Christ, the more He is magnified.
- E. It has a divine head Col. 1:18.
1. He has absolute power Matt. 28:18, 1 Pet. 5:22.
- P. Composed of divine material 1 Pet. 2:5.
1. Cleansed by a divine process. This process involves:
 - a. A change of mind, brought about by faith Heb. 11:6.
 - b. A change of life, brought about by repentance Acts 5:19.
 - c. A change of relationship, brought about by baptism Gal. 5:27-29.
- G. It has a divine mission.
1. To preach the gospel to all the world Matt. 28:19-20, Mk. 16:15-16.
 2. The perfecting of the saints - educational Eph. 4:12
 5. The work of the ministry — benevolent Eph. 4:12.
 4. The edifying of the body of Christ - missionary Eph. 4:12.
 5. Being divine, it is all-sufficient Eph. 5:10, 5:21.

CONCLUSION.

- A. No man can improve upon perfection. Let us leave it as it is.

THE LIFE WE LIVE

Gal. 2:20

INTRODUCTION: Can you think of anything more important than life? Life is eternal. It begins with birth, but it does not end with death. After death separates life from the body we live on either in eternal bliss, or in eternal torment, depending on the kind of a life we live on earth. The poet has well said: "Look to this day, for it is life." Let us think about the life referred to in Acts 11:26, Gal. 2:20. The Christian is the only safe life to live. Let us note that the Christian life:

I. Is. different from:

A. The world.

1. Christians are translated out of the world Col. 1:13.
 - a. Enoch was man of God and was translated Heb. 11:5.
 - b. Christians are delivered from:
 - (1) The guilt of sin Acts 2:38.
 - (2) The tyranny of Satan Rom. 6:17-18, 6:12.
 - c. Christians are a separated people 2 Cor. 6:17—18.
 - d. Transformed Rom. 12:2.
 - e. Regenerated Jno. 3:3-5, 1 Pet. 1:23.
 - f. Changed Col. 3:8-13.
 - g. Nonconformists Rom. 12:2.
 - h. Partake of the divine nature 2 Pet. 1:3-4.

B. The good moral man Acts 10:1-4.

1. Cornelius was good morally, still living under the Patriarchal Law.
2. Christians morals are improved by obedience 1 Cor. 6:9-11.
3. Christ dwells in Christians Eph. 3:16-19.

C. The mere church member

1. All Christians are members.
2. But some who hold membership are not Christians in N. T. sense.

II. A true Christian is different in:

A. What we love.

1. Not the world 1 Jno. 2:14-16.
2. Abhor evil Rom. 12:9, 1 Thess. 5:22, Prov. 4:14-15.
3. Things above Col. 3:1.

B. What we think

1. About God, Heb. 11:6. Do not think "God is dead."¹¹
2. About Christ.
 - a. Believe in His virgin birth Isa. 7:14, Matt. 1:18-20.
 - b. That He arose from the dead 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Lk. 24:6.
 - c. That He indwells Christians Eph. 3:17.
 - d. That He will come again Jno. 14:1—3, Acts 1:11.
 - e. That He will be our judge Acts 17:31, 2 Tim. 4:1.
3. About the Bible 1 Cor. 2:9-10
4. About the church. Believe it is:
 - a. The Bride of Christ Jno. 3:29.
 - b. Essential to salvation Eph. 5:23.
 - c. One body Eph. 4:4-6, Col. 1:18.

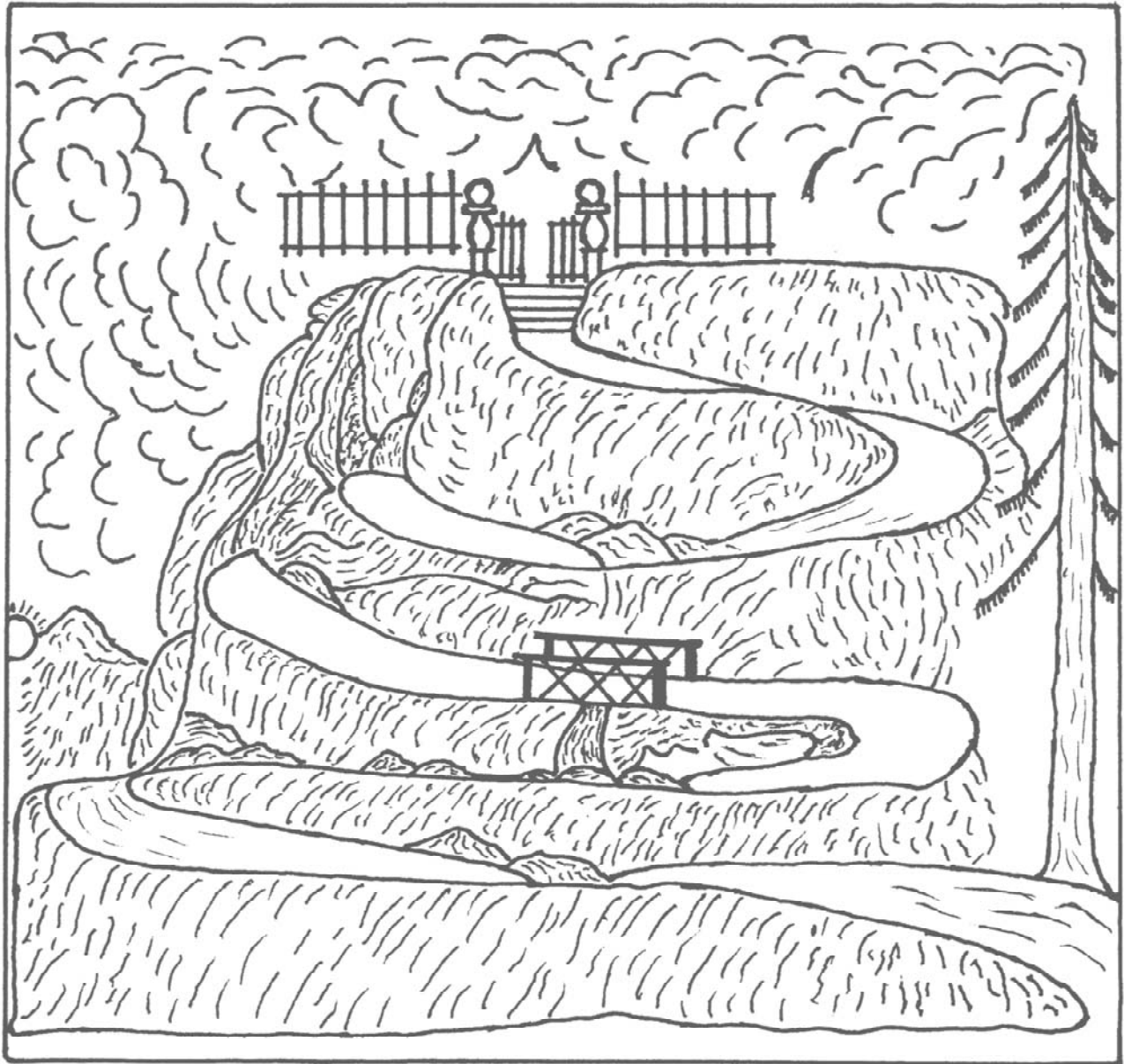
C. What we do.

1. Worship regularly Heb. 10:25.
2. Live sacrificially Tit. 2:11-12.
3. Grow 2 Pet. 3:18, Eph. 4:11-15.
4. Teach 2 Tim. 2:2. Work 1 Cor. 15:58. Die triumphantly 2 Tim. 4:7-8.

CONCLUSION: Are you a Christian. No life is more rewarding:

- A. Here Jno. 10:10.
- B. Hereafter.

THE KING'S HIGHWAY



"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those; the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness. and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isa. 35:8-10.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE KING'S HIGHWAY

Isa. 55

INTRODUCTION: Isaiah 55 is one of the most beautiful chapters of Isaiah. The entire chapter is a prophecy of the coming kingdom of Christ, or the church, (vs. 1) The refreshing effect of receiving Christ is like finding a blossoming rose in a dreary desert, (vs. 2) Glories of the kingdom of Christ and the desirability of being members of it. (vs. 5) A prediction of the spiritual benefits there were to be received from Christ, (vs. 4) In Christ there is no need of fear, (vs. 5) Instruction in Kingdom is so clear that the most common people can understand it. (vs. 6) Spiritual refreshment in Christ, (vs. 7) Spiritual advantage in Christ, (vs. 8-10) A prophecy of the church. A highway is a familiar figure. We have county, state and national highways. We may speak of the church as "The King's Highway" or as "The Highway of Holiness." Our lesson today is the beginning of a series of seven lessons on the "King's Highway." Let us begin with:

I. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KING'S HIGHWAY.A. Why such a highway was needed.

1. Man needs a highway or a way back to God. All were lost Rom. 3:10-18, 23.
2. It is an international highway. Designed for all nations Rom. 1:16-17.

B. Authorization of the highway.

1. National Road 40 from Cumberland Mountains to Illinois, first in America.
2. Authorized by Congress in 1807.
3. King's Highway was authorized by:
 - a. "The mouth of the Lord" Isa. 40:5-5.

C. Contractor of the highway.

1. Christ Mt. 10:18.
 - a. Had long been planned.
 - (1) Part of God's eternal purpose Eph. 5:10-11.
 - (2) Part of God's promises Gen. 49:19.
 - (5) A subject of prophecy Deut. 18:15: Isa. 2:1-2, Dan. 2:44.
2. Christ came to:
 - a. Study topography, nature of soil, select construction crew.

D. The crew selected.

1. John the Baptist Isa. 40:5-5, Matt. 3:1-8.
 - a. He secured the right of way. Holy Spirit the superintendent Jno. 16:13.
2. The apostles.
 - a. Christ selected them Matt. 10:1-4.
 - b. Sent them out:
 - (1) First commission, to Jews only Matt. 10. 16.
 - (2; Second commission, to all the world Matt. 28:19, Mk. 16:15-
 - c. Holy Spirit the foreman Lk. 24:45-49.
 - d. Peter broke ground Acts 2.
 - e. Apostles prepared the road map 2 Tim. 5:16-17.
 - f. Provided the tools Rom. 1:16, Heb. 4:12.
 - g. Posted signposts.

E. Time under construction.

1. Evolution or unfolding of the plan.
 - a. Purpose Gen. 3:15 b. Promise Gen. 12:1-4 c. Prophecy Dan. 2:44
 - d. Preparation Matt. 5:1-8 e. Perfection Acts 2.

F. Cost.

1. National highway 40 cost \$7,000,000.
2. King's highway cost much more Acts 20:28, 1 Pet. 1:17-18.

G. Nature of the country where built. Rugged Isa. 40:5-4.

1. Mountains of sin - hard hearts; peaks of pride; chasms of ignorance.

H. Who can travel the King's highway? Isa. 55:8-10.

1. Not the unclean, but the redeemed shall walk there.

CONCLUSION: Only a few are travelling it Matt. 7:15-14. Are YOU?

TRAVELERS ON THE KING'S HIGHWAY
Isa. 55:8-10

INTRODUCTION: If there were no travelers there would be no need for a highway. There are many highways that lead from Los Angeles to New York, But there is just one way that leads from earth to heaven Matt. 7:15—14, Eph. 4:1-6, Col. 1:18. Our text makes two things very clear:

I. WHO SHALL WALK THERE?

- A. It is a limited access highway.
1. Tractors and other slow moving vehicles are forbidden from expressways.
 2. There is but one entrance Matt. 7:21.
 5. Travelers must meet requirements Heb. 11:6, Acts 5:19-10, Acts 2:38, 22:16, Gal. 3:27.
- B. The unclean are excluded Isa. 53:8.
1. Have been cleansed Rev. 1:5.
 2. Some refuse the call 2 Thess. 2:13-14, 2 Cor. 6:17-18, Matt. 7:21.
 3. Some refuse to be set apart Jno. 17:17, Eph. 5:26, Tit. 2:21.
 4. Some have not escaped pollution 2 Pet. 2:20.
- C. No lion - not on, but may be near 1 Pet. 5:18.
1. Men seek to destroy both the way and the travelers Matt. 7:15.
 - a. Bomb the highway and supply lines with false doctrine 2 Pe±. 2:
 - b. Enemies infiltrate 1 Tim. 4:1-3, 1 Jno. 4:1.
 - c. Satan motivates and perverts Gal. 1:6-7.
- D. No ravenous beast shall go up thereon 1 Cor. 6:9-10.
1. Satan has always sought to destroy God's purpose.
 - a. You can see his trail: Eden, Cain, World of Noah's day Gen. 6:5, Israel became worshipers of idols.
 - b. He uses many agents and devices 2 Cor. 2:11.
 - (1) Salacious literature.
 - (2) Pornography.
 - (5) Drugs, alcohol.
 - (4) Violence and sex on movies and T.V.
- E. The taught Heb. 8:11.
1. Only those who have heard, believed and obeyed Rom. 6:17-18.
 2. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness Matt. 5:16.
 5. Those who have knowledge Eph. 5:17, Heb. 5:12-14, 2 Pet. 3:18.
 4. Those who walk in the light 1 Jno. 5:7.
- F. The redeemed Eph. 1:7.
1. Need of redemption - Kan fell Gen. 3.
 - a. Part of God's eternal purpose Eph. 5:10—11.
 - b. The plan involved:
 - (1) Christ, the apostles, the church.
 2. Redeemed by the blood of Christ 1 Pet. 1:17-18.
 - a. We contact the blood in the body Rom. 6:4.
- G. The ransomed, or those pardoned.
1. Bought with a price 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Acts 20:28.

II. CHARACTER OF TRAVELERS.

- A. Joy, gladness, songs Isa. 55:10.
1. Christians are the only true happy people Ps. 1:1-2, Matt. 5:1-10, Phil. 4:4, 1 Thess. 5:16.
- B. Sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
1. May be some disappointments and heartaches along the way.
 - a. Persecutions 1 Pet. 1:6-7, 2 Tim. 5:12.
 - b. But the joys outweigh the sorrows. Eternal happiness at end.
 - c. Faith to sustain in every trouble.
 - d. Hope as an anchor in every storm Heb. 6:19.

HIGHWAY ATTRACTIONS

INTRODUCTION: America is blessed with many excellent highways which provide adequate means of getting from one place to any other place of your choice. They are often of interest to travelers either from a scenic or from a historic standpoint, or both. Let us consider the King's Highway from:

I. AN HISTORIC STANDPOINT.

- A. It was in the planning stage for some 4000 years. From Adam to Pentecost.
1. It originated in Jerusalem.
 - a. Abraham offered Isaac here Gen. 22.
 - b. Solomon's beautiful temple was built in Jerusalem.
 - c. It was the scene of the crucifixion, resurrection.
 - d. Jesus ascended from the Mt. of Olives.
 - e. It was here that the Holy Spirit came Acts 2:1-4.
 - f. Here, the gospel was first preached in fact and fulness.
 - g. Here, the church of our Lord was established Acts 2:41-42.
 2. Paul, the greatest conqueror, traveled this way.
 - a. Three great missionary journeys.
 - b. Scene of many happy, sad and stirring experiences.
 5. It was stained with the blood of many martyrs.
 - a. Stephen Acts 7:57-60.
 - b. James Acts 12:1-5.
 - c. Early Christians died by the thousands. Polycarp burned at stake
 - d. Great battles were fought at Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Ather
 - e. Many great battles won. Numerous churches were established.

II. THE SCENIC POINT OF VIEW.

- A. Valley of struggle.
1. Offers a challenge. Worthwhile people enjoy a challenge.
 2. Requires undaunted courage, sterling character, unflinching stability.
 3. Worthwhile things in life do not come easy.
 4. We must wrestle with Satan Matt. 4:1-10, 1 Pet. 5:8, Eph. 6:10-12, 1 Tim. 6:12, Rom. 6:12.
- B. Mountains of faith.
1. Song - "Mountains of Faith."
 2. Christians are mountain climbers. Not as a hobby, but as a vocation.
 3. Something to believe in, to fight for, makes life worth living,
 4. Above the fog of doubt, and clouds of despair.
 - a. Life without an abiding faith is miserable.
 - b. We can reach "the summit of holy desire."
 5. Breathe the atmosphere of hope Heb. 6:19.
 - a. "Just a Few More Days to Be Filled With Praise."
 - b. "Whispering Hope."
 6. From this vantage point we can look down on the storms of life.
- C. The plateau of peace.
1. Peace of mind Phil. 4:8, Isa. 48:18.
 - a. Knowledge of forgiveness Acts 2:38.
 - b. Reliance upon God 2 Tim. 1:12. He can keep our souls.
 - c. Free from worry Matt. 6:25-31.
 - (1) Worry is contrary to lessons of nature and providence.
- D. The ocean of love.
1. Some scenic highways are along the ocean.
 - a. Like the ocean, love is both beautiful and powerful.
 2. It is fathomless Eph. 3:18-19.
 - a. Has length, breadth, depth and height.
 - b. Love God and the brethren.

CONCLUSION: Wouldn't you like to travel this highway? Why not start today?

HIGHWAY HAZARDS

Isa. 35:8-10

INTRODUCTION: There are thousands of casualties each year on our highways. Some is true on the King's Highway. We would do well to notice some of the causes:

I. POOR LIGHT.

- A. Lack of knowledge Rom. 10:1-3, Hos. 4:6, Col. 1:9-10.
 1. Christ is the light Jno. 1:5-9, Psa. 119:105.
 2. The fog of doubt Rom. 14:23. Many lack conviction.

II. FAULTY BRAKES

- A. The will is not submissive. Christ's was Matt. 26:39.
- B. Never learned meaning of the word "No".
 1. Eight of the Ten Commandments were in the negative.

III. NEGLECT.

- A. Houses burned, trains wrecked, ships sunk, battles lost, souls damned.
- B. Warning signs Heb. 2:1-2, Jas. 4:17, Matt. 25:41-46.
- C. At Judgment some friend may say: "You never mentioned Him to me."

IV. SCENERY - WORLDLINESS.

- A. Attractive scenes may get your eyes off the road.
 1. Satan appeals to the carnal nature 2 Cor. 2:11.
 2. Worldly pleasures are dangerous 2 Tim. 4:10.
 3. Problem of amusements:
 - a. Will it cause me to lose my identity as a Christian?
 - b. Will it weaken my influence?
 - c. Will it poison my soul?
 - d. Does it deaden and destroy my conscience?
 - e. Is it destructive to my body? 1 Cor. 6:19-20.
 - f. Does it conflict with my duty?

V. WRONG CROWD.

- A. Causes many highway wrecks.
- B. Many warning signs have been posted. 1 Cor. 15:33, Pro. 4:14-15, 2 Cor. 6:14-18.
- C. Prison statistics. 40% of fallen women began descent in ball room.
- D. Parental responsibility neglected.
 1. Lack of teaching Eph. 6:4.
 2. Lack of restraint, e.g., Eli 1 Sam. 3:13-14.
 3. Bad example 2 Sam. ch. 11.

VI. ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL.

- A. Indifference.
 1. "While men slept enemy sowed tares" Matt. 13:25.
 2. Wrecked Laodicea Rev. 3:15-16.
 3. Time to awake Rom. 13:11, Eph. 5:14.

VII. DEFECTIVE STEERAGE.

- A. Unofficial guides - false teachers.
 1. Warned against Matt. 7:15, Rom. 16:17-18, 1 Tim. 4:1-3, 2 Pet. 2:1-3, 1 Jno. 4:1.

VIII. LACK OF FUEL.

- A. Lack of faith Heb. 12:1. It is the propeller.
- B. Lack of courage and determination Phil. 3:13-15.
- C. Discouragement Heb. 10:38-39.
 1. Inexcusable Rom. 8:35-39.

SIGNPOSTS ON THE KING'S HIGHWAY

Isa. 55:6-10

INTRODUCTION: Signposts are helpful not only in helping us find, but also in keeping on the superhighways. The Lord has provided ample signs for both purposes on the King's Highway. He has posted no exit signs, but Satan has provided an abundance of exits with attractive signs to confuse the travelers. His business is to get us off the road. We would do well to notice that:

I. WE NEED A GOOD ROAD MAP TO HELP US FIND THE HIGHWAY.

- A. The Bible is the only safe, reliable road map.
1. It tells us there is but one way Jno. 14:6, Col. 1:18, 1 Cor. 1:10, Eph. 4:4-6. Men say: There are many ways, make your choice.
 2. It tells us how to find the King's Highway.
 - a. Faith Heb. 11:6, Jno. 20:50.
 - b. Repentance 2 Pet. 5:9, Acts 5:19, 17:50.
 - c. Confession Acts 8:57, Rom. 10:9-10.
 - d. Baptism Gal. 5:27, Mk. 16:15-16, Acts 2:58, 1 Pet. 5:21.
 5. No other approach will lead you to the road to heaven.

II. WE NEED SIGNPOSTS TO ASSURE US WE ARE ON THE RIGHT ROAD.

- A. If you don't find the following signs you are on the wrong road:
1. Right rule of faith and practice 1 Pet. 4:11, 2 Tim. 5:16-17.
 2. No creed, catechism, prayer book or confession of faith. BIBLE only.
 5. Time of establishment - 55 A.D. Acts 2. Hence:
 - a. Not in days of Abraham.
 - b. Not in days of John the Baptist Matt. 5:1-2, 5:11, 11:11.
 - c. Not in the future, as of now Mk. 9:1.
 - d. On day of Pentecost Acts 2:47.
 - e. No thousand year reign. Christ is reigning NOW 1 Cor. 15:24-25.
 4. Manner of the operation of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Indirect Rom. 8:14, Jno. 14:26, 16:15.
 - b. Holy Spirit, like Christ, dwells within us by faith Eph. 5:17, 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Rom. 8:11.
 - c. Guides us through the Word Rom. 10:17, Psa. 119:104-105.
 5. Congregational government.
 - a. No synods, Assemblies, Conferences, Earthly Headquarters.
 - b. Each local congregation is autonomous Phil. 1:1.
 - (1) Elders to feed and rule 1 Pet. 5:1-5.
 - (2) Deacons to assist elders 1 Tim. 5:8-15.
 - (5) Members to work 1 Cor. 15:58.
 - c. Each congregation sponsors and supervises own work.
 6. All-sufficiency of the church. It is God's:
 - a. Missionary society Eph. 5:10-11.
 - b. Benevolent society Eph. 4:11-12.
 - c. Educational society Eph. 4:11-12, 2 Tim. 2:2.
 - d. All glory must be given to God through the church Eph. 5:21.
 7. Type of worship.
 - a. Acts specified Acts 2:42, Eph. 5:19, Col. 5:16,
 - (1) No instrumental music specified.
 - (2) Must be in spirit and truth Jno. 4:22-24.
 - (5) No idols, no beads, no altar, no priest.
 8. Method of support.
 - a. No pledges, no begging.
 - b. Give as prospered 1 Cor. 16:1-2.

CONCLUSION: Consult your road map frequently, watch for signs, beware of exits.

TRAFFIC RULES ON THE KING'S HIGHWAY

Isa. 33:8-10

INTRODUCTION: In America no person can legally drive a car until he has passed a driver's examination and taken a road test. They must know "The Rules of the Road" before they can become a safe driver. Even then many accidents occur each day and many lives are lost. On the King's Highway, not only lives, but souls are at stake. The key to safe driving lies in the hearts and minds of men. It is not altogether a question of knowing the rules, and of driving skill. No test can predict the "will" of the driver. We drive as we "will". Let us note some of the traffic rules on the King's Highway:

I. THOU SHALT OBSERVE ALL STOP SIGNS.

- A. Thou shalt not kill. Ex. 20:13, 1 Jno. 3:15.
- B. Thou shalt not commit adultery Ex. 20:14, Matt. 5:27.
- C. Thou shalt not steal Ex. 20:15, Eph. 4:28.
- D. Thou shalt not bear false witness Ex. 20:16, 1 Jno. 2:4, 4:20.
- E. Thou shalt not covet Ex. 20:17, Lk. 12:15, Eph. 5:5.

II. THOU SHALT HEED THE SEMAPHORE.

- A. The conscience is a stop and go sign.
 1. Define - "Any set of secondary impulses which check and redirect our primary impulses to a greater good."
 2. Many references to it Rom. 2:15, 1 Cor. 8:7, Rom. 13:5.
 3. May be good Acts 23:1, 24:16, Rom. 9:1, 2 Cor. 1:12, 1 Tim. 1:5, 1:19, 3:9, 1 Pet. 3:16.
 4. May be guilty Gen. 42:21, Ear. 9:6, Jno. 8:9.
 5. We need it because of ignorance. No time for research.
 6. We need it because of rebelliousness. Passion may dethrone reason.
 7. We need ready made morals under such conditions.
 8. It may become seared and inactive 1 Tim. 4:1-3.
 9. Not given for a guide, but for a goad.
 10. Must be properly educated.
 11. An effective restraint - red light.
 12. May prod us on - green light.

III. DON'T BE A ROAD HOG.

- A. Selfishness is unchristian; It caused:
 1. Lot to pitch his tent toward Sodom Gen. 13.
 2. Disregard for the rights of others Ezek. 34:18.
 3. Neglect of the needy and suffering Matt. 25:34.
 4. Cain to say "Am I my brother's keeper?" Gen. 4:9.
 5. Haman's selfish conceit Est. 6:6.
 6. James and John to seek the best place Mk. 10:37.
 7. Priest and Levite to pass by on other side Lk. 10:31-32.

IV. TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM TREAT YOU, GOLDEN RULE Matt. 7:12.

- A. Are you easily offended?
 1. Then don't offend others.
 2. Dangerous to offend others Matt. 18:6-7.
 3. Be ready to make it right Matt. 5:23.
- B. Do you want others to take offence at what you do?
 1. Then don't be easily offended.
 - a. Don't carry your feelings on your finger tips or your elbows.
 - b. Be bigger than that. Touchy people are little people.
 - c. Be willing to forgive Matt. 18:35.
- C. Would you have others help you?
 1. Then help others Phil. 2:19-21.
 2. Rejoice with those who do rejoice, weep with those that weep. Rom. 12:15.

CONCLUSION: Are you a good driver?

ADEQUACY OF THE KING'S HIGHWAY

Isa. 55:8-10

INTRODUCTION: Our national highways need periodic improvement. Often made of faulty material. May become outdated. God made all things perfect Gen. 1:31. The King's Highway is perfect, Ps. 19:7-9, 2 Tim. 3:16-17. Man cannot improve it, and dare not try, Deut. 4:2, 12:32, Rev. 22:17-18.

I. THE KING'S HIGHWAY IS ADEQUATE BECAUSE:

- A. God authorized its construction,
 - 1. Christ and the Holy Spirit supervised construction.
 - 2. Apostles built it by divine instruction Jno. 14:26, 16:13 Mt. 28:19-20.
- B. It provides for individual differences.
 - 1. Many kinds of cars on our highways, but all are cars.
 - 2. Many kinds of people on King's Highway, but all are Christians Isa. 35:9; All are cast in the same mold Rom. 6:17-18, 2 Pet. 1:4. Therefore:
- C. It is adequate for:
 - 1. The wealthy. Have great opportunity for:
 - a. Investment of - Time Eph. 5: 15-16; Energy; Money Mt. 6:19-21, 1 Cor. 16:1-3.
 - (1) Pays rich dividends:
 - (a) Joy Psa. 126:5,6, Lk. 10:17, Jno. 4:36.
 - (b) Peace Psa. 29:11, 119:165, Isa. 26:3, 48:18, Phil. 4:7.
 - 2. The Poor - they can:
 - a. Enjoy the same promises, same hope Heb. 6:19, Mt. 6:33.
 - b. God is no respecter of persons Acts 10:34, Rom. 2:11.
 - c. Christ had no worldly possessions Mt. 8:20.
 - d. Have access to the same throne Heb. 4:16.
 - e. Engage in same work, render same worship.
 - f. Receive the same reward Rom. 6:23.
 - 3. The educated and intellectual.
 - a. The Bible contains the best literature, history, poetry, philosophy, logic, most authentic science.
 - b. The most learned cannot fathom the depths of the Bible.
 - 4. The unlearned.
 - a. All can understand the language of love. "God is love."
 - b. Can follow the example of Christ. Mt. 16:24.
 - c. Can render acceptable service Rom. 12:1. Give themselves.
 - 5. All ages:
 - a. Youth - Youth loves a challenge. This highway offers many:
 - (1) Mountain of faith to be climbed; a race to be run Heb. 12:1-2. a war to be fought 1 Tim. 6:12; strength to be attained Eph. 6:10, 1 Cor. 16:13; service to be rendered Jno. 21:16.
 - b. Maturity - both social and soul security; the wisest council Isa. 9:6; the best insurance policy, richest dividends.
 - c. The aged - comfort, assurance. Song: "I Saw A Wayworn Traveler".
 - 6. All nations and tongues Mt. 11:28-30.
 - a. No racial barriers Mt. 28:19, Rom. 1:14.
- D. Provides an adequate Savior. Saves from:
 - 1. Past sins Lk. 19:10, Acts 2:38.
 - 2. Temptation 1 Cor. 10:13.
 - 3. The grave Jno. 5:28-29.
- B. Its government is adequate.
 - 1. Autonomous, congregational 1 Pet. 5:1-3.
- P. Worship is adequate Acts 2:42, Boh. 5:19, Col. 3:16, Jno. 4:23-24.

II. CANNOT BE IMPROVED BY:

- A. Addition, subtraction, substitution Ps. 19:7, Col. 2:9-10, Rev. 22:17-

CONCLUSION:

- A. It is adequate for you.

THE OLD PATHS

Jer. 6:16

INTRODUCTION; In Jeremiah 6:7-16 the prophet severely rebukes Israel because they had forsaken God. They did not appreciate what He had done for them. Jeremiah here pictures them as standing at the forks of the road. A choice must be made. In our text the prophet gives them some much needed advice. Many in the religious world need the same advice. Let us notice his instructions.

I. "STAND YE IN THE WAYS" — THAT IS, CONSIDER:

- A. Too few think for themselves.
 1. Like sheep, they follow some leader but do not consider where he leads.
 2. We pass this way but once. We should consider the path with care.
- B. What way shall we choose?
 1. Not necessarily the most inviting way.
 2. Not the most traveled or most popular way.
 3. Not the least rugged way.
 4. We are concerned with the destination.
 - a. Where does it lead? Matt, 7:13-14.
 - b. "There is a way that seemeth right" Pr. 14:12,
 - c. The destination you desire must determine your choice.

II. "SEE"

- A. To see implies willingness.
 1. Some don't want to see, some can't, some are afraid they will see.
 2. Hone so blind as those who refuse to see.
 3. Prejudice closes many eyes Matt. 13:15.
 4. We must be open to conviction. Seek the truth.

III. "ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS".

- A. Implies interest or desire.
 1. Porks in the road do not discourage tourists.
 - a. They are interested in the destination.
 - b. They read signs, study maps, inquire.
 2. Porks do not justify standing still.
 - a. Neither do they justify a random choice.
 3. Lack of interest is everywhere manifest.
 4. The Pentecostians were interested Acts 2:37. They found the way.
 5. The Philippian jailor was concerned Acts 16:30.
- B. Ask for what?
 1. The old paths - the good way.
 - a. This implies a way not so good, e.g.,
 - (1) The way of wealth Ps. 62:10, Pr. 28:20, Mt. 19:29, Mk. 4:19, 1 Tim. 6:7-9.
 - (2) Fame 2 Chr. 26:15-16, Est. 3:1-2, 5:11-13.
 - (3) Honor Isa. 5:14, Hos. 4:7, 9:11, 1 Pet. 1:24.
 - (4) Pleasure Ecc. 2:1-11, 1 Tim. 5:6, Heb. 11:24-26.
 - b. The tried and tested way. The gospel way.
 - c. The King's highway Isa. 35:8-10.
 - d. The "old time religion". Old as the Hew Testament.
 - e. The strait and narrow way Mt. 7:13-14, Jno. 14:6, Heb. 10:20,

IV. "WALK THEREIN."

- A. Implies and requires effort.
 1. Worthwhile things always require effort.
 2. We must walk with God.
 - a. Like Enoch Gen. 5:22-24, 6:9.
 3. Walk before God Gen. 17:1, 1 Kgs. 2:4, 2 Kgs. 20:3.
 4. Must be agreed Amos 3:3.
- B. Result of walking there
 1. "Find rest for your souls."

THE OLDPATHS

Jer. 6:16

INTRODUCTION: Text refers to temporal Israel, we refer to spiritual Israel. Man's ways can always be improved E.g., In business, medicine, education, farming, warfare. All of God's ways are perfect. To detect a counterfeit dollar, you must first know the genuine. Same true in religion Phil. 1:9-10. Church nearly 2000 years old.

LET US NOTE WHAT THE HEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS IN:

- A. Its origin.
 - 1. Authorized by God Isa. 2:1-3, Dan. 2:44, Mt. 16:18.
 - 2. Purchased by Christ Acts 20:28.
 - 3. Pounded by the apostles Acts 2.
- B. Its nature.
 - 1. The body Col. 1:18, Eph. 4:4, 5:23.
 - 2. The family of Christ Eph. 5:14-15.
 - 3. The house of God 1 Tim. 3:14-15.
 - a. Christ its foundation 1 Cor. 3:11, Eph. 2:19-22.
 - 4. The sheepfold Jno. 10:16, 10:9, 11.
 - 5. The kingdom Mk. 9:1. Mt. 13:24-33: 44-50.
- C. Its name.
 - 1. Church of God 1 Cor. 1:1-2.
 - 2. Church of Christ Rom. 16:16, Acts 20:28, Jno. 3:29, Col. 1:18, Mt. 16:18.
- D. Its organization. Phil. 1:1.
 - 1. Elders Acts 14:23.
 - a. The number - plural Acts 14:23, Tit. 1:5.
 - b. Qualifications 1 Tim. 3:1-7, Tit. 1:6-9.
 - c. Designations:
 - (1) Elders 1 Pet. 5:1-3.
 - (2) Bishops 1 Tim. 3:1-2.
 - (3) Presbyters 1 Tim. 4:14.
 - (4) Pastors Eph. 4:11.
 - d. Duties.
 - (1) Oversee Acts 20:28.
 - (2) Feed 1 Pet. 5:1-3.
 - (3) Be ensamples 1 Pet. 5:3.
 - (4) Rule Heb. 13:17.
 - (5) Spiritual in nature.
 - e. Extent of authority.
 - (1) Local 1 Pet. 5:2. "Among you."
 - 2. Deacons Phil. 1:1, Acts 6:1-4.
 - a. Qualifications 1 Tim. 3:3-13.
 - b. Duties - temporal Acts 6:1-4.
 - 3. Saints Phil. 1:1.
- E. Its creed 1 Pet. 4:11. Hew Testament has all we need.
- P. Its worship.
 - 1. The acts of worship Acts 2:42.
 - a. Apostles' doctrine (Teaching).
 - b. Fellowship - We can have fellowship by giving as prospered 1 Cor. 16:1-2.
 - c. Breaking of bread Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 11:23-29.
 - d. Prayer 1 Thess. 5:17.
 - e. Singing (A cappella - Eph. 5:19: Col. 3:16).
 - 2. Manner of worship Jno. 4:23-24, Right object - God; right manner - "in spirit"; right way - "in truth" according to His direction.
- G. Terms of admission.
 - 1. Faith Heb. 11:6; Repentance Acts 3:19; Confession Rom. 10:9-10; baptism Acts 2:38, Gal. 3:27.
- H. Rapid growth Col. 1:23. Due to:
 - 1. Great zeal Acts 6:7, 8:4, 19:20.

WALKING IN THE OLD VASES

Jer. 6:16

INTRODUCTION: In our text Jeremiah uses four important verbs: "stand", "see", "ask", and "walk". There is no point in going to the trouble to find the path unless we intend to walk in it. Only in this way can we find the destination to which the path leads. This raises an important question -

I. MHO ABE THEY WHO ARE WALKING IN THE OLD PATHS? ANSWER:

- A. The regenerated Jno. 3:3-5.
 - 1. Begotten by the Spirit Jas. 1:18, 1 Pet. 1:22-23.
 - 2. Born of water Tit. 3:4-5, Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12.
- B. Those who accept the Bible.
 - 1. As their only guide 1 Pet. 4:11.
 - a. Believe in its inspiration 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - b. Receive it as their sole rule of faith and practice.
 - c. It thoroughly furnishes to all good works 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Col. 2:9-10, 2 Pet. 1:18-19.
 - d. Neither add nor subtract Rev. 22:18-19.
 - 1. No creeds.
 - e. Rightly divide the word 2 Tim. 2:15.
 - f. Follow its teaching 1 Jno. 1:7, Mt. 5:13, 14-16.
- C. Those who have congregational government.
 - 1. Local autonomy 1 Pet. 5:1-5.
 - a. Plurality of elders Acts 14:23.
 - b. Elders who are qualified 1 Tim. 3:1-7, Tit. 1:6-9.
 - c. Elders rule well, realizing responsibility Heb. 13:17.
 - d. Elders who exercise discipline 1 Cor. 5:4.
 - e. Elders who keep the church informed.
 - f. Elders who delegate responsibility.
 - 2. Cooperate in a Bible way.
 - a. Not a "sponsoring" church.
 - (1) Have authority only over those "among them".
 - b. Assume responsibility of:
 - (1) Edifying saints Eph. 4:11.
 - (2) Caring for the needy among them 1 Tim. 5:16, Acts 11:27-30, 2 Cor. Chs. 8 and 9.
 - (3) Missionary work Phil. 4:15.
 - (a) Church at Jerusalem sent out Barnabas Acts 11:22-26.
 - (b) Antioch sent out Paul and Barnabas Acts 13:1-3.
 - Three great missionary journeys follow.
 - c. No human institutions were involved Eph. 3:10-11, 21.
 - d. No attempt to activate the church universal 1 Pet. 2:17.
 - (1) Love it and let it alone,
 - (2) Trying to do so led to first great apostasy.
 - e. Local church alone is functional.
- D. Those who follow Jesus Matt. 16:24.
 - 1. Come out of the world 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
 - 2. They are new creatures 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - 3. Not conformed to the world Rom. 12:2.
 - 4. Love one another Heb. 13:1, 1 Pet. 1:22, 1 Jno. 3:15, 4:20.
 - 5. Improve opportunities Gal. 6:10, Jas. 4:17.
 - 6. Work diligently 1 Cor. 15:58.
 - 7. Worship regularly Heb. 10:25.
 - 8. Live sacrificially Gal. 2:20.

Jer. 6:16

INTRODUCTION: Spiritual Israel today is much like Israel in Jeremiah's day. They have left the old paths where "is the good way". They have sought to modernize the "old paths" and bring them up to date. Let us consider:

I. THE HIGHWAY OF TRANSGRESSION.

- A. Regarding conversion.
 - 1. Modern concept.
 - a. Pray until God speaks peace to your soul,
 - b. Faith only - Sign a card and "join" church of your choice.
 - c. Just say "Yes" to Jesus. Invite Him into your heart.
 - d. A result of some weird, mysterious experience.
 - e. It is better felt than told.
 - 2. Bible concept.
 - a. Must be genuine Isa. 55:7, Mt. 3:2, 7-8, Lk. 13:5, Acts 17:30, Acts 2:38, 3:19.
 - b. Deals with:
 - (1) Life and conduct Isa. 55:7.
 - (2) Thoughts Isa. 55:7.
 - c. Involves a change of:
 - £1) Heart, by faith Heb. 11:6.
 - (2) Life, by repentance Acts 3:19.
 - (3) Relationship, by baptism Gal. 3:27.
- B. Regarding worship.
 - 1. Modern concept.
 - a. A mere performance, which has been well rehearsed.
 - b. Audience, mere spectators.
 - c. Well blended with entertainment.
 - d. Preach a "social gospel".
 - 2. Bible concept.
 - a. To be acceptable must have:
 - (1) Right object - God Jno. 4:23-24.
 - (2) Right motive - in spirit Jno. 4:23-24; Be sincere.
 - (3) Right way - in truth - according to the Word Jno. 4:23-24.
 - (4) Right acts Acts 2:42, Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16.
- C. Regarding work.
 - 1. Modern concept.
 - a. Social gospel. Stems from theory of evolution.
 - (1) Many modern preachers do not believe in a hereafter, hence -
 - (2) Make people happy here, provide for needs of body.
 - b. Institutionalism — "No pattern". Devise your own methods.
 - c. Preach the Man, but not the plan.
 - 2. Bible concept. Old paths. Back to the Bible 1 Pet. 4:11.
 - a. But one organization - the church Eph. 3:10-11, 21.
 - b. Local autonomy 1 Pet. 5:1-3, Acts 11:27-30, Eph. 4:11-12.
- D. Regarding the church.
 - 1. Modern concept.
 - a. Can be saved in church of your choice.
 - b. All roads lead to same place.
 - c. Just be sincere. Pro. 14:12.
 - 2. Bible way - there is but one Mt. 16:18, Col. 1:18, Eph. 4:4-6.
 - a. Christian platform has seven planks. Unity of: Worship, Authority, Revelation, Practice, Organization, Belief, Aspiration,

CONCLUSION: **Highway** of transgression has confused, and discouraged many. Old paths will lead to rest for the soul.

STRAYING FROM THE OLD PATHS

Jer. 6:16

INTRODUCTION: The church at Thessalonica had misconception concerning the time of Christ's second coming. Paul wrote two letters to the church there. One reason was to correct their mistaken idea. In the second letter chapter two, verses 1-10 He exhorts them not to be misled. It will be a long time before He returns. He points out that there will be a great apostasy both from and of the church before His coming. Both the Bible and history reveal the causes. There were:

I. EXTERNAL CAUSES.

A. Persecution.

1. Restricted the development of the church.
2. Caused apostasy from not of the church.
3. Persecution was two-fold:
 - a. Jewish clash of systems.
 - (1) Regarded the church as a rival of Law of Moses.
 - (2) This was predicted Mt. 10:16-18, Mk. 13:9.
 - (3) Early stages - by Sadducees Acts 4:2-3, 171 5:17, 28, 40, 7:57-60.
 - b. Pagan causes.
 - (1) Considered Christians as part of Jewish party Acts 16:20-21, 18:15-17.
 - (2) Christians denounced paganism. Paul did Acts 17:22-31.

B. Duration of Pagan persecution.

1. From Nero (A. D. 64 to Constantine A. D. 315).
2. Christians slaughtered by the thousands.
3. This caused apostasy from the church. Many not willing to die for Christ.

II. INTERNAL CAUSES.

A. Period of comparative peace followed the pagan persecution.

1. Caused decline in spirituality.
2. Rise of wealthy church Rev. 3:15-19.
 - a. Like Israel "Waxed fat and kicked Deut. 32:15.
3. Chief concern — luxury and amassing wealth. Neglected duties.
4. Party distinction became common Jas. 2:1-10.

B. Heresies within the church.

1. Philosophy — Gnosticism Col. 2:4, 8, 18.
2. Asceticism Col. 2:20-23.
3. Judaizing Christians.
 - a. Held to the Law of Moses.
 - b. Tried to adapt gospel to the Law.
 - (1) Required circumcision Acts 11:1-2, 15:1.
 - (2) Refused to fellowship Gentiles Acts 15:1.
 - c. Persecuted Paul Gal. ch. 1; Taught that he was not an apostle.

C. The mystery of iniquity — Its manifestation, already at work. 2 Th. 2:7.

1. Divisions 1 Cor. 1:10-15.
2. Mixing paganism and Christianity Col. 2:8.
3. Great desire for progress. — Growth at any cost.
4. Not satisfied with God's plan 1 Pet. 4:11.
 - a. Adapted methods of Pagans.
 - b. Capitalized on worldly influences.
 - c. Wanted Christian emperor on the throne.

D. Course of the apostasy.

1. Departure in organization.
 - a. "Clergy" vs "laity".
 - b. Bishops, arch-bishops, cardinals, pope.
2. Departure in doctrine.
 - a. Sacraments, indulgences.
 - b. Hence — apostasy of the church.

SEEKING THE OLD PATHS

Jer. 6:16

INTRODUCTION: The apostasy both from and of the church required about six hundred years and resulted in the Dark Ages. It became dark because the light had gone out. The Bible was kept locked up in the Latin language. The period which followed is known as the Reformation which was an effort to get rid of the corruption which had crept into the church during the apostasy. In this connection let us consider:

I. HE CONTRIBUTING CAUSES.

- A. Renaissance - the Great Awakening.
 - 1. Period of exploration. Many inventions, printing press. learning, art, industry.
- B. Political: simony, nepotism, high taxes.
- C. Religious: much corruption.
 - 1. Clergy lived in splendor, yet morally rotten.
- D. Economic: church taxes, indulgences. Thinking people became "fed up".

II. MEN INVOLVED IN REFORMATION - GREAT LEADERS.

- A. Bible was translated by:
 - 1. Wycliffe, Tindale, Luther, and others.
 - 2. Light now began to shine as truth was revealed.
- B. Luther.
 - 1. Aroused by sale of indulgences.
 - 2. Challenged the Pope. Posted his 95 theses.
 - 3. Excommunicated in 1530.
 - a. First denomination was thus formed.
 - b. Confession of faith - 1530.
 - 4. Doctrines of Luther.
 - a. Consubstantiation instead of transubstantiation.
 - b. Saved by faith only. Infant baptism.
 - c. Pendulum swung too far.
 - 5. Gave the world an open Bible. Many eyes were thus opened.
- C. Zwingli - In Switzerland.
 - 1. Clear conception of Lord's Supper - symbolic.
- D. Calvin - born in France 1509.
 - 1. Pounder of Presbyterian church.
 - 2. Doctrines:
 - a. Election and predestination.
 - b. Total hereditary depravity. Hence infant baptism indorsed.
 - c. Limited atonement. But see Heb. 2:9.
 - d. Effectual calling of Holy Spirit. Can't resist.
 - e. Preservation of saints. But see Heb. 6:4-6, Gal. 5:4, 2 Pet. 2:19-22.
 - 3. Opposite of Luther on authority of Scriptures.
 - a. Luther - If not forbidden by Scripture, it is allowed.
 - b. Calvin - If not authorized by Scripture, it is forbidden.
 - c. Calvin's position borne out by Scripture.
- E. Henry VIII of England.
 - 1. Broke with the **Pope** over divorce.
 - 2. Had himself made head of Church of England.
 - 3. Purely a state church. Otherwise about same as church of Rome.
- F. Wesley.
 - 1. Rebelled against ritualism of Church of England/or Episcopal church.
 - 2. Sought to inject warmth by his "methods".
 - 3. Hence, called the Methodist Episcopal church.
- G. Roger Williams - Pounded Baptist church.
 - 1. In Holland 1608.
 - 2. In Rhode Island 1639.
 - 3. Indorsed Calvinistic theology and added congregational government.

DISCOVERING THE OLD PATHS

Jer. 6:16

INTRODUCTION: There are three great periods in the history of the church: The Apostasy, Reformation, and Restoration. During the first two periods the Old Paths were neglected, untraveled, and became obscured by the commandments and doctrines and organizations of men. It is easy to get lost but more difficult to find the way back. Let us consider the Restoration or discovering the Old Paths:

I. WHY DISCOVERY WAS NECESSARY.

- A. The way was lost during the Apostasy.
- B. Reformation led to confusion.
 - 1. Good fruits of the Reformation.
 - a. Luther gave the world an open Bible.
 - b. Calvin emphasized the sovereignty of God.
 - c. Wesley revived heart power and spirituality.
 - 2. Bad fruits of the Reformation.
 - a. Divided the church - displeasing to God Jno. 17:20-21, Eph. 4:1-6.
 - b. Produced an arrogant "clergy". Titles: Reverend, cardinal, etc.
 - c. Beclouded theology
 - (1) Did not rightly divide the word 2 Tim. 2:15.
 - (2) Religion better felt than told.
 - (3) Conversion considered a mystery.
 - (4) Calvinistic doctrines. live points.
 - d. Skepticism and atheism.
 - e. Lifelessness and confusion.

II. MEN WHO LED THE WAY BACK.

- A. Their purpose.
 - 1. Not reformation, but restoration.
- B. They consulted the road map.
 - 1. James O'Kelley — Methodist 1757-1826. He advocated:
 - a. Congregational government.
 - b. Name - Christians only.
 - c. Christ the head: Bible only guide.
 - 2. Abner Jones - Baptist 1800
 - a. Discarded the name Baptist.
 - b. Repudiated Philadelphia Confession of Faith.
 - 3. Barton W. Stone - A Presbyterian from Kentucky.
 - a. Great Cane Ridge meeting - 20,000 present.
 - b. Stressed Acts 2:38, Unity, Bible only guide.
 - 4. Thomas Campbell - Presbyterian from Scotland.
 - a. Stressed importance of open communion. Motto 1 Pet. 4:11.
 - b. Required divine authority for all teaching.
 - c. His Declaration and Address.
 - 5. Alexander Campbell 1809.
 - a. Baptized in 1812.
 - b. Preached great sermon on the Law of Moses.
 - (1) Proper division of the Word - three dispensations.
 - (2) In faith, unity; in opinion, liberty, in all things, charity.

III. WAS RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHED?

- A. Seed in the Word of God Lk. 8:11.
 - 1. Sow same seed; reap same crop.
 - 2. Same church 1 Cor. 1:1, Phil. 1:10.
 - 3. Taught unity 1 Cor. 1:10, Eph. 4:1-6.
 - 4. Bible, only guide 1 Pet. 4:11.
 - 5. Same worship Acts 2:42, Col. 3:16,
 - 6. Same work Eph. 4:11-12,

THE SECT EVERYWHERE SPOKEN AGAINST

Acts 28:22

INTRODUCTION: The first thing Paul did after reaching Rome following his perilous voyage was to call the Jews together to explain to them why he was there as a prisoner. They thought the church was just another sect like the Pharisees and Sadducees. "A sect is a division developed and brought to an issue." Vine. "Any group, party, or faction having the same associations and interests." - Webster. We cannot help wonder what answer Paul gave. No doubt he may have said, What you incorrectly call a sect is really:

I. THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST.

A. Christ is the King of this kingdom.

1. He had the right to be King Ezek. 21:25-27.
2. It had been prophesied Isa. 2:2-3, Dan. 2:44.
3. Crowned after His ascension Dan. 7:13-14.
4. He said He would be King Jno. 18:36-37.
 - a. Still future when He said that Mk. 9:1, Lk. 23:42.
5. He now reigns 1 Cor. 15:24-25.

II. THE BODY OF CHRIST. Eph. 1:22-23, 4:4, Col. 1:18.

A. Christ is the head Col. 1:18, 24.

1. Head controls the members.
2. Members dead if severed Jno. 15:4.
3. All members are important 1 Cor. 12:20-25.
4. All must function. Inactive members wither.
5. All need food Mt. 4:4; and exercise 1 Tim. 4:7-8.

III. THE HOUSE OF GOD. 1 Tim. 3:14-15.

- A. God is the Architect - He planned it Eph. 3:10-11.
- B. Christ is the contractor Mt. 16:18.
- C. Apostles are the builders Eph. 2:20-22.
- D. New Testament is the blueprint 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 1 Pet. 4:11.
- E. Holy Spirit is the supervisor Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
- F. It is a spiritual house 1 Pet. 2:5.

IV. THE FAMILY OF CHRIST. Eph. 3:14-15.

- A. Christ is the law giver. Law revealed to the apostles 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
- B. Christians are the children Gal. 3:26, Rom. 8:16-17.
 1. Born into the family Jno. 3:3-5.
 2. Must be children in order to inherit Rom. 8:16-17.

V. THE SHEEPFOLD. Jno. 10:16.

- A. Christ is the Shepherd Jno. 10:11.
- B. Christians are the sheep, both Jews and Gentiles Jno. 10:16.
 1. Sheep must know His voice Jno. 10:4-5.
 2. Must follow the Shepherd, not an hireling Jno. 10:12-14.

CONCLUSION:

- A. You must be:
 1. A citizen in that kingdom.
 2. A member of that body.
 3. A stone in that house.
 4. A child in that family.
 5. A sheep in the fold.

ARE YOU?

THE SECT EVERYWHERE SPOKEN AGAINST (2)

Acts 28:22

INTRODUCTION: The church then was like the church today — Everywhere spoken against.

I. BY WHOM?

A. The Jews.

1. Sadducees Acts 4:1-3, 5:17-18, 6:9-15.
2. Misconception - thought it was to be an earthly kingdom.

Gentiles.

1. Tolerant of all religions except the church.
 - a. Christians had no temples, sacrifices nor priests.
 - b. Hence looked upon as atheists.
 - c. Thought these atheists were responsible for calamities. Gods angry.
 - d. Condemned national religions. Would not call Caesar God.

II. WHY SPOKEN AGAINST?

A. Not because it was new.

1. They were looking for something new Acts 17:19-21.
 - a. That is the trouble with religious world today.
 - b. We should heed, Jer. 6:16. Seek Old Paths.
2. Christians were intolerant.
 - a. They were outspoken Acts 17:22-29.
3. Christians were disliked for social reasons.
 - a. Nonconformists Rom. 12:2.
 - b. They were different from the world 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
4. They called for reformation of life 1 Cor. 6:9-10.
 - a. Heathen disliked changing their ways.
 - b. In self justification they retaliated by persecuting Christians.
5. Reaction of Christians Acts 4:19, 5:29.

III. WHAT WAS SPOKEN AGAINST THE CHURCH?

A. "Worship God contrary to the fathers." Acts 18:13.

1. No longer under the law of Moses Heb. 8:7-9, 13, Rom. 7:4,6.
2. Some prefer 'old time religion.
 - a. Yet they can't give reason why preferred 1 Pet. 3:15.
 - b. Paul changed his views Phil. 3:4-10, Gal. 1:15-17.

B. They were charged with heresy Acts 24:14.

1. God's concept vs man's concept Isa. 55:7-9.

C. Charged with teaching unlawful customs Acts 16:19-21.

1. Romans worshiped the emperor.
 - a. A matter of patriotism.
 - b. Church denounced this type of worship.

D. Said they "turned the world upside down" Acts 17:6.

1. It needs it today.
2. Church experienced rapid growth Col. 1:23.
3. They had great zeal, conviction, and courage.

IV. THE CHURCH IS STILL SPOKEN AGAINST TODAY.

A. Those who contend earnestly for the faith, Jude 3. Are called:

1. "Antis".
2. "Old foggies".
3. "Cranks".

CONCLUSION: It takes courage to be a Christian, defend the faith.

Beware of those who are everywhere well spoken of. 2 Tim. 3:12-14.

THE SECT EVERYWHERE SPOKEN AGAINST (3)

Acts 28:22

INTRODUCTION: The church is not a sect; but many things are still spoken against it. Among them - You don't believe in the Holy Spirit. A false charge. We do believe:

I. IN THE MISSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- A. Had part in creation Gen. 1:2.
 - 1. An instrument of God. "Spirit moved."
- B. Will have part in the motivation of Christians throughout Christian Dispensation — Rom. 8:11. Still God's agent.
- C. Published the plan of salvation.
 - 1. God originated the plan; Christ executed it; Spirit revealed 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - 2. Guided the apostles in their teaching — Jno. 16:13.
 - 3. Refreshed their memory of what Christ had said — Jno. 14:26.
 - 4. Guided the apostles in what they wrote — 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:3.
- D. He leads today — through the Word.
 - 1. Leads to Christ— Heb. 11:6, Acts 3:19, Rom. 10:9-10, Acts 2:38, Gal. 3:27.
 - 2. How He leads:
 - a. Never independent of the Word.
 - (1) In conversion — Acts 8:26, 29, 9:10-11.
 - (2) In our work in the church — Eph. 4:11-12.
- E. Has part in regeneration — Jno. 3:3-5.
 - 1. Begets — Jas. 1:18, 1 Pet. 1:23.
 - 2. Spirit revealed Word; Word begets faith - hence conception. Conception must precede birth.

II. IN BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- A. Who thus baptized. — Acts 2.
 - 1. Apostles baptized with Spirit— Acts 2:1-4, 12 were present Acts 1:26.
 - a. Multitude did not assemble until effects were "noised abroad" — Acts 2:6.
 - b. Baptism preceded the gathering together of the multitude.
 - 2. Household of Cornelius — Acts 10:44-46.
 - a. Not to convert the household of Cornelius. They were converted by hearing the word as preached by Peter— Acts 10:6, 34-43, 47-48.
 - b. Purpose was to convert the preacher — Acts 10:47, 11:17.

III. EARLY CHRISTIANS RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- A. By laying on of the hands of the apostles — Acts 8:14-17, 19:6.
 - 1. Gospel not yet written.
 - 2. Apostles could not always be present.
 - 3. They would have no guidance under those circumstances.
 - 4. Spirit confirmed the Word — Heb. 2:3-4.
 - 5. Passed away when word was full revealed — 1 Cor. 13:8-10.

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS IN CHRISTIANS TODAY.

- A. Evidence of indwelling— Rom. 5:5, Acts 5:32, Rom. 5:8-9, 11, 1 Cor. 6:19.
- B. Means of indwelling:
 - 1. Christ dwells in Christians by faith — Eph. 3:17.
 - 2. God, Christ, Holy Spirit constitute the Godhead.
 - 3. All three dwell in Christians the same way - "By faith".
 - a. Faith comes by hearing the Word — Rom. 10:17.
 - b. Spirit indwells Christians indirectly -
 - (1) Through the Word — Eph. 5:18-19; "Be filled with Spirit".
 - (2) "Let the word dwell in you richly". Col. 3:16.
 - (3) Eph. 5:18, Col. 3:16 are companion verses. One explains the other.

CONCLUSION: The Holy Spirit guides and dwells today - through the Word.

THE SECT EVERYWHERE SPOKEN AGAINST (4)
Acts 28:22

INTRODUCTION: The church for which Christ died and which we read about in the New Testament has never been popular. One reason is because we contend for the faith as Jude commanded, Jude 3. One of the most often heard criticisms we hear is;

I. YOU SAY THERE IS BUT ONE CHURCH.

- A. How many mentioned in the New Testament?
1. Christ said "I will build my church." — Mt. 16:18.
 - a. Church is singular in number - meaning one.
 - b. Spoken of a plural in Rom. 16:16, Gal. 1:2.
 - (1) These passages refer to congregations of the church. E.g., Congregation at Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, Colosse.
 - (2) All New Testament congregations were alike:
 - (a) In organization — Phil. 1:1.
 - (b) In government — Acts 14:23, 1 Pet. 5:1-3.
 - (c) In doctrine 2 Jno. 9:11.
 - (d) In worship Acts 2:42, Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16.
 2. Church existed on two levels:
 - a. Universal - all penitent, baptized believers. Non-functional.
 - b. Local — disciples in one locality. Functional level.
 - (1) Has local autonomy. Elders oversee "flock among you" 1 Pet. 5:2. No authority over another congregation.
 - (2) No provision for activating the church universal.
- B. The church is the body of Christ. Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18, 23.
1. Paul said there is but one body Eph. 4:4. Body is the church Col. 1:18.
 2. Christ is the head of the body Col. 1:18.
 - a. The head is in heaven — Acts 1:9-11. Dan. 7:13-14.
 - b. No head on earth.
 - c. Elders must see that New Testament law is enforced Heb. 13:17.
 - d. A body with two heads, or a head with many bodies is a monstrosity. It is deformed.
 3. Unity a divine requirement.
 - a. Christ prayed for it — Jno. 17:20-22.
 - b. Paul commanded it — 1 Cor. 1:10.
 - c. Paul condemned division — 1 Cor. 3:1—3.
 - d. It is part of God's plan— Eph. 4:1-6 Seven planks in platform:

(1) One God - unity of worship.	Worship Him.
(2) One Lord - unity of authority.	Accept Him.
(3) One Spirit - unity of revelation.	Follow His dictates.
(4) One baptism - unity of practice.	Be immersed.
(5) One body - unity of organization.	Be a member.
(6) One faith - unity of belief.	Exercise in one faith.
(7) One hope - unity of aspiration	Enjoy one hope.
- C. Whence came so many bodies?
1. Begotten by apostasy.
 2. Born of reformation.
 3. Posterred by tradition and lack of knowledge — Rom. 10:1-3.
- D. Vine and branches theory — Jno. 15:1—3.
1. Some say the branches are churches.
 - a. Note the context.
 - (1) Christ is speaking to His disciples.
 - (2) No denominations existed until — 1531 A. D.

CONCLUSION:

- A. No one can take the Bible and prove there is more than one church.
- B. Division leads to confusion - confusion displeases God Jno. 17:20—22.

IS THE CHURCH JESUS FOUNDED NOW ON EARTH?

Mt. 16:18

I. WHY ASK THIS QUESTION?

- A. We are in a changing world.
- B. Nineteen centuries have passed since it was established.
 - 1. During this time:
 - a. Nations have risen and declined.
 - (1) Home has long since lost her splendor.
 - (2) German empire of old has passed.
 - (3) Britain's navy once ruled the world, but no more.
 - (4) America has become a great world power.
 - b. Systems of government have changed.
 - (1) Autocracy and monarchies have declined.
 - (2) Most kings are now figureheads.
 - (5) Democracy has blossomed and born fruit.
 - (4) Dictators are now flourishing.
 - (5) But there will be no more world powers Dan. 2:44.
 - c. Science has wrought a mighty revolution.
 - (1) World has been modernized.
 - (2) Thought has been revamped.
 - d. Moral standards have reached a new low, and still sinking.
 - (1) Divorce is skyrocketing.
 - (2) General disregard for moral standards.
 - e. Foundations of religion have been shaken.
 - (1) A great apostasy - foretold by Paul 2 Thess. 2:1-12.
 - (2) Dark Ages have prevailed for some twelve hundred years.
 - (3) A Reformation resulted in denominationalism.
 - (4) The Restoration has restored the true, apostolic church.

II. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE TRUE CHURCH NOW EXISTS?

- A. Jesus said it would always stand Mt. 16:18.
- B. It is the fruit borne by seed.
 - 1. Seed is the word of God Lk. 8:11.
 - 2. Human heart is the soil Mt. 13.
 - 3. The seed has been preserved Mt. 24:35.
 - a. Efforts to destroy it have been many, but in vain.
 - 4. Four types of soil still prevail Mt. 13:3-8.
 - 5. Same seed sown in same soil will produce same harvest - Christians.

III. HOW MAY WE BE CERTAIN?

- A. Consider the marks of identity.
 - 1. It wore the name of Christ, still does Rom. 16:16.
 - a. No creed except Christ and the Bible 1 Pet. 4:11.
 - 2. It recognized no head but Christ Eph. 1:21-22, Col. 1:18.
 - 3. It held fast the form of sound words 2 Tim. 1:13.
 - 4. It was characterized by simplicity:
 - (1) Entrance requirements - hear, believe, repent, confess, baptized
 - (a) When man complied, God added to the church Acts 2:41.
 - (2) Organization. - Elders, deacons, saints Phil. 1:1.
 - (a) No clergy, ecclesiasticism, extra-curricular org.
 - (3) Order of worship - no elaborate ritual.
 - (a) Definite, simple acts Acts 2:42, Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16.
 - (4) Methods of work - divine authority required.
 - (a) But one organization Eph. 3:10, 21, 4:11-16.

WHY HAS THE CHURCH SURVIVED?

Mt. 16:18

INTRODUCTION: Jesus said the gates of hell should not prevail against the church. There have been great changes in geographic boundaries, national relations, governmental philosophies and moral standards during the past nineteen centuries, yet the church that Jesus founded still exists upon earth. It has defied the agencies that have sought its destruction. This raises a question:

I. WHY HAS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST SURVIVED?

- A. It has a great Pounder.
 - 1. Being human Heb. 10:5.
 - a. He lived a perfect life Heb. 6:26.
 - b. He set a perfect example Mt. 16:24.
 - c. He became a perfect sacrifice Isa. 53: 1 Cor. 5:7.
 - d. He inspired perfect confidence 1 Jno. 2:28.
 - e. He is a perfect ideal.
 - 2. Being divine.
 - a. He was able to effect reconciliation 2 Cor. 5:18-19.
 - b. He is the world's greatest teacher Mt. 11:29. Heb. 7:25.
 - (1) He knew His students - able to handle problem cases.
 - (a) Woman taken in adultery Jn. 8:3—11.
 - (b) Pharisees Mt. 21:23-27, 22:15-22, 23-30, Mt. 23.
 - (2) He knew His subject Mt. chs. 5, 6, 7. 7:28-29.
 - (3) He knew the methods of teaching.
 - (a) Both inductive and deductive.
 - (b) Woman at the well Jno. 4:7-26.
 - (c) Miracles Jno. 20:30-31,
- B. It has an all-wise Head. - Col. 1:18.
 - 1. The value of a body is determined by its head - He is immortal.
 - 2. He knew our needs, for He helped create us Col. 1:13-16.
 - a. He has provided for all our needs Phil. 4:19.
- C. It was bought with a great price.
 - 1. It cost the blood of Christ Acts 20:28
 - 2. It has cost untold sacrifice and suffering 2 Cor. 11:24-28.
- D. It has a great constitution.
 - 1. We boast of the great constitution of the United States.
 - a. But it has had more than twenty amendments in 200 years.
 - b. The New Testament has no amendments, and needs none Rev. 22:18-19.
- E. It has a great mission.
 - 1. To save souls Mt. 28:18-19, Mk. 16:15-16.
 - 2. To glorify God Eph. 3:21.
 - 3. Make known His manifold wisdom Eph. 3:10-11.
- P. It is God's habitation Eph. 2:20-22.
 - 1. Typified by both tabernacle and temple - God dwelt in Holy of Holies.
- G. It satisfies a deep-felt human need 1 Cor. 2:12-16.
 - 1. Spiritual man craves spiritual food Mt. 4:4, Jno. 6:51.
 - 2. It provides shelter and protection Mt. 13:32.
 - a. Other institutions only develop us physically and mentally, and satisfy our vanity - but note 1 Tim. 4:8.
 - b. To whom shall we go when these things fail? Jno. 6:66-69.

CONCLUSION: Is there any wonder that such an institution has survived rife persecution, stolid indifference, and the ravages of hypocrisy?

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE CHURCH

2 Cor. 2:12, 1 Cor. 16:9

INTRODUCTION: In view of the great mission with which the church has been entrusted, its responsibility is indeed great Lk. 12:47-48. Let us note:

I. A NUMBER OF THINGS WORTH CONSIDERING.

- A. How opportunities are represented in Scriptures.
 1. Under figure of an open door:
 - a. Paul at Ephesus 1 Cor. 16:9.
 - b. Door of faith opened to the Gentiles Acts 14:27.
 - c. A door opened at Troas 2 Cor. 2:15, Acts 16:9.
 - d. A door of utterance Col. 4:3.
 - e. An open door which no man can shut Rev. 3:7-8.
- B. Who opens the door.
 1. God opened the door of faith Acts 14:27.
 2. The Lord opened the door at Troas 2 Cor. 2:12.
 3. Paul desired God to open door of utterance Col. 4:3.
 4. Christ set the open door at Philadelphia Rev. 3:7-8.
 5. There are opportunity takers, makers, and breakers - which are you?
- C. How God opens the door.
 1. Providentially — success of the gospel depends upon:
 - a. State of the individual mind.
 - b. State of the public mind. Both are affected by influences:
 - (1) That hold up or cast down ancient prejudices.
 - (2) Carnalize the tastes of a population.
 - (3) Lead a political power to prohibit preaching truth.
 - (4) Prosperity and adversity affect men's hearts in different ways, hardening some, softening others.
 2. Hence it is right to pray for opportunities. God can change things,
 - a. Paul prayed Col. 4:3. Circumstance may become favorable.
- D. Opportunities the church now enjoys.
 1. We have the gospel Rom. 1:16. Its power is truly great:
 - a. Evidence Acts 2, 19:18-20, Eph. 2:1-3, Rom. 6:17-18.
It: penetrates, smites, breaks in pieces, wounds, heals, kills and makes alive. Its tempest force sweeps like a hurricane over the soul.
 - b. This power must be applied.
 - (1) Not gospel in book or mind of preacher, but in sinner's heart.
 - (2) Power must be brought to bear upon sinner.
 - (a) Hammer has power to crush rock.
 - (b) Team can pull load only when hitched.
 - (c) Niagara has great power, but must be harnessed.
 2. We have an open Bible - closed during Dark Ages.
 3. Religious freedom - a priceless privilege, some do not enjoy.
 4. A well established church.
 - a. The machinery exists - turn on the power.
 3. Material advantages.
 - a. Education, roads, transportation, radio, T.Y., wealth.
 6. Unconverted world around us 1 Jno. 3:19.
 - a. Many are hungry for the gospel.
 - b. Denominations at sea without either chart or compass.
 7. Many now in distress.
 - a. Man's extremity is God's opportunity.
- E. Our responsibility.
 1. Turn on the power - plug in Lk. 12:47-48, 1 Thess. 2:4, Mt. 11:11, Mt. 11:20-24.

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Eph. 3:10-11, 21

INTRODUCTION: Notwithstanding the many changes of the past nineteen centuries, the church, in spite of all its bitter opposition, has been able to survive. It is still a going concern. We have found several good reasons for its survival. Among those reasons we stated that the church has a great mission. We would do well to consider:

I. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH, AS PART OF GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE.

- A. To save souls Acts 2:47, Lk. 19:10.
 1. The field is unlimited 1 Jno. 5:19, Rom. 1:20-32, 3:9-18, 23.
 2. If man could be saved without the church:
 - a. Christ would not have died for it Eph. 5:25-27.
 - b. God would not add people to it Acts 2:47.
 3. The need illustrated -
 - a. Adam needed an help meet Gen. 2:18. Eve, a rib from Adam's side.
 - b. Christ needed an help meet - church purchased Acts 20:28.
 4. No salvation offered outside the church Eph. 5:23, Jno. 15:4.
 5. We must be conscious of the value of a soul Mt. 16:26.
- B. To send and support evangelists Eph. 3:10, Phil. 4:15-17.
 1. Gospel is the only power that will save Rom. 1:16.
 2. Apostles were sent to all nations Mt. 28:18-19; Mk. 16:15-16.
 3. We must commit it to faithful men 2 Tim. 2:2.
 4. This requires financial assistance.
 - a. Paul was supported Phil. 4:15.
 - b. Preacher to live of the gospel 1 Cor. 9:7-13.
 5. Church alone is authorized to do this work. Eph. 3:10, 21 4:12.
 - a. Other organizations are both unnecessary and unscriptural.
 - b. It is dangerous to change God's plan. Some learned the hard way:
 - (1) Nadab and Abihu Lev. 10:1-2, Moses Num. 20, Uzzah 2 Sam. 6:7.
- C. The pillar and ground of the truth 1 Tim. 3:15.
 1. The pillar of the truth.
 - a. To hold it up Phil. 2:15-16.
 - (1) Like a candlestick Mt. 5:15 - light must be spread abroad.
 - (2) Like a lighthouse in harbor so ships can find it.
 - (3) Must be pure and active to be attractive.
 - b. The ground of the truth - preserve it.
 - (1) To preserve it the church must:
 - (a) Hold fast the form of sound words 2 Tim. 1:13, 1 Pet. 4:11 - no such thing as "modes of baptism, nor pious unimmersed nor archbishops.
 - (b) Keep faithfully the ordinances: Baptism, Lord's supper.
 - (c) Speak things which become sound doctrine Tit. 2:1.
 - (d) Exemplify the fruits of the Spirit in our conduct Gal. 5:22-24, Mt. 5:14-16, 2 Cor. 3:2.
- B. To contend earnestly for the faith Jude 3.
 1. Not for opinions, but for the faith, without addition, subtraction. Contend for unity of the faith Eph. 4:1-6.
 - a. One God unity of worship.
 - b. One Lord..... unity of authority.
 - c. One Spirit..... unity of revelation.
 - d. One baptism..... unity of action.
 - e. One body..... .. unity of organization.
 - f. One faith..... unity of belief.
 - g. one hope..... unity of aspiration.

OBSTRUCTING STONES

Jno. 11:30

INTRODUCTION: Our text shows that God does for man only that which he cannot do for himself, hence God has given us a divine plan which makes plain what our responsibilities are, and what He requires of us. The church is a part of that plan. As individuals and as congregations there are many things we can do for ourselves with God's help. Among them there are:

I. OBSTRUCTING STONES WE CAN AND MUST REMOVE:

A. There is the stone of:

1. Indifference Ps. 123:4, Num. 32:6, Josh. 12:3, Jud. 5:23, Je. 48:10.
2. Lukewarmness Rev. 3:15-18.
3. Worldliness — the following questions are often asked:
 - a. Is the practice questionable in your own mind?
 - (1) Dangerous to violate conscience Rom. 14:23.
 - (2) Conscience, not a guide, but a restraining influence.
 - b. Does it destroy my identity as a Christian causing me to be regarded as of the world? 2 Cor. 6:14, 7:1, Rom. 12:1-2.
 - c. Does it have a weakening influence on others?
 - (1) We must not be stumbling blocks 1 Cor. 8:7-14: Rom. 14:20.
 - (2) We are responsible for encouraging, not discouraging the weak.
 - (3) Serious to wield wrong influence Mt. 18:6-7.
 - d. Is it destructive to my body?
 - (1) It is the temple of God and Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 6:19-20.
 - e. Does it conflict with my duty as a Christian?
 - (1) Seek first the kingdom of God Mt. 6:30.
 - (2) Please Him who hath chosen you 2 Tim. 2:4.
 - f. Does it cultivate an inordinate fleshly appetite?
 - (1) Forbidden Tit. 2:11-12, Col. 3:5, 1 Cor. 9:27.
 - g. Does it bring me under weakening association and influences?
 - (1) Responsible for influence 1 Cor. 15:33: 1 Thess. 5:21.
 - h. Does it bring upon me an unequal yoke and place me at a disadvantage in serving the Lord? 2 Cor. 6:14-18.
4. Worldly pleasure.
 - a. A god to some — hence Pr. 21:17, Lk. 8:14, 1 Tim. 5:6, 2 Pet. 2:13.
5. Lack of knowledge Rom. 10:1-3, Pro. 19:2, Heb. 5:12-14: Eph. 5:17.
 - a. Causes many to be misled Eph. 4:14.
6. Hypocrisy.
 - a. Jesus most severe in condemnation Mt. 15:7: 22:18, Mt. 23, Mt. 24:51: Lk. 6:42.
 - b. Many try to hide behind it.
7. Inconsistency.
 - a. "Consistency, thou art a jewel."
 - b. Much inconsistency in the church Mt. 7:3: Lk. 6:46, Jno. 7:23, Rom. 2:1, Tit. 1:16, Jas. 3:10.
8. Lust Pr. 6:25, Mt. 5:28, Rom. 13:4: Gal. 5:16, Col. 3:5, Jas. 1:15, 1 Pet. 2:11, 1 Jno. 2:16-17.
9. Greed Pr. 1:19, Ec. 5:10, Hab. 2:9-10, Mt. 27:5, 1 Ti. 6:9, Jas. 5:3.
10. Lack of love.
 - a. For God Mt. 22:35-37.
 - b. For Christ Jno. 14:23-24.
 - c. For Brethren 1 Pet. 2:17, Heb. 13:1.
 - d. Our neighbor Mt. 22:38-39.
 - e. Our enemies Mt. 5:43-44.
 - f. Proof of our discipleship Jno. 13:15.

ADVERSARIES OF THE CHURCH

1 Cor. 16:9

INTRODUCTION: In the same verse where we learn of the great opportunities of the church we learn that it also has many adversaries. Great opportunities, great opposition. This is natural. Satan blasted the happiness of Eden; Pharaoh was a thorn in the flesh to Israel? the blood-thirsty Jews crucified the Lord of glory, and so the church has had to contest every inch of ground it has gained. Let us note:

I. SOME OF OUR ADVERSARIES:

A. Atheism.

1. David's definition of an Atheist Ps. 14:1, 51:1.
 - a. In Russia the government is their god.
2. Nazi Germany was a godless. Christless. blood-thirsty culture.
3. How can an intelligent person look into the star-studded skies at night, or at the earth in spring or harvest time and thus believe?
4. Men thus attempt to have their own way with an approving conscience.

B. Secularism.

1. This is an age of material interests.
 - a. Dominates educational pursuits.
 - b. It has affected the home.
 - (1) Family life is being abolished. Children shift for selves.
 - (2) Bible no longer the Book of the household.
 - c. Churches are invaded with same secular spirit,
 - (1) Pride and fashion have replaced spirituality.
 - (2) Eloquence is preferred to truth.
 - (3) Liberalism is largely in control.
 - (4) Sermonets have replaced sermons.
 - (5) Entertainment is relied on to draw.
 - (6) Opiate of selfishness within every noble impulse.

C. Modernism.

1. They say the Bible is the work of fallible men who made mistakes.
2. Church has become sort of a social order.
3. Ho hereafter, hence church should help you live better here.

D. Traditionalism.

1. "The old time religion is good enough for me." So, many think.
 - a. Christ condemned tradition Mt. 15:1-13.

E. Mysticism.

1. Better felt than told religion. All heart, no head.
2. Dreams, visions, strange sights and sounds considered higher authority than the Word.

F. Romanism.

1. Responsible for the Dark Ages.
2. Discouraged Bible reading - kept it locked up in Latin language.
3. Once openly hostile to free speech and free press. free school and state education.
4. Sought to control politics and public funds.
3. Would like to regain former political power.

G. Sectarianism.

1. An outgrowth of the Reformation.
2. Spawned by misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the Bible.
3. Confusing to the honest, sincere seeker.
4. "One church as good as another" (?) All branches of same vine (?).
5. Others say "All could be wrong", true but the Bible tells of -
 - a. One that is right and cannot be wrong Mt. 16:18, Jno. 17:21-23, Eph. 4:1-6: Col. 1:18.

CO-OPERATION IN THE CHURCH
Neh. 4:16

INTRODUCTION: A great trust has been committed to the church. We have before us an open door. While our opportunities are great, we are also faced with many adversaries. If the church is to improve its opportunities in fulfilling its mission it must not overlook the divinely ordained means to this end. If this great mission is to be fulfilled, there must be co-operation.

I. THE BIBLE TEACHES CO-OPERATION. BOTH BY PRECEPT AND EXAMPLE:

- A. Success in any calling depends upon it.
 - 1. We must observe the rules of health.
 - 2. It is true of the farmer. Must recognize laws of nature.
 - 3. It is true of doctors.
 - 4. Equally true in religion 2 Cor. 6:1, 1 Cor. 3:9.
- B. Divine agencies have always cooperated.
 - 1. In creation Gen. 1:26 - "Let us".
 - 2. In effecting salvation 1 Jno. 1:7.
 - a. God planned, Christ executed, Holy Spirit revealed the plan
Jno. 1:1-2, Col. 1:16-17, Eph. 3:1-11, 2 Kgs. 2:6-9, Lk. 10:1, Acts 13:2, 15:40.
- C. It is exemplified in the marriage relation.
 - 1. Wife given for a help-meet Gen. 2:18.
 - 2. Wife to submit, husband to love Eph. 5:20-50.
 - 3. They are "one" in purpose, aim and objective.
- D. Examples of its contribution to success.
 - 1. Sustains in time of weakness Ex. 17:8-16.
 - 2. Gave Israel success in battle Jud. 20:11.
 - 3. Gives nerve for conflict 1 Sam. 14:6-7.
 - 4. Inspires men to improve their condition 2 Kgs. 6:1.
 - 5. It will encourage reform Ezra 10:4.
 - 6. It assures victory Neh. 4:16-17.
 - 7. It is essential to assure worldly success: In athletics.
 - a. Players must keep training rules.
 - b. Follow coaches instructions.
 - c. Practice regularly.
 - d. Work together - no "grand stand" plays.
- E. It is essential for congregations to succeed.
 - 1. As individuals, co-operate with God 2 Cor. 6:1.
 - a. Partake of spiritual food daily, exercise daily, pray often.
 - 2. As members of His body, cooperate with one another Phil. 1:27.
 - a. "Striving together".
 - (1) Unity of thought 1 Cor. 1:10.
 - (2) Unity of purpose - to please God Gal. 1:10.
 - (3) Unity of action.
 - (4) In unity there is strength.
 - (5) There must be operation before there can be co-operation.
 - 5. The New Testament church co-operated:
 - a. In benevolence Acts 4:33-37, 11:29-30.
 - (1) One church may send to many churches Acts 11:27-30, Gal. 1:22.
 - (2) Many churches may send to one church 1 Cor. 16:1-5, 2 Cor. 8:1-5, 9:1-2, Rom. 15:25-32.
 - b. In evangelism 1 Cor. 9:14, 2 Cor. 11:8, Acts 11:22, Phil. 1:3-5, 2:25, 4:15-18.
 - (1) Several churches may support same preacher 2 Cor. 11:8-9.
 - (2) Money was always sent directly to preacher in field.

THE PERILS OF THE CHURCH

Jer. 31:7

INTRODUCTION: Our text refers to Israel, but present conditions in the church make necessary a similar prayer for spiritual Israel, Let us notice.

I. WHAT SUCH A PRAYER INVOLVES.

A. That Israel was in peril.

1. The church has often been in peril.
 - a. Enemies have ever sought her destruction.
 - (1) Sadducees Acts 4:1-3, 5:19-29.
 - (2) Saul was a ringleader Acts 6:9-15, 8:1-4, 9:1.
 - (3) Judaizing teachers Gal. 1:6-9.
 - (4) Paganism Acts 16:19-29.
 2. Greatest peril is from within.
 - a. True of temporal Israel.
 - (1) Her adversaries, but her sins weakened her De. 32:15.
 - (2) Behold Israel under the Judges.
 - b. True of spiritual Israel also.
 - (1) Peril of worldly conformity.
 - (a) Church should be distinct from world Jno. 17:14.
 - (b) Church in, but not of world Col. 1:13, 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
 - (2) Peril of spiritual apathy.
 - (a) Danger of losing first love Rev. 2:4.
 - (b) Lukewarmness Rev. 3:15-18.
 - (c) Formalism 2 Tim. 3:5.
 - (d) Nominalism — only numbers are important to some.
 - (e) Life, pathos, consecration, devotion lacking.
 - (3) Peril of sordid selfishness.
 - (a) True of early church Phil. 2:21
 - (b) "There is that withholdeth" Pro. 11:24.
 - (c) Israel reprov'd for robbing God Mal. 3:8-10.
 - (4) The peril of division.
 - (a) Unity means strength Mt. 12:25, Eph. 4:1-6.
 - (b) Christ prayed for unity Jn. 17:20-21.

II. WHAT THE TEXT INCLUDES.

A. The conviction of our perilous state.

1. Dangerous to be lost unaware — but many are.
 - a. Israel once cried, "Peace, peace" Jer. 6:13-14.
 - b. Self-complacency is dangerous - "Rich & increased" Rev. 3:18.
 - c. Often like ostrich - head hid in the sand.
 - d. Let us face the issue - "Awake, Arise!" Eph. 5:14.

B. An earnest longing for the church's revival.

1. Unconcern makes danger more grave. Paul was concerned Col. 2:1-2.
2. Only those concerned will do anything Eze. 9:1-6.

III. WHY WE SHOULD THUS EARNESTLY PRAY.

A. Because of deep concern for the glory of Christ.

1. "I am glorified in them" Jno. 17:10.
2. Do we reflect His glory? Eph. 3:21, Tit. 2:10.
3. Does apathy, selfishness, formality glorify Christ?

B. Because of deep concern for well being of mankind.

1. When the church is lost, Woe be unto the world.
 - a. Influence removed:
 - (1) No salt to save Mt. 5:13.
 - (2) No light to illuminate Mt. 5:14-16.

WHY SHOULD THE WORK CEASE?

Neh. 6:3

INTRODUCTION: Nehemiah returned from Babylon to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls which had been torn down. His enemies tried to persuade him to stop work. Note his answer, "Why should the work cease?" Our task is to rebuild the church and its defenses which were greatly damaged by the Apostasy and the Reformation. Satan tries to discourage the work. Why should the work cease? Let us note,

I. REASONS WHY IT SHOULD NOT CEASE;

- A. Because of its moral grandeur.
 - 1. Nature and providence are grand, but grandest work is grace,
 - a. God spoke universe into being, but to save man required:
 - (1) Covenants, dispensations, blood.
- B. Because of its gracious character - It offers:
 - 1. Pardon to guilty; compassion to ungodly; mercy to the wretched; riches to the poor; salvation to the lost.
- C. Because of its elevating influence.
 - 1. Humanizes savages; enlightens the ignorant; purifies the unholy; lifts up the down trodden.
- D. Counteracts the work of Satan: If the work of:
 - 1. Light cease, darkness will prevail.
 - 2. Truth cease, error will abound.
 - 3. Liberty cease, corruption will triumph.
 - 4. Heaven cease, hell will triumph.

II. INTEREST AND CONCERN WE SHOULD MANIFEST.

- A. Church is divine, but the work must be done by humans.
 - 1. Divine ordinances, influence, truth, compassion.
 - 2. Members must: know duty, feel responsibility, discharge obligations.
- B. If to flourish around us, must prosper within us.
 - 1. No apathy - a sleeping church cannot awaken the world.
 - 2. No formalism - a formal church cannot spiritualize the world.
 - 3. No indolence - an idol church cannot do God's arduous work.
 - 4. Not covetous - covetousness is the iceberg that destroys the vessel of mercy on the voyage of salvation.
- C. If work is not to cease:
 - 1. Spirit of glowing zeal must animate every department.
 - a. Ministers must preach the Word 2 Tim. 4:2.
 - b. Elders must watch, work, pray, feed, oversee, lead 1 Pet. 5:1-4.
 - c. Members must be consecrated 2 Cor. 8:5, devout, industrious 1 Cor. 15:58.
 - d. Young must be encouraged, trained, kept busy.
 - e. Labor must be the watchword of Zion; zeal the spirit; truth her ammunition; love her armor.

III. WORK CANT CEASE UNLESS IT IS FIRST BEGUN.

- A. How many congregations are really working?
 - 1. Some are asleep, indifferent Rev. 3: 15-18. Just playing church.
 - 2. Some are mere worshipping societies.
 - 3. Some don't distinguish between worship and work.
 - 4. God has given the church a great work Eph. 4:11-12.
 - a. Work of edification - teaching. 2 Tim. 2:2.
 - b. Work of benevolence Acts 11:29-30.
 - c. Work of evangelism Mk. 16:15-16, Phil. 4:15-17.

CONCLUSION: "To the work, to the work, ye are servants of God."

PURE RELIGION

Jas. 1:27

INTRODUCTION: There are essentially two kinds of religion. One originated with God, the other with men. There are two extremes in religion. One thinks of religion as consisting of knowledge and belief only, the other as a system of actions. Pure religion unites the two. God's doctrine is the foundation, good works, the super—structure.

I. IS ONE RELIGION AS GOOD AS ANOTHER? IP SO WHY?

- A. Bid Jesus take away Jewish religion? He. 10:9, Col. 2:14, Eph. 2:14-15.
- B. Bid the Jews renounce Judaism?
- C. Why did Paul change? Gal. 1:13-14, Phil. 3:7-8.
- B. Why did Paul devote his life to changing others 1 Thess. 1:9.

II. ANY PURE RELIGION -

- A. Must have a pure:
 1. Source Psa. 12:6, Mt. 5:7-8.
 2. Principles: sincerity of motive, purity of aim, uprightness of action.
 - a. Not established with carnal sword Zech. 4:6, 2 Cor. 10:4-5.
 3. Influence - Like:
 - a. Water, it cleanses Is. 1:16, Acts 22:16, 2 Cor. 7:1, Jas. 4:8.
 - b. Fire, it refines Is. 48:10, Mal. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:7, 4:12.
 - c. Medicine, it heals Ps. 41:4; Lk. 4:18.
 - d. Power, it elevates 1 Cor. 6:9-11, Eph. 2:1, Rom. 6:17-18.
 4. Object of worship Ex. 20:3, Rev. 22:9.
 5. Sacrifice 1 Cor. 5:7, Heb. 12:2
 6. Doctrine Rom. 1:16, Gal. 1:6-9.
 7. Worship Jno. 4:23-24.
 8. Ordinances - God given - Baptism, Lord's Supper
 9. Institution - Church bought with Christ's blood Acts 20:28.
 10. Membership 1 Jno. 1:7, 2 Cor. 5:17, 1 Cor. 6:11.

III. CHRISTIAN RELIGION TEACHES ITS TO BE PURE:

- A. In heart Mt. 5:8, Phil. 4:8.
- B. In speech Col. 4:6, Jas. 1:26.
- C. In conduct Mt. 5:16, Phil. 1:27 - Unspotted. Worldliness puts spots on:
 1. Our affections, conscience, influence 1 Tim. 4:1-2, 1 Jno. 2:15-16, Tit. 2:10.

IV. GOB WANTS RELIGION TO BE KEPT PURE.

- A. Pure food law Deut. 4:2, 12:32, Psa. 3:6, Rev. 22:18-19.
 1. Free from poison Mt. 15:7-8, Gal. 1:6-9.
 2. Beware of substitutes: sprinkling, choirs, book reviews for gospel.
 3. Contents should be labeled "Poison".
 4. We are warned of the danger 2 Tim. 4:1-5.

7. EVIDENCE DEMANDED.

- A. "Visit fatherless and widows. Jas. 1:27.
 1. Religion is not something you "feel" or "get".
 2. It is something you "do".
 3. "Visit": inspect, look upon, care for, oversee, help - Vine.
 4. Help "widows indeed" 1 Tim. 5:3-10. This eliminates many.
- B. "Keep self unspotted from world."
 1. Delivered from it Col. 1:13.
 2. Raised above it.
 3. Separated from it 2 Cor. 6:17-18.

AUTHORIZED RELIGION
Mt. 21:23-27, 7:29

INTRODUCTION

- A. Authority must come from God.
 - 1. Christ got His authority from God Mt. 28:18
 - 2. Christ authorized the apostles' work Jno. 14:26, 16:15, 2 Tim. 3:16-17;
 - 3. Our authority comes from the Word Isa. 8:20,

I. GOD AUTHORIZED:

- A. Patriarchal religion,
 - 1. Abel offered by faith Gen. 4:4, Heb. 11:4.
 - 2. Noah obeyed God Gen. 6:22,
 - 5. Abraham did what God said Heb. 11:8, Rom. 4:3.
- B. Jewish religion,
 - 1. A specific law given Ex. 20.
 - a. Relationship to God Ex. 20:3-8.
 - (1) Object, manner and time of worship designated.
 - b. Relationship to man Ex. 20:12-17,
 - 2. Specific instructions for tabernacle Heb. 8:5.
 - 3. No deviation tolerated Deut. 4:2, 12:52,
- C. Christian religion,
 - 1. Jesus the author Heb. 5:8-9, 12:2.
 - 2. Revealed in New Testament 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - 3. We dare not change it,
 - a. Complete in Him Col. 2:9-10,
 - b. Thoroughly furnished 2 Pet. 1:4, 2 Tim. 5:16-17.
 - c. John's admonition Rev. 22:18-19,
 - 4. Jesus authorized:
 - a. Baptism Mt. 28:18-19.
 - (1) In name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 - (2) In water Acts 10:47-48,
 - (3) By immersion Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12,
 - (4) For remission of sins Acts 2:38,
 - b. The church, as:
 - (1) God's missionary organization, Eph. 5:10, 21,4:11-15, Phil. 4:15-17.
 - (2) Benevolent organization,
 - (a) Individually, all men Gal. 6:10, Jas. 1:27.
 - (b) Collectively, saints 1 Tim. 5:8-10, 16.
 - (5) Educational institution, Eph. 3:10, 4:11-15.
 - (4) Means of support 1 Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 9:7, 8:12,
 - c. Worship.
 - (1) Acts of worship Acts 2:42, Eph. 5:19, Col. 5:16.
 - (2) Object of worship Jn. 4:25-24.
 - (3) Manner of worship "
 - (4) Way of worship "

II. HOW AUTHORITY MUST BE ESTABLISHED:

- A. Direct statement or command,
 - 1, Examples: Acts 17:30, Lk. 13:5, 1 Cor. 16:1-2.
- B. Approved example Acts 20:7, 11:29-30,
- C. Necessary inference or logical conclusion. Examples:
 - 1. Lot went down into Egypt with Abram Gen. 13:1, 12:10,
 - 2. Before He was baptized Jesus went down into the water Mt. 26:26-28,

UNAUTHORIZED RELIGION

Mt. 7:29

INTRODUCTION: Authority means the right to exercise power; the power of rule or government; legal or rightful power; power to enforce obedience. There are three types of authority: primary, delegated and usurped. Primary authority belongs to God; Christ's power was delegated (Mt. 28:18); Satan's authority was usurped. Authority is either authorized or unauthorized. In religion, all authority must come from God. otherwise it is unauthorized or usurped, therefore unsafe and condemned.

I. UNAUTHORIZED RELIGIONS OF THE PAST.

- A. Cain's religion Gen. 4:3-8.
 - 1. Not by faith Heb. 11:4, Rom. 10:17.
 - 2. Rejected Gen. 4:5.
- B. Builders of Babel Gen. 11:4.
 - 1. God put an end to it Gen. 11:5.
- C. Nadab and Abihu Lev. 10:1-2.
 - 1. They rejected God's plan Lev. 16:12.
 - 2. Strange fire is not safe fire.
 - 3. Devotion must be sacred fire, a heaven descended flame.
 - a. Not mere lip service Mt. 15:7-9.
 - b. Not to be seen of men Mt. 6:1—5.
 - c. Not spectacular to draw crowds, e.g., entertainment, showmanship.
 - d. Not formalism 2 Tim. 3:5.
 - 4. We often see the "strange fire" of:
 - a. Selfishness Mt. 25:45, Mk. 10:37, Lk. 10:31-32.
 - b. Self righteousness Pr. 30:12, 2 Cor. 11:12.
 - c. Pride Pr. 16:18, 1 Jno. 2:16.
 - d. Party zeal Mt. 25:15, Acts 26:11, Phil. 3:6.
 - e. Carnal desire Mk. 4:19, 1 Cor. 10:6, Eph. 2:3, Jas. 4:2.
- D. Moses Num. 20.
 - 1. God said: "speak to the rock."
 - 2. Moses spoke to the people and smote the rock - unauthorized.
 - 3. Did not sanctify God Num. 20:10.
 - 4. End did not justify means. Note his punishment.
- E. Uzziah 2 Chro. 26:16. He usurped authority. Note his punishment.
- F. Jeroboam 1 Kgs. 12:25-33.
 - 1. A religion of convenience v. 28.
 - 2. God disapproved 1 Kgs. 13:1—5.
- G. All such religions come to nought.
 - 1. Gamaliel's advice Acts 5:33-39.

II. PRESENT DAY UNAUTHORIZED RELIGION.

- A. Salvation by faith only. Please note: Acts 16:30-31, 2:38, 8:36-37, Mk. 16:15-16, Acts 22:16.
- B. Salvation by grace only — two sides:
 - 1. Grace on divine side Eph. 2:8.
 - 2. Faith on human side Eph. 2:8, Rom. 5:1-2.
- C. Sprinkling for baptism.
 - 1. First practiced in third century.
 - 2. Authorized by men 1311 A. D.
- D. Instrumental music. Introduced 606 A. D. "Sing" Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16.
 - 1. Don't forget: Cain, Nadab and Abihu, Moses, Uzziah, Jeroboam.

in. GOD'S PLAN IS FINAL Jude 3.

- A. God "hath spoken" Heb. 1:1-2. Notice past tense.
 - 1. It is complete Col. 2:9-10, 2 Tim. 5:16-17, Rev. 22:18-19.
 - 2. All modern so-called revelations are "Strange Fire." Beware.

COUNTERFEIT RELIGION

Phil. 1:10

INTRODUCTION: Definition: feigned, spurious, forged; an imitation of something genuine with intent to deceive. The more valuable, the more likely to be counterfeited. Money and religion are often counterfeited. Men don't counterfeit Confederate money. There are many counterfeit religions today, Hence:

I. WE MUST? BE ABLE TO APPROVE THINGS THAT ARE EXCELLENT Phil. 1:10.

A. That is, distinguish things that differ.

1. To detect a counterfeit dollar, we must know the genuine.
2. For religion to be genuine it must be authorized:
 - a. In New Testament by: command, approved example or necessary inference.
3. We must know: the N. T., the church, its worship, its work.

II. THE DEVIL IS IFF THE COUNTERFEIT BUSINESS.

A. Janes and Jambres Ex. 7 s10-12, 2 Tim. 3:8.

B. Jeroboam 1 Kgs. 12:26-32.

1. Counterfeit place - Dan and Bethel - not Jerusalem.
2. Idols and calves instead of God.
3. False priests instead of Levites.
4. False feasts. Eighth month instead of seventh.
5. All an imitation - but a perversion of God's order.
6. Even had gods they could see. Jehovah is invisible.
7. A religion of convenience - but 12 miles to Jerusalem.

III. THE DEVIL MAJORS IN SUBSTITUTES.A. False: Christs Mt. 24:24; false angels 2 Cor. 11:14-15; spirits 1 Jno. 4:1-3.B. False: prophets 2 Pet. 2:1-2; teachers Acts 20:29-30; apostles 2 Cor. 11:13

1. To be apostles they must have seen Christ,
 - a. How about: Smith, White, Eddy, Russell?

C. Counterfeit Christians - hypocrites, pretenders Mt. 23.

D. Counterfeit churches.

1. There is but one church mentioned in Bible Eph. 2:20-22, 4:4-6, Col. 1:18. But men have counterfeited its:
 - a. Ordinances;
 - (1) Mass, holy water, celibacy, images, idols.
 - b. Method of conversion.
 - (1) Method of conversion - True way — three changes:
 - (a) Mind changed by faith Heb. 11:6.
 - (b) Life changed by repentance Acts 2:38, 3:19.
 - (c) Relationship by baptism Gal. 3:27-29, 1 Cor. 12:13.
 - (2) Men make it more simple and easy.
 - (a) "Say, yes, to Jesus, invite Him into heart, sign card."
 - c. Worship
 - (1) Instruments, choirs — a rehearsed performance.
 - (2) Formalism 2 Tim. 3:5, ritualism.
 - d. Books - instead of the Bible they have:
 - (1) Key to Scriptures.
 - (2) Book of Mormon.
 - (3) Creeds - but see 1 Pet. 4:11.
 - e. Unity.
 - (1) Ecumenism.
 - (2) Mergers.
 - (3) Unity in diversity - but see Jno. 17:20-21, Eph. 4:4-6.

E. But the true church still exists.

1. Can be identified.
2. Let us keep it pure Eph. 5:25-27, 2 Tim. 1:13, 1 Pet. 4:11.

THE WORK OF RELIGION

Phil. 1:6

INTRODUCTION: Define — the word religion literally means: "re" again, "lig" to bind, "ion" the act of. When put together — the act of binding back again. Man was separated from God by sin (Isa. 59:2). The Bible is the system God has designed to bind man back to God again. Let us note that;

I. TRUE RELIGION IS AN INTERNAL WORK — "IN YOU".

- A. Work of light upon the understanding Psa. 119:104, 105. 130.
 - 1. Spiritually, the mind was in darkness Eph. 5:8, 1 Thess. 5:4, Jno. 1:4-5f Eph. 2:11-12.
 - a. Source of light Mal. 4:2, Jno. 8:12.
 - b. Medium through which transmitted 2 Cor. 4:4, Psa. 119:104.
 - 2. Man by nature a worshiping being.
 - a. Have worshiped everything - nature, men, idols.
 - b. Knew not what nor how to worship.
- B. Work of truth influencing the judgment.
 - 1. Judgment - the process of the mind in comparing ideas.
 - 2. Natural laws learned by experimentation, e.g., Law of Relativity,
 - a. A slow and costly process. Soul too valuable to wait, hence:
 - 3. Spiritual law is revealed 1 Cor. 2:9-10, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:3.
 - a. Men still seeking new truths - many man-made religions.
 - b. Revealed truth in complete Col. 2:9-10, final Jude 3.
 - c. Tells man whom Ex. 4:3, Rev. 22:8-9, how Jno. 4:23-24, Acts 2:42.
 - d. How to come to Christ - Heb. 11:6, Acts 3:19, Rom. 10:9, Acts 2:38.
 - e. How to live in Christ - all the epistles.
- C. Work of love softening the affections.
 - 1. Must be softened before molded Rom. 6:17-18.
 - a. Iron, gold, silver, copper first go to the foundry, melted.
 - b. Made into image of Christ - bear His likeness - preach love.
- D. Work of grace changing the heart - by Gospel 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - 1. Three changes necessary:
 - a. Faith changes the mind - first understand what is required.
 - b. Repentance changes the heart - be willing to accept.
 - c. Baptism changes the relationship Rom. 6:4, 17-18, Gal. 3:27-29.

II. TRUE RELIGION HAS GOD AS ITS AUTHOR Heb. 12:2.

- A. He saw the necessity Eph. 2:1-3.
 - 1. He originated the plan of salvation.
 - 2. He drafted the scheme of redemption Jno. 3:16.
 - 3. He outlined the policy - man must accept Mt. 7:21.
- B. He began the work - "which hath begun" Phil. 1:6
 - 1. Saw the possibilities.
 - 2. Directed Paul to go Acts 16:9.

III. TRUE RELIGION IS A WORK OF PRE-EMINENT EXCELLENCE.

- A. Makes saints out of sinners 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Eph. 2:1-5.
- B. Makes servants profitable Philemon 10.
- C. Makes world a better place.

IV. TRUE RELIGION IS PROGRESSIVE - "WILL PERFORM IT." Phil. 1:6.

- A. We are first babes Jno. 3:3-5, 1 Pet. 2:1."
- B. Provision made for growth 1 Pet. 2:2, 2 Pet. 3:18, Heb. 5:12-14.
- C. Sanctification - set apart, continue to grow 1 Thess. 5:23.

INADEQUATE RELIGION

Jas. 1:27

INTRODUCTION: Great forces are at work in the world. Some: constructive or destructive; build up or tear down; save or destroy. Religion is a force in shaping human events. It helps determine our eternal destiny. Religion may be potent or impotent, adequate or inadequate. Note:

I. OUR RELIGION IS INADEQUATE WHEN:

- A. It fails to cause us to love:
 - 1. God Mt. 22:37, 1 Jno. 3:17, 4:9-10, 4:19-21. Proof of our love -
 - a. We will want to serve Him Isa. 6:8, 1 Chro. 29:5.
 - b. We want to be near Him Heb. 10:22.
 - c. Talk to Him 1 Thess. 5:17, 2 Chr. 7:14, Jas. 5:16, 1 Jno. 3:22.
 - d. Obey Him Jno. 14:15, 15:14.
 - 2. The brethren 1 Jno. 3:14-15, 4:7-8, 12, 29, 5:2.
 - a. Nature of love to brethren:
 - (1) Sincere Rom. 12:9.
 - (2) Fervent 1 Pet. 2:21.
 - (3) Abounding 1 Thess. 3:12.
 - 3. Our enemies Mt. 5:44, Rom. 12:20, Lk. 23-34, Acts 7:60.
- B. It fails to make us new creatures 2 Cor. 5:17 - New:
 - 1. In relation to law of God Jno. 3:18, Rom. 8:1.
 - 2. New in relation to government of God Eph. 2:19-22.
 - 3. New in relation to family of God Gal. 3:27-29, Rom. 9:14-17.
 - 4. Walk in newness of life Rom. 6:4. New:
 - a. Principles to walk from Mt. 7:12.
 - b. Ends to walk toward Lk. 13:24.
 - c. Purpose to live for Phil. 3:7-10.
 - d. Goals to strive for Phil. 3:13-14.
 - e. Leader to follow after Mt. 16:24.
 - f. Companions to walk with Pro. 4:14-15.
- C. It fails to cause us to:
 - 1. See opportunities Rev. 3:8, 1 Cor. 16:9.
 - 2. Accept responsibilities Lk. 12:47-48, Isa. 6:8, Mt. 25:1-10, Acts 16:9.
 - 3. Discharge duties -
 - a. In field of worship Heb. 10:25.
 - b. In field of work Mt. 25:26-27, 44-45, Gal. 6:1.
- D. It fails to:
 - 1. Make us different from the crowd Tit. 2:14, 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
 - 2. Cause us to excel Mt. 5:20, 38-41.
 - 3. Become salt of the earth Mt. 5:13. Salt is:
 - a. A preservative. Preserves meat, but must contact it - rub it in.
 - (1) World is a rotting mess. It needs salt.
 - (2) If there is a salt shortage it is our fault.
 - b. A germicide - kills germs. Jas. 1:15.
 - (1) Does your example discourage or encourage sin in others?
 - c. A condiment - seasons food, makes it palatable.
 - (1) Makes world a better place to live.
 - 4. Make us the light of the world Mt. 5:16.
 - a. Are you? Mt. 5:16, 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
- E. It makes us uncomfortable.
 - 1. Some have just enough religion to make them miserable.
 - a. Torn between two conflicting desires Lk. 16:13, Rom. 7:15-25.
 - 2. True religion makes us happy Mt. 5:3-5, 1 Thess. 5:16, Phil. 4:4.

CONCLUSION: Is your religion authorized or unauthorized, counterfeit, pure, or inadequate? Has it bound you back to God? Let us examine ourselves.

LUKEWARMNESS IN RELIGION
Rev. 3:15-18

INTRODUCTION: According to the Bible there have been but three systems of religion: Patriarchal, Jewish, Christian. All originated with God. The first two pointed forward to Christ; the Holy Spirit revealed all three. Christ fulfilled the first two by taking them out of the way (Eph. 2:14-15). There remains but one system that is recognized by God - the Christian. Satan is trying to destroy it by disease. Let us consider:

I. WHAT RELIGION INVOLVES:

- A. The head.
 - 1. The seat of the intellect. With the intellect we:
 - a. Acquire, retain, arrange, and elaborate knowledge.
 - b. That is, we can learn, remember, reason, imagine.
- B. The heart.
 - 1. The center of feeling - sensibilities:
 - a. Emotions; joy, sorrow, hope, despair.
 - b. Affections: love, hate, pity, sympathy.
 - c. Desire: for food, drink, knowledge, happiness.
 - d. Sentiments: love of beauty, truth, God, man.
- C. The hand.
 - 1. With it we act, do.
 - a. It must be directed by the head Eph. 5:17, 2 Tim. 2:2.
- D. Relationship of each to religion.
 - 1. Some religion is all head, no heart - cold, formal, ritualistic.
 - 2. Some, all heart, no head - zeal without knowledge Rom. 10:2.
 - 3. No action unless head is informed and heart motivated.
 - a. Hence Gospel contains: facts, promises and threats, commands.
 - b. Perfect motor, full tank, no action without transmission.

II. RELIGION OFTEN AFFECTED BY DISEASE - INDIFFERENCE Rev. 5:15-18.

- A. Nature of the disease.
 - 1. Dulls the intellect Hos. 4:6.
 - 2. Hardens the heart Mt. 13:15.
 - 3. Paralysis the hand Mt. 25:44-45. To get action we must:
 - a. Inform the intellect Mt. 28:18-20, Eph. 5:17, 2 Tim. 2:2.
 - b. Touch the heart Jno. 13:34; Mt. 22:36-39, Eph. 3:14-19.
 - c. Move the will Jas. 1:22-25, Phil. 4:9.
- B. Cause of the disease.
 - 1. Smug complaisance - indifference Rev. 3:15-18.
 - a. "Rich" - thought they had arrived De. 32:15, satisfied, conceited.
 - b. "Need of nothing" - like Pharisee Lk. 18:11-14.
 - c. "Knowest not" - Unconscience of disease, e.g., cancer, frost-bite.
 - 2. Failure to see that religion has obligation as well as privilege Ph. 1:29.
 - 3. Feeble influence of the cross Mt. 26:58, 69-70.
 - 4. Illicit relation with world. Lk. 16:13.
- C. Effect of disease.
 - 1. Caused them to provide food for body, neglect soul Lk. 12:19-21.
- D. Remedy prescribed.
 - 1. "Buy gold" - part with sin and sufficiency Isa. 55:1-2.
 - 2. "White raiment" - put off rags Col. 3:8-11, put on Col. 3:12-13.
 - 3. "Eye salve" - that ye may see self and duty Jno. 4:35-36.
 - 4. Otherwise - "wretched, poor, blind, miserable".

CONCLUSION: How is your spiritual health?(3 Jno. 2). Have frequent examinations (2 Cor. 13:5). Consult the Great Physician frequently (2 Tim. 2:15). Build up resistance to germs of sin (Jas. 1:15). Keep self immune.

TRINITY OF THE GODHEAD

1 Jno. 5:7

INTRODUCTION: It is interesting to note how many trinities there are in the Scriptures. In this series let us note just a few of them. Our text speaks of the Father; the Son; and the Holy Spirit. Yet, "these three are one."

1. While one, yet they are different.
 - a. God sent His Son Jno. 8:42.
 - b. Christ sent the Holy Spirit Jno. 14:26.
 - c. The Father is God Jno. 3:16-17.
 - d. The Son is God Heb. 1:8.
 - e. The Spirit is God Acts 5:3-4. QUESTION:
2. How can they be different, yet be one?
 - a. Husband and wife are one, yet two personalities Eph. 3:31
 - b. Business organization.
 - (1) President.
 - (2) Secretary-treasurer.
 - (3) Vice-president in charge of sales and production.
 - c. They are one in purpose, end, aim, objective. So with the Godhead.

I. THE FATHER ORIGINATED THE PLAN OF SALVATION. WHICH:

- A. Reveals God's purpose Gen. 3:15.
- B. Was contained in promise Gen. 12:1-3, Gen. 49:10.
- C. Foretold in prophecy Isa. 7:14, 53:4-6, 35:8-10.
- D. Typified by:
 1. Tabernacle -
 - a. Court, type of world.
 - b. Holy place, type of church.
 - c. Most Holy Place, type of heaven. You can't get from world to heaven without going through the church.
 - d. Furniture:
 - (1) Brazen altar in court, type of Christ sacrificed for us.
 - (2) Laver, type of washing of regeneration Tit. 3:5.
 - (3) Table of showbread, type of Lord's Supper.
 - (4) Candlestick, type of light of Bible.
 - (5) Golden altar, type of prayers of saints.
 2. Temple, a type in a similar way.

II. THE SON EXECUTED THE PLAN WHICH GOD ORIGINATED.

- A. Must become flesh - hence:
 1. Was born of woman Lk. 1:30-35, Mt. 1:18-23, Lk. 2:9-11.
 2. a Body must be prepared Heb. 10:5.
- B. Erection of a building Mt. 16:18.
- C. Selection of personnel Mt. 10:1-4.
- D. Teaching and training Mt. 11:28-30, Mt. 5, 6, 7, Note 7:28-29.
- E. Setting an example Mt. 16:24.
- F. Atonement Rom. 5:11.
- G. Reconciliation 2 Cor. 5:18-19.
- H. Government 1 Cor. 15:24-25.

III. SPIRIT REVEALED THE PLAN OF SALVATION.

- A. Plan must be authorized by God.
- B. To guide the apostles Jno. 14:26, 16:13, Lk. 24:49, Acts 1:8.
- C. Apostles revealed plan 1 Cor. 2:9-10, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:21.
- D. Christians are guided through the word. 1 Pet. 4:11, Ps. 119:104.
- E. Apostles sent to secure stockholders Mt. 28:19-20, Mk. 16:15-16.

CONCLUSION: We must keep the plan solvent and functioning.

THREE OFFICES OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION: The three most important offices under Jewish law were: prophet, priest and king. But no one man held more than one of these offices except Melchisedec (Heb. 5:7). Like Melchisedec, Christ held all three offices simultaneously. Christ is the pre-eminent One (Col. 1:18-19). Our "all in all" (Col. 3:11). **CHRIST WAS:**

I. THE GREATEST PROPHET.

- A. Def. - One who speaks to man for God.
 1. One upon whom the Spirit of God rested Num. 11:17-29.
 2. Under influence of Holy Spirit spoke the words and thoughts of God regarding the past, present, and future.
 3. Had something to say, and had to say it.
- B. Kinds of prophets in Old Testament.
 1. False, mercenary, political 2 Pet. 2:1-3.
 2. Oral: Samuel, Nathan, Gad, Jehu, Elijah, Elisha.
 3. Literary: Isaiah to Malachi. All were writers.
- C. Work:
 1. To teach, preach, warn, plead with the people.
 2. To foretell the future, to predict.
- D. Christ the greatest prophet. Deut. 18:15-18.
 1. Recognized as such Mt. 21:11, Lk. 7:16, 24:19, Acts 3:32.
 2. Greatest Teacher Mt. 7:28-29. e.g., Sermon on Mount.
 3. Uttered great warning - Eight woes Mt. 23.
 4. Greatest prediction Mt. 24.

II. THE GREATEST PRIEST.

- A. Def. - One who speaks to God for man.
- B. Work:
 1. Intercede Heb. 7:25. We will need Him at the Judgment.
 2. Pleads our cause - our advocate 1 Jno. 2:1, Mt. 23:37.
 3. Our sacrifice. Offered Himself for us Isa. 53:4-6.
- C. Our high priest - Heb. 2:17, 4:14-15, 7:25-26, 9:11-14.
 1. Greater than Levi Heb. 7:4-11. Greater than Melchisedec Heb. 5.
 - a. Neither of them (Melchisedec or Christ) inherited or transmitted the priesthood.
- D. Characteristics:
 1. Human and divine Heb. 4:14-15. Hence could sympathize.
 2. Sinless Heb. 7:26, Exalted Heb. 8:1.

III. THE GREATEST KING.

- A. Jews expected an earthly king or Messiah. Hence rejected Him.
 1. Recognized by John the Baptist Jno. 1:29.
 2. Acknowledged himself to be king Jno. 18:36—37.
 3. Prince of kings Rev. 1:5, King of kings Rev. 17:14.
 4. Has right to be king Ezek. 21:25-27.
 5. Church is His kingdom. Mt. 16:18.
 - a. Parables show what it is like Mt. 13:24-50.
 6. He now reigns 1 Cor. 15:24-25.
 - a. Church and kingdom are synonymous Mk. 9:1.
 - b. Not future, but present. No thousand year reign.
 7. Kingdom not of this world Jno. 18:36-37. Different in:
 - a. Origin Acts 2.
 - b. Manner of extension Acts 8:4, Col. 1:23.
 - c. Duration Dan. 2:44. Will last until Jesus comes 1 Cor. 15:25-26.
 - d. Defense Jude 3, Phil 1:15-16.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Have you accepted His teaching; can you approach God without Him; are you a citizen in His kingdom?

THREE FUNDAMENTAL FACTS OF THE GOSPEL

1 Cor. 15:1-3

INTRODUCTION: Our text is the introduction to the greatest chapter ever written on the subject of the resurrection. Then, as now, there were many false concepts of the resurrection. Paul corrects those false ideas. The gospel is not based on fiction, but on undeniable facts. Paul lists three facts that must be believed. They are :

- I. THE DEATH OF CHRIST - "CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS".
 - A. A subject of prophecy Isa. 28:14-18, 53:9-12.
 - B. Christ predicted it Mk. 8:1, 9:31, Jno. 10:11, 10:17-18.
 - C. Reason for His death Jno. 12:23-24.
 1. No remission of sins without it Heb. 9:22.
 2. Blood of animals insufficient Heb. 10:1-4.
 - a. Under Old Testament sins were forgiven by virtue of the blood yet to be shed Lev. 4:20, 26, 31, 35.
 3. To fulfil the law Mt. 5:17.
 4. To make the new covenant effective Heb. 9:16-17.
 5. Christ died in our stead Isa. 53:4-6, Rom. 5:6.
 6. For our redemption Rom. 3:23-24, Eph. 1:7, 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
 7. To destroy Satan's power Heb. 2:14.
 - D. Described - its horror Mt. 27.
 1. Accompanied by miracles Mt. 27:51-53.
- II. THE BURIAL OF CHRIST.
 - A. By Joseph Mt. 27:59-60.
 - B. Guard posted Mt. 27:65-66.
 - C. Tomb sealed Mt. 27:62-66.
 - D. In tomb three days Mt. 12:40.
- III. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.
 - A. Covenant with death disannulled Isa. 28:18.
 - B. Witnesses (?) found to be liars Mt. 28:11-15.
 1. Said they were asleep Mt. 28:13.
 - a. Death penalty for sleeping on guard.
 - b. If asleep, how could they have known body was stolen?
 2. Appeared to disciples many times 1 Cor. 15:5-8. Folly to disbelieve.
 - C. Consequences.
 1. If Christ be not risen:
 - a. Preaching and faith are vain 1 Cor. 15:14-18.
 - b. Apostles are false witnesses v. 15.
 - c. We are yet in our sins v. 17.
 - d. The dead are perished v. 18.
 - D. Assures our resurrection.
 1. Christ the firstfruits 1 Cor. 15:20.
 2. Body to be changed 1 Cor. 15:51-57.
 3. Gives us the victory 1 Cor. 15:57.
 4. But one resurrection Jno. 5:28-29. Wicked and righteous same time.
 - a. 1 Thess. 4:16-18. Paul is speaking to the righteous living about the righteous dead. Righteous dead will be raised first, before righteous living are "caught up". Wicked dead not mentioned here. They will be raised at same time Jno. 5:28-29.
 5. This is great comfort to the righteous 1 Thess. 4:18.

CONCLUSION:

If you would be among those comforted, you must believe these facts.

GOBS METHOD OF CHANGING MANS MIND
Phil. 2:5

INTRODUCTION; God made man's mind, therefore He understands its needs.

I. MAN'S MIND HAS THREE DIVISIONS:

- A. Intellect to; think Prov. 23:7? understand Mt. 13:15, believe Acts 8:37.
- B. Sensibilities to: desire Rom. 10:1; trust Pro. 3:5i love Mt. 22:37.
- C. Will to: intend Heb. 4:12; purpose 2 Cor. 9:7; obey Rom. 6:17.
- D. All three need to be changed.
 - 1. Intellect in darkness. needs to be enlightened Eph. 5:8: 4:17.
 - 2. Sensibilities deadened by sin, need to be revived Eph. 4:19.
 - 3. Will in rebellion, needs to be subdued, e.g., Israel Deut. 52:15.
- E. Either division may predominate. Characteristics:
 - 1. Intellectual - scholarship, dignity, decorum.
 - 2. Emotional - amount of feeling in conversion the standard.
 - 3. Volitional - obedience to fixed laws, legalistic.

II. GOSPEL IS PERFECTLY ADAPTED TO THE NORMAL MIND. IT APPEALS TO:

- A. Intellect - By presenting facts.
 - 1. Through divine truth 1 Cor. 15:1-4.
 - a. Death)
 - b. Burial)—Man must believe these facts.
 - c. Resurrection)
 - 2. Thus the mind is changed by faith.
- B. Sensibilities or emotions - changed by presenting:
 - 1. Promises to be enjoyed, through divine love.
 - a. Remission of sins Acts 2:58.
 - b. Gift of Holy Spirit Acts 2:38.
 - (1) That is, what the Spirit gives.
 - (a) Promised Abraham salvation through his seed Gen. 12:1-4.
 - (b) The seed was Christ Gal. 5:16.
 - (c) Blessing of Abraham came on Gentiles through Christ Gal. 3:14.
 - (d) Promise was to both Jew and Gentile Acts 2:58-39.
 - (e) Gentiles became children of Abraham by being baptized into Christ Gal. 3:27-29.
 - (f) Thus salvation is the "gift of the Spirit".
 - c. Eternal life Rom. 6:23.
 - 2. Threats to be feared Mt. 25:41-46, 2 Thess. 1:7-9. Rev. 20:12-15.
- C. Will - through commands to be obeyed.
 - 1. Through divine authority.
 - a. Believe the facts Acts 2:38, 8:36-37.
 - b. Repent. Can't enjoy promises, nor escape threats without repentance.
 - (1) Goodness of God leads to repentance Rom. 2:4.
 - (2; Godly sorrow drives to repentance 2 Cor. 7:10.
 - c. Be baptized upon confession of faith Mk. 16:15-16, Acts 22:16, Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12.

III. THUS THE MIND SURRENDERS.

- A. Intellect surrenders to divine truth in faith.
 - 1. Faith changes the mind.
- B. Sensibilities or emotions surrender to divine love in repentance.
 - 1. Life is changed by repentance.
- C. Will surrenders to divine authority in obedience.
 - 1. Relationship is changed by baptism.

CONCLUSION - Sinner, why not "Surrender All" now, and be saved?

- Adapted from "How To Teach" - Thornton & Sharp.

MAN'S THREE-FOLD NATURE

1 Thess. 5:23

INTRODUCTION: Paul speaks of three parts of man: body, soul, and spirit. In most places he considers the soul and spirit as the inner man (2 Cor. 4:16-18). It takes an instrument as keen as the sword of the Spirit to distinguish between the soul and the spirit. God created man in His own moral and spiritual likeness (Gen. 1:26, Eph. 4:24, Col. 3:10). Little wonder David said, "What is man?"

I. SPIRIT.

A. Spirit makes man different from animals.

1. It is the spirit that gives life Gen. 2:7, Job 32:8.
2. In distinguishing soul and spirit, W. E. Vine says: "Generally speaking the spirit is the higher, the soul the lower element. The spirit may be recognized as the life principle bestowed on man by God, the soul as the resulting life constituted in the individual, the body being the material organism animated by soul and spirit."
3. God is the author and giver of the spirit Zech. 12:1.
4. It is the "candle of the Lord" Pr. 20:27. It seeks information.
5. Part of the inward man 2 Cor. 4:16.
6. Body without spirit is dead Jas. 2:26.
7. Returns to God at death Ecc. 17:7, 3:21.
8. Enoch and Elijah only two who did not die.

II. SOUL.

A. The resulting life Gen. 2:7.

1. The soul is immortal, will never die Mt. 10:28, 1 Cor. 15:53-54.
 - a. Either had a beginning or has always been.
 - b. If it had one beginning, it can have another.
 - c. If it has always been, it can always be.
2. Lives after death Lk. 16:19-31.
3. More important than the body Mt. 16:26.
4. May be lost Mt. 16:26.
5. Goes to Hades at death Lk. 16:19-23.
6. It is conscious after death Lk. 16:23-24.
7. The life we live here determines the soul's destiny Mt. 25:34,41.
8. Should not be without knowledge Pr. 19:2.
9. It has enemies Lk. 22:31, Eph. 6:12.
10. We may destroy it Pr. 6:32.
11. We must help save souls Jas. 5:20.
12. Jesus came to save souls Lk. 19:10.

III. BODY.

A. Created by God Gen. 2:7. Did not evolve from one cell.

1. Fearfully and wonderfully made Ps. 139:14.
2. An earthly house 2 Cor. 5:1-5. Dissolved at death Ecc. 12:7.
3. It is mortal Gen. 3:19, Ecc. 12:7. Heb. 9:27.
4. Dwelling place of soul and spirit 1 Cor. 6:19.
5. We must glorify God in it by the way we live 1 Cor. 6:20.
6. Will be changed at resurrection 1 Cor. 15:51-54, Phil. 3:21, Jno. 5:28-29.
7. Must keep it in subjection 1 Cor. 9:27.

CONCLUSION:

"Is it well with your soul?" You are responsible. Christ wants to save you. Mt. 11:28-30.

THREE STATES OF MAN

Mt. 17:1-9

INTRODUCTION: Transcendently sublime event. Proves the divinity of Jesus. Answers the question of authority. Neither Moses nor the prophets now in authority. Demonstrates the three states of man:

I. FLESHLY STATE — PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN IN THE FLESH.

- A. This state is entered at birth - without our consent.
 - 1. Exit at death against our will.
 - 2. Spirit leaves body, returns to God Ecc. 12:7.
- B. An important state — A period of:
 - 1. Opportunity.
 - a. To grow physically, mentally and spiritually Lk. 2:52.
 - b. To know, to love, to serve, to prepare.
 - 2. Responsibility Lk. 12:47-48.
 - a. Ability plus opportunity equals responsibility.
 - 3. Accountability Lk. 16:1-12.
 - a. Judged according to ability and opportunity Mt. 25:15-30
 - 4. Choice Mt. 11:29-50, 16:24.
 - a. Creatures of our own free will.
 - b. May be wise Mt. 10:42, 1 Kgs. 3:3-14.
 - c. Unwise - Judas.
 - d. Our choice will determine our destiny Mt. 25:46.
 - 5. Preparation.
 - a. We spend much time preparing for 70 years on earth.
 - b. Why not spend more in preparing for eternity?

II. INTERMEDIATE STATE - MOSES.

- A. Represented by Moses.
 - 1. Had been dead for some 1500 years.
 - 2. Buried on Mt. Nebo Deut. 34. Now returns, is recognized.
- B. A conscious state Lk. 16:19—31.
 - 1. Lazarus - in paradise. Abraham's bosom,
 - a. He is comforted.
 - 2. Rich - in tartarus, abode of wicked spirits,
 - a. Tormented Lk. 16:24.
- C. A fixed state.
 - 1. No transfer - great gulf separated them Lk. 16:26.
 - 2. No such thing as a second chance, as some teach.

III. ETERNAL STATE.

- A. Represented by Elijah. Never died 2 Kgs. 2:11. Translated.
 - 1. Preceded by:
 - a. The resurrection Jno. 5:28-29.
 - b. The judgment Heb. 9:27, Rev. 20:12-15.
- B. Possibilities.
 - 1. Eternal punishment 2 Thess. 1:7-9, Mt. 25:46, Rev. 20:12-15.
 - 2. Eternal life Mt. 25:46, Rev. 21:1-5, 22:1-5.
- C. Determined by:
 - 1. Choice made while in fleshly state.
 - 2. Life lived while upon earth 2 Cor. 5:10.
 - 3. Master we have served Lk. 16:13.

CONCLUSION - Your choice today may determine your eternal destiny.

THREE TYPES OF REVELATION

De. 29:29, Dan. 2:22

INTRODUCTION: There are some things God has not seen fit to make known, other things He has revealed. He has used three methods of revelation:

I. MANY THINGS ARE REVEALED IN NATURE Rom. 1:19-21, 2:14-15.

A. The heavens reveals

1. God's almighty power Ps. 8:1-4.
2. God's glory Ps. 19:1-3.
3. God's wisdom - Earth.
 - a. Fertility of soil.
 - b. Mineral content.
 - c. Its orbit, revolution, slant.
 - (1) Make possible seasons, climate, weather,
 - d. Adaptations: fish to water; birds to air; man to dry land.

II. SOME THINGS ARE REVEALED THROUGH PROVIDENCE;

A. As evidenced in:

1. Dealings with Joseph.
2. Birth and preservation of Moses.
3. Bringing Esther to the throne. God acts - "Truth forever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the throne - Yet the scaffold sways the future and, behind the dim unknown, Standeth God within the shadows, keeping watch above His own" - James Russell Lowell.
4. Preservation of His Word Mt. 24:35.
 - a. Rome sought to burn it.
 - b. Critics seek to destroy it.
 - c. Modernists seek to discredit it.
 - d. It will abide forever Mt. 24:35.
 - e. Will accomplish that whereunto it was sent Isa. 55:10-11.

B. The only explanation.

1. There is an all-wise, all-powerful God "Keeping watch above His own.

in. OTHER THINGS ARE REVEALED THROUGH GRACE.

A. In sending His Son Jno.

1. Patriarchal dispensation.
 - a. Christ in purpose Gen. 3:15.
 - b. Christ in promise Gen. 12:1-3, 28:12-14, 49:10.
2. Jewish dispensation.
 - a. Christ in prophecy Deut. 18:15, Isa. 7:14, 9:6, Isa. 53.
 - b. In person Lk. 2, Mt. 3:17, 17:5, Jno. 1:29, 20:30-31.
3. Christian dispensation.
 - a. Christ in power.
 - (1) Resurrection Mt. 28:5-6.
 - (2) Authority Mt. 28:18, 1 Tim. 6:15-16.
 - b. Christ, a revelation of God.
 - (1) God manifest in the flesh Jno. 1:14, 1 Tim. 3:16, Heb. 1:8.
 - (a) Miracles, proof positive Jno. 1:1-2.
 - (b) "If ye had known me, ye would have known the Father." Jno. 14:7-9.
 - (2) The Word 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - (a) Revealed by the Spirit Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
 - (b) Scripture inspired 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:3.
 - (c) No more revelation to be given Jude 3, Col. 2:9-10.

CONCLUSION: No excuse for not knowing God.

THE THREE CROSSES

Lk. 23:54-46

INTRODUCTION: Describe the pathetic picture. The two thieves add to the ignominy. Contrast the attitudes of the two thieves.

I. THE IMPENITENT THIEF — DEAD IN SIN. CONDEMNATION.

- A. Sin introduced to the world Gen. 3.
 - 1. Separated from God Isa. 59:2.
 - 2. Adam died spiritually the day he ate. Gen. 2:16.
 - 3. Died physically when 930 years old.
 - 4. Physical death hath passed upon all men Rom. 5:12.
 - 5. All have sinned personally Rom. 3:23.
 - a. Man did not inherit Adam's guilt Mt. 19:14.
 - b. He did inherit the tendency to sin.
- B. Cause of sin.
 - 1. Lust Jas. 1:13.
 - 2. Three avenues 1 Jno. 2:15-17.
- C. Three ways we may sin.
 - 1. By transgression 1 Jno. 3:4; 2 Jno. 9.
 - 2. By omission Jas. 4:17.
 - 3. By presumption Ps. 19:14.
- D. Result of sin.
 - 1. Alienation from God Eph. 2:1-3, 4:17-19, 1 Jno. 5:19.
 - 2. Eternal death Rom. 6:23.

II. CHRIST - DEAD FOR SIN - RECONCILIATION.

- A. Our substitute Isa. 53:4-6, Jno. 3:16.
- B. Part of God's plan.
 - 1. God's purpose Gen. 3:15, Heb. 2:14.
 - 2. God's promise Gen. 12:1-3, 49:10.
 - 3. God's prophecy Deut. 18:15, Isa. 7:14.
 - 4. Body prepared so He could die Heb. 10:5, Lk. 1:30-31, 2:11
 - 5. Plan consummated on the cross.
 - a. Atonement made Rom. 5:9—11.
 - b. Redeemed 1 Jno. 1:7, Rom. 3:24-26.
 - c. Reconciled Rom. 5:10, 2 Cor. 5:18-19.
 - d. Justified Rom. 5:9.

III. THE PENITENT THIEF - DEAD TO SIN - JUSTIFICATION.

- A. The penitent thief was:
 - 1. After he asked for and received mercy Lk. 23:42.
 - 2. After Christ forgave him Lk. 23:43.
 - a. True, he had not obeyed the gospel, but
 - b. The law of Moses was still in effect then.
 - c. Christ's will was made but not yet effective.
 - (1) No will becomes effective until after the death of the testator Heb. 9:16-17.
- B. Christians are dead to sin.
 - 1. Before obedience, dead in sin Eph. 2:4-5, 4:17-19.
 - 2. After obedience, dead to sin Rom. 6:17-18, 2 Cor. 5:17, 6:9-10, Rom. 6:4.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Christ died FOR sin that those who are dead IN sin might become dead TO sin. God's plan is of no effect until you accept it.

THREE KINDS OF SIN

INTRODUCTION:

1. Sin began in Eden and has been prevalent throughout intervening years.
 2. It began with lust and will result in death Jas. 1:13.
 5. May result either from ignorance or arrogance.
 4. We sometimes sin against light and knowledge.
 5. It may be due to:
 - a. Ignorance Acts 5:17, 26:9-10.
 - b. Weakness Gal. 2:11-12.
 - c. Rebellion Deut. 52:15.
 - d. Being half converted Hos. 7:8, Lk. 22:51-52.
 - e. Indifference Amos 6:1, Rev. 5:15-16.
- I. SIN OF OMISSION - Jas. 4:17.
- A. Neglecting known duties Mt. 25:45, Lk. 10:50-57.
 - B. Failure to study 2 Tim. 2:15, Heb. 5:12, Eph. 4:11-15.
 - C. Neglecting opportunities Mt. 25:27, Lk. 12:27, Gal. 6:10, Jas. 1:27.
 - D. Failure to restore the weak and wayward Gal. 6:1, Jas. 5:19-20.
 - E. Neglecting to give as prospered 1 Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 9:7.
 - F. Neglecting the assembly Heb. 10:25, Heb. 2:1-2.
 1. The Lord demands reasons, refuses excuses. Mt. 25:24—27.
 2. The Lord will be there. We want to be with people we love.
 5. Will cause many to miss heaven Mt. 25:41.
- II. SIN OF COMMISSION — 1 Jno. 5:4. 5:17.
- A. Lying Col. 5:9, Pro. 6:17, 19:9, Rev. 21:8.
 1. You can lie to men but not to God Acts 5:5-4.
 - B. Stealing Eph. 4:28, Mal. 5:8.
 1. Failing to give as prospered is lying to God.
 2. Ananias and Sapphira did not get by with it. Beware.
 - C. Covetousness Eph. 5:5, Lk. 12:15, Col. 5:5.
 1. See story of Naboth 1 Kgs. 21:1-14.
 - D. Lust Jas. 1:15, 1 Jno. 2:15-16, Mt. 5:27.
 1. One of the most common and deadly of sins.
 - E. Works of the flesh Gal. 5:19-21.
 1. Elaborate on each of them. All to common in the church.
 - F. Bad example Mt. 5:14-16.
- III. PRESUMPTUOUS SIN - Psa. 19:14. Rom. 14:25.
- A. Cain Gen. 4
 - B. Nadab and Abihu Lev. 10:1-5.
 - C. Uzzah 2 Sam. 6:6
 - D. Moses Num. 20:5-12.
 - E. Saul 1 Sam. 15:1-24
 - F. Uzziah 2 Chro. 26:16-29.
 - G. All these men acted without authority from God.
 1. No command, example, or necessary inference for doing what they did.
 2. Let us profit by their mistakes Mt. 7:21.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Remedy -
 1. Consult the great Physician.
 2. Apply the remedy, follow His prescription Rev. 5:18.

THREE AVENUES OF SIN

1 Jno. 2:15-16

INTRODUCTION: Germs which cause physical disease may enter the body through the mouth, nose, or through punctures in the skin. Diseases are both contagious and infectious. Lust is the germ that causes spiritual disease. It may enter the spiritual man in three ways:

I. LUST OF THE FLESH.

- A. Satan used it successfully on Eve Gen. 3:1-6. Desire for food.
- B. He used it unsuccessfully on Jesus Mt. 4:5-4.
- C. Appetite for indulging fleshly pleasure Rom. 8:5-8.
 - 1. One of most deadly - sexual lust Jas. 1:15, Mt. 5:8, Col. 3:5.
 - a. Led to David's fall 2 Sam. 11, Psa. 51:1-10.
 - b. Satan has many agents:
 - (1) Nudist camps, mixed bathing.
 - (2) Fashion designers. Half clothed women.
 - (3) TV. X-rated shows.
 - (4) Pornographic and salacious literature, drugs.
 - (5) Love of money 1 Tim. 6:9-10.
 - (6) Divorce, broken homes.
 - c. A pleasure-mad world.
 - d. Solomon Ecc. 2:1-11.

II. LUST OF THE EYE - COVETOUSNESS.

- A. Pleasant to the eye Gen. 3:6.
- B. Second temptation of Jesus Mt. 4:8.
 - 1. Showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. Offered them to Him.
 - 2. Some covet power:
 - a. Alexander the Great, Caesar, Napoleon, Kaiser, Hitler.
 - 3. Some covet position, prestige.
 - a. Some politicians, demagogues.
 - 4. Others covet possessions.
 - a. Naboth 1 Kgs. 21:2-3.
 - (1) "Things are in the saddle and ride mankind." Emerson.
 - b. Costly raiment, jewels, homes Ecc. 2:1-11.
 - c. Not sinful to love real beauty in nature and in people, art.

III. THE PRIDE OF LIFE - PRAISE.

- A. "Tree to be desired to make one wise." Gen. 3:6.
 - 1. "Be as gods, knowing good and evil."
- B. Satan took Jesus up on the temple.
 - 1. Desire to look good in estimation of others Mt. 4:5.
 - a. "Keep up with Joneses."
 - 2. Whatever tends to promote pride or grandeur Pr. 6:16-19, 1 Pet. 5:5-6.
 - 3. Some love praise of men more than of God Jno. 12:42-43.
 - a. Vain-glory condemned Phil. 2:3-4.
 - b. Desire for praise, honor, attention,
 - (1) Story of Hainan, Esther Chs. 4 and 5.
 - c. Make self center of everything Lk. 12:16-21.
 - d. Should seek to excel in righteousness Mt. 5:20 - not in vain glory.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Christ is the Great Physician, the church is the hospital, the Gospel is the prescription. Study, worship, work, keep resistance high. You can be "more than a conqueror." Rom. 8:37.

CHRIST: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

INTRODUCTION: When God sent Moses to deliver Israel He told Him to tell the Egyptians that "I AM hath sent me unto you." Ex. 3:14. Christ was part of the Godhead. "I AM" is present tense. Christ has always been, is and will always be. This raises three interesting thoughts;

I. WHAT HE HAS DONE — PAST.

- A. Assisted in creation of universe Jno. 1:1-5, Col. 1:16. Then:
 1. Left heaven, came to earth Jno. 3:17.
 2. Born of a virgin Isa. 7:14. Lk. 1:26-35.
 3. Birth announced by angels Lk. 1:26-31, 2:9-11.
 4. Taught doctors of the law at age of twelve Lk. 2:46-47.
 5. Baptized by John Baptist Mt. 3:13-17.
 6. Selected apostles Jno. 1:40.
 7. Performed many miracles Jno. 20:30-31.
 8. Became the world's greatest Teacher Mt. Chs. 5,7.
 9. Set a perfect example Mt. 16:24.
 10. Promised the Holy Spirit Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
 11. Died for sins of all men Isa. 53:1-8, Jno. 3:16.
 12. Redeemed man from sin 1 Pet. 1:18-19, Eph. 1:7.
 13. Reconciled man to God 2 Cor. 5:18-19.
 14. Arose from the grave Mt. 28:1-6.
 15. Ascended to heaven Acts 1:9-11.

II. WHAT HE IS DOING - PRESENT.

- A. In government.
 1. Became King Acts 2:29-36.
 2. Now reigns 1 Cor. 15:24-25.
 - a. Church is His kingdom.
 - b. Reign began on Pentecost Mk. 9:1, Acts 2.
 - c. No 1000 year reign.
 - d. Will reign to end of time Dan. 2:44. 7:13-14. Mt. 16:18.
 - e. Has all authority Mt. 28:18.
 - (1) His Word, written by inspiration, our only authority now.
- B. In war against Satan. Rev. 6:2.
 1. Our Captain Heb. 2:10.
 2. Gives all commands. Through His Word.
- C. As soldiers in His army we must:
 - a. Put on the whole armor Eph. 6:10-18.
 - b. Fight the good fight 1 Tim. 6:12.
 - c. Be valiant soldiers 1 Cor. 16:13.
- D. In life.
 1. Follow His example Mt. 16:24.

III. WHAT HE WILL DO - FUTURE.

- A. Come again Acts 1:11.
 1. Resurrect the dead Jno. 5:28-29, 1 Thess. 4:16-18.
 2. Turn over the kingdom to God 1 Cor. 15:24-25.
 3. Separate the righteous from the wicked Mt. 25:31-34.
 4. Judge the world Acts 17:31. Jude 14-15, 2 Tim. 4:1.

CONCLUSION:

- A. We should be eternally grateful to Him.
- B. What He does with you in the future will be determined by what you do for Him now.

A THREE FOLD CONSECRATION

Ex. 29:20

INTRODUCTION: Under the law of Moses priests were of the tribe of Levi. They were engaged in religious work. They spoke to God for men. Our text deals with the consecration of priests. Three things are significant in this consecration. Under the Gospel all Christians are priests (Rev. 1:5-6). Three parts of the body were touched with blood. Blood of sacrifices was typical of the blood of Christ. Three parts of Christians should be touched with blood (not actually, but typically):

I. TIP OF RIGHT EAR - FOR HEARING.

- A. Importance of hearing Rom. 10:17, Mt. 17:5.
 - 1. Hear whom? "My beloved Son". Suggests:
 - a. Authority of the speaker. Many conflicting religions Pr. 14:12
Mt. 7:15, 2 Pet. 2:1-5.
 - 2. Importance of the subject.
 - a. Deals with soul's eternal destiny Rom. 1:16,
 - 5. Appeals to impartial considerations.
 - a. Hear what? Mk. 4:24, 1 Thess. 5:21, Jno. 10:4-5.
 - b. Hear how? Lk. 8:18, Mt. 15:15.
 - 4. Practical improvement Heb. 2:1, Psa. 1:1-2, Acts 20:52, Jas. 1:22.
- B. Kinds of hearing.
 - 1. Shallow Mt. 15:19 - Dull.
 - 2. Forgetful Jas. 1:25-24.

II. THUMB OF RIGHT HAND FOR WORK.

- A. Be doers Jas. 1:22. Demonstrates reality of our faith.
 - 1. Proof of our faith Jas. 2:14-26.
 - a. Neither hearing nor faith alone will suffice.
 - 2. Works of obedience.
 - a. Believe Heb. 11:6, Jno. 3:15, 5:24, 11:25, 20:51.
 - b. Repentance Acts 2:38, 5:19.
 - c. Confession Rom. 10:9-10, 11 Jno. 1:9.
 - d. Baptism Mk. 16:15-16, Acts 2:38, 22:16, Rom. 6:14.
 - 3. Rich in good works 1 Tim. 6:17-18.
 - a. Teaching 2 Tim. 2:2, 1 Tim. 4:1-2.
 - b. Benevolence. Gal. 6:10.
 - (1) Jesus requires it Mt. 25:55-56.
 - (2) Part of pure religion Jas. 1:27.
 - (3) Tabitha loved for her works Acts 9:36.
 - c. Bear one another's burdens Gal. 6:2.
 - d. Restore the wayward Gal. 6:1.
 - e. Paul commended it 1 Thess. 1:3.

III. GREAT TOE OF RIGHT FOOT - FOR A GODLY WALK.

- A. In newness of life Rom. 6:4. New:
 - 1. Leader to follow after.
 - 2. Rules to walk by.
 - 3. Goals to walk toward.
 - 4. Companions to walk with.
 - 5. Master to work for.
- B. By faith 2 Cor. 5:7.
- C. Spiritually Eph. 4:1, 17, Tit. 2:10, Gal. 5:16-17, Rom. 8:1-4
- D. Walk worthily Eph. 4:1.
- E. Circumspectly Eph. 5:15.
- F. In the light 1 Jno. 1:7.

THREE STATES OF MUD)
Phil. 3:15-14

INTRODUCTION: Our text indicates that Paul was not satisfied with past attainments. Ho one had labored more abundantly for Christ, yet he felt he had not yet laid hold on the prize. This suggests three states of mind but one of which is pleasing to God. Neither of the other two will help us make heaven our home. That was the prize Paul sought. Let us consider these three states of mind;

I. SATISFIED.

- A. A deceptive state of mind.
 1. Cain was satisfied he was right Gen. 4.
 2. David thought no one would ever know about his sin 2 Sam. 11, 12.
 3. Millions are satisfied in their sin and ignorance, error.
 4. Some, with primary obedience. Think that is all that is required.
- B. Sanger of this state of mind.
 1. Ho thing to strive for.
 - a. They have reached their goal. Laodiceans Rev. 3:14-15.
 - (1) Really just lukewarm. Many so today.
 - (2) Better say, "What lack I yet?"
 - b. Pharisee Lk. 18:8-14. Thought he had reached the top.
 - c. No more worlds to conquer, mountains to climb, records to break,
 - d. Athletes are never satisfied with past records.

II. DISSATISFIED.

- A. The dissatisfied man:
 1. Never constructive, always destructive.
 2. The grumbler, complainer, fault-finder. Often in the church.
 3. Like vultures, seeking rotting carrion.
 4. Sees only the faults in others. Find what we are looking for.
 5. He is the iconoclast, cynic.
- B. There were some among Israel.
 1. They found fault with Moses Ex. 14:11-12.
 2. Murmurers Ex. 15:24, 16:3, 16:3, Num. 11:5-6, 21:5.
 3. Discouraged because the way is rough.
 4. Wanted a god they could see Ex. 32:1.
 5. Forsook God Jer. 2:13.
- C. Some today are dissatisfied with the gospel.
 1. Galatians perverted it Gal. 1:7.
 2. Some want to modernize it, streamline it, add to, take from -BEWARE Deut. 4:2, 12:32, Rev. 22:18-19.
 3. Others say it is no longer relevant, offers no challenge.
- D. Some are dissatisfied with the church.
 1. With elders, preachers, singing, program or lack of it.

III. UNSATISFIED.

- A. "Counted not self to have apprehended." But think of his accomplishmeNTS:
 1. Accepted truth, renounced Judaism, sacrificed all Phil. 3:7-8.
 2. Suffered much 2 Cor. 11:24-28, worked laboriously, wrote profusely.
- B. Set no bounds on achievements.
 1. Greater work to be done.
 2. Greater heights to be reached.
 3. Awake Eph. 5:14, arise, go grow 2 Pet. 3:18, glow Mt. 5:16.
 4. Seek perfection Mt. 5:48.

CONCLUSION:

Never be satisfied nor dissatisfied, but always unsatisfied.

THREE NECESSARY ACTIONS

1 Cor. 11:1

INTRODUCTION: In our text Paul urges all to be followers of him, but only to the degree that he followed Christ, In Phil. 3:15-14 he mentions three things he did. If we would please God, we would do well to follow Paul's example. Let us note three things Paul did:

I. HE FORGOT THE PAST — SHACKLES OF THE PAST.

A. Past life. "

1. Unpleasant to think about.
 - a. An ungodly life 1 Pet. 4:1-5; Eph. 2:11-12. Not so much true of Paul's past life as it is of ours.
 - b. Corinthian's past life wholly evil 1 Cor. 6:9-10.
 - c. Ephesians dead in sin Eph. 2:1-5.
 - d. Like other Gentiles Eph. 4:17-18.
2. Israelites did not forget past enjoyments Num. 11:5.
5. Lot's wife Lk. 17:32.
4. Satan never gives up Lk. 22:31.
 - a. He has many devices 2 Cor. 2:11.
5. Paul had much to forget 1 Cor. 15:9; 1 Tim. 1:12-13.
6. God forgives and forgets.

II. HE REACHED FORTH - CHALLENGE OF THE PRESENT.

A. Man loves a challenge Jno. 4:35-36.

B. Christian life the greatest challenge.

1. To live godly in an ungodly world.
 - a. God requires it 1 Tim. 4:7-8, 2 Pet. 3:11; Tit. 2:11-12, 2 Cor. 6:17-18, 7:1.
 - b. Opposition is strong 1 Pet. 5:8. Requires greater effort.
2. Preach an unchanging gospel in a changing world.
 - a. One gospel Gal. 1:11-12, Rom. 1:16, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Col. 2:9-10.
3. Maintain unity of spirit in a divided world Eph. 4:1-6, Jno. 17:20-23.
4. Be sincere in a hypocritical world Phil. 1:9-11, Mt. 23.

C. We seek to better ourselves:

1. Physically, economically, socially.
2. Why not spiritually? Much more important.
3. Exercise is necessary 1 Tim. 4:7-8.

III. HE PRESSED ON - THE LURE OF THE FUTURE.

A. Implies:

1. That we are going somewhere - not just drifting.
 - a. "World will step aside for man who knows where he is going, but it will crush the man that knows not whither he is bound."
 - b. We have a goal — happiness here and hereafter.
2. We are not going backward Heb. 10:38-39.
 - a. Abraham did not Heb. 11:15.
3. We are not standing still.
 - a. Going on to perfection Heb. 6:1-2.
4. That we are not asleep Rom. 13:11.
5. Activated by love and zeal Rom. 12:11, 9:1-3.
6. Determination 1 Cor. 2:1-3.
7. Something worth striving for.
 - a. A better country Heb. 11:16.
 - (1) Fellowship Rev. 21:1 - "No more sea."
 - (2) Security Rev. 21:12 - Walls and foundations.
 - (3) Ample provision Rev. 22:1-4.

CONCLUSION: You will be happier if you will throw off the shackles, accept the challenge, and follow the lure.

THREE THINGS ALL CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW

Phil. 5:10

INTRODUCTION: Solomon said, "That the soul should be without knowledge, it is not good...." (Pr. 19:2). Most knowledge is excellent. It is the food of the mind, the dignity of the soul. It confers true greatness. But the knowledge of Christ is the "excellence of all knowledge." It matters not how many degrees you hold you are not truly educated without the knowledge which Paul sought. Review Phil. J:7-10. Note that above all else Paul desired to know three things:

I. TO KNOW JESUS.

- A. As the eternal Word Jno. 1:1-14.
 1. The revealer Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
- B. As the God-man 1 Tim. 3:16, Jno. 14:8-9, Heb. 10:5.
 1. We should know why and how this body was prepared.
- C. As the crucified Savior 1 Cor. 1:25-24, 2:1-2.
 1. Describe it Mt. 27:26-50, Isa. 55:1-6.
- D. As resurrected Lord Acts 1:9-10, Acts 2:22-24, 1 Pet. 3:22.
- E. As glorified King Acts 2:36, Dan. 7:13-14, 1 Cor. 15:24.
- F. Historically.
 1. His mission Lk. 19:10.
 - a. Establish His kingdom Mk. 9:1, Acts 2.
 - (1) Not future, now exists. No 1000 year reign.
 - (2) To stand forever Dan. 2:44, 7:14, Mt. 16:18.
 - b. Reconcile man to God 2 Cor. 5:18, Eph. 2:16, Col. 1:20, Heb. 2:17.
 2. His office.
 - a. Prophet Mt. 21:11, Lk. 24:19, Jno. 6:40.
 - b. Priest Heb. 4:14-16, 3:1.
 - c. King Jno. 18:36-37.
 - d. Mediator 1 Tim. 2:5.
 - e. Intercessor Heb. 7:25.
 - f. Advocate 1 Jno. 2:1.
 - g. Judge Acts 17:31, Mt. 25:31-40.
 3. His relation to the church.
 - a. Pounder Mt. 16:18,
 - b. Head Col. 1:18.
 - c. Foundation 1 Cor. 3:11.
 - d. Door Jno. 10:9.

II. TO KNOW THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION.

- A. Robbed Satan of his power Heb. 2:14.
- B. Gives hope to a hopeless world Heb. 6:19, 1 Pet. 1:3-5.
- C. Basis of Christian's faith 1 Cor. 15:13-17. Faith is:
 1. The propeller which drives us on.
 2. The gas that drives the engine.
 3. Motivates all good works.
 4. Can't please God without it Heb. 11:6.

III. TO KNOW THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERING.

- A. Why desire it? Col. 1:24.
 1. He suffered for us Isa. 53:4-6.
 2. God thus tests us 1 Pet. 1:7-9.
 3. Has a refining influence, like fire, frost, storms.
 4. To reign with Him. 2 Tim. 2:12.
- B. How have such fellowship?
 1. Like Paul 2 Cor. 11:24-28.
 2. Crucify self Gal. 2:20.
 3. Take up cross Mt. 16:24.

THREE DISEASES AND THEIR CUBE

INTRODUCTION: Disease is one of the greatest enemies of the physical man. Billions of dollars are spent each year in searching for causes of and effecting cures for disease. Much has been accomplished. Some people refuse to consult the doctor, others refuse to take the medication. Likewise there are many spiritual diseases. Fortunately, the Lord has provided the Great Physician who knows the cause of and has prescribed a sure cure for the deadly disease of sin. Unfortunately, millions ignore the Physician and refuse His prescription. Let us note three deadly spiritual diseases;

I. DISEASES OF THE HEAD.

A. Ignorance Rom. 10:1-5, Jer. 5:4, Mic. 4:12, Eph. 4:18.

1. Kinds.
 - a. Unavoidable.
 - (1) Lack of opportunity to know - heathen.
 - (2) Our responsibility is great Mk. 16:15-16, Rom. 1:16
 - b. Wilful Mt. 13:15, 2 Pet. 5:5, Rom. 1:23, Jno. 15:22
2. Result.
 - a. Prevents submission Rom. 10:3.
 - b. Alienates Eph. 4:18.
 - c. Makes God ashamed 1 Cor. 15:34.
 - d. Brings evil upon the church.
 - (1) Pull gospel is not preached 2 Tim. 4:3-4 - apostasy.
 - (2) Preacher's responsibility 2 Tim. 4:1-2, Eph. 4:11-14.
3. Cure - Light, symbol of knowledge.
 - a. "Send the light." 2 Cor. 4:4-8, Jno. 17:3, Col. 1:9-11, Heb. 5:12-14, Mt. 5:14-16.

II. DISEASES OF THE HEART.

A. Symptoms.

1. Apathy Amos 6:1, Psa. 123:4
 - a. Israel condemned for it Isa. 1:2-18. Describe their condition.
 - b. Lukewarmness condemned Rev. 3:15-18. Many today just like Laodiceans. Think themselves rich. Ignorant of their poverty.
 - c. Wealth and pleasure comes first Mt. 6:33.
 - d. Prophets reproved Israel for it Ezek. 13:17-18.

B. Cure - Heat.

1. Zeal, enthusiasm.
 - a. Required Ecc. 9:10, 1 Cor. 14:12, Jno. 4:35.
 - b. Encouraged 2 Tim. 1:6, 2 Pet. 1:13, Rom. 12:11.
 - c. Must be according to knowledge Rom. 10:1-2.
 - d. Examples:
 - (1) Nehemiah Neh. 4:21.
 - (2) Isaiah Is. 62:1.
 - (3) Paul Rom. 9:1, Acts 21:13, 1 Cor. 9:20-22, Phil. 3:7-11.

III. DISEASES OF THE SPINE.

A. Symptoms.

1. Faintheartedness - Peter Mt. 26:33-34, 69 thru 75.
2. Fear of criticism Mt. 10:32, Lk. 9:26, Rom. 1:16, 2 Tim. 1:8
3. Lack of courage - afraid of persecution 2 Tim. 3:12.

B. Cure - backbone - courage. Gives us power.

1. David had it - fought Goliath 1 Sam. 17.
2. Hebrew children Dan. 3; Daniel, Dan. 6.
3. Apostles Acts 5:28-29.

CONCLUSION:

Light, heat and power are indispensable to every Christian.

THE THREE TENSES

Rom 13:11

INTRODUCTION: It is often said, There is nothing more uncertain than life, and nothing more certain than death. To this we might add, there are few things more changeable than life. Change may vary from person to person, but some changes we share in common. If we live out a normal life we will change from childhood to adulthood, then to old age. It might be well for us to think of spiritual life in terms of:

I. THE PAST.

- A. A time when we were safe.
 - 1. Children are safe because unaccountable Mt. 19:14.
- B. A time when we become accountable.
 - 1. Hence lost Rom. 3:23. Therefore need to be saved.
- C. Remember the time past when:
 - 1. We were like other Gentiles Eph. 2:11-12, 4:17-18.
 - a. Without Christ — how sad.
 - b. Aliens from commonwealth of Israel.
 - c. Strangers from covenants of promise.
 - d. Without hope. Without God in the world.
 - 2. We walked in the flesh Eph. 2:1-3.
 - a. Lasciviousness - define, discuss prevalence and danger.
 - b. Lusts Jas. 1:15, 1 Jno. 2:15-17.
 - c. In vanity Eph. 4:17-19.
 - d. Understanding darkened. Alienated from God.
 - e. Past feeling.
 - 3. Bead in sin Eph. 2:1, 1 Tim. 5:6.
 - 4. We were corrupt 1 Cor. 6:9-10.
 - a. But not hopeless 1 Cor. 6:11.

II. THE PRESENT - TIME TO:

- A. Seek the Lord Hos. 10:12.
 - 1. Become new creatures 2 Cor. 5:17 Name and discuss.
 - a. Old things past Col. 3:5-9. " " "
 - b. All things become new Col. 3:9-13 " " "
 - 2. Quickened Eph. 2:1-5.
 - 3. Raised up Eph. 2:5-7.
 - 4. Walk in newness of life Rom. 6:4.
 - a. New: leader, path, goals, principles, companions, ends.
- B. Awake Eph. 5:14, Rom. 13:11.
 - 1. "High time", salvation nearer. Harvest may pass, summer end.
- C. This is the accepted time 2 Cor. 6:2.
 - 1. The day of salvation
- D. Strangers and pilgrims Heb. 11:13, 1 Pet. 2:11.

III. THE FUTURE - AFTER DEATH.

- A. The intermediate state Lk. 16:19-26.
 - 1. Either paradise or tartarus. Gulf between, no change possible.
- B. The second coming 1 Thess. 4:16-17, Jno. 14:3.
 - 1. Time unknown Mt. 24:36. Be prepared,
- C. The resurrection Jno. 5:28-29.
- D. The judgment Mt. 25:31-36, 2 Cor. 5:10.
- E. The marriage of the Lamb Rev. 21:1-4.
 - 1. Fellowship - no more sea, divisions Rev. 21:1
 - 2. Happiness Rev. 21:4.
 - 3. Security Rev. 21:11—12 Foundations.
 - 4. Protection - walls Rev. 22:14.
 - 5. Ample provision for all Rev. 22:1-5.

CONCLUSION: Where are YOU "at this point in time?"

THREE KINDS OF DOCTRINE

2 Jno. 10

INTRODUCTION: Definition of doctrine — "What is received; chastisement; what is heard; teaching - that is, the substance taught." W. E. Vine.

I. DOCTRINES OF MEN.

A. Always plural.

1. Condemned Mt. 15:8-9, 7:15.
2. Warned against Acts 20:28-30, Gal. 1:6-8, 2 Pet. 2:1-3, 1 Jno. 4:1.
3. Examples:
 - a. Calvinism.
 - (1) Predestination and foreordination.
 - (a) Some things are Eph. 1:3-12, Rom. 8:29-30.
 - (b) Not so of personal salvation.
 - (c) We are all called the same way - by Gospel 2 Thess. 2:13-14.
 - (2) Limited atonement.
 - (a) Christ died for all Jno. 3:16, Mt. 11:28-30.
 - (3) Total hereditary depravity Ps. 58:3, Mt. 19:14. Offshoots:
 - (a) Direct operation of Holy Spirit - Unscriptural Acts 8:26, 29, 35, 10:1-6.
 - (b) Infant baptism - Innocent Mt. 19:14, can't be taught.
 - (4) Effectual calling - 2 Thess. 2:13-14.
 - (5) Preservation of saints Heb. 4:4-6, Gal. 5:4, 2 Pet. 2:20-21.
 - b. Salvation by faith only Jas. 2:14-26.
 - c. Salvation by grace only Eph. 2:8.
 - d. Pray through - Cornelius Acts 10:6.
 - e. Just say "Yes" to Jesus - Mk. 16:15-16, Acts 2:38.
 - f. Miraculous healing
4. Avoid Rom. 16:17-18, Eph. 4:14.
5. Be able to distinguish things that differ Phil. 1:10.

II. DOCTRINES OF DEVILS.

A. Always plural.

1. Great interest in the occult today.
 - a. Astrology 5000 years old 2 Chro. 33:6, Isa. 47:10-14.
 - b. Horoscopes published in 1200 daily papers.
 - c. TV, books and magazines feature it. Signs of Zodiac.
 - d. Witches and fortune tellers still prevalent.
2. Idolatry condemned Ex. 20:3, Isa. 45:5-6, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, 10:14.

III. DOCTRINE OF GOD. 1 Tim. 6:1.

A. Always singular. Spoken of as:

1. Of God De. 32:2, Psa. 4:2, 1 Tim. 4:6.
2. Christ Mt. 7:28, Mk. 4:2, Jno. 7:16.
3. Paul 2 Tim. 3:10.
4. Sound Tit. 1:9-10, 2:1.
5. Profitable 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

B. Some will not endure 2 Tim. 4:2. Millions like that today.

C. Our relation to it.

1. Obey from the heart Rom. 6:17-18.
2. Do not transgress 2 Jno. 9.
3. Do not pervert 1 Tim. 6:3, Gal. 1:6-9.
4. Know it 2 Tim. 3:10.
5. Show uncorruptness Tit. 2:7.
6. Abide in it 2 Jno. 9.

CONCLUSION: Why not, like Mary, make the wise choice? Your happiness throughout eternity depends upon your choice.

A THREEFOLD WORKING

Phil. 2:13

INTRODUCTION: Some people think they have done, or are doing a lot of work for the Lord. This may or may not be true, but we may be sure that it is minimal when compared with what the Lord has done and is doing for us. Let us note:

I. THE LORD WORKING FOR US Jno. 17:4.

- A. Work of reconciliation 2 Cor. 5:18-19, 1 Tim. 2:5.
- B. Work of redemption 1 Pet. 1:18-19, Eph. 1:7.
- C. Work of justification Rom. 3:25-26.
- D. Work of intercession Heb. 7:25.
 - 1. Our advocate 1 Jno. 2:1.
 - 2. Our High Priest Heb. 4:14-16.

II. THE LORD WORKING IN US Heb. 13:20-21.

- A. He works in us through His Word. His Word:
 - 1. Informs our mind, thus begetting faith Rom. 10:9, Heb. 11:6.
 - 2. Touches the heart, thus causing us to repent Acts 2:37.
 - 3. Moves our will, thus causing us obey Acts 2:38—41: 22:16.
 - 4. These steps open the door Rev. 3:20, brings us into Christ, Gal. 3:27-29.
 - a. He wants to dwell there Eph. 3:17; Jno. 13:4-6.
 - b. This is our hope of glory Col. 1:27.
- B. His presence is known by the fruits we bear Mt. 7:16.
 - 1. Not works of the flesh Gal. 5:19-21 - Discuss,
 - a. Evidence of Satan's presence.
 - 2. Fruits of the Spirit Gal. 5:22-23 - Discuss.
 - 3. It is not Christ working in us when:
 - a. We are jealous and envious 1 Pet. 2:1.
 - b. We want the pre-eminence 3 Jno. 9.
 - c. We exalt self Phil. 2:5-9.
 - d. We seek to please men Gal. 1:10.
 - e. We act like children 1 Cor. 14:20.
- C. Christ works in us when:
 - 1. His word informs our intellect Eph. 5:17.
 - 2. His love softens our heart and stirs our emotions Acts 2:37.
 - 3. His commands actuate our hands Jno. 14:15: 15:14.
 - 4. We love righteousness and hate iniquity Rom. 12:9.
 - 5. We love God and the church Mt. 22:37, 2 Cor. 12:15, 1 Pet. 2:17.
 - 6. Faith is the power that works in us abundantly Eph. 3:20.

III. THE LORD WORKING WITH US Mk. 16:20. 1 Cor. 5:9.

- A. He worked with the apostles Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
- B. He worked with early Christians through spiritual gifts 1 Cor. 14.
- C. He works with us through the gospel Rom. 1:16, Mk. 16:15-16
- D. Without Him we can do nothing 1 Cor. 3:9.
 - 1. Both farmers and inventors must cooperate with laws of nature.
 - 2. Christians must cooperate with the laws of revelation or fail Mt. 7:21, Phil. 2:12-13.
- E. He will not work in us unless:
 - 1. We submit to His will. Rom. 6:17-18.
 - 2. We obey His commandments Heb. 3:17-19.
 - 5. We do His work, His way Jno. 4:20-24.
 - 4. We abide in His doctrine 2 Jno. 9.

CONCLUSION: The Lord has done much "for" you; won't you let Him come "in" that you may work "with" Him and He "with" you?

CHRISTS THREEFOLDPOWER

Mt. 28:19

INTRODUCTION; There have been many forms of government in the world: auto-crazy, plutocracy, democracy, monarchy, dictatorship. Israel was the only theocracy - a God-ruled people. The church is an autocracy. Christ had all power:

I. LEGISLATIVE. - Jas. 4:12

- A. He made the law Heb. 5:8-9, 12:2.
- B. Revealed the law 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - 1. Through the Holy Spirit Jno. 14:26, 16:15.
 - 2. To the apostles 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 - 3. Recorded in the New Testament 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
- C. Nature of the law.
 - 1. Perfect, complete Col. 2:9-10.
 - 2. No changes permitted Gal. 1:9-10, Rev. 22:18-19.
 - 3. Has teeth in it:
 - a. As did the law of Moses Heb. 10:28-29, Lev. 10:1-2, Num. 15:32, Num. 20:7-12.
 - b. So has Christy law Acts 5:1-11, Mt. 24.
 - c. Violators may suffer here e.g., Ananias and Sapphira.
 - d. Will suffer hereafter 2 Thess. 1:7-9: Rev. 20:15.
 - e. Subjects must obey Heb. 5:9, 10:28-29, Mt. 7:21.

II. EXECUTIVE.

- A. He is King Jno. 18:37 - power to enforce His law.
 - 1. Zedekiah was last earthly king of Judah Zech. 21:25-27.
 - a. Succeeded by Jesus - as spiritual King Ezek. 21:25-27, Acts 2.
 - 2. Foretold Isa. 9:7: Jer. 23:5, Dan. 7:14: Rev. 17:14: 19:16.
 - 3. All power given to Him. Mt. 28:18.
 - 4. Crowned Acts 2:30-36.
 - a. Daniel foretold coronation Dan. 7:13-14.
 - 5. He said He was King Jno. 18:37.
 - 6. Universal power Dan. 2:44, 7:14: Phil. 2:4-11.
 - 7. How accomplished.
 - a. Not by might or carnal methods Zech. 4:6, 2 Cor. 10:4.
 - b. By power of gospel Rom. 1:16, Mk. 16:15-16.
 - 8. No such thing as 1000 year reign Mk. 9:1, Acts 2, 1 Cor. 15:24-25.
 - 9. Church is His kingdom Mk. 9:1, Mt. 13:31-50.
 - a. He now reigns 1 Cor. 15:24-25.

III. JUDICIAL - WILL BE OUR JUDGE Acts 17:51

- A. Different from:
 - 1. Our system of civil government.
 - a. Justice of Peace up to Supreme Court.
 - 2. Mosaic system.
 - a. Moses chose 70 elders to assist him.
 - b. They had cities of refuge to which to flee Num. 35:14-24.
 - c. Jewish Sanhedrin - highest Jewish court.
 - (1) Both Jesus and Paul appeared before this court.
- B. In Christ's kingdom.
 - 1. Christ will be THE judge Acts 17:31: 2 Tim. 4:1, Mt. 25:31-46.
 - 2. No court of appeal.
 - 3. Christ's judgment final.
 - 4. The sentence.
 - a. Everlasting life Mt. 25:34-40, Rev. 21:1-4, 22:1-4.
 - b. Or everlasting death Mt. 25:41-46, 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
 - c. No purgatory
 - d. No second chance Lk. 16:24-31.

CONCLUSION: What will YOUR sentence be? It all depends on YOU.

THREE AVENUES OF LEARNING

Mt. 13:15

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Implications of the text.
 - 1. God wants man to know His will.
 - 2. His will is in His message Rom. 1:16.
 - 3. Three ways of receiving the message.
 - B. The message - Note the context Mt. 13:1-5.
 - 1. To whom? - to multitude.
 - 2. where? - by the sea-side.
 - 3. Pulpit - a ship.
 - C. The message in parables. Why? See vs. 10, 11.
 - 1. Law of God's moral government v. 12.
 - a. To him who hath faith more opportunity to learn will be given.
 - b. From him who hath not faith opportunity to learn will be taken away.
 - 2. There are three avenues of learning;
- I. SENSE OF SIGHT - EYES.
- A. One of most important avenues of learning.
 - 1. Examples - can be seen.
 - 2. Other senses are also important - sound, taste, smell, touch.
 - B. Causes of blindness.
 - 1. Glaucoma — prejudice is spiritual glaucoma.
 - 2. Stigmatism - 2 Pet. 3:5.
 - 3. Cataract - will has become perverse, e.g., Balaam Num. 21.
 - a. None so blind as those who do not want to see.
 - 4. Nearsightedness - Creeds of men.
 - 5. Farsightedness - overlook the Bible, go beyond it.
 - C. Cure - eyesalve Rev. 3:17-18.
 - 1. Turn on the light Psa. 119:105.
- II. SENSE OF HEARING - EARS.
- A. Important to note what:
 - 1. God said Mt. 17:5, Jas. 1:19.
 - 2. Jesus said - take heed what Mk. 4:24, how ye hear Lk. 8:18.
 - B. Causes of deafness - Diseases.
 - 1. Nerve, bone, drum may be defective. Sin damages all three.
 - 2. Wax - False doctrine Mt. 15:7-9. Acts 20:28-30, Gal. 1:6-9. 2 Pet. 2:1.
 - 3. Some want ears tickled 2 Tim. 4:3.
- III. UNDERSTANDING - HEART.
- A. Important - With it, you: believe Rom. 10:10, desire Rom. 10:1, reason Mk. 2:8, think Pr. 23:7, intend Heb. 4:12, understand Mt. 13:15.
 - 1. Come through precept Psa. 119:104.
 - B. Spiritually more important - Heart:
 - 1. Should be guarded Pro. 4:23, "Be careful what you hear."
 - 2. Determines character Pro. 23:7. "What you see and hear today will determine what you think about tonight and what you do tomorrow."
 - a. Controls speech Mt. 12:35.
 - b. Fountain of evil Mt. 12:34.
 - c. May be depraved Jer. 17:9.
 - d. May be hardened Rom. 2:5 - Pharaoh's heart was. Ex. 8, 10.
 - e. Must be changed - Gospel only power that can change it.
 - f. Must be kept pure Mt. 5:8.

CONCLUSION: The gospel will open your eyes, unstop your ears, soften your heart.

THREEFOLD RESPONSIBILITY

Lk. 12:47-48

INTRODUCTION: Responsibility is man's response to the ability God has given him. Ability plus opportunity equals responsibility. Let us consider:

I. OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD.

- A. Know Him Jno. 17:3, I Jno. 5:7. Know His:
 1. Power Psa. 62:11, Mt. 19:26, Lk. 1:37, Heb. 1:1-3.
 2. Wisdom Pr. 3:19, Dan. 2:20, Rom. 11:33, 1 Cor. 1:25.
 3. Love Jno. 3:16, Eph. 3:17-19.
 4. Wrath Rom. 11:22, 2 Thess. 1:7-9, Jno. 3:36, Rom. 1:18, 2:8.
 5. Will 1 Cor. 2:9-10, Mt. 7:21, Eph. 5:17, Heb. 5:12.
- B. Love Him Mt. 22:37, 2 Thess. 3:5, Jude 21.
- C. Serve Him Jno. 13:2-15.
 1. As Master Jno. 13:14.
 2. Respect His authority Mt. 28:18.
 3. Work in His vineyard Mt. 20:4, Isa. 5:11-12, Jno. 4:34-36, 1 Ti. 6:18.
 4. Worship Him sincerely Jno. 4:23-24, Heb. 10:25.

II. OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE WORLD.

- A. Physically a part of it Gen. 2:7, 3:17-18.
- B. Socially - mix with the masses Mt. 13:28-30.
 1. Not withdraw like monks and nuns.
 2. In world, but not of the world 2 Cor. 6:14-18.
 3. "What doest thou here Elijah?" 1 Kgs. 19:9-11.
 - a. Go back to your work.
- C. Spiritually - be separate from it 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
 1. "What do these Israelites here?" 1 Sam. 29:3. Explain context.
 2. Be a non-conformist Rom. 12:1-2, 1 Cor. 7:31, Gal. 6:14, 2 Ti. 2:4, 1 Jno. 2:15.
- D. Influentially - have an impact upon it.
 1. It is corrupt, needs to be salted Mt. 5:13.
 2. It is dark, needs to be lighted Mt. 5:16.
 3. As soldiers, fight 1 Tim. 6:12.
 4. As saints, set example Tit. 2:7-8.
 5. As missionaries, save Mk. 16:15-16.
 6. As Christians, condemn Heb. 11:7.

III. OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CHURCH.

- A. Distinguish between:
 1. Church universal 1 Pet. 2:17.
 - a. Composed of all penitent, baptized believers throughout world.
 - b. Don't try to activate it.
 - (1) Early church tried it. It became the Roman hierarchy.
 - c. Love it and let it alone.
 - d. Many are trying to activate it today - has resulted in Missionary Society, Sponsoring church, institutionalism.
 2. Church local Phil. 1:1 - Can function only on this level.
 - a. Has elders to oversee Acts 20:28, 14:23, 1 Pet. 5:1-4.
 - b. Has deacons to assist elders Acts 6:1-3, 1 Tim. 3:8-13.
 - c. Members to work 1 Cor. 15:58.
 - d. All work to be done on this level.
- B. Know its mission Eph. 4:11-16.
 1. Not social - to entertain. Not recreational. Should engage in:
 - a. Educating its members Eph. 4:12.
 - b. Benevolence Acts 11:27-30, Rom. 15:25-32.
 - c. Evangelism Eph. 4:12.
 2. Glorify God Eph. 3:21.

THREE REQUIREMENTS OF SINNERS
Mt. 11:28-50

INTRODUCTIONS You would consider it a great honor to be invited by the president to attend his inauguration. Here we have an invitation extended by the King of Kings. It is issued to all. You are included. Let us consider the threefold nature of the invitation;

I. "COME UNTO ME" - HE CAME TO US.

- A. This implies that:
1. Sinners are away.
 - a. Separated by sin Isa. 59:2, Hence lost Rom. 3:23.
 2. They can come.
 - a. Not foreordained to be lost.
 - b. Not held in the clutches of depravity.
 3. All are welcome Rev. 22:17.
 4. They need help.
 - a. They labor for Satan, heavy laden with burden of sin.
- B. The incentive.
1. "I will give you rest." - soul rest.
 - a. Prom slavery Col. 1:13, Israel longed to be delivered Ex. 8:7-13.
 - b. Prom guilty conscience.
 - (1) Can be painful Psa. 51:3, Gen. 32:6-12.
 - c. Prom terror of sin.
 - d. Prom power and guilt of sin Col. 1:13, Acts 2:38, Rom.6:17-18.
 - e. Prom hopelessness Eph. 2:11-12.
 2. Enjoyable, profitable work.
 - a. Perfect Master to serve. Contrast Him with Satan.

II. "TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU."

- A. Implies complete submission Rom. 6:13, Jas. 4:7.
1. Long been servants of sin Pr. 5:22, Jno. 8:34, Acts 8:23, Rom. 6:16, 7:23-24, 2 Tim. 2:26.
 2. Will is often in rebellion.
 - a. Mind may be informed - we know better.
 - b. Heart may be touched - may want to come.
 - c. But will is rebellious Neh. 9:26-29, Isa. 1:2-6, 59:12-13, Hos. 7:13-14.
- B. Requires power of gospel Rom. 1:16.
1. Promises to allure 2 Pet. 1:3-4, 1 Pet. 1:3-9.
 2. Threats to be feared 2 Thess. 1:7-9, Heb. 10:28-31.
- C. A yoke that is easy and light.
1. As compared to slavery Psa. 51:3, Judges 16:31. Samson learned about:
 - a. The blinding of sin.
 - b. The binding of sin.
 - c. The grinding of sin.
 2. Brings living joy.
 - a. Worldly pleasures are fleeting Heb. 11:24-25, 1 Jno. 2:15-17.
 - b. Heavenly joys abide 1 Thess. 5:16, Phil. 4:4.
 - (1) Rejoice now and in world to come Lk. 10:18-20.

III. "LEARN OF ME" - IMPLIES:

- A. That He is able to teach Mt. 7:28-29.
1. World's greatest teacher. Knows all. Knows our needs.
 2. Taught by example, by parable.
- B. That we need to be taught Rom. 10:3, Mt. 28:19-20. Teach, baptize, teach.
- C. That we are capable of learning.
1. Endowed with intelligence Gen. 2:26.

CONCLUSION: How can you **turn** Him down? Won't you come?

THE QUICK AND THE DEAD

Eph. 2:1-3

INTRODUCTION: In the closing verses of Ephesians 1, Paul has shown the exceeding greatness of God's power by raising Christ from the dead and exalting Him to His own right hand. In our text and the following verses he further shows God's power to make those who are dead alive - "raise them up together, and make us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (v.6), A prominent sect once taught that "Millions now living will never die." The Bible teaches that millions now living are already dead. Let us consider:

I. THE CONTRAST IN THE TEXT.A. The dead:

1. In trespasses and sin.....
2. Walked like world.....
3. In lock-step with Satan.....
4. Followed lusts of flesh....
5. Followed fleshly desires....
6. Children of wrath.....

The quick:

1. Sins forgiven Acts 2:33, Rom. 6:17.
2. Separated 2 Cor. 6:17-18, Rom. 2:12.
3. Have overcome 1 Jno. 5:4, Rom. 8:37.
4. Follow Spirit Rom. 8:1-4.
5. Mind renewed Rom. 12:2.
6. Children of God Rom. 8:16-17.

B. How dead and living at the same time.

1. Millions now living are already dead.
 - a. Jesus said, "let the dead bury the dead." Mt. 8:22.
 - (1) Those dead spiritually can bury those dead physically.
 - (2) More important work for christians to do 1 Jno. 5:19.
 - b. Paul said -
 - (1) Those living in pleasure are already dead 1 Tim. 5:6.
 - (a) True of many professed Christians.
 - (b) Put worldly affairs first Mt. 6:33.
 - c. John said of Sardis —
 - (1) "Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." Rev. 3:1,
 - (2) Laodicea nearly dead Rev. 3:15-16,
 - (a) Remedy prescribed Rev. 3:17-18.
 - (b) We may be dead and not know it.
2. Evidence that some professed Christians are dead:
 - a. They do not eat.
 - (1) Israelites had to personally gather manna daily. Ex. 16:16 - "Every man."
 - (2) Spiritual food is provided Jno. 6:51, Mt. 4:4.
 - (a) Must eat daily to live spiritually 2 Tim. 2:15.
 - 1b) Many weak, some dead spiritually for lack of food.
 - (c) Look at the condition of your soul Jas. 1:25.
 - b. They do not drink,
 - (1) Bo not thirst for righteousness Mt. 5:6, Jno. 7:37.
 - (2) Samaritan woman thirsted Jno. 4:14-15.
 - c. They do not exercise 1 Tim. 4:8 - causes premature death.
 - d. They are blind - dead people do not see Mt. 13:15.
 - (1) No vision of work to be done.
 - (a) Grope in darkness Is. 59:10 - Eye is evil Mt. 6:23.
 - (b) Follow blind leaders Mt. 15:14.
 - (c) Blinded 2 Cor. 4:4, Eph. 4:18, 1 Jno. 2:11.
 - e. They do not hear God calling Mt. 13:15, Isa. 1:2, Heb. 2:1-2.
 - f. They have no feeling Eph. 4:17-19.
 - (1) Not troubled by misery of others Mt. 23:37, 25:40.
 - (2; Not moved with compassion when they see the languishing condition of the church,
 - (a) Nehemiah was Neh, 1:1-4.
 - (b) Ezekiel was Ezek. 9:1-6.
 - (c) Paul was Col. 2:1, Rom. 9:1-3, 10:1, 1 Cor. 9:20,
3. Are you dead or alive?

THE MIDDLE WALL

Eph. 2:14-15

INTRODUCTION: No one can understand the Bible without knowing the difference between the old covenant and new (Heb. 8:13). Paul wrote the Roman letter, Galatian and Hebrew letters largely for the purpose of showing the difference between the Law of Moses and the Gospel of Christ. Our text shows what happened to the old covenant. We would do well to consider:

I. THE MIDDLE WALL OF PARTITION.

- A. Given to the Jews only De. 5:1-5.
 - 1. It separated the Jews from the Gentiles - "twain", "both". Text.
 - 2. Law applied to Jews only De. 5:2.
 - 3. Gentiles continued under patriarchal law.
 - 4. Given on Mt. Sinai Ex. 19:20, 20:1-17.
- B. Why given.
 - 1. Added because of transgression Gal. 3:19.
 - a. To hold Jews in check - A "wall" around them.
 - 2. "Added" to what? To promise made to Abraham Gen. 12:1-3.
 - 3. A schoolmaster Gal. 3:24, 4:1-3 - To bring them up to Christ.
- C. Duration - "Till the seed should come." Gal. 3:19.
 - 1. "Seed" was Christ Gal. 3:16.
 - 2. Christ nailed it to His cross Col. 2:14.
 - a. He fulfilled it Mt. 5:17.
 - 3. Hence not binding now because: replaced by new covenant Heb. 8:8-11, Old had vanished Heb. 8:13; now dead to it Rom. 7:4; delivered from it Rom. 7:6; can't justify Gal. 5:4.
- D. Kind of government under the law.
 - 1. A theocracy - a God-ruled people.
 - 2. Ten commandments - moral law- statutory law.
 - 3. Ceremonial - regulated worship and sacrifices.
 - 4. All one law - "Law of Moses", and Law of the Lord Lk. 2:21-24.
 - 5. All ended at the cross Eph. 2:14-15: Col. 2:14.
- E. Why it was "broken down".
 - 1. To make "one new man" of Jew and Gentile Eph. 2:15.
 - a. Not same as Jewish "church" Acts 7:38, Mk. 1:14-15.
 - b. Membership on new terms Jno. 3:3-5: Acts 2:38.
 - c. Fleshly relations given no privilege Jer. 31:33-34, Mt. 3:9.
 - 2. To make peace Eph. 2:14-17.
 - a. Jew and Gentile now one - reconciled Rom. 1:16, Gal. 3:27-29.

II. CONCLUSIONS WE ARE FORCED TO DRAW AND ACCEPT.

- A. God never had two churches at the same time - either then or now.
- B. If God wants another church He will give: its constitution; enact all laws; appoint all ordinances e.g., Ex. 24:7.
- C. It will be accompanied by miraculous demonstration.
 - 1. Moses was given miraculous power Ex. 4:1—9.
 - 2. Giving of Law Ex. 19:18-21.
 - 3. Christ had such power Jno. 20:30-31 — resurrection Mt. 28:1-6.
 - 4. True at Pentecost Acts 2:1-4: Heb. 2:4.
- D. The new church was divine Mt. 16:18.
 - 1. Law of prophets and John Baptist prepared way Mt. 3:1-3: Jno. 1:6.
 - 2. Law had to end - Jesus blotted it out Col. 2:14.
 - 3. Christ sealed new covenant with His blood.
- E. All human walls must be broken down Mt. 15:7-9: 13.
 - 1. God broke down the wall He build when its purpose was fulfilled, hence
 - 2. He will break down the walls men build Mt. 15:13: Jude 3.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP

Eph. 2:19

INTRODUCTION: The church and its citizens are presented to us in many different figures. Christ speaks of the church as a fold, himself as shepherd and Christians as sheep. In our text Paul is thinking of the church as a kingdom with Christ as ruler or king and Christians as citizens. In every country we find some citizens who are violators of the law, others who are loyal. Let us consider:

I. THE LOYAL CITIZENS.

A. Lyman Abbott defined a true American as:

1. "He who looks with pride upon the history which his fathers have written with their heroic deeds, who accepts with gratitude the inheritance which they have bequeathed to him, who highly resolves to preserve this inheritance unimpaired, and to pass it on to his descendants enlarged and enriched is a true American."
- 2, when analyzed we find these characteristics:
 - a. Appreciation.
 - b. Gratitude.
 - (1) For the inheritance - others sacrificed, some died for it.
 - (2) Bequeathed - no effort on part of the recipient,
 - c. Resolution.
 - (1) To preserve it unimpaired.
 - (2) To pass it on enlarged and enriched.

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF LOYAL CHRISTIAN CITIZENS,

A. Appreciation - Israel lacked appreciation Is. 1:2—9.

1. Of God's interest in humanity Ps. 8:2-9, Jno. 3:16, Eph. 2:1-8.
2. Of Christ's sacrifice Jno. 3:17, Isa. 53:4-6.
3. Of the guidance of the Holy Spirit Jno. 16:13, 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
4. Of early disciples zeal, courage and determination 1 Cor. 2:1-5, Rom. 9:1-3; 2 Cor. 11:24-28.
5. Of the Bible as our guide 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 1 Pet. 4:11.

B. Gratitude - much ingratitude in the world today,

- 1, For our great religious inheritance.
 - a. The church.
 - (1) Greatest institution on earth.
 - (2) It alone offers salvation Eph. 5:23.
 - (3) Think of its influence for good.
 - (4) Truly a rich legacy - a great bequest.
 - (a) It cost us nothing Rev. 3:17.
 - (b) Blood and suffering have attended its establishment and perpetuation Acts 20:28 - Many martyrs.
 - (c) Yet, how little many of us do for the church.

C. Holy resolution.

1. To preserve it.
 - a. Many have sought to destroy it, some are today,
 - b. We must contend earnestly for the faith Jude 3f Phil. 1:17,
 - c. Preserve it from infidels, modernism, indifference,
 - (1) Be loyal - Fight a good fight 1 Tim. 6:12.
2. To pass it on.
 - a. Enlarged - in numbers - requires evangelism.
 - b. Enriched:
 - (1) In vision - so much to be done, yet many sleep.
 - (2) In purity Eph. 5:25-27.
 - (3) In zeal, courage determination.

FELLOWSHIP

Eph. 3:9

INTRODUCTION: The generally accepted meaning of the word fellowship is that it refers to the weekly contribution of money on the Lord's day. A careful examination of the word shows that it has a much broader meaning. Other meanings: partnership, joint participation, communion, aid, relief, contribution in aid. Let us consider:

I. VARIOUS ASPECTS SUGGESTED BY FELLOWSHIP:

- A. It expresses partnership in:
 1. The blessings of the death of Christ 1 Cor. 10:16.
 2. The strength and comfort of the Holy Spirit 2 Cor. 13:14.
 3. The sufferings of Christ Phil. 3:10.
 4. The blessings of the gospel Phil. 1:5.
 5. The favor and protection of God 1 Jno. 1:3.
 6. Partnership with one another, with God, Christ and Holy Spirit.
 7. Hence, like a great, successful firm.
- B. The partners in the firm.
 1. God originated the plan.
 2. Christ, in His death, executed the plan.
 3. Holy Spirit revealed and advertised the plan 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 4. Christians have accepted and must comply with the plan.
- C. Purpose or objective of this cooperative endeavor.
 1. To redeem perishing sinners from ignorance, sin and death. Titus 2:14.
 2. To educate the saved and prepare them for eternal life.
 3. Purpose expressed in great commission Mk. 16:15-16.
 4. A great responsibility rests upon all Jude 21-23, Lk. 12:47-48.
- D. The nature of this partnership.
 1. No national, racial, social, educational nor financial barriers Gal. 3:28 - The gospel is for all.
 - a. "Redeemed from a common ruin, by a common ransom, and made heirs of a common inheritance we must meet on a common level of Christian brotherhood:
 - (1) "Rich rejoicing that they are made low" 1 Pet. 5:6.
 - (2) "Poor, that they are exalted".
 - (3) "All, that they are sons and daughter of the Lord."
 - (4) No ecclesiastical dignitaries — Mt. 23:8-9.
 - (5) Least in kingdom greater than John Mt. 11:11.
 2. All have been molded in same mold Rom. 6:17-18.
- E. Contributions of the partners in this fellowship.
 1. The divine contribution.
 - a. God gave His Son Jno. 3:16.
 - b. Christ gave His life Tit. 2:14.
 - c. Holy Spirit provides comfort and guidance Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
 2. The human contribution.
 - a. We must give self unreservedly 2 Cor. 8:5, Rom. 14:7: 1 Cor. 6:20.
 - b. Diversity of gifts - natural gifts:
 - (1) Ability to preach.
 - (2) Ability to rule - elders.
 - (3) Prayer, singing, teaching, personal work.
 - (4) Some can make money, more able to give Mal. 3:8. Remember Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:1-1°.
- F. Responsibility of officials.
 1. Elders should know the various abilities of members,
 - a. Lead them to use their talents to God's glory.

GODS ETERNAL PURPOSE

Eph. 3:11

INTRODUCTION: Some one has said that to succeed in life we must have "a goal to strive for, a cause to fight for, and a purpose to live for." Many people fail because they have neither of these three important objectives. In speaking of the resurrection William Jennings Bryan said that "God created nothing without a purpose." In our text, Paul said, in speaking of the church, it was part of the "eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Let as think briefly about:

I. THE UNFOLDING OF GODS ETERNAL PURPOSE - THIS IMPLIES THAT:

- A. God had a purpose - eternal.
 1. Man had sinned, hence driven from God's presence Gen. 3:23-24.
 2. A plan was needed to bring man back to God.
 3. The Bible relates the unfolding of that great plan.

II. THERE WERE THREE DEFINITE PERIODS IN THE UNFOLDING.

- A. The patriarchal period.
 1. A Savior is referred to Gen. 3:15, 49:10.
 2. Seed promised Gen. 12:1-3 - "thy seed."
 - a. The seed explained Gal. 3:16, Acts 2:28-29, Gal. 3:27-29.
 3. A nation to produce the seed - Abraham father of Jews,
 - a. Twelve tribes went to Egypt for food and protection.
- B. The Jewish dispensation.
 1. Deliverance by Moses - cross Red Sea Ex. 14.
 2. Law given Ex. 20, Gal. 3:19, 24.
 3. Wilderness wanderings - 40 years.
 4. Conquest of Canaan - Joshua.
 5. Judges, Kings, prophets De. 18:15, Isa. 9:6-7, Dan. 2:44.
 6. Jesus born, preached, was crucified, arose, ascended.
 - a. Chose apostles, promised Spirit Jno. 16:13, Mt. 28:19-20.
 7. Cross ended all previous law Eph. 2:14-15, Col. 2:14.
- C. Christian dispensation.
 1. Holy Spirit came Acts 2:1-4 - Promise fulfilled Acts 2:38-39, Gal. 3:16.
 2. Kingdom or church established.
 - a. Peter preached first to Jews Acts 2:22-24, 41, Rom. 1:16.
 - (1) Time had come Isa. 2:1-2, Dan. 2:44.
 - (2) Promised seed had come Gal. 3:16, Mk. 9:1.
 - b. Had been typified by:
 - (1) Tabernacle and temple Heb. 12:1.
 - (2) Israel - deliverance, wandering, law, Jordan, Canaan.
 - c. Had been prophesied Isa. 2:1-2, Dan. 2:44.
 - d. Extended to the Gentiles Isa. 62:2, Acts 13:46.
 - (1) Peter opened the door Acts 10.
 - (2) Paul, ambassador to Gentiles Acts 26:16-17.
 - (3) A mystery to the Jews Eph. 3:1-6.
 - e. Spread of the kingdom Acts 1:8.
 3. Christ now reigns 1 Cor. 15:24-25.
 - a. Hence the kingdom is not still future.
 - b. Kingdom will endure Mt. 16:18.
 - c. Apostasy came 2 Thess. 2:1-12 - followed by Reformation, Rest.
 4. Its worship Acts 2:42, Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16.
 5. Its work Eph. 4:11-12.
 - a. Nature: Evangelistic, Benevolent, Edification.
 6. Reward offered Rev. 14:13, Mt. 25:34, 2 Pet. 1:10-11.

ARE YOU DRIFTING?

Eph. 4:14

I. SOME THINGS WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DRIFTING.

A. The nature of drifting.

1. It requires no effort.
 - a. This adds to the peril.
 - b. This makes it fascinating.
2. It is an unconscious process.
 - a. Imperceptible — possible to drift unawares,
 - b. It is slow, but sure — like a poisonous gas.

B. The danger of drifting.

1. It is liable to be in the wrong direction.
 - a. We never drift up stream.
 - b. We always drift down hill — never reach higher ground — Song.
 - c. We think of progress in terms of going up stream. Phil. 3:13-14.
 - d. The moment progress ceases, drifting begins.
 - e. As long as a Christian rests on his oars, he loses ground.
2. Rapidity increases as we get farther from anchorage.
 - a. The danger increases with the rapidity.
 - b. When we lose sight of land it is less possible to discover that we are drifting.
 - c. As we get farther and farther from truth and right, we care less and less what we do.
 - d. It is most sure to be fatal — Niagara is just ahead.
3. It endangers others.
 - a. A derelict is dangerous: it has no rudder, no helm, and no crew; it carries no cargo, it came from no port and is bound for no harbor - just drifting - a hazard to all other vessels at sea.
 - b. Many human derelicts upon the sea of life - they are good for nothing but to endanger the lives of others. See Appendix - "Shipwrecked".

C. The cause of drifting.

1. The oars have been laid aside Heb. 2:1-3. Take heed lest ye drift.
 - a. It requires effort to do anything worth while.
2. The love of ease Amos 6:1, Rev. 3:15-18.
 - a. Desire to pursue the line of least resistance.
3. The mind is not anchored to any truth.
 - a. We must have convictions Acts 24:25. Do you REALLY believe?
 - (1) That there is a God? - that His word is true?
 - (2) That He rewards and punishes Mt. 25:31-46, 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
 - (3) Those not so anchored are blown about - many winds - text.
4. The under current of temptation.
 - a. We have a carnal nature to reckon with.
 - (1) Man's greatest enemy is self Rom. 7:14-23.
5. The tide may sweep us away.
 - a. Tides of: popularity, liberalism, modernism, skepticism, opinion.
 - b. The tide of neglect Heb. 2:1-3 - neglect Bible study, prayer.

D. The remedy for drifting.

1. Sturdy rowing.
 - a. This does not mean salvation through self effort, but through use of means - God has provided the means in His word - use it.
 - b. We must work out our own salvation Phil. 2:12.
2. Stout anchorage - cable of truth Jno. 17:17, 8:31-32, 1 Tim. 4:16.
 - a. Rooted and grounded in love Eph. 3:17-18.
 - b. A thorough knowledge of the word Rom. 10:1-2.
 - c. An abiding, intelligent faith - deep conviction. Defend it.
 - d. An unshaken hope Heb. 6:18-19.

THE DIVINE FAMILY

Eph. 5:14-15

INTRODUCTION: When the church was established it was a new concept, Christ is our Savior, He gave His life for the church, and we must be members of it to be saved. The Lord has used many figures to help us better understand the church. The Bible speaks of the church as the body of Christ with Christ as its head; a house, Christ as builder; a temple, Christ as foundation; a sheepfold, Christ as Shepherd; a kingdom, Christ as king; and as a family with Christ as the husband. Let us consider:

I. THE COMPONENTS WHICH CONSTITUTE TEES FAMILY:

- A. The wife.
 1. Adam needed a wife Gen. 2:18.
 - a. God caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam Gen. 2:21.
 - b. Created Eve from a rib taken from Adam's side.
 - c. Eve was given to Adam as an help meet Gen. 2:18.
 2. Christ needed a help meet.
 - a. He went into the deep sleep of death.
 - b. Blood that redeemed man was taken from His side Acts 20:28.
 - c. The church became Christ's bride and help meet Rom. 7:4, 2 Cor. 11:2, Rev. 19:7, 21:2, 22:17.
 5. Christ had but *one* wife.
 - a. His teaching opposed polygamy Mt. 19:9, Rom. 7:5-4.
 - b. He practiced what He preached.
 - c. He taught unity Jno. 17:20-22, Col. 1:18, Eph. 1:22, 4:1-6.
 - d. Church has but one husband 2 Cor. 11:2.
- B. The children.
 1. Are born into the family - Birth requires:
 - a. A begetting Jno. 5:5-5.
 - (1) Begotten by the Spirit Jas. 1:18.
 - (2) Spirit operates through the Word 1 Pet. 1:22-25.
 - b. A period of gestation.
 - (1) Faith results in conception Heb. 11:6 - change of mind.
 - (2) Faith leads to repentance Rom. 2:5. Acts 5:19 - Repentance changes the life.
 - (5) Confession is proof there is life Rom. 10:9-10.
 - c. A coming forth - baptism Acts 8:57-58, Rom. 6:4, 2 Cor. 5:17.
 2. Must be children to be heirs Rom. 8:17, 1 Pet. 1:5-4.
- C. All members of family have duties.
 1. Husband is head Eph. 1:22, Col. 1:18, Eph. 5:25-
 - a. Has all authority Mt. 28:18 - hence governs family.
 - b. To provide food Jno. 6:51, 1 Pet. 2:2, Heb. 5:12-14.
 - c. To protect family 2 Cor. 10:4-5.
 - d. To provide a home Jno. 14:1-5, 2 Cor. 5:1-4.
 2. Duties of wife.
 - a. Prepare and administer food Acts 20:28.
 - b. Administer discipline 1 Cor. 5:4-5.
 - c. Obey and reverence husband Eph. 5:22-24, 55.
 - d. Be true to husband 1 Cor. 10:8. Free from false doctrine.
 5. Duties of children.
 - a. Love, honor and respect parents Eph. 6:1, 2.
 - b. Love one another Heb. 15:1.
- E. The name of the family. Eph. 5:15.
 1. Children are called Christians Acts 11:26.
 2. Church of Christ Rom. 16:16.
 - a. **To wear** this name honors Christ Eph. 6:2.

THE SECRET OF STRENGTH

Eph. 5:16

INTRODUCTION. Every normal, intelligent person would like to be strong physically, intellectually and spiritually. Some are satisfied if they can just be strong socially and financially. Wise people know that strength cannot be attained without effort. Spiritual strength is most important, yet, too often, the least sought. The Bible tells us just how it can be attained. Let us consider;

I. THE KEEP FOR STRENGTH.

- A. A great work to be done Neh. 6:3, Jno. 4:35-36.
 - 1. Greatest possible work - deals with souls and eternity.
- B. Temptations to overcome 1 Cor. 10:12-13.
 - 1. Satan the greatest enemy known to man 1 Pet. 5:8, 2 Cor. 2:11.
- C. Much false doctrine Mt. 7:15, Acts 20:29, 2 Pet. 2:1-4.
- D. Great battles to be fought Eph. 6:10-12, 1 Tim. 6:12.

II. MEANING OF STRENGTH.

- A. Strong in grace - Favor with God 2 Tim. 2:1.
 - 1. God is on our side Rom. 8:31-37, But note Ex. 32:26.
 - 2. Energy of position e.g., Pile driver when lifted in position to descend.
- B. Strong in the faith - Indoctrinated Eph. 4:14: Gal. 2:4-5.
 - 1. Through knowledge of truth - makes men bold Acts 21:13.
- C. Possessed of courage.
 - 1. Hebrew children Ban. 35:13-17: Daniel, Ban. 6:10.

III. THE SECRET OF STRENGTH.

- A. Word abiding in you 1 Jno. 2:14, Mt. 4:1-10, Col. 3:16, Acts 20:32.
- B. Realization of our insufficiency 2 Cor. 12:9-10, 1 Cor. 10:12, Gal. 6:3.
- C. Reliance upon Jesus Gal. 2:20, Phil. 4:13: Eph. 3:17, Jno. 15:1-5.
 - 1. Building on solid foundation 1 Cor. 3:11: Mt. 7:24-25.
- B. Indwelling Spirit Eph. 3:16, 1 Cor. 3:16: 6:19.
- E. Rooted in love Eph. 3:17-19.
 - 1. Tree with undiseased trunk and deep root withstands storms.
 - 2. Christians with pure hearts, deep roots withstand storms of:
 - a. Persecution Acts 4:18-19, 5:28-29, 2 Cor. 11:24-27.
 - b. Criticism 2 Tim. 3:12.
 - c. Temptation 1 Cor. 10:12-13, Rom. 8:37.
- F. Armor of righteousness 2 Cor. 6:7, Eph. 6:10-18.
- G. Internal fortification -
 - 1. Knowledge Col. 1:9-11, Eph. 5:17. Knowledge emboldens.
 - 2. Determination 1 Cor. 2:1-2, Acts 21:13.
- H. External fortification - 2 Cor. 10:4-5.
 - 1. Trust in God Isa. 41:10, Phil. 4:13.
- I. Nourishment 1 Jno. 2:14.
 - 1. Spiritual calories and vitamins come from Word Col. 3:16.
 - 2. Many are strong physically, weak spiritually Rev. 3:15-18.
- J. Exercise 1 Tim. 4:7-8.
 - 1. True physically -
 - a. Jogging, calisthenics, walking, etc.
 - 2. True intellectually - Think, few people do."
 - a. Use your mind, study, meditate, grow.
 - 3. True spiritually.
 - a. Study 2 Tim. 2:15, Eph. 5:17.
 - b. Pray 1 Thess. 5:17.
 - c. Work 1 Cor. 15:58, Phil. 2:12.
 - d. Examine self 2 Cor. 13:5 - Consult the great Physician.

THE INDWELLING CHRIST

Eph. 3:17

INTRODUCTION: If the president should notify you that he would be at your house on a given date to spend the evening, no doubt you would have the house spotlessly clean, everything in order, and the children on notice to be on their good behavior. Suppose the Son of God should come to make His abode, what then? He wants to dwell in your heart (Rev. 3:20, Col. 1:27, Eph. 3:17).

I. WE WOULD DO WELL TO CONSIDER:

- A. The Guest - Christ, the anointed Savior.
 1. Authoritative Mt. 7:29, Jno. 5:27.
 2. Powerful Mt. 28:18.
 3. Holy Heb. 7:26.
 4. Humble Phil. 2:5-8.
 5. Helpful Lk. 19:10.
 6. An honor Rev. 3:30.
- B. The reception room - the heart Eph. 3:17.
 1. Temple of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 6:19.
 2. Some places even we would not dwell - how about Christ Rom. 1:28-32.
 - a. Tabernacle covered with pure gold Ex. 37:1-2, Symbol of purity.
 - b. Heart must be made fit 1 Thess. 5:23.
 - (1) Renovated 1 Pet. 1:22, Col. 3:9-10, Gal. 2:20, Mt. 5:8.
- C. The action specified - Dwell.
 1. Not an occasional visitor, but a resident. Jno. 15:4.
 2. We need Him daily as:
 - a. A physician when sick - sin is a dreadful disease - Jas. 1:15.
 - b. A counsellor when confused Isa. 9:6.
 - c. A guide - we are travelers 1 Pet. 2:11, Jer. 10:23.
 - d. A sailor needs a compass Psa. 119:105; an anchor Heb. 6:19.
 - e. A soldier needs a captain Heb. 2:10.
 - f. A sheep needs a Shepherd Jno. 10:9.
- D. The manner of indwelling - by faith Eph. 3:17.
 1. Faith unlocks the door.
 2. Faith purifies the heart 1 Pet. 1:22.
 3. Christ will not share room with Satan Lk. 16:13.
 4. Great need for faith today Lk. 17:5.
- E. Reason for His indwelling a necessity.
 1. Christ in you the hope of glory Col. 1:27. Without Him, no hope.
 - a. Not Christ in history, but in "you". Jno. 15:4.
 - b. Otherwise we are aliens Eph. 2:11-12.
- F. Evidence of His presence.
 1. Outside appearance reveals much about the tenant.
 - a. E.g., yard, windows, curtains, paint, presence or absence of flowers.
 2. Our interests - what we read, watch on TV.
 3. Our conversation Mt. 12:34.
 4. Our actions Phil. 1:27.
 5. His presence gives us:
 - a. A new sense of power Eph. 3:16, Rom. 8:37.
 - b. Makes us like salt Mt. 5:13.
 - c. Makes us light of world Mt. 5:14-16.
 6. We feel a sense of purpose Acts 11:23.
 - a. Purpose to live for - to please God 1 Cor. 7:32, Rom. 8:8.
 - b. Goal to strive for Phil. 3:13-14.
 - c. A cause to fight for 1 Tim. 6:12.
 7. We feel our responsibility Lk. 12:47-48.
- G. The means of entrance.
 1. We must open the door Rev. 3:20, Heb. 11:6, Acts 3:19, Rom. 10:9-10, Acts 2:38.

INCOMPARABLE ABILITY

Eph. 3:20

INTRODUCTION: Paul fittingly closes his sincere prayer vs. 14-21 for the Ephesians with a doxology. In it he refers to the One to whom he prays. There are many persons of great ability in various fields of endeavor. The world has produced many men of genius. But these men all have their limitations. Here is One who is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think." Let us consider;

I. SOME PROOF OF HIS ABILITY,

A. He was and is able

1. To create Heb. 1:2, Jno. 1:1-3, Col. 3:16, Gen. 1:1.
 - a. A universe out of nothing.
 - (1) Man can manufacture, but he can't create.
 - (2) Its immensity defies comprehension.
 - (3) Its harmony, precision.
 - (4) Its beauty - nature's scenes - mountains, water falls, flowers, rivers, oceans.
 - b. Man as lord of creation Gen. 1:28.
 - (1) "Fearfully and wonderfully made" Ps. 139:14.
 - (a) Nervous system.
 - (b) Digestive tract.
 - (c) His stupendous achievements.
2. To rule the universe He created.
 - a. He upholds all things Heb. 1:3.
 - b. He destroyed all the wicked with a flood Gen. 6.
 - c. He foiled man's presumption Gen. 11.
 - d. He humbled mighty Nebuchadnezzar Ban. 4.
 - e. He is not dead; neither has He abdicated.
3. To establish a spiritual kingdom despite bitter opposition.
 - a. Daniel said He would Ban. 2:44.
 - b. Idolatry was at its height Acts 17:22-29.
 - c. Wickedness was deep-rooted Boa. 1:24-32, 3:10-18.
 - d. Judaism at its worst.
 - e. Bitter persecution Acts 4, 2 Cor. 11:24-28.
 - (1) By Pharisees, Sadducees, Romans, infidels.
4. To preserve His kingdom against:
 - a. Internal corruption due to arrogance of leaders.
 - (1) Internal strife 1 Cor. 1:10-15, 3:1-4.
 - (2) Judaizing teachers Gal. 1:6-9.
 - (5) Lust for power led to apostasy 2 Thess. 2:1-12.
 - (4) It survived the Dark Ages.
 - b. Reformation introduced denominationalism.
 - c. Modernism is currently defiant.
 - d. But it has stood and will stand Ban. 2:44, Mb. 16-18.
5. To devise an all-sufficient plan Phil. 4:19.
 - a. Meets all physical needs Mt. 6:23-32.
 - b. Meets all spiritual needs 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:3.
6. To preserve an all-sufficient Book Mt. 24:35.
7. To redeem the worst of sinners Is. 1:18, Heb. 7:23.
8. To punish the wicked.
 - a. Punishment is reserved 2 Pet. 2:9.
 - b. A sorer punishment Heb. 10:28-29, Rev. 20:12-15.
9. To glorify the redeemed.
 - a. Raised by His power Jno. 5:28-29.
 - b. A beautiful home prepared for the faithful Rev. 21:1-4.

GLORY TO GOD

Eph. 3:21

I. GOD DESERVES GLORY - BECAUSE OF:

- A. What He has done.
 1. Created the universe Gen. 1:1.
 2. Created man Gen. 2:7.
 3. Proved His love Jno. 3:16.
 4. Has promised heaven Jno. 14:1-3.
- B. His power.
 1. Power belongs to Him Psa. 62:11.
 2. All things are possible Mt. 19:26, Lk. 1:37.
 3. Spake and it was done Psa. 33:9.
- C. Extent of His power:
 1. Make all grace abound 2 Cor. 9:8. - 4. Guard **treasure** 2 Tim. 1:12.
 2. Do exceeding abundantly Eph. 3:20 - 5. Save to uttermost Heb. 7:25.
 3. Subdue all Phil. 3:21. - 6. Keep from falling Jude 24.

II. WHY GLORIFY GOD.

- A. He is a jealous God Ex. 20:5.
- B. He will not share it Isa. 42:8.
- C. Man created for that purpose Isa. 43:7.
- D. Dare not take glory to ourselves 1 Cor. 4:7, 1 Cor. 1:27-29.
 1. Moses' great mistake Num. 20:8-12.
 - a. His punishment De. 34:1-6.
 2. Herod Acts 12:20-22 - Punishment Acts 12:23.

III. MEDIUM THROUGH WHICH WE GIVE HIM GLORY.

- A. Through Christ Rom. 16:27.
 1. Acknowledge Him as Savior Heb. 7:25. Isa. 53:4-6.
 - a. By obedience Heb. 5:8-9. Rom. 6:17-18.
 - (1) Believe, repent, confess. be baptized.
 2. By a godly life Tit. 2:12, 2 Pet. 3:11.
 - a. Walk in His steps Mt. 16:24, 1 Pet. 2:21
 - b. Bear fruits of the Spirit Gal. 5:22-23.
- B. Through the church Eph. 3:21 - Christ:
 1. Bought it Acts 20:28.
 2. Is the head of it Col. 1:18.
 3. Is its foundation 1 Cor. 3:H.
 4. Built it Mt. 16:18.
 5. Belongs to Him. Mt. 16:18.
 6. How through the church?
 - a. Keep it pure Eph. 5:25-27.
 - b. Do work through it Eph. 3:21, Eph. 4:12.
 - (1) Evangelistic work.
 - (a) Not through a man-made missionary society. Society, not the church gets the glory.
 - (b) Not through a sponsoring church. Unheard of in the Bible.
 - (c) Each congregation is autonomous, independent.
 - (2) Benevolent work.
 - (a) Not through an orphanage, old folks home, hospital
 - (3) Educational work.
 - (a) Not a Bible college supported by the church.
 - c. In all the above mentioned institutions Man gets the glory.
 - (1) This, God will not tolerate Isa. 42:8.
 - (2) Remember Moses.

THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

Eph. 4:1-6

INTRODUCTION: Division is the greatest barrier to the accomplishment of God's great plan to save man from sin. It is evident that Satan is responsible for the divided condition of the religious world. Thinking people know that all the warring factions cannot be right, but that they could all be wrong. Few people realize that there is a way that is right and can't be wrong. In our text Paul is thinking about that way. Let us consider;

I. THE DIFFICULTY" OF ACHIEVING AND MAINTAINING UNITY.

- A. It is difficult because of:
1. Individual differences.
 2. Men love their own opinions.
 3. Different educational opportunities lead to different interpretations of the Scriptures.
 4. Lack of knowledge 1 Cor. 1:12-13.
 5. Lack of humility. Some are determined to have their way.
 6. Satan's divisive methods 2 Cor. 2:11.
 - a. He knows that in unity there is strength.
 - b. Knows a divided kingdom cannot stand Mt. 12:25.

II. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN UNITY AND UNION.

- A. Union - bringing together things of like nature.
1. Allied troops. League of Nations - not homogeneous.
 2. You can't weld wood and steel - heterogenous.
- B. Unity involves oneness of nature.
1. Believe same doctrine.
 2. Obey the gospel of Christ - nothing divisive about it.
 3. Born of water and the Spirit Jno. 3:3-5.
 4. Molded in same mold Rom. 6:17-18.

III. WHY THE RELIGIOUS WORLD SHOULD BE UNITED.

- A. Christ prayed for it Jno. 17:20-21. One of His last prayers.
- B. It is a command 1 Cor. 1:10, Eph. 4:4-6.
- a. Christ is head of but one body, not many.
 - b. We must keep His commandments Jno. 14:13.
- C. Christ came to establish unity.
- a. Between Jew and Gentile Eph. 2:12-22, Gal. 3:27-29, Jno. 10:16.
- D. Division is condemned.
- a. By Paul 1 Cor. 1:10-14, 3:3-4.
- E. That the world may believe Jno. 17:20-22.
- a. Division puts an effective club in the enemies' hand.
- F. "We must hang together, or we will all hang separately."

IV. HOW THE RELIGIOUS WORLD CAN UNITE.

- A. There must be a common ground.
1. Concessions of preconceived, unscriptural ideas must be made.
 2. Not in creeds of men - they cause division.
 3. The Bible is the only ground 1 Pet. 4:11, 2 Tim. 4:1-2.
- B. By accepting Paul's platform of unity Eph. 4:4-6.
1. One God unity of worship.
 2. One Lord..... unity of authority.
 3. One Spirit..... unity of revelation.
 4. One baptism unity of practice.
 5. One body..... unity of organization.
 6. One faith..... unity of belief.
 7. One hope unity of aspiration.

OFFENSIVES AND COUNTER OFFENSIVES

Eph. 4:8-16

INTRODUCTION: In time of war we hear much about offensives and counter offensives. God and Satan have been at war since Eve's initial encounter with Satan in Eden. Christians are constantly at war with Satan. Victory in any war requires the proper use of both offensive and defensive strategy. Let us consider:

I. THE ORIGINATOR OF THE OFFENSIVE.

- A. Satan invaded the earth - first drive was made in Eden Gen. 3:1-8.
 - 1. Note his strategy.
 - a. Deceit.
 - (1) Does not make known his design.
 - (2) Puts an innocent question vs. 1.
 - (3) Insinuates that God is unreasonable vs. 5.
 - (4) Denies there is any danger vs. 4. Teaches first to doubt, then to deny.
 - (5) He promises great advantage vs. 5.
 - b. Lies Jno. 8:44.
 - 2. This drive seems very successful Gen. 6:1-5.
- B. God launched a counter offensive.
 - 1. Noah was selected to conduct the counter offensive Gen. 6:6-17.
 - a. God gave Noah an effective weapon - the flood.
 - b. Satan was put to route, but lives to renew his assault.

II. THE GREATEST COUNTER OFFENSIVE OF ALL TIME.

- A. God promises a "miracle man" to mount the counter offensive:
 - 1. To Abraham Gen. 12:1-3, Jacob Gen. 28:13-14, Moses Deut. 18:15.
- B. He begins developments to make promise good.
 - 1. Jewish nation the medium through which Leader is to come. Gen. 12.
- C. The great Deliverer is announced.
 - 1. By Gabriel Lk. 1:26-33.
 - 2. By John the Baptist Mt. 3:1-12, Jno. 1:29.
- D. He meets with signal success.
 - 1. Though put to death, He rises stronger than ever Mt. 28:1-8.
 - 2. He sent the Holy Spirit to direct campaign Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
 - 3. He selected twelve great generals to lead the assault Mt. 10:1-7.
 - 4. They established a kingdom, He is crowned King Acts 2:22-41.
 - 5. He leads captivity captive Eph. 4:8-11.
 - a. Satan, the chief general. Christ's superiority demonstrated:
 - (1) In hand to hand encounter Mt. 4:1-10.
 - (2) His power to cast out demons Mt. 12:22-30.
 - b. Death, Satan's chief ally.
 - (1) Delivered from bondage to fear and death Heb. 2:14, Jno. 5:28-29, 1 Cor. 15:20-26, 51-57.
 - c. Sin, another ally of Satan.
 - (1) Christ lived in Satan's realm yet without sin Heb. 7:26.
 - (2) Christ opened up a corridor through Satan's territory Jno. 8:31-32, Mt. 7:13-15, Col. 1:13, Rom. 6:17-18.

III. SATAN HAS LAUNCHED ANOTHER COUNTER OFFENSIVE.

- A. Satan never gives up.
 - 1. He has marshalled a mighty force. E.g.,
 - a. Pornography, drugs, salacious lit., TV., false doctrines.
 - 2. He is currently having great success.
 - 3. Church has great responsibility to counter this attack,
 - a. We need more soldiers, more zeal, more courage.

THE TRIUMPHANT CONQUEROR

Eph. 4:8-11

INTRODUCTION. In our text Paul refers to the triumph given to Roman generals when they had won some great victory. During this military triumph the victorious general was placed in a chariot; the conquered kings were bound and followed the chariot; the conqueror gave gifts to the people. Let us consider:

I. CHRIST AS THE TRIUMPHANT CONQUEROR.

- A. Jesus came from heaven Jno. 3:17.
 - 1. A body was prepared for him Heb. 10:5.
 - 2. He came as a babe Lk. 1:30-55, 2:7-12
 - 5. Became servant of all Phil. 2:5-11.
- B. He conquered the domain of Satan.
 - 1. Satan was a usurper Gen. 3, Eph. 2:1-3.
 - a. Usurped power when Adam fell Gen. 3:17-24, 6:5.
 - b. Unconquered until he met his Waterloo.
 - (1) Vanquished in a three-round encounter Mt. 4:1-10.
- C. Returned to heaven in triumph.
 - 1. As described by:
 - a. The apostles Acts 1:9-11.
 - b. David Ps. 24:7-10.
 - c. Daniel Dan. 7:13-14.

II. THE CAPTIVES LED CAPTIVE:

- A. Satan, the chief general.
 - 1. Christ's power and victory over Satan evidenced by:
 - a. Power to cast out demons Mt. 12:22-29.
 - b. Satan bound with gospel chains Rev. 20:1-2.
 - (1) Lost his power over all who obey and live by gospel.
 - (2) We must keep out of his way - don't get too close.
 - (3) Demons do not enter people today Zech. 13:1-2.
 - (4) We have access to the truth which makes us free Jno. 8:32.
- B. Death, a result of Satan's work Rom. 5:12.
 - 1. Satan induced man to sin, death resulted.
 - 2. Since Eden all except Enoch and Elijah have died Gen. 5.
 - 5. In His resurrection Christ conquered death Heb. 2:14.
- C. Sin, another child of the devil Jas. 1:15.
 - 1. Christ lived on earth, which is Satan's realm.
 - a. Yet without sin Mt. 4:1-10, Heb. 7:26, 1 Pet. 2:21-23.
 - 2. Christ perfected a plan Rom. 1:16.
 - a. All can be delivered from Satan Col. 1:13, Rom. 6:17-18.
 - b. Gospel obedience sets us free Jno. 8:31-32.
 - 5. Christ set up His kingdom in Satan's realm Acts 2.
 - a. In the church we have refuge from Satan.
 - b. We can hide in the cleft of the Rock Ps. 62:1-8.
 - c. We can triumph over Satan 1 Cor. 10:13, Rom. 8:37.

III. THE GIFTS HE GAVE UNTO MEN.

- A. Holy Spirit to guide the apostles Jno. 14:26, 16:13, Acts 2:1-4.
 - 1. Descent of the Spirit was evidence He had ascended Acts 2:33.
- B. Spiritual gifts 1 Cor. 12:4-11.
 - 1. Such gifts were necessary in early church.
 - a. In absence of apostles who could not always be present.
 - b. In absence of New Testament which was not yet written.
 - c. When it was written spiritual gifts ceased 1 Cor. 13:8-12.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Eph. 4:13-16

INTRODUCTION. God is much interested in the growth of the church, both in its individual and collective capacity. He wants to become full grown and to come to the "measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ," We would do well to note:

I. WHY PAUL WAS ANXIOUS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

- A. God has made growth possible.
 1. He gave the early church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors (elders) and teachers Eph. 4:11.
 2. That we may become full grown Eph. 4:13, Heb. 3:12-14.
 - a. Pitiful to see retarded children.
 - b. We admire those who are strong.
 - c. Many spiritual weaklings 1 Cor. 14:20.
 3. Children are easily misled - lack knowledge and experience v. 14.

II. KIND OF GROWTH DESIRED.

- A. External.
 1. God wants kingdom to expand Mk. 16:15-16.
- B. Internal - each member must grow 2 Pet. 3:18.
 1. Get the inside right and the external growth is natural.

III. PAUL'S DESIRE FOR GROWTH IMPLIES:

- A. That saints are not perfect - weaknesses to be overcome.
 1. Time and study are part of the growing up process 1 Th. 5:23.

IV. THE ULTIMATE OBJECT OF GROWTH.

- A. "Unity of the Spirit."
 1. Unity depends upon knowledge of God and His word.
 - a. Division results from lack of knowledge Rom. 10:1-3.
- B. A perfect or full grown man.
 1. Many who are mature physically are still babes spiritually Heb. 5:11-14.
- C. "The measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."
 1. Christ is the measuring reed. Be like Him in:
 - a. Unselfishness. humility Phil. 2:5-10.
 - b. Willingness to serve Lk. 19:10.
 - c. Sinlessness 1 Pet. 2:22.
 - d. Love, obedience, zeal.

V. CONDITIONS ESSENTIAL FOR GROWTH.

- A. In vegetable kingdom.
 1. Good seed Lk. 8:11, 1 Pet. 1:23.
 2. Good soil Mt. 13:3-9 - Note four kinds of soil.
 3. Deep root Eph. 3:16-19 - grounded in faith and love Eph. 3:17-19.
 4. Cultivation Lk. 8:14 - get rid of the weeds.
- B. In animal kingdom.
 1. Pure food.
 - a. Sincere milk of the word 1 Pet. 2:1-2, Gal. 1:6-9.
 - b. Unadulterated Col. 2:20-23, Mt. 15:7-9.
 - c. Observe pure food laws 1 Pet. 4:11, Rev. 22:18-19.
 2. Regular diet - consult the Great Physician.
 - a. You may have spiritual indigestion - need X-ray 2 Cor. 13:5.
 3. Regular exercise 1 Tim. 4:7-8.
 - a. Improve your talents Mt. 25:14-26.

GODS CALL TO SLEEPERS

Eph. 5:14

INTRODUCTION; Solomon said, "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven" (Ecc. 3:1). So, there is a time to sleep and a time to refrain from sleeping. Fortunate is the person who can sleep well at night. But God has provided no place in His kingdom for spiritual slumber.

I. WE WOULD DO WELL TO CONSIDER:

- A. The sleepers referred to.
 1. Sinners, slumbering peacefully, unaware of danger.
 2. Saints, who have imbibed of Satan's soothing syrup Rev. 3: 15-18.
- B. The symptoms of this deadly disease.
 1. A state of darkness.
 - a. Organs of vision clouded, closed Mt. 13:15 - by pleasure, greed.
 - b. Soul without knowledge - "knowest not" Rev. 3:18, Pr. 19:2.
 - c. Hays of "Sun of righteousness" excluded.
 2. A state of insensibility.
 - a. Do not enjoy surrounding beauties - due to ignorance.
 - b. See neither the good nor the bad around them.
 - c. Ho desire to better self in the world.
 3. A state of inactivity.
 - a. Since no desire, no plans; no plans, no work.
 - b. Sinners - whether alien or erring professed Christians.
 - (1) Strive not for any goal Phil. 3:13-14. Paul did.
 - (2) Flee not from wrath Ps. 143:9.
 - (3) Prepare not to meet God Amos 4:12.
 4. A state of dreams and illusion - Though:
 - a. Wretched, dream of bliss.
 - b. Condemned, dream of heaven.
 - c. Life ebbing, dream of years to come Jas. 4:13; Lk. 12:19.
 5. A state of peril - E.g.,
 - a. Belshazzer Dan. 5:25-31.
 - b. Rich fool, planning Lk. 12:16-21.
 - c. Herod, defied Acts 12:20-23.
- C. Why people sleep so peacefully.
 1. They are not hungry Mt. 5:6.
 2. They are satisfied on husks.
 3. They are not worried - say peace where there is none Jer. 6:13-15.
 4. They do not hear warnings 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
- D. The cause of this spiritual slumber.
 1. Satan soothes by saying:
 - a. You are entitled to sow some wild oats - but note Gal. 6:7.
 - b. You have plenty of time Acts 24:25.
 - c. God is merciful. True, but note Heb. 10:28-31.
- E. Why sinners should awake.
 1. Christ said to watch Mt. 25:1-10, Mk. 13:33-35.
 2. Paul said to awake Rom. 13:11, 1 Cor. 15:34, Eph. 5:14.
 3. Dangerous to sleep on duty - enemy is always busy Mt. 13:25.
 - a. Sows tares while parents sleep.
 - b. While nations sleep.
 - c. While church sleeps - false doctrines Mt. 15:7-9, 13.
- F. God's call to sinners. By His word.
 1. Describes his dreadful state - his future Rev. 20:12-15.
 2. Calls to repentance Acts 3:19, Isa. 55:6-7.
 3. Contains promises to be enjoyed; commands to be obeyed; threats to be feared.

CHURCH STRENGTH

Eph. 6:10

INTRODUCTION: Strength is one of the most desirable qualities known to man, and most sought by the masses. Any sane person would prefer strength to weakness. Millions watch their diet, exercise regularly, and consult their doctors as necessary in order to gain and keep strength. Christians desire to be strong physically, mentally and spiritually. Our text indicates that God expects no less of His children both individually and collectively. Let us consider:

I. THE NEED FOR STRENGTH IN THE CHURCH.

- A. It has a great work to do Eph. 4:11-16.
- B. It has strong opposition.
 1. Paganism - 10 bloody persecutions - Nero to Constantine.
 2. Judaism - Paul's greatest problem. Suffered much at hands of Jews.
 3. Atheism — Opposition has always been strong, still is.
 4. Modernism - Believe in God, but question the Bible — Result.
 5. Social gospel - Stress man's physical needs. Change God's plan.

II. THE CHURCH IS STRONG WHEN:

- A. It is uncompromising Eph. 4:14 - e.g.
 1. Moses refused to compromise Ex. 9:25-26, 28-29, 10:11, 24, Thus he succeeded in delivering Israel in spite of Pharaoh and Egypt.
 2. Nehemiah Neh. 6:2-5 - Enemies sought compromise, he refused.
 5. Peter refused Acts 5:28-29.
 4. Paul refused Gal. 1:6-10, 2:11-14.
- B. It is united Eph. 4:1-6, Mt. 12:25.
- C. It defends the truth Phil. 1:15-17, Gal. 2:4-5.
- D. When it takes the offensive, e.g., Missionary journeys Col. 1:23.

III. WHAT MAKES A STRONG CHURCH:

- A. Not necessarily great numbers Judges 7:1—7, Mt. 18:20.
- B. Be on the Lord's side Ex. 32:26 - right will triumph,
 1. We can be "more than conquerors." We can be triumphant.
- C. Preachers who preach the gospel Acts 20:26-27, 1 Cor. 2:1-5, 2 Tim. 4:1-2.
- D. Elders who:
 1. Watch and feed the flock Acts 20:28, 1 Pet. 1:1-5.
 2. Are ensamples 1 Pet. 5:3.
 3. Realize responsibility Heb. 13:17.
 4. Exercise discipline 1 Cor. 5:1—5.
 5. Have vision, provide leadership.
- E. Members who:
 1. Are truly converted Lk. 22:32, not just half-baked Hos. 7:8.
 2. Have knowledge Col. 1:9-10, Eph. 5:17.
 3. Are well armed Eph. 6:10-18.
 4. Are consecrated 2 Cor. 8:1-5.
 5. Are faithful Heb. 10:25.
 6. Are zealous Tit. 2:14.
 7. Are united Phil. 1:27.

CONCLUSION:

Numbers are not necessary, but may be helpful. A converted, consecrated membership will grow and be strong. Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-10) was stronger than Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-18). Some congregations just "play church". Let us awake, arise, put on the whole armor, and fight the good fight that we may be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

SATAN'S LIKENESS

Eph. 6:10-12

INTRODUCTION: The longest war that has ever been fought is the conflict between Christ and Satan. This war began in Eden and has raged with unceasing intensity until this day. Christ has been victorious in every confrontation with Satan. Satan will be vanquished when he is cast into the lake of fire. We, too, can be victorious if we accept Christ as the captain of our salvation (Heb. 2:10). In any war it is always helpful to know as much as possible about the strategy of the enemy. In Pharaoh, king of Egypt, we see a striking likeness of Satan. Moses was a type of Christ; Pharaoh was a type of Satan. Let us note that:

I. PHARAOH AFFLICTED ISRAEL Ex. 1:11, 14.

A. Satan afflicts:

1. With temptation Gen. 3:1, 2 Cor. 11:3, 2 Pet. 2:9.
2. Guilty conscience Gen. 42:21, Psa. 40:12, 51:1-3, 1 Tim. 4:1.
3. Poisons with prejudice Mt. 13:15.
4. Fear, sorrow, suffering.

B. Moses delivered Israel; Christ can deliver 1 Cor. 10:13.

II. PHARAOH PREVENTED INCREASE Ex. 1:22.

A. Satan seeks to prevent growth of church.

1. Poisons mind with salacious literature, pornography.
2. Intoxicates with worldly pleasures Lk. 8:14, 1 Tim. 3:6.

III. PHARAOH RESISTED MOSES 2 Tim. 3:8-9.

A. Satan resists 1 Pet. 3:8.

1. With false doctrine 1 Tim. 4:1-4, 2 Pet. 2:1-3.
2. Like magicians 2 Tim. 3:8, Mt. 15:13.

IV. PHARAOH WAS IGNORANT Ex. 5:2.

A. Satan wants to keep all in ignorance.

1. Seeks to destroy the Bible - Rome kept Bible locked up in Latin language.
2. Discourages Bible study - keeps us too busy (?).
3. Advocates evolution, modernism.
4. Ignorant people are easily kept in bondage.

V. PHARAOH WAS PROUD Ex. 5:2.

A. "Who is the Lord that I should obey him?" -

B. Satan appeals to vanity - Show how.

1. Pride is one of the great barriers to salvation Jno. 12:42-43.

71. PHARAOH WAS A COMPROMISER

A. "Worship God in the land." Ex. 8:25.

1. Satan would have us be:
 - a. Just morally good Mt. 12:30, 2 Cor. 6:17-18.

B. "Don't go very far." Ex. 8:28 - Satan says:

1. Don't take church seriously, just be a member.
2. Regular church attendance unnecessary.
3. Study, worship, work unimportant.
4. Baptism is enough.

C. "Let men only go." Ex. 10:11.

1. Satan tries to keep families divided.

D. "Go, but flocks and herds stay." Ex. 10:24.

1. Satan:
 - a. Wants our possessions Lk. 12:16-21, 1 Tim. 6:9-10.
 - b. Knows the value of treasures Mt. 6:19-21.

GOD HATH SPOKEN

Heb. 1:1-4

INTRODUCTION: There has never been a time when more words were being spoken and written. Some of the words spoken are superior and quality and helpful in nature; some, mediocre and harmful; some, inferior and detrimental. When God speaks, man would do well to lend a listening ear.

I. LET US CONSIDER:

- A. The persons addressed.
 1. Not the patriarchs - God spoke to them:
 - a. Through natural revelation Rom. 2:14-15.
 - b. Face to face Gen. 3, 12, Ex. 3:4-14.
 - c. Through dreams: to Jacob Gen. 28:11-15; to Pharaoh Gen. 41:1-9.
 2. Not Jews.
 - a. Spoke to them through the law of Moses Deut. 5:1-3.
 3. Not the prophets.
 - a. Who explained the law; encouraged, warned and plead with Israel.
 4. But to us - in Christian dispensation. "In the last days".
- B. The speaker - God. He is qualified to speak because:
 1. He has something to say.
 - a. He has complete knowledge Rom. 11:33, 1 Sam. 2:3, Isa. 40:28.
 - (1) He needs no intelligence service.
 2. He has all authority.
 - a. All primary or inherent authority belongs to God.
 - b. He delegated authority to Christ Mt. 28:18.
 3. His words have power.
 - a. In creation: "Spoke, was done; commanded, it stood fast" Ps. 35:9.
 - b. Christ's words had power: sea, cursed fig tree, raised Lazarus.
 4. He spoke with finality.
 - a. No continuing revelation Jude 3.
 - (1) This rules out:
 - (a) Mary Baker Eddy, Ellen G. White, Joe Smith.
 - b. God's revelation is complete Col. 2:9-10 - it makes us complete
2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:3, 1 Pet. 4:11.
- C. The method of speaking.
 1. Through His Son Heb. 1:2.
 - a. He was appointed heir of all things Heb. 1:2.
 - b. By Him He made the worlds Heb. 1:2, Col. 1:16.
 - c. Upholds all things by the word of His power Heb. 1:3.
 - d. He purged our sins Heb. 1:3.
 - e. He sent the Holy Spirit Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
 - (1) Which guided us into all truth Jno. 16:13.
 - (a) Who wrote the word 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:3.
 - (b) Which tells us:
 - 1) How to become a Christian.
 - 2) How to live a Christian life.
 - 3) How to worship God acceptably Jno. 4:23-24.
 - 4) How to do the work He wants done Eph. 3:10,21, 4:12.
 - D. Our obligation.
 1. To hear Isa. 1:2, Jas. 1:19, Mt. 17:5.
 - a. Heed what you hear Mk. 4:24, 1 Jno. 4:1.
 - b. Heed how you hear Lk. 8:18 - with open, unbiased mind Mt. 13:15.
 2. Obey what He said:
 - a. Heb. 5:8-9, 12:25, Mt. 7:21.
 3. Teach others.
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:2, 1 Pet. 4:11.

THE WAY OF ESCAPE

Heb. 2:1-3

INTRODUCTION: Our prisons are overflowing with people who have violated the law. Few enjoy such confinement; most all want out. Some illegally escape, others serve out their sentence. Perhaps too many are prematurely paroled. Adam got us all in prison - the prison of sin. Fortunately, God has prepared a way of escape. Discuss the text. Let us note:

I. GOD HAS ALWAYS PREPARED A WAY OF ESCAPE.

- A. God gave directions - we must follow -
 1. Noah prepared an ark Gen. 6:22, family escaped flood Gen. 6, 7.
 2. Lot and part of his family escaped Gen. 19:15-28.
 3. Israel escaped bondage in Egypt Ex. 14:19-31.
 4. Sons of Adam's apostate race Rom. 3:10-18.
- B. Christ provided a way of escape from:
 1. Temptation, the cause of sin 1 Cor. 10:13.
 - a. Lust is the cause Jas. 1:15. Three types of lust:
 - (1) Lust of flesh, lust of eye, pride of life 1 Jno. 2:15-16.
 - b. Christ showed us how to escape Mt. 4:1-10.
 - (1) Lust of the flesh Mt. 4:1-4.
 - (2) Lust of eye Mt. 4:8-11.
 - (3) Pride of life Mt. 4:5-7.
 - c. Satan defeated in all three rounds - vanquished Mt. 4:11.
 - d. Christ provided the needed help 1 Jno. 3:9.
 - (1) "Seed" - Moral qualities of the Father begotten in us 2 Pet. 1:4.
 - (2) "Cannot" —
 - (a) Not an impossibility - We know we can sin.
 - (b) But a prohibition - "Cannot" because we must not.
 2. Corruption, the effect of sin Rom. 1:28-32, 3:10-18.
 - a. Corruption can be eliminated 1 Jno. 3:3-5, 2 Cor. 5:17, 1 Cor. 6:9-11.
 3. Death, the result of sin Rom. 6:23.
 - a. Die physically because of Adam's sin Rom. 5:17, 1 Cor. 15:22.
 - b. Die spiritually because of our own sin 1 Tim. 5:6.
 - c. Christ delivers from the grave Heb. 2:14.
 - d. He delivers from spiritual death Eph. 2:1-6.
 4. Condemnation, the consequence of sin Rom. 6:23: 8:1, 6:17-18.

II. HOW WE MAY ESCAPE FROM SIN.

- A. By using the means provided.
 1. People of Noah's time refused the means. Scoffed at idea of flood.
 2. Lot's sons-in-law did same Gen. 19:14.
 3. Israelites believed not Heb. 3:17-19 - perished.
 4. Many will not escape because:
 - a. They refuse Christ, the way Heb. 12:25.
 - b. They change God's plan - Like Nadab and Abihu Lev. 10:1-2.
 - c. They are deceived Gal. 6:7-8.
 - d. They substitute tradition for Scripture Mt. 15:8-9.
 - e. Many neglect their salvation Heb. 2:1-2.
 - f. They procrastinate, like Felix Acts 24:25.
 - g. Many do not strive Lk. 13:24.
 - (1) We must strain every nerve to enter in at the narrow door.
 - h. Take religion too lightly, refuse to work Phil. 2:12.
 5. Way is too narrow for some Mt. 7:13-14.
 6. Many will fail because of neglect - "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation Heb. 2:2-3.

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

Heb. 4:12

INTRODUCTION: All are familiar with many types of power. To name a few: candle power, horse, water, steam, oil, gasoline, fire, dynamite, wind, lightening, atomic, there is even power in words. Power may be either constructive or destructive, depending upon how used. Paul speaks of the power of God's Word. (Rom. 1:16, Heb. 4:12). Let us observe this power in action.

I. IT BROUGHT GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION INTO EXISTENCE.

- A. The plan became necessary because of sin Gen. 3, Rom. 5:23.
1. Part of God's eternal purpose Eph. 3:10-11.
 2. 4000 years in evolution - Patriarchal and Jewish dispensations.
 3. Culminated in the church (Acts 2) - Word is our guide Jno. 16:13, 1 Cor. 2:9-10, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Jude 3.
 4. The plan is now complete Col. 2:9-10, Isa. 8:20, Rev. 22:18-19.

II. THE POWER OF THE WORD.

- A. Power exemplified.
1. In creation Gen. 1, Psa. 33:6—9.
 2. Upholds all things Heb. 1:1-3.
 3. Miracles of Old Testament - possible by spoken word,
 - a. Moses Num. 20:6, Joshua 10:12.
 4. Word was made flesh Jno. 1:1-3, 14, Heb. 10:5.
 - a. Part of the Godhead 1 Jno. 5:7.
 - b. Babe in the manger was God's power clothed in flesh.
 3. Miracles of Jesus - He but spake and it was done.
 6. Miracles of apostles needed to confirm the word Heb. 2:4.
 - a. To prove they were God's men Acts 3:6, 10:40.
 7. In teaching of the apostles -
 - a. Source of power Jno. 16:13, Lk. 24:49, Acts 1:8, 2:22-24, 37.
 8. In conversion of many:
 - a. Samaritans Acts 8:5:
 - (1) Mixed breed - despised by both Jews and Gentiles Jno. 4:9:
 - b. Eunuch - Philip had preached to him Jesus Acts 8:33:
 - c. Saul - Acts 9:6.
 - d. Cornelius Acts 16:14 - "Words - - whereby saved."
 - e. Jailer Acts 16:32:
 9. In the gospel Rom. 1:16, 1 Cor. 15:1-4, 1 Cor. 2:1-5:
 - a. It has begetting power Jas. 1:18, 1 Pet. 1:23:
 - b. It has cleansing power Jno. 15:3, Psa. 119:9, 1 Pet. 1:22.
 - c. It has sustaining power, building power Acts 20:32.
 - (1) Our hearts should be filled with it 2 Tim. 2:15, Psa. 119:11.
 - (2) Helps overcome temptation 1 Cor. 10:12-13:
 - d. It has destructive power 2 Cor. 10:4:
 - e. It has enduring power 1 Pet. 1:25, Mt. 24:35:

III. HENCE OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

- A. We are put in trust with the gospel 1 Thess. 2:4 - Hence:
- 1: Release it -
 - a. Atomic power had no power until released - e.g., Hiroshima.
 - b. Gospel is powerless in the pages of a closed Book.
 - c. Hence we must preach it Mk. 16:15-16:
 - 2: Defend it Jude 3 - Many seek to destroy it.
 - 3: Not pervert it Gal. 1:6-9.
 - 4: Obey it Heb. 5:8-9, Rev. 3:20.
 - 5: It will transform your life if you will accept it Rom. 12:2.

THE EVILS OF IGNORANCE

Heb. 5:11-14

INTRODUCTION: Our text suggests the evils of ignorance on the one hand and the value of knowledge on the other. See Prov. 19:2: The soul is the spiritual inhabitant of the body.

I. WE WOULD DO WELL TO CONSIDER:

- A. What ignorance has done.
 1. Has caused many people to die. Doctors once bled patients.
 2. Has caused: financial disaster; battles to be lost.
 3. Hindoos once offered babies to crocodiles to appease angry gods.
 4. It is the mother of superstition.
- B. Some things of which all people need knowledge.
 1. Of God and His will 1 Chro. 28:9, Pr. 4:5, 23:23, Jno. 8:31-32.
 2. Of Christ and the great salvation Heb. 2:1-3:
 - a. Millions now lost for lack of knowledge Rom. 10:3:
 3. Of ourselves - lost or saved?
 - a. Our origin, duty, and destiny.
- C. Why not good for soul to be without knowledge Pr. 19:2.
 1. Frustrates the end of our being.
 - a. Soul formed for knowledge, as was sun to give light.
 - b. Five senses designed as inlets of knowledge - e.g., eye, ear.
 - c. Soul has power, too. Has powers of
 - (1) Understanding, judgment, imagination, memory.
 2. Ignorance is its degradation and abasement.
 - a. Capacity for knowledge gave man dominion Gen. 1:26.
 - b. Without knowledge man, the monarch became a slave.
 - c. Imagine the world without knowledge.
 3. Because of its misery.
 - a. Spiritual knowledge adds to the appreciation of life.
 - b. Knowledge is essential to happiness - It is:
 - (1) The sight of the soul.
 - (2) The food of the soul.
 - (3) The health of the soul.
 - 4: Ignorance leads to the guilt and condemnation of the soul Eph. 4:18-19:
 - a. Ignorance under our opportunities is sinful.
 - b. We have the means to gain knowledge - mind, memory.
 - c. God requires us to possess it 2 Tim. 2:15:
 - d. We are the children of light 1 Thess. 5:5:
 5. Will lead to death and eternal ruin of the **soul** Hos. 4:6.
 - a. Makes it unfit for heaven.
 - b. Most beautiful scenery is useless if we are blind.
 - c. Beautiful music is useless if we are deaf.
- D. Kinds of ignorance.
 1. Unavoidable.
 - a. Those who lack opportunity to gain knowledge.
 2. Wilful.
 - a. Those who are rational but do not want to know Mt. 13:15, Rom. 1:28, 2 Pet. 3:5:
 - b. Those blinded by prejudice Mt. 13:15:
 - (1) Millions today are like the Pharisees.
 - (2) Blinded by commandments and doctrines of men Mt. 15:7-3:
- E. Result of ignorance.
 1. Keeps people from submitting to God's will Rom. 10:3.
 2. Alienates from the life of God Eph. 4:18.
 3. Makes God ashamed 1 Cor. 15:34:

CRUCIFYING THE SOU OF GOD AFRESH

Heb. 6:4-6

INTRODUCTION: The apostle has reproved these brethren for lack of knowledge, and exhorted them to "go on to perfection." In our text he warns them of the danger and consequence of apostasy. Let us consider.

I. THE BLOOD THIRSTY MOB THAI CLAMORED FOR THE BLOOD OF:

- A. First describe the crucifixion.
- B. The greatest benefactor of all men Eph. 2:11-12, Rom. 5:6.
- C. The world's greatest Teacher Mt. 7:28-29, Jno. 7:46.
- D. The purest of the pure Heb. 7:26, 1 Pet. 2:22.
- E. The Savior of mankind Lk. 19:10.
- F. The Son of God Mt. 17:5, Co-creator of the universe Col. 1:16.

II. WHO IS IT THAT THAT MAY CRUCIFY HIM AFRESH? - THOSE WHO:

- A. Were once enlightened — had knowledge.
- B. Tasted the heavenly gift — knew how precious it is.
- C. Were partakers of the Holy Spirit Rom. 5:5: 1 Cor. 6:19.
- D. Tasted the good word of God — experienced its benefits Ps. 19:7-11.
- E. Have had a foretaste of heaven — peace, joy, hope.

III. THE IMPOSSIBILITY REFERRED TO:

- A. To restore those who fall away — Impossible for whom?
 1. The would-be restorer, not the one who has fallen away.
 - a. Does not say he can't repent — note Acts 8:22. But —
 - b. Impossible for anyone else to restore him. Reason:
 - (1) Can't offer him anything new that he doesn't know.
 - (2) Christ won't die again Heb. 9:28.
 2. Only hope of apostates restoration —
 - a. Repent and pray Acts 8:22. This is God's plan.
 - b. If he has sinned publicly, he must confess publicly.

IV. HOW WE MAY CRUCIFY HIM AFRESH.

- A. By apostatizing from the faith once for all delivered.
 1. Is it possible to fall from grace?
 - a. Some say "Once in grace, always in grace."
 - b. Paul says it is possible Heb. 6:6, 12:15: Gal. 5:1-4, 1 Tim. 4:1, 1 Cor. 10:12, Heb. 4:11.
 - c. Peter said it is possible 2 Pet. 1:10, 2 Pet. 2:20-22.
 - d. The Israelites fell Num. 14:12, Heb. 3:16-19,
 - (1) Of the original number (Num. 1:46) only Caleb and Joshua entered Canaan.
- B. By denying that Christ was the Son of God.
 1. Abundant proof:
 - a. Birth Isa. 7:14: Lk. 1:26-37.
 - b. Miraculous power; happenings at His death Mt. 27:50—54;
 - (1) His resurrection Mt. 27:62-66, 28:1-6.
- C. By denying authority of His word Mt. 28:18, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Heb. 4:12.
- D. By being untrue to the confession of our faith.
 1. By prolonged neglect of duty. Heb. 6:1-6.
 2. By courting the favor of the world 2 Tim. 4:10, 1 Jno. 2:15-17.
 3. Seeking pleasure of the world 1 Tim. 5:6, 1 Jno. 2:15-17:
 4. Seeking popularity Jno. 12:43: Acts 24:27: Col. 3:22, Lk. 8:14.
 5. Are you playing fast and loose with Him?

CONCLUSION: Beware I You CAN crucify Him afresh. Woe unto all who do.

"THINGS THAT ACCOMPANY SALVATION"

Heb. 6:9

INTRODUCTION: In the Hebrew letter Paul calls attention to many "better things" which God has done for Christians. This places Christians under everlasting obligations to realize that God has a right to expect in return —

I. "THINGS THAT ACCOMPANY SALVATION".

A. Grounds of His expectation.

1. In case of Israel Isa. 5:1-2 - God had planted a vineyard:
 - a. In a fruitful hill, gathered out stones, planted with choicest vine, built a tower and a winepress.
 - b. Naturally looked for fruit,
 - c. But they **brought forth wild grapes** — result Isa. 5:2-6:
2. In case of spiritual Israel -
 - a. We have been washed 1 Jno. 1:7, Tit. **3:4-5**, 2 Cor. 5:17:
 - b. Arisen to walk a new life Rom. 6:4:
 - c. Have put off things that hinder Col. 3:8-9, 1 Pet. 2:1.
 - d. Have put on things that help Col. 3:10-12.
 - e. Have His word as our infallible guide Ps. 119:105.
 - f. The church is our refuge Heb. 6:18.
 - g. We have ready access to God's throne Heb. 4:14-16.
 - h. Hence, great responsibility Lk. 12:47-48, Rom. 1:14-16.

B. Things expected are better than things expected of:

1. Heathen who know not the truth.
2. Those who make no profession - walk in darkness 1 Thess. 4:4-5:
- 3: Sinners, who are in open rebellion.

C. Some things that "accompany salvation."

- 1: Supreme faith in God - do what God says:
 - a. Nadab and Abihu did not Lev. 10:1-2:
 - b. Moses failed Num. 20:8-12.
 - (1) Contrast what Moses did with what God told him to do.
 - (2) Don't overlook the punishment Num. 20:12, Deut. 34:1-5:
 - c. Uzziah 2 Chr. 29:16-19.
 - d. All showed a lack of faith.
2. A Christ like spirit.
 - a. Humility Phil. 2:5-9, 1 Pet. 5:5-6.
 - b. Forgiving Lk. 23:34, Mt. 18:35.
 - c. Loving Jno. 13:34.
3. The indwelling of the Spirit Rom. 8:9-11, 1 Cor. 3:16-17.
4. Delight in the ordinances of Christ Ps. 40:8.
 - a. To attend all services Ps. 122:1, Heb. 10:25.
 - b. To observe the Lord's Supper regularly 1 Cor. 11:23-30.
5. Good works 1 Cor. 15:38, Jas. 1:22-25.
 - a. Faith without works is dead Jas. 2:14-26.
 - b. Lead others to Christ Jno. 1:41: 4:29.
 - c. Sow the seed of the kingdom Mt. 13:3-9.
 - d. Not be weary in well doing Gal. 6:9.
 - e. Help bear others burdens Gal. 6:2.
 - f. Prove our works Gal. 6:4.
6. Unselfishness - selfishness is unchristian,
 - a. Played part in first murder Gen. 4:
 - b. Leads to neglect of duty Lk. 10:32, Mt. 25:34.
 - c. Causes many to rob God Mal. 3:3 - both time and money.
7. Contentment 1 Tim. 6:6-10, Lk. 3:14, Phil. 4:11.
8. Brotherly love Heb. 13:1, 1 Jno. 4:20-21, Mt. 5:44. Rom. 12:20.

CONCLUSION: Think! Is God pleased or disappointed with you and your work?

"BETTER THINGS"

Heb. 6:9

INTRODUCTION: The word "better" is a key word in the Hebrew letter. The author's objective is to show that the gospel of Christ is superior to or better than the Law of Moses. Since the gospel is superior it is natural that God would expect "better things" of those who live under it than He expected of those who lived under the law of Moses, Notices

I. SOMEWAYS IN WHICH THE GOSPEL WAS BETTER;

- A. A better spokesman.
 1. God spake in times past by the prophets Heb. 1:1.
 2. The gospel was spoken by His Son Heb. 1:2.
 - a. Note seven things which characterize the Son Heb. 1:2-3:
- B. A better mediator Heb. 3:1-6:
 1. Moses was mediator of the law Jno. 1:17:
 - a. He was wholly human.
 - b. He was just a servant Heb. 3:5:
 - c. He built the tabernacle - a material building.
 2. The gospel has Christ as its mediator 1 Tim. 2:5.
 - a. He was both human and divine.
 - b. He was Son over His own house Heb. 3:6.
 - c. He built the church Mt. 16:18 - a spiritual house.
- C. A better hope Heb. 7:19.
 1. It has a better foundation — built on Christ 1 Cor. 3:11:
 2. It is an anchor to the soul Heb. 6:19 - needed in the storms of life.
 3. It enters into that within the veil Heb. 6:19.
- D. A better High Priest Heb. 7:
 1. Under law priests had to have a commandment to take tithes Heb. 7:5:
 2. They were made priests without an oath Heb. 7:20-21.
 3. They were subject to death Heb. 7:26-28.
 4. They had infirmities Heb. 7:28.
- E. A better ministry Heb. 8:1—5.
 1. Christ is a minister of the true tabernacle Heb. 8:2.
- P. A better covenant Heb. 8:6.
 1. First covenant was faulty Heb. 8:7. 4: Couldn't make perfect
 2. Weak Heb. 7:18, 8:3. Heb. 7:18-19:
 3. Couldn't give life Gal. 3:21. 5. Couldn't justify Gal.2:15.
- G. Better promise Heb. 8:6.
 1. Law gave promise of an earthly inheritance.
 2. Gospel gives promise of:
 - a. A savior who is able to save Heb. 7:25:
 - b. An eternal inheritance Rom. 6:23, Rev. 14:13:
- H. Better sacrifices Heb. 9:23, 11-14.
 1. Animal sacrifices could not make perfect Heb. 10:1.
 2. Could not take away sin Heb. 10:4:
- I. Blood of Christ speaks better things Heb. 12:24.
 1. Speaks in behalf of sinners Heb. 9:13-14:
 2. Pleads for mercy, not vengeance Gen. 4:10.
 3. Christ's blood speaks:
 - a. Pardon for sin Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14.
 - b. Peace to the soul Jno. 14:27, Phil. 4:7, Eph. 2:14-15:
- J. A better country Heb. 10:34, 11:16.
 1. A land of fadeless day, fulness of joy, pleasures forevermore.
- K. God has a right to expect better things Heb. 6:9:
 1. Love - devotion, faithfulness because we have:
 - a. Superior opportunities and advantages.

THE *GOSPEL* IN THIS CHANGING WORLD
Heb. 6:17

INTRODUCTION: We are all aware that we are living in a constantly changing world. In one sense this is good, for many things need to be changed. But natural law has never changed. God has changed spiritual law as He saw fit. However, the last change has been made in spiritual law. Let us note:

I. THE CHANGING AND THE UNCHANGEABLE.

- A. Some things that are subject to change.
 - 1: New inventions.
 - 2: Modes of travel.
 - 3: Systems of government.
 - 4: Philosophies of life.
 - 5: Theories of education.
 - 6: Methods of teaching.
- B. Some things that defy change.
 - 1: Sun still rises and sets
 - 2: Heavenly bodies revolve.
 - 3: Water seeks its own level,
 - 4: Law of gravity unchanged.
 - 5: Carnal desires persist.
 - 6: Men still die.
 - 7: Have spiritual longings.
 - 8: Human nature remains same.
- C. What we learn from these comparisons.
 - 1: God's natural laws do not change.
 - 2: Man succeeds materially in proportion as he learns and cooperates with natural law.
 - 3: Spiritual law changes only when God changes it.
 - 4: Man will succeed spiritually only when he learns and cooperates with God's spiritual law.
- D. Evidence that change is necessary.
 - 1: God has never failed to supply man's spiritual needs.
 - a. He has given three dispensations of religion.
 - (1) Patriarchal.
 - (2) Jewish.
 - (3) Christian.
 - b. Each was perfectly adapted for the age.
 - c. When change became necessary:
 - (1) God always announced the change.
 - (2) Accompanied the change with miraculous attestation.
 - (a) Giving of law of Moses Ex. Chs. 19 and 20.
 - (b) Miracles of Christ with Christian law Jno. 20:30-31.
 - 2: There will be no more change or revelation.
 - a. The last one is perfect 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Jude 3,
 - b. Change is forbidden Rev. 22:18-19.
 - (1) Seed of redemption is mature - has produced its fruit.
 - (2) Planted 6000 years ago. Grew through the patriarchal and Jewish dispensations.
 - (3) Reached perfection in gospel dispensation 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Col. 2:9-10.
 - (4) Jesus has come, types and prophesies fulfilled.
 - (5) Law taken away Eph. 2:14-15, Spirit guided into all truth Jno. 16:13:

II. DEDUCTIONS FROM THESE CONSIDERATIONS.

- A. Man's efforts to change God's law have resulted from:
 - 1: Ignorance Rom. 10:1-2:
 - 2: Desire to justify his ungodly practice.
 - 3: Rebellion Jer. 6:16:
- B. Only religion acceptable to God is authorized in New Testament.
 - 1. God's revelation is now complete Jude 3, Mt. 15:7-8, 13:
- C. The pure gospel is God's power to save Rom. 1:16. It is the same for all.
- D. Only change God will recognize.
 - 1: Change in attitude toward God.
 - 2: Change in life to conform to God's plan Acts 3:19, Rom. 12:2:

THE SHIP OF ZION
Heb. 6:19

INTRODUCTION: The Bible speaks of the church under many different figures, but nowhere as a ship. However, there is a close similarity. Paul does speak of our soul having an anchor. In the last stanza of his poem "The Building of a Ship" Longfellow said: "Thou too, sail on, O Ship of State! Sail on, O Union, strong and great! Humanity with all its fears, With all the hopes of future years, Is hanging breathless on thy fate! We know what Master laid thy keel, What workmen wrought thy ribs of steel, Who made each mast and sail and rope, What anvils rang, what hammers beat, In what a forge, in what a heat were shaped the anchor of thy hope! Fear not each sudden sound or shock, 'Tis of the wave and not the rock; 'Tis but the flapping of the sail and not a rent made by the gale! In spite of rock and tempest roar, In spite of false lights on the shore, Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea! Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee, Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears, Our faith triumphant o'er our fears, Are all with thee - are all with thee." Let us note:

I. SOMEPOINTS OF LIKENESS BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND A SHIP.

- A. A ship must be launched.
 1. When the ship of Zion was launched.
 - a. Somewhere between Mt. 18:18 and Acts 2:47:
 - b. Actually about 33 A.D. Acts 2.
 2. Where it was launched - Jerusalem Lk. 24:47: Isa. 2:3, Acts 2.
- B. A ship requires a compass and a chart.
 1. The Bible is both Psalms 119:105, 2 John 9.
 - a. Gives direction, points out rocks and shoals, keeps in safety zone.
- C. A ship must have a captain - Christ is Captain Heb. 2:10.
 1. He directs all movements of the crew 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
- D. A ship must have a pilot. Song - "Jesus Savior, Pilot Me".
 1. He can guide the ship through perilous waters. Look to Him Heb. 12:2.
 2. Men may guide us upon the rocks Mt. 7:15: 15:7-8, Col. 2:8.
- E. A ship may be used for different purposes.
 1. Ship of Zion hauls passengers.
 - a. Have ticket for heaven - price of ticket - give up sins.
 2. It is also a battleship.
 - a. Has a standing declaration of war against Satan Jas. 4:7, 2 Pet. 5:8.
 - b. Not a submarine - does all its fighting in the open.
- F. Unlike a ship, the ship of Zion has no lifeboats.
 1. Paul suffered shipwreck in a ship made by man. God made this one.
 2. Jesus said ship of Zion could not be wrecked Mt. 16:18.
 - a. Men have tried to wreck her for many years, in many ways.
 - b. Satan has done much damage and hindered her progress. but she is still afloat, and will remain so because Christ is Captain.
 3. The ark Noah built had no lifeboats, nor needed any.
 4. Men have tried to build lifeboats for the Ship of Zion.
 - a. Missionary Society to do evangelistic work.
 - b. Colleges to do work of edification.
 - c. Benevolent institutions to do benevolent work.
 - d. They are all excess baggage - Church is all-sufficient Eph. 4:12.
 - e. We must learn to distinguish between aids and additions.
 - f. We can do nothing scripturally without divine authority. Col. 2:9.
- G. Christ is the captain of the vessel, but not of a fleet.
 1. But one vessel - the body of Christ Col. 1:18, Eph. 4:1-6.
- H. A ship has an anchor.
 1. Hope is the anchor of the Ship of Zion. Heb. 6:19.

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Heb. 9:11-14

INTRODUCTION: There are many and varied concepts of value. Few people would agree on the most valuable thing in the world. The value of money is determined by what it will purchase. Judged on this basis we are compelled to say that the blood of Christ is more valuable than all the world's wealth combined. Only His blood could purchase our redemption from sin, and make heaven possible. Let us consider:

I. THE PROMINENCE OF BLOOD THROUGHOUT:

- A. The patriarchal dispensation.
 - 1. God required bloody sacrifices Gen. 4, Heb. 11:4:
 - a. Abel offered by faith, God had spoken Rom. 10:17.
 - 2. The altar was the center of family worship.
- B. The Jewish dispensation.
 - 1. Lamb required Ex. 12:1—5:
 - a. Must be perfect Ex. 12:5, Jno. 1:29, 1 Pet. 2:22.
 - b. Blood sprinkled Ex. 12:7.
 - c. On door posts indicating -
 - (1) Open profession of faith.
 - d. Not on threshold, not to -
 - (1) Trample on it Heb. 10:28-29.
 - 2. Millions of sacrifices were offered throughout 1500 years.
 - 3. Day of atonement Heb. 9:22-26.
 - a. Blood of animals typical of Christ's blood Heb. 9:13-14.
- C. Christian dispensation.
 - 1. "When I see the Blood." Ex. 12:13.
 - 2. Animal's blood was insufficient Heb. 9:11-14, 10:1-3.

II. BLOOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT / 1 Cor. 11:25:

- A. Why Christ's blood was shed.
 - 1. Man was lost in sin Eph. 2:11-12.
 - 2. To open a fountain for sin and uncleanness Zech. 13:1:
 - 3. To remission without it Heb. 9:22, 1 Jno. 1:7.
 - 4. For our redemption Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14:
 - 5. So God could be just in forgiving sin Rom. 3:23-26.
 - 6. A propitiation for sin 1 Jno. 2:2, Rom. 3:25.
- B. Recipients of the benefits.
 - 1. Those under the Old Testament law Rom. 3:23-26.
 - a. Christ's blood was both retroactive and prospective.
 - 2. Those now living Rom. 3:25:
 - a. They must come in contact with His blood Rom. 6:4:
- C. Effect of its shedding.
 - 1. Purchased 1 Cor. 6:20, Acts 20:28, 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
 - 2. Ransomed Mt. 20:28.
 - 3. Reconciled Rom. 5:10, 2 Cor. 5:18-19.
 - 4. Forgiven Eph. 1:7.
 - 5. It alone could give life to His body, the church.
- D. What it speaks Heb. 12:24:
 - 1. Law of Moses abolished Eph. 2:13-15: Col. 2:14, Rom. 7:4,6.
 - 2. Introduces new covenant Gal. 3:13-14.
 - 3. Victory over the grave Eos. 13:14, Heb. 2:14.
 - 4. Abolished veil Mt. 27:51, Heb. 9:8.
 - 5. Love of God for sinners Rom. 5:8, 1 Jno. 3:16, 4:9-10.

CONCLUSION: Only His blood can atone for your sins; you can receive the atonement only by obedience to the gospel.

CHRIST'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

Heb. 9:16-17

INTRODUCTION: In this chapter Paul compares the gospel with a will. A will is a document in which a person owning property makes a declaration of the testator's intentions concerning the disposition of this property when he is dead. He may destroy a will and make a new one, which supercedes the former. The Gospel is Christ's last will, it has been sealed by His death, and cannot be changed.

I. LET US COMPARE THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST WITH A WILL:

- A. A will must be witnessed, sealed, and recorded.
 1. God witnessed it Mt. 3:16-17, 17:5, Jno. 5:27.
 2. Holy Spirit - Tongues on Pentecost Acts 2:1-4 - apostles Acts 10:39:
 3. Recorded in Scriptures 2 Tim. 3:16-17 - Miracles Jno. 2:30, 5:36, 1:6-8.
 4. It was sealed.
 - a. First will sealed with blood of animals.
 - b. Second was sealed with the blood of Christ Heb. 9:11-17.
 5. It was recorded in the court of heaven. It can't be changed.
- B. Christ named His chosen executors.
 1. God, the Father and the Holy Spirit Jno. 14:16, 26.
 - a. They sign pardons, purify souls, console bereaved, comfort dying.
- C. A will must be published after death of the testator.
 1. Christ commissioned the apostles to publish His will Mk. 16:15—16.
 - a. They name the beneficiaries Mt. 7:21, Rom. 8:17, Jno. 3:36, Heb. 5:8.
 - b. They describe the legacy Jno. 14:1-3, Rev. 22:14, 22:1-3.
- D. Christ's bequests are greatly to be desired.
 1. Pardon for the guilty.
 2. Peace for the troubled,
 3. Comfort for the sorrowing.
 4. Salvation for the believing.
 5. Heaven for the faithful.
- E. A will is effective only after death of testator Heb. 9:16-17.
 1. Christ's will did not become effective until His death.
 2. After will is made, but before death, will can be changed as desired.
 - a. Can give any portion of His estate to whom he may choose.
 - b. Christ could forgive thief on cross, even though he had not obeyed Gospel because His will was not yet sealed. Lk. 23:43:
- F. The publication of a will and distribution of bequests are attended with financial expenditures which the recipients should bear cheerfully.
 1. Same is true of Christ's will.
 - a. Christ told disciples who were sent out to publish His will to depend on the heirs for material compensation Mt. 10:9-10, 1 Cor. 9:7-11.
 - b. Water of life is free, but we should be willing to pay for the pitchers.
- G. A testator has the right to disown a son.
 - a. Only sons shall inherit Rom. 8:14-17:
 - b. Christ reserves the right to disinherit unworthy sons Mt. 7:21-25, 25:41-46, 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
- H. A testator makes his will unalterable by anyone but himself.
 1. After his death no one can legally abrogate it or any of its provisions. Gal. 3:15, 1:6-9, Rev. 22:18-19.

CONCLUSION: Are you a child of God, if not a child you are not an heir, if not an heir you will not inherit. Unfortunately, many children have been disinherited because of unfaithfulness. You can become a child by being born again. If disobedient, you can be reinstated Acts 8:22.

THE TABERNACLE A TYPE OF THE CHURCH
Heb. 10:1

INTRODUCTION: There are many types in the Old Testament. But few are more suggestive than the tabernacle. Let us notice;

1. SEVERAL POINTS OF LIKENESS:

- A, In divine origin and construction,**
- 1: God told Moses to build the tabernacle Ex. 25:8.
 - 2, Christ, God's Son built the church Mt. 16:18,
 - 3, Moses built according to the pattern Heb. 8:5,
 - 4, Christ left the N, T. as pattern for the church 1 Pet. 4:11, 2 Pet. 1:3, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Rev. 22:18-19 - Specified:
 - a. Kind of material - penitent, obedient believers,
 - b. How material was prepared - Faith, repent, confess. baptism,
 - c. How governed Tit, 1:5, 6-9, 1 Pet. 5:1-3.
 - d. Worship Acts 2:42, Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16.
 - e. Work to be done Eph. 3:10, 21, 4:11-16.
- B. In design - both:**
1. Depository of holy things.
 - a. Place of holy exercises.
 - b. Where God dwelt and met with His people,
 - c. People camped close around - tabernacle was central,
 - 2, Compartments -
 - a. Tabernacle,
 - (1) Court - 100 by 50 cubits,
 - (a) Brazen altar - where animal sacrifices were offered.
 - (b) Laver - priests must wash before entering tab.
 - (2) Holy place - 20 by 10 by 10 cubits.
 - (a) Table of showbread - loaves renewed each sabbath.
 - (b) Candlestick - only source of light.
 - (c) Golden altar of incense - offered twice daily,
 - (3) Most Holy Place,
 - (a) Place where God dwelt.
 - b. Church - the ante-type,
 - (1) World typified by the court.
 - (a) Altar - Christ our sacrifice Isa. 53:6-9,
 - (b) Laver - type of cleansing Tit. 3:5.
 - (2) Holy Place - type of church.
 - (a) Showbread. Type of Lord's Supper - each Lord's day.
 - (b) Candlestick - God's word our light 1 Pet. 4:11,
 - (c) Golden Altar, type of prayer 1 Thess. 5:17.
 - (3) Most Holy Place - heaven - go through church to get there,
 - (a) God is present in church service,
- C, In costliness and worth,**
- 1, Tabernacle made of gold, silver, brass, precious stones, linen.
 - 2, Church purchased with Christ's blood Acts 20:28,
 - 3, nothing is too good for the Lord,
- D, In voluntary spirit of those who erected each.**
1. Tabernacle Ex. 35:4-5, 22:23, 36:5-6.
 2. Church 2 Cor. 8:12, 9:7, 1 Cor. 16:1-3, Rom. 12:1,
- E. In moveableness from place to place,**
- 1, Tabernacle, in midst of people daily,
 2. Church - Go where it is, or start one where you go.
 - a. You need the church, and the church needs you.

THE HEW MD LIVING WAY

Heb. 10:20

INTRODUCTION: Paul's great purpose in writing the Hebrew letter was to show the superiority of the Gospel of Christ over the Law of Moses. The Jews wanted to hold to both, Paul shows that this is impossible because the Law has served its purpose, has been taken out of the way (Heb. 8) and has been superseded by a "new and living way". Let us observe that:

- I. IT IS THE ONLY WAY. - SIN HAD CLOSED ACCESS TO GOD.
 - A. God instituted Patriarchal way - a family religion - lasted 2500 years.
 - B. Later, the Jewish religion - for Jews only - God's chosen people - 1500 years.
 - C. Finally, the Christian religion - "new", "living" way - Universal.
 1. Only way of access to God today Jno. 14:6,
- II. IT IS A NEW WAY.
 - A. In opposition to the Old Covenant, which:
 1. Was faulty Heb. 8:7.
 2. Was weak Heb. 7:18, Rom. 8:5,
 5. Couldn't make perfect Heb. 6:19.
 4. Couldn't give life Gal. 5:21.
 5. Couldn't justify Gal. 2:16,
 6. Nailed to the cross Col. 2:14 — hence dead Rom. 7:4.
- III. IT IS THE LAST WAY.
 - A. Given once for all Jude 5 — Implies:
 1. No other to be given — Man can offer no other — This rules out:
 - a. Smith, Eddy, White and all other man-made religions.
 2. All who reject this way exclude themselves Heb. 6:4-6.
- IV. IT IS A LIVING WAY.
 - A. Gives a living hope 1 Pet. 1:5-6.
 - B. Can't be destroyed Dan. 2:44: Mt. 16:18.
 1. Has survived persecution by:
 - a. Jews Acts Chs. 4, 5, 7, 8.
 - b. Pagans - 10 major persecutions during first three centuries.
 - c. Professed Christians - Inquisition - by church of Rome.
 - C. Christ is the way Jno. 14:6,
 1. Was dead, now alive forevermore Heb. 7:26-28.
- V. IT IS A PLAIN WAY - Isa. 55:8-9.
 - A. Understandable,
 - B. Well marked - e.g., Cities of Refuge Deut. 35:6-16.
 1. Terms well-defined Mt. 7:21,
 2. New Testament a perfect guide book 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
- VI. IT IS A HOLY WAY - Isa. 55:9.
 - A, Unclean shall not pass over it,
 - 1, Must be cleansed 1 Jno. 1:7,
 - 2, Must be separate 2 Cor. 6:17-18,
 - 3, Must become new creatures 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - 4, Partake of divine nature 2 Pet. 1:3-4:
- VII. IT IS AN EFFECTUAL WAY.
 - A. Will save the worst of sinners Isa. 1:18.
 - S. Will save all who come Heb. 7:25.
 - a. Believing, repenting, confessing, being baptized.
 - b. Adding christian graces 2 Pet. 1:5-7 - Working 1 Cor. 15:58.

HOLDING PAST OUR PROFESSION

Heb. 10:25

INTRODUCTION: There are many professions one may follow in this life. In choosing a profession we usually consider whether it will be enjoyable, lucrative, honorable or helpful. The Christian profession has more to recommend than any other. It deals with both time and eternity. It assures happiness both here and hereafter.

I. IN CHOOSING A PROFESSION WE SHOULD CONSIDER:

- A. What the profession involves.
 - 1. A knowledge of Christ Phil. 3:10.
 - a. Ignorance unfits us for any profession Rom. 10:1-3, Heb. 5:12-13.
 - b. Knowledge is revealed, hence available Jno. 17:3, 20:30-31, Rom. 1:16, Phil. 3:8.
 - 2. Trust and confidence in Christ.
 - a. As a leader Heb. 2:10, 11:6.
 - b. His power to save Heb. 7:25.
 - 3. Public attestation of our approbation of Christ.
 - a. To profess: show forth, exhibit, let others know Mt. 5:16.
 - b. Speak His words, show His spirit, seek His glory Acts 4:13, Rom. 1:16, Mt. 16:24.
 - 4. Obedience to His commands Heb. 5:8-9, Mt. 7:21, Rom. 6:17-18.
- B. The opposition to be expected.
 - 1. The assaults of Satan - he has many darts Eph. 6:11-12.
 - a. He will sift us as wheat Lk. 22:31-32.
 - b. He tested Adam and Eve Gen. 3:
 - c. He tested Christ Mt. 4:1-10.
 - d. We may be tested by persecution 2 Tim. 3:12, Mt. 20:22.
 - 2. The ungodly world.
 - a. Warned by Christ 1 Jno. 3:13, Jno. 17:14:
 - b. Many adversaries 1 Cor. 16:9, 2 Cor. 11:24-28.
 - 3. Indisposition of our own hearts.
 - a. Flesh is weak Mt. 26:41, Rom. 7:14-24.
 - b. Indifference Rev. 3:15-18.
 - c. Selfishness Est. 6:6,
- C. The duty enjoined - "Hold fast". This implies:
 - 1. Hold fast the words of truth 3 Jno. 4, Col. 3:16, 2 Tim. 1:13.
 - 2. That we cling to the Lord Acts 11:23, Jno. 15:4-5, Rom. 12:9.
 - 3. Not to halt between two opinions 1 Kgs. 18:21, Gal. 1:16-17.
 - 4. Complete surrender of self 2 Cor. 8:5:
 - 5. Perseverance in practice Phil. 3:13-15, Heb. 12:1, 1 Tim. 6:12, Lk. 13:24, Rom. 12:11, 1 Cor. 15:58, Gal. 6:9.
 - 6. Importance of holding fast.
 - a. Important to those without - if we give up:
 - (1) Infidels and blasphemers will rejoice.
 - (2) Worldlings will be hardened.
 - (3) Formalists will be satisfied.
 - (4) Inquirers will be discouraged Ex. 32:12.
 - b. Important to fellow Christians.
 - (1) Disheartening to Paul to say 2 Tim. 4:10.
 - (2) Discouraging to Moses when Israel sinned, murmured.
 - c. It is important to ourselves.
 - (1) Christ has no pleasure in those who turn back Heb. 10:38—39, Lk. 9:62, 2 Pet. 2:20-22.

CONCLUSION: No other profession is as rewarding in this life or in the life to come. Let us hold it fast 2 Tim. 4:7-8.

THE TRIAL OF FAITH

Heb. 10:58-39

INTRODUCTION: As Paul draws near the conclusion of this great epistle to the Hebrews he wants them to call to mind the great afflictions their fathers had endured in the past. As Christians he wants them to know their faith will be tried. Our text is an introduction to the greatest chapter ever written on faith. Faith needs to be tried 1 Pet. 1:6-7, Let us note:

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH TO THE HUMAN HEART.

- A. Confession of faith is required Heb. 11:6, Rom. 10:9-10, Acts 8:36-37.
- B. Church built upon the truth confessed Mt. 16:13—18.
- C. Christ did much to establish faith Jno. 20:30-31.
- D. Faith is the Christian's shield Eph. 6:16,
- E. It assures victory 1 Jno. 5:4.
- F. It is the propeller that drives us on,
- G. The foundation on which all else is built,

II. WHY OUR FAITH IS TRIED.

- A. Our probation, not destruction; our advantage, not our ruin.
- B. Adversity separates the men from the boys.
- C. Others are benefited.
 1. "Blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church."
- D. God has always tried men before exalting them:
 1. Abraham Heb. 11:8.
 2. Job Chapters 1 and 2.
 3. Moses Heb. 11:23-26.
 4. Daniel Dan, 6,
 5. Israel Deut. 8:1-5,
 6. Christ Heb. 5:8-9:

III. IN THE TRIAL OF ABRAHAM Gen. 22.

- A. We see:
 - 1, The sacrifice of faith v. 2,
 - 2, The obedience of faith v, 3:
 - 3, The expectation of faith v, 5.
 - 4, The work of faith v, 6,
 - 5, The assurance of faith v, 8,
 - 6, The power of faith v. 9.
 - 7, The victory of faith v, 12,

IV. HOW OUR FAITH IS TRIED TODAY.

- A, Infidels seek to destroy it.
 1. Make light of the Bible - say it was written by unlearned men.
 2. Pseudo—scientists.
 3. Bible has stood every test. All will be judged by it,
- B. False doctrines test it Eph. 4:14,
 1. Persecution 1 Pet. 1:7, Jas. 1:2-4, 2 Cor. 12:7-10, 2 Tim. 3:12, 1 Pet. 4:14-17.
 - a, "Trials make the promise sweet, Trials bring new life to prayer,"
- C. Temptations 1 Cor. 10:13, Mt. 4:4-10.
 1. Like fire, purges out the dross.
 2. We should use trials as stepping stones,
 3. They should strengthen, rather than weaken,
 4. Pleasures Lk. 8:14,
 5. Should not lead to bitterness.
 - a. Remember Job Jas. 5:H, Job 2:10, 1:21,

MY RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CHURCH

Mt. 16:18, Eph. 3:21

INTRODUCTION: The church is the greatest institution on earth. Only in it is salvation to be found Eph, 5:23. Some downgrade the church - say it is a good organization, but unnecessary to salvation. As a member of the body of Christ it is my responsibility:

I. TO KNOW:

- A. What the church is: Def. — "A called out body of penitent, baptized believers in which Christ's Spirit dwells, and over which He reigns as head." Notice it is:
1. "A called out body of":
 - a. Penitent — Lk. 13:3-5, Acts 17:30, 2 Pet. 3:9, Acts 3:19.
 - b. Baptized — Mk. 16:15-16, 2 Pet. 3:21, Rom. 6:4, Col. 3:27-29.
 - c. Believers — Heb. 11:6, Acts 16:30-31, Acts 8:36-38, Rom. 10:9-10.
 - d. Hence, called out by the gospel Rom. 1:16, 2 Thess. 2:13-14: which we have heard, believed and obeyed Rom. 6:17-18.
 - e. In the world but not of the world 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
 2. "Over which Christ rules as head."
 - a. Not a democracy nor a republic, but a monarchy.
 - (1) Christ has all authority Mt. 28:18. Let us respect it.
 - (2) He now rules as King Jno. 18:36-37, 1 Cor. 15:24-25.
 - (a) His power is absolute — don't tamper with it.
 - b. His bride Jno. 3:29, 2 Cor. 11:2, subject to Him Eph. 5:22-23, Col. 1:18. All members of body take dictation from Head.
 - c. He is the foundation of the church 1 Cor. 3:11.
 - d. He is the door into it Jno. 10:9.
 3. "In which His Spirit dwells." 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19.
 - a. He dwells in the church as He dwelt in the Temple Mt. 18:20.
 - b. He dwells in each member 1 Jno. 3:24, Eph. 3:17:
 - c. God dwells in the same way Jno. 14:23:
 - d. Spirit indwells Christians Rom. 8:11, 1 Cor. 6:19, Acts 5:32.
 - e. Hence, the Godhead indwells - all in the same way Jno. 14:23.
 - (1) Representatively, not personally - but by faith Eph. 3:17.
 - (2) Through the Word Eph. 5:18 - This is a command.
 - (3) How command is obeyed Col. 3:16.
- B. Its value.
1. Purchased with Christ's blood Acts 20:28.
 2. Culmination of the plan of the ages Eph. 3:10-11, Isa. 2:2-4:
 3. Do we appreciate its value?
- C. Its organization.
1. Composed of: saints, bishops and deacons Phil. 1:1.
 2. The very essence of simplicity, yet workable and effective.
 3. Each congregation is autonomous - no sponsoring congregations.
- B. What it is not.
1. It is not a social organization.
- E. Its mission.
1. To preach the gospel Mt. 28:19-20, 2 Tim. 2:2, - Save souls.
 2. To care for its needy 1 Tim. 5:8-13, Jas. 1:27.
 3. To educate its members Eph. 4:11-12.
 4. It is Christ's "help meet".

II. TO SUPPORT IT.

- A. By attendance, influence, financially 1 Cor. 16:1-2.

III. TO GLORIFY GOD IN IT Eph. 3:21.

- A. By purity of life Tit. 2:10.

ALONE WITH SATAN

Mt. 4:1-10

INTRODUCTION. In a previous lesson we have discussed the desirability of frequently being alone with God. No one would admit that they desire to be alone with Satan; yet there is no one who would deny that they have at times been alone with him. Then we may ask;

I. WHEN ARE WE ALONE WITH SATAN?

A. Sometimes in our meditations:

1. He presents himself.
 - a. We find him interesting - a good personality,
 - b. Many inviting, alluring offers to make.
 - c. Many interesting deals.
 - d. David accepted one of his propositions 2 Sam. 11, 12, Psa. 51:
- 2: Since we may be alone with Satan, let us consider -

II. THE CLASSIC EXAMPLE MT. 4:1-10.

A. Is this real or symbolic?

1. If not real, Matthew was deceived; if deceived, Christ deceived him.
- 2: No reason to doubt its reality.

B. Is the devil an actual being?

- 1: Some contend that he is the spirit of evil.
- 2: Christ surely had no spirit of evil in Him.
3. A fallen angel 2 Pet. 2:4, Jude 6, Jno. 8:44, Heb. 2:14:

III. WHAT DEDUCTIONS MAY WE MAKE FROM THIS?

A. Satan takes the advantage.

1. Christ had just achieved distinction - Note 1 Cor. 10:12.
2. Forbidding surroundings - in wilderness.
3. Our mind is influenced by our environment - Satan seeks best place.
- 4: Isolation from congenial companionship.
 - a. He had just left a sweet home in Nazareth, Many a boy, strong when under good influences, is weak under other conditions.
 - b. We may think no one will ever know Num. 32:23, Lk. 12:2, 1 Cor. 4:5.
- 5: Physical exhaustion. Christ had just fasted forty days.
 - a. Esau yielded when tired and hungry Gen. 25:29-34:
6. Attacks the weakest point - good strategy.
 - a. Force of temptation is estimated by:
 - (1) Degree of desire excited.
 - (2) Skill with which sinfulness is disguised - Then let us note,

IV. HOW SATAN APPLIED THESE TACTICS ON THIS OCCASION.

A. Tempted Christ to:

1. Doubt his own place and mission. - "If you are the Son of God."
 - a. Satan seeks to instill doubt in Christians.
 - b. Much skepticism - faithful in proportion to our faith.
2. Misuse of power.
 - a. Being hungry, the temptation was great.
 - b. He tempts us to use our talent or money to gratify our comforts.
3. Give way to pride. - "Cast thyself down" - Make a name for yourself,
 - a. He tempts us to seek glory, fame and honor, e.g., Haman.
- 4: Give selfish ambition first place - appeals to our desire to possess.

V. THE RESULT OF SATAN'S EFFORTS.

A. Vanquished by the Word of God - "It is written" — used three times.

1. We must use the way of escape 1 Cor. 10:13, Heb. 2:3.

SAITLESS SALT

Mt. 5:13

INTRODUCTION: Of all the commodities in the world there are few that are more plentiful and more universally common than salt. There are many salt deposits. There is much salt in the ocean. In His teaching, Jesus used the most common things as illustrations. Our text suggests:

I. THE HIGH TASK OF CHRIST'S DISCIPLES - "SALT THE EARTH."

A. Involves two things:

1. Grave judgment as to the state of society.
 - a. True now - some four billion people surging in unrest, rebellion.
 - b. Moral condition is deplorable - Describe - society is rotting.
 - c. You do not salt a living thing - you salt a dead thing that it may not become a rotting one.
2. Lofty claims concerning disciples work.
 - a. To be rubbed into the rotting mass:
 - (1) To sweeten it - What a tremendous task!
 - (2) To arrest decomposition - more and more salt is needed.
 - (3) To stay corruption - stench reaches to high heaven.
 - (4) To give it flavor.
 - (5) To save it from falling to pieces. Work is cut out for us.
 - b. To be done by influence of conduct and character Rom. 14:7-8.
 - (1) Does your presence in a group encourage or discourage evil?
 - (2) Does it bring forth the best, purest and highest in people?

B. The uses of salt.

1. Seasoning - make the world more palatable or liveable.
2. Preservative - salt will preserve meat - you can help save world.
 - a. By spreading the gospel Rom. 1:16.
 - b. By example of holy living - hold up the light.
3. Germicide - salt and water makes a good gargle - kills germs - lust.

C. The characteristics of salt.

1. Must have close contact with object saved. Set barrel of salt and barrel of meat side by side, meat will rot. Must rub salt in.
2. Save without partaking of thing saved. Don't become like sinners.
3. Easily identified Acts 4:13.
4. Works silently, inconspicuously, gradually.

II. THE GRAVE POSSIBILITY OF SALT LOSING ITS SAVOR.

A. May lose our penetrating pungency.

1. Lose that which distinguishes us from the world - 2 Cor. 6:14-18.
2. Cease to be a purifying influence. 1 Jno. 2:15-16.
3. Two ways to equalize temperature of a hot and cold body.
 - a. Side by side, the hot body gets colder; cold body gets hotter.
 - b. If you are not heating the world it is freezing you.
 - c. Either influencing world for good, or being influenced for evil.
 - d. Men must either be hammers or anvils - give or receive blows.
 - e. If you do not salt the world, it will rot you.

III. THE POSSIBILITY OF RESTORING LOST SAVOR. - IT IS ALTOGETHER POSSIBLE.

A. Return to the fountain of all power and purity. Rev. 2:4-5, Acts 8:22.

B. Re-dedicate, reconsecrate lives to Christ Ps. 51:12, Jer. 3:22, 1 Jno. 1:9.

C. The certain end of saltless salt - Good for nothing but:

1. To be cast out - neither God nor man need it - it has failed.
2. To be trodden under foot - Ante-diluvian world, Sodom and Gomorrah, and Israel all examples 2 Chro. 56:14—16.
3. God will spue apostate christians out of His mouth Rev. 5:15-18.

Adapted from Alexander Maclaren.

THE LICET OF THE WORLD

Mt. 5:14-15

INTRODUCTION: Few things in this world are more common, and certainly nothing more essential than light. This is true of both natural and spiritual light. Our text implies that Christians have superior spiritual illumination and power to scatter ignorance. Let us consider;

I. SOME THINGS WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LIGHT.

A. It has a source - True of both:

1. NATURAL LIGHT -SUN and

- a. Center of solar system.
- b. Other bodies revolve around.
- c. Essential to all life
- d. Source of beauty — flowers
- e. Makes earth fruitful
- f. Kills germs
- g. Rising, brings new day

B. Both require a medium through which

1: NATURAL

- a. Atmosphere.
- b. May be eclipsed.

C. May be reflected.

- 1: Moon reflects light of sun.
- 2: Car lights have reflector.

D. Both are emblems —

1. Of knowledge 2 Cor. 4:6, 1 Pet. 2:9, Rom. 10:3, Eph. 4:18.
2. Of purity Rom. 13:12, 1 Jno. 1:6.

E. Light is derived 1 Jno. 1:6-9.

1. Cut current and light goes out - must be plugged in.

F. Light radiates - Jer. 20:9, Jno. 4:29: Does it radiate from you?

G. Use to be made of light.

1. Must not be put under a bushel Mt. 5:14-15 - Of:
 - a. Inconsistency - practice must be consistent with teaching,
 - b. Cowardly indifference Amos 6:1, Rev. 3:15-17.
 - c. Silence - don't be ashamed to tell others about Christ Acts 4:29.

H. Light, if unobstructed will shine.

- 1: Not to seek to be seen of men Mt. 6:1-6.
2. Shine, that men may see - "Let it 'SO' shine" Mt. 5:16.
3. Live your Christianity, and it will be beheld.
4. Candles are not merely to be looked at, but that something else may be seen.
5. Men may see God through Christian conduct Acts 4:13:
6. World takes its conception of Christianity from the church.

I. The kinds of light:

1. Bright - keep it trimmed and burning.
 - a. "Be a lighthouse evermore."
 - b. Help others find the harbor - but for YOU they may be lost.
2. Dim - how bright is your light? Can others see it?
3. Flickering - now you see it, now you don't.
 - a. Be steadfast, dependable, constant 1 Cor. 15:58.
4. Light that is in eclipse.
 - a. Has sin come between you and Christ?
5. Light that has gone off.
 - a. Backsliders Heb. 10:38-39, 2 Pet. 2:20-22.
6. Light that has never come on.
 - a. Too indifferent to turn on switch - lost in darkness.

SPIRITUAL LIGHT - CHRIST Mal. 4:1-2.

Jno. 8:12. Col. 3:11: Jno. 1:9:

- b. Bible - Redemption in Christ, center
- c. Essential to all life 2 Cor. 5:17.
- d. Christian life .most beautiful.
- e. Fruits Gal. 5:22-25, Col. 3:12-15.
- f. Kills germs Jas. 1:15, 1 Jno. 2:15.
- g. Mew dispensation Acts 2:

to shine.

SPIRITUAL

- a. Gospel 2 Cor. 4:5-6, Rom. 1:16.
- b. Satan - false doctrine, sin.

1: Christians reflect Mt. 5:16:

2. Corrosion hinders Gal. 5:19-20.

SEEKING TO EXCEL

Mt. 5:20

INTRODUCTION: Perhaps there is no field of endeavor where more effort is expended in seeking to excel than in sports. That is the name of the game in this field. How wonderful if it were equally true in all phases of life, especially in religious endeavor, Jesus placed great emphasis on "seeking to excel" in our text. Let us consider:

I. WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD EXCEL.

- A. They are elevated to a high plane.
 - 1. By faith crucified to the world Gal. 2:20.
 - 2. By repentance they have forsaken the world Isa. 55:7.
 - 3. By baptism, renounced the world Rom. 6:4, 17-18.
 - 4. By sanctification, set apart, raised above it 1 Thess. 5:23.
- B. They make a great profession Eph. 4:1-3: A Dutch shoe cobbler, when asked his profession, answered, "I am a Christian, and peg shoes for a living."
- C. They have many advantages:
 - 1. Perfect example Mt. 16:24, Paul's advice 1 Cor. 11:1, Phil. 4:9.
 - 2. A wise Counsellor Isa. 9:6.
 - 3. An infallible guide Book Ps. 19:7, 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 - 4. A worthy goal. Phil. 3:13-14.
 - a. Awards often given for motivation.
 - b. Christ offers the greatest motivating award Rev. 2:10.
 - 5. Christ expects it Mt. 5:48.

II. WHOM CHRISTIANS SHOULD EXCEL:

- A. Scribes and Pharisees Mt. 5:20.
 - 1. They gave tithes Mt. 23:23.
 - a. We must give ourselves Rom. 12:1.
 - 2. They minded the outside Mt. 23:25-26.
 - a. We must mind the inside Mt. 5:8, Mt. 25:26.
 - 3. They sought the praise of men Mt. 6:1-6.
 - a. We must seek the praise of God Gal. 1:10.
 - 4. They were proud of what they did Mt. 6:1-7.
 - a. We must acknowledge we are unprofitable servants Lk. 17:10.
- B. The average.
 - 1. The masses are average, and are satisfied.
 - a. Many students satisfied with "C", Workmen, with "getting by."
 - 2. Paul was never satisfied nor dissatisfied, but unsatisfied Phil. 3:13-15.

III. OPPOSITION ENCOUNTERED - COMPETITION KEEN.

- A. Many try to pull us down.
 - 1. Joseph could not be pulled down Gen. 39:7-12.
 - 2. Jesus could not be pulled down Mt. 4:1-10,
 - 3. Devil seeks to sabotage,
- B. Many seek to pull the Bible down.
 - 1. Scientists make light of it,
 - 2. Evolutionists discredit it, "Out of date", "old fashioned,"
- C. Some seek to pull the church down,
 - 1. Say it is a human institution,
 - 2. Saved by Christ, church unnecessary,

IV. EVIDENCE OF SPIRITUAL EXCELLENCE.

- A. Hatred of evil, love of righteousness Rom. 12:9,
- B. Desire to be good, strength of character, faithfulness Gal. 6:10, Jas. 1:27,
- C. Add Christian graces 2 Pet. 1:5-7.

WHY WORRY?

Mt. 6:24-34

INTRODUCTION: Foresight and foreboding are two different things. One is not the exaggeration of the other, but the one is opposed to the other. Foresight is commended, therefore foreboding is forbidden, Notice that:

I. ANXIOUS CARE IS CONTRAST:

A. To the lessons of nature vs. 25-31.

1. You must trust God for:

- a. Your body, its form, structure, length of days, seedtime, harvest. May as well trust Him for all the rest.
- b. God has given you life, the greatest gift.
 - (1) Has He not power to sustain it? Mt. 6:25.
- c. Inferior creatures are blessed.
 - (1) Fowls neither sow nor reap.
 - (a) They have no power over the future.
 - (b) We can influence ours by useful toil.
 - (2) Yet God feeds them.
 - (a) They cannot say "Father", yet they are fed.
 - (b) He is their Maker, your Father.
 - (c) They cannot trust, you can.
 - (d) You can recognize the source of your blessings.
 - (e) There is no Father in heaven to them.
 - (3) The oven tomorrow saddened not the blessing of today.
 - (a) You have nobler necessities, higher longings.
 - (b) "Shall He not much more clothe you?"

B. To the principles of the gospel.

1. Solicitude is at bottom worldly-mindedness.

- a. It results from over estimate of material goods.
- b. Heaping treasures and worldly care are the same plant.
 - (1) One grows in the sunny tropics of prosperity.
 - (2) The other, in arctic zone of chill penury.
 - (3) Worldly-minded rich man and worldly-minded poor man.
 - (4) Hence the statement — "Ye cannot serve God and mammon" comes between vs 19-20 and v. 25.

2. Solicitude rests upon the basis of misunderstanding of the character of God.

a. Your heavenly Father knoweth.

- (1) Certainly He can supply our needs Phil. 4:19.
- (2) Anxiety is contrary to the very name "Father".

3. The antidote for heathen worldly-mindedness.

- a. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God."
 - (1) Fill your hearts with thoughts worthy of desire.
 - (2) When Christ comes in, cares move out.

C. The scheme of Providence.

1. Tomorrow will have its own cares.

- a. You can't predict their nature.
- b. Some postern gate will be unguarded.
- c. You shall be disciplined by sorrow.

2. What does anxiety do?

- a. Empties today of its strength, not tomorrow of sorrows.
- b. Does not bless tomorrow, but robs today.

3. Fill the present with quiet faith, patient waiting, honest work, wise reading of God's lessons in nature, providence and grace.

4. Work in the present that the future may be certain.

THE HIGHROAD AND THE LOWROAD

Matt. 7:13-14

INTRODUCTIONS Jesus enjoins each of us to become His disciples not only because of the blessedness at the end, but because of the difficulties along the way. In our text we have four contrasts, let us notice:

I. THE FOUR CONTRASTS:A. The gates.

1. The strait gate - Conversion - poses some difficulties.
 - a. We must be poor in spirit.
 - (1) Conscious of our own emptiness. weakness. need.
 - b. We must mourn - penitent recognition of sinfulness.
 - c. We must strip ourselves, as Naaman did of dignity and pride.
 - d. It requires regeneration - new heart 2 Cor. 5:17:
 - (1) The bent of our soul must be changed.
 - e. We must swim against the current - overcome opposition.
 - f. Not as easy as it looks - Christ said it would be difficult.
 - (1) Two men in every man - better and worse Rom. 7:14-24.
2. The wide gate.
 - a. The line of least resistance - no effort required.
 - b. No sacrifice, no self-denial.

B. The roads.

1. The narrow way.
 - a. Not in heaven as soon as we get through the gate.
 - b. Israel not in Canaan when they crossed Red Sea.
 - c. We must go through the wilderness.
 - d. We must endure the hardships of the way.
 - e. We are hedged in by divine law.
 - f. Deny self, keep body under, pluck out eye Mt. 16:24, 1 Cor. 9:27.
 - g. Fight, wrestle, run, walk 1 Tim. 6:12, Heb. 12:1, 1 Th. 4:1-7:
 - h. Yet there is freedom to do not as you like, but as you ought.
2. The broad way.
 - a. Desire is unrestrained. Live as you list, do as you please, walk as you will, yield to every temptation, serve Satan.
 - b. There is room for pride, envy, jealousy, hatred, adultery, covetousness, fornication, lasciviousness, drunkenness. murder.

C. The travellers.

1. The few.
 - a. Comparatively few are:
 - (1) Humble, meek, pure in heart, mourning because of sins, hungering and thirsting after righteousness. salting the earth, lighting the world, laying up treasure in heaven, seeking to excel.
2. The many.
 - a. The masses, the unregenerate, the careless. the wilful, the ungodly, the sinners.

D. The destinations.

1. Heaven - Life Rev. 14:13: 21:1-5, 22:1-5.
 - a. Eternal bliss with God. How long is eternity?
 - (1) Hope of such a life should reconcile us to the difficulties we encounter along life's way.
2. Destruction.
 - a. Eternal - death Heb. 10:28-31, Mk. 9:43-48, Rev. 20:12-15.

CONCLUSION: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate." Lk. 13:24.

THE FATHER'S WILL

Mt. 7:21

INTRODUCTION: The words of Jesus as found in our text run counter to what the majority of religious people think and teach. Most professed Christians think that all God requires to be saved is to "Call upon His name", that is, just say, "Lord, Lord." Furthermore they want to "call" in their own way, it matters not how. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Our text sets the record straight. Jesus says it is only those who do the Father's will. The word will as here used means: Wish or desire. God's wish is made known to us in His word. It is God's wish or desire that all obey the gospel to be saved from their past sins, then continue steadfast in the faith, and work out their own salvation. Let us consider;

I. IT IS GOD'S WILL THAT CHRISTIANS:

- A. Know the truth Jno. 8:31-32.
 - a. Know where it is found Jno. 17:17: Not in commandments of men Mt. 15:7-9.
 - b. Understand His will Eph. 5:17, 2 Tim. 2:15 — requires great effort.
 - c. Not pervert it Gal. 1:6-9, 2 Pet. 3:16.
- B. Do His will.
 - a. Not hearers only Jas. 1:22-25.
 - b. Be wise builders Mt. 7:24-25.
- C. Bear fruit.
 - a. Jesus requires it Jno. 15:1-2.
 - b. God expects good fruit Isa. 5:1—4:
 - c. Paul commands it Phil. 4:17, Col. 1:10.
 - d. Right kind Gal. 5:22-24.
 - e. Conditions essential to fruit bearing:
 - (1) Contact living water Ps. 1:3:
 - (2) Death of old life Jno. 12:24.
 - (3) Pruning Jno. 15:2.
 - (4) Abiding in Christ Jno. 15:4:
- D. Fight the good fight 1 Tim. 6:12.
 - a. As good soldiers:
 - (1) Endure hardness 2 Tim. 2:3:
 - (2) Recognize the enemy 1 Pet. 5:8.
 - (3) Know his devices 2 Cor. 2:11. He knows what and when to use.
 - (4) Wear the whole armor Eph. 6:10-18.
 - (5) Know how to use sword of the Spirit Eph. 6:17, 1 Pet. 3:15.
 - (6) Never compromise Gal. 2:3-5:
 - (7) Be conquerors Rom. 8:37:
- E. Influence the world for good.
 - a. Keep self separate from the world 2 Cor. 6:17-18. In it but not of it.
 - (1) Ship must be in the water, but not water in ship.
 - (a) Many Christians, some congregations have been sunk by worldliness. Examine yourself 2 Cor. 13:5.
 - b. Be light of world and salt of earth Mt. 5:13-16. Are you?
- F. Adorn the doctrine Tit. 2:10.
 - a. Never bring reproach upon the church.
 - b. Abstain from evil in all forms 1 Thess. 5:22.
 - (1) E.g., Alcohol, dope, dance, all kinds of worldliness.
- G. Redeem the time Eph. 5:15-16.
 - a. Study and meditate 2 Tim. 2:15, Psa. 1:2.
 - b. Improve opportunities Gal. 6:10, Lk. 12:47-48.
 - c. Make opportunities.
 - d. Discharge obligations.
 - e. Lead others to Christ. Song - "You Never Mentioned Him To Me".

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN PARABLE

Matt. 13

INTRODUCTION: There was much misunderstanding in regard to the kingdom of God while Jesus was on earth. There was some excuse for this misunderstanding for the kingdom of heaven was entirely a new concept. There is no excuse for misunderstanding now, for Christ and the apostles have made its nature plain. In order to clarify their understanding on this subject Jesus spoke many parables.

I. LET US CONSIDER A FEW OF THEM;

- A. The parable of the mustard seed — Mt. 13:31-32.
 - 1. Small in the beginning.
 - a. The apostles were not considered great as compared with great men of their day 1 Cor. 1:26-29.
 - b. The church first consisted of just a few Jews. It was like a rose in a great field of thorns.
 - 2. As seed, it has the disposition to grow.
 - a. Must be planted before it will grow Mk. 16:15-16, 2 Tim. 4:1-2.
 - b. Proper conditions for growth must be supplied.
 - (1) Need right kind of soil — Mt. 13:3-8.
 - c. It grew rapidly during the first century - Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, uttermost parts of the earth Acts 1:8, Col. 1:23.
 - (1) Crowded out the weeds of Paganism and heathenism.
 - 3. It became useful,
 - a. Birds found food, rest, shade and shelter.
 - b. Christians find rest, consolation, soul food.
 - (1) *The* cravings of the soul are satisfied.
 - (2) Only through it can souls be saved Eph. 5:23.
- B. The parable of leaven Mt. 13:33.
 - 1. Kingdom to grow by degrees, silently, insensibly.
 - 2. Corn must be ground - meal - heart must be humbled, broken, contrite,
 - 3. Must be hid in the heart Ps. 119:11, Lk. 2:51 - gospel works, ferments.
 - a. A handful hid in the mass of humanity worked wonders 1 Thess. 1:9, 1 Cor. 6:9-11, Acts 19:17-20.
 - 4. It is an inner force - "Not by might nor by power" Zech. 4:6.
- C. The hidden treasure Mt. 13:44 - great value and advantage.
 - 1. The gospel is the field.
 - a. Hid, not in a garden enclosed, nor a spring shut up.
 - b. But in an open field - all may search and find.
 - 2. It is a valuable treasure.
 - a. Many fail to find it because they do not search.
 - b. Richest mines are often in fields that appear barren.
 - c. Here, we find Christ, a Friend, and eternal life.
 - 3. The joy of discovery.
 - a. This joy has been brought to thousands - new hope.
 - 4. The price paid for it - comply with terms of the gospel.
 - a. Sold all she had - no price too great.
 - b. We must give up the world Mt. 16:24.
- D. The pearl of great price Mt. 13:45-46.
 - 1, Many seek and have found pearls - wealth, honor, fame - false pearls,
 - 2. To obtain the pearl of great price, we should be willing to give up the lesser pearls. Too few are willing.
- E. The fish net Mt. 13:48-49-
 - 1. It gathers of every kind - many prove to be unworthy.
 - 2. A great separation at the end of the world Mt. 25:31-46.

SUPERLATIVES

Mt. 18:1

INTRODUCTION: It has been said that "Some people are born great, some achieve greatness. others have greatness thrust upon them." Many could not care less about greatness. The apostles' question in our text indicates that some of them had aspirations to greatness. They did not yet understand their mission. They were still thinking of Christ as destined to become an earthly king over an earthly kingdom. They still thought the same at Christ's death. Jesus set the record straight in Mt. 20:26-27. "Greatest" is in the superlative degree. Let us consider some superlatives:

I. THE GREATEST THING ABOUT MAN.

A. Not his body - though -

1. Wonderfully made Psa. 139: 14 - no machine is comparable.
2. Only a tabernacle 2 Cor. 5:1-3, Heb. 9:27, Ecc. 12:7.

B. Inner man 2 Cor. 4:16-17 - Composed of:

1. Soul Gen. 2:7, 1 Thess. 5:23.
 - a. Natural life of body Acts 20:10.
 - b. Immaterial, invisible Mt. 10:28.
 - c. Perceives, reflects, feels Mt. 11:29, Lk. 1:46, Acts 14:22.
 - d. Seat of will and purpose Mt. 22:37, Acts 4:32, Eph. 6:6.
 - e. Persons Ezek. 18:4, 20, Acts 2:41.
2. Spirit 1 Thess. 5:23, Heb. 4:12.
 - a. Returns to God Ecc. 12:7, 3:19.
 - b. Imperishable Jno. 11:25-26, 2 Cor. 5:1, 1 Cor. 15:51-57.
 - c. "The spirit is the life principle bestowed by God. Soul is the resulting life ... body the material organism, animated by the soul and spirit." — W. E. Vine.
3. It is worth saving Mt. 16:26. Why not save it?

II. THE GREATEST INSTITUTION ON EARTH.

A. Not the home - it is divine, yet second only to the church. Responsibility.

B. Not the school - of paramount importance - but,

C. The church is the greatest.

1. Most costly Acts 20:28.
2. It alone can save Eph. 5:23.
3. Has greatest mission Mk. 16:15-16, Eph. 4:12, 3:10-11, 3:21.
4. Simplest organization Phil. 1:1, worship Acts 2:42.
5. Offers the most for the least - Eternal Salvation.
6. Why not become a member of it?

III. GREATEST WORK MAN CAN DO.

A. Not inventions nor scientific discovery - though both are great.

B. Christian life Heb. 10:23, 4:14.

1. Offers greatest reward 1 Pet. 1:3-5, 2 Tim. 4:7-8, Rom. 6:23.
2. Make you happy here and hereafter. Why not live it?

IV. THE GREATEST PUCE MAN CAN GO.

A. We give much time to and consideration of:

1. Where we go for a vacation - only two weeks.
2. Location for a new home - only for a life time - but,

B. Pew consider "Where shall I spend eternity?" Heaven or hell.

1. Heaven the greatest place known to man.
 - a. Eternal fellowship Rev. 21:1-4.
 - b. Protection Rev. 21:6-21 - walls, gates, foundation, beauty.
 - c. Provision Rev. 22:1-4 - not social security but soul security.
 - d. Why not prepare to go there?

HUMAN IMPOSSIBILITIES

Mt. 19:26, Lk. 18:27

INTRODUCTION: After God created man He gave him a great challenge: To "subdue the earth and have dominion over it" Gen. 1:26-28: Man has gone a long way in meeting that challenge. His achievements have "been great. He has walked on the moon and is now exploring other planets from a short distance. We cannot help but marvel. Years ago a prominent news columnist said, "What man can imagine, man can do." In view of all that man has achieved this seems to be a good observation, but it is not all together true. Let us note that:

I. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR MAN TO:

1. Mock God Gal. 6::7-8.
 - a. Mock means: to turn up the nose at, sneer at, treat with contempt.
 - b. Man cannot improve on Him who discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart Heb. 4:12.
 - c. Man must work with God in observing His natural laws or he is doomed to failure 2 Cor. 6:2.
 - d. Scriptures prove this Pro. 14:9, 2 Sam. chs. 11 and 12, Heb. 4:11-13: Ecc. 12:14, 1 Cor. 4:5:
2. Serve two masters.
 - a. Mt. 6:26, 12:30, 1 Kgs. 18:21, Josh. 24:15.
3. Be saved without faith.
 - a. Can't please God without it Heb. 11:6.
 - b. Must believe that He is.
 - (1) A good look at the universe and its operation is proof Ps. 8, 19.
 - (2) No unprejudiced person can read the Bible without believing.
 - c. Much evidence Jno. 20:30.
 - d. Lack of faith caused Jews to be rejected Heb. 3:17-19.
4. Be saved by faith alone.
 - a. Mk. 16:15-16, Eph. 2:8, Jas. 2:14-26.
5. Be saved by works only.
 - a. We are saved by grace Eph. 2:8, but through faith.
 - (1) Works in a condition of salvation Rom. 6:23:
 - v2) We must show our faith by our works.
 - 13) Grace is the divine side; works the human side.
 - 14) We must work out our salvation Phil. 2:12.
 - (5) Faith plus works equals salvation.
6. Be saved without blood.
 - a. Blood essential during Patriarchal and Jewish dispensations.
 - b. Now essential Heb. 9:22, 11:14: Rom. 3:24-26, 1 Pet. 1:18-19, 1 Jno. 1:7.
7. Be a child without birth.
 - a. Jno. 3:3-5, Rom. 8:16-17.
8. Be born of a few drops of water,
 - a. Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12, Jno. 3:23.
9. Be saved out of the church.
 - a. Salvation is in Christ Jno. 15:1-4:
 - b. To be in Christ is to be in the body or church 1 Cor. 12:13, Eph. 5:23.
 - c. We are baptized into the body Gal. 3:27-29, 1 Cor. 12:13.
10. Love God and hate brother.
 - a. 1 Jno. 4:20. It is sad to see some brethren try it.
11. Escape death or the judgment.
 - a. Can't escape death Heb. 9:27, Gen. 3:19:
 - b. Can't escape judgment 2 Cor. 5:10, Rom. 14:10-12, Mt. 25:31.

CONCLUSION:

Don't be so foolish as to think you can accomplish the impossible. Are you ready for death and the judgment. Now is the time to prepare for both.

THE LORD'S DOING

Mt. 21:42

INTRODUCTION: There is much evidence of "the Lord's doing" in nature. "Dull would he be of soul" who could look upon the beauty of flowers, the towering mountains, the fertile valleys, behold the star-studded skies, listen to the babbling brook or the sighing breezes, or think of his own body which is "fearfully and wonderfully made" without acknowledging with David Psa. 118:23, and with Jesus in our text that "This is the Lord's doing?" Even much more evidence of "the Lord's doing" is found in the Bible.

I. WE SEE MUCH EVIDENCE IN:

- A. God's eternal purpose Eph. 3:11:
 - 1: A plan was needed to save man because:
 - a. Man had sinned Gen. 3, Rom. 3:12.
 - b. Paradise was lost Gen. 3:23-24.
 - c. Redemption was necessary Col. 1:14, Tit. 2:14, 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
- B. Plan originated with God.
 - 1. This plan involved:
 - a. A Savior who was:
 - (1) Promised Gen. 12:1-3, 49:10.
 - (2) Prophesied Deut. 18:15, Is. 7:14, 9:6, 53:4-6, Is. 28:16.
 - (35) Typified by Joseph, Moses - Show how.
 - b. John Baptist Isa. 40:3-5, Mal. 4:5-6, Mt. 3:1-3.
 - c. The church Isa. 2:1-3, Dan. 2:44, 7:13-14.
- C. Plan was carried out on schedule in spite of Satan's opposition.
 - 1. Jesus was born as promised Isa. 7:14, Lk. 2:1-14.
 - 2. Spirit came as promised Jno. 16:13, Lk. 24:49, Acts 4:1-4.
 - 3. Christ died as predicted Isa. 53:
 - 4. Kingdom came on time Dan. 2:44, Lk. 2:1.
 - 5. Satan tried 4000 years to derail God's plan - failed.
 - 6. Unavoidable conclusion - "the Lord's doing, marvellous in our eyes."

II. DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTIANITY.

- A. Never was:
 - 1. Seed Lk. 8:11 planted in soil more unfertile,
 - a. Amidst Paganism, Judaism, infidelity - weeds.
 - b. Pagans tolerated all religions except Christianity.
 - c. Christianity survived all persecution.
 - 2. Plant subjected to conditions more adverse.
 - a. Author was rejected Jno. 1:11, Acts 4:11.
 - b. Audience at Pentecost.
 - (1) Had helped crucify Christ just 50 days before.
 - (2) Peter's text Acts 2:22-24.
 - (a) Prejudice, public opinion, worldly interest all against,
 - (b) Yet, 3000 converts.
 - 3. Never did plant grow more rapidly.
 - a. Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, uttermost parts Acts 1:8, Col. 1:23.
 - b. Not due to leaders Acts 4:13, Col. 1:26.
 - c. Contrast with philosophers.
 - 4. Cause more severely persecuted — By:
 - a. Judaism Acts Chs. 4, 5, 7, 8:13:
 - b. Paganism Acts 17:22-32. Ten major persecutions first 300 years.
 - c. Romanism - Inquisition.
 - d. Modernism - in more recent years.
 - e. Denominationalism.
 - 5. We must conclude - "It is the Lord's doing" - how marvellous.

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

Mt. 22:42

INTRODUCTION: Both the Pharisees and Sadducees were sworn enemies of Christ. They had done their best to entrap Him, or as we say to "put him on the spot." Notice Mt. 22:25-40, Every effort had miserably failed. Now it is His turn to ask them a question, A very pertinent question for the occasion. What think ye of Christ?" Their answer was correct, "but it fell far short of the full answer to this great question. Millions today either do not know, or will not admit the obvious answer. Let us consider:

I. WHAT PEOPLE THOUGHT OF CHRIST THEN.

- A. Herod thought he was John Baptist risen from the dead Mt. 14:2,
- B. Some said He was Elijah Mt. 16:14 — Like Elijah He boldly denounced sin.
- C. Some said Jeremias Mt. 16:14 — Like Jeremias He was bold and sorrowful.
- D. Others said He was just one of the prophets.
- E. All this proved Him to be a very unusual personage.
 - 1. Yet He did not conform to their idea of the promised Messiah,
 - 2. Jews looked for an earthly king. He did not look, talk nor act so,
- F. Peter said He was the Son of the living God Mt. 16:16.
 - 1. Notice Jesus' reaction and promise Mt. 16:17-19:

II. WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK OF HIM NOW?

- A. Many, like Peter, think He was the Christ. But:
 - 1. Some say He was merely a great man who lived on a higher plane.
 - 2. He is compared with philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle. This is a dangerous doctrine - the seed of Agnosticism & Atheism. It strikes at the foundation of Christianity.

III. WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY OF HIM?

- A. That He came from God Jno. 1:1-5, 14, 16:28.
- B. That He was before Abraham Jno. 8:58.
- C. He was the seed of Abraham Gen. 12:1-5, 22:18, 28:14, Gal. 3:16.
- D. That He was greater than Jonas Mt. 12:41,
- E. That He was greater than Solomon Mt. 12:42.
- F. That He was the Son of God Mt. 5:17, 17:5, Jno. 5:16.
- G. That He was God in the flesh Mt. 1:22-25, 1 Tim. 5:16, Heb. 10:5.
- H. Creator of all things Jno. 1:1-5, Col. 1:16,
- I. Confuted all enemies Mt. 22:15-22, 22:25-53, 22:54-40, Jno. 8:1-12.

IV. FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT HE WAS THE SON OF GOD.

- A. His marvellous teaching.
 - 1. The Beatitudes Mt. 5:1-12.
 - 2. The Golden Rule Mt. 7:12, - A workable philosophy of life,
 - 3. His conversation with woman of Samaria Jno. 4:7-26, 29
- B. His spotless life.
 - 1. Kept the law perfectly - no one else ever had.
 - 2. Pilate found no fault in Him Lk. 23:4, 14, Jno. 18:58.
 - 5. He knew no sin Heb. 7:26,
- C. His unparalleled influence,
 - 1. Apostles preached Christ and Him crucified at Jerusalem Acts 2,
 - a. They were unlearned men Acts 4:15 - Yet 5000 converts,
 - 2. His influence far exceeds that of all philosophers and scientists,
 - 3. Observance of the Lord's day,

CONCLUSION: "What think YE of Christ?" What do you intend to do with Him? When? What will He do with you at the judgment? Mt. 25:54, 41-46.

WHAT SHALL I DO WITH JESUS?
Mt. 27:22

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Explain Pilate's dilemma.
 - 1. Duty and conscience favored release.
 - a. Revived an old custom vs. 15-17.
 - b. Knew it was for envy v. 18.
 - c. Wife's dream v. 19.
 - d. Knew He was innocent v. 24:
 - 2. Constituents demanded death.
 - a. Pilate was a time—serving politician.
 - b. Lacked courage of his conviction.

I. WHAT SHALT I DO WITH JESUS?

- A. First think of:
 - 1. What He has done for me.
 - a. Gave His life Rom. 5:6, Jno. 10:11, Isa. 55:4-6.
 - b. Gave us victory over death Heb. 2:14, 1 Cor. 15:57.
 - c. Gave spiritual life Eph. 2:1-2, Jno. 5:25-26.
 - d. Made me a conqueror Rom. 8:57:
 - 2. What He is doing now.
 - a. Preparing a home Jno. 14:1-2, 2 Pet. 1:11.
 - b. Interceding for me Heb. 7:25, 1 Jno. 2:1.
 - 5. What will He do?
 - a. Judge 2 Tim. 4:1-2, Acts 17:51: 2 Cor. 5:10.
- B. What can I do with Him?
 - 1. Reject Him Isa. 55:5: Jno. 1:11.
 - a. Reject His name Acts 4:11—12.
 - b. Reject His authority Mt. 28:18, 21:25.
 - c. Reject His church - many do.
 - d. Reject the gospel Acts 24:25, 26:28.
 - 2. Trample Him under feet Heb. 10:28-50.
 - 5. Deny Him - Peter did Mt. 10:55.
 - 4: Crucify Him afresh Heb. 6:4-6.
 - 5. Follow Him Mt. 16:24.
 - a. Caleb wholly followed the Lord.
 - b. Evaluate and emulate His example.
 - 6. Love and serve Him Mt. 22:57:
 - 7. Glorify Him Eph. 5:21.
 - 8. Magnify Him Phil. 1:20.
 - a. By influence Mt. 5:16.
 - 9. Give Him pre-eminence Col. 1:18 - show how.
 - 10. Adorn His doctrine Tit. 2:10.

II. WHEN TEES QUESTION COMBS TO US.

- A. In hours of temptation.
 - 1. Shall I crucify or glorify Heb. 6:6.
 - 2. Trample Him beneath our feet Heb. 10:28-51.
 - 5. Yield not to temptation Rom. 6:12, 1 Cor. 10:15:
- B. In the call to obedience.
 - 1. He invites all Mt. 11:28-50, Rev. 22:17:
 - 2. Will you, like:
 - a. Pilate, shift responsibility?
 - b. Like, Felix postpone Acts 24:25:
 - c. Like Agrippa, remain almost persuaded Acts 26:28:

CHRIST CANNOT BE HID

Mk. 7:24

INTRODUCTION. One of the problems of celebrities is to find privacy. Wherever they go people are thronging after them, gazing upon them, seeking their autographs. There were times when Jesus was hated, other times when He was popular. His greatest period of popularity was when He made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Our text speaks of a time when Jesus sought seclusion, yet, "He could not be hid." This is true in more than one way. It was true:

I. BEFORE HE CAME TO EARTH.

- A. In the Old Testament He was seen.
 - 1. In promises made concerning Him.
 - a. Some think Gen. 3:15 the first promise.
 - (1) He was the seed of Eve.
 - (2) He did bruise the serpent's (Satan's) head Heb. 2:14.
 - b. Ruling power passed from Levi to Judah Gen. 49:10.
 - c. All to be blessed through seed of Abraham Gen. 12:1-3, Gal. 3:16.
 - 2. In types of the Old Testament.
 - a. Joseph, Moses, Aaron all types of Christ - show how.
 - b. Blood of animals type of Christ's blood Heb. 9:11-14, 10:1-4.
 - 3. In many prophecies Deut. 18:15, Isa. 7:14, 9:6, 28:16, 53:4-6, Ezek. 21:25-27, Dan. 7:13-14, Mal. 4:2.

II. WHILE HE WAS ON EARTH.

- A. His birth.
 - 1. Announced Lk. 1:26-34, 2:9-13. Mt. 2:1-11.
- B. In His childhood Lk. 2:41-47.
- C. Pointed out at His baptism Jno. 1:29. Mt. 3:16-17.
- D. Proved himself at His temptation Mt. 4:1-11:
- E. Acknowledged at His transfiguration Mt. 17:1-5:
- P. During His ministry:
 - 1. Introduced by John the Baptist Mt. 3:1-11.
 - 2. His many great miracles Jno. 20:30-31:
 - 3: His matchless teaching.
 - a. Spake with authority Mt. 7:28-29.
 - b. Commanded a great following Mt. 8:1.
 - c. "Never man spake like this man." Jno. 7:46.
 - d. Amazed the Samaritan woman Jno. 4:29:
 - 4: His crucifixion - earth quake, darkness. veil of temple rent, graves opened, some dead arose. Never had happened before.
- G. At His resurrection Mt. 28.
- H. His ascension Acts 1:9-11:

III. AFTER HE LEFT THE EARTH.

- A. Influence among earthly disciples.
 - 1. Peter and John Acts 4:13, Stephen Acts 6:13, Paul Gal. 6:17.
 - 2. If in our hearts He will show by:
 - a. Our attitudes, consecration, devotion, godly life Mt. 5:16:
 - b. Knowledge of Word, faithfulness. service, concern for souls.
- B. Bible is full of Christ. The one central person.
 - 1. Types and prophecies point forward to Him. - Old Testament.
 - 2. New Testament points backward to Him - e.g., baptism, Lord's Supper.
- C. He is "all in all" to the church.
 - 1. Foundation 1 Cor. 3:11.
 - 2. Door Jno. 10:9.
 - 3. Head Col. 1:18:
 - 4: King Jno. 18:36-37.
 - 5. Shepherd Jno. 10:11.
 - 6: High Priest Heb. 3:1, 4:14:

HALTING ON THE BORDERLAND

Mk. 12:28-34

INTRODUCTION: Discuss the context. Possible motive of the scribe's question. Jesus' skill in answering such questions. Summarizes the Ten Commandments. First four have to do with man's relation to God; last six with man's relation to man. The scribe was beginning to understand. He was drawing ever nearer. We will never know whether or not he became a follower of Jesus. He, like many, was so near, yet so far. It appears that he was halting on the borderland. Verse 54 suggests:

I. THE FACT OF THE BORDERLAND.

- A. There are degrees of moral and spiritual distance from God.
 1. "Not far" implies degrees.
 2. Sin separates man from God Isa. 59:1-2.
 3. Scriptures suggest degrees Jer. 2:5, Mt. 15:8.
 - a. Some good morally, others have wandered far into fields of sin.
- B. Borderland is better than hinterland.
 1. Men recognize it. Prefer moral man to a drunkard as a neighbor.
 2. God recognizes it Lk. 12:47-48.
- C. Others not far from the kingdom.
 1. Young ruler Mk. 10:21.
 2. Nicodemus Jno. 19:38-39.
 3. Agrippa Acts 26:28.

II. MEANING OF THE BORDERLAND.

- A. This man was different from others of Jesus' day.
 1. From Pharisees Mt. 23 — 7 woes pronounced upon them.
 2. Sadducees Mt. 22:23-29.
 3. Publicans and sinners.
- B. Had certain admirable qualities.
 1. Scribes had knowledge Jno. 6:44-45, Mt. 11:29.
 2. A discerning mind 1 Sam. 15:22, Mt. 9:13, Phil. 1:9-10.
 3. Courage to confess the truth Jno. 12:42-43, but not to obey it.
- C. Many are halting on borderland today.
 1. Near; good morally. Hot much to "give up". Heed to "give in".
 2. Believe Bible is good - but separated by:
 - a. Procrastination Acts 26:28-29.
 - b. Opinion of a friend.
 - c. Love of world 1 Jno. 2:15-16, Mt. 16:26.
 - d. Pride Jno. 12:42-43.

III. THE TRAGEDY OF THE BORDERLAND.

- A. Difficult to convince the borderland resident.
 1. They are satisfied.
 - a. "I'm better than some in the kingdom."
 - b. "More good in me than there is bad."
 - c. If not in, out; if not forgiven, guilty.
 - d. If not saved, lost Mt. 12:30.
 2. In death tragedy is seen more clearly Rev. 14:13:
 - a. Death of Moses Deut. 34:1-5. So near, yet so far.
 3. Tragedy seen most clearly at the judgment Mt. 25:31-41.
 - a. Two classes: sheep, goats; "Come", "Depart". Which shall it be?
 - b. E.g., Plane explodes 100 yards from runway.
 - (1) Only a step. "Almost, but lost." How sad. For eternity.
 - c. Convictions not acted on die.
 - d. Obstacles increase with time. Come NOV.

THINGS MOST SURELY BELIEVED

Lk. 1:1, 2 Tim. 1:12

INTRODUCTION: Many people think that it matters not what you believe just so you are sincere in your belief. Nothing could be more contrary to the Bible (Pr. 14:12). It teaches explicitly what we must believe. We must be able to give an answer for our hope 1 Pet. 3:15: Hope is based on faith. Let us consider:

I. SOME THINGS "MOST SURELY BELIEVED AMONG ITS".

- A. The inspiration of the Bible.
 - 1. Higher critics do not.
 - 2. Theory of evolution denies it.
 - 3. Scriptures teach it 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 1 Cor. 2:9-10, Heb. 2:1-4.
 - 4: Proof: Its content; harmony of scriptures; fulfilled prophecy; miracles; influence.
- B. Bible our only creed.
 - 1. Creeds, disciplines, prayer books etc. only divide. If they contain more than Bible, its too much; if less. not enough; if same, not needed.
 - 2. It is all-sufficient 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:3, 2 Jno. 9, Col. 2:9-10.
- C. Gospel the only power to save Rom. 1:16. It contains:
 - 1. Facts to be believed 1 Cor. 15:1-4 - Death, burial, resurrection.
 - 2. Commands to be obeyed, e.g., - Believe, Repent, Confess. Be baptized.
 - 3. Threats to be feared 2 Thess. 1:7-9:
 - 4: Promises to be enjoyed Acts 2:38, Phil. 4:7: Heb. 6:19, 2 Pet. 1:4.
 - 5. Its power must be released.
 - a. Like atomic bomb - We must release the power Mk. 16:15, 2 Tim. 4:1-2.
- D. Spiritual regeneration.
 - 1. Must be born again Jno. 3:3—5:
 - a. Begotten by the Spirit Jas. 1:18, 1 Pet. 1:22-23.
 - b. Born of water Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12, Acts 8:36-38.
- E. Offering acceptable worship.
 - 1. Some worship is unacceptable.
 - a. Ignorant worship Acts 17:23:
 - b. Vain worship Mt. 15:8-9.
 - 2. Acceptable worship has:
 - a. Right object - God Jno. 4:23-24.
 - b. Right motive - in Spirit.
 - c. Right way - in truth. Must be authorized in the Word.
- P. We must have divine authority for all we do.
 - 1. Definition of authority - Right to exercise power.
 - 2. Two sources: divine and human; from heaven or from men. Mt. 28:18, 17:5:
 - a. God gave authority to Christ "All" Mt. 28:18.
 - b. Christ delegated authority to apostles Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
 - c. Authority now in Word Col. 3:17, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - 3. Three ways to establish authority:
 - a. Specific command Acts 2:38, 10:48.
 - b. Approved apostolic example. Day of worship Acts 20:7.
 - c. Necessary inference - Time Acts 20:7, Ex. 20:8, Num. 15:32.
- G. Respecting the silence of the Scriptures Heb. 7:14 - "spake nothing".
 - 1. Dangerous to act without divine warrant 2 Chro. 26:16-19.
 - 2. Acts must be authorized Acts 15:24:
 - 3. Speak only as oracles of God 1 Pet. 4:11, Rev. 22:18-19.
- H. Salvation is two-fold.
 - 1. Divine side - Grace Eph. 2:8. God offers salvation.
 - 2. Human side: Man must accept God's offer.
 - a. By faith Rom. 4:3, Heb. 11:6.
 - b. Show faith by his works Acts 2:40, Jas. 2:14-20, Mt. 7:21.

JERICHO ROAD
Lk. 10:30-37

INTRODUCTION: This parable is Jesus' answer to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" No better answer has ever been given. Incidentally there are other lessons in it that are helpful. Really it presents a miniature world. The four characters mentioned present various attitudes toward life. We all belong to one or the other of these classes. Let us consider these four characters:

- I. THE HURT MAN - He had been robbed. Many are robbed:
 - A. Of opportunity.
 - 1: Born on the wrong side of the tracks.
 - 2: By poverty - "Chill penury froze the genial current of the soul,"
 - B. Of virtue.
 - 1: Due to parental delinquency - never taught right from wrong.
 - a. Lack of security, council, guidance. Just "grew up".
 - 2: Influence of evil and designing men.
 - C. By deception 2 Tim. 3:12, Gal. 1:6-9, 1 Jno. 4:1. 1 Tim. 4:1:
 - D. Of faith - Discuss its importance in life.
 1. Present day education undermines faith - Evolution.
 - a. Loss of faith cripples one permanently.
 - b. No crutch for one who has lost the leg of faith.
- II. THE HURTING MAN - THIEF.
 - A. Gossipers are thieves - they hurt reputation but not character.
 - B. Things and habits which undermine character.
 1. Liquor, drugs, pornography, salacious literature.
 - C. Parents who set bad example.
 1. Lack of love, lack of discipline e.g., Eli - 1 Sam. 3:11-14:
- III. THE HEEDLESS MAN — PRIEST AND LEVITE.
 - A. Religious - World expects more of Christians — Mt. 3:16, Gal. 6:2, 1 Jno. 3:17-18.
 - B. Too busy Mt. 6:35, 25:41-46.
 - C. "Other side". May seem:
 1. More pleasant, more popular, easier, less expensive, more conspicuous, but it is the wrong side.
- IV. THE HELPING MAN — GOOD SAMARITAN.
 - A. A despised race — least likely to help.
 - B. Like Onesiphorus 2 Tim. 1:16-18.
7. THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD LIFE.
 - A. Three planes of living - represented by:
 - 1: Robber - "Survival of the fittest - Live at any cost."
 - 2: Priest and Levite - "Live and let live."
 - 3: Good Samaritan - "Live and help live."
 - a. Christ, apostles, Christians live by this law.
 - B. Three philosophies of life.
 1. The robber.
 - a. "What's thine is mine, 1:11 take it."
 - 2: The priest and Levite.
 - a. "What's mine is mine, 1:11 keep it."
 3. The good Samaritan.
 - a. "What's mine is thine, let's share it."

CONCLUSION: On which plane are you living? What is your philosophy of life? Are you a good neighbor? Examine yourself 2 Cor. 13:3:

THE ALL-SUEFICIENCY OF THE BIBLE

Lk. 16:29-31

INTRODUCTION: Abraham informs the rich man that the scriptures are sufficient. Some today are like the rich man, they want some one to return from the dead. Some want to add to revelation. But note Psa. 19:7, 2 Tim. 3: 16-17:2 Pet. 1:3:

I. THE BIBLE IS ALL-SUFFICIENT IN:

- A. The knowledge it communicates - it reveals:
 1. The original state, fall and consequent ruin misery of man.
 2. The way of our recovery through Christ Lk. 19:10, Heb. 5:8-9.
 3. The character, offices, doctrine and work of our Redeemer -
 - a. Prophet, priest, king, mediator, Savior, counselor.
 - b. Foundation 1 Cor. 3:11: head Col. 1:18, door Jno. 10:9 of church.
 4. The doctrine of the resurrection Jno. 5:28-29, 1 Cor. 15.
 5. The three states of man: Mt. 17:1-5.
 - a. Fleshly, Peter, James and John in the flesh.
 - b. Intermediate, Moses had been dead 1500 years, but reappears.
 - c. Eternal, Elijah never died but was translated, reappears.
 6. The beauties of heaven Rev. 21:1-5, 22:1-5.
 7. The horrors of hell Rev. 20:12-15.
- B. The duties it prescribes:
 1. The proper relation between man and his fellow-man Mt. 6:12.
 2. Our duty to the government Rom. 13:1-2, Acts 5:29:
 3. Duty of servants to masters and vice versa Eph. 6:5-9:
 4. Of parents and children to each other Eph. 6:5-9:
 5. Of the wife to the husband Eph. 5:22-24, 1 Cor. 7:4-5:
 6. Of the husband to the wife Eph. 5:25-31, 1 Cor. 7:3-5.
 7. Our duty to God Ecc. 12:13-14:
 8. Our duty to our family 1 Tim. 5:8.
 9. Rules and regulations or conduct 1 Cor. 9:24-27:
 - a. Of tongue Jas. 3:1-19:
 - b. Of thoughts Pr. 4:23, Phil. 4:8.
 - c. Of affections Col. 3:1, 1 Jno. 2:15-16.
 10. Toward our enemies Mt. 5:44: 18:21-35:
- C. The cautions and admonitions furnished.
 1. It reveals all the sources of evil and peril to which exposed:
 - a. The deceitfulness of sin Heb. 3:12, Gal. 6:7-8.
 - b. The flattery of the world 1 Jno. 2:15-17, 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
 - c. The wiles of Satan Eph. 6:10-18.
 2. It admonishes us of the evil of self:
 - a. Self-righteousness Mt. 6:1-5, 2 Cor. 10:12.
 - b. Self-conceit 1 Cor. 10:12, Pr. 3:7, 26:12, Rom. 12:3.
 - c. Self-justification Lk. 10:25-29, Jas. 4:13:
 - 3: It admonishes us:
 - a. Of the danger of presumption Lk. 12:19.
 - b. Of the evils of slothfulness Heb. 6:12, Rev. 3:15-17.
 - c. Of the perils of procrastination Acts 17:32, 24:35.
 - d. Of the brevity of life Jas. 4:14:
 - e. Of the uncertainty of time Job. 9:25, Heb. 9:27:
 - f. Of the nearness of death 1 Sam. 20:3:
 - g. Of the realities of the judgment Mt. 25:31-32, Acts 17:31, 2 Cor. 5:10.
- D. The promises and threatenings it proclaims.
 1. Promises:
 - a. Everlasting life Jno. 14:1-2, Rom. 8:14-16, Mt. 25:46.
 2. Threatens:
 - a. Everlasting punishment 2 These. 1:7-9, Mt. 25:41-46, Rev. 20:15:

CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY

Lk. 12:47-48

INTRODUCTION; Responsibility means man's response to the ability which God has given him. Our degree of responsibility is determined by our ability, either natural or acquired, plus the opportunities we have. A plus O equals R. There are at least four things we should notice:

I. THE VARIABLES INVOLVED.

- A. Talents or abilities differ Mt. 25:14-30.
 1. In same family - no two are the same.
 2. God likes variety. Scientists say no two snow flakes are identical.
 3. True in God's family Eph. 3:14-15.
 - a. Yet all partake of divine nature 2 Pet. 1:4.
 - b. But differ in ability - to sing, teach, preach, pray etc.
 - c. Same as in physical body 1 Cor. 12:14-20.
 - d. Do best you can, with what you have, where you are.
- B. Opportunities Gal. 6:10.
 1. Scriptures emphasize relation of opportunities and responsibility.
 - a. John the Baptist Mt. 11:11. How greater than Abraham, David and others?
 - (1) Not in character, but in opportunity. Closer to Christ.
 - b. Same true of cities mentioned Mt. 11:21-24.
 2. Open door signifies opportunity 1 Cor. 16:9, 2 Cor. 2:12, Rev. 3:8:
 3. Plentiful Mt. 9:37, Jno. 4:35, Acts 16:9.

II. NATURE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

- A. Not as families Mt. 3:9-10. You won't be saved because your parents are.
- B. As individuals - a personal matter.
 1. Proof: De.24:16, Jer. 31:29-30, Ezek. 3:17-19, 18:20, Jno. 15:22, Rom. 14:11-12, 2 Cor. 5:10.
- C. Can't be shifted.
 1. Adam failed Gen. 3:12.
 2. Aaron failed Ex. 32:22-24.
 3. Saul failed 1 Sam. 15:15.
 4. Pilate failed Mt. 27:17-26.
- D. We can't escape it - Jonah tried and failed.

III. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- A. Knowledge Acts 17:30, Eph. 5:17, Col. 1:9-10, Heb. 5:12-14, Jas. 4:17, 2 Pet. 3:18 - Ignorance is not bliss.
- B. Words Mt. 12:36-37, Eph. 4:29, Psa. 19:14, "Boys flying kites haul in their white-winged birds; you can't do that with flying words."
- C. Influence Rom. 14:7-9.
 1. Parents upon children; teachers upon pupils; Christians upon world Mt. 5:13, 16.
- D. Thoughts Heb. 4:12, Phil. 4:8 - "Thoughts of today are the dreams of tonight, and the actions of tomorrow." "Be careful what you think."
- E. Teaching Gal. 1:6-9.
- P. Our response to Christ Mt. 11:28-30.

IV. TO WHOM RESPONSIBLE.

- A. To God 2 Cor. 5:10, Rom. 14:11-12, Rev. 20:12-15.
 1. He will do right Gen. 18:25. He knows:
 - a. Our ability.
 - b. Our opportunities.

CONCLUSION: You are responsible for the decision you make while the invitation is given.

THE LAMB OF GOD
Jno. 1:29, Rev. 13:8

INTRODUCTION: Adam introduced sin Rom. 5:12. Atonement must be made. This could be done only by blood Heb. 9:22. Animals blood would not suffice — Heb. 10:4. Animals blood was typical. A scarlet thread connects the blood of the lamb Abel offered Gen. 4:4 with the blood of the Lamb of God Jno. 1:29. It only can atone for sin. This raises

I. SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS:

- A. Why necessary for Christ's blood to be shed?
 1. The very center of God's plan - Man was lost Eph. 2:11-12.
 2. To open a fountain for sin Zech. 13:1.
 3. No remission without it Heb. 9:22.
 4. Animals' blood insufficient Heb. 10:4.
 5. Only means of approach to God - Patriarchal and Jewish dispensations.
- B. Who receives the benefits of blood being shed?
 1. Those under the Old Covenant Heb. 9:15, 10:1-4.
 - a. Blood animals pointed with prophetic finger to Lamb of God.
 - b. Sins forgiven by virtue of blood to be shed Lev. 4:20, 26, 31, 35.
 - (1) They showed their faith by doing God's will.
 2. Those under the New Covenant Heb. 8:6-13, 9:11-14.
 - a. It alone has cleansing power - a spiritual detergent 1 Jno. 1:7:
 - b. We contact this power when baptized into body Acts 22:16, Tit. 3:5:
 - c. Lord's Supper refreshes our mind 1 Cor. 11:23-29:
 3. It actuates the body of Christ - the church Col. 1:18.
 - a. To have life a body must have: a head, spirit, blood.
 - (1) Christ - the head; H.S. gave life Acts 2; blood which cleanses and gives life was offered by Christ our High Priest Acts 2:28-36.
 - (2) We must be in the body to have spiritual life Gal. 3:27-29.
- C. What is the effect of its shedding?
 1. We are redeemed Tit. 2:14, 1 Pet. 1:18-19, Eph. 1:7.
 2. Purchased by it 1 Cor. 6:20, Acts 20:28.
 3. Ransomed Mt. 20:28, 1 Tim. 2:6.
 4. Reconciled Rom. 5:10, 2 Cor. 5:18-19.
 5. Justified Rom. 5:9.
 6. Forgiveness Eph. 1:7.
 7. Brought near Eph. 2:13:
 8. Grant of eternal life 1 Thess. 5:10.
- D. What does the blood of Christ speak?
 1. Better things than that of Abel Heb. 12:24.
 - a. It cried for vengeance Gen. 4:10.
 - b. Blood of Christ speaks mercy Heb. 10:28-30, Tit. 3:5.
 2. That the law is abolished.
 - a. Broke down the middle wall Eph. 2:13-15:
 - b. Nailed to the cross Col. 2:14, - we are dead to it Rom. 7:4:
 3. Introduction of New Covenant with all its blessings.
 - a. Gospel brought the Gentiles in covenant Gal. 3:13-14:
 - (1) They had been excluded Mt. 10:5 - Now - Mt. 28:18-19.
 4. Victory over grave assured by resurrection.
 - a. Purpose was to abolish death Hos. 13:14.
 - b. This Christ did in His death Heb. 2:14, 2 Tim. 2:10.
 5. Opened up a new and living way Heb. 10:19-20.
 - a. Vail separated Holy Place from most Holy.
 - b. Vail rent in twain at His death Mt. 27:51, Heb. 9:8.
 6. The love of God for sinners Rom. 5:8, 1 Jno. 3:16, 4:9-10.
- E. How do we contact this cleansing, life-giving blood?
 1. Blood is in the body, the church. You must come in Gal. 3:27-29:

"TO WHOM SHALL WE GO"

Jno. 6:66-68

INTRODUCTION: Few statements of Jesus are more pathetic than the question in verse 66. It is always disheartening to see people turn away from truth and right and embrace error. Peter's ready answer should be a source of reassurance to us. Note:

- I. THE FACT THAT WE HEED SOME ONE TO WHOM WE CAN GO - TO LIFT US:
 - A. Above circumstances.
 1. Heart strings snap, friends forsake, loved ones depart.
 - B. Above sin.
 1. Can't save self - can't lift self by our own boot straps.
 - C. Above fear of death Heb. 9:27, 2:15, 1 Cor. 15:51-57.
- II. WE CANT GO TO:
 - A. Hoses - his law is no longer binding Rom. 7:4, 6, Eph. 2:15, Col. 2:14.
 - B. John the Baptist - even we are now greater than he Mt. 11:11.
 - C. To wealth - it is sure to fail Lk. 12:16-20, 16:19-24.
 - D. Pleasure Ecc. 2: 1-11, Gal. 6:7-8.
 - E. Denominationalism Mt. 15:7-9, 15, Col. 1:18, Eph. 4:1-6.
- III. THEN, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO:
 - A. For guidance?
 1. Christ is the way Jno. 14:6.
 - a. A safe way Isa. 55:8-10.
 - b. It is a narrow way Mt. 7:13-14:
 - c. By way of Christ or the church of which He is the founder, foundation, door and head.
 - d. Instructions are found in His word 2 Tim. 5:16—17 .
 - B. For assurance?
 1. He is the truth Jno. 14:6, 17:17.
 - a. A way that is right and can't be wrong.
 - b. Revealed by the Holy Spirit Jno. 16:15, 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - c. It can make you free Jno. 8:52.
 - C. For real life?
 1. Christ helped create all life Jno. 1:1-5, Col. 1:16-17, Heb. 1:1.
 2. He sustains all life Heb. 1:5.
 - 5: Can give us a new quality of life 2 Cor. 5:17, Rom. 6:4.
 - 4: Gives more abundant life Jno. 10:10.
 - a. Both here and hereafter.
 - D. For spiritual nourishment Jno. 6:51.
 1. Comes from the living word Mt. 4:4:
 - a. Requires persistent study and effort 2 Tim. 2:15.
 - b. Reject it and remain babes Heb. 5:12-14, 1 Pet. 2:2.
 - c. Essential to strength Eph. 6:10, 1 Jno. 2:14.
 - E. For spiritual refreshment Jno. 4:7-15:
 1. A fountain of living water Zech. 15:1.
 - a. Ever-flowing and over-flowing.
 - b. Jews preferred cisterns - of their own making Jer. 2:15:
 - c. Some today prefer commandments and doctrines of men Mt. 15:7-8.
 - d. They will prove to be broken cisterns Mt. 15:13:
 - F. For cleansing 1 Jno. 1:7, Tit. 5:4-5, Acts 16:22.
 1. Enjoined 2 Cor. 7:1, 2 Tim. 2:2, Jas. 4:8.
 2. Promised Zech. 13:1, Mal. 5:3, Eph. 5:25-26, Heb. 9:14, 1 Cor. 6:11.
 - G. For deliverance.
 1. From temptation 1 Cor. 10:15, 2 Tim. 4:18, 2 Pet. 2:9.
 2. From sin Rom. 7:24-25, 1 Pet. 2:24, 1 Jno. 2:2, Rom. 6:17-18.

THE NEW COMMANDMENT

Jno. 15:34

INTRODUCTION: There was an old, but similar commandment Ex. 20:12-17, Mt. 22: 54-40 - - Love thy neighbor as thyself.

I. THE COMMANDMENT JESUS GIVES WAS NEW— THAT IS:

- A. The Old Testament required that:
1. We love God Ex. 20:1-11 - Have no other gods, no graven images, nor take His name in vain, remember the Sabbath day,
 2. We love one another Ex. 20:12-17 - to prove their love for one another by keeping the last six of the ten commandments.
 5. By love had never before been made that by which any class or body of men had been known to be distinguished.
 - a. Jews were known and distinguished by external rites and peculiarity of dress.
 - b. Military men by their uniform.
 - c. Christians not known for; wealth, learning or fame, but:
 - (1) By tender attachment for each other Heb. 13:1, 1 Pet. 1:22.
 - (2) Lived on common level, redeemed by same blood, same goal.
 - (3) Befriend each other in trials, cared for each others feelings.
- B. The New — "As I have loved you" Jno. 15:54 - Jesus loved:
1. Selflessly.
 - a. In noblest human live there is some element of self.
 - (1) We think - What can I get from love? Happiness. thrill, or the alternative - loneliness. if love is denied.
 - (2) What will this love do for me?
 - (5) When we mourn the passing of a loved one we are often thinking of ourselves - how much we will miss them. Sorry for self.
 - b. Jesus never thought of self, only others.
 2. Understandingly.
 - a. Knew his disciples weaknesses, yet loved them.
 - (1) Knew Peter would deny Him Mt. 26:54, 26:69.
 - (2) Knew people at their worst, yet loved them Rom. 5:6-8.
 - b. True love is when you:
 - (1) Live with people, know their moods, irrationalities, weaknesses, yet love them.
 - (2) Love is not blind - sees all, yet loves 1 Pet. 4:8.
 - (5) Love is open-eyed. Loves person not for what he imagines him to be, but as is. Loves whole person, for better or worse.
 3. Sacrificially — No limit to what He would do for others.
 - a. No demand made upon His love was too much.
 - (1) Gave His life on the cross to prove His love Jno. 10:11.
 - (2) We think love is intended to give happiness - it does, but:
 - (a) It may well bring us pain.
 4. Forgivingly.
 - a. Jesus knew His disciples would deny and forsake Him.
 - (1) They never understood Him - in the end they were cowards.
 - (2) When He was arrested they forsook him and fled. Only Peter followed Him afar off. Then denied Him three times.
 - b. He never held anything against them.
 - c. Forgave those who crucified Him Lk. 25:54.
 - d. All enduring live is built on forgiveness.

CONCLUSION: Love binds companions, families, nations, and churches together. "Hate drew a circle and shut me out, rebel, heretic, a thing to flout; but love and I had the wit to win, we drew a circle and took him in."

THE "I AM'S" OF JESUS
Jno. 14:6

INTRODUCTION: "Am" is present tense - Jesus says "I am", not "I was", "I will be". He has always been and will always be. There are three persons in the Godhead 1 Jno. 5:7. They are God. God is plural Gen. 1:26.

I. JESUS COULD TRUTHFULLY SAY "I AM":

- A. The "living bread" Jno. 6:51.
 - 1. Typified by manna Ex. 16:16-26.
 - 2. Bread is the staff of life.
 - 5. Man can't live by bread (physical bread) alone Mt. 4:4.
 - a. Soul requires spiritual food Lk. 12:16-21.
- B. "The light." Jno. 8:12.
 - 1. Light, the source of all life, both physical and spiritual,
 - a. No light, no vegetable, no animal, no human life Gen. 1:3:
 - 2. Light must have a medium - sunlight shines through atmosphere,
 - a. Gospel is the medium of spiritual light 2 Cor. 4:5-4:
 - 3. Light needs a reflector Mt. 5:16 - Do you shine?
- C. "The door" Jno. 10:9.
 - 1. A door is a means of access:
 - a. Unto God Jno. 14:6.
 - (1) We must believe, confess, and obey Him to enter the door.
 - b. Into Christ and the church Gal. 3:27-29, 1 Cor. 12:12.
 - (1) We must abide in Him Jno. 15:4-7.
- D. The good Shepherd Jno. 10:11.
 - 1. All we like sheep had gone astray Isa. 53:6.
 - a. He gave His life for the sheep - we must be willing to give our lives for Him Rev. 2:10.
 - (1) The apostles did. Martyrs did - Acts 7:59-60.
 - b. We must know His voice Jno. 10:4. Many do not, hence go astray.
 - c. Sheep will not follow strangers Jno. 10:5.
- E. "The way" Jno. 14:6, Isa. 35:8.
 - 1. Not in man to direct his own steps Jer. 10:23.
 - 2. It is strait and narrow Mt. 7:13-14. Few travel it.
- F. "The truth" Jno. 14:6.
 - 1. He is the embodiment of truth.
 - a. Man may tell the truth, no man can embody truth.
 - b. Moral truth must be conveyed by example.
 - (1) Character not essential to teaching geometry etc.
 - c. Man may say, "I taught you the truth."
 - d. Only Jesus can say, "I am the truth."
- G. "The life" Jno. 14:6, 1:1-4.
 - 1. We are made alive through Him Rom. 6:11, 7:11, Gal. 2:20.
 - 2. He is the resurrection and the life Jno. 11:25.
 - 3. He gives the more abundant life Jno. 10:11.
 - a. Here 1 Jno. 5:11-12.
 - b. Hereafter Rev. 22:14.
- H. "The vine" Jno. 15:1
 - 1. As opposed to the degenerate vine.
 - a. Israel was a degenerate vine Isa. 5:1-7.
 - (1) Jews thought that because they were Israel they were branches of the true vine Mt. 3:9.
 - (2) In contrast Jesus says, "I am the true vine."
 - 2. Branches must abide in the vine Jno. 15:4:

CONCLUSION: You must eat of that bread, reflect that light, enter that door, follow that Shepherd, walk in that way, accept that truth, abide in that vine in order to enjoy that life. Will you do that now?

GREATERWORKS

Jno. 14:12

INTRODUCTION: The disciples were grief stricken at the thought of parting with their Master, and filled with care at the thought of what should become of them when He was gone. To silence their fears, Christ assures them that they should be clothed with power sufficient to bear them out. Let us notice:

I. THE WORKS REFERRED TO.

- A. Jesus' works on earth Jno. 20:30-31 - which were greater than:
 - 1. Noah's work in building the ark Gen. 6-9.
 - 2. Moses' work who delivered Israel, built tabernacle, led Israel.
 - 3. Building of temple by Solomon.
 - 4. John the Baptist, who introduced Christ to the world Mt. 3:1-3:
- B. Work of the disciples.
 - 1. How greater:
 - a. In nature.
 - (1) Jesus' work all-important - largely preparatory.
 - (a) Miracles, to prove His divinity Jno. 20:30-31.
 - (b) Teaching, to lay foundation 1 Cor. 15:1-4:
 - (c) Foundation must be durable if foundation stands. Mt. 16:18, 1 Cor. 3:11, Eph. 2:20-22.
 - (2) Build upon the foundation 1 Cor. 3:11-15:
 - b. In extent.
 - (1) Jesus' work largely confined to Palestine.
 - (2) Christians' work, universal Mt. 16:15-16.
 - (3) Flesh limited extent of Jesus' work.
 - (4) Death set His Spirit free — could then operate with power throughout whole world Col. 1:23.
 - (5) Jesus promised Holy Spirit to apostles Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
 - (6) Spirit came on Pentecost Acts 2:1-4:
 - (7) Apostles were guided by Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 2:9-10, 2 Tim.3:16.
 - (8) Power is now in the Word Rom. 1:16, Heb. 4:12.
 - 2. Source of the power.
 - a. Not direct, as that received by apostles Jno. 16:13, Acts 2:1-4.
 - b. Not gifts of the Spirit - received by early Christians.
 - (1) By laying on of hands Acts 8:14-17, 19:1-6.
 - (2) Necessary during infancy of the church.
 - (a) Bible not yet written.
 - (b) Apostles could not always be present.
 - (c) Christ was gone back to heaven.
 - (3) Gifts ended when the Word was written 1 Cor. 13:8-10.
 - (4) We now have the Word Mt. 24:35, 1 Pet. 1:24-25.

II. THE GREATER WORKS CHRISTIANS DO NOW.

- A. Preach the gospel Rom. 1:16 — no other power needed Heb. 4:12.
 - 1. In fact and fulness - no more revelation to be given Jude 3:
- B. Extend the borders of the kingdom - lead souls to Christ.
 - 1. Apostles established it Acts 2 - not future, as some teach.
 - 2. We need to defend and extend it.

III. HOW THIS SHOULD AFFECT US.

- A. Increases our responsibility Lk. 12:47-48:
 - 1. Ability plus opportunity equals responsibility.
 - a. Never be satisfied with past attainments Phil. 3:13-14:
 - b. Never dissatisfied - not a grumbler.
 - c. Always unsatisfied - always greater heights to climb.

THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

Jno. 18:36-37

INTRODUCTION: Perhaps there is no Bible subject about which there has been more controversy and less understanding than the kingdom of Christ, Few subjects have been preached more and understood less. Let us consider;

I. SOME FALSE CONCEPTS OF THE KINGDOM.

- A. Jews looked for an earthly king or Messiah like David.
 - 1. who would restore kingdom to Israel.
 - 2. Christ did not look, talk, nor act like the Messiah expected.
 - 3. Hence they crucified Him as an impostor.
- B. Even the apostles believed the same Acts 1:6.
 - 1. They lost hope after His death Jno. 21:3:
 - 2. Surprised when He appeared after His resurrection Acts 12:14-15.
 - 3. Thomas was the greatest doubter Jno. 12:25.
 - 4. Misunderstood prophesies Dan. 2:44, 7:13-14: Ezek. 21:25-27, Ps. 24:7-10.
- C. He had postponed time of establishment.
 - 1. Because Jews had rejected Him.
 - 2. Established church instead, kingdom still future — But note: Mk. 9:1, Jno. 18:35-37, Acts 2:29-36.
 - 3. He is reigning now — 1 Cor. 15:24-25:
- D. That He will return soon, reign 1000 years upon earth -
 - 1. In Jerusalem, on David's throne.
 - 2. That contradicts all the Bible teaches on the kingdom.

II. IN THE BIBLE THE CHURCH IS PRESENTED AS:

- A. The kingdom of Christ Jno. 18:36-37.
 - 1. Christ is King - crowned when He ascended Ps. 24:7-10, Acts 2:36.
 - 2. Christians are citizens Eph. 2:19.
 - 3. New Testament contains His statutes 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:3.
 - 4. Apostles, His retinue of attendants Mk. 16:15-16.
 - 5. He has the right to rule - Son of David - two sons: Solomon, Nathan.
 - a. Through Solomon, heir to throne Mt. 1:6-16.
 - b. Through Nathan, received blood of David. Lk. 3:23-31.
- B. The body of Christ, Christ is head Col. 1:18.
- C. The sheepfold, Christ is Shepherd Jno. 10:11.
- D. The house of God, Christ, the foundation 1 Cor. 3:11; the door Jno. 10:9.

III. WHEN THE KINGDOM WAS ESTABLISHED.

- A. Not in the days of Abraham, or John the Baptist - If so:
 - 1. A body without head, spirit, or blood - hence dead.
 - 2. A kingdom with out a King Mk. 9:1, Acts 1:6.
- B. Not while Christ was on earth Mk. 16:19, 9:1, 1:14-15.
- C. In days of Roman kings Dan. 2:44.
- D. On Pentecost Lk. 24:45-49, Acts 2.

IV. NATURE OF THE KINGDOM Mt. ,13_.

- A. Jesus said it **was** like:
 - 1. A sower sowing seed vs. 3-9.
 - 2. A sower who sowed good seed, but tares sprang up vs. 24-29, 37-43.
 - 3. A grain of mustard seed vs. 31-32.
 - 4. Leaven v. 33.
 - 5. Treasure hid in a field v. 44.
 - 6. A pearl of great price vs. 45-46.
 - 7. A fish net vs. 47-50.
 - 8. A family Eph. 3:14-15 - Christ, the head. Are you a child? An heir?

FIGHTING AGAINST GOD

Acts 5:38-39

INTRODUCTION: Since time began many battles have been fought and many victories have been won. The greatest and the longest battle that has ever been fought is that between Christ and the devil. It has raged unabated since the day that Satan introduced himself to Eve in the Garden of Eden. It is waged on all fronts. We have no doubts about the ultimate outcome, but it seems that man can never learn the futility of fighting against God. There are many examples, consider a, couplet

I. JANNES AND JAMBESS 2 Tim. 5:7-8.

- A. They were the magicians that resisted Moses.
 - 1. At first they appeared successful Ex. 6:12, 22, 8:7.
 - 2. But they failed Ex. 8:18.
 - a. Acknowledged defeat - "It is the finger of God." Ex. 9:19:
- B. The analogy.
 - 1. Moses was the deliverer of Israel.
 - a. He was resisted by the magicians Ex. 7:10-11.
 - b. Appeared successful, but ultimately failed.
 - 2. Christ, our great deliverer Deut. 18:15.
 - a. He, too, performed many miracles Jno. 20:50-31:
 - b. He was resisted by magicians and false teachers 2 Pet. 2:1-3.
 - c. They, too, failed 2 Tim. 3:9:
 - (1) "Truth crushed to earth will rise again."

II. JEWES. DURING THE MINISTRY OF JESUS Acts 5:58-59.

- A. Gamaliel's advice:
 - 1. Man's work will come to nought.
 - 2. Proof of this statement -
 - a. Theudas and Judas Acts 5:36-37:
 - b. Koran, Dathan and Abiram Num. 16.
 - c. Balaam Num. 22.
 - d. Miriam and Aaron Num. 12:1-10.
 - e. Priests of Baal 1 Kgs. 18.
 - 3. "God's work cannot be destroyed."
 - a. Evidence that this is true.
 - (1) Christ was crucified and buried, but arose Mt. 28:15. -
 - (a) Jews thought they were victorious.
 - (b) Apostles thought they had been defeated. Went fishing.
 - (c) Jews were just carrying out God's plan.
 - (2) Apostles were bitterly persecuted Acts 5:17-20, 12:6-10, 16:23-28.
 - (a) But the church still stands, as Jesus said Mt. 16:18.
 - (3) Church withstood the Dark Ages.
 - (a) Gates of hell did not prevail against it Mt. 16:18.
 - (b) To stand forever Dan. 2:44:
 - (4) Bible relentlessly persecuted - will survive Mt. 24:35:
 - 4. Futility of fighting against God.
 - a. Farmers, inventors, and scientists must recognize God's laws of nature, or their work will come to nought.
 - b. Divine (?) healers.
 - (1) Can't even survive poison of snakes they use.
 - (2) Age of miracles is past 1 Cor. 13:8-12.
 - 5. Plants God did not plant shall be rooted up Mt. 15:13:
 - a. Denominationalism Jno. 17:21-22, Eph. 1:21,22, 4:1-6.
 - b. Liberalism 1 Pet. 4:11. Eph. 3:10-H, 21.
 - c. Cults - e.g., Jones, Crossroads.

WHAT IT MEANS TO PREACH CHRIST

Acts 8:5, 35

INTRODUCTION: Preachers are constantly faced with the question: What shall I preach? Some tell stories, give book reviews, describe death-bed scenes; others seek to entertain; many preach the commandments of men (Mt. 15:9). The best answer to this question is found in our text, and in 1 Cor. 2:1-2. All would do well to follow the example of Philip and Paul. To preach Christ:

I. WE MUST PREACH:

- A. His incarnation Heb. 10:5:
 1. Word made flesh Jno. 1:1-14:
 2. God manifest in the flesh 1 Tim. 3:16.
- B. His virgin birth,
 - 1, Prophesied Isa. 7:14.
 2. Announced by an angel — Mt. 1:18-23,, Lk. 1:26-35,
- C. That He was the Son of God Mt. 17:5,
 1. Begotten by the Spirit of God Mt. 1:18-20.
 2. Born of a virgin Isa. 7:14, Lk. 1:26-27.
 3. Miracles prove it Jno. 20:30-31.
 4. His teaching Jno. 7:46, Mt. 7:28-29.
 5. Conquered death and Satan Heb. 2:14, Mt. 4:1-10.
- D. His death.
 1. Subject of prophecy Isa. 53:12.
 2. Our substitute Isa. 53:4-6.
 3. Saved by His blood Rom. 5:9, Heb. 9:11-12, - By it:
 - a. Redeemed 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
 - b. Justified Rom. 5:9.
 - c. Reconciled Rom. 5:10, 2 Cor. 5:17-18.
 - d. Church was purchased Acts 20:28,
 4. End of the law Col. 2:14,
 5. Made His will effective Heb. 9:15-17.
- E. His resurrection.
 1. Divinity of Bible rests upon this fact 1 Cor. 15:1-4. 12-17.
 2. Has transforming power Phil. 3:10.
 3. Hope based upon it 1 Cor. 15:51-56.
 4. Marked transition from observance of 7th day to 1st day of week.
- F. That Christ now reigns.
 1. Ascension described Acts 1:9-10.
 2. Coronation Psa. 24:7-10, Dan. 7:13-14.
 3. Church is His kingdom Mk. 9:1, Acts 1:8, Ikk, 24:49, Acts 2.
 - a. From Pentecost (Acts 2) to end of time 1 Cor. 15:23-25.
 - b. Hence not future — He reigns now 1 Cor. 15:23-25,
 - c. Not to reign upon earth.
- G. That He will come again.
 1. To resurrect Jno. 5:28-29.
 - a. All to come forth at same time Jno. 5:28-29,
 - b. But one resurrection — Righteous dead to rise before the righteous living are "caught up" 1 Thess. 4:16-17,
 2. To judge Mt. 25:51-46, Acts 17:31, 2 Tim. 4:1.
- H. That salvation is in Christ Gal. 3:27.
 - 1, Must be in Christ - "If" — 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - 2, Baptized into Christ Gal. 3:27,
 - 3, Salvation is in the body Eph. 3:23,
 - 4, Must abide in Christ Jno. 15:4:
- I, The invitation of Christ,
 1. Universal Mt. 11:28-30, Rev. 22:17.
 2. Christ is knocking now Rev. 3:20.

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Acts 11:26

INTRODUCTION: The word Christian is used for the first time in the Bible in our text. It occurs in two other places: Acts 26:28, 1 Pet. 4:16: But the fact that it is so seldom used does not indicate that it is unimportant. To be worthy of the name Christian is the highest recommendation that is possible. There is nothing the world needs as much as it needs Christians. Transformations may be wrought in landscapes by planting trees, flowers and shrubs. Communities may be transformed by adding more Christians to the population.

I. A CHRISTIAN IS ONE WHO:

A. Takes God at His word.

1: Blind faith is unnecessary.

a. God has endowed us with power to reason.

b. Christian faith is based upon valid evidence Jno. 20:30-31:

(1) That there is a God Gen. 1:1, Jno. 1:1-5, 14:

(2) That His word is true Jno. 17:17, 1 Thess. 2:13:

2: Christians take God at His word in regard to:

a. His promises 2 Pet. 1:3-4, Jno. 5:28-29, 14:1-3.

b. His threats 2 Thess. 1:7-9:

3: Such faith is the foundation of character.

a. We build upon this foundation 2 Pet. 1:5-11:

B. Partakes of the divine nature 2 Pet. 1:4.

1. Man was created in the image of God.

a. This moral image was defaced by sin Gen. 5:

b. This image is restored by:

(1) Being born again - regenerated Jno. 3:3-5, Tit. 3:4-5.

12J Constant renewing of the mind Rom. 12:1-2.

(3) Sanctification - being completely set apart 1 Thess. 5:23.

)a) Hate sin Rom. 12:9 - but love the sinner.

C. Possesses the Spirit of Christ Rom. 8:9, Phil. 2:5:

1. The spirit of humility Phil. 2:6-8, 1 Pet. 5:5:

2. The spirit of forgiveness Lk. 23:34 - Christians can't hold a grudge.

3: The spirit of service, self-forgetfulness Lk. 19:10.

4: The spirit of obedience Phil. 2:6-8, Heb. 5:8-9:

D. Delights in the ordinances of Christ.

1. Loves to read the Bible Ps. 1:1, 2 Cor. 4:16 - Do you?

2. Loves to talk to the Lord 1 Thess. 5:17:

3: Loves to meet with God's people Ps. 122:1.

4. Loves to support the Lord's work 2 Cor. 8:1-4: Does this describe you?

E. Is concerned for the glory of Christ.

1. Puts self in background e.g., Elisha 2 Kgs. 5:10-11. God's cure,

a. Preachers should keep self behind the cross - some don't.

2. Will do nothing to bring reproach upon the Cause,

a. Our lives should adorn the doctrine Tit. 2:10.

II. THE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER IS QUE:

A. Of extensive usefulness

1. Salt of earth and light of world Mt. 5:13-16.

a. Like a stream, we leave a wide green margin as we flow through the desert of sin.

B. Of great enjoyment.

1. Christians have the true ground of rejoicing.

a. Names are written in heaven Lk. 10:20.

b. Sins are forgiven Acts 2:38, 8:39.

c. Have the hope of eternal life Heb. 6:19, 1 Cor. 15:19,

1 Jno. 3:1-2.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

Acts 14:8-18

INTRODUCTION: Relate the incident referred to. Explain the reaction of the people and Paul's explanation. A misinterpretation due to lack of knowledge. There are many misinterpretations today due to the same reason. Let us consider some common misinterpretations:

I. THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES.

- A. God gave Moses miraculous power Ex. 4:1-9:
 - 1. People believed and followed Moses.
 - 2. Ten plagues upon Pharaoh - people were released.
 - 5. They caused people to believe Moses was a man of God.
- B. Jesus performed miracles for the same reason Jno. 20:30-51.
 - 1. Apostles had same power for same reason Acts 3:6-7, 14:8-10, 9:40-41.
- C. Power is now in the gospel Rom. 1:16.
 - 1. Miracles no longer needed - hence passed away.
 - 2. There are many fake, so-called miracle workers.

II. THE FUNCTION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

- A. Given to apostles - They were needed because:
 - 1. Christ had returned to heaven.
 - 2. While establishing church apostles could not always be present.
 - 3. New Testament was not yet written - hence no guide.
 - 4. Apostles imparted gifts of Holy Spirit to apostles Acts 19:6.
 - 5. When New Testament was written laying on of hands ceased 1 Cor.13:8-10.
 - 6. When house is built, scaffolding is torn down. Not needed.
- B. The word when preached produces faith Rom. 10:9.
 - 1. Gives us all things pertaining to life 2 Pet. 1:3, Col. 2:9-10.

III. THE FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH.

- A. It is Christ's help meet - Eve was Adam's help meet Gen. 2:18.
 - 1. Without Eve he could not have populated the earth.
 - 2. Church is Christ's bride Jno. 3:29.
 - 3: Church must distribute seed Lk. 8:11. Produces Christians Mk. 16:15-16.
 - 4. A spiritual institution - Divine, not human.
 - a. Christ is: head, foundation, door, way, truth, life.
 - b. Members redeemed by and washed in His blood Eph. 1:7:1 Pet. 1:18-19.
 - c. Lives changed Rom. 6:17-18, 1 Cor. 6:9-11.
 - 5. Not a social nor recreational center.
 - 6. Not an athletic center.
- B. It has a great spiritual work to do Eph. 4:12.
 - 1. Evangelistic, benevolent, educational.
 - 2. To be done by the church Eph. 3:10, 21. Not by human organization.

IV. CONCERNING THE KINGDOM.

- A. God foretold its establishment Dan. 2:44: 7:13-14.
 - 1. Christ crowned King when he ascended Jno. 18:36-37, Acts 2:29-36.
 - 2. Kingdom or church established on Pentecost Acts 2.
 - 3. Christ now reigns 1 Cor. 15:24-25.
 - 4: Christians are citizens Eph. 2:19-22.
- B. No 1000 year reign.
 - 1. Christ said it was near Mk. 9:1 - It came on schedule Acts 2.
 - 2. But one resurrection Jno. 5:28-29: All came forth at same time.
 - a. 1 Thess. 4:16-18. Only Christians are referred to here. Dead Christians raised and caught up with living Christians.
 - b. Together they will meet God. No second resurrection.

AN INSPIRED ANSWER TO AN URGENT QUESTION
Acts 16:30-51

INTRODUCTION: According to Roman law this jailor knew his physical life was in danger. He may or may not have had anything beyond this in mind. Paul's answer ignores the physical and deals with the spiritual danger involved. Perhaps Paul was concerned with both the man's life and his soul. No greater question can challenge the thinking of any man today. All impenitent, unbelieving, unbaptized sinners are in immediate danger of being eternally lost in a devil's hell. Let us consider:

I. THE QUESTION AND THE ANSWER,

- A. What must "I" do? "
- 1: A very personal question - "I". Concerns both you and me.
 2. We must realize we are lost — many do not.
 - 3: We have a personal interest in:
 - a. Our appearance, vocation, success - how about our salvation?
 - b. Concerned about what others think about us - What does God think?
 4. Deals with my_ soul - its eternal destiny - happiness or sorrow.
 5. "I" am personally responsible Lk. 12:47-48:
- B. "WHAT" must I do? It involves personal action.
- 1: Some say:
 - a. Pray through.
 - b. Wait for an "experience" - God will speak in some mysterious way.
 - c. Open your heart, say "yes" to Jesus.
 - d. Put your hand on the "TV" and make a commitment.
 - e. Just be morally good - but note Acts 10:1-6.
 - f. Only believe - but note Jas. 1:22, 2:14-26.
 2. The Lord says:
 - a. He alone is qualified to answer - Paul speaks by inspiration.
 - b. We must please the Lord - Jno. 8:29, Rom. 8:8, Gal. 1:10.
 - c. We must comply with God's will Mt. 7:21, not man's.
 - d. Jailor was told to believe Acts 16:31 - but note:
 - (1) He washed their stripes v. 23, evidence of penitence.
 - (2) "Baptized straightway" v. 33: All his house.
 - (3) Hence believing is just the point of beginning.
 - e. Jews were told to repent Acts 3:19 - explain meaning.
 - f. Ethiopian told to confess Acts 8:36-37: See Rom. 10:9-10.
 - g. Jews to be baptized Acts 2:38 - result? Remission of sins.
 - h. Then remain faithful remainder of life Rev. 2:10, 1 Cor. 15:58.
- C. What "MUST" I do?
1. Not a matter of personal choice - do or not do, but
 2. It is "either", "or".
 - a. "Either" accept and be saved.
 - b. "Or" reject and be lost. It is YOUR decision -
 - c. Lot's sons—in—law made the wrong choice Gen. 19:14:
 - d. People of Noah's day Gen. 6:5-7, 7:13. 21-22.
 - e. "Behold I have set before you life and death" Deut. 30:19.
- D. What must I "DO"?
- 1: Religion is not:
 - a. Just something better felt than told.
 - b. It is something you MUST do Jas. 1:22,27.
 2. It involves personal, complete and continued obedience Heb. 5:8-9, Mt. 7:21, Heb. 3:17-18, Lev. 10:1-2, 1 Sam. 15:22-23.
 3. Primary obedience, followed by a consecrated godly life.

CONCLUSION: Won't you do now what you will wish you had done when you stand before God at the judgment?

THE STIRRED SPIRIT
Acts 17:16

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Great success at Phillipi, Thessalonica, Berea.
3, Reasons for their success.
1. Great faith in God and the Gospel Rom. 1:16.
 - a. Their acceptance was proof of its power.
 - b. It has the same power today.
 2. Apostles were sold on their product.
 - a. Pew salesmen have that attitude today.
 5. Had great courage - much needed.
 - a. Deut. 31:6, Dan. 3:16, 1 Sam. 17:24-38, 40-51, Acts 4:19, 5:29, 2 Tim. 4:1-2.
 - b. Conditions at Athens Acts 17:16-18.
 - (1) wholly given to idolatry.
 - (2) An unlikely field for sowing seed.
 - (3) But Paul was on fire for the Lord.

II. WE NEED TO BE STIRRED TODAY.

- A. Nationally.
1. We are drifting as a nation.
 - a. Politically - toward socialism, communism.
 - b. Morally - rotten: drugs, pornography, sex, salacious literature.
 - c. Corruption.
 - (1) In government, schools, home, church.
 2. Prosperity has spoiled us Deut. 32:15:
 - a. We never had it so good.
 - b. True of Rome - but Rome fell.
 3. Spiritually - indifferent Amos 6:1, Rev. 3:15-18 - Need to be:
 - a. Like Jesus Jno. 2:13, Mt. 23. Seven woes.
 - b. Like John the Baptist Mt. 3:7-12.
 - c. Like Peter Mt. 26:51.

III. THE CHURCH NEEDS TO BE STIRRED 2 Pet. 3:1.

- A. Preachers need to be stirred.
1. Paul was always unsatisfied with his achievements Phil. 3:13-15.
 2. Be instant in season and out of season 2 Tim. 4:1-2.
 - 3: Not just another profession.
 - a. To make money.
 - b. Souls are at stake Rom. 3:23; eternity involved 1 Cor. 9:20-22.
- B. Elders - Church can't rise above its leaders.
1. Need greater vision Jno. 4:35-36, 1 Jno. 5:19.
 2. Great responsibility Heb. 13:17 - "Must give account^M.
 3. Oversee the flock Acts 20:28, 1 Pet. 5:1-3.
 - a. Many lame sheep Heb. 12:12, Lk. 15:4-9.
- C. Members - many at ease Amos 6:1.
1. Some are asleep Rom. 13:11, Eph. 5:14:
 2. Many are indifferent Rev. 3:15-18.
- D. Reasons for being stirred.
1. World lying in wickedness 1 Jno. 5:19 - souls perishing.
 2. We are individually responsible Gal. 6:1, Deut. 24:16, Jer. 31:29-30, Ezek. 18:20, 2 Cor. 5:10.
 - 3: Religious division - discourages many.
 - a. Condemned 1 Cor. 1:10, Jno. 17:20-21.
 - b. Ignorance - true at Athens Acts 17 - true today.
 - c. Deception - can't distinguish things that differ Phil. 1:9-10.
 - d. Misguided Mt. 7:15 - Confused.

STORMS WEATHERED BY THE SHIP OF ZION

Acts 27:41-44

INTRODUCTION: Ships made by men are often destroyed. Christ never promised His disciples that the voyage upon life's sea, aboard the Ship of Zion, would be trouble-free. Rather, He pointed out the dangers. When He asked, "Are ye able to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" He referred to the baptism of suffering. He wanted all would-be passengers to know that the voyage would at times be rough. Worthy seamen accept the challenge of the sea. The Ship of Zion is the only vessel that will take anyone to the harbor where all troubles cease. Let us consider:

I. SOME DANGERS ENCOUNTERED BY THE SHIP OF ZION - PAST AND PRESENT.

- A. Persecution 2 Tim. J:12.
 1. By the Jews Acts 4:
 2. Apostles imprisoned Acts 5:17-32 — beaten — Acts 5:40.
- B. Judaizing teachers among first opponents.
 1. Caused trouble over circumcision — Acts 15:1—29.
 2. Troubled churches of Galatia — Gal. 1:6-9.
 3. They were Paul's greatest enemy. Wrote Rom., Gal., Heb. to combat them.
- C. Paganism.
 1. Willing to tolerate any worship providing Caesar was recognized first.
 2. Christians refused to do so, hence were persecuted Acts 16:20-24.
 3. Beat Paul with many stripes Gal. 6:17.
 - 4: Ten bloody persecutions 100 to 300 A.D. Hundreds of thousands died.
- D. Apostasy.
 1. Foretold by Paul 2 Thess. 2:3-7.
 2. Causes:
 - a. Desire for progress led early Christians to introduce methods of pagans into the church.
 - b. Acted on principle - "The end justifies the means".
 - c. Not satisfied with things written - Violated 1 Pet. 4:11:
 3. Results of apostasy.
 - a. Clergy - laity - thus the membership was divided.
 - b. Organization corrupted - bishop, arch-bishop, cardinal, pope.
 - c. Worship totally corrupted — left New Testament plan.
 - d. Dark Ages resulted and prevailed for 1200 years. Bible chained.
- E. Reformation.
 1. Purpose -
 - a. To rid church of corruption brought on by apostasy & Dark Ages.
 2. Result.
 - a. Many churches and human organization organized.
 - b. True church driven into "wilderness".
 - c. New leaders arose - "Back to the Bible" their plea. 1 Pet. 4:11:
 - d. New Testament church restored in doctrine and practice.
- F. Digression - Modernism - Liberalism.
 1. Manifested through subsequent years in many forms.
- G. Other grave dangers:
 1. Rocks of hypocrisy Tit. 1:16, seven woes pronounced Mt. 23.
 2. Shoals of indifference Lam. 1:12, Amos 6:1, Mt. 22:5, 24:12, Rom. 13:11, Eph. 5:14, Rev. 3:15-18.
 3. Typhoon of worldliness.
 - a. One of the most common and most prevalent dangers.
 - b. Condemned Mt. 16:26, Lk. 21:34, Tit. 2:12, Jas. 4:4:
 - c. Destroys christian influence Mt. 13:22.
 - d. Encourages false security Mt. 24:38-39.
 - e. Examples: sex, pornography, fornication, drugs, liquor.

ATOMIC POWER

Rom. 1:16

INTRODUCTION: August 6, 1945 is a date most of us have forgotten. Historians remember it as the date of the release of atomic power which destroyed the Japanese city of Hiroshima, and marked the beginning of the end of the Second World War. This reminds us of a greater and more useful power. Note some comparisons:

I. BOTH CAME FROM GOD.

- A. Atomic power from nature - but,
 - 1. Man had to discover and manufacture it.
- B. Spiritual energy Rom. 1:16 - Gospel is God's dynamite.
 - 1. God revealed it Jno. 14:26, 16:13, 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - 2. The apostles dispensed it 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 - 3. The Word contains it Heb. 4:12 - It provides:
 - a. Information - all things needed 2 Pet. 1:3, Col. 2:9-10.
 - b. Inspiration Heb. 12:3:
 - (1) Told apostles and prophets what to say.
 - (2) Read, understand and obey it and it will cause you: to do, to dare, to aspire, to live godly, to work.
 - c. Motivation Rom. 9:1-3, 10:1, Acts 17:6.
 - d. Determination 1 Cor. 2:1-3, Acts 21:13-14.

II. NATURE OF TEES POWER - IT IS BOTH:

- A. Destructive.
 - 1. The gospel will destroy sin of:
 - a. Transgression 1 Jno. 3:4.
 - b. Omission Jas. 4:17:
 - c. Presumption Psa. 19:13:
 - d. Ignorance Rom. 10:3:
 - 2. Destructive power of sin.
 - a. What it does to man Rom. 1:28-32, 3:9-18.
 - b. Gospel is our only defense 2 Cor. 10:4-6, Eph. 6:10-18.
- B. Constructive.
 - 1. Atomic power has unlimited possibilities for good.
 - 2. Gospel has greater potential - it will:
 - a. Save souls from an eternal hell 2 Thess. 1:7-9:
 - b. Created church as a bomb shelter Eph. 5:23, Gal. 3:27-29.
 - c. Make you a new creature 2 Cor. 5:17, Rom. 6:4:
 - d. Make you an influence for good Mt. 5:15-16.
 - e. Unite broken homes; heal broken hearts.
 - f. Give hope to the hopeless Heb. 6:19 -
 - (1) Purpose to live for.
 - (2) Goal to strive for.
 - (3) Cause to fight for.

III. THE COMPONENTS OF TECS POWER.

- A. Not uranium and Plutonium, but:
 - 1. Facts — death, burial, resurrection - which appeal to the intellect.
 - 2. Commands — believe, repent, confess. be baptized - challenge the will.
 - 3. Threats 2 Thess. 1:7-9; promises — Rev. 22:14 — appeal to emotions.

IV. THE POWER MUST BE APPLIED - RELEASED — E.G., HIROSHIMA.

- A. Gospel is power of God entrusted to us 1 Thess. 2:4. But only when:
 - 1. In heart of sinner, not in pages of a closed Book Mk. 16:15-16.
- B. We have facilities to release it -
 - 1. Pulpit, Bible classes, TV, Radio, Are you helping release it?

THE MOLD OF DOCTRINE

Rom. 6:17-18

INTRODUCTION: Paul does not thank God that these brethren had been sinners, but rather that they had been rescued from sinful service and had become children of God. This great change had been effected by conformity to the mold of doctrine exemplified by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Let us note:

I. SOME THINGS THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED:

- A. A great change has taken place.
 - 1. The connotation of the word "servant" is sometimes bad.
 - a. Reminds us of bondage — e.g.,
 - (1) Servants of Pharaoh; slaves of the South.
 - b. Sad to be a servant of man in that sense; worse, servant of Satan.
 - (1) Slave to sin; subject to Satan's dictates Rom. 3:23.
 - (2; No control over our own will Rom. 7:14-23:
 - 2. Have become servants of a different Master -
 - a. Emancipation Proclamation - Made free Jno. 8:31-32.
 - b. Now servants of righteousness - how different!
 - c. To be a slave or servant of Christ requires that -
 - (1) We serve with all the heart, soul, mind and strength Mt. 22:37.
 - (2) To further His interests 1 Cor. 9:20-22, Phil. 3:13-14.
 - (a) Paul's three great journeys 2 Cor. 11:24-28.
 - 3. Hence, it requires a complete change - new principles:
 - a. Now hate things once loved Rom. 12:9:
 - b. Love things once hated.
 - c. Become new creatures 2 Cor. 5:17, Rom. 6:4.
 - d. Put off the old man, put on the new Col. 3:8-14:
 - e. Translated Col. 1:13.
 - f. Transformed Rom. 12:2 e.g., caterpillar to butterfly.
- B. Why this change is of so great importance.
 - 1. Soul's eternal destiny is at stake Lk. 16:13:
 - 2. Duration is important - eternity is involved Mt. 25:46, Rev. 20:12-15.
 - a. Reward should be considered Rom. 6:23:
- C. How this marvelous change is effected.
 - 1. Not by mysterious, abstract operation of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. No visions, voices, weird experiences - but by gospel Rom. 1:16.
 - 3. We, too, must be cast into a mold of doctrine - text.
 - a. How anything is molded:
 - (1) Must have a mold - define.
 - (2) Gospel is the mold - obey from the heart.
 - (a) Mind must be changed by faith Acts 16:30-31:
 - (b) Life or heart changed by repentance Rom. 2:4, 2 Cor. 7:10.
 - (c) Relationship, by baptism Gal. 3:27-29:
 - (3) Material must be of right consistency or texture.
 - (a) Iron, gold, silver must be molten.
 - (b) Requires a broken and contrite heart Isa. 66:2:
 - b. When molded the material becomes beautiful and useful.
- D. Distinguishing marks of the mold.
 - 1. Christian graces 2 Pet. 1:5-11 - define each.
 - 2. Partake of divine nature 2 Pet. 1:4: - Do you?
 - 3. The image of God 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - 4. Not conformed Gal. 5:19-21.
 - 5. But transformed Gal. 5:22-23.
 - 6. Corinthians were really changed 1 Cor. 6:9-11:

CONCLUSION: "Have Thine Own Way Lord." Will you let Him have His way now?

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Rom. 8:14-17

INTRODUCTION; Few subjects in the Bible have provoked more discussion, which has resulted in more misunderstanding than the Holy Spirit,

I. WE MIGHT PROFIT BY A BRIEF STUDY OF;

- A. The attributes of the Spirit.
 - 1. Eternal Heb. 9:14 - part of the Godhead 1 Jno. 5:7. Omnipotent.
 - 2. Omniscience - has all knowledge 1 Cor. 2:10.
 - 5. Omnipresence Ps. 138:1-10.
- B. The mission of the Spirit.
 - 1. In creation Gen. 1:3, 1:26 "US", 1 Jno. 5:7.
 - 2. The resurrection Rom. 8:11.
 - 3. Regeneration Jno. 3:3-5f 1 Pet. 1:23, Jas. 1:18.
 - 4. Revelation Jno. 14:26, 16:13, 1 Cor. 2:9-10, 2 Tim. 5:16-17.
 - 5. To lead Rom. 8:14-17.
 - a. To become children, hence heirs.
 - b. How? - not directly, or independent of the Word - E.g.,
 - (1) Jews on Pentecost heard the word Acts 2:22, 57.
 - (2) Eunuch heard Philip Acts 8:55.
 - (3) Cornelius had to send for Peter Acts 10:5.
 - (4) Gospel treasure now committed to men 2 Cor. 4:7.
 - c. It leads today only through the word - same guidance for all.
- C. The baptism of the Spirit - Who was baptized?
 - 1. The apostles Mt. 5:11, Acts 11:15, Acts 2:1-4.
 - a. Not the multitude Acts 1:26 — Now 12 apostles.
 - b. Just the 12 Acts 2:1 — "they" verses 1, 2, 4.
 - c. Multitude "came together" after it was noised abroad Acts 2:6.
 - 2. Household of Cornelius Acts 10:44.
 - a. Not to convert Cornelius, but to convince Peter & Jews Acts 11:17-18.
 - 5. Early Christians, not baptized but by laying on of hands Acts 19:5-6.
 - 4. Purpose of gifts of Holy Spirit — To assist early church:
 - a. In absence of apostles, who could not always be present.
 - b. Until Scriptures were written 1 Cor. 15:8-15.
- D. The gift of the Holy Spirit Acts 2:57-58 — Some say:
 - 1. It is the Holy Spirit that is received.
 - 2. Others say it is what the Spirit gives.
 - a. E.g., The gift of the cow is her milk, not the cow.
 - 5. Scholars agree the grammar of Acts 2:58 does not tell us.
 - 4. It must be derived only from the context.
 - 5. We must read verses 58 and 59 together.
 - a. V. 58 - "ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
 - b. V. 59 - "For", "gar" — the Greek means "in order that".
 - c. That what? - "that ye may receive the promise."
 - d. What promise? To whom was the "promise" made?
 - (1) "You and your children" — the Jews V. 59:
 - (2) Those that are "afar off" - Gentiles - hence,
 - (5) The promise God made to Abraham Gen. 12:1-5.
 - (a) In thy "seed" all families of earth to be blessed. Gen. 12:5, 22:18, 28:14.
 - (b) What is the "seed"? Gal. 5:16, 5:19, 5:13-14.
 - (c) How promise was received? through faith Gal. 5:8.
 - (d) The promise was Christ - all saved through Him Gal. 5:27-29.
 - (e) "promise" Acts 2:38 - salvation through Christ.
 - (f) Began to be fulfilled on Pentecost.
 - (g) Children when baptized into Christ Acts 2:38, Gal. 3:27.
 - (h) Only the obedient receive the "gift" Acts 2:38.

THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD

Rom. 11:22

INTRODUCTION: In the Roman letter Paul is showing that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The Jews sought justification by works of the law, and were rejected. The Gentiles were willing to be justified by faith, and were accepted. When Paul saw that the Jews were determined to reject Christ, he said, "Lo, I turn to the Gentiles". The Jews, the natural branches were cut off; the Gentiles, the wild olive tree were grafted in. In God's rejection of His people we see the severity; in His acceptance of the Gentiles we see His goodness. hence our text. Some stress God's goodness; others His severity. Paul stresses both:

I. HIS GOODNESS: EVIDENCED BY:

- A. Temporal blessings.
 1. Man made in God's image Gen. 1:26.
 - a. Not in a physical sense - God is a Spirit Jno. 4:24.
 - b. In moral and spiritual likeness Col. 3:10.
 - c. A Christian partakes of God's nature 2 Pet. 1:4.
 2. Endowed with intelligence, hence superior to animals Gen. 1:28.
 - a. Can think, reason, believe, understand, remember - responsible.
 3. Gave man a wonderful body Psalms 139:14:
 4. Provided for his happiness:
 - a. Companionship Gen. 2:18.
 - b. Home Gen. 2:15, 21-24.
 - c. Employment Gen. 3:19. All three are essential to happiness.
 5. A beautiful world in which to live - flowers, trees, lakes, streams, mountains, water falls, clouds, sky, sunrise, sunset, stars.
 6. Seedtime and harvest Gen. 8:22.
- B. Spiritual blessings.
 1. Sent His Son who:
 - a. Set an example Mt. 16:24:
 - b. Shed His blood to atone for our sins Rom. 5:11:
 - c. Effected reconciliation 2 Cor. 5:18-19.
 - d. Invites all to come Mt. 11:28-30.
 2. Gave His word as our guide Jer. 10:23.
 - a. Guided Israel by a pillar of fire and cloud.
 - b. Guided apostles by Spirit, Spirit guides us through Word Jno. 16:13
 3. Church as a medium of salvation.
 - a. Priests could get from court of temple into Most Holy Place only by going through Holy Place. Man can get to heaven only by going from world by way of the church to heaven.
 4. Opportunity for service Lk. 12:47-48.
 - a. Happiness is a by-product of service.

II. HIS SEVERITY.

- A. God has always punished the disobedient.
 1. Cain Gen. 4:11-12.
 2. People of Noah's day Gen. 6:5.
 3. Nadab and Abihu Lev. 10:1-2.
 4. Uzza and Ahio 2 Sam. 6:6-7.
 5. Moses Num. 20:12.
 6. Hezekiah 2 Chro. 26:16-19.
 7. Israel Heb. 3:17-18.
 8. Punishment threatened Heb. 10:28-31, 2 Thess. 1:7-9, Rev. 20:12-15.

CONCLUSION: God is good, He can be severe. We must accept His goodness to avoid His severity.

GODS WAR ON POVERTY

1 Cor. 1:5

INTRODUCTION: Currently we are involved in a war on crime, drugs, salacious literature, pornography. Then, there is the continuous war on poverty. It is unfortunate to be impoverished in material things, but it is infinitely worse to be impoverished spiritually. This is one war we can win for we know God is on our side. He has placed at our disposal forces which, if used, will eliminate spiritual poverty. Our text refers to spiritual gifts, but there are many ways in which Christianity will enrich our lives. Let us note:

I. THE POVERTY OF SINNERS - THIS POVERTY IS TRAGIC.

A. We may be wealthy, materially.

1. As was the rich man Lk. 12:16-21.

a. He had much goods laid up for many years, but note his mistakes:

(1) He left God out of his life - millions do.

(2) He left man out of his life - thought only of self.

(3) Made self the center of everything - "I", "my", "mine".

(4) Thought he could feed his soul on material things Lk. 12:19.

(5) Counted on time that was not his v. 20. Truly he was:

B. Spiritually impoverished.

1. Like the Laodiceans Rev. 5:17-18.

a. They saw themselves rich, increased with goods, needed nothing.

b. God saw them wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

c. God's remedy for this condition Lk. 12:18.

2. Like the Gentiles Eph. 2:11-12.

a. Without God, Christ, hope - They were aliens and strangers.

b. Understanding darkened, aliens, blind, past feeling Eph. 4:17-19:

3. Starving their souls Mt. 4:4.

II. OUR ENRICHMENT 1. Cor. 1:5. 2. Cor. 8:9.

A. As a church - We have God as our Father, heirs, brethren.

1. We have complete revelation from God Col. 2:9-10, 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

2. Christ's example - how to live, worship, work, Counselor Isa. 9:6.

B. As individuals.

1. Christianity enriches our lives with:

a. Great faith - a tower of strength. "Alas for him who never sees the stars shine through the cypress trees; who hopeless lays his head away, Nor looks to see the breaking day across the mournful marbles play." — Longfellow.

b. High ideals - desire for better things.

c. Correct attitudes: humility 1 Pet. 5:5-6, unselfishness Phil. 2:19-21, whole-heartedness.

d. Lofty principles: honesty, integrity, justice, truth, fairness.

e. Worthy ambitions - true greatness Mt. 20:25-27.

f. Hopeful outlook Rom. 8:28, Heb. 6:19.

g. Worthwhile opportunities — happiness a by-product of service,

h. Purpose to live for, not a derelict. To advance the kingdom,

i. A goal to strive for Phil. 3:13-14.

j. A cause to fight for — It will enlist confidence, stir the heart, give life positive worth. No cause better than the Cause of Christ,

k. Satisfying peace Phil. 4:7, Jno. 14:27, Isa. 48:18.

l. An approving conscience.

CONCLUSION: "You can't take it with you."

A. Why not labor for the "true riches" Lk. 16:11, Mt. 6:19, 1 Tim. 6:17-19.

B. Contrast time and eternity.

THE EIGHT USB OF THE WORLD

1 Cor. 7:21-24, 7:51

INTRODUCTION: Many of the people to whom Paul preached were slaves in Roman Empire. Our station in life should not prevent us from becoming and remaining Christians. They were slaves of Rome, Before conversion, all are slaves of Satan. Whether bond or free, after we become Christians, we must decide whether we are going to use the world, or be used by it. 1 Cor. 7:51. Let us note that:

I. IF WE ARE TO USE AND NOT ABUSE THE WORLD WE MUST:

- A. See the world as God's place 1 Cor. 10:26.
 - 1. Hebrew law so taught Lev. 25:25.
 - 2. Teaching of Jesus Mt. 6:55, 16:26.
 - 3. Paul's testimony 1 Cor. 6:19. "Ye are not your own..."
 - a. Christianity once dominated culture. Perverted from of Christianity.
 - b. Renaissance - period of great awakening.
 - (1) Revival of learning. Much discovery, exploration.
 - 4. Hope of recovery lies in recovering God's basic ownership of all things, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof."
 - a. Will curb cut—throat competition and greed.
 - b. Stop wars, improve morals.
- B. We use the world right when:
 - 1. We contemplate the wisdom and goodness of God displayed in it Rom. 2:4.
 - a. Its beauty, mineral content, fertility, climate.
 - 2. We thankfully enjoy its blessings, temporal and spiritual.
 - 3. We make it a place of passage to a better world 1 Pet. 2:11.
 - 4. We try to improve it by our residence in it.
 - a. By our influence and stewardship we convert others Mt. 5:15-15.
- C. We abuse it when:
 - 1. We live in it without improvement. Maybe make it worse.
 - 2. We set our hearts upon it 1 Jno. 2:15-16, Mt. 6:19, 25-55, 1 Tim. 6:17.
 - 3. We live as though we should never leave it Heb. 9:28.
 - 4. Remember - "The fashion of the world passeth away."
- D. Keep the world in its place.
 - 1. "Things are in the saddle and ride mankind." - Emerson.
 - 2. The heart of true religion is in non-attachment Acts 4:54-55:
 - 3. "You can't take it with you."
 - 4. Keep it in its place or it will enslave you 2 Cor. 6:17-18, 1 Jno. 2:14, Judges 16:21, Suggests:
 - a. The blinding of sin - Mt. 15:15.
 - b. The binding of sin - Makes us slaves of Satan.
 - c. The grinding of sin - No happiness in sin.
- E. Find our place in the world.
 - 1. We find ourselves by losing ourselves in something bigger than ourselves. Find a purpose to live for, a goal to strive for, and a cause to fight for. Get lost in a good cause, forget about self.
 - 2. Distinguish between things you are to use and be used by.
 - 3. True Christians have found their place Mt. 5:15-16, 1 Tim. 4:12.
 - 4. When we "use" friendship we abuse it.
 - 5. Blind indeed is the person who can find nothing greater than himself Gal. 6:5, 1 Cor. 4:7.

CONCLUSION: Christ is the answer to life's problems. Accept Him as your Savior, follow Him as your example, and all will be well with your soul.

—Adapted by a radio sermon by Ralph Sockman.

THE RELATION OF MEMBERS TO THE BODY

1 Cor. 12:14-27

INTRODUCTION: Paul is showing the close relationship between Christ and the church. The church is Christ's spiritual body, Christians are the members. As such we have responsibilities. We must function for our Lord in His body.
Let us note:

I. OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS:

A, The eyes of Christ.

1. Envisage the harvest Jno. 4:35-36,
 - a. Sight is the difference between success and failure,
 - (1) Successful men see opportunities - E.g.,
 - (a) Henry Ford saw need for his **Model T**, sculptors see images in stone, architects see temples in forests and quarries,
 - (2) We should see:
 - (a) The harvest fields - souls perishing 1 Jno. 5:19,
 - (b) The languishing condition of the church,
 - (c) The correction needed 2 Tim. 4:1-5:
 - (d) Our weaknesses 1 Cor. 15:34, Eph. 5:14, Rev. 3:15-18,
 - (e) Where we can improve our influence Rom. 14:7-8
 - (f) The value of a goal Phil. 3:13-15,
2. Should not be blinded Mt. 13:15,
 - a. By prejudice Lk. 4:24, Jno. 1:46,
 - b. By jealousy Gen. 37:4, 1 Sam. 18:8, Mt. 20:12,
 - c. By pre conceived, but unscriptural ideas - stigmatism.

B. The ears of Christ.

1. We must hear:
 - a. The voice of God Isa. 1:1-2, Heb. 1:1, 2:1, Lk. 8:18, Acts 18:11.
 - b. The Macedonian call Acts 16:9,
2. Ears are deafened Mt. 13:15,
 - a. By clink of silver in our pockets e.g., Balaam Num. 22:1-19,
 - b. By loud cry of our own selfish needs,

C, The tongue of Christ.

1. It should speak His message Ilk. 16:15-16,
 - a. Audibly —
 - (1) Preach the word 2 Tim. 4:1-2.
 - (2) Teach Mt.28:19-20, 1 Tim. 4:11, 6:2, 2 Tim. 2:2.
 - (3) Sing His praises Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16.
 - b. Inaudibly,
 - (1) By good influence - We all have influence, more than we think.
 - (2) Nothing speaks louder than a righteous life.

D, The hands of Christ.

1. Hands are valuable,
 - a. Hands guided by intelligence have elevated man.
 - b. Show appreciation by use of our hands:
 - (1) Not wholly for our own selfish ends.
 - (2) To build up His kingdom,
 - (3) Be ministers of mercy Jas. 1:27,

E. The shoulders of Christ.

1. Bear the burden of others Gal. 6:2,
 - a. Remember what He has borne for us - the cross.
 - b. Shoulder the responsibilities of His kingdom - "Here am I".

P. The feet of Christ.

- 1, Be missionaries for Him Mt. 28:19 - Apostles **had** Spirit, we, the Word,
- 2, Walk with Him 1 Thess. 2:12, Gal. 5:16, 25, Eph. 5:15, 1 Thess. 4:1,
- 3, Run the christian race Heb. 12:2,

ABOUNDINGWORK

1 Cor. 15:58

INTRODUCTION: The Bible makes it plain that both faith and works are essential to salvation. Some think James contradicts Paul, In Rom. 4:1-5: Paul teaches justification by faith, but not by "faith only." He is showing that we are not justified by works of the Law of Moses. He is emphasizing the importance of faith. In Jas. 2:14-26, James is emphasizing the importance of works. Neither faith nor works alone will save. They are a team. It takes both. "Faith without works is dead" Jas. 2:20. We prove our faith by our works Jas. 2:18. We can't be saved without grace Eph. 2:8. Neither can we be saved without works Ph. 2:12. Consider:

I. PAUL'S TEACHING REGARDING WORK.

- A. The universality of work - "Beloved brethren".
 - 1. Elders have work 1 Pet. 5:2-3, Acts 20:28, Heb. 13:17.
 - 2. Beacons have work Acts 6:1-4:
 - 3. Saints have work Lk. 13:24, 1 Cor. 12:14-20.
- B. The requirement - "Be ye steadfast".
 - 1: Requires conviction 2 Tim. 1:12:
 - a. Corinthians confused by meats Ch. 8, covering Ch. 11, Spiritual gifts Chs. 12-14, resurrection Ch. 15.
 - b. Admonition Phil. 1:27, Jas. 2:18.
 - c. Galatians lacked conviction Gal. 1:6-9:
 - d. Be not tossed about Eph. 4:14: 2 Tim. 4:1-4:
- C. Constancy - "Always".
 - 1. Col. 4:6, 2:12, 1 Pet. 3:15, 2 Tim. 4:1-2.
 - 2: Sporadic service unacceptable Heb. 10:25:
 - 3: Not just when watched and praised, but when unseen and criticized.
 - 4: In youth and old age - no provision for retirement.
 - 5: As to the Lord Eph. 6:5-6 - He sees and knows all. No loafing.
- D. Fervor - "Abounding".
 - 1: Excelling Mt. 5:20, 48 - In service:
 - a. Willing 1 Chr. 29:5, fervent Rom. 12:11, from heart Eph. 6:6, give the Lord's work priority Mt. 6:33:
- E. Motive - "Wherefore" - for this reason.
 - 1. In view of the resurrection 1 Cor. 15.
 - a. Proof of resurrection vs. 5-8:
 - b. If none, faith is vain vs. 13-15:
 - c. If not, ye are yet in your sins v. 17:
 - d. Nature of resurrected body vs. 35-44:
 - 2: In view of the judgment.
 - a. All must appear 2 Cor. 5:10, Rom. 14:10-12.
 - 3. In view of reward.
 - a. Labor not in vain 1 Cor. 15:58 - "ye know" - no doubt.
 - b. A crown awaits 2 Tim. 4:8:
- F. Nature of the work - "Of the Lord".
 - 1: Can be no greater work Neh. 6:3:
 - 2. Magnify Him Phil. 1:20.
 - 3. Evangelism Mk. 16:15-16, Eph. 4:12, Jno. 4:35-36.
 - 4. Benevolence Eph. 4:12.
 - a. By individuals Gal. 6:10, Jas. 1:27:
 - b. By church Acts 6:1-4, 1 Cor. 16:1-2, Rom. 15:30-31, Eph. 3:21.
 - 5. Edification 2 Tim. 4:2, 2:2, Eph. 4:12.
 - 6. Not works of merit Rom. 6:23: The gift is conditional - must work.

CONCLUSION: You must enlist before you can work. You enlist by obeying gospel, then be steadfast until death. The reward will follow.

PREPARED FOR BATTLE

1 Cor. 16:13

INTRODUCTION: Our text depicts an army just ready to enter a fierce battle. We see Paul as a brave and experienced general reviewing his troops, encouraging them to be brave and true to the Cause they are defending and seeking to extend. Elsewhere Paul has taught his brethren that we are all engaged in a spiritual conflict Eph. 6:12, 1 Tim. 6:12, and that a good soldier is characterized by entire consecration 2 Tim. 2:4, and must endure hardness 2 Tim. 2:3, must not be entangled with the world 2 Tim. 2:4: Consider Paul's admonition:

I. "WATCH YE".

- A. Always awake Rom. 13:11: 1 Cor. 15:34: Eph. 5:14:
 - 1. Satan has an abundance of soothing syrup.
 - 2. Many enlisted men are asleep.
 - 3. Christian parents are often asleep e.g., Eli 1 Sam. 3:13-14.
- B. Always danger - Many enemies 1 Pet. 5:8-9.
 - 1. False teachers Mt. 7:15: Acts 20:28.
 - 2. Satan always on the prowl Mt. 15:25. He has many devices 2 Cor. 2:11.
 - a. Deception Gen. 3: infiltration, drugs, alcohol, sex.

II. "STAMP PAST IN THE FAITH".

- A. Not opinion, established custom, but faith.
- B. Faith referred to 1 Cor. 15:1-4, Jude 5.
- C. Exhortation implies:
 - 1. Keep in ranks, on firing line, at attention.
 - a. Many prove to be traitors Heb. 10:38-39: Judas did.
 - 2. Hold your ground - don't retreat, e.g., Paul Gal. 2:4-5.
 - a. Requires courage Be. 31:6, 1 Sam. 17:32, Phil. 1:28.
 - 5. Don't compromise.
 - a. Moses refused Ex. 8:25, 27, 10:10, 24.
 - b. Nehemiah refused Neh. 6:3.
 - 4. Don't surrender 1 Pet. 5:8-9, Jas. 4:7, Rev. 2:10.
- B. How stand?
 - 1. Be prepared Eph. 6:10-18, 1 Pet. 3:15: Rom. 1:16.
 - 2. Contend for the faith Jude 5, 1 Tim. 6:12.
 - 3. Defend the faith Phil. 1:15-17.

III. "QUIT YE LIKE MEN".

- A. Men of understanding 1 Cor. 14:20, Eph. 5:17: Heb. 5:12.
- B. Men of courage, conviction Josh. 1:7-9: Dan. 3 Hebrew children.
 - 1. David 1 Sam. 17:44-51.
- C. Dominated by a mighty purpose.
 - 1. Columbus - when his crew mutinied, threatened to throw him overboard - His answer: "Sail on, sail on, and on."
 - 2. Paul Phil. 3:13-15, Acts 21:12-13.

IV. "BE STRONG".

- A. Spiritual strength needed - Be strong:
 - 1. In grace and knowledge 1 Pet. 3:18.
 - 2. In faith Eph. 4:5. Requires wholesome food 2 Tim. 2:15, exercise 1 Tim. 4:7-8. Kinds of faith:
 - a. Little Mt. 8:26, 14:31; b. Weak Rom. 14:1; c. Great Mt. 8:5-12.
- B. Secret of strength - Fortification:
 - 1. Internal Eph. 3:16: Col. 3:16.
 - 2. External Isa. 41:10.
 - 3. What kind of a soldier are you?

GODS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT

2 Cor. 9:15

INTRODUCTION: There is some controversy over the gift referred to. Some say it was the kindly feeling that existed between the Jews and Gentiles; some say it was the grace of God; some, the Gospel of Christ; others, it was Christ. We may not be sure which Paul had in mind. One thing is sure, had it not been for Christ we would not have had the other things mentioned. Certainly Christ was an unspeakable gift from God Jno. 3:16. Then, let us consider:

I. WHAT CHRIST HAS BEEN AND IS NOW.

- A. He has been our mediator 1 Tim. 2:5, 2 Cor. 5:18-19, Heb. 9:15.
 - 1. He was the God-man 1 Tim. 5:16, Jno. 16:28, 17:20-21.
 - 2. Knew both sides of the controversy.
 - 3. Qualified to effect a reconciliation 2 Cor. 5:18-19.
- B. He is our intercessor Heb. 7:25, 1 Jno. 2:2, Isa. 9:6.
 - 1. In heaven He represents our interests as our High Priest Heb. 4:14-16.
 - 2. Only prayers in His name reach heaven Col. 3:17.
- C. He will be our judge Acts 17:31, 2 Tim. 4:1, Mt. 25:31, Jude 14.
 - 1. He understands the power and devices of Satan Mt. 4:4-10, Heb. 2:17-18.
 - 2. Justice will be tempered with mercy Heb. 10:31.
- D. He made the supreme sacrifice for us Jno. 3:16-17, Isa. 53:1-7.
 - 1. No such love has ever been known Rom. 5:6-11.
- E. He is the foundation:
 - 1. Of the sinners acceptance with God.
 - a. Our only means of access to God Jno. 14:6.
 - b. Cleansed by His blood 1 Pet. 1:18-19, 1 Jno. 1:7, Heb. 9:13-14.
 - 2. Of the believers hope Heb. 6:19.
 - a. Begotten to a lively hope by His resurrection 1 Pet. 1:3, Col. 1:27.
 - b. More than conquerors through Him Rom. 8:37.
 - c. Source of our strength Phil. 4:13.
 - d. (Reconciled) by His power Jno. 5:28 - rather resurrected.
 - 3. Of the church 1 Cor. 3:11.
 - a. Church not built on Peter, as some think Mt. 16:18.
 - b. "Rock" the Christ whom Peter had just confessed.
 - c. Can't be built upon this foundation without this confession.
 - d. He is the chief cornerstone Eph. 2:20, Acts 4:11.
- P. He is the door Jno. 10:9.
 - 1. Into the church - the house of God 1 Tim. 4:15.
 - a. The door keeper - Opens only to those qualified Jno. 10:7.
 - 2. Into all divine privileges. Col. 2:3.
 - a. Approach God only through Him Col. 3:17.
 - b. Through Him we become heirs Gal. 3:27-29, Rom. 8:17.
- G. He is the head of the church Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18.
 - 1. Source of all vitality 2 Cor. 12:9, Phil. 4:13.
 - 2. Source of knowledge and wisdom Eph. 1:8.
 - 3. Source of all authority and power Mt. 28:18.
- H. He is the Good Shepherd Jno. 10:11 - Psa. 23 -
 - 1. Leads us into: rest, refreshment, restoration, guidance, companionship, comfort, food, joy, security. Truly, we shall not want.
- I. He is a refiner Mal. 3:2-3, Jno. 15:3, 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - 1. His truth is refining 1 Pet. 1:22.
 - 2. Afflictions are refining 1 Pet. 4:12-16.
- J. He is the Great Physician.
 - 1. Has diagnosed our case - Sin — deadly, if not treated and cured.
 - 2. He has prescribed an unfailing remedy Rom. 1:16.
- K. Can you afford to reject such a precious gift? You will be sorry.

OUR SCHOOLMASTER

Gal. 3:24-25

INTRODUCTION: The Jews of Paul's day, like many today had great difficulty in distinguishing between the law of Moses and the gospel of Christ. The Jews tried to live under both. Galatians, Romans and Hebrews were written to prove that the Gospel has replaced the Law, and that we can't live under both. Our text shows that the Law was just a schoolmaster to lead us up to Christ, the greatest of all teachers. A schoolmaster is a "tutor", a "pedagogue" a "guardian". Paul declares that after the faith, or Gospel has come we are no longer under the guardian, schoolmaster, or law. Many still need these same lessons. We may profitably consider;

I. THE STUDENTS.

- A. Primarily the Jews.
 1. Law was given to them Ex. 20, Deut. 5:15-23.
 2. They were the trustees, the depository.
 3. Through them Christ came Gen. 12:1-3, Deut. 18:15.
- B. Secondly, all people.
 1. Written for our learning Rom. 15:4 - not to govern us.
 2. Our ensamples 1 Cor. 10:11 - We should profit by their experiences.
 3. For our admonition 1 Cor. 10:11 - Learn how God deals.
 - a. God says what He means; means what He says Ex. 20:8, Num. 15:32.

II. LESSONS WE ARE TAUGHT.

- A. Nature of atonement.
 1. Life must be given - Sacrifice slain Isa. 53:4-6.
 2. God will accept only the best Ex. 12:5.
 3. Blood must be shed Heb. 9:11-14, 22, 1 Jno. 1:7, Eph. 1:7.
- B. Necessity of separation from world and all evil.
 1. Circumcision Gen. 17:10.
 2. Christians, a separate people Rom. 2:28-29, 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
- C. Banger of:
 1. Neglect Heb. 2:1-3.
 2. Disobedience Num. 20:8-12, 1 Sam. 15:22-23, Heb. 3:17-19, 4:1-2.
 3. Trifling Lev. 10:1-2, Num. 20.
- D. Nature of the King Jno. 18:36-37.
 1. Like Moses Deut. 18:15.
 2. Unassuming Isa. 53:1-2, 42:1-3.
 3. Jews flunked the lesson — rejected the King, crucified Him.
- E. From the tabernacle.
 1. Salvation through church — Court, world; Holy Place, church: Most Holy, heaven. Must go through church, Holy Place to get to heaven, Most Holy Place.
 2. Laver — necessary in order to be regenerated. Washing.
 3. Table of shewbread — type of Lord's Supper.
 4. Candlestick - type of the light of the Bible - but one light source.
 5. Golden altar type of prayer - show how.
 6. Boards covered with pure gold.
 - a. Typifies purity of members - cost of the church.

III. ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENTS.

- A. Many Jews failed the course - looking for earthly king - prejudiced.
 1. Did not recognize Christ - hence rejected and crucified Him.
 2. No reflection on the teacher.
 3. Did not heed lessons taught - we had better Heb. 2:1-3, 3:7-19.
 - a. Simeon did Lk. 2:25-31; Anna did Lk. 2:38.
- B. Let us take heed to lessons taught Rom. 15:4, Heb. 2:1-2, 10:28-29.

A PLEA FOR CHRIST

Phil. 2:9

INTRODUCTION; Not "ODE" plea. "Our" systems, and theories have their day and pass. Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Christ is the center and circumference of the apostolic message 1 Cor. 2:1-2, Acts 8:5, 35.

I. THE PLEA FOR CHRIST COMPREHENDS;

- A. The name of Christ. By His authority.
 1. Baptized in His name Acts 2:38 - Church should wear it Col. 1:18.
 2. Only name by which we are saved Acts 4:12.
 3. Human names denounced 1 Cor. 1:11-13, 3:4-5.
 4. It alone gives credit at the bank of heaven Col. 3:17:
- B. The person of Christ.
 1. "Creed" means "I believe". Christ is our only creed. Mt. 16:16, Jno. 20:30-31, Acts 16:31, Rom. 10:9-10.
 2. Human creeds - incomplete statements of men. Opinions divide.
 3. We believe in persons, not things 2 Tim. 1:12.
- C. The word of Christ.
 1. Is all-sufficient 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:3, 1 Pet. 4:11, Rev.22:18-19.
 2. All powerful Heb. 4:12.
 3. We must know it Eph. 5:17 Heb. 5:12-14.
 4. Tells how to get into Christ Acts 16:31, 3:19, Rom. 10:9-10, Gal.3:27.
 5. How to live in Christ Jno. 15:4, Tit. 2:11-12, 1 Cor. 15:58.
- D. The authority of Christ.
 1. God delegated all authority to Him Mt. 28:18.
 2. Christ delegated authority to the apostles Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
 3. Apostles wrote the Word 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 4. No evidence authority was delegated to others Gal. 1:6-9.
 5. Restore authority and you will restore unity in religion.
- E. The church of Christ.
 1. He said He would build it Mt. 16:18.
 2. He purchased it Acts 20:28.
 5. He paid for it 1 Cor. 6:20.
 4. He is the head of it Col. 1:18.
 5. He is the foundation of it 1 Cor. 3:11:
 6. He is the door into it Jno. 10:9.
 7. It is a Bible name Rom. 16:16.
- P. Unity in Christ.
 1. Great difference between unity and union - illustrate.
 2. Christ prayed for it Jno. 17:20-22.
 3. Apostles condemned division 1 Cor. 1:10-13, 3:1-5:
 4. Bible demands unity Eph. 4:1-6, Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18.
- G. Consecration to Christ.
 1. Complete surrender of self and substance 2 Cor. 5:17, Rom. 12:2.
 2. Grow 2 Pet. 3:18; go Mt. 28:19; glow Mt. 5:16.
 - 3: Run with patience Heb. 12:1.
 4. Press toward the mark Phil. 3:13-15.
- H. Give Him the pre-eminence Col. 1:18.
 1. In our time Eph. 5:15-16.
 2. In our thoughts Phil. 4:8.
 3. In our speech Mt. 12:34-35.
 4. In our life Mt. 6:33, 12:33.
- I. Loyalty to Him.
 1. Not be ashamed of Him Mk. 8:38.
 2. Stand up for Him. Acts 5:28-29, 7:51-59. Acts 2:22-24.
 3. Defend His Gospel Gal. 1:6-9, Phil. 1:15-17.

PRIVILEGES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CHRISTIANS

Phil. 1:29

INTRODUCTION: Politicians often make all kinds of glowing promises to influence people to vote for them. Too often, if elected, they forget the promises made, Jesus wanted people to follow Him, but He never made any promises He could not or did not intend to fulfill. He told it like it is. He said if you follow me you must be willing to bear the cross. You must drink of the cup I must drink; be baptized with the baptism (suffering) I am baptized with. In our text Paul points out one of the great privileges of Christians (to believe on Him), then the resulting obligation (to suffer for His sake). Let us note:

I. SOME CHRISTIAN PRIVILEGES.

- A. We can call God our Father Mt. 6:9:
 1. Some have never known the blessing of knowing their earthly father.
 2. God wants all to recognize Him as Father 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
 3. Only Christians can call Him Father in a spiritual sense.
 - a. They have been born into His family Jno. 5:5—5, Eph. 3:14-15.
 - b. As children they are heirs Rom. 8:17.
- B. Wear Christ's name - Christian.
 1. A God-given name Isa. 62:2, Acts 11:26.
 2. We must do all in His name Col. 3:17:
 3. Through His name we have access to God Heb. 4:14-16.
- C. Enjoy His protection.
 1. From a guilty conscience 1 Pet. 3:14-16.
 2. From starvation Psa. 37:25.
 3. From harm 1 Pet. 3:12-15.
 4. From fear of death 2 Tim. 4:7-8.
- D. Accept His provisions.
 1. Living bread Jno. 6:51, Mt. 4:4:
 2. Water of life Jno. 4:13-14.
 3. Strength 1 Jno. 2:14; power to overcome 1 Cor. 10:3, Phil. 4:13:
- E. Enjoy His promises.
 1. Forgiveness of sins Acts 2:38, 8:22.
 2. Hope of resurrection Jno. 5:28-29, 1 Cor. 15:51-57.
 3. Eternal life Rom. 6:23, Mt. 25:46.

II. OBLIGATIONS.

- A. Respect His authority Ex. 20:2-4, Mt. 4:10, Mt. 28:18.
 1. If you call God your Father, you should respect His authority.
- B. Honor His name - not reproach it Jas. 2:7:
 1. By disloyalty - catering to the flesh Rom. 6:12, 12:2, Tit. 2:10.
 2. Honor it by letting our light shine Mt. 5:16.
 3. Magnify it Phil. 1:20 - if you would wear Christ's name, honor it.
- C. Defend His Cause - since you enjoy His protection, defend His Cause.
 1. Not be ashamed of it Rom. 1:16, Mk. 8:38.
 2. Carry His banner Mk. 16:15-16.
 3. Wield the sword of the Spirit Eph. 6:17, Phil. 1:15-17. Jude 3.
- D. Comply with His requirements - since you accept His provisions.
 1. Feed upon His word Mt. 5:6, 1 Pet. 2:1.
 2. Use your strength in His service Phil. 4:9, Jas. 1:22-25.
- E. Obey His commandments - if you would enjoy His promises.
 1. Observe to do Deut. 12:32, Rev. 22:14, Mt. 7:21.
 2. Lay up treasure 1 Tim. 6:17-18, Mt. 6:19.
 3. Accept His invitation Mt. 11:28-29.

NOTE: Will be more effective if you follow point A under "privileges" with point A under "obligations", and so on through out the lesson.

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE COLOSSIANS

Col. 1:9-10

INTRODUCTION; While Paul did not know these brethren personally, he was greatly-concerned about their souls. He had heard about their faith, love and hope. His prayer for them is worthy of careful consideration. He prayed, that they might:

I. KNOW SOMETHING - "BE FILLED WITH KNOWLEDGE".

- A. Knowledge is necessary in any calling - the more the better.
- B. Value of knowledge Phil. 3:7-11.
 - 1. Helps us detect the counterfeit Phil. 1:9-10, Gal. 1:6-9.
 - a. Must know the genuine to detect the counterfeit.
 - 2. Guards against misdirected zeal Rom. 10:1-3.
- C. Result to spiritual knowledge.
 - 1. Liberates the soul Jno. 8:31-32.
 - 2. Enlarges horizon 2 Pet. 1:9:
 - 3. Leads to eternal life Jno. 17:3:
- D. Responsibility of knowledge Lk. 12:47-48.
 - 1. Must be translated into conduct.
 - 2. Failure to do so is sin Jas. 4:17:
- E. Danger of rejection Hos. 4:6, 2 Thess. 2:11-12.
- P. Means of acquiring 2 Tim. 2:15. Available to all.

II. BE SOMETHING - "WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD".

- A. "Newness of life" - Rom. 6:4, 2 Cor. 5:17. - Walk:
 - 1. By faith 2 Cor. 5:7: Rom. 10:17.
 - 2. Spiritually Gal. 5:16, Rom. 6:17, Eph. 4:1, 17.
 - 3. Circumspectly Eph. 5:15.
 - 4. In the light 1 Jno. 1:7.

III. DO SOMETHING - "BE FRUITFUL".

- A. God requires it Isa. 5:1-3: Lk. 13:6-7, Jno. 15:1-4:
 - 1. Barrenness punished Isa. 5:5-6, Lk. 13:7: Jno. 15:2.
- B. Fruits of the Spirit most desirable Gal. 5:22-23, Ecc. 11:1.
 - 1. List and discuss briefly.
 - 2. Are you a fruitful or a barren tree? Think!

IV. HAVE SOMETHING - "STRENGTHENED WITH MIGHT".

- A. The need for strength Eph. 6:10.
 - 1. Great work to do Neh. 6:3, Mk. 16:15-16.
 - 2. Enemies to overcome, battles to fight Eph. 6:11-18, 1 Tim. 6:12.
- B. The secret of strength.
 - 1. The indwelling Word Col. 3:16, 1 Jno. 2:14, Acts 20:32.
 - 2. Realization of our insufficiency 2 Cor. 12:9-10, 1 Cor. 10:12.
 - 3. Relying on Jesus Phil. 4:13.
 - 4. The indwelling Spirit Eph. 3:17.
 - 5. Armor of righteousness Eph. 6:10, 2 Cor. 6:7.
- C. Consequences of strength.
 - 1. Patience with circumstances.
 - a. Spirit no circumstances can defeat.
 - b. Ability to deal triumphantly with problems of life.
 - 2. Long-suffering - Patience with people.
 - 3. Joy - Our prayer should be:
 - "Lord make me victorious in every circumstance, patient with every person: give me joy no circumstance and no person can take from me."

CONCLUSION: Let us all pray fervently, study diligently, and work faithfully that we may know something, be something, do something, and have something. It will make us both happy and useful.

PROVE ALL THINGS

1 Thess. 5:21

INTRODUCTION: In view of the prevalence of false doctrine in the world we would do well to heed Paul's advice. He would have us consider candidly, and weigh carefully all that we hear in the field of religion in order that we may be able to separate the chaff from the wheat. Let us notice:

I. A FEW THINGS WE WOULD DO WELL TO CONSIDER.

A. Reasons which justify this course,

1. Paul commended the Bereans for so doing Acts 17:11:
2. Warnings sounded Mt. 7:15, Acts 20:28-30, 2 Pet. 2:1-2, 1 Jno. 4:1-2.

B. Authority for following this course.

1. Source of authority, either -
 - a. Human - if so, it is fallible, therefore unsafe.
 - b. Divine, hence safe Isa. 8:20, 1 Pet. 3:15, 4:11, Rev. 4:11.

C. Some things we should be able to prove:

1. That not all men will be saved Mt. 7:21-23.
 - a. The impenitent cannot Lk. 13:5-5.
 - b. Unbelieving- cannot Heb. 11:6.
 - c. Unbaptized cannot Mk. 16:15—16.
 - d. Disobedient cannot 2 Thess. 1:7-8.
 - e. Unrighteous cannot 1 Pet. 4:17, Mt. 25:34-41.
2. That church membership is essential.
 - a. Christ died for the church Eph. 5:25-26.
 - b. Christ is the head of the church Col. 1:18.
 - c. Saved are added to it Acts 2:47:
 - d. We must abide in it Jno. 15:4 - must come in, in order to abide.
5. That immersion is essential to salvation.
 - a. It is the only scriptural baptism Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12, Acts 8:58.
 - b. We are baptized into one body 1 Cor. 12:15.
 - c. Peter says it saves us 1 Pet. 3:21, See Acts 22:16.
 - d. Christ says the unbaptized shall not be saved Mk. 16:16.
4. That the Lord's people should be one.
 - a. The body is the church Eph. 1:22-25, Col. 1:18.
 - b. Paul says there is but one body Eph. 4:4:
 - c. Divided kingdom cannot stand Mt. 12:25-26.
 - d. Christ prayed for unity Jno. 17:21—23.
 - e. Division is confusing - keeps many out of church.
 - f. Paul gave the platform for unity Eph. 4:5-7.
 - (1) One God..... Unity of worship
 - (2) One Lord..... Unity of authority
 - (5) One Spirit..... Unity of revelation
 - (4) One baptism..... Unity of action
 - (5) One body..... Unity of organization
 - (6) One faith..... Unity of practice
 - (7) One hope..... Unity of aspiration - therefore
 worship one God, accept one Lord, follow dictates of one Spirit,
 baptized into one body, exercise in one faith, enjoy one hope.
5. That we should meet on first day of week Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16:1-5.
 - a. Christ arose first day Mt. 28:1, church established that day Acts 2.
6. That men do not now possess miraculous power.
 - a. Given to attest power and authority of Jesus Jno. 20:30-31.
 - b. In absence of Jesus and New Testament, apostles needed that power.
 - c. In absence of apostles, early church needed spiritual gifts 1 Cor. 12:7-10.
 - d. When New Testament was written, gifts passed away 1 Cor. 13:9-15.

THE PROPER CONCEPTION AND RECEPTION OF THE TRUTH

1 Thess. 2:13-20

INTRODUCTION; Paul has just refreshed their mind concerning his manner of preaching, assigning as his reason that the gospel is a trust committed unto us, which trust greatly increases our responsibility.

I. HE NOW THANKS GOD FOR:

- A. The effect of the gospel he preached.
 1. "Work of faith". 1 Thess. 1:5.
 - a. Their faith worked - genuine faith always does. Does yours?
 2. "Labor of love". Love is a great propelling power. A reliable source of energy, to Christians. We need more and more energy.
 3. "Patience of hope". Farmers have to have patience. Define hope.
 4. They "turned to God from idols" 1 Thess. 1:9.
 5. Gospel came not in word only, but in power 1 Thess. 1:5:
 6. It changes ones attitude toward life 1 Thess. 1:5.
 7. Example of Thessalonians affected others favorably 1 Thess. 1:7-3:
 8. Their faith "spread abroad" 1 Thess. 1:8.
 9. All this in spite of severe persecution 1 Thess. 1:6.
- B. Their conception of the truth.
 1. Did not conceive it to be the word of men.
 - a. Many today think it was written by learned men.
 - b. Some say it has many contradictions.
 - c. Some say it conflicts with science — how false!
 - (1) Thought earth was flat until 17th century, but note,
 - (a) Bible said it was a sphere 700 B.C. Isa. 40:22.
 - (2) Scientists didn't know earth turned - Job did Job 38:14:
 - (3) The Bible predates and up-dates science.
 - d. Such a conception will not produce saving faith.
 2. They conceived it to be in truth the word of God.
 - a. Both internal and external evidence prove this to be true:
 - (1) Universally adapted to the need of men in all ages.
 - (2) Unity of design - God's eternal purpose Eph. 3:10-11.
 - (a) One central theme — redemption Eph. 1:7.
 - (b) One central Person - Christ.
 - (3) Perennial freshness — always fresh and new when read.
 - (4) Its durability Mt. 24:35, 1 Pet. 1:22.
 - (5) Its undying influence - improve all who obey it.
 - (6) Testimony of the spade - Archaeology.
 - C. Their reception of the truth.
 1. Received it as God's revealed will 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - a. Not because of the eloquence of the preacher Acts 4:13, 1 Cor. 2:4:
 - b. Not because the preacher was a good entertainer 1 Cor. 2:2.
 - c. Not because it was the popular thing to do - persecuted for it.
 - d. But because of its appeal to the inner man.
 - e. It met their soul's deep need - it still does, nothing else will.
 - f. Satisfied their hunger and thirst Mt. 4:4, 5:6.
 - g. It answered the greatest questions of life.
 - (1) Man's origin, duty, and destiny.
 - h. It claimed divine revelation Jno. 16:13, 1 Cor. 2:9-10, 2 Tim. 3:16
 - D. The good results - "Worked effectually" - 1 Thess. 2:13
 1. Turned them from darkness to light 1 Thess. 5:4-5:
 2. Translated them into the kingdom of Christ Col. 1:13:
 3. Made them servants of righteousness Rom. 6:17-18.
 4. Changed their manner of life Eph. 2:1—3, 1 Cor. 6:9-11.
 5. Made them new creatures 2 Cor. 5:17:
 6. Made them partakers of divine nature 2 Pet. 1:3-4:

THE KEY TO HAPPINESS

1 Thess. 5:16

INTRODUCTION: Philosophers have long debated the question, "What is the greatest good?" Many maintain that happiness is the greatest attainable good. Only the Bible gives the solution.

I. THIS QUESTION IS WORTH PURSUING.

- A. Some seek happiness in the wrong place — false ideas;
 - 1. Not to be found in wealth, as many think.
 - a. Solomon's experience - great wealth, but note Ecc. 2:11.
 - b. Christ's testimony Lk. 12:15, Mt. 4:4.
 - 2. No real happiness in pleasure.
 - a. Solomon tried it and failed Ecc. 2:1-11.
 - b. "Fun Isn't **Happiness**" - See poem by Edgar A. Guest.
 - 5. Neither can it be found in popularity.
 - a. Haman learned this to his sorrow Est. 5:9-13, 7:8-10.
- B. Some true ideas of happiness.
 - 1. David's concept of happiness Ps. 1.
 - a. Neither the ungodly nor sinner nor scornful can be happy.
 - (1) The ungodly has his "counsel".
 - (2) The sinner has his "way".
 - (3) The scornful has his "seat". Discuss each.
 - b. The godly and the ungodly contrasted.
 - (1) The godly man:
 - (a) Delights in the law of God.
 - (b) Meditates upon it day and night — thoughts determine acts, acts determine character, character, destiny.
 - (c) Like a tree — planted, watered, fruitful.
 - (1) Profession does not wither - remains beautiful.
 - (2) The ungodly are like the chaff - destroyed Mt. 3:10.
- G. Christ's idea of happiness — blessed Mt. 5:3-13.
 - 1. Christ is here correcting the ruinous mistakes of a blind and carnal world. He corrects the fundamental error and advances a new law of happiness. It is the very antithesis of man's idea.
 - 2. Eight characteristics of happiness — discuss each briefly.
- D. The key to happiness.
 - 1. Hearty allegiance to our lot.
 - a. A cause to fight for — a cause that can stir the blood, give life a purpose and direction has power to rescue life from emptiness and give it positive worth.
 - b. A purpose to live for - to win the victory, surmount obstacles, gain the crown. Paul did 2 Tim. 4:7-8.
 - c. A goal to strive for Mt. 6:33, Phil. 3:13-14.
 - 2. Hearty acquiescence in our lot Phil. 4:11.
 - a. "Make thy claim of wages a zero; then hast thou the world at thy feet." - Maeterlinck.
 - (1) World owes us little: our debt to it is great Rom. 1:14-15.
 - b. Meet disappointment with courage and resolution.
 - (1) "The Lord has given - - and taken away" Job.
 - (2) Every life has its compensations - true of "shut-ins".
 - 3. Hearty appreciation of the wonders and beauties of life.
 - a. The man who refuses to be downed by trouble is in condition to enjoy all good fortune that may come his way.
 - b. We can admire our friend's virtues in spite of their faults.
 - c. There is more beauty to be admired than we see.
 - (1) Freshness of air, warmth of sunshine, green of fields, blue of the sky - Let's be happy - "Rejoice evermore".

BOTH DEAD AND ALIVE

1 Tim. 5:6

INTRODUCTION: There are few things more prevalent than death. Most people love life but dread death, yet death is as natural as life. Man can be alive both physically and spiritually or he can be alive physically and dead spiritually. This was true of the woman in our text. It was true of the Ephesian brethren at one time Eph. 2:1-2. Let us note:

I. THAT WE ARE ALIVE BOTH PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY AT BIRTH.

- A. We are not born as sinners Mt. 19:14.
 - 1. We do not inherit Adam's sin, but his weakness.
 - 2. We become sinners when we become accountable. The age varies.
 - 3. Then, we become spiritually alive when born again Jno. 3:5, 1 Pet.1:23.
 - 4. Made alive by obedience Jno. 5:25-26, Rom. 6:17-18.
 - 5. We die spiritually as a result of sin.
 - a. Adam and Eve died spiritually when they sinned Gen. 3.
 - b. The same is true of all Rom. 3:23.
 - c. This made necessary God's plan of salvation Jno. 3:16-19.

II. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SPIRITUALLY DEAD.

- A. To have stopped trying — abandon all attempts to progress.
 - 1. To have accepted oneself as one is — hopeless.
 - 2. Look on all faults as ineradicable, virtue unattainable.
 - 3. Give up all hope of progress — Paul did not Phil. 3:15-16.
 - 4. Can't stand still. Go on or go back Heb. 6:1, Mt. 5:48.
- B. We have stopped feeling — Dead people have no feelings.
 - 1. Once felt intensely about sin, sorrow, suffering in this world.
 - 2. Have become so used to it we are inured, insensitive to it, callous.
 - 3. Look at evil with indignation — shrug it off — so what?
 - 4. When compassion is dead the heart is dead.
 - 5. Don't want to become involved.
- C. To have stopped thinking - only living things grow.
 - 1. Mind closed to truth Mt. 13:15 — dead mentally.
 - 2. Know it all, desire to learn fails, closed mind, die mentally.
 - 3. To a Christian, life and discovery are synonymous Psa. 1:1-2.
- D. To have stopped repenting.
 - 1. When you can sin in peace you are spiritually dead 1 Tim. 4:1-2.
 - 2. When you no longer care; when sin loses its horror Psa. 51.
 - 3. Conscience is seared 1 Tim. 4:1-2. Ceases to warn, goad, halt.
- E. To have stopped loving Jno. 13:35, 15:12, 1 Thess. 3:12, Lk. 10:20-37.

III. CAUSES OF SPIRITUAL DEATH — Lk. 8:14.

- A. Low resistance. Causes many to be ill almost constantly.
 - 1. Lack of food - some have lost appetite. Always a reason.
 - 2. Lack of exercise - some are too lazy.
 - 3. Hence susceptible 1 Jno. 2:15-16.
- B. Cares of world Mt. 6:25 - business. family Lk. 14:16-20.
- C. Riches 1 Tim. 6:9-10. "World is too much with us."
- D. Pleasures - the urge to gratify carnal desires Rom. 8:5-8.
- P. Bad company 1 Cor. 15:35.

IV. PREVENTION.

- A. Keep self strong and healthy spiritually Eph. 6:10-12, 3 Jno. 2.
 - 1. Plenty of wholesome spiritual food 1 Pet. 2:3, Heb. 5:12-14.
 - 2. Abundant exercise 1 Tim. 4:7-8.
 - 3. Consult the Great Physician regularly 2 Tim. 2:15, Eph. 4:13.

THE FORM AND POWER OF GODLINESS

2 Tim. 3:5

INTRODUCTION: In the context Paul enumerates 18 characteristics of the perilous times which he predicts. Surely we are living in those perilous times now. It is evident that many people assume the form of godliness. to take away their reproach; but they will not submit to the power of it, to take away their sin. They have the form, but deny the power. Both are essential. Let us note:

I. THE FORM OF GODLINESS.

- A. The meaning of form.
 1. That by which anything is recognized - its visible aspect.
 2. Sketch, summary, draft.
- B. The nature of the form.
 1. Their religion is outward Rom. 2:28-29, Mt. 23:23, 25-28.
 - a. Veneer, coating - not genuine.
 - b. All vested in their creed.
 - c. Trust wholly in doctrine 1 Tim. 4:16.
 - d. Accept the Man; reject His plan - do not practice what they preach.
 2. Destitute of the life of God in their soul Jno. 17:23.
 - a. They do not know:
 - (1) Christ Phil. 3:10, Jno. 17:3.
 - (a) As counselor, comforter, confidant, Savior.
 - (2) The power of His resurrection Phil. 3:10.
 - (3) The fellowship of His suffering - Paul did 2 Cor. 11:24-28.
 - b. Conformed, but not transformed - e.g., Caterpillar to butterfly,
 - c. Like a corpse - spirit gone - like a shell by seaside.
 3. Service - cold, lifeless, ritualistic.
- C. Danger of mere form - We may:
 1. Believe in the New Testament church.
 2. Contend for the name and doctrine.
 3. Denounce the "isms" of men.
 4. Even meet regularly with the saints, yet:
 - a. Sing, but not with the Spirit.
 - b. Read, not recognize the Author.
 - c. Pray, but only to men Mt. 6:5.
 - d. Commune, but not with the Lord 1 Cor. 11:27-29 — mind in neutral.
 5. Thus we deny the power of godliness.
- D. Examples -
 1. Pharisees Mt. 6:1-8, 15:7-9, 23:23-28, Rom. 2:23-28.

II. THE POWER OF GODLINESS.

- A. Description.
 1. Love in the heart Mt. 6:33.
 2. Light in the intellect Mt. 6:22.
 3. Obedience in the action Jas. 1:22, Phil. 2:12.
- B. Evidence.
 1. It transforms our lives Rom. 12:2.
 - a. Regeneration Jno. 3:3-5.
 - b. New creatures 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - c. New life Rom. 6:4.
 - d. Onesimus - note great change Philemon v. 11.
 2. It fires with zeal Psa. 119:139, Jno. 2:17, 2 Cor. 7:11.
 - a. Christ Jno. 2:17, 9:4.
 - b. Paul 2 Cor. 12:14-15.
 3. It is contagious.
 - a. Journey to Emmaus Lk. 24:13-32.

PAUL'S MANNER OF LIFE

2 Tim. 3:10

INTRODUCTION: Paul learned the law at the feet of Gamaliel; he received his knowledge of the Gospel by the revelation of Jesus Christ Gal. 1:12. This made him the greatest teacher this side of Christ. Timothy sat at the feet of Paul, hence knew both his doctrine and manner of life. Paul's manner of life was such that he did not pull down by his living what he built up with his preaching. To have an influence for good, our preaching and practice must be in accord. Let us notice:

I. CHRISTIANITY IS A MANNER OF LIFE - A NEW CONCEPT Mt. 5:58-41. 7:12.

A. Different from:

1. Epicureanism Acts 17:18, Ecc. 2:1-15.
2. Stoicism Acts 17:18.
3. Judaism.
4. Heathenism.
5. Modernism.

B. Exemplified by Paul.

1. Christ set a perfect example Mt. 16:24.
2. Paul was the most perfect imitator 1 Cor. 11:1, Phil. 3:17, 4:9.
3. Hence, we would do well to note,

II. PAUL'S MANNER OF LIFE.

A. He was:

1. A conscientious person.
 - a. He persecuted the church Acts 7:58, 8:1, 9:14 yet did so -
 - (1) In all good conscience Acts 23:1, 26:9-10.
 - b. We may be conscientiously wrong Pro. 14:12.
 - c. Conscience is a God—given, built in mechanism.
 - (1) But not for a guide. However of great value on account of:
 - (a) Ignorance. We often lack information, yet there may be no time to think. We need ready-made morals.
 - (b) Rebelliousness. We often sin against light and knowledge. We need pressure as well as information.
 - (c) Forgetfulness. Intellect is often dulled by emotion. Conscience acts as a sentinel - "halt!", "go!"
2. A man of strong conviction Phil. 3:5-6.
 - a. Open to conviction, but demanded evidence Acts 9:1-9.
 - b. When convicted he acted accordingly Gal. 1:15-16.
 - (1) Conferred not with flesh and blood.
 - (2) Renounced former religion Phil. 3:7-9.
 - c. Sincerely penitent — past life a source of regret 1 Cor. 15:9, Gal. 1:13.
 - d. Stood his ground against Peter Gal. 2:11-14.
 - e. Fought Judaism Gal. 2:3-5.
3. A man of great zeal Phil. 3:5-6. Evidenced by:
 - a. Three missionary journeys.
 - b. His love for his brethren Rom. 9:1, 10:1, 2 Cor. 12:14-15.
4. A man of strong conviction and determination.
 - a. Warnings could not deter him Acts 20:22-24, 21:10-13.
 - b. Persecutions did not discourage him 2 Cor. 11:24-28.
 - c. But not self-willed Acts 15:36-40.
5. An unsatisfied man Phil. 3:13-14. Not satisfied nor dissatisfied, but
 - a. Unsatisfied with past attainments.
6. A consistent man - practiced what he preached.
7. A great soldier 2 Tim. 4:7-8. Fought, finished, kept.

PURPOSEFUL LIVES

2 Tim. 3:10

INTRODUCTION: James raised a good question, "What is your life?" Jas. 4:14. Some have never sought an answer to that question. Most such lives are wasted. We would do well to ask ourselves: From whence did I come? Why am I here? Whither am I bound? Life without a purpose is like a ship without a helm, or a plane without a pilot. People who achieve worthwhile things in life have a purpose to strive for. It makes life more interesting and meaningful.

I. EVIDENCE OF PURPOSE IN LIFE.

- A. God had a purpose Eph. 3:10-11. 1 Jno. 3:8.
- B. Christ had a purpose Jno. 18:37. He came for a definite purpose.
- C. God created nothing without a purpose.
 1. Bees, earthworms, flowers, even weeds have a purpose Gen. 3:18.
- D. Man must be here for a purpose.
 1. To subdue the earth Gen. 1:28.
 2. Man must find himself. Some don't, hence become misfits.
 3. To glorify God Isa. 43:7. Do we glorify or disgrace Him?
 4. Christians are here for a definite purpose.
 - a. To be salt of the earth Mt. 5:13. Consider purposes of salt.
 - b. To be light of world Mt. 5:16. No life without light.
 - c. To help bear others burdens Gal. 6:2.
 - d. To point others to Christ.
 - e. To set an example 2 Cor. 4:10, Phil. 4:9.
 - f. To magnify Christ Phil. 1:20.
 - g. To adorn the doctrine Tit. 2:10.

II. PURPOSE HAS GREAT VALUE IN LIFE:

- A. Enlists confidence - "World will step aside for the man who knows where he is going, but will crush the man who knows not whither he is bound."
- B. Prevents derelicts, e.g., Ship at sea without rudder, helm or crew.
- C. Centers our aim Mt. 6:22, Jas. 1:8, Phil. 3:13-14. Hunters must take aim.

III. TO ACCOMPLISH PURPOSE THERE MUST BE:

- A. Conviction we have a worthy purpose.
 1. Paul had 1 Cor. 9:20-22.
 - a. Great desire to save others Rom. 9:1-3, 10:1.
 - b. He sacrificed and worked to that end Phil. 3:7-8, Gal. 6:17.
 2. Contrast Paul with:
 - a. Some who amuse, entertain with stories, book reviews, etc.
 - b. Ourselves - our interest in lost souls.
- B. Preparation for the task.
 1. Doctors spend 18 to 20 years in school.
 2. How much time do you spend in study, that you may teach others?
- C. Determination to succeed.
 1. Paul had it 1 Cor. 2:2, Acts 21:13.
 2. Requires faith in God, self, and fellow man.
 3. Courage to stand alone Phil. 1:15-17.
 4. Loyalty, high ideals - "To thine own self be true, and it will follow as night the day, thou canst not be false to any man."
- D. Perseverance.
 1. Keep pressing on Phil. 3:13-14. Salesmen - always another door.
 2. Columbus would not heed the pleas of a mutinous crew. "Sail on".
 3. Lincoln - saw slave auctions. Families being divided. He said, "If I ever have a chance to hit this thing, I will hit it hard." Later he made the Emancipation Proclamation.

MANS FOUR-FOLD OBLIGATION

1 Pet. 2:17

INTRODUCTION: Life involves many and varied obligations and responsibilities. Some are temporal, others spiritual in nature. As Christians we are exhorted to know, distinguish and discharge all these obligations. In our text Peter makes the proper distinction. He places them under four heads:

I. OUR OBLIGATION TO MAN.

A. "Honor all men."

1. True, some are not worthy of honor Rom. 13:7:
2. "We be brethren"¹¹ Gen. 13:8.
 - a. God created Adam Gen. 2:7. We are all of one blood Acts 17:26.
 - b. All equally dependent on God. He loves all. Christ died for all.
3. Honor parents Ex. 20:12, Mt. 19:19, Eph. 6:4. Some don't.
4. "Golden rule" Mt. 7:12.
5. Love neighbor Mt. 5:44, Rom. 12:20, Lk. 10:30-37.
6. Servants respect masters Eph. 6:5-6.
7. Bear with the weak Rom. 15:1.
8. Help the needy Gal. 6:10.

II. OUR OBLIGATION TO THE CHURCH.

A. "Love the brotherhood."

1. Refers to church universal, as distinguished from local church.
2. Don't try to activate it. This led early church into apostasy - Rome.
3. Love it and let it alone. Need no super organization. Just elders.
4. Love the brethren 1 Thess. 4:9.

III. OUR OBLIGATION TO GOD.

A. Fear Him Mt. 10:28, Eccl. 12:13.

B. Love Him Mt. 22:37.

C. Obligated to Him for:

1. Our body Ps. 139:14.
 - a. He created it, therefore:
 - (1) Glorify God in it 1 Cor. 6:19.
 - (2) Don't abuse it with alcohol, nicotine, drugs.
 - (3) Employ members as instruments of righteousness Rom. 6:19.
2. Our mind - endowed with intelligence - With it we:
 - a. Acquire information; retain informations arrange information; elaborate information. Therefore we can -
 - b. Learn, remember, reason, imagine.
3. Our property - possessions.
 - a. Can't use in service of the devil, and please God.
 - b. It all belongs to God - we just pay interest on the loan.
 - c. We are not owners - hold in trust.
 - d. We employ it is supplying our necessities.
 - e. We must put His kingdom first Mt. 6:33.
4. Our soul and spirit.
 - a. Be subject to and governed by His law.
 - b. Employ in His service. 1 Chr. 29:5, Lk. 16:13.

IV. OUR OBLIGATION TO THE STATE.

A. "Honor the king."

1. Be subject to him Rom. 13:1-4.
2. Render to Him what is His Mt. 22:21.
3. Yet remember God comes first in all things Acts 5:29.

THE ART OF DECEPTION

2 Tim. 3:12-15

INTRODUCTION: It is said, "You can deceive some people all of the time, all people some of the time, but you can't deceive God any of the time." Paul agrees Gal. 6:7. Nevertheless, we live in a world full of deception. This is true in every field of endeavor. Perhaps there is no place where it is more manifest than in the field of religion. Let us consider;

I. THE ORIGIN OF THIS ART.

- A. In Eden - Satan, the author 1 Tim. 2:14, Gen. 3:1-6.
1. He drew Eve into a parley v. 1, "Yea, hath God said?"
 2. Misquotes God Gen. 2:16, "Ye shall not eat of every tree."
 3. Denies the danger - v.4, "Ye shall not die."
 4. Promises advantage -v.5, Eyes open, be as gods.
 5. Seeks to make God look unreasonable.

II. MANNER IN WHICH WE ARE DECEIVED.

- A. Contrary to our will 1 Kgs. 13.
1. Young man was sincere, couldn't be bought to sin.
 2. But he was deceived by a false prophet - Penalty, he died.

III. HOW WE ARE DECEIVED - WE DECEIVE OURSELVES:

- A. By false thinking Gal. 6:2, Rom. 12:3, Lk. 18:10-14.
- B. By careless hearing Jas. 1:21, Mt. 7:21. Take what and how ye hear.
- C. By not bridling our tongue Jas. 1:26.
1. Many times we talk when we should be listening.
- D. Misinterpreting our true condition Rev. 3:15-18.
1. Laodiceans thought they had it made - "Rich and increased with goods".
 - a. "Knew not" - Man sees not as God sees - Really they were:
 - b. "Wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked." - Are we?
 2. Thinking ourselves free from sin 1 Jno. 1:8 - Note Rom. 3:23.
 3. Examine yourself 2 Cor. 13:5:
 - a. Submit self to a searching introspection.
- E. Comparing ourselves among ourselves 2 Cor. 10:12.
1. Respectable by comparison, but still in sin.
 2. Rather, compare ourselves with men like:
 - a. Enoch and Noah who walked with God Gen. 5:22-24, 6:9.
 - b. Levi — "Truth, not iniquity" Mal. 2:4-6.
 - c. Abraham - father of the faithful, obeyed God Heb. 11:9-10.
 - d. Moses - made wise choice Heb. 11:24-25.
 - e. Christ is the standard Eph. 4:13.
- F. Thinking like the rich young man Lk. 12:16—21. Note his five mistakes:
1. Left God out of his life.
 2. Left man out of his life.
 3. Hade self center of everything - "I", "my", "me", "mine".
 4. Tried to feed his soul on material things - "Much goods laid up",
 - a. For his body, but not for his soul v. 19.
 5. Counted on time that was not his v. 19 - "Many years". Jas. 4:13-14.
 6. What a fool! Many such fools today.
- G. By listening to false teachers Rom. 16:17-18, 2 Pet. 3:16.

IV. WHO CANNOT BE DECEIVED.

- A. Paul's testimony Gal. 6:7-8, Heb. 4:12-13.
- B. David's experience 2 Sam. Chs. 11, 12, Psa. 51:1-4.
1. He had his subjects fooled.
 2. But God knew all 1 Pet. 3:12.

THE HOME AS GOD WOULD HAVE IT?

De. 24:5, Tit. 2:5

INTRODUCTION: Chinese proverb: "If there is righteousness in the heart there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world." God wanted the home to be happy e.g., Eden Gen. 3. Edgar A. Guest said: "The home is more than a house." Let us consider:

I. THE HOME AS GOD WOULD HAVE IT.

- A. Not just a house as it, too often, is today.
 1. So busy, no time for home life,
 2. Parents are not acquainted with their children.
 3. Parents substitute "things" for love.
 - a. Children prefer parent's time rather than "things".
- B. God would have the home to be a place where:
 1. The father is head of the house Eph. 5:25.
 - a. Nine words that can stop juvenile delinquency - "Put father back as the head of the house." - Judge Leibowitz.
 - b. Govern with firmness tempered with love. Eli failed, 1 Sam. 5:13:
 - c. Abraham set a good example for all fathers Gen. 18:19.
 2. The wife in subjection to the husband Eph. 5:22.
 - a. She should reverence her husband Eph. 5:33.
 3. Parents who realize their responsibility Pro. 22:6. Responsible for:
 - a. Building character. Chinese proverb: "You can't carve rotten wood, nor can you carve decayed character into the durable underpinnings of a better race." Need: Good material, patience, love.
 - b. Heredity vs environment.
 - c. A good example must be set 1 Sam. 1:27-28, 2:19; Ruth 1:16-17.
 - d. Proper teaching must be done Eph. 6:4, De. 6:7, Pro. 22:6. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and go with him." - Warden Johnson.
 - e. Exercising proper discipline Gen. 18:19.
 - (1) Correction required Pro. 13:24, 19:18, 22:15, 23:13.
 - (2) Lack of it is ruining America. Due to:
 - (a) Over—permissiveness.
 - (b) Over-indulgence - Will Rogers said: "What this younger generation needs is to chop more kindling wood and to cultivate a few inhibitions."
 - (c) Over-protection.

"Tardily we have learned that the less discipline there is outside a man, the more there must be within. If we do not impose discipline upon ourselves and upon our children, there are others, cruller and more tyrannical, who some day will."
 - f. This responsibility is great.
 - (1) Statesmen guard the destiny of the state.
 - (2) Lawmakers provide government.
 - (3) Schools provide education.
 - (4) Parents must provide the raw material. Parents have:
 - (a) Great opportunity to mold and direct.
 - (b) Great influence.
 - 1) May be for evil Gen.27:15-17, 1 Kgs. 22:52.
 - 2) May be for good 2 Tim. 1:5, 2 Chr. 26:4.

CONCLUSION: Close with the poem - "The Bridge Builder". - See Appendix.

THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

1 Pet. 2:9, Heb. 10:1

INTRODUCTION: Priesthood of Old Testament gave way to priesthood of New Testament. Under old covenant they had a high priest and common priests. Under the new covenant, Christ is high priest Heb. 4:14, Christians, common Rev. 1:6. Priesthood under the Law was typical of priesthood now:

I- IE SEPARATION TO PRIESTLY CALLING.

- A. Levites, separated from other tribes.
 - 1. Christians are separated from the world 2 Cor. 6:17-18, Jno. 17:14.
- B. They must be sound in body, no deformity.
 - 1. Christians must be sincere in heart, fully devoted in life Mt. 5:8, Jas. 1:27.

II. IN MANNER OF ENTERING PRIESTHOOD.

- A. Levites must be washed in pure water Ex. 29:4.
 - 1. Christians can be cleansed only by obedience to the gospel Jno. 13:8, Heb. 10:23, Rom. 6:4.
- B. Levites, clothed in sacerdotal vestments Ex. 29:5-6.
 - 1. Christians must be adorned in white robe of righteousness Rom. 13:14, Eph. 4:22-24, Col. 3:8-15.
 - 2. We must put on the whole armor Eph. 6:10-18.
- C. Levites were anointed with oil Ex. 29:7:
 - 1. Holy Spirit descended upon Christ Mt. 5:13-17.
 - 2. Apostles were baptized with the Spirit Acts 2:1-4.
 - 3. Christians receive the holy Spirit through the word.
- D. Levites were touched with blood Ex. 29:20.
 - 1. On ear, hand, toe.
 - 2. Christians on:
 - a. Ear for hearing Jas. 1:19, Mt. 17:5, Rom. 10:17.
 - b. Hand for doing Phil. 2:12, Jas. 1:22, 1 Cor. 15:58.
 - c. Foot for walking Eph. 4:1-4, Col. 1:10, Eph. 5:15-

III. IN DUTIES WHICH DEVOLVED UPON THEM.

- A. Levites offered animal sacrifices Heb. 5:1.
 - 1. Christians must offer themselves as spiritual sacrifice Rom. 12:1, Ps. 107:22, Heb. 13:15-16.
- B. Levites to offer intercession.
 - 1. Christians must pray for all men 1 Tim. 2:1.
- C. Levites were to instruct and bless Mal. 2:7, 2 Chr. 15:3.
 - 1. Christians Phil. 2:16, Mt. 5:16, 1 Jno. 3:16-18.
- D. Levites to carry on services in tabernacle.
 - 1. A sacred trust committed to Christians 1 Thess. 2:4.
 - a. Mk. 16:15-16, 1 Tim. 3:14-16.

IV. IN PRIVILEGES ENJOYED.

- A. Levites support was assured Lev. 2:10.
 - 1. Christians have spiritual support Jno. 6:51, 4:13-14.
- B. Levites' office was one of dignity and honor.
 - 1. Christians occupy most dignified office Eph. 4:1-3.
- C. Levites had direct access to God —
 - 1. Through blood of animal sacrifice.
 - 2. Christians have access to God only through Christ our sacrifice. Col. 3:17, Eph. 2:18, Heb. 4:15, 10:19.

GOD'S PECULIAR PEOPLE

1 Pet. 2:9

INTRODUCTION: This verse suggests a striking analogy between the Jewish nation and the church which is composed of God's chosen people today. Let us notice;

I. THE RESPECTS IN WHICH COMPARABLE:

- A. A chosen generation.
 - 1. Called of God.
 - a. Abraham was called directly Gen. 12:1-3.
 - b. Christians are called by the gospel 2 Thess. 2:15-14.
 - c. Both enjoy blessings on condition of faith and obedience.
 - 2. Became children by birth.
 - a. Jews, by natural birth and circumcision Gen. 17:27.
 - b. Christians, by spiritual birth Jno. 3:3-5, 1 Pet. 1:23.
 - 3: As a chosen generation, both:
 - a. Were objects of God's special providential care.
 - b. Were to show forth His praises 1 Pet. 2:9.
 - (1) By being greatest people on earth.
- B. A royal priesthood.
 - 1. Jews had a high priest and common priests.
 - 2. Christians -
 - a. Christ is High Priest Heb. 3:1, 4:14-16.
 - b. Christians are common priests Rev. 1:6.
 - c. Like Melchisedec, Christ is superior to Levi Heb. 7.
- C. A holy nation.
 - 1. God, supreme jailer of Jews. Gov't., a theocracy - God-ruled.
 - 2. Christians constitute an holy nation because:
 - a. Have no king but Jesus Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18, 23.
 - b. Have divine laws 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 - c. Subjects, purified by obedience 1 Pet. 1:22.
 - 3. Both are distinctly separated from all other people.
 - a. Jews, by law of Moses Eph. 2:14-15:
 - b. Christians, by:
 - (1) Being redeemed Col. 1:14, Eph. 1:7.
 - (2) By translation Col. 1:13.
 - (3) By coming out 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
 - 4. Both had special religious laws and ordinances.
 - a. Jews had five major sacrifices Lev. Chs. 1-5:
 - (1) God dwelt in tabernacle and temple.
 - b. Christians:
 - (1) Worship is simple, but distinctive Acts 2:42.
 - (2) Special way to do work Eph. 3:10, 21, 4:11-12.
 - (3) God dwells in the church 1 Cor. 3:16.
- D. A peculiar people.
 - 1. Have passed from death unto life 1 Jno. 3:14: 2 Cor. 5:17:
 - 2. Much about them is paradoxical.
 - a. Alive, yet dead; rich, yet poor; sorrowful, yet rejoicing; weak, yet strong 2 Cor. 6:9-10.
 - b. Peculiar customs 2 Cor. 6:14-18.
 - c. **Robe** of righteousness Isa. 61:10.
 - d. Distinct habits Col. 3:12-13, Mt. 5:44. Rom. 12:20-21.
 - e. Peculiar enjoyments:
 - (1) Food of which others are ignorant Mt. 4:4:
 - (2) Peace that passeth understanding Phil. 4:7:
 - (3) Joy with which strangers cannot intermingle.
 - (4) Joy unspeakable and full of glory 1 Pet. 1:8.

THE VALUE OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE

1 Pet. 3:16

INTRODUCTION: Many scriptures refer to the conscience: bears witness Rom. 2:15, 9:1, may be good 1 Tim. 1:5, 19, Acts 25:1, keep void of offence Acts 24:16, regard the conscience of others 1 Cor. 8:12, 23:1.

I. WHAT THE CONSCIENCE IS.

- A. "The reverberation of parental teachings, of sermons heard and books read, of the opinions and emotions of our friends and fellows - all blended and fused into a combined suggestion, a mental push, a must or an ought from whose influence we find it difficult to escape." - Durant Drake.
- B. "Any set of secondary impulses or inhibitions which check and redirect man's primary impulses to a greater good." Observe:
 1. Secondary - second rate, subordinate.
 2. Primary - first rate, principle, first in origin.
 3. Impulse - a sudden determination to act without reflection.
 4. Inhibition - prevention of the exercise of an impulse by another impulse.
 5. When under stress of strong temptation the first impulse is to yield. The second impulse is to desist; we desire to please God. The conscience has spoken. Primary impulse has checked and re-directed primary impulse to a greater good.

II. THE VALUE OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE 1 Tim. 1:19.

- A. Valuable on account of ignorance.
 1. We often lack the information to reason out a solution.
 2. Often have no time to think, reason, or do research.
 3. We need ready made morals.
 4. Conscience is in us as a representative of the wisdom of the race.
 5. Under stress of temptation we are in no mood to reason.
- B. Valuable on account or rebelliousness.
 1. We often sin against light and knowledge.
 2. Sin wilfully, knowing the penalty.
 3. We need pressure as well as information.
 4. We need a powerful driver.
- C. Valuable on account of forgetfulness.
 1. We say, "I didn't stop to think."
 2. Intellect is dulled by emotion.
 3. Passion dethrones reason.
 4. Conscience acts as a sentinel - Halt! Semaphore: red, amber, green.

III. MISTAKEN IDEAS CONCERNING ITS FUNCTION.

- A. It was not intended as a guide - It is a creature of education.
 1. It guided Paul wrong Acts 23:1, 26:9-10, 1 Cor. 15:9.
 2. Sincerity alone is not sufficient Pr. 14:12.
 - a. Man of God was sincere 1 Kgs. 13 - Hondoos.
 3. It may be seared by repeated violations 1 Tim. 4:1-2.
- B. It is a good goad - prods us on. Punished for violation.

IV. EXAMPLES OF A GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

- A. Joseph's brethren Gen. 42:21, Jacob Gen. 32:9-23, Jews Jno. 8:1-10.

V. HOW KEEP AN APPROVING CONSCIENCE.

- A. By being true to our better selves.
- B. By being loyal to the royal within us.
- C. By being honest with ourselves.

DISEASE PREVENTION

3 Jno. 2

INTRODUCTION: All normal people are concerned about their health. Most are willing to spend their last dollar to preserve it. John was concerned about Gaius. Many diseases are curable, some are preventable. Spiritual diseases are most dangerous. They, too, are preventable. Let us consider:

I. THE NEED FOR PREVENTION.

- A. They are deadly, hence dangerous.
 1. They destroy the soul Jas. 1:15: Rom. 6:2, 23.
 2. Eternity is involved.

II. NECESSARY MEASURES.

- A. Wholesome atmosphere.
 1. In natural life.
 - a. Pure air, favorable climate.
 - b. Suitable sanitary conditions.
 2. In spiritual life.
 - a. Thoughts pure Phil. 4:8, deeds noble Pr. 23:7, Phil. 4:9.
 - b. Company should be good 1 Cor. 15:33: 2 Cor. 6:17-18, 1 Cor. 5:5.
- B. Proper immunization.
 1. In natural life.
 - a. Spray fruit trees, vegetables.
 - b. Vaccinate our children.
 - c. Use sanitary drinking cups Pr. 4:14-15.
 2. In spiritual life.
 - a. Gal. 5:19-21, Col. 3:8 - all symptoms of a bad heart.
 - b. Gal. 5:22-23, Col. 3:12-14 - indicate heart is normal.
 - c. Vaccination is necessary to prevent some diseases.
 - (1) The Spirit of Christ Rom. 8:9, Eph. 3:17-19.
 - (2) The Word of God 1 Jno. 3:9, Psa. 119:11.
 - (3) Prevents evil desire, malice, hate, envy, carnality.
 - (a) We may hate sin, but love the sinner Mt. 5:44.
- C. Prompt treatment of diseased members.
 1. In natural life.
 - a. Prune fruit trees Jno. 15:2.
 - b. Surgery often saves life - select best surgeon available.
 2. In spiritual life.
 - a. Surgery is often essential - Christ is the great Physician.
 - (1) Cut off hand, pluck out eye Mk. 9:43-48 - Explain.
 - (2) Cast out evil, diseased members 1 Cor. 5:1-4.
- D. Wholesome food.
 1. In natural life.
 - a. Potomaine poison dangerous Mt. 7:15, 15:7-9, Acts 20:29-30.
 2. In spiritual life.
 - a. Mind (soul) easily poisoned - pornography, X-rated pictures.
 - b. A little poison mixed with truth is dangerous -e.g., rat poison.
 - c. Use only sincere milk of word 1 Pet. 2:2.
 - d. A well-nourished body has strong resistance Heb. 5:12-15.
 - e. An under-nourished body is susceptible to disease Acts 20:32.
- E. Proper exercise.
 1. Bodily exercise profits little, comparatively - it helps keep organs functioning - promotes health 1 Tim. 4:8.
 2. Godliness is profitable to all things 1 Tim. 4:8.
 - a. Affections sensitive Col. 3:2. - Sympathetic, compassionate.
 - b. Keeps appetite keen Mt. 5:6 - moral fitness prepares for any test Mt. 4:1-10, 1 Cor. 9:24-27.

THE COMMON SALVATION
Jude 3

INTRODUCTION: Words are signs of ideas. Sometimes it is necessary to consult both the context and the dictionary to discover the idea which the author wished to convey by the word sign chosen to convey the idea. We sometimes use the word "common" to convey the idea of being inferior, ordinary or common place. There is no evidence that Jude had such an idea in mind when he used the word "common" to modify "salvation". Ps. 19:7, Col. 2:9-10, 2 Tim. 5:16-17. The word as used here means: belonging to or shared by more than one; joint; general; public. Let us note the salvation here referred to:

I. IT IS "COMMON" -

A. Because:

1. All men have the same need - salvation.
 - a. All have sinned Rom. 3:23.
 - b. All are lost, hence need salvation.
 - (1) All here does not include babies Mt. 19:14:
2. God wants all to be saved 2 Pet. 3:9, Jno. 3:16, Lk. 19:10
 - a. Not just the elect Rom. 8:28-29.
 - (1) How called, chosen or elected? 2 Thess. 2:13-14 - by Gospel.
 - (2) Jews and Gentiles saved in same way Rom. 11:25-26.
3. It was brought to all people.
 - a. Tit. 2:11-12, Mk. 16:15-16, Rev. 22:17, Mt. 28:19.
4. Same for all nationalities.
 - a. First to the Jew Rom. 1:16-17.
 - b. Then to the Gentile Rom. 1:16, Eph. 2:14-16, Gal. 3:27-29.
5. All are cast in the same mold Rom. 6:17-18.
 - a. All have believed Heb. 11:6, Acts 8:36-37:
 - b. All have repented Acts 3:19:
 - c. All have confessed Rom. 10:9-10.
 - d. All have been baptized Acts 2:38.
 - e. All are new creatures 2 Cor. 5:17:
 - f. All partake of the divine nature 2 Pet. 1:3-4:
6. Requirements are same for all.
 - a. Rich, poor, learned, illiterate.
 - b. Responsible according to ability Lk. 12:47-48:
 - c. Ground is level at the foot of the cross.
7. All wear the same name.
 - a. Christians Acts 11:26, Isa. 62:2.
8. Members of same family Eph. 3:14-15:
 - a. Begotten by same Spirit Jno. 3:5:
 - b. Children of God 2 Cor. 6:17-18, Eph. 5:1:
 - c. Heirs of same promise Rom. 8:16-17.
 - d. Subject to same law Mt. 7:21, Rom. 1:16.
9. Offers same blessings to all.
 - a. Redemption Eph. 1:7:
 - b. Fellowship 1 Jno. 1:7.
 - c. Hope Heb. 6:19.
10. Prescribes same manner of life for all.
 - a. Col. 3:8-10, Rom. 13:14, Phil. 3:16: Phil. 2:12.
11. Same duties and responsibilities.
 - a. Worship same God, in same way Jno. 4:23-24:
 - b. Study same Book 2 Tim. 2:15,
 - c. Faithful to same degree Rev. 2:10.

CONCLUSION: It is uncommon in that it was: conceived in the mind of God; executed by the Son of God; and revealed by the Word of God.

"A BODY HAST THOU PREPARED ME"

Heb. 10:5

INTRODUCTION: In verses preceding our text Paul has just shown that the blood of animals cannot atone for sin. Once each year their sins were brought to "remembrance". A promissory note, well secured, is good for face value. God's promise was well secured, Notes may be, and often are, renewed every year. Payment is thus deferred until a later date, until a suitable "body" could be prepared. Animal's blood could not suffice. Only Christ's blood would. But divinity could not die, hence a "body" must be prepared. Note:

I. THE BODY REFERRED TO.

A. Christ's fleshly body Ps. 40:6-8.

1. The incarnate body 1 Tim. 4:16, Jno. 5:16, 1:1-4.

II. WHY THIS BODY WAS NECESSARY.

A. So He could do God's will — offer self as a sacrifice.

1. In heathen religions people thought their gods became angry. To appease them they offered human sacrifices. Thus they felt they could win their favor and love. In order to show His superior nature and love God offered His only Son in our stead Isa. 53: what a contrast!

a. They offered to appease a god; God offered to save man Jno. 3:16, Rom. 5:6-9.

b. God's offering man could understand and appreciate.

B. Animal sacrifices could not suffice Heb. 10:1-4.

1. Could not make perfect Heb. 6:18-19.

a. Remembrance made again every year Heb. 10:5:

b. Merely typified or pointed forward to Christ.

c. All sin forgiven by virtue of Christ's blood Lev. 4:20, 26, 31, 35, 1 Kgs. 8:30, 2 Chr. 7:1-6.

2. They were defective:

a. Not of same nature of us who sinned; not of sufficient value; Man's sins too great; redemption not that cheap; animal's could not consent voluntarily to put self in man's place - Christ did Isa. 53:4-6.

III. HOW WAS THIS BODY PREPARED?

A. A special people had to be prepared.

1. Abraham, the chosen father of God's people Gen. 12:1-3:

a. Jewish nation chosen to bring Christ into world.

b. Served as types: deliverance, journey, Red Sea, Canaan.

c. Mary a descendant of Abraham Lk. 1:26-33:

d. Christ the promised "seed" Gen. 22:18, Gal. 3:16.

(1) Begotten by the Spirit Mt. 1:20, Lk. 1:35.

(2) Born of a virgin Isa. 6:14.

(3) The God-man 2 Cor. 5:18-19.

(4) A perfect sacrifice Heb. 4:15, 1 Pet. 2:21-22.

IV. THIS BODY WAS SUFFICIENT.

A. Christ is God's answer to the problem of sin.

1. He died in our stead Isa. 53:4-6.

2. Superior in mind and body - Because:

a. The bread of life Jno. 6:51; water of life Jno. 4:14; the way, truth and life Jno. 14:6; the door Jno. 10:9; foundation 1 Cor. 3:11; good shepherd Jno. 10:11; head Col. 1:18.

b. Our all in all Col. 3:11.

HE CAME, HE SAW, HE CONQUERED

INTRODUCTION: Alexander the Great, Caesar, and Napoleon rank among the greatest generals the world has produced. All were great conquerors, Caesar's success has been described in these words: "He came, he saw, he conquered." Without any doubt it may be said that Christ was the world's greatest conqueror. Of Him it may be truly said:

I. HE CAME:

- A. In keeping with God's eternal purpose.
 1. God had an eternal purpose (Eph. 3:10-11).
 2. It is said by some that Gen. 3:15 is the first reference made to Christ, the seed of the woman.
- B. According to promise.
 1. The "sceptre" or ruling power was not to "depart" or go forth from Judah until Christ came Gen. 49:10. Christ came from the tribe of Judah.
 2. The "seed" was promised to Abraham Gen. 12:1-3, 22:16-18. Paul says "the seed" was Christ Gal. 3:16.
- C. In fulfillment of prophecy.
 1. To be like Moses Deut. 18:15.
 2. To be born of a virgin Isa. 7:14.
 3. To be our sacrifice Isa. 53:4-6.
 4. To be given a kingdom Dan. 7:13-14.
- D. As announced by John Matt. 3:11, Jno. 1:29.
- E. As the meek and lowly Nazarene Mt. 2:23.
- P. To seek and save the lost Lk. 19:10.
- G. To redeem a lost world Eph. 1:7.
- H. To give more abundant life Jno. 10:10.

II. HE SAW:

- A. A world lost and ruined by sin Rom. 3:10-17. A disaster area.
- B. A Godless. Christless. helpless world Eph. 2:11-12.
- C. Man's need of a Savior.
- D. Some good in man Jno. 2:25. Worth being saved.
- E. Great possibilities in man.
 1. That he could be changed, and led to great moral and spiritual heights.
 2. That he could be rehabilitated.
- P. That He would need some help to carry out God's great plan. Hence:
 1. He chose 12 apostles to help Him.
 2. He promised them the help they would need Jno. 14:26, 16:13.

III. HE CONQUERED:

- A. Satan.
 1. In hour of temptation Mt. 4: 1-10. Drove him from the field.
 2. Robbed him of power to hold man in tomb Heb. 2:14.
 3. Chained him Rev. 20:1-2.
- B. Death.
 1. When He arose from the dead 1 Cor. 15:24-26, 51-57.
- C. Sin in the hearts of men.
 1. All have sinned Rom. 3:23:
 2. Made regeneration possible Jno. 3:3-5, Tit. 3:4-5.
 3. Can become new creatures 2 Cor. 5:17: Rom. 6:4.
 4. Can overcome temptation 1 Cor. 10:13.
 5. Can partake of divine nature 2 Pet. 1:3-4.
 6. Can be more than conquerors Rom. 8:37.
 - a. You can become a member of His body, a child of His family, a citizen of His kingdom, a soldier in His army, a sheep in His flock.

FACTORS WHICH DETERMINE DESTINY

INTRODUCTION: Most thinking people are puzzled by three questions: Whence did I come? Why am I here? Whither am I bound? The last question is most vital because it involves eternity. According to the Bible it will be either heaven or hell. There are three factors which may have part in determining destiny.

I. HEREDITY.

- A. We don't inherit guilt of our parents Ezek. 18:20-22, Jer. 31:29-30.
1. May inherit color of eyes, complexion, build, height etc.
 2. May inherit capacity to learn, interests, temperament, weakness etc.
 3. Not character, but tendencies to conduct. We are responsible for:
 - a. Their education, subordination - like a kaleidoscope.
 4. It might indirectly have some remote effects.

II. ENVIRONMENT.

- A. What we are is partially so determined.
1. Plant life may be affected by:
 - a. Soil - fertility determines quality and quantity of crop.
 - b. Climate has similar effect.
 - c. But vines still climb, roses have thorns Gal. 6:7.
 - d. Crab apples will be crab apples regardless of environment.
 2. Man's mental, physical and spiritual surroundings -
 - a. Have a part in moulding character, interests, etc.
 - b. Example avails more than precept.
 - (1) Slums, red-light district have adverse effect.
 - (2) Cultured, religious homes encourage good conduct.
 3. There are notable exceptions:
 - a. Manaen and Herod - Acts 13:1:
 - (1) They were no blood relation.
 - (2) Brought up in same environment together.
 - (3) Manaen became a great and useful Christian.
 - (4) Herod became a wicked king - beheaded John the Baptist.
- B. Both heredity and environment may be minor factors, but -

III. CHOICE IS THE PREDOMINANT FACTOR.

- A. God endowed man with intelligence.
1. Man is a free moral agent.
 2. God expects us to use our God-given intelligence.
 3. Right of choice is God-given Josh. 24:15; 1 Kgs. 18:21, Deut. 30:19.
 - a. Necessary Lk. 16:13, Mt. 7:13-14.
 - b. Choice may be wise Lk. 10:42, Heb. 11:24-25.
 - c. Or it may be unwise Pr. 1:29, Mt. 27:21.
- B. When we choose Christ, future choice is limited:
1. By His doctrine 2 Jno. 9.
 2. Not at liberty to choose:
 - a. Mode of baptism Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12.
 - b. Church we shall "join". Acts 2:47; Col. 1:18, Jno. 17:20-21.
 - c. Name we shall wear Acts 11:26.
 - d. Manner of worship Jno. 4:23-24, Acts 2:42, Col. 3:16.
 - e. Way of doing Lord's work Eph. 3:10, 21, 4:12.
 - f. Our source of authority Mt. 28:18-19, - Established by-
 - (1) Direct command Acts 2:38.
 - (2) Approved example Acts 20:7.
 - (3) Necessary inference Acts 20:7, Ex. 20:8, Num. 15:32-36.

CONCLUSION: As we continue to live the christian life all choices must be governed by God's word. Heredity and environment may influence choice, but our choices determine destiny. What is your choice, while we sing?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION
Gen. 3:9

INTRODUCTION: Socrates is recognized as one of the greatest of teachers. His method of teaching is known as the Socratic method. He taught by asking questions. There is not much learning unless we think. Questions provoke thought. Our Lord used this method before Socrates' time. It would be interesting to notice just a few Bible questions and consider the Bible answer. Let us note:

I. SIX GOOD QUESTIONS FOUND IN THE BIBLE.

- A. "Adam, Where art thou?" Gen. 3:9.
1. God's first question to man. Why asked?
 2. God knew the answer. We need to get located in relation to God.
 3. We can't hide from God Gen. 16:13, Num. 32:23, Mt. 10:26, 1 Cor. 4:5, Heb. 4:13, 1 Pet. 3:12, Gal. 6:7.
 4. We would do well to "watch our step."
- B. "Am I my brother's keeper?" Gen. 4:9.
1. Man's first question asked of God - in self defense.
 2. The Lord's answer:
 - a. Strong should help the weak Rom. 15:1.
 - b. Not become a stumblingblock — 1 Cor. 8:8-13.
 - c. "Cast thy bread upon the waters." Eccl. 11:1.
 - d. Be a good neighbor Lk. 10:25-37.
- C. "Who then shall be saved?" Mt. 19:25.
1. Men give varied answers.
 - a. Atheist - No one is lost, hence can't be saved.
 - b. Universalist - All shall be saved.
 - c. Predestinarian - Only the elect.
 - (1) Eternal destiny determined before we are born (?).
 - (2) Predestination taught in Bible but it has to do with God's plan, not with who will or will not be saved.
 - d. Secterian says all who are sinners and sincerely believe Pr. 14:12.
 2. Christ says not all Mt. 7:21, Lk. 13:24. But:
 - a. Those who believe Acts 16:31, Heb. 11:6.
 - b. Those who repent Acts 2:38, 3:19:
 - c. Those who confess Rom. 10:9-10, Acts 8:37.
 - d. Those who are baptized Acts 2:38, Mk. 16:15-16, Gal. 3:27.
 - e. Those who abide in Christ Jno. 15:4-5.
 - f. Those who are faithful Rev. 2:10.
 - g. Those who work Phil. 2:12, Rev. 22:14, 1 Cor. 15:58.
- D. "What shall the end be?" 1 Pet. 4:17.
1. Not salvation for all.
 - a. Eternity is involved Mt. 25:46.
 - b. The righteous scarcely saved Mt. 7:13-14, Lk. 13:24.
 2. What about the ungodly and sinners?
 - a. Paul's answer 2 Thess. 1:7-9, Heb. 10:28-30.
 - b. John's answer Rev. 20:12-15.
- E. "Now why tarriest thou?" Acts 22:16.
1. He had already believed and repented, mind and life had been changed.
 2. Something still lacking - Relationship to God had to be changed. Only baptism can bring about this change Rom. 6:4, Gal. 3:27.
 3. Salvation is in Christ 2 Cor. 5:17.
 4. Baptism brings us into Christ Gal. 3:27, 1 Cor. 12:13.
 5. Think what a great man Paul became.
 6. He had complete confidence at death. 2 Tim. 4:7-8.

"ALONE WITH GOD"

Gen. 32:9-12

INTRODUCTION: Man is by nature a gregarious creature. Insects fly in swarms, ants live in colonies, fish swim in schools, sheep graze in flocks, buffalo and cattle feed in herds. Man, is not wholly like nor unlike other creatures. Although it is the natural thing for human beings to seek the association of his fellow mortals, there are times when we like to be alone. But, come to think about it, however alone we may think we are, we are never wholly alone. We may build walls; we may put up strong doors; we may apply the best of locks; we may keep others out; but we cannot bar the presence of God. After all, it is best that it be so. There are times when we desire to be alone with God; then, again, there are times when we must be alone with God. Then let us consider:

I. OUR SITUATION WHEN ALONE WITH GOD.

A. Relate story of the meeting of Jacob and Esau Gen. Chs. 32, 33:

1. Jacob is now alone with God.
 - a. Removed from the excitement of passion that blinded him.
 - b. From the pleadings of self-interest that corrupted him.
 - c. From the applause of the world that flattered him.
 - d. His follies and sins rose before him in their real proportions.
 - e. Self-conceit and pride are now departed.
 - (1) They braced him when in the presence of others.
 - (2) Faithful helpers when he stood in prosperity.
 - f. This dread silence is broken only by the voices of:
 - (1) Memory of his evil deeds.
 - (2) Conscience which condemned him.
 - g. This solitude was inhabited only by his own fears and terrors and the felt presence of the invisible God.
 - h. His whole past life passed before him in review,
 - (1) Sin stains now appeared in bold relief.

II. WHAT BEING ALONE WITH GOD WILL DO FOR US.

- A. It made a less impulsive man of Moses.
 1. He slew the Egyptian when he was 40 years old Ex. 2:11-12.
 2. After 40 years of meditation in Midian he became meek Ex. 3: 4: 1.
- B. It made a strong man of John the Baptist Mt. 3:1-12. Note his sermon.
 1. Perpetual contemplation made him a foe of hypocrisy.
 2. Schooling in self-denial gave him moral strength.
 3. Communion with God in the wilderness lifted him above fear of man.
- C. It strengthened Christ for the ordeal of the cross. Mt. 26:36-46.

III. THE NECESSITY OF A CHRISTIAN STANDING ALONE WITH GOD.

- A. All others may contend for evil but God's people must stand alone:
 1. Elijah stood alone with God 1 Kgs. 18.
 2. Three Hebrew children stood alone Dan. 3.
 3. Daniel stood alone Dan. 6.
 4. Paul stood alone 2 Tim. 4:16-17.
 5. There are many in error today.
 - a. We may have to stand alone, but if we stand for right God is always with us.

IV. WHEN WE MUST BE ALONE WITH GOD.

- A. In time of temptation - a good time to pray.
- B. In the hour of death.
- C. In the day of judgment Heb. 10:26-31.
 - a. Like Esau, we will be alone with God.

Adapted from Isaac Errett — EVENINGS WITH THE BIBLE.

THE DAY OF BATTLE

Ex. 17:8-16

INTRODUCTION: God was provoked with Israel because of their lack of faith. They had rejected the report of Caleb and Joshua who had unfaltering faith, and accepted the faithless report of the ten spies. Because of their lack of faith God decreed that they would have to fight their way to Canaan. Protection was afforded them but they were not to be exempt from hardship and conflict. Since they were on their way to Canaan, this has some implications with reference to the christian life. Let us consider:

I. THE PURPOSE OF CONFLICT 1 Pet. 1:7.

- A. Makes us meet for the inheritance Col. 1:12.
 1. Hot enough to be guided, we must be made ready.
 2. "Heaven is not reached at a single bound."
 3. Faith which wins victories must become operative as:
 - a. An inspiring, transforming power - Gave Abraham power Gen. 22.
 - b. Purifying the heart Acts 15:9:
 - c. Controlling the life - faith assures victory 1 Jno. 5:4.
 - d. Urging us on to the attainment of holiness.
 4. Many of the noblest features of character are brought out through conflict with: the world, flesh, and the devil.
 - a. We must be subjected to: temptation, adversity, persecution.
 - b. Those who fight their way up in life are often most successful.
 - c. "Fight the good fight of faith..." 1 Tim. 6:12.

II. THE NATURE OF THE CONFLICT.

- A. A spiritual warfare.
 1. An inward battle - between carnal and spiritual man Rom. 7:14-25:
 2. Powerful, invisible foes Eph. 6:12.
 - a. Evasive, sly, bold 1 Pet. 5:8:
 3. Spiritual weapons are provided 2 Cor. 10:4.
 4. Demands entire consecration 2 Tim. 2:4.
- B. Victory not easily gained.
 1. Ebb and flow of the tide of battle - See text.
 2. Israel had to fight.
 - a. In vain would Moses have held up his hands if Israel had not put forth their best effort.
 3. Strength of Jehovah was necessary.
 - a. Doing our best is not enough; God's help is needed.
 - b. Victory comes not by might nor power Zech. 4:6.
 - c. Two kinds of Christians:
 - (1) Those who pray but do not fight.
 - (2) Those who fight but do not pray.
 - (3) We must do both Eph. 6:12-18.
- C. Begins as soon as we enlist.
 1. Israel had just started.
 2. Jesus had just been baptized Mt. 4:1-10.
 3. Satan's policy is to sap the soul's loyalty before it has had time to strike deep root.

III. THE ASSURANCE OF VICTORY Rom. 8:37.

- A. He causes us to triumph: 2 Cor. 2:14.
 - a. Over sin by faith in His blood.
 - b. Over temptation by the power He imparts.
 - c. Over death through the influence of the cross. Heb. 2:14.
 - d. Over grave by virtue of His resurrection 1 Cor. 15:22.

"IS THE LORD'S HAND WAXED SHORT?"

Num. 11:23, Is. 59:1

INTRODUCTION: Discuss the occasion which prompted this question. Let us notice:

- I. IT DID NOT WAX SHORT IN THE JEWISH DISPENSATION.
 - A. Saved Noah Gen. 6 - 9 :
 - B. Saved Israel from Egypt Ex. 14:
 1. Raised up Moses Ex. 2, 4.
 2. Gave him miracles Ex. 4; plagues Ex. 8-12.
 3. Must follow Moses Ex. 4:29-31, cross Red Sea Ex. 14:19-22.
 - C. En-route to Canaan.
 1. Provided manna, water, guidance, law, place of worship.
 2. Crossing Jordan — Jordan, armed city. Josh. 6.
 3. Destruction of Ai Josh. 7, 8.
 4. Conquest of Canaan — Received all the land Josh. 21:43-45.
 - D. When in captivity — Dan. 3, 6.
- II. IT DID NOT WHEN MAN WAS LOST IN SIN Rom. 3:23. Eph. 2:11-12.
 - A. Brought the world a Savior Heb. 7:25:
 1. According to promise Gen. 12:1-3, 49:10.
 2. In fulfillment of prophecy De. 18:15, Isa. 9:6, 28:16.
 3. In spite of Satan's opposition.
 - a. You can trace the trail of the serpent all through O.T.
 - b. Yet Jesus came on schedule.
 - c. Defeated Satan Mt. 4:1-10, Heb. 2:14.
 - d. Able to save to uttermost Heb. 7:25:
 - B. Gave the world a perfect guide Book.
 1. Product of inspiration 1 Cor. 2:9-10, 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 2. Complete in him Col. 2:9-10, 2 Pet. 1:3.
 3. Need no creeds Rom. 1:16, Rev. 22:18-19.
 - C. Gave us an all—sufficient church Eph. 5:23, 3:10, 21.
 1. It reached the lost Acts 2, 8:4, Col. 1:23.
 - a. No human societies authorized nor used.
 2. Pillar and ground of the truth 1 Tim. 3:14-15.
 3. Helped the needy Acts 6:4, 11:27-30.
 - a. No human organization involved.
 4. Educated its members Eph. 4:11-15:
- III. HAS GOD'S HAND WAXED SHORT TODAY?
 - A. Men make it appear so by:
 1. Not trusting God - like Israel Zeph. 3:2, Jer. 2:13:
 - a. Many trust in flesh Psa. 33:16, 44:6.
 - b. Some trust in riches Lk. 16.
 2. Changing God's plan:
 - a. Of induction - "Just invite Christ into your heart."
 - b. Of arousing interest - entertainment, socializing.
 - c. Of teaching 2 Tim. 4:1-5, 1 Cor. 2:1-3.
 - (1) Substitute current events, book reviews etc.
 - d. Of worship - Instruments, choir, formality, show.
 - e. Of work Eph. 4:12.
 - (1) Evangelism - Substitute Missionary Society, sponsoring church.
 - (2) Benevolence - Substitute orphanages, old folks home.
 - (3) Edification - Schools, colleges.
 - B. It has not and will not wax short.
 1. God's plan is complete Col. 2:9-10, Rom. 1:16, Heb. 7:27.
 2. Faithful will be rewarded Rev. 22:14; wicked punished Rev. 22:18-19.

A COSTLY MISTAKE
Num. 20

INTRODUCTION: Men with Atheistic tendencies have tried to point out mistakes that Moses made. They declare that the Mosaic account of creation does not agree with the findings of science. However, all such accusations are without foundation. But there was a mistake that Moses made that was both grievous and costly. This mistake had to do not with his writings which were dictated by inspiration, but with his actions which were directed by his own will. Relate the incident at the rock. Then consider;

I. THE NATURE OF MOSES' MISTAKE.

- A. He did not punctually obey God's instructions.
1. Changed God's plan - spoke to the people, not the rock.
 - a. This, God will not tolerate Heb. 8:5, 2 Jno. 9.
 - (1) Nadab and Abihu Lev. 10:1-2.
 - (2; Uzzah 2 Sam. 6:3-7.
 - b. God is out as particular today Rev. 22:18-19.
 - (1) "If any man speak.." 1 Pet. 4:11, Mt. 7:21.
 - (2) We must "contend earnestly for the faith" Jude 3.
 2. He robbed God of the glory.
 - a. Must "we" fetch you water? Did not sanctify God Num. 20:12.
 - b. Same mistake is frequently made today.
 - (1) By refusing to wear Christ's name Col. 1:18, Acts 4:12.
 - (2) By leaving the church out Eph. 3:10, 21.
 - (a) Establishing schools, church supported.
 - (b) Other institutions to do benevolent work Eph. 4:12.
 - (c) Missionary organizations to evangelize.
 3. He rebelled against God's commandments Num. 27:14.
 - a. "Ye believed me not" Num. 20:12.
 - (1) We rebel when we prefer commandments of men Mt. 15:1-9.
 4. He acted under heat of pressure, or rather passion.
 - a. Spoke unadvisedly with his lips Ps. 106:32-33:
 - b. Much like saying "Raca", "thou fool" Mt. 5:22.
 - c. Smote the rock twice - unauthorized. Always dangerous.
 5. He sinned publicly.
 - a. "Before the eyes of the children of Israel."
 - (1) We are responsible for our influence Rom. 14:7-8.
 - (2) For secret sins we must repent and pray.
 - (3) For public sins make public acknowledgement.

II. THE EVIDENT SERIOUSNESS OF HIS MISTAKE.

- A. Think of all Moses had done:
1. Delivered Israel; gave the law; was their mediator and their intercessor; their great leader.
 2. He longed for Canaan Heb. 11:24-28.
- B. Yet, he could not enter
1. What a lesson for us Rom. 15:4, Hag. 3:16-19.
 2. We should take heed 1 Cor. 10:10-12.
 3. Not all professed believers will enter heaven Mt. 7:21-23:

III. TBS CONSEQUENCES OF HIS MISTAKE.

- A. Not permitted to enter Canaan De. 34: Describe scene. How sad!
1. Moses was not kept out of heaven Mt. 17:1-5:
 2. But out of Canaan, a type of heaven.
 3. There could not have been a more bitter disappointment.
 4. How will it be with you at the judgment? Beware of mistakes.

DRINKING FROM WELLS WE DID NOT DIG

Deut. 6:11-12

INTRODUCTION: Some one has said that "ingratitude is the lowest rung on the ladder of ineptitude." How true. Are we guilty? Few people are as appreciative as they should be. Moses did not want Israel to forget how good God had been to them. We, too, are living in houses and cities we did not build, drinking from wells we did not dig, and eating from vineyards we did not plant. This is as true spiritually as it is physically. This is true of us:

I. AS A NATION.

- A. Two hundred years ago our nation was a wilderness.
 - 1. Others felled the forests, tunneled the mountains, bridged the rivers.
 - 2. They toiled and suffered because of their love of liberty.
 - 3. They gave us freedom and opportunity.
 - 4. Greatest system of government.
- B. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." A true American is:
 - 1. "One who looks with pride upon the history his fathers have written with their heroic deeds.
 - 2. Accepts with gratitude the inheritance bequeathed to him,
 - 3. Highly resolves to preserve this inheritance unimpaired, and to
 - 4. Pass it on to his descendants enlarged and enriched." - Lyman Abbott.
- C. We take too much for granted today - Remember Mt. 10:8.
 - 1. Too many have the "give me" concept.

II. AS RECIPIENTS OF SALVATION - Isa. 12:5.

- A. Only an all-wise God could originate such a plan Jno. 3:16.
 - 1. He knew our spiritual needs Rom. 3:10-18, 23.
 - 2. Had power and wisdom to provide for those needs Phil. 4:19.
 - 3. Perfectly adapted to all men of all ages Psa. 19:7.
- B. Only Christ could execute this plan.
 - 1. He was the God-man 2 Cor. 5:18-19, Isa. 53.
 - 2. "There is power in the blood" 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
- C. The Holy Spirit revealed the plan 1 Cor. 2:9-10, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:
- D. We should feel our indebtedness Rom. 1:14. Paul did. Do you?

III. AS MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.

- A. Salvation is in the body Eph. 5:23.
 - 1. Christ paid the price Acts 20:28, 1 Cor. 6:20.
 - 2. Christ is the living water Jno. 4:14.
 - 3. Apostles labored, suffered to establish it 2 Cor. 11:24-28.
 - 4. God has preserved it Mt. 16:18. Many enemies.
 - 5. Satan has sought to destroy it - apostasy 2 Thess. 2:1-10.
 - a. False doctrines 2 Pet. 2:1-3; indifference Rev. 3:15-18; pride.
 - 6. Reformation followed apostasy - confusion.
 - 7. Restoration - "Back to Jerusalem 1 Pet. 4:11.
 - 8. Beware! History often repeats itself. Present day apostasy.

IV. OUR OPPORTUNITIES ARE GREAT.

- A. They bring great responsibility Lk. 12:47-48.
 - 1. We need to clean out the old wells Gen. 26:18.
 - a. Filled with false doctrine Mt. 15:7-13, 2 Jno. 9.
 - 2. Make pure water available 2 Tim. 4:1-5, 1 Cor. 2:15, Tit. 1:7-13.
 - 3. Test water frequently - Compare with the Word 1 Pet. 4:11.
 - 4. Many die spiritually from poison in the water.
- B. Never cease to show appreciation.

THE WALLS OF JERICHO

Josh. 6

INTRODUCTION: The power responsible for the destruction of Jericho's walls must be attributed to God. All that Israel needed to do was to obey His will. The same is true today Mt. 6:21. It is note-worthy that the Law of God was carried around the walls each time they were encompassed. The law of God and their obedience to it was the secret of their success. So, the Word of God will level otherwise formidable walls today. Consider;

I. SOME WALLS THAT SHOULD BE LEVELED:

A. Intolerance.

1. Racial intolerance.
 - a. God is no respecter of persons Acts 10:34: Rom. 2:11.
 - b. Christ died for all Jno. 3:16.
 - c. God wants all to be saved 2 Pet. 3:9:
 - d. Apostles were sent to all the world Mt. 28:19-20.
 - e. Ground is level at the foot of the cross.
 - (1) All must become spiritual seed of Abraham Gal. 3:27-29.
2. But we must not tolerate false doctrine Gal. 3:4-5, 2 Jno. 9.
 - a. In matters of opinion, liberty; in faith unity;

B. Indifference.

1. One of the greatest barriers to be overcome.
 - a. Israel was slack to go possess the land Josh. 18:3: Hum. 32:6.
 - b. Meroz cursed because of it Jud. 5:23:
 - c. Negligence is condemned Jer. 48:10.
 - d. It puts Christ second Mt. 22:5, but note Mt. 6:33.
 - e. Results from iniquity Mt. 24:12.
 - f. Results from being too satisfied Phil. 3:13-14, Rev. 3:15-18.
 - (1) Paul was never satisfied with past achievements.
 - (2) Always greater heights to climb, more to be learned.
2. Such apathy is opposed to:
 - a. Spiritual mindedness Col. 3:1: 1 Jno. 2:15-17:
 - b. Holy activity - an essential law of the universe.
 - c. Generous liberality Acts 2:44, 2 Cor. 8:1-5.
 - d. Fervid zeal Acts 8:4, 21:13, 2 Cor. 12:14-15.
3. Results of indifference - only evil.
 - a. Renders soul barren, robs it of peace.
 - b. It has a withering effect on others. It is contagious.
 - c. Destroys influence of the church.
 - (1) Rather, we should be like the Thessalonians 1 Thes. 1:3/8-9.
 - d. Hinders conversions, hardens skeptics.

C. Insincerity.

1. To some, Christianity is:
 - a. A cloak to be put on or off as convenient.
 - b. A means of material advantage.
2. Our eye must be single Mt. 6:22.
 - a. First give ourselves to the Lord 2 Cor. 8:5.
 - b. We must be whole—hearted, consecrated, devout.

D. Pride.

1. One of the greatest barriers to salvation Jno. 12:42-43.
 - a. God hates it Prov. 6:17-18.
 - b. We have nothing to make us proud 1 Cor. 4:7.
 - c. Incompatible with Christianity 1 Pet. 5:5-6.
 - d. We are amply warned against it Pr. 16:18, 21:4, 1 Jno. 2:16.

CONCLUSION: The Word of God will break down all barriers. Let it dwell in your heart.

THE EVOLUTION OF SIN

Josh. 7:21

INTRODUCTION: There are few things more prevalent in the world than sin, there is nothing more destructive. Wars can destroy cities, countries and civilizations, but sin can destroy the soul. The soul is our most valuable possession. The sad part is that millions are letting Satan destroy their soul, yet they are unaware that it is being destroyed. We do not believe in evolution as taught by scientists, but we do believe in the evolution of sin. Our text deals with the evolution of sin in the human heart. Relate the story of Achan. Most every sin that is committed follows the pattern of Achan's sin, and, if unchecked, involves similar consequences. Let us consider the steps in:

I. THE EVOLUTION OF SIN.

- A. It enters by the senses - "I saw".
 - 1. The eye gate.
 - a. Eve "saw" the fruit was "pleasant to the eye".
 - b. David's sin resulted from an open eye gate 2 Sam. 11.
 - c. It must be kept closed to sin Mk. 9:47:
 - (1) Lustful looks are forbidden Mt. 5:27-28.
 - (a) If man earnestly desires to commit an evil, but cannot because God puts time, place and opportunity out of his power, he is fully charged with the iniquity of the act Mt. 5:27-28.
 - 2. The sense of taste.
 - a. Better never to taste liquor.
 - (1) Some are alcoholic from the first taste.
 - (2) It wrecks homes and ruins lives.
- B. Sinks into the heart - "I coveted."
 - 1. Not wrong to covet things that will do us good:
 - a. Spiritually 1 Cor. 15:12.
 - 2. Wrong to covet temporal things Ex. 20:17, Col. 3:5, Lk. 12:15.
 - 3. The heart is the mind.
 - a. The seat of government. Prov. 23:7.
 - b. Things we see, hear, feel, taste, smell influence the mind by stirring up passion. Passion dethrones reason, sears conscience.
 - 4. Should be kept with all diligence Pr. 4:23, 23:7.
 - a. "What you would not do, never think of doing."
 - b. "Accustom yourself to think of nothing you would hesitate to tell your best friend should they ask to know it."
 - 5. The heart must be constantly renewed Rom. 12:2.
 - a. It may need an antitoxin.
 - b. The word helps cleanse Ps. 119:9.
- C. It actuates the hand - "I took."
 - 1. All members of the body are willing servants of the mind.
 - 2. Three kinds of action:
 - a. Voluntary
 - b. Involuntary
 - c. Reflex.
 - (1) Not responsible for involuntary and reflex action.
 - (2) Voluntary action is fruit of mind - be careful Mt. 7:20.
- D. Leads to secrecy and dissimulation — "I hid."
 - 1. Adam and Eve tried to hide from God Gen. 3:8-9.
 - 2. David tried to cover his sin 2 Sam. 11:14-24, Ch. 12
 - 3: Every thought is naked and open to the eyes of him with whom we have to do Heb. 4:1J.
- E. The story of sin is summed up in Jas. 1:15:

UNCLOSED GATES

Josh. 8

INTRODUCTION: Relate the story of the capture of Ai. In this circumstance we see a very serious error on the part of the defenders of Ai. They had taken the trouble to build strong walls about the city. It was considered impregnable. This had been done at great cost. After all this trouble and expense, when the enemy came they left the gates wide open. Here we see evidence of grave inconsistency. In this respect Ai does not stand alone. Let us consider:

I. THE WALLS WE BUILD.

A. About our nation.

1. Defense:

- a. Atomic bombs.
- b. Strong, well-trained armies and navy, air force.
- c. Good will - Good neighbor policy.
- d. Well-manned outposts.

B. About our homes.

1. Educate our children.

- a. Build fine buildings.
 - b. We prepare our children to make money, but not how to live.
2. Provide for their physical well being.
 - a. Feed and clothe them well.
 - b. Provide medical care, hospitals, doctors. No expense too great.
 3. Provide for their social development.
 - a. We are concerned about their friends.
 - b. We want them to make their mark economically and socially.

C. These walls are important, but let us note,

II. SOME GATES WE LEAVE OPEN.

A. The gate of character.

1. The world's greatest need - Diogenes, "I'm looking for a man."

- a. We need men of sterling character.
 - (1) It is the foundation of success in any calling.
- b. The world needs men of courage and conviction.
 - (1) Men who know the right and are willing to fight for it.
 - (2) Unwilling to bow to public opinion. Acts 4:19-20, 5:29.
 - (3) Lincoln knew the right and stood for it.
 - (4) Courage to be honest, to resist temptation, speak truth.
 - (5) Men who cannot be bought.

2. Parents often neglect the spiritual side,

- a. We should exemplify and inculcate:
 - (1) A love and respect for truth, Eli failed 1 Sam. 3:13-21.
 - (2) Reverence for God, Bible, church.
 - (3) A hatred for sham and pretense.
 - (4) Abhorrence for dishonesty and hypocrisy Rom. 12:9:
 - (5) A knowledge of and love for the principles of Jesus.

B. The gate of consistency.

1. We make the greatest claim.

- a. We rightly contend that we have the truth.
- b. We proclaim the way of salvation.
- c. We contend for the faith and the one church Jude 3, Eph. 4:4-6.
- d. We are long in theory, but -

2. We too often fail in practice.

- a. We may fail to adorn the doctrine Tit. 2:10.
- b. Satisfied with our attainments - Paul never was Phil. 3:13-14.
- c. Show too little interest in others 2 Kgs. 7:9.

THE STRANGEST BATTLE EVER FOUGHT

Judges 7:18

INTRODUCTION: Relate briefly the circumstances, nature and result of the battle described in this chapter. Everything about it is unusual and strange. Truly, it is the "Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes" Mt. 21:42. God's ways are higher than man's ways Isa. 55:9. There are some lessons we would do well to note,

- I. THE BATTLE CRY - "THE SWORD OF THE LORD AND GIDEON."
 - A. We see both the hand of the Lord and of man.
 - B. The Lord has always employed both — both are essential.
 1. Angel appeared to Philip — Acts 8:26.
 - a. Philip preached to the eunuch — Acts 8:35-38.
 2. Jesus spoke to Saul — Acts 9:4.
 - a. Ananias preached to him — Acts 9:17, 22:12-16.
 3. Angel appeared to Cornelius — Acts 10:3-6.
 - a. Peter preached to him — Acts 10:34-43.
 4. Spirit was poured out on Pentecost — Acts 2:1-4.
 - a. Peter preached by its guidance — Acts 2:14-36.
 5. Jesus gave bread to the disciples — Mt. 14:19.
 - a. Disciples gave it to the multitude — Mt. 14:9.
 6. Paul and Barnabas "so spake", people believed — Acts 14:1.
 7. Josiah wrought a great reformation — 2 Kgs. 22.
 - a. Book of the law, found by Hilkiah, was responsible.
- II. THE PROPER RELATION OF THESE AGENCIES.
 - A. The divine prerogative.
 1. To authorize.
 - a. By specific statement — Acts 2:38.
 - b. By apostolic example — Acts 20:7.
 - c. By necessary inference — Acts 20:7, Ex. 20:8, Num. 15:32-36.
 - d. Dangerous to act without divine warrant — Lev. 10:1-2, 2 Chr. 26:16-32.
 2. To give direction - He gave Gideon specific directions,
 - a. Gideon followed directions - only way to win victory.
 3. Place instrument in hand of man.
 - a. Gave us the Gospel — Rom. 1:16, Heb. 4:12, 1 Cor. 2:1-3, 2 Ti.4:1-2.
 - B. The human obligation.
 1. Realize our dependence — Zech. 4:6.
 2. Submit to the divine will 2 Cor. 4:7.
 - a. Break pitchers, blow trumpets, sound battle cry:
 - (1) "Sword of the Lord" — recognize source of the power.
 - (2) "And of Gideon" — Man must use the power, give God glory — Eph. 3:21.
 3. Make vessel meet for the Master's use — 2 Tim. 2:1. are YOU?
 4. Remove hindrances — indifference, hypocrisy.
 5. Break up the fallow ground — Jer. 4:3-4, Hos. 10:12.
- III. HOW SHALL WE MEET THIS OBLIGATION?
 - A. Realize the seriousness of the task.
 1. He that winneth souls is wise — Pr. 11:30.
 2. Save souls from death — Jas. 5:20.
 - B. Follow New Testament precedent.
 1. Much prayer preceded Pentecost — Acts 1:14.
 - a. Prayer is the right arm of every awakening.
 - b. Preach the pure gospel 1 Cor. 2:1-2, 2 Tim. 4:1-2, in love.
 2. Work: invite, teach, exhort, plead, pray, don't give up.

ICHABOD — THE DEPARTED GLORY

1 Sam. 4:21

INTRODUCTION: This text reminds us of Ichabod Crane. Origin of the name - Israel had been defeated by the Philistines; ark of God taken; sons of Eli slain; Eli died; wife of Phineas bore a son; in bitterness of her grief she name him Ichabod - "The glory is departed". In giving this a general application, let us look at as:

I. EXPRESSIVE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE FIRST TRANSGRESSION.

A. Ichabod could be written:

1. Over the gates of Paradise.
 - a. A beautiful place before Satan entered — in presence of God.
 - (1) Everything to make man happy:
 - (a) Employment — dress the garden.
 - (b) Companionship — an "help meet" given Gen. 2:18.
 - (c) Dominion over all Gen. 1:28.
 - (d) Social security — perfect bliss.
 - b. After the fall Gen. 3.
 - (1) Arraigned, convicted, sentenced to toil, sorrow, death,
 - (a) To earn bread by sweat of his brow - Ichabod.
2. On the bodies of the first human pair.
 - a. Before fall — erect, intellectual, no disease, pain, fatigue.
 - b. After fall — "In sorrow bring forth children". Behold:
 - (1) The slave toiling in the sun.
 - (2) The patient racked with pain.
 - (3) The death-bed - struggling with agonies.
 - (4) The corpse - only earthly remains - Ichabod.
3. On the immortal soul of man. Before conversion Eph. 2:11—12, Rom. 1:28-32, 3:10-18.
 - a. Understanding in eclipse.
 - b. Judgment perverted - in error.
 - c. Affections earthly and sensual.
 - d. Conscience defiled.
 - e. Will rebellious Gen. 6:5, Jer. 17:9:

II. TO THE ASPECTS OF THE CHURCH AT VARIOUS TIMES.

- A. Not so when first established - then it was glorious Eph. 5:26-27.
 1. Character - members were partakers of divine nature 2 Pet. 1:3—4.
 2. Unity of brotherhood - God never intended but one body Eph. 4:4-6.
 3. Love, fervent and beautiful.
 4. Zeal - intense and self-denying Phil. 3:7-10, 2 Cor. 12:14-15.
- B. During the apostasy 2 Thess. 2:3-12.
 1. Departure in organization.
 2. Departure in doctrine.
 3. General corruption prevailed - Dark Ages - Ichabod.
- C. During Reformation and following.
 1. Disunity and division - Sectarism.
 2. Factionalism - hatred among brethren - Ichabod.

III. TO SOME WHO HAVE NAMED THE NAME OF CHRIST.

- A. Nothing more glorious than a Christ-filled church Eph. 5:27.
 1. Restored to the image of the Creator 2 Cor. 5:17.
 2. Robes washed in blood of the Lamb.
- B. But many congregations and members, like Demas, have departed.
 1. Behold the prodigal son Lk. 15.
 2. Few things more inglorious than a fallen Christian or congregation.
 3. A pitiful spectacle - Ichabod.

THE AWFUL END OF A PROMISING LIFE

1 Sam. 31:4

INTRODUCTION: Few men have had such a promising beginning as Saul, king of Israel and few men have had such a disastrous end as he. In the Bible there are records of two such lives - Judas and Saul. We have accounts of few lives that so completely show the outworking of the principle of sin as that of Saul. Let us notice first:

I. THE BRIGHT SUNRISE.

- A. A choice young man 1 Sam. 9:2.
 - 1. Pre-eminent in stature - he looked like a king.
- B. Humility was one of his brilliant beams.
 - 1. He did not shrink from work — searched for stock — 1 Sam. 9:3.
 - 2. He said he was least of his father's family — 1 Sam. 9:21.
 - 3. He shrink from public notice — 1 Sam. 10:22.
- C. Courage shown brightly at this stage of his life.
 - 1. Came to rescue of Jabesh-Gilead — 1 Sam. 11.
- D. Political preferment was his without being sought.
 - 1. God selected him as king 1 Sam. 12:1.
 - 2. He was the choice of the people.
- E. He was qualified for the work to which he was called.
 - 1. The heart of a statesman was given him 1 Sam. 10:9.

II. THE STORMY NIGHT.

- A. Battle of Gilboa. 1 Sam. 28:15.
 - 1. Disastrous defeat 1 Sam. 31.
 - 2. Saul tries to get some one to kill him 1 Sam. 31:4.
 - 3. Rejected of God 1 Sam. 28:6.
 - 4. He takes his own life 1 Sam. 31:4.
 - 5. His army scatters. Army sent home to Asteroth. Body nailed to wall 1 Sam. 31. - We notice a striking contrast between the bright sunrise and the stormy night. What is responsible for this great contrast?

III. THE CLOUDY NOON.

- A. At the zenith of his day clouds begin to gather and darken the sky, and when his sun should have shone the brightest its shining is dimmed. Sin so often brings storms and clouds in mid-life — beware!
 - 1. The sin of jealousy. Saul's besetting sin.
 - a. Jealous of David — had long sought his life — led to his undoing.
 - b. It has led to the undoing of many in the church.
 - 2. The sin of presumption.
 - a. He offered the burnt offering without commandment 1 Sam. 13:8-14.
 - b. Some adopt self devised means today to keep people together - (1) Various types of entertainment — food, fun, frolic.
 - 3. The sin of disobedience.
 - a. He refused to destroy Agag — 1 Sam. 15:8-9.
 - b. He sought to justify himself — 1 Sam. 15:15. Second law of nature.
 - c. To obey is better than sacrifice — 1 Sam. 15:22.
 - 4. He failed to improve his opportunities. — Lk. 12:47-48.
 - a. Had every opportunity to be a great king. Beware — Jas. 4:17.
 - 5. Had sinned against light and knowledge — Samuel was his counselor.
 - 6. The final result.
 - a. He lost his kingdom, took his own life, and came to a miserable end. What a tragedy! Many like him today.
 - b. The responsibility for sin is individual 1 Sam. 28:15-18.
 - c. Take advantage of the bright sunrise, watch to noon day clouds that you may have a peaceful night.

BUILDING THE TEMPLE OF GOD

1 Kgs. 5:5

INTRODUCTION: In the fourth year of his reign, Solomon began to build the temple which his father had so much desired to build. This work required seven years. When completed, it was the most magnificent building on which the sun of heaven ever shone. The gold and silver alone in it was worth between two and three billion dollars. It was built after the pattern of the tabernacle, and, like it, was a type of the church. Let us consider:

I. SOME POINTS OF LIKENESS.

- A. Both were built according to pattern.
 - 1. David received the pattern from God 1 Chr. 28:19.
 - a. David had to provide the money 1 Chr. 29:2-4.
 - b. He gave the pattern to Solomon 1 Chr. 28:11.
 - c. Solomon did the work.
 - 2. Christ received the pattern for the church from God.
 - a. Christ paid the price Acts 20:28.
 - b. He gave the blueprint to the apostles Jno. 16:15.
 - c. Apostles did the work Acts 2.
 - d. We must continue to watch the blueprint 1 Pet. 4:11:
- B. Materials for both were imported.
 - 1. Cedars and stone came from Lebanon.
 - a. Purchased from Hiram, king of Tyre 1 Kgs. 5:6.
 - b. Cedars came by water route 1 Kgs. 5:9:
 - 2. Materials for church came from Satan's kingdom Col. 1:15.
 - a. From the forests of nature.
 - (1) Many kinds of trees: straight, knotty, gnarled. Some of the most wicked people make best Christians, when converted.
- C. Built in silence.
 - 1. Temple without sound of hammer 1 Kgs. 6:7.
 - a. Stones were prepared in quarry.
 - b. Perhaps due to instinct of reverence.
 - 2. Church was and is built in comparative silence.
 - a. Materials cut and dressed to size before brought into church.
 - (1) Faith changes the mind.
 - (2) Repentance changes the life.
 - (5) Baptism changes the relationship 1 Cor. 12:15, Gal. 5:27.
 - b. Kingdom of God cometh not with observation Lk. 17:20.
 - (1) In reference to its advance in the world.
 - (2) Destructive work is noisy; constructive, silent. God was in the still small voice, not wind, earthquake or fire 1 Kg. 19: 11-12. Drums are loud, but empty.
 - (5) Spread of kingdom unnoticed by the Caesars & philosophers.
 - (4) This should be:
 - (a) Encouragement to those whose work is inconspicuous.
 - (b) A lesson not to mistake noise and notoriety for spiritual progress.
 - (c) Guidance as to our expectations of the advance of Christ's kingdom. It will transform society by slow unnoticed degrees. The elevation of humanity is slow.
- D. Both were built for a glorious purpose.
 - 1. An habitation of God Eph. 2:19-22, 1 Cor. 5:16-17.
 - a. Shekinah dwelt in the temple.
 - b. Church is God's habitation Eph. 2:22.
 - c. Temple overlaid with gold - an emblem of purity.
 - d. God expects and requires that church be kept pure 2 Cor. 6:17-18.

WILL GOD DWELL UPON EARTH?

1 Kgs. 8:27

INTRODUCTION; Our text is found in the midst of Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the Temple. He was impressed with the magnificence, beauty and cost of the building. It must have cost between two and three billion dollars. 183,000 men had worked on it for seven years. Solomon had built it as an habitation of God 1 Kgs. 8:13. The earth, clothed as it is with the beauties of nature, must be second only to heaven in its beauty. It is worthy of its great Designer. But through the entrance of sin it has been spoiled, converted into a desert, a wilderness of corruption, the seat of Satan. Solomon's question: Will the all-wise, all-powerful, perfect and pure Creator of the universe "dwell upon the earth?" Is,

I. A GOOD QUESTION — WHAT SAITH THE SCRIPTURE?

- A. He dwelt in the midst of Israel.
 1. Redeemed them from Egypt by Moses Ex. Chs. 3-12.
 2. Guarded and protected them en-route to Canaan.
 - a. Pillar of cloud by day, pillar of fire by night.
 - b. Fed them with manna Ex. 16:11-15.
 3. Dwelt in the Holy of Holies in tabernacle and temple Ex. 24:45.
- B. The incarnation 2 Cor. 5:18-19.
 1. A body prepared Heb. 10:5, Mt. 1:23, Lk. 1:26-33, 2:4-12.
 2. Prophets foretold it Isa. 7:14, 9:6.
 3. He was part of the Godhead 1 Jno. 5:7.
 4. He was God manifest in the flesh 1 Tim. 3:16.
 5. He was on earth, but sinless Mt. 4:1-10, Heb. 7:26.
- C. He dwells in believers Jno. 15:1-6, 17:23.
 1. God and Christ promised to indwell believers Jno. 14:23 - IF:
 - a. We love Him.
 - b. Keep His words 1 Jno. 3:24.
 2. The Spirit dwells in Christians Rom. 8:9-11, 1 Cor. 3:16-17, 6:19-20.
 - a. Spirit is also part of the Godhead 1 Jno. 5:7.
 - (1) Through the Word Eph. 5:17-19, Col. 3:16.
"Be filled with Spirit" — "Let Word dwell in you richly".
 - (2) Christ dwells by faith Eph. 3:17, Rom. 10:17.
 - b. Reasonable to believe God, Christ, and Holy Spirit — the Godhead - all dwell in the same way.
 - (1) Not a personal, direct indwelling, but by faith, through Word.
 3. A holy God will not dwell in an unholy place Isa. 1:16-18.
 - a. Heart must be purified —
 - (1) By faith — Acts 15:9.
 - (2) By obeying the truth — 1 Pet. 1:22, Rom. 6:17-18.
 - (3) Keep it pure — 1 Pet. 2:11, 1 Thess. 5:22, 4:3.
- D. He dwells in the church.
 1. Tabernacle and temple were types of the church.
 - a. God dwelt in the Holy of Holies.
 - b. Over arc of covenant.
 - c. On the mercy seat.
 - d. Between the cherubim — God's presence, the Shekinah.
 2. Where two or three are gathered together — Mt. 18:20.
 - a. We should feel His Presence in all acts of service.
 3. Church must be kept pure — Eph. 5:25-27.
 - a. Morally — 1 Cor. 5:1-4:
 - (1) Unfaithful, corrupt members disfellowshipped — 2 Thess. 3:6.
 - b. Doctrinally — Tit. 3:10, Rom. 16:17-18, Gal. 1:6-9, 2 Jno. 10.
 - (1) Christ preached — Acts 8:5, 35, 2 Cor. 2:1-5, 2 Tim. 4:1-2.
 - (2) Otherwise, candlestick will be removed — Rev. 2:4-5:

"AS THE LORD LIVETH"

1 Kgs. 17:1

INTRODUCTION: The words of our text are used only by Elijah and Elisha — two of the strongest men in Jewish history, two of the boldest men that ever walked the earth. This statement unveils the very secret of their lives and explains the reason for their matchless strength and undaunted courage. Both men used the words of our text in the crises of life. The words imply;

I. A CONSCIOUSNESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE.

A. "As the Lord liveth."

1. He lives in that:
 - a. He sees all — Be careful what you do 1 Pet. 3:12.
 - b. He hears all — Be careful what you say — Mt. 12:34-57: Ps. 19:14:
 - c. He understands all — Be careful what you think- Phil. 4:8.
 - d. He feels — therefore He can be offended.
 - e. He is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent.
2. This should influence us in:
 - a. What we do, where we go, and why.
 - b. What we say - God knows and remembers all you say.
 - c. What we think: about God, the Bible, the church, others.

II. AN AWARENES OF HIS AUTHORITY.

A. "Before whom I stand."

1. I stand as a supplant.
 - a. No merit to plead Lk. 17:10.
 - b. No ground for hope but the mercy of God and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ - we owe our all to Him Eph. 4:13, Col. 3:11:
2. "I stand amazed:
 - a. At His condescending love 1 Jno. 3:1:
 - b. At His overawing power - evidenced by creation, miracles.
 - c. At His willingness to bless Ps. 8, Jas. 1:17:
3. I stand as a servant.
 - a. Realizing my dependence 2 Cor. 3:5:
 - b. Acknowledging our need Phil. 4:19 - "I Need Thee Every Hour."
 - c. Confessing my sinfulness Ps. 51:1-4.
 - d. Imploring His favor Mt. 7:7-8, 1 Thess. 5:17.
 - e. Offering my all - "I Surrender All."
4. I stand responsible.
 - a. Great opportunity increases responsibility Lk. 12:47-48.
5. I stand condemned or justified.
 - a. Which is it with you as of the present moment? Judgment?
 - b. "As a tree falls, so shall it lie."
 - c. As death leaves us, so shall the judgment find us.

III. AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MY DUTY.

A. To know His will.

1. I have the ability to understand it - so do you. Requires effort.
2. He has revealed and preserved it, therefore,
 - a. We are all responsible - must give account 2 Cor. 5:10.

B. To obey His commands.

1. In spite of bitter opposition Acts 5:29:
2. Whatever the cost Lk. 14:25-35.
3. Whatever the hazard - Paul did, Early Christians did.

C. To follow His example.

1. To deny myself.
2. Take up my cross Mt. 16:24:
3. "Where he leads me I will follow."

UNPOSSESSED POSSESSIONS

1 Kgs. 22:5

INTRODUCTION: Ramoth in Gilead had many years ago been captured by Syria. A subsequent treaty that required its return had been broken, resulting in war. Benhadad had failed to keep an agreement he had made. Just now Israel had become strong enough to force Syria to comply with the disregarded article of peace. Hence, the text. Let us consider:

- I. THAT SOME THINGS ARE OURS. YET NOT OURS. IN OUR LIVES THERE IS MUCH:
 - A. Unannexed territory, unattained possibilities, unenjoyed blessings.
 1. Inward peace.
 - a. Peace that passeth understanding Phil. 4:7: Do you have it?
 - b. Undisturbed by petty annoyances Mt. 6:25. Do you worry?
 - c. Jesus possessed it while the tempest raged Mt. 26:36-46.
 - (1) Emerged from Gethsemane with poise and power and calm.
 - (2) Our ideas vs Jesus' ideas.
 - (3) Christians have a "bombproof" peace Ps. 29:11, 119:165, lea. 48:18, Jno. 14:23.
 2. Joy, happiness. security.
 - a. Christians can rejoice evermore Mt. 5:3-12, Phil. 4:4.
 - (1) It is well with my soul, if I love, trust, obey, serve. Nothing else matters. Is this peace yours?
 3. Power for service.
 - a. His word is a perfect guide Ps. 119:105.
 - b. We have the intelligence to understand His word.
 - c. His word gives us strength for labor.
 - d. The field for work is unlimited Jno. 4:35.
 - e. The harvest is great, but laborers are few Mt. 9:37-38.
 - f. The command is to go Mt. 28:19, Mk. 16:15.
 - g. Yet, "We be still."
- II. OUR STRANGE (X)NTENTMENT IS IMPERFECT POSSESSION.
 - A. Reasons for such contentment.
 1. Ignorance of the fulness of the gift.
 - a. We just have a foot-hold. Suppose the settlers of America had huddled in a fringe along the coast.
 - b. Do we know the fulness of His love and peace? Eph. 3: 17-19:
 2. Too lazy and cowardly to go take it.
 - a. Israel hesitated because:
 - (1) Ramoth was a long way off. Rivers to be forded, heights to climb, weary marches. More comfortable at home.
 - b. So we Christians.
 - (1) Do not realize how much we have that is not ours.
 - (2) Prefer to remain at ease in Zion Amos 6:1.
- III. THE EFFORT NEEDED TO MAKE OUR OWN OURS. LIKE ISRAEL. "WE BE STILL."
 - A. Suppose we acted thus with reference to temporal gifts.
 - B. We must be unsatisfied with past attainments. More knowledge to be acquired, greater heights to climb, battles to be fought, victories to be won.
 - C. Suppose Paul had been satisfied. Let us, like Paul press on Phil. 3:13.
 1. In our effort to subdue self 1 Cor. 9:24-27.
 2. In our search for knowledge Phil. 3:8-10,
 3. In our quest for inward peace Phil. 4:6-9.
 4. In the eternal struggle of right against wrong.
 5. In our effort to extend the borders of His kingdom.

—Adapted from Alexander Maclaren

IS IT WELL WITH MY SOUL?
2 Kgs. 4:26

INTRODUCTION: Relate story in background. We sing two songs: "It Is Well" and "Is It Well?" The second deals with a question we would do well to consider, In this connection, let us note,

I. THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT:

- A. Our health, family, business, social security and standing.
- B. Are we as much concerned about our soul?
 - 1. Our most valuable possession Mt. 16:26.
 - 2. What is the soul?
 - a. Part of our triune being 1 Thess. 5:23. W. E. Vine says:
"Generally speaking the spirit is the higher, the soul the lower bestowed upon man by God; the soul, the resulting life constituted in the individual. The body is the material organism animated by the soul and spirit." Expository Dictionary.
 - b. This agrees with Gen. 2:7:
 - c. Part of the inner man 2 Cor. 4:16.
 - d. The inner life Jas. 2:26.
 - e. It is immortal Mt. 10:28, 1 Cor. 15:54; Jno. 8:51; 2 Cor. 5:11; 1 Thess. 4:17.

II. WHAT SHOULD BE OUR CONCERN FOR THE SOUL?

- A. Is it properly nourished?
 - 1. Can't be fed on material things Lk. 12:19; Mt. 4:4:
- B. Does it prosper? 3 Jno. 2.
 - 1. Many false conceptions of prosperity Rev. 3:15-18.
 - 2. Where is your treasure? Mt. 6:19.
 - 3: Look in the mirror Jas. 1:21-25. What do you see?
- C. Danger of false security - not social but soul security.
 - 1. Some feel spiritually secure because:
 - a. Name is on church roll.
 - b. They have the right doctrine 1 Tim. 4:16.
 - c. They are sincere Pr. 14:12.
 - d. They are good morally Acts 10:1-4.

III. DON'T OVERLOOK THIS -

- A. If it is well with your soul:
 - 1. You are different from what you once were.
 - a. All were sinners Rom. 3:23.
 - 2. You are a member of God's family - You:
 - a. Have been born again Jno. 3:3-5.
 - b. Are a new creature 2 Cor. 5:17:
 - c. Have obeyed the gospel Rom. 6:17-18.
 - d. Partake of the divine nature 2 Pet. 3:4.
 - e. Are in the body of Christ Eph. 5:23; Gal. 3:27-29, Jno. 15:4.
 - f. Are a non-conformist Rom. 12:2.
 - 3. You are glorifying God in this world by:
 - a. Salting the earth Mt. 5:13.
 - b. Letting your light shine Mt. 5:16.
 - c. Adorning the doctrine Tit. 2:10.
 - d. Not defiling the temple 1 Cor. 3:16-17, 6:19-20.

CONCLUSION: Is it well with YOUR soul? If not, you can make it well by surrendering yourself in obedience to the invitation of the gospel.

GOD'S CUBE FOR LEPROSY

2 Kgs. 5:10-11

INTRODUCTION: Tell the story of Naaman. This story suggests some characteristics of the gospel, which is God's cure for spiritual leprosy. Notice that:

- I. GOD'S CURE PUTS ALL ON THE SAME LEVEL.
 - A. Elisha considers not his greatness. but his disease.
 1. Naaman wished to be treated as a great man who happened to be a leper, Elisha treats him as a leper that happened to be a great man.
 2. What is important - the dignity or the disease?
 - a. Naaman thought, dignity; Elisha thought, disease.
 - B. Christianity disregards all surface differences.
 1. Some things are identical in all mankind.
 - a. Same wants, sorrows, necessity for cleansing.
 - b. Differences of culture and station are surface & accidental.
 - c. Alike in that all have sinned - all are sinners Rom. 3:23.
 - d. A wise doctor treats all alike.
 - e. Great Physician treats all as patients, not this or that kind.
 - f. We are wise, foolish, learned, illiterate, rich, poor, high or low - but we are all sinners.
 2. Gospel puts all on the same level.
 - a. "Ground is level at the foot of the cross." Hence,
 - (1) The proud reject the gospel.
 - (a) Want to go to heaven, but not in common caravan.
 - (b) Want separate compartments - first class.
 - (2) All must submit to same treatment.
 - (3) One purpose of baptism is to humble us.
- II. GOD'S CURE PUTS THE MESSENGER OF THE CURE IN THE BACKGROUND.
 - A. Elisha kept self in the background.
 1. Naaman thought Elisha would come out - speak words 2 Kgs. 5:11:
 2. Elisha concealed self and made God's power prominent.
 - a. Not his part to cure, but to bring God's cure.
 - b. He is but a voice — like John the Baptist Mk. 1:3 - proclaim.
 - B. Christian ministers should take this leaf from Elisha's note-book.
 1. Some want to be miracle workers.
 2. Preachers have no power to cleanse.
 3. They only bring truth to bear upon the sinner.
 4. Must repeat what God has told without fear or favor.
 5. Speech plain, no affectation, plead earnestly.
 6. Preachers should hide behind the cross.
- III. GOD'S CURE WANTS NOTHING FROM YOU BUT THAT YOU TAKE IT.
 - A. Men prefer to do some great thing 2 Kgs. 5:13:
 1. Become ascetics - scourge self - fast.
 2. Build a cathedral, endow a church.
 3. But they refuse to wash - cleanse soul.
 4. Do not want to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts Tit. 2:11-12.
 - B. Where is the power?
 1. In the water? NO.
 2. Rather in obedience to God.
 - a. Naaman was not cleansed until he had done all required.
 - b. A test of willingness to humble self and obey God.
 - c. When God tests us:
 - (1) We must comply with all His requirements if we would be cleansed from leprosy of sin.

—Adapted from Alexander Maclaren

THE SIN OF SILENCE

2 Kgs. 7:9

INTRODUCTION: Relate story of famine and adventure of four lepers. 2 Kgs. 7.

I. PRESENT DAY APPLICATION:

- A. "This is a day of good tidings."
 - 1. The promised Christ has come.
 - 2. He has made atonement for sin.
 - 5. He has risen from the dead.
 - 4. I can have life through His name - no better news.
- B. The fact of silence - "And we hold our peace."
 - 1. Did you ever tell anyone about Jesus and their need for Him?
 - a. Are you like the woman of Samaria? Jno. 4:29.
 - b. Are you like Andrew? Jno. 1:40-42. Most of us are silent.
- C. The sin of silence - "We do not well."
 - 1. Such silence is inhuman.
 - a. Would have been so in case of the four lepers.
 - b. Would be so in case of a literal famine today.
 - c. "He who feasts while others starve is a brute."
 - d. Some are perishing for the Bread of Life, and don't know it.
 - e. The man who possesses spiritual knowledge and keeps it to self, is, in his idleness, sinfully active.
 - f. We are responsible for all the eyes we could have opened that are still dark.
 - g. Also for every soul that gropes in ignorance if we possess the spiritual knowledge that will enlighten him.
 - 2. Such silence contradicts every principle of Christianity,
 - a. To be silent is to be selfish.
 - (1) Was salvation intended for you alone?
 - (2) Are you the end of God's mercy, or the means of transmitting?
 - (3) "If a man see his brother have need..." 1 Jno. 3:17.
- D. The retribution of silence - "Some evil will come upon us."
 - 1. The penalty for silence here and now.
 - a. Dumb idleness will rob you of much joy of Christian life.
 - (1) Keep it locked up in your heart and you lose the sweetness, buoyancy and assurance of the christian life.
 - (2) If you want to be a happy Christian, work for Jesus.
 - b. Conviction unspoken, like plants grown in a cellar, will get very white in the stem, and bear no fruit.
 - c. When we become vocal, our faith will be strengthened.
 - d. If you would learn anything, teach it - you will learn more.
 - 2. The penalty of silence hereafter.
 - a. The woe of having no one who can look to you and say, "I owe myself to thee."
 - (1) This is the blessed experience of the reapers joy.
 - (2) "We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves."
 - (3) "Will there be any stars in my crown?"
- E. "Come that we may go and tell the King's household."
 - 1. Our obedience should transcend the limits of obligation.
 - a. "If I do this willingly I have a reward" 1 Cor. 9:16-17 .
 - (1) Paul desired to bring a little more than was required, in token of his love." Do you?
 - (2) Some ask, How much can I get off with? That is, How little? How much can I retain of worldliness.
 - (3) In business and profession such tactics don't bring success.
 - b. "Come, then, let us tell the King's household."

THE SIN OF INGRATITUDE

2 Chro. 52:25

INTRODUCTION: It has been said that ingratitude is the lowest rung on the ladder of ineptitude. Hezekiah was a good man and one of Judah's best kings but he sinned at the point of ingratitude. Relate the story of the context. Isaiah charges Israel with three sins: ignorance, inconsideration and ingratitude Isa. 1:2-3: Hezekiah's mistake was that "he rendered not again." He was an ingrate. Let us consider:

I. INGRATITUDE AS A COMMON AND DESPICABLE SIN.

- A. Israel was guilty Isa. 5:1-4:
 - 1. Name and discuss six things God had done for them vs. 1-2.
 - 2. Their reaction - "rendered not again."
 - a. Failed to show appreciation - ingratitude.
 - 3. Their punishment Isa. 5:5-6 - Discuss three parts.
 - a. Bore wild grapes: rebellion, idolatry.
- B. Nine lepers were guilty Lk. 17:17 - Relate story.
 - 1. Loathsome disease cleansed.
 - 2. But one returned - "Where are the nine?" True today. Apply.
- C. Common in our nation.
 - 1. Advantages of our citizenship: freedom, comforts, luxuries.
 - 2. Lyman Abbott characterized a true American as one who:
 - a. Looks with pride upon history his forefathers have written.
 - b. Accepts with gratitude the inheritance bequeathed to him.
 - c. Highly resolves to preserve this inheritance, and
 - d. To pass it on to his descendants enlarged and enriched.
 - 3: Instead, we see rebellion, riots, flag burnings, little patriotism.
- D. Common in the home.
 - 1. Children never had it so good.
 - a. True, some are neglected.
 - b. Too much materialism without love.
 - 2. Many husbands are ingrates.
 - 3. Some wives not appreciative of many blessings.
- E. Not uncommon in the church.
 - 1. God gave His Son; Christ gave His life; Spirit gave the Bible.
 - 2. He gave us the church, which offers:
 - a. Salvation from sin Gal. 3:27-29, Col. 1:18, Eph. 5:23:
 - b. Hope of eternal life Heb. 6:19:
 - 3: Yet, many "render not again." We see laxity in:
 - a. Bible study, prayer, attendance, service, godly living.

II. CAUSES OF INGRATITUDE.

- A. Thoughtlessness.
 - 1. Nine of the ten lepers Lk. 17:17:
 - a. Took healing as a matter of course - Ever guilty??
 - 2. Pure lack of appreciation Mk. 14:8.
 - a. Not so with Mary - "She did what she could." - Do you??
 - 3. Pride Dan. 4:30, Jno. 12:42-43.
 - a. Nebuchadnezzar failed to realize his dependence.

III. RESULT OF INGRATITUDE.

- A. It broke Jesus' heart.
 - 1. Where are the nine? Lk. 17:17:
 - 2. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem Mt. 23:37:
- B. It is displeasing to God.
 - 1. Note Isaiah's rebuke to Israel Isa. 1:5-15:
 - 2. His admonition Isa. 1:16-18 - Apply to our day - Maybe to self.

CONSULTING THE RECORD

Ezra 5:17

INTRODUCTION: Zerubbabel met with much opposition in rebuilding the temple. The enemies influenced the successor of Cyrus to issue a decree that the work be stopped. The Jews countered by insisting that search be made for the decree of Cyrus. The present king complied - hence our text. The search was made, the record was found and the cause of the Jews vindicated. Truth has always been opposed. The Church of Christ is often challenged in its position. Let the Cause of God and truth be fairly stated and fairly heard, and it will hold its ground against any and all opposition. Now let us,

I. CONSIDER THE RECORD TO BE CONSULTED.

A. The king's treasure house.

1. The Holy Scriptures are a treasure house of:
 - a. Knowledge Col. 2:3.
 - b. Wisdom Dan. 2:20, Rom. 11:33; 1 Cor. 1:25, 2 Tim. 2:15.
 - c. Truth Jno. 17:17, 14:6, 18:37.
 - d. Mercy Tit. 3:5, Ps. 108:8-17.
 - e. Pardon Isa. 1:18, 55:6-7.
 - f. Redemption Col. 1:14, Rom. 3:24, Tit. 2:14.
 - g. Salvation Heb. 5:8-9:
2. Search is:
 - a. Recommended by Jesus Jno. 5:39:
 - b. Exemplified by Bereans Acts 17:11:
 - c. Declared to be profitable by Paul Rom. 15:4:
 - d. Neglected by many:
 - (1) Who claim to be too busy.
 - (2) Who prefer to accept some preacher's word for it.

II. CONSULT THE RECORD CONCERNING:

A. The name of the church.

1. The church of God 1 Cor. 1:1-2.
2. The church of the firstborn Heb. 12:23.
3. The church of Christ Rom. 16:16, Col. 1:18, Jno. 5:29.

B. The number of churches.

1. The church and the body are synonymous Eph. 1:22-23.
2. There is but one body Eph. 4:4:
3. Any normal body has but one head; a normal head has one body.
4. Christ's body is normal. Not one head with 1000 bodies.

C. The necessity for membership.

1. Christ will save the body Eph. 5:23.
2. Suppose you are not in the body?
3. They had to be in the ark to be saved Gen. 6-9.

D. The means of admittance.

1. Christ is the door Jno. 10:9.
2. He is the way, truth and the life Jno. 14:6.
3. Faith, repentance, confession and baptism are terms of admittance.

E. The nature of worship.

1. The acts of worship are specified Acts 2:42, Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16.
2. Object, manner and spirit of worship are revealed Jno. 4:23-24.

P. The method of work.

1. Evangelistic Eph. 4:11-12.
2. Benevolent Eph. 4:11-12, 1 Cor. 16:1-3, Acts 11:27-30.
3. Educational 1 Cor. 14:26, Eph. 4:16:

G. The manner of life Phil. 4:9, 1 Cor. 11:1.

1. A living sacrifice Rom. 12:1.
2. A life of holiness 2 Pet. 3:11.

THE TRUST COMMITTED UNTO US

Ezra 8:24-29

INTRODUCTION: Ezra returned to Jerusalem to restore the worship. There was given to him great treasure in gold, silver, and sacred vessels to be used in the house of the Lord. This charge (v.29), Ezra committed unto the priests. This is not typical but it is suggestive. As Christian priests Rev. 1:6 we are making a journey to the New Jerusalem. Some precious things have been committed to our trust - Consider:

I. THE TREASURE COMMITTED TO US - Not gold, silver, precious stones, but:

- A. Our nature Heb. 2:7 — Sacred.
 - 1. Body - "Fearfully and wonderfully made" Psa. 139:14 - describe.
 - a. Keep it strong and healthy - watch food and exercise.
 - b. Do not defile it by sin - dissipation.
 - c. Use to glorify God: eyes, ears, hands, feet, voice.
 - 2. Intellect - makes man above animals. Think, reason, believe.
 - a. Do not leave it in darkness Eph. 4:17-19:
 - b. It came from God, use it for Him.
 - c. Do not pollute it with evil thoughts Pr. 23:7: Phil. 4:8.
 - 3. Conscience - not a guide, but a goad.
 - a. Valuable on account of ignorance, rebelliousness. forgetfulness.
 - b. May be seared 1 Tim. 4:1-2 - rendered useless. Show how.
 - c. Keep void of offence Acts 23:1, 24:16.
 - 4. Soul.
 - a. Its value Mt. 16:26, Don't let Satan destroy it.
- B. The truth 1 Thess. 2:4, Jude 3, Rom. 1:16, Acts 20:32.
 - 1. World has great need for it Rom. 1:28-32, 3:10-18, Eph. 2:1-7.
 - 2. This trust implies:
 - a. God's great interest in us — Gave us the gospel Rom. 1:16.
 - b. God's confidence in humanity. Otherwise would not have trusted us.
 - c. Responsibility of recipients Ezra 8:25, 1 Tim. 6:20.
 - 3. Defend it Phil. 1:17, Acts 20:27, Phil. 2:14-16, Gal. 1:6-9.
- C. The church.
 - 1. Extend its borders Mk. 16:15-16, Acts 8:4, Paul's *journeys*.
 - 2. Keep worship pure Jno. 4:23-24:
 - 3. Keep it glorious Eph. 5:25-27:

II. THE GUARDIANSHIP REQUIRED Ezra 8:21-22.

- A. Unslumbering vigilance Ezra 8:29, Acts 20:28-30, Heb. 13:17.
 - 1. Robbers to guard against Mt. 7:15, Acts 20:28-32, 2 Pet. 2:1-3.
 - 2. There are robbers now who would rob:
 - a. Body of its health - drugs, liquor.
 - b. Intellect of its power - drugs, liquor.
 - c. Conscience of its peace Gen. 42:21, 32:9-23, Jno. 8:1-10.
 - d. Character of its good name - Satan would drag us down Gen. 39:7-20.
 - e. Soul of its reward - Satan's all-consuming purpose.
- B. Unfaltering trust.
 - 1. Ezra trusted God completely Ezra 8:22-32. Job did Job 13:15:
 - 2. Paul 2 Tim. 1:12.
- C. Purity.
 - 1. Only consecrated priests could carry vessels Ezra 8:24.
 - 2. Christian priests must be consecrated Heb. 9:13-14:
- D. Constant use 2 Pet. 3:18, Heb. 6:1-3.
 - 1. Gifts that are used fructify.
 - 2. Capacities that are strained increase.
 - 3. Service strengthens power for use.

-Partially adapted from A. Maclaren - Expositions of H. Scriptures.

AGREATWORK

Neh. 4:19

INTRODUCTION: Return from captivity had been promised and prophesied De. 30:3, Is. 11:11, Jer. 16:15, Zeph. 3:20, Zech. 10:10. Zerubbabel had rebuilt the temple, Ezra had restored the worship, Nehemiah had now returned to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Enemies in the land tried to stop him. This opposition brought forth this great text.

I. THIS TEXT HOLDS SOME LESSONS FOR US.

A. Nature of the work - Comparative - great, greater, greatest.

1. Great because:

a. It is the Lord's work. Be sure it is - you may be deceived.

(1) Jews were Mt. 15:7-13:

(2) Paul, before his conversion Acts 23:1, 26:9-11, Phil. 3:4-6.

(3) Many are today - conscientious, sincere, zealous Pr. 14:12.

(4; Must be done the Lord's way Col. 3:17, Mt. 7:21, Rev. 22:18-19.

2. Greater than:

a. Medicine - only helps people here; this, hereafter.b. Law - only helps in temporal life; this, spiritual life.

3. Greatest Jno. 9:4, Phil. 3:7-10, 1 Thess. 2:4.

a. Shame on you if you treat it lightly.

b. Must have first place in your life Mt. 6:31-33. Does it??

B. Reasons for its greatness.

1. It requires great:

a. Preparation 2 Tim. 2:15, Col. 1:9-10, Phil. 1:9-10, 1 Pet. 3:15.

(1) Could you explain the plan of salvation to a sinner?

b. Dedication 1 Chr. 29:5, Pr. 23:26.

(1) Love Eph. 3:17-19, 2 Thess. 3:5, Jude 21, Mt. 22:35-38.

(2) Faith Mt. 15:21-28.

(3) Sacrifice Rom. 12:1.

c. Effort Phil. 3:13-15. Compare your effort with Paul's.

d. Vision Jno. 4:35-36.

e. Courage Jos. 1:6, Dan. 3:13-17, 1 Sam. 17:32, 45-46.

2. Offers great opportunity Acts 16:9, 18:9-10, 1 Cor. 16:8-9.

3. Imposes great responsibility Lk. 12:47-48, 1 Thess. 2:4.

4. Offers great reward: here Phil. 4:7; hereafter Rev. 22:14.

C. The secret of success.

1. Have proper conception of the work Neh. 4:19:

2. Have a mind to work Neh. 4:6.

a. Desire, willingness 1 Chr. 29:5:

(1) Business men advertise to create desire for products.

(2) Mind conditioned - realize we're lost.

(3) Realize the value of prize sought Rom. 6:23.

3. Have determination 1 Cor. 2:1-2, Acts 21:10-13.

4. Mind trained and disciplined.

a. If we have the desire we will get the knowledge.

b. Disciplined to suffer 2 Tim. 2:3, 3:12, 2 Cor. 11:24-28.

D. The work to be done 1 Jno. 5:19, Lk. 10:2.

1. Prepare the seed bed Jer. 4:3:

2. Sow the seed Mt. 13:3-9, Gal. 6:7.

3. Cultivate 1 Cor. 3:6.

4. Immediate Mt. 21:28.

5. Individual Mk. 13:34:

6. Extensive Lk. 10:2 - millions dying in sin - workmen needed,

a. The Employer needs YOU Mt. 20:4.

7. Carried to completion Jno. 4:34, 17:4, Acts 20:24, 2 Tim. 4:7-8.

WHAT IS MAN?

Psa. 8:4

INTRODUCTION: As a shepherd boy David often spent the night with his flock, perhaps with the ground as his bed. This gave him ample time to gaze into the heavens and behold the wonders there displayed. As he beheld their magnitude and beauty he felt his own insignificance, hence his question:

I. HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH:

- A. The beauty of the heavens Psa. 19:1-6:
- b. The size of the universe - Astronomers estimate -
 - 1: 500 thousand billion stars - may be many times that number.
 - 2. Diameter - over 18 billion light years. - 186,000 x 60 x 60 x 565 x 2:
 - 3: By comparison the earth is only a microscopic speck.

II. THE GREAT QUESTION - WHAT IS MAN?"

- A. As to his nature.
 - 1: Fearfully and wonderfully made Psa. 159:14:
 - a. Physically.
 - (1) 200 bones, 500 muscles, 1000 ligaments, 10,000 nerves, 100,000 glands, 200 million pores.
 - (2) Heart contracts some 100,000 times daily.
 - (a) Pumps some 3 tons of blood daily for 70 to 100 years. What a wonderful pump. Only God could make it.
 - b. Mentally - with a marvelous, greatest computer ever made.
 - (1) Can acquire knowledge, retain it, arrange it, elaborate it.
 - (2) Hence can learn, remember, reason, imagine.
- B. Man is a rational being.
 - 1: Man differs from animals.
 - a. Animals have instinct and passion.
 - b. In addition, man has reason and intelligence Gen. 1:26-27:
 - c. Evidence of intelligence - "He has tunneled the mountains, bridged rivers, fathomed the deep, felled forests, inhabited plain, turned desert into an oasis, harnessed spirits of earth, air and water, records his voice, heard around world," been to moon.
- C. Man is a spiritual being.
 - 1. Has a soul Mk. 8:56, Heb. 4:12, 1 Pet. 1:22, 4:19, 2:11.
 - 2: Inner man Mt. 10:26, Acts 17:28, Rom. 7:22, 2 Cor. 4:16, Eph. 3:16.
- D. An immortal being.
 - 1: Body dies - ever perishing - returns to dust Ecc. 12:7:
 - 2: Here, vice often not punished; nor goodness rewarded.
 - 5: Claims of righteousness demand existence of another world.
 - 4: Gospel brings life and immortality to light 2 Tim. 1:10.
- E. A responsible being - this implies:
 - 1: Existence of law; revelation and ability.
 - 2: Man is under law or government:
 - a. Laws of nature - e.g., gravity, inertia, relativity.
 - b. Law of conscience Rom. 2:15 - can act without error only under influence of light and truth.
 - c. Neither law of nature nor conscience are able to regulate all actions toward mankind and God, hence —
 - 3: God gave law of revelation Psa. 19:7, 1 Cor. 2:9-10, 2 Tim. 3:16-17:
 - 4: God has given man ability:
 - a. To understand His revealed law Psa. 119:104: Eph. 5:17:
 - b. To obey revealed law Mt. 7:21, Phil. 4:9, Rev. 22:14:
 - c. Man must be free to choose or refuse Josh. 24:15:
 - (1) Otherwise there can be neither virtue nor vice.

WHAT MAN IS NOT

Psa. 8:4

INTRODUCTION: After man's rebellion against God he was driven from God's presence in Eden. Subsequently he was no longer what he was when he sprang from the hands of the great Designer. Something must be done to retrieve man from his fallen condition. After the fall:

I. MAN WAS NOT WHAT HE ONCE WAS:

- A. As to health and immortality of body.
- 1: Formed for endless life - Healthy.
 2. Now lives in fear of death and disease. Gen. 3:17-19: Heb. 9:27:
 3. Wicked, sinful, miserable Eph. 2:1-3.
- B. In dominion and possessions Gen. 1:27-28.
- 1: Exiled from Eden Gen. 3:23.
 - 2: Dwelling place confiscated.
 - 3: Earn bread by sweat Gen. 3:17-19: He was sent:
 - a. To till the soil, not to hell.
 - b. To place of toil, not to torment.
 - c. To the ground, not to grave.
 - d. To work-house, not to dungeon.
 - e. To hold the plough, not drag a chain.
- C. In his moral powers Eph. 4:17-19:

Before fall

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Understanding - reflecting knowledge - | <u>After fall</u>
Darkened |
| 2. Judgment - influenced by truth | - Perverse |
| 3. Will obedient | - Rebellious |
| 4. Conscience - serene | - Seared |
| 5: Affections - heavenly | - Earthly |

II. NOT NATURALLY WHAT HE MAY BE.

- A. Guilt may be cancelled Isa. 55:7-8.
1. Pardon offered on condition.
 - a. He must forsake his ways.
 - b. Unrighteous forsake thoughts.
 - c. Return to the Lord.
- B. His nature must be changed.
1. Can be born again Jno. 3:3-5.
 - 2: Can become a new creature 2 Cor. 5:17:
 - 3: Be sanctified - set apart 1 Cor. 6:9-10, 1 Thess. 5:23.
 - 4: Partake of divine nature 2 Pet. 1-4:
- C. Soul be seat of joy and bliss.
1. Kingdom of God within Lk. 17:21.
 2. Begotten to a lively hope 1 Pet. 1:3.
 3. Heirs of God Rom. 8:16-17, genuinely happy Phil. 4:4, 7:

III. NOT WHAT HE SHALL BE HEREAFTER.

- A. Now a probationer - Future state fixed and eternal.
1. May enter eternal bliss. Rev. 22:14.
 - a. Exalted to God's kingdom and glory Mt. 25:34.
 - b. A companion of angels, a worshiper of the Lamb.
 - c. Not a wrestler, but a victor.
 - d. Not a racer, but crowned.
 - e. Desires met, faith realized.
 - 2: May enter eternal punishment Mt. 25:41:
 - a. No transfer Lk. 16:23-24:
 - b. No escape 2 Thess. 1:7-9:

GODS MINDFULNESS OF MAN

Psa. 8:4

INTRODUCTION: Without the aid of a telescope David could see enough in the heavens to be impressed with the magnitude of the universe. As he thought of his own body and mind with the ability to learn, remember, reason, and imagine he said, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" Psa. 139: 14: He could not help but wonder why God would be so "mindful of man^M" when he was so small as compared with the universe. Let us consider,

I. HOW GODS MINDFULNESS OF MAN IS SHOWN;

- A. Created man in His own image — Gen. 1:26, Col. 3:10.
 1. Intelligent — Can think, reason, understand, believe, remember.
- B. Made provision for his happiness.
 1. Companionship Gen. 2:18, home Gen. 3:15, employment Gen. 2:15, 2:8.
 - a. Supplies all our needs Phil. 4:19:
- C. When man sinned, a redeemer was promised Gen. 3:15:
 1. Sinned away his right to Eden, hence driven out Gen. 3:6, 22-24.
 2. Promised to bless. while pronouncing a curse Gen. 3:15:
 3. Guarded genealogical line Gen. Ch. 5:
- D. Saved seed when man became corrupt.
 1. Deplorable condition Gen. 6:5 - Every imagination evil, only evil.
 2. Through Noah God saved seed Gen. Chs. 6-9.
 3. Guarded genealogy to Abraham Gen. 10.
- E. Developed a chosen people.
 1. Called Abraham - Made him a three fold promise Gen. 12:1-3.
 2. Saved Abraham's seed from famine.
 - a. Joseph, savior; Egypt, protector; bondage, training ground.
 3. Raised up Moses as deliverer Ex. 2. Called Ex. 3:
 - a. Cross Red Sea with God's help Ex. 14:19-31:
 - b. Gave them a law Ex. 20.
 - c. Provided food, water, clothing 40 years.
 - d. Subdued their enemies, gave them Canaan as permanent home - Joshua.
- F. Saved remnant from captivity.
 1. Made Cyrus kindly disposed Ezra 1.
 2. Zerubbabel rebuilt the temple.
 3. Ezra restored the worship.
 4. Nehemiah rebuilt the walls - book of Nehemiah.
- G. John the Baptist prepared way for Christ Isa. 40:3-4:
 1. Broke silence of the centuries. 400 years past Mal. 4:5:
 2. Rebuked the sins of the age Mt. 3:1-12.
 3. Preached the coming kingdom Mt. 3:1-2.
- H. Sent His Son to deliver us from sin Jno. 3:16-17, 2 Cor. 8:9:
 1. Man was without hope Eph. 2:11-12.
 2. Though rich, he became poor Phil. 2:5-11.
 3. Shed His blood to redeem man 1 Pet. 1:18-19:
 4. Brought life and immortality to light 2 Tim. 1:10.
- I. Sent Holy Spirit to reveal plan.
 1. Christ promised the Spirit Jno. 14:26, 16:13.
 2. Came Acts 2:1-4:
- J. Gave a road map to guide us.
 1. Spirit guided the apostles 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 - a. A perfect guide book Ps. 19:7, 2 Pet. 1:3-4:
- K. Gave the church as Christ's helpmeet.
 1. Pillar and ground of truth 1 Tim. 3:15.
- L. He is preparing a place of rest.
 1. Jno. 14:1-3, Heb. 4:9, Rev. 21:1-4, 22:1-4.

THE VALUE OF THE WORD

Psa. 19:7-11

INTRODUCTION: There are at least six sermons suggested in our text. When considered in its entirety it emphasizes the great value of God's word. In these days of high prices we are value conscious. Unfortunately most people think only in terms of material value. Such values have to do only with time. Like vapor, they soon vanish Jas. 4:14: Spiritual values deal in terms of eternity. David gives six reasons why the Word of God is valuable. But there are many more reasons. Let us consider some of them:

I. THE WORD IS SPOKEN OP:

- A. As a fire Jer. 23:29 - It will consume the dross of:
 1. DO-lessness. apathy, indifference Amos 6:1. Rev. 3:15-18 1 Cor. 15:34:
 - a. Many of us need to have a fire built under us. Acts 17:19:
 2. Murmuring Phil. 2:14 - always easy to criticize and find fault.
 3. Sinful desires Psa. 119:9, 11, 19:14.
 4. Excuses Lk. 14:18-20, Mt. 25:24-25, 44-45.
- B. As a sword Heb. 4:12.
 1. Quick, living. Seizes conscience, cuts to the heart.
 2. Powerful 2 Cor. 10:4-5.
 - a. Batters down Satan's kingdom.
 - b. Power to bind Satan Rev. 20:1-2.
 3. Sharp - cuts off:
 - a. Ignorance 1 Pet. 2:15, Col. 3:16.
 - b. Rebellion 1 Sam. 15:23.
 - (1) Miriam and Aaron Hum. 12:1-2, 8-11.
 - (2) Korah, Dathan, Abiram Numbers 16, Jude 11.
 - c. Enmity Eph. 2:15-16.
 - d. Lust 1 Cor. 6:9-11, Eph. 2:1-8.
- C. As a hammer Jer. 23:29.
 1. Irresistible.
 - a. Fire hardens clay, softens wax, consumes dross, purifies gold.
 - b. A hammer crushes rock - Jews hearts were pricked Acts 2:47. They had just heard a powerful sermon presented by Peter.
 - c. The unhumiliated heart is like granite. Requires a hammer.
 - (1) Jews were a stiff-necked people Acts 7:51-52.
- D. As food 1 Pet. 2:2.
 1. Milk for babes 1 Cor. 3:1-2, Heb. 5:11-12.
 - a. Some remain in the infantile state. 1 Pet. 2:2.
 - b. Too few become men in understanding 1 Cor. 14:20, Eph. 5:17.
 2. Meat is for men of full age Heb. 5:12-13, Isa. 55:1-2, Jno. 6:51.
- E. As a mirror Jas. 1:22-24.
 1. Shows me myself as God and others see me.
 - a. Weaknesses, faults, selfishness. inconsistencies.
 - b. How often do you look in this mirror? What do you see?
 2. Like a photograph, it shows you as you are.
 - a. This mirror shows the soul just as it is.
 - b. Would you buy an extra dozen pictures of your soul for friends?
- P. As a lamp Psa. 119:105.
 1. Like a hurricane lamp, can't be blown out Mt. 24:35.
 - a. Infidels try to blow it out - but it still shines.
 2. A beacon lamp - A lighthouse on sea of time. "Brightly Beams..."
 3. A signal lamp - Red, "Stop"; green, "Go"; amber, "Caution".
 4. Worker's lamp.
 - a. Shows us work to do Jno. 4:34-35:
 - b. Tells us how to do it Eph. 3:21.

THINGS BEYOND COMPARE

Psa. 89:6

INTRODUCTION: It is both natural and necessary for us to make comparisons. It is necessary in the field of business, education and religion. But Paul condemns comparing ourselves among ourselves 2 Cor. 10:12. Rather we should compare ourselves with Christ Eph. 4:13: He is the standard of measurement. But there are some things beyond compare. It is more appropriate to contrast. Let us consider some things beyond compare - there is:

I. NO GOD LIKE JEHOVAH Psa. 89:6.

- A. In power Psa. 62:11, Gen. 1, Psa. 35:9, Psa. 8, 19.
 - 1. Other gods are powerless 1 Kgs. 18:26-28.
- B. In wisdom Rom. 11:33 - Consider evidence of His wisdom.
- C. Love Jno. 3:16, Eph. 3:17-19.
- D. Goodness Rom. 2:4 - Give examples - Phil. 4:19:
- E. Wrath Rom. 11:32, 2 Thess. 1:7-9, Rev. 20:12-15.

II. NO BOOK IS LIKE THE BIBLE.

- A. Only inspired Book 1 Cor. 2:9-13, 2 Thess. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:21.
- B. Indestructible Mt. 24:35, 1 Pet. 1:22-25. Men have tried it, but failed.
- C. Only Book that tells us of our origin, duty and destiny.
- D. Unity of design - Christ central Person; redemption, central theme.
- E. Thoroughness 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:3, Col. 2:9-10.

III. NO LIFE LIKE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

- A. A regenerated life Jno. 3:3-5, Rom. 6:4, 2 Cor. 5:17.
- B. An influential life Rom. 14:7-8, Mt. 5:13-16.
- C. A more abundant life Jno. 5:24, 1 Jno. 5:11-12.
- D. A life of non-conformity Rom. 12:2.
- E. A consecrated life Phil. 3:7-8, Rom. 12:1, Gal. 2:20.
- P. A happy life Mt. 5:1-12, Phil. 4:4, 1 Thess. 5:16.

IV. NO PLACE IS LIKE HEAVEN.

- A. Much beauty upon earth.
 - 1. Each season has its peculiar beauty - describe.
 - 2. Here, all things are perishable.
 - 3. Men have ruined much of its beauty.
 - 4. Sin, greed, and crime have marred it - "Ichabod" - Glory has departed.
- B. Heaven is a place of:
 - 1. Unimaginable beauty Isa. 35:8-10, 1 Pet. 1:3-5:
 - 2. Fellowship with God Rev. 21:1-5.
 - a. New Rev. 21:1, 2 Pet. 3:10-13.
 - b. No more sea - nothing to divide, or separate.
 - c. A prepared place Rev. 21:2, Jno. 14:1-3.
 - d. Tabernacle - dwell with God eternally.
 - e. Former things have passed away.
 - 3. Protection Rev. 21:9-26.
 - a. A great wall v. 12.
 - b. Twelve gates - abundant entrance 2 Pet. 1:11.
 - (1) Only the prepared can enter Mt. 7:21-23.
 - c. Names of twelve tribes - Only the spiritual can enter.
 - d. Foursquare - Room for all.
 - 4. Provision Rev. 22:1-5.
 - a. River of life - life from God.
 - b. No curse because of sin.
 - c. No night, no sorrow, no tears.

MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MYSELF

Pro. 9:12

INTRODUCTION. Most Christians know and feel they have a responsibility to God, Christ, the church, their companions, their children, the State and the government. But the Scriptures also make it plain that we have a responsibility to ourselves. Just what is it?

I. MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MYSELF - I. SHOULD;

- A. Discover myself.
 - 1. Many fail in life because they have never found themselves.
 - a. Discover strengths, weaknesses, interests, abilities.
 - b. How and where to best utilize those qualities.
- B. Know myself.
 - 1. Know my own heart Jer. 17:9. Some do not 2 Kgs. 8:7-12, Mt. 26:31-35.
 - 2. Know my weaknesses and strengths.
 - 3. We won't until tested Deut. 8:1-3, 1 Cor. 10:12, Gen. 22, 1 Pet. 1:3-7.
 - 4. Christians have an inner source of strength Gal. 2:20.
- C. Accept myself. Phil. 4:11-13.
- D. Control myself - 1 Cor. 9:24-27.
 - 1. My thoughts 2 Cor. 10:4, Pro. 4:23, 23:7.
 - 2. My tongue Jas. 3:1-12. Before repeating a story, ask yourself:
 - a. Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?
 - 3. My temper Pro. 16:32, Rom. 6:12.
 - 4. My actions Col. 3:5-6, Tit. 2:10.
 - a. They speak louder than words.
 - b. I can't hear what you say because what you do deafens me.
 - c. We are known by our fruits Mt. 7:16.
 - 5. My influence Rom. 14:7-8, 15.
 - a. Drop pebble in pond, ripples go out in all directions.
 - b. May be for evil 1 Cor. 8:10.
 - c. Or for good Mt. 5:13, 1 Cor. 7:16, 2 Cor. 9:2, 1 Th. 1:8, Heb. 11:4.
 - d. What is the gospel "according to you?"
- E. Examine myself 2 Cor. 13:5.
 - 1. "Whether I be in the faith."
 - a. Do I know what "the faith" is?
 - b. Can I defend it? 1 Pet. 3:15.
 - c. Do I know what the church is? Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18.
 - d. Can I distinguish things that differ? Phil. 1:10.
 - e. Am I a separatist 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
 - f. Am I a non-conformist Rom. 12:2.
 - g. Am I selfish? Phil. 2:19-21.
 - h. Am I my brother's keeper? Gen. 4:9.
 - i. Am I deceiving myself? Gal. 6:3, Jas. 1:22, 26, 1 Jno. 1:8.
- F. Respect myself.
 - 1. Dangerous to lose self—respect.
 - 2. Prodigal almost lost his Lk. 15:17:
- G. Love myself enough to save myself Acts 2:40.
 - 1. Christ saves Heb. 7:25.
 - 2. Gospel saves Rom. 1:16.
 - 3. But we must work out our salvation Phil. 2:12 — By:
 - a. Obeying the gospel Mt. 7:21.
 - b. Accepting Christ Mt. 11:28-30.
 - c. Being faithful and zealous 1 Cor. 15:58, Phil. 2:12.
- H. Improve myself - Plenty of room.
 - 1. Paul kept pressing on Phil. 3:13-14.
 - 2. Strive for perfection Mt. 5:48.

A WISE MAN'S ADVICE
Prov. 23:25

INTRODUCTION: We think of Solomon as the wise man of Israel. God told him to ask what he would and it would be given him. What an opportunity! What would you ask? Instead of asking for riches, power or a long life, he asked for wisdom. Because of this choice God gave him all three 1 Kgs. 5:5-15. In subsequent years Solomon did not act so wise, but he gave some wise advice in our text. We would be wise if we would consider:

I. THE COMMODITY REFERRED TO - "THE TRUTH."

A. Nothing more valuable.

1. It will make you free Jno. 8:31-32.
 - a. Prom bondage to Satan Rom. 1:28-32, 3:10-18.
 - b. Prom the misery and tyranny of sin Rom. 6:17-18.
2. Will keep you safe 2 Tim. 1:12, Isa. 26:3, 41:10.
3. Only valuable things are counterfeited.
 - a. Hence men have counterfeited truth Phil. 1:8-11.
 - b. Beware of substitutes.
 - c. Must know the genuine to detect the counterfeit.
 - d. Approve things that are excellent, distinguish things that differ.
 - e. Do you know the truth Eph. 5:17: well enough to detect counterfeit?
4. Religion is valuable, hence subject to counterfeit.

B. Some counterfeit religions. Some have "sold" the truth.

1. Teach universal salvation Mt. 7:21, Rev. 22:14, Psa. 9:17:
2. Salvation by grace Eph. 2:8 - Two sides to salvation:
 - a. By grace God offers salvation - but
 - b. By faith man must accept salvation Mt. 11:28-30, Rev. 22:17.
3. Peelings as evidence of pardon. "Know I'm saved because I feel good."
 - a. Rather, we feel good because we are saved.
 - b. Repentance looks forward.
 - c. Pardon deals with the past. Only God can pardon. It is conditional.
4. Spiritual life without new birth Jno. 3:5-5.
 - a. Begotten by Spirit Jas. 1:18, 1 Pet. 1:22-23.
 - b. Born of water Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12.
5. Reward without labor Heb. 4:9-H, 1 Cor. 15:58.
6. No punishment Mt. 25:46, 2 Thess. 1:7-9: Heb. 10:28-29.

II. THE PURCHASE - "BUY".

A. Strictly speaking, the truth cannot be bought. It is not for sale,

1. Involves a change of values, e.g., Barter.
2. Esau got cheated Heb. 12:16.
3. The purchase price.
 - a. Must give up sin and error. Price too great for some.
 - b. No price is set, for no price is too great.
 - c. Give up time, effort, friends, pleasures Mt. 19:29.
 - d. Only truth can make you free Jno. 8:31-32.

III. THE PROHIBITION - "SELL IT NOT".

- A. Some sell it for livelihood Rom. 16:17-18.
 1. Many preachers are guilty. 1 Tim. 4:1-2, 2 Jno. 10.
- B. Some sell for prosperity Jno. 12:42-43, 2 Tim. 4:5-4.
- C. Some for a mess of pottage Heb. 12:15-16.

CONCLUSION: Solomon was wise and his advice was excellent, but his life was not consistent. He did not follow his own advice. Any man who has 700 wives and 300 concubines is no longer wise. He sold out. He realized his mistake before his death Ecc. 2:1-11. Let us profit by his advice and avoid his example.

GOD'S EXPECTATION FROM HIS VINEYARD

Isa. 5:1-2

INTRODUCTION: Israel, God's chosen people in the Old Testament, were a type of the church in many ways. In our text the prophet reminds Israel of what God had done for them, reminds them of their failure and the punishment that would result. While this refers to temporal Israel we would do well to note that God has done even more for spiritual Israel, therefore He has a right to expect more from us than He expected from them.

I. IN TEES CONNECTION LET US CONSIDER THREE THINGS;

A. The nature of the plant.

1. "Choicest vine".

a. Human beings, made in God's image. Gen. 1:26-27.

(1) In their case, physically; in our case, spiritually.

(2) Power to reason, think, believe, know, love, hate, choose, judge, work, achieve, serve, enjoy, appreciate.

b. Christianized human beings Jno. 3:3-5:

(1) Dross of sin has been purged Isa. 1:18.

(2) Hearts purified 1 Pet. 1:22, 2 Cor. 5:17:

B. The situation of the plant.

1. A fruitful hill - not in rocky soil, plenty of food Jno. 6:51:

a. Redeemed 1 Pet. 1:18-19; reconciled 2 Cor. 5:18; forgiven Eph. 1:7; translated Col. 1:15.

b. Christ as our leader Heb. 2:10.

(1) A friend to all Jno. 15:15.

(2) A wonderful counsellor Isa. 9:6.

c. The church as our refuge.

(1) Hope for the hopeless Heb. 6:19.

(2) Association for the lonely.

(3) Work for the zealous 1 Cor. 15:58.

(4) A cause to defend Phil. 1:16-17.

C. The attention and care bestowed.

1. Fenced, built tower, wine press. Had right to expect something.

II. THE NATURE OF HIS EXPECTATION.

A. He looked for grapes Mt. 7:19, Jno. 15:1-2.

1. Fruit of holiness Gal. 5:22-25.

a. Christ died to this end Tit. 2:14.

b. Gospel calls us to holiness Tit. 2:12, Heb. 12:4, Col. 5:1-8.

III. THE EXTENT OF HIS EXPECTATION - HE EXPECTS IT TO BE:

A. Seasonable as to time.

1. In prosperity - gratitude

4. In adversity - contentment.

2. In affliction - patience, Job. 5. In darkness - trust, hope.

3. In provocation - meekness.

B. Good in quality.

1. Not lip fruit, but heart fruit Mt. 15:9, 1 Jno. 3:18.

C. Proportionate in quantity. In proportion to:

1. Talents He lends Mt. 25:14.

2. Means bestowed - think what God has done for us.

3. Opportunities possessed Mt. 11:21-24, Lk. 12:47-48.

D. Increasing in amount.

1. Grow in grace 2 Pet. 3:18, Heb. 6:1-2.

E. Enduring in nature. - Must endure:

1. The heat of prosperity Deut. 32:15.

2. The frost of affliction - Job.

3. The storms of opposition - Paul 2 Cor. 11:24-28.

GODS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH HIS VINEYARD

Isa. 5:1-7

INTRODUCTION: We have found that God had good reason for expecting grapes from His vineyard. But, behold, it brought forth wild grapes. Show how this applied to Israel. In too many cases it applies equally well to spiritual Israel. All too often spiritual Israel brings forth wild grapes. Let us consider;

I. THE GROUNDS OF HIS DISAPPOINTMENT.

A. Powers perverted.

1. Understanding in darkness Eph. 4:17-18.
 - a. We have great opportunities for knowledge.
 - b. Yet there is much ignorance in the church.
 - (1) Unable to give reason for our hope 1 Pet. 3:15.
 - (2) Carried about, as children Eph. 4:14:
 - c. Dangerous Hos. 4:6 - Hence Eph. 4:12-13, Col. 1:9-10.
 - d. Is your knowledge what God expects Heb. 5:12-14.
2. Conscience defiled Eph. 4:18.
 - a. Seared past feeling - traffic is in danger when lights fail to function - same is true with christians 1 Tim. 4:2.
3. Affections alienated.
 - a. Placed on idols 1 Jno. 2:15-17, Col. 3:1.
 - b. God is jealous Ex. 20:3-5.
4. Time wasted.
 - a. Paul says "redeem the time", buy up opportunities.
 - b. Think! How do you use your time? All have the same amount.
5. Talents prostituted Mt. 25:14:
 - a. Are you hiding your talent?

B. Is God disappointed with us?

1. Individually - He looks for:
 - a. Lip fruit.
 - (1) Prayer, praise - but behold foolish talking, levity, vulgarity, profanity, Mt. 12:34-37: Col. 4:6.
 - (2) Do you ever speak a word for Jesus?
 - b. Heart fruit "Love, joy, peace" - Gal. 5:22-23.
 - (1) Holy meditation.
2. Collectively -
 - a. To the church.
 - (1) To support the truth 1 Tim. 3:14-15.
 - (2) To hold forth the word of life Phil. 2:16.
 - (3) To defend the faith Phil. 1:15-17.

II. THE EFFECTS OF HIS DISAPPOINTMENT.

A. Protection withdrawn.

1. "Hedge removed".
 - a. Conscience allowed to slumber.
 - (1) God hardened Pharaoh's heart by withholding the influences that would soften it.
 - (2) May send strong delusion 2 Thess. 2:11. Because they received the love of the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

B. Privileges removed — not pruned nor digged.

1. Candlestick removed Rev. 2:5.

C. Judgment threatened.

1. Trodden down". No rain.
 - a. God punished the Jews with captivity.
 - b. Let us beware Heb. 10:28-29.

EXCELLENT THINGS GOD HAS DONE

Isa. 12:5

INTRODUCTION: The wonderful prophecy of Isaiah 12 has a twofold bearing, First, it applies to Israel after their return from captivity. Second, to the time of Christ. The salvation of verse 2 is twofold. First, salvation from state of captivity; second, to salvation from sin as offered in Christ. The "living water" of verse 5 refers to the living truth by which all may quench their thirst for salvation. We should all be made to rejoice v. 5, because of the "excellent things" God has done. Let us notice a few excellent things God has done;

- I. HE CREATED THE UNIVERSE Gen. 1:1.
 - A. Out of nothing - Man can invent; only God can create.
 - B. Extent unknown and unknowable.
 1. Hew galaxy recently discovered - Scientist say 18 billion light years from earth. Equals 18 billion x 60 x 60 x 24 x 365 x 186,000.
 2. Like eternity it seems to have no bounds Acts 17:26.
 3. Required great wisdom Rom. 11:33.
 4. Evidence of great power Ps. 62:11, Mt. 28:18.
 5. Earth is habitable - soil, seasons Gen. 1:29.
- II. HE CREATED MAN.
 - A. Prom dust Gen. 2:7 - with body, soul and spirit Gen. 2:7, 1 Thess. 5:23.
 1. God is a Spirit Jno. 4:24 - He has no body.
 - a. Hence, in His moral and spiritual likeness Col. 3:10.
 - B. A free moral agent - able to understand and to choose Josh 24:15.
 - C. He has a conscience - a goad, not a guide 1 Tim. 4:2.
 - D. Unlimited opportunities Gen. 1:28, Lk. 12:47-48, Gal. 6:10.
- III. HE REDEEMED MAN FROM HIS LOST CONDITION.
 - A. Paradise lost Gen. 3:22-24, Eph. 2:11-12.
 1. Gave a plan adapted to all Jno. 3:16, 2 Pet. 1:3, Rev. 22:17.
 - a. Plan contains: facts, promises and threats, and commands.
 - (1) With intellect, believe facts 1 Cor. 15:1-4:
 - (2) With sensibilities, appreciate promises, fear threats.
 - (3) With will, obey commands: believe, repent, confess, baptized.
 - B. A Savior to redeem 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
 1. A body must be prepared Heb. 10:5, Lk. 1:27-33, Mt. 1:18-21.
 2. He could sympathize with man Heb. 2:17-18.
 3. His sacrifice was for all Isa. 53:4-6, Mt. 11:28-30.
 4. Only His blood could atone Heb. 9:13-14, 10:1-4.
 5. Both human and divine, hence could reconcile 2 Cor. 5:18-19:
- IV. HE GAVE US A WONDERFUL BOOK.
 - A. Inspired 2 Tim. 3:16-18, 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - B. Most popular Book in the world. Tells us:
 1. How to become a Christian Heb. 11:6, Acts 3:19, Rom. 10:9-10, Acts 2:38.
 2. How to live a Christian life Mt. 16:24, Eph. 5:17, Rev. 2:10.
 - C. Confutes false doctrine Mt. 15:13, 2 Jno. 9.
 - D. Points way to heaven Rev. 21:1-4, 22:1-4.
- V. HE GAVE US AN EXCELLENT. DIVINE INSTITUTION.
 - A. Purchase price Mt. 20:28.
 - B. An excellent King Jno. 18:36.
 - C. It is the body of Christ Col. 1:18, Eph. 4:1-6, Jno. 17:21-23.
 1. Must come into Christ Gal. 3:27.
 2. Must abide in Christ Jno. 15:4.

"WATCHMAN, WHAT OF THE NIGHT?"

Isa. 21:11

INTRODUCTION: Our text is a solemn warning which God gave to Dumah, a region in Arabia at that time, through Isaiah, the watchman. Night signifies adversity which threatened Arabia by enemies occupying their land. They had good reason to be concerned. This is a good question. It should give us great concern. We would do well to ask ourselves this same question:

I. WATCHMAN. WHAT OF THE NIGHT?

- A. For our nation Rom. 13:1.
 1. God has always warned His people of impending doom.
 - a. He warned Noah Gen. 6, Lot Gen. 19:12-13.
 - b. He warned Jerusalem Ezek. 9:1-7.
 - (1) House of the Lord had been defiled by idolatry.
 - c. Repeatedly warned Israel by the prophets.
 - d. Warns world today through the gospel 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
 2. Termites are working on foundation of America.
 - a. Without: threatened by atheistic Communism.
 - b. Within: threatened by:
 - (1) Decay of a once great educational system.
 - (a) Curriculum has been watered down.
 - (b) Students graduate without education.
 - (c) Many can't spell or write a correct sentence.
 - (d) Discipline has been ruled out.
 - (e) Teachers take their lives in their own hands.
 - (2) Patriotism has become a "dirty word".
 - (3) Rebellion, disrespect for law, the flag - many riots.
 - (4) Courts protect criminals, ignore good citizens.
 - (5) Salacious literature, pornography, drugs abound.
 - (6) TV mostly too rotten and degrading to watch.
 - (7) Statesmen have become mere politicians.
 3. Watchmen, citizens, What of the night?
- B. For the home? First divine institution.
 1. Declining in influence for good.
 - a. Permissive psychology - hands off.
 - b. Lack of discipline - like Eli 1 Sam. 3:13:
 - c. "We must discipline ourselves and our children, or others, more vicious and tyrannical some day will."
 - d. "Put father back as the head of the house." - Judge Leibowitz.
 - e. E.R.A. and I.Y.C. will destroy the home if not checked.
 2. Suffering from lack of spiritual influence Mt. 13:25.
 3. Parents, What of the night?
- C. For the church? - Second divine institution.
 1. Its problems:
 - a. Indifference Amos 6:1, Rev. 3:15-16.
 - b. Hypocrisy - like Jews Mt. 23.
 - c. Worldliness Lk. 8:14, 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
 - d. False doctrine Mt. 7:15, Acts 20:28-30, 1 Tim. 4:1-2.
 - e. Disrespect for the Word 2 Jno. 9, 2 Tim. 4:3-4.
 - (1) New unity cult — Unity in diversity.
 - (2) New Calvinism - saved by grace.
 - (3) Liberalism - "No pattern." (?)
 - (4) Social gospel - Just care for the body - Provide:
 - (a) Fun, food, frolic, fellowship (?) recreation, entertain.
 - (b) Soft peddle the truth.
 2. Elders, preachers, Christians, **What of the night?**

THE REJECTED CHRIST

Isa. 53:3

INTRODUCTIONS Our text is found in one of the most "beautiful, yet one of the most touching and tragic chapters in the Bible. It describes most poignantly what Jesus did for lost and sinful men. No one has walked on earth who was more unappreciated nor misunderstood. One of the saddest statements — "He was despised and rejected of men.." Please read in this connection Jno. 1:11, Acts 7:51-52. Remember that:

I. MEN REJECT CHRIST WHEN THEY REJECT:

- A. His name Acts 4:11-12, Phil. 2:8-9, 1 Pet. 4:14.
 - 1. Lord - ruler; Jesus - Savior, Christ - anointed.
 - 2. Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 - 3. Yet human names are preferred by some — but note Col. 1:18, Acts 4:11-12.
- B. His authority - "Right to exercise power."
 - 1. God delegated authority to Christ Mt. 28:18.
 - 2. Christ delegated authority to the apostles Jno. 16:15, Mt. 16:19.
 - 3. By this power they wrote the Word 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - 4. Our authority found only in the Word Isa. 8:20, Rom. 1:16, Heb. 4:12.
 - 5. You can establish authority only by:
 - a. Direct command e.g., Acts 2:38.
 - b. Approved apostolic example e.g., Acts 20:7:
 - c. Necessary inference e.g., Time and frequency of the Lord's Supper Acts 20:7, Ex. 20:8, Num. 15:32-56, Heb. 10:25.
 - 6. Silence does not give consent Heb. 7:14, 1 Pet. 4:11:
 - 7. When you substitute creeds or a pope, you reject Christ.
 - 8. Distinguish between an expedient and an addition 1 Cor. 6:12.
- C. His church Mt. 16:18 "My church".
 - 1. He died for it.
 - 2. He bought and paid for it Acts 20:28.
 - 3. He is the head of it Col. 1:18, Eph. 2:21-22.
 - a. One Head, many bodies - a monstrosity.
 - 4. He plead for unity Jno. 17:20-21.
 - 5. Paul said there was but one Col. 1:18, Eph. 4:1-6, Seven planks:
 - a. One God - Unity of worship.
 - b. One Lord - Unity of authority.
 - c. One Spirit - Unity of revelation.
 - d. One baptism - One practice.
 - e. One body - Unity of organization.
 - f. One faith - Unity of doctrine.
 - g. One hope - Unity of aim or aspiration.
- D. His doctrine or gospel.
 - 1. Paul was not ashamed of it Rom. 1:16.
 - 2. Some seek to stream line it - make it suit their doctrine.
 - 3. Some pervert it Gal. 1:6-9, 2 Tim. 4:1-6, Mt. 15:8-9, 2 Pet. 5:16.
 - 4. We dare not change it Isa. 8:20, 1 Pet. 4:11, Rev. 22:18-19.
- E. His plan of worship Acts 2:42, Jno. 4:23-24.
 - 1. Met on Lord's day Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16:1-2, Heb. 10:25.
 - 2. Worship - simple, reverent Acts 2:42, Rev. 1:10.
 - a. No ritualism nor formalism 2 Tim. 3:5 condemns it.
 - 3. Special days condemned Gal. 4:10. E.g., Easter, Lent, Christmas.
- F. God's plan of work Eph. 4:12.
 - 1. Evangelism, benevolence, edification.
 - a. Who does it? The church Eph. 3:10 - Not a human institution.
 - b. How done? By the church Eph. 5:21.

CONCLUSION: Many devout, sincere people have rejected the name, authority, church, doctrine, worship, and God's plan of work - they have rejected Christ. Have YOU?

BROKEN CISTERNS

Jer. 2:15

INTRODUCTION: Apparently men have never been willing to believe what God said through Isaiah, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways." 55:9. They seem to think they can devise a better plan of salvation than the Lord. This was always true of Israel as indicated by our text. Both temporal and spiritual Israel have committed two evils - they:

I. FORSOOK THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS.

- A. Temporal Israel - God was the ever flowing fountain:
 1. Founder of the nation - Abraham Gen. 12:1—4 - Isaac, Jacob.
 2. Providential care - Joseph Gen. Chs. 37- 47? Moses Ex. 2.
 3. Deliverance of Israel Ex. chs. 3-12.
 4. Provided guidance, food, water, protection en-route to Canaan.
 5. Crossing Jordan Josh. 6. Conquest of Canaan — Joshua.
- B. Hewed out cisterns - Contrast fountains and cisterns.
 1. Demanded a king 1 Sam. 8:1-10 - Forsook God.
 2. Worshiped idols Ex. 20:1-3, 1 Kgs. 12:25-33-
 3. Proved to be broken cisterns 1 Kgs. 18.

II. SPIRITUAL ISRAEL EQUALLY FOOLISH.

- A. God was truly an overflowing fountain to them.
 1. Christ, the means of salvation Jno. 4: 13-14, Phil. 2:5-8, Rom. 5:5-8.
 2. Gospel, the message of salvation Rom. 1:16, 1 Cor. 15:1-3: Mk. 16:15-16.
 3. Church, the medium of salvation Gal. 5:27-29, Eph. 5:25-27.
 4. Streams of blessing flowing from the fountain:
 - a. Forgiveness Acts 2:38, 8:22.
 - b. Redemption Eph. 1:7: 1 Jno. 1:7.
 - c. Peace Jno. 14:27, Phil. 4:7.
 - d. Hope Heb. 6:19.
 - e. Heirs of God Rom. 8:16-17, 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
- B. Spiritual Israel imitated temporal Israel - Hewed out cisterns.
 1. Worship idols:
 - a. Money - virtue and honor sacrificed to idol of money.
 - b. Pleasure - Lk. 8:14, 1 Tim. 5:6 - sacrifice hope to this god.
 - c. Popularity Col. 3:22 - Truth is sacrificed to god of popularity.
 - d. These broken cisterns hold no water Eccl. 2:1-11.
 2. Prefer commandments of men Mt. 15:7-9.
 - a. Lectures, book reviews substituted for doctrine,
 - (1) But note 1 Tim. 4:16, 2 Jno. 9.
 - b. Begging and bingo for giving 1 Cor. 16:1-2.
 - c. Entertainment for worship - to get crowds.
 - d. Play instead of study - craft work.
 - e. Human institutions instead of church in doing work of:
 - (1) Benevolence.
 - (2) Edification.
 - (3) Evangelism.

CONCLUSION:

1. Temporal Israel was punished with apostasy and captivity.
2. God will punish all who forsake Him Rev. 22:18-19.
3. Every plant He has not planted shall be rooted up Mt. 15:13.
4. Let us drink from the fountains and avoid the cisterns.
5. The fountain still flows for all who will come Isa. 55:1-2, Rev. 22:17.

WHY ARE YOU NOT SAVED?

Jer. 8:20

INTRODUCTION; The prophets of the Old Testament were men of God which He raised up to preach to the people of Israel and Judah, to plead with them to forsake idols and serve God. In this chapter he is warning them of impending doom unless they repent and reform - Jerusalem will be destroyed. They refused; the opportunity is past, hence the cry of despair in our text. Unfortunately, there are millions like that today. They hear but refuse to heed the warnings of the gospel. At the judgment some may make the same lament: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved." How sad! Procrastination is the thief of time. May we ask you a personal question? Now, be honest in your answer - The great question -

I. WHY ARE YOU NOT SAVED?

A. Is God responsible?

1. He is not willing that any should perish 2 Pet. 3:9.
2. He wants all to be saved 1 Tim. 2:5-4.
3. He gave His Son as our Savior Jno. 3:16-17.
4. Gave specific directions how to be saved 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 - a. From past sins: Heb. 11:6, Acts 16:31, 2:38, 3:19, Rom. 10:9-10, Gal. 3:27-29, Acts 22:16, Rom. 6:4, Mk. 16:15-16.
 - b. From sins committed by erring Christians Acts 8:22, 2 Pet. 1:5-11, 2 Cor. 6:17-18, Gal. 5:22-24, 2 Tim. 4:2-8.

B. Is Christ responsible?

1. He has invited all to come to him Mt. 11:28-29.
2. Came to seek and save the lost Lk. 19:10.
3. He is the propitiation for our sins 1 Jno. 2:1-2.
4. Our stripes are laid upon him Isa. 53:4-6.
5. We have access to God through him as our High Priest Heb. 4:14-16.

C. Is the Holy Spirit responsible?

1. He leads us to become sons Rom. 8:14.
2. He guided the apostles into all truth Jno. 16:13.
3. Apostles wrote the Scriptures by His guidance 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
4. Invites all to come Rev. 22:17:

D. Are the angels responsible?

1. They rejoice when sinners repent Lk. 15:7-10.
2. They guard little children Mt. 18:10.
3. They are ministering spirits Heb. 1:14.

E. Are the apostles to blame?

1. They are ambassadors 2 Cor. 5:20.
2. They gave their lives.
3. They wrote the New Testament.

F. Is it the fault of the Gospel?

1. It is God's power to save Rom. 1:16.
2. It frees from sin Rom. 6:17-18.
3. It is able to save Jas. 1:21.
4. It is able to build you up Acts 20:32.
5. It has saved millions who heard, believed and obeyed it.

G. Are YOU responsible?

1. You are mentally capable. If not, you are not responsible.
2. You have heard.
3. Do you give heed Heb. 2:1-2.
4. Are you like the Jews? Mt. 23:37.
5. Are you prejudiced? Mt. 13:15.
6. Are you procrastinating? Acts 24:25.
7. Are you almost persuaded? Acts 26:28.
8. What will your answer be at the judgment? Excuses will not be accepted.

WALLS DAUBED WITH UNTEMPERED MORTAR

Ezek. 13:10-16

INTRODUCTION: Israel of old was frequently infested with lying prophets who flattered the people, in the midst of their sin and danger, with false hopes of peace and safety. Ezekiel here beautifully compares the work of these deceivers to a frail and insufficient piece of building which can never stand against the battering elements of heaven. This reminds us of some false teachers in spiritual Israel today. 2 Pet. 2:1-3. Let us consider:

I. SOME POINTS OF LIKENESS.

- A. Many build walls of commandments and doctrines of men Mt. 15:7-9.
 1. Insecure because:
 - a. Not built upon rock of truth Mt. 16:18, 1 Cor. 3:11, Eph. 2:20-22.
 - b. Mortar mixed with commandments of men Mt. 7:15, Acts 20:28-30, Gal. 1:6-9, 1 Tim. 4:13.
 2. Daubed with untempered mortar.
 - a. Religious error - fails to meet specifications of Contractor.
 - b. Theories and isms of men mixed with some truth.
 3. Such walls cannot withstand the test of truth Jno. 16:13, 1 Jno. 4:6.
 - a. Unscriptural plants rooted up Mt. 15:13:

II. SOME WALLS DAUBED WITH UNTEMPERED MORTAR.

- A. Morality will save.
 1. Cornelius was good morally but not safe Acts 10:1-4.
 2. Makes death of Christ in vain. 1 Cor. 15:14:
 3. Makes church unnecessary, but note Eph. 5:23:
- B. Only believe and you shall be saved.
 1. Thief on the cross often referred to Lk. 23:43:
 - a. Christ's will not yet sealed with His blood at that time.
 2. Not saved by works of the law of Moses Rom. 4:3-5.
 3. But faith without works (Christian works) is dead Jas. 2:14-26.
- C. No place of punishment.
 1. Purgatory - priest can pray you out. No such teaching in Scripture.
 2. Second chance - rich man had no second chance Lk. 16:19-31:
 3. Christian Science - all punishment here - but note 2 Pet. 3:7.
 4. God is a God of mercy - True, but note Psa. 103:8-10, 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
 5. All such fail to consider:
 - a. God's dealing with Israel Heb. 3:15-19.
 - b. Note these Scriptures Rom. 11:22, 2 Thess. 1:7-9, Mt. 25:31- 46.
- D. Denominationalism.
 1. Begotten by apostasy and born of Reformation.
 2. They say:
 - a. We are all striving for same place - true, but note Mt. 6:21-23.
 - b. We can't all see alike - See Isa. 35:8.
 - c. Just so you are sincere - Pro. 14:12. Paul was sincere Acts 9:1-6.
 3. Compare this with Christ and Paul.
 - a. I will build MY church Mt. 18:18.
 - b. There is one body Eph. 4:4, Col. 1:18, 1 Cor. 12:13.
 - c. The body is the church Col. 1:18, Eph. 1:22, Jno. 17:20-21.
 - d. All speak the same thing 1 Cor. 1:10.
- E. We must modernize the church.
 1. Provide entertainment to get crowds.
 2. Discuss social and civic problems to appeal to modern people.
 3. Don't reprove lest you offend 2 Tim. 4:1-3:
 4. What saith the Scripture?
 - a. Preach the word 2 Tim. 4:1-2, 3:16-17, 1 Cor. 2:1-3, Rev. 22:18:18. Take heed how ye build.

HEART TRANSPLANTS

Ezek. 36:26

INTRODUCTION: For some time doctors have been giving heart transplants with varying degrees of success. God has always been able to give transplants with complete success, granting full cooperation of the patient. As in our text, the Bible most often uses the "heart" in a figurative sense, referring to the mind. This is a delicate operation, but is one all must experience. The Great Physician has made clear the necessity, the importance and the method used in heart transplants. Let us consider:

- I. THE NECESSITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HEART TRANSPLANTS.
 - A. The heart is evil Eccl. 9:3, Jer. 17:9, Mk. 7:21-23, Acts 8:21.
 - B. With the heart we:
 1. Think Pr. 23:7.
 2. Understand Mt. 13:15.
 3. Believe Acts 8:37.
 4. Desire Rom. 10:1.
 5. Trust Pro. 3:5.
 6. Love Mt. 22:37.
 7. Intend Heb. 4:12.
 8. Obey Rom. 6:17.
- II. THERE MUST BE A PATIENT IN NEED OF A NEW HEART Eph. 2:1-2.
 - A. Millions of bad hearts, spiritually.
 1. Fountain of evil Mt. 12:34-35.
 2. Sin, a fatal disease Jas. 1:15, Rom. 6:25, - Kinds of sin:
 - a. Transgression 1 Jno. 3:4:
 - b. Omission Jas. 4:17:
 - c. Presumption Psa. 19:17:
 3. Manifestations Rom. 1:28-32, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Col. 3:5-6.
 - B. Hence, great need for transplants Deut. 5:29i Rom. 12:2.
- III. THERE IS AN INTERESTED, CAPABLE PHYSICIAN Lk. 5:30-32.
 - A. God knows our serious condition and is concerned Gen. 6:5, Col. 2:1.
 - B. Not willing any should perish 2 Pet. 3:9.
 - C. Jesus came to diagnose and prescribe Jno. 3:17:
 1. He is eminently qualified - a specialist Jno. 1:1-3, 14.
 2. His cardiogram Jno. 2:25. If you prefer, an X-ray.
 3. His prescription Rom. 1:16-17, Acts 2:38.
- IV. THERE MUST BE A DONOR.
 - A. Christ died that we might live Jno. 10:11, 17-18, Isa. 53:4-7.
 - B. Describe the operation.
 1. Place - a hill near Jerusalem.
 2. Table - two crude timbers — crossed.
 3. Envision the scene: mob of spectators, wind, dust, flies.
 4. Anesthetic, none - imagine the suffering.
- V. THE RECIPIENT.
 - A. Must be willing to receive Rev. 3:20.
 - B. May have abundant life Jn. 10:10, 5:24:
 1. New life, courage, hope, peace, joy 2 Cor. 5:17: Rom. 6:4.
 - a. Peter denied Christ, yet later gave his life for Him.
 - b. Many have suffered martyrdom for Him.
 - c. Think of Paul before Acts 6:1-2, and after 2 Tim. 4:7-8.
- VI. ALWAYS POSSIBILITY OF REJECTION.
 - A. Jews rejected Him Jno. 1:11-12.
 - B. Atheists, infidels, backsliders Heb. 6:4-6.
 - C. Such rejection is fatal Rom. 6:23.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE SPIRIT

Zech. 4:6

INTRODUCTION: At the close of the captivity Zerubbabel led a group of Jews back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. He had become discouraged because of strong opposition by enemies. They left the work for twenty years to build their own homes. God sent Haggai and Zechariah back to encourage him to resume work on temple. In our text Zechariah reminds Zerubbabel that God's work is not accomplished by man's might, but by God's power which operates through the Spirit, Let us note that this has always been true,

I. TRUE IN GOD'S DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL:

- A. Deliverance of Israel,
 - 1. God's promise to Moses Ex. 3:19-20, 4:1-9 - Plagues.
 - 2. Crossing Red Sea Ex. 14:15-31 - Moses's rod, but God's power,
 - a. Ho army, navy, engineers, pontoon bridges.
- B. Capture of Jericho Josh. 6.
 - 1. No battering rams, artillery, bombs - but walls fell,
- C. Gideon's army Jud, 6 - 300 men, only pitchers, lamps, and trumpets.
- D. Zerubbabel stirred by same Spirit.

II. TRUE OF GOD'S DEALING WITH THE CHURCH.

- A. No armies like Cyrus, Alexander the Great, Caesar, Napoleon.
 - 1. Apostles were unlearned men Acts 4:13.
- B. Human power no part of God's plan Mt. 26:51-53: 2 Cor. 10:4.
 - 1. e.g., Fable of "Wind and Sun".
- C. God sent His Son Jno. 3:16-17.
 - 1. Meek, poor, from Nazareth Phil. 2:5-11, Heb. 5:8-9.
 - 2. Selected fishermen, not generals nor philosophers 1 Cor. 1:26.
 - 3. Sent the Spirit Jno. 14:26, 16:13, Lk. 24:49, 1 Cor. 2:4-5.
 - a. Miracle of creation preceded natural law, then seeds bring forth after their kind Gen. 1:24.
 - b. Miracle of revelation preceded spiritual law, now the Word is the seed Lk. 8:11, Rom. 1:16,
 - 4. Kingdom to stand Dan. 2:44, 7:14.
 - a. Earthly kingdoms decay - built on military foundation. When it crumbles, superstructure falls.
 - b. Christ's kingdom is built on a spiritual foundation,
 - (1) It can't be destroyed Dan. 2:44, Mt. 16:18, 2 Tim. 2:19.
 - c. Inspired men gave the word 2 Tim. 3: 16-17: 1 Cor. 2:9-10.
 - (1) Power is in the word Rom. 1:16, Heb. 4:12.
 - (2) Word can't be destroyed Mt. 24:35.

III. TRUE IN CONVERSION OF SINNERS.

- A. Spirit through the word has transforming power 2 Cor. 3:17-19, Rom. 6:17-
 - 1. Corinthians 1 Cor. 6:9-11 - What a change!
 - 2. Onesimus Philemon 10-16.
 - 3. Nations are civilized,
 - a. Word of God has always preceded civilization,
 - b. Beware of Communism - they are atheists - Note Russia,
 - 4. Homes -
 - a. Contrast pioneer homes with present homes. Have forgotten God.
 - 5: Individuals,
 - a. America is degenerating - consider our present crime wave.
- B. The Word and the church, the only solution 1 Pet. 1:22, Jno. 15:3:
 - Jno. 3:3-5, 2 Cor. 5:17, Mt. 5:13-16.
 - a. Think of our responsibility.

CONCLUSION: God's power is available, it operates through the Word, won't you accept it now?

THE GLORY OF MAN

INTRODUCTION: "The deer has beautiful horns, but its horns are not its glory; its glory is in its feet which helps it to glide swiftly out of danger. The eagle has feet, but its feet are not its glory; its glory is its wings, which enable it to soar to unknown heights. The canary has wings, but its wings are not its glory; its glory is its song with its unfinished symphonies. The peacock has a song, but its song is not its glory; its glory is its body which is so beautiful to behold. Man has a body, but his body is not his glory; his glory is his soul which is immortal."

I. FOR THE SOUL GOD HAS PROVIDED:

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. Direction Jer. 10:25. | E. Food Jno. 6:51, Mt. 4:4, Jno. 6:27. |
| B. Salvation Jno. 5:16, Lk. 19:10, Heb. 7:25. | P. Exercise 1 Tim. 4:8. |
| C. A goal Phil. 5:15-14. | G. Motivation Jno. 14:1-5. |
| D. Guidance Ps. 119:104-105, 150. | H. Anchorage Heb. 6:19. |
| | I. Rest Heb. 4:19. |

GOD'S MERCY

Ps. 105:8

I. EVIDENCE OF GOD'S MERCY:

- A. Permits death to remove us.
 - 1. When work is ended, sorrows come, afflictions befall. 2 Tim. 4:7-8, Phil. 1:21-25.
- B. Given us an opportunity to live.
 - 1. In a beautiful world - to see, hear, taste, feel, smell.
 - 2. Have a home - know its joys.
 - 5. To plan, work, sow, reap, dream, serve, to:
- C. Given us a Savior.
 - 1. Set an example Mt. 16:24.
 - 2. Teach Mt. 11:29.
 - 5. Suffer in our stead Isa. 55:4-6.
 - 4. Assure our resurrection 1 Cor. 15:51-57, Jno. 5:28-29.
- D. The church.
 - 1. A medium through which to work Phil. 2:12.
 - 2. In which to enjoy fellowship.
 - 5. Through which to glorify Him Mt. 5:16.
- E. The Bible.
 - 1. A lamp Ps. 119:105; a guide Jno. 16:15; food Mt. 4:4.
- P. The promise of a home with Him Jno. 14:1-5, Heb. 4:9, Rev. 22:14.

COMFORT FOR THE SORROWING

1 Thess. 4:15-14

I. GOD HAS NOT LEFT US IGNORANT:

- A. Concerning death itself.
 - 1. "Death is a messenger which no money can bribe; no power resist, no influence thwart, and no skill evade."
 - 2. A penalty for sin Rom. 5:12.
 - a. We suffer the penalty, but not the guilt of Adam's sin.
 - b. Teaches us the danger and folly of sin.
 - c. Prevents the cumulative effect of sin.
- B. Concerning the soul's destiny, 1 Thess. 5:25, Ecc. 12:7.
 - 1. It will be conscious Mt. 17:1-4;
 - 2. Enters a place prepared Lk. 16:19-51.
- C. Concerning the resurrection.
 - 1. Christ's resurrection assures ours Jno. 5:28-29, 1 Thess. 4:15-16.
 - 2. Will be a changed body 1 Cor. 15:51-56.

NUMBERING OUR DAYS

Psa. 90:12

I. GOOD ADVICE FOR ALL.

A. Our days are few Job 14:1-2, Jas. 4:15-14, 1 Pet. 1:23, 1 Sam. 20:3.

B. "Teach us:"

1. We need to be taught.
 - a. We know so little - so much to learn.
 - b. God is capable of teaching
 - c. We are capable of learning - man has intelligence.
2. To make the best of life while here.
 - a. Enjoy blessings gratefully; endure troubles manfully; improve opportunities wisely; discharge responsibilities capably.
3. To apply our hearts unto wisdom.
 - a. To make wise investments of time and strength.
 - b. Know values Phil. 1:9, Mt. 16:26.
4. This knowledge will:
 - a. Motivate more earnest effort -
 - (1) To please God; serve man; improve opportunities Mt. 6:19.
 - b. Make duties call imperative.
 - (1) Less likely to procrastinate Acts 24:25.
 - c. Cause us to select daily tasks wisely.
 - (1) Know what to do; what not to do.
 - d. Cause us to realize the value of time.

Yesterday's sun went down last night,
 And the sun of tomorrow is yet to rise;
 Only the sky of today is bright,
 Over the path where our journey lies.

We that would come to the goal at last
 Must wait not to dream beside the way;
 There is hope for the future and help from the past,
 But for work there is only today.

Yesterday's thread was used at eve,
 And the thread of tomorrow is not yet spun.
 Only today may our shuttle weave
 Strands of gold in the web begun.

Heed the lesson and hold it fast,
 Hold it and heed it along life's way;
 There is hope for the future and help from the past,
 But for work there is only today.

—Author unknown.

THE CHRISTIAN'S HEATH

- I. LIFE IS LIKE A SEA.
- A. Both have definite boundaries.
 - B. Both are narrow Job 14:1-2, Jas. 2:13-14, 1 Pet. 1:24.
 - C. A sea is beautiful - So is a Christian's life.
 - D. Both are changeable.
- II. DEATH IS NOT AN ENEMY. BUT A FRIEND TO A CHRISTIAN.
- A. The Bible pictures death as a friend.
 1. Precious in the sight of the Lord Ps. 116:15.
 2. Bible says little about death - deals with:
 - a. Life, its duties, responsibilities, destiny.
 - b. Eternity - its rewards and penalties.
 - c. The atonement. How to escape sin.
 3. Christians have no fear of death Phil. 1:21-24, 2 Tim. 4:7-8.
 4. Putting off of this tabernacle 2 Cor. 5:1-2, 2 Pet. 1:13-14, Rev. 14:13.
 5. Moving out of old home into the new.
 6. It is an abundant entrance 2 Pet. 1:11.
 7. It precedes a glorious reception Jno. 14:13.
 - a. Remember when the hostages came home.

TWO SEAS

I looked upon a sea, and lo! 'twas dead,
 Although by the stream of Jordan fed.
 How came this fate so dire - the tale's soon told;
 All that it got it kept and fast did hold.

O sea that's dead! Teach me to know and feel
 That selfish grasp and greed my doom will seal.
 And help me, Lord, my best myself to give,
 That I may others bless. and like Thee, live.

WHAT IS MAN PSA. 8

- I. MAN IS:
- A. The masterpiece of creation 1 Thess. 5:23.
 1. The last thing created. God saved the best to the last.
 2. Other things were material. Created for man.
 3. Man is spiritual - he has a soul and spirit.
 4. Fearfully and wonderfully made Ps. 139:14.
 - B. The object of God's love.
 1. Though disobedient, yet God loved him Rom. 3:23, 5:12, Jno. 3:16.
 2. Proved His love by His mindfulness.
 - a. Wonderful world in which to live.
 - b. Gave: His Son; His word to guide; the church as our refuge.
 - C. The purpose of His infinite sacrifice.
 1. Lamb slain from foundation of the world Isa. 53:4-6.
 - D. The treasure for which He will return.
 1. He has gone to prepare a place Jno. 14:1-3.
 2. He will return Jno. 5:28-29, 1 Thess. 4:16-17.
 - E. The heir of His promise.
 1. He has promised heaven 1 Pet. 1:3-4.
 2. To inherit we must be an heir; to be an heir we must be a child Rom. 8:16-17.

A FATHER'S THOUGHTS

2 Sam. 12:15-23

I. THREE THINGS ABOUT DAVID.

- A. David's action.
 - 1. Before the child's death he prayed.
 - 2. After child's death - returned to normal life.
 - a. Prayer was his duty and consolation before.
 - b. Submission to God's will was his duty now.
 - c. Only time can heal the wound.
- B. David's reasoning.
 - 1. 2 Sam. 12:22-23 - Reveals:
- C. David's belief in:
 - 1. The unreturnableness of the dead.
 - a. No return to discharge neglected duties. No second chance.
 - b. Nor to recover lost opportunities.
 - c. Hence -
 - (1) Foolish to set our hearts upon it.
 - (2) Important to finish our work while here.
 - 2. The certainty of his own dissolution.
 - a. Death reigned from Adam to Hoses Rom. 5:14.
 - b. Certainty is universally admitted Heb. 9:27.
 - 3. Reunion after death. The reunion of Christians and children.
 - a. A spiritual reunion 1 Thess. 4:14-18.
 - b. A conscious reunion.
 - c. A happy reunion.
 - d. A child is safe Mt. 19:14.

DEATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Num. 23:10

INTRODUCTION: Death is a fact none can deny; a mystery none can explain; an event none can avoid; a time none can determine. Heb. 9:27:

I. THE DEATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS:

- A. Precious Psa. 116:15 -
 - 1. Obviously it is not the end of our existence.
- B. Blessed Rev. 14:13.
 - 1. Must live in the Lord to die in the Lord.
 - 2. Belong to the Lord in life and in death Rom. 14:8.
 - 3. Labor is not in vain in the Lord 1 Cor. 15:58.
- C. Gain.
 - 1. Life has constant losses, but to a Christian death is all gain Phil. 1:21-23.
- D. Victory 1 Cor. 15:54.
 - 1. Defeat of death made possible by resurrection of Jesus 1 Cor. 15:57:
- E. The entrance to eternal life - Our sustaining hope Ps. 23:6, Heb. 11:10, 1 Pet. 1:3-4.

II. TO DIE RIGHTEOUSLY WE MUST LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY IN:

- A. The home - loyal to family.
- B. The community — honest, helpful, good example,
- C. The church - faithful and zealous in work and in worship.
- D. If we desire this end, we must not neglect the means.

FOUR CALLS PS. 50:1

INTRODUCTION: In our text there are a number of things worthy of consideration. First, we note that a call has been made. There are some calls unworthy of consideration. There are others to which we would do well to take heed. The call here referred to we dare not ignore. It is the call of the mighty God. See also Isa. 1:2, Heb. 12:25. Note:

- I. THERE IS ONE CALL WE DARE NOT IGNORE.
 - A. The gospel call.
 1. As found in 2 Thess. 2:13-14, Rom. 1:16, Mk. 16:15-16, Rev. 3:20, 22:17, Mt. 11:28-30.
 2. Some have never heard; some have heard and ignored; others have heard and answered.
- II. THERE ARE THREE CALLS WE CANNOT IGNORE:
 - A. The call of death Heb. 9:27, Rom. 5:12, All must heed Gen. 5.
 - B. The call of the resurrection Jno. 5:28-29, 1 Thess. 4:16-17, 1 Cor. 15:51-57.
 - C. The call to judgment Mt. 25:31-36, 2 Cor. 5:11.

THE HAPPY DEAD

Rev. 14:13

INTRODUCTION: A message from heaven, by the Spirit.

- A. We cannot deny its authority.
- B. Some messages bring sorrow, others bring joy.
- C. To Christians the message from heaven brings joy.

I. THE CONTENT OF THE MESSAGE.

- A. "Blessed" - that is, happy.
 1. Life is a quest for happiness.
 - a. Many seek it in pleasure, wealth, popularity Ecc. 2:1-11.
 - b. Greatest happiness is found in death for Christians.
- B. "Are the dead."
 1. All must die Heb. 9:27.
 2. Not all will be happy.
 - a. Rich man was not Lk. 16:22-23.
 - b. Lazarus was Lk. 16:22.
 3. To be among the happy dead we must:
 - a. Die in the Lord - Hence,
 - (1) First come into Christ Mt. 16:24:
 - (2) Remain in the Lord Heb. 6:4-6, 10:38-39, Jno. 15:4.
 4. The dead in Christ are happy because:
 - a. They have finished their course 2 Tim. 4:7-8.
 - b. They are victorious 1 Jno. 5:4, Rom. 8:27.
 - c. They rest from their labors 1 Thess. 4:16-17, Rev. 14:13:
 - d. They shall rise before the living righteous are "caught up" 1 Thess. 4:16-17.
 - e. They have right to the tree of life Rev. 22:14.

APPENDIX

POEMS THAT MAY BE FOUND HELPFUL ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS

DELIVERANCE WILL COME

I saw a wayworn traveler,
 In tattered garments clad,
 And struggling up the mountain,
 It seemed that he was sad;
 His back was laden heavy,
 His strength was almost gone,
 Yet he shouted as he journeyed,
 Deliverance will come!

The summer sun was shining,
 The sweat was on his brow,
 His garments worn and dusty,
 His step was very slow,
 But he kept pressing onward,
 For he was wending home;
 Still shouting as he journeyed.
 Deliverance will come!

The songsters in the arbor
 That stood beside the way,
 Attracted his attention,
 Inviting his delay:
 His watchword being "Onward!"
 He stopped his ears and ran,
 Still shouting as he journeyed,
 Deliverance will come!

I saw him in the evening,
 The sun was bending low,
 He'd overtopped the mountain
 And reached the vale below;
 He saw the golden city, —
 His everlasting home, —
 And shouted loud, Hosanna,
 Deliverance will come!

While gazing on that city,
 Just o'er the narrow flood,
 A band of holy angels
 Came from the throne of God;
 They bore him on their pinions
 Safe o'er the dashing foam,
 And joined him in his triumph,
 Deliverance has come!

—Anon.

APPENDIX

THE TOUCH OF THE MASTERS' HAND!

"Twas battered and scarred and the auctioneer
 Thought it scarcely worth his while
 To waste much time on the old violin
 But he held it up with a smile
 "What am I bidden, good folke," he cried
 "Who'll start the bidding for me?
 A dollar, a dollar — now two - only two
 Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"

"Three dollars once, three dollars twice,
 Going for three" - but no!
 Prom the room far back a gray-haired man
 Came forward and picked up the bow:
 Then wiping the dust from the old violin,
 And tightening up all the strings,
 He played a melody pure and sweet,
 Sweet as an angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
 With a voice that was quiet and low
 Said, "What am I bid for the old violin?"
 "A thousand dollars - and who'll make it three?
 Three thousand dollars, three thousand twice -
 And going and gone" said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,
 "We don't quite understand -
 What changed its worth?" the man replied:
 "The touch of the master's hand!"

And many a man with life out of tune,
 And battered and torn with sin,
 Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd,
 Much like the old violin.

A "mess of pottage", and a glass of wine,
 A game - and he travels on.
 He's going once, and going twice,
 He's going and almost gone!
 But the Master comes and the foolish crowd
 Never quite understands
 The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought
 By the touch of the Master's hand.

— Author unknown.

"A good wife is heaven's last best gift to man: his angel of mercy; minister of graces innumerable; his gem of many virtues; his casket of jewels: her voice, his sweetest music; her smiles, his brightest day; her kiss the guardian of innocence; her arms, the pale of safety, the balm of his health, the balsam of his life; her industry, his surest wealth; her economy, his safest steward; her lips, his faithful counselors; and her prayers, the ablest advocate of heaven's blessing on his head."

- Jenny Taylor.

APPENDIX
TWO BUILDERS

A builder builded a temple,
He wrought it with grace and skill;
Pillars and groins and arches
All fashioned to work his will.
Men said as they saw its beauty,
"It shall never know decay;
Great is thy skill, O Builder!
Thy fame shall endure for aye."

A Mother builded a temple
With loving and tender care,
Planning each arch with patience,
Laying each stone with prayer.
None praised her unceasing efforts,
None knew of her wondrous plan,
For the temple the Mother builded
Was unseen by the eyes of man.

Gone is the Builder's temple,
Crumbled into the dust;
Low lies each stately pillar,
Pood for consuming rust.
But the temple the Mother builded
Will last while the ages roll,
For the beautiful unseen temple
Was a child's immortal soul.

— Hattie Vose Hall.

OPPORTUNITY

This I beheld, or dreamed it in a dream: -
There spread a cloud of dust along a plain
And underneath the cloud, or is it, raged
A furious battle, and men yelled, and swords
Shocked upon swords and shields. A prince's banner
Wavered, then staggered backward, hemmed by foes.
A craven hung along the battle's edge,
And thought, "Had I a sword of keener steel -
That blue blade that the king's son bears, but this blunt
thing! -
He snapped and flung it from his hand,
And lowering crept away and left the field.
Then came the king's son, wounded, sore bestead,
And weaponless. and saw the broken sword,
Hilt-buried in the dry and trodden sand,
And ran and snatched it, and with battle-shout
Lifted afresh he hewed his enemy down,
And saved a great cause that heroic day.

- Edward Rowland Sill.

APPENDIX

WRECKERS

I watched them tearing a building down,
 A gang of men in a busy town;
 With a ho-heave-ho and a lusty yell.
 They swung a beam and a side wall fell,

I asked the foreman: "Are these men skilled,
 And the men you'd hire if you had to build?"
 He gave a laugh and said: "No, indeed!
 Just common labor is all I need,
 I can easily wreck in a day or two
 What builders have taken a year to do,"

I thought to myself as I went my way:
 Which of these roles have I tried to play?
 Am I a builder that works with care,
 Measuring life by the rule and square?
 Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan,
 Patiently doing the best I can?
 Or am I a wrecker, who walks the town,
 Content with the labor of tearing down?

SHIPWRECKED

I saw a wreck upon the flood.
 How sad and desolate! No man was there;
 No living thing was on it. There it stood;
 Its sails all gone; its masts were standing bare
 Tossed in the wide, the boundless, howling sea.
 The very sea birds screamed and passed it by,
 And as I looked the ocean seemed to be
 A sign and figure of eternity.
 The wreck an emblem seemed of those who sail
 Without the Pilot Jesus, on its tide.
 Thus thought I, when the final storms prevail,
 Shall rope and sail and mast be scattered wide;
 And they with helm and anchor lost be driven
 Into endless exile sad,
 Far from the port of heaven,

GOSSIP

If you are tempted to reveal
 A tale someone to you has told
 About another, make it pass
 Before you speak, three gates of gold,
 Three narrow gates: First, "Is it true?"
 Then, "Is it needful?" In your mind
 Give truthful answer. And the next
 Is last and narrowest, "Is it kind?"
 And if to reach your lips at last
 It passes through these gateways three,
 Then you may tell the tale, nor fear
 What the result of speech may be.

APPENDIX

THE KITE STRING

He stood aside from his playmates,
 His sightless eyes to the sky,
 And the cord in his hand was tightly drawn
 By the kite that flew so high.

In his big eyes, wondering, beautiful,
 On his pale little, slender face,
 There shone such a rapture, such keen delight,
 That some way it seemed out of place.

And I could not forbear to pause and ask,
 "My laddie, what pleases you so,
 As you hold your kite in the far-off sky,
 Since its motion you can not know?"

He turned and smiled as he softly said,
 And his voice with joy was full:
 "I can't just explain - but it makes me glad
 When I feel that upward pull."

That Upward Pull! How it comes to us
 In the daily grind of life.
 How it lifts us up and gives us rest
 In the weariness of strife.

And never an hour may be so sad,
 Nor ever a sky so dull,
 But we may, if we will, reach out and find
 That God-given, Upward Pull.

TRY IT

Say, what's the use of taking stock
 In all these things we hear -
 Why rip the lining out of Jones.
 And make Smith look so queer?
 You can not always tell, my boy,
 Perhaps 'tis all a lie —
 Just step around behind some tree
 And watch yourself go by.

In business as in pleasure,
 And in the social life,
 It doesn't pay to speculate
 Or let your thoughts run rife;
 But try to see the best in those
 Who in your pathway lie -
 Just slip around behind some tree
 And watch yourself go by.

"Truth should burn on the tongue, glow in the heart and shine in the life."